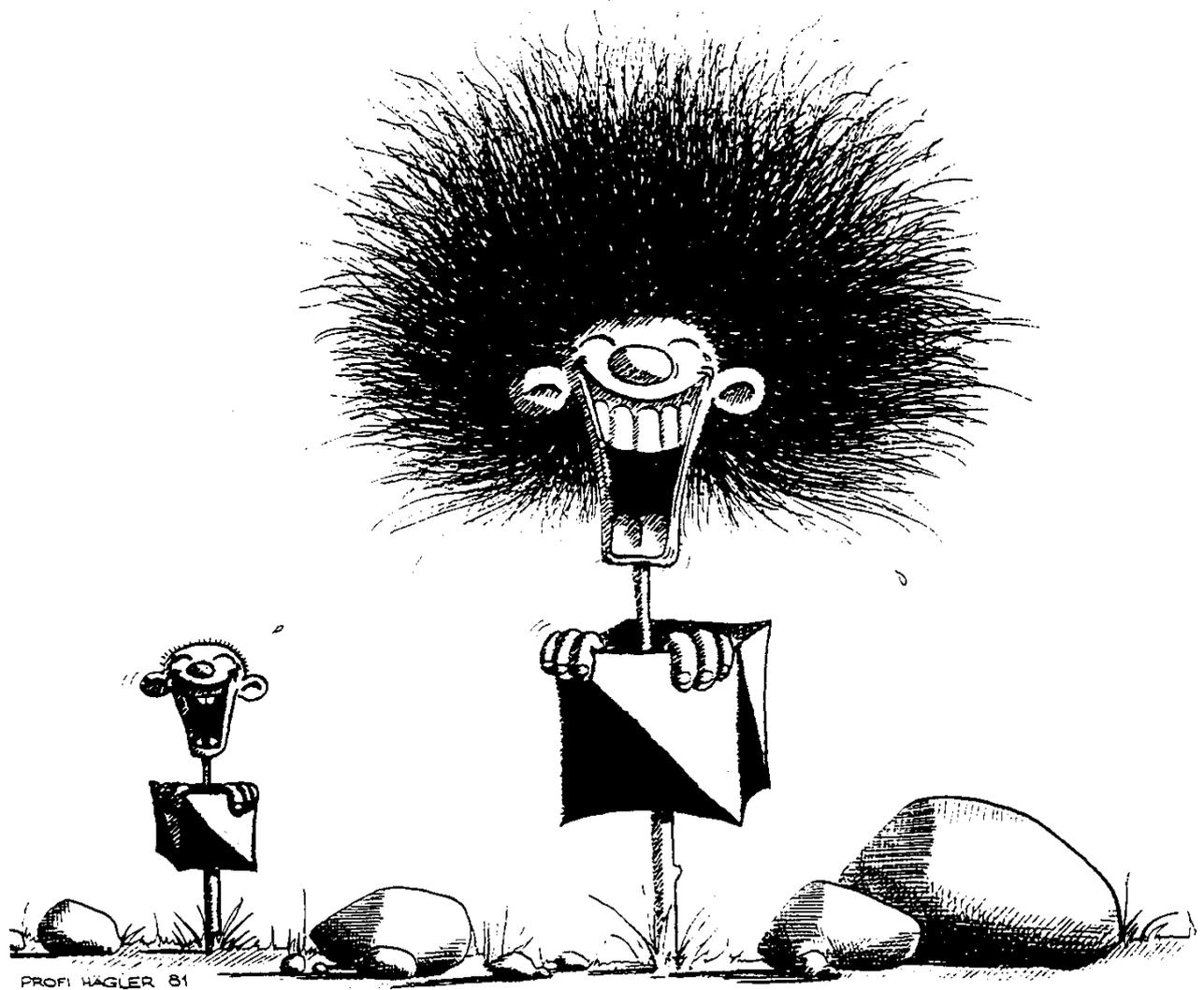


The AUCKLAND ORIENTEER



March 1998

CALENDAR

Please call Club Secretaries for final confirmation of these details: (A) Auckland: Terry Nuthall 412 9012 (CM) Counties-Manukau: Linda Brighthouse 09 298 8380 (E) Egmont: Jay Paterson 06 751 3589 (H) Hamilton: Jim Barr 07 856 9501 (NW) NorthWest: Ann Fettes 827 5358 (P) Pinelands: Chris Jackson 07 886 5313 (R) Rotorua: Mark McKenna (07) 345 3318 (T) Taupo: Alison Mensen 07 378 0577 (WACO) Waikato and Auckland Campus: Madeleine Barr 631 0204 (Wh) Whangarei: David Nevin 09 435 2415.

MARCH 1998

Sun	1st	R	Okere Falls
Wed	4th	A	Club Meeting, Roberts residence
		H	Hamilton Gardens
Thu	5th	A	Summer Series, Domain, Rotunda
Sun	8th	H	Whatawhata 2
Sat	14th	T	Katoa Po, Taupo
Sun	15th	NW	Promotional, Muriwai
		T	CDOA OY1
20-22		NZOF	Coaching Clinic, Rotorua
Sun	22nd	CM	OY1 Harkers Reserve
Sun	29th	NW	OY2 Kaipara Knolls

APRIL 1988

Sat	4th	WACO Training Day	Beautiful Hills (signposted from headquarters - training for the National) (at least this is the day and date I was given)
Sun	5th	Squad	GIB Board Woodhill Forest Run (I have heard a whisper that this has been changed to May 3)
		R	Ngahewa, Rainbow Mountain
		H	Te Miro
10-13		D	National Champs, Dunedin
12?19?		A	Promotional, Churchill Park
Sun	19th	H	CDOA OY2 Four Brothers
24/25		W	North Island Secondary School Championships
Sun	26th	A	OY3

May

- 3 NW Promotional & Schools, Muriwai
 R Forest Research Institute
 H Glenora
 NOS Forest Run (??? ? rumour has it)
 8 R CDOA Sec Sch Ch
 10 WACOOY4
 17 CM Promotional & Schools, Waiuku
 E OY
 24 A Park event, Mangere Mountain
 WACO Training (CM Map)
 30-31 CM QB 3 day Pollok & Karioitahi

June

- 7 NW OY5 Turkey Ridge
 R Okawa Bay
 14 NW Promo & Schools, Otakanini Topu
 H Kairangi
 17 CM Secondary Schools Champs
 21 Wh OY6
 28 A Park event, Mount Richmond

July

- 5 A OY7
 R Jackson Park
 12 A Park event, One Tree Hill
 17-18 E NZ Sec Sch Ch, New Plymouth
 19 NW Promotional, "MidWinter Madness"
 26 H OY8 Kallarney Lake

August

- 2 A Park event, Lloyd Elsmore
 WACO Training - Muriwai
 9 NW Spring Series, Otakanini Topu
 16 R CDOA OY Ngamotu
 23 A Spring Series
 30 H Hamilton Lake / Innes Common

September

- 6 Wh Spring Series
 R Pouturu
 13 A Park event, Self's Farm
 P CDOA OY

- 20 WACO Spring Series
 27 H Mt Eliza

October

- 4 R Crater Block
 CM Spring Series, Waiuku
 11 E CDOA OY
 WACO Training - Slater Road
 17-18 A Auckland Champs & ShortO
 24-26 Labour 3 day, Wellington

November

- 1 NW Auckland Relays Beautiful Hills
 H Sanatorium Hill
 3 NW Primary Schools Ch, Ambury Park
 7-8 R CDOA Championships

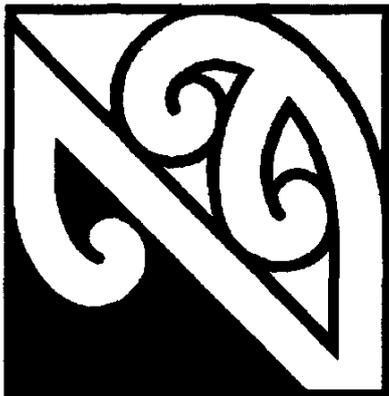
December

- 6 R Tui Ridge
 9 H Waikato University

COUNTIES- MANUKAU NEWS



NORTHWEST NEWSHOUND



It has been an amazingly long hot Indian summer, so no excuse for not keeping up the training and running over the last few months. The training day, organized by Marquita Gelderman, and held on the Wilson Road map in late January, was great for helping get the brain working and in practising route choice and attack point technique. It was good to see some new faces there and I note that Andrew Bell has subsequently had some good results in the Auckland club's summer park events. Geoff Mead set a fun score event, designed to expand your knowledge of obscure Devonport landmarks, and nearly 20 club members enjoyed a sweltering run before a BBQ and the February club meeting. Glen Middleton knew the answers to half the control site clues without even leaving the BBQ after years of delivering power bills to this area on foot.

It has been seven or eight years (pre-motherhood) since I last ran the Macpac Kaweka Challenge mountain race and I suspect the competition has got stiffer in the interim - or maybe I've just got older! Geoff and I pitched the tent at Kuripapango about 11:30pm on the Friday night and listened to it flap wildly during the night. We ran the 2 day 41km course as a pair, facing 3060m of climb of which about 70% was on the first day

as the course took us over the highest point in the Kaweka ranges. We encountered gloriously fine, if extremely windy, weather and spent Saturday afternoon recovering from over 4.5 hours climb/run and ogling the far superior meals of other trampers and orienteers, as we consumed dry crackers and sardines and chocolate biscuits. Sunday's race was very intense and competitive with the 3 top mixed pairs within sight of each other for most of the 3 hours we raced. We settled for 3rd place (mixed) behind top NZ multisport and endurance athlete Vivienne Prince of Christchurch and partner Evan Mcrae. Jonine and Michelle Nash also completed a 2 day course at the Kaweka Challenge, as did several Auckland and Waco orienteers.

NW provided courses at the recent Have-a-go day at Long Bay regional park - thanks to all involved with helping at this event.

We will have 2 seven man and 1 five man teams at the Katoa Po all night relays in Taupo on 14/15 March. One team includes two orienteers that come from a long way North West of Auckland, Norway in fact. Perhaps an abbreviation for Norway could be NW?

Next club meeting

The April meeting will be held on Thursday 02 April at Jill and Alastair Smithies' home, 4B Fairbanks Place, Glendene at 19:30pm. Please note that this is the **first** week in April to allow for people travelling to Dunedin for the national champs at Easter. Best wishes for success to all those travelling to the mainland.

Lisa Mead 445 4555



The May AOC meeting is at the Brewis residence, 32 Dingle Road, St Heliers, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday the 6th of May.

THE AUCKLAND ORIENTEER

EDITORIAL

As you might notice responsibility for editing your magazine has changed hands. If you have noticed that this edition is late it is because of this change over. We will endeavour to make sure copies are on time in future. You will endeavour to fill this magazine with interesting material on events you have been to and other things of interest - or we might be tempted to bore you with - well wait and see.

With another season about to start I find myself wondering what I am still doing in this sport - should I continue or should I find a new sport? You see as I see it I find it hard to focus on a sport without a focus - no National Championships to aim for (I cannot afford the trip to Dunedin to compete in a social event for me - Easter is too early in the year for me to train for physiologically) and no Australia - New Zealand challenge in the foreseeable future. Perhaps I should become an Australian (I will wash my mouth out I promise) so that I can regard their championships as mine. The travel will probably be cheaper. Within our local area we are now putting on fewer events of lower standard. But then I am an aged veteran who has known better times in fantastic forests. I am very interested in your perspective on our orienteering calendar.

The AUCKLAND ORIENTEER...

...is the monthly newsletter of the Auckland Orienteering Association, combining the Auckland, Counties-Manukau and NorthWest Orienteering Clubs. It is edited by Stan Foster and Colleen Lawson (8367072) and distributed by Marquita Gelderman, NWOC (412 8879) and published at the beginning of every month except January.

Next Issue: April 1998

Mail your contributions to 83A McLeod Road, Te Atatu South or fax 827 3996, or email SWFoster@xtra.co.nz

The deadline for contributions for the April AUCKLAND ORIENTEER is Friday 27th MARCH.

Disks or email please, if you can; ASCII text with no hard returns, or Microsoft Word, on DOS 3.5" disks for preference. Please don't format your document with spaces or tabs, it takes me ages to get rid of them all.

I would prefer not to have to return your disk, but just ask and I will give you as many disks as you want, I have hundreds of them.

If you can't supply on disk, and the article is fairly long, please supply as camera-ready copy, on A4 with a 16mm border all round (265mm x 178mm), and font size at 11 points. Careful! This border is smaller than your WP or typewriter would normally be set up for, and the font size is bigger.

I am prepared to type contributions if necessary.

Distribution

If you change your address, please contact your club membership officer or Marquita Gelderman on 412 8879. If you want a back issue of *The AUCKLAND ORIENTEER*, please contact your club membership person, or Marquita, or me.

Credits

The New Zealand Orienteering Federation gratefully acknowledges the support of the Hillary Commission.

STAN FOSTER 836 7072

RANDOM RAMBLINGS...

I thought you might enjoy some light relief from our fellow Orienteers on the 'net'... maybe we could start our own 'thread' - anyone out there like to contribute a few chuckles, confessions, lies etc. etc.?????

"I've seen all types of 'wild' animals; controls and 'other things', while orienteering or training for 'O'....."

There's a small part of a map I made that I'm sure is full of inaccuracies, because of a magpie guarding its nest. There's not a lot that's more fearsome or awe inspiring than a thin spot coming out of the sun directly at your eyes, or a sudden Whoosh and some hair disappearing as you hit the ground. That long sharp beak really plays with your mind and doesn't leave much for looking at features.

Last year at the LA Holcomb Valley rogaine, my partner Bonnie and I were rounding a turn in a fire road at dusk when about a hundred yards ahead of us we saw a camper with 4 huge dogs and no humans in sight. (Bonnie swears there were six.) As soon as the dogs saw us, they charged madly toward us. Bonnie immediately jumped into the closet briar thicket and tried to pull me in to safety. But I grabbed my trusty orienteering whistle and blew frantically hoping to get the owner's attention wherever he was. And the dogs immediately stopped their charge! A few minutes later the disgruntled and most unfriendly owner showed up and called his dogs off. I don't know what magical powers that whistle had, but I'll never be without it!!

A local race in Trondheim in May 1992 had the most people injured by an animal reported in Norway. The night before the race an elk had given birth quite close to one of the controls, despite the course setter having done everything to avoid this as required by the rules. Several courses also passed through the same area without having this control. When runners started to arrive from various directions, the elk got frustrated and started to attack them. About 20 runners were attacked, 8 were injured and sent to the emergency room. When bleeding and rattled competitors arrived at the finish the event was stopped, but of course it took some time to get the message to the start. None of the 8 was seriously wounded, meaning that they got from 6 to 20 stitches in the arms, legs, head etc and could compete normally 1-3 months later. One of them told me: "When you have stitches on the top of your head, it hurts whichever muscle you use." . Some of the attacked were quite young, but no one seemed to suffer any psychological injuries - even if it must be quite scary to lie on the ground and have a 600 kilo animal kicking you. The event made the front page on the major Norwegian papers (the only time orienteering has done so). The organising club did a very good job with the newspapers sending out press releases immediately and explaining what they had done in the preparations to protect animals (there are many rules in Norway how this shall be done specially in the spring to avoid such accidents.) It is not this kind of publicity we want for orienteering, so ones first thought might be to try to hush it up. They realised that this would get to the press anyway, so then it was best to give the press the complete story at once. It later turned out that this elk also earlier had attacked hikers in what is a popular recreational area for the eastern part of Trondheim. One lesson learned from the incident is that wild animals living in populated area get used to people to some extent; this make them "half-wild" and unpredictable. There have been no more such incidents with this elk or others in the area, my guess is that she did not survive the hunting season that fall.

I was following another runner along the beach at Knottingly here in NZ a few years ago, when all of a sudden a 'rock' attacked him, causing him to almost jump into the sea. As I got closer I realised it was a lone male seal, basking quietly on what is a very remote and lonely stretch of beach. I gave him a wide berth.

At the Nationals two years ago one leg of a course went through a narrow gully, and one well known New Zealand runner managed to stir up a wasps nest just by running through, and suffered rather a lot of nasty stings (I lost count when I tried to count them).

I personally was almost run over by a spooked cow at a Texas meet about a decade ago (and if you don't consider a cow "dangerous", you've never met one up-close-and-personal in the woods).

I know of one female orienteer who was run over by a deer. Apparently the animal was frightened by other orienteers and blindly ran into her. She was found walking up a park road, somewhat dazed and confused, but otherwise uninjured. The deer or the orienteer?

The Edmonton (Alberta, Canada) Overlanders hold 1 to 3 meets per year in Elk Island National park where one can be sure that some entrants will get within shouting or shooting, or detouring distance of Buffalo, Elk, Moose or coyote. The only confrontation in my experience was with a buffalo which had taken possession of one control, hung the previous night. Having been raised on a cattle ranch, I hiked out to shoot it away. It wasn't impressed, even when I brandished the biggest dead limb I could lift. Discretion being the better part of valour, We hustled back to announce that that control was no longer on any course!

In the summer of 1996 John Britton and I were running through the woods in the state of Washington near Goldendale. Wearing brightly colored Orienteering outfits, we were running across a large open area towards the boundary with the woods. When we were about 20 meters from the boundary we saw a good sized (I'm still not sure whether it was small or large) cougar look at us then turn and run into the woods. That got MY heart racing really fast!

This brought to mind the story about the two guys who were hiking in the woods. They came upon a bear and the bear started chasing them. One guy stopped, got his running shoes out of his backpack and started lacing them up. His partner told him that he would never be able to outrun the bear. The response was, "I don't have to outrun the bear. I only have to outrun you!"

At North Texas O Club's end of the season party, I set a street O course in my neighbourhood. One of the controls was a salt lick. Since there was really no such feature in my neighborhood, I put a box of Morton's salt next to the control. Most people got the joke, but some of our speedsters were so intense and quick that they never noticed the box of salt! Another unusual control I saw once was at a beach. There was this row of old poles protruding some 10m right into the sea. They had supported a bathing bridge once, but now only the poles were left. The control was hung on the very last of the poles. Almost impossible to get there without falling into the water, and the arrangers took pictures of the fun!

The best/worst I've heard about must be the cairn commemorating where an orienteer died (from exposure, this was a mountain race) a previous year.

A man made object - an old car body, next to a patch of dark, dark green prickly bushes, that had a 2 metre deep hole in the middle. By the time of the event, the car (with the flag still inside) had rolled down the hill, crashed through the bushes, and into the hole. Lots of puzzled looks and scratches.

There was once an event on the Clent Hills, Worcestershire, England in which there was a description 'Contour end'.

We have one site where there is always a control listed as "dead bug". It's an abandoned/rusted Volkswagen. "dead bug". Cute! If we put one of those abandoned mattresses in it, do you think we could have a "bed bug"? :-)

A BOK Western Night League event at Beechenhurst in the Forest of Dean had a control described as an "Acorn". Fortunately this was not a little acorn but a large sculpture carved from a fallen tree, one of several "man made objects" on the Sculpture Trail. The same event also had a distinctive tree on top of a spoil tip. It certainly was distinctive too - as it was covered in flashing fairy lights! The event was the week before Christmas.

I have heard tales of a control at a Walton Chasers event in Alton Towers. The description was apparently 'mammoth, left tusk'. (the control being in the model dinosaur park.) This happened in the sixties, when we in Finland had no special maps for orienteering but did it with the public maps. Those didn't have too many details for control points. We used to make them more complete simply by drawing the circle where there was a suitable feature in the terrain, and describing the thing in the control description.

At a training event a control circle was drawn on a featureless bog. Description: boulder on a bog. Well, nothing strange in that. As I approached the next one having no feature in the map, I browsed the description: Bog on a boulder! Indeed, there was a flat-topped boulder about 3m high. The course-setter had put ladder leaning against it. And up there was a bog-like pad of moss about 1m in diameter with the control flag! The detailed maps and standardised descriptions of today leave much less room.



**M Gelderman
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