

Orienteers test skill on the trail

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

People who enjoy reading maps and taking compass readings while scrambling through the wilderness braved showers and drizzle to hike through Frances Slocum State Park June 12.

They weren't in the Army. They were orienteers, the new breed of recreational and competitive hikers, out for an orienteering meet at the park.

Orienteering is similar to a "gimmick" car rally, only it's held on foot.

Participants use a compass and a heavily detailed topographic map to figure out the fastest route through a series of checkpoints while navigating around boulders, swamps, brush and other natural obstacles.

Courses are color-coded for different levels of fitness and



WE MADE IT! - While stopping at a control point during the June 12 orienteering meet at Frances Slocum State Park, Todd Crimmel, Sara Crimmel and Steven Boyce show off their map and meet cards.

POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

expertise, from white for novices, using marked hiking trails, through green or red - extreme expert, which challenges participants to "boondock it" across country.

Maps for the advanced courses contain a set of international symbols indicating marshes, cliffs, boulders, fences and other significant features.

Combining map-reading, compass, puzzle-solving, hiking and outdoorsman's skills, orienteering evolved as a military exercise around the turn of the century in Scandanavia.

The June 12 meet was organized by the Pocono Orienteering Club, 73 members strong, to introduce the sport and its new orienteering map of Frances Slocum State Park to the area.

Club members were on hand to explain the map and the different courses to rank beginners out for a day's adventure.

Shavertown resident David Jenkins, who tried orienteering for the first time at Sunday's meet, enjoyed it so much that he completed two courses and immediately joined the club.

"I knew that it would be interesting to get out in the fresh air and the woods," he said. "It was fun. I felt good. First I tried the white trail, the easiest one, and

"..it sure eats up socks like crazy, and they don't stay white for long."

Lee Aldrich
Orienteer

finished so fast that they asked me to go out again. So I did the yellow course."

The 1.6 km white course used existing hiking trails and marked features, such as trees, old foundations, fences and large boulders.

The 3.1 km yellow course, slightly more challenging than the white, took its participants away from the marked hiking trails but stayed near large, easily identified features.

Seven-year-old Steven Boyle joined his friends, Todd and Sara Crimmel, ages four and six respectively, for their first try at the yellow course. The white course seemed too easy.

This is their second year of orienteering. Accompanied by Todd's and Sara's parents, Jody and Bob, they studied their maps and set out confidently on their way.

Dallas native Eric Mayer drove from his home in Rochester, NY,

to try his luck on the red course, one of the most difficult.

"The red course is more of a challenge," he said. "Whether or not I finish is immaterial. I just want to see more."

"The great thing about orienteering is that it doesn't cost much to get into," said club member and Noxen native Larry Pederson, who serves with Lynn Aldrich as co-president. "All that you need to start is a good pair of walking shoes. If you don't want to buy a compass, you can rent one for 50¢, but you don't need it for the white course."

"Yes, but it sure eats up socks like crazy, and they don't stay white for long," joked his wife, Lee.

Orienteers say that their sport is suitable for families, Scout troops and anyone who likes to hike, either for fun or competitively.

They take special care to leave their surroundings intact after a hike or a meet.

"We pride ourselves on leaving the woods in as good or better condition than when we found them," Lee Pederson said.

For more information on orienteering, contact the Pocono Orienteering Club, c/o Carol Bruce, P.O. Box 5162, Station A, Wilkes-Barre PA 18710.

Chief wants restrictions on gun firing

In the wake of an incident last week, Dallas Township police chief Carl Miers asked the township supervisors to adopt a law preventing random shooting.

"We are somewhat handicapped both for investigative purposes and eventual prosecution by our not having an ordinance to cover wanton firearm discharge within the township," he said at the supervisors' meeting June 7.

Miers said he intended to supply the supervisors with copies of suitable ordinances from other communities. "This needs our thorough and serious consideration," he said.

Speeding traffic was another topic at the meeting. Gary Taroli of Haddonfield Hills submitted a petition signed by 26 residents of Cloverleaf Drive requesting speed bumps be installed on Idlewood Drive, now being used as a shortcut from Shrine Acres, with the speeding vehicles posing a danger to children.

Chairman Phil Walter explained the requested bumps are not allowed by state statute, and that stop signs might slow traffic, but a certain volume of traffic would be needed to approve a sign. He promised a traffic study would be made and would advise residents of the result.

Greco

(continued from page 1)

said that he hasn't spoken with Greco "in at least a year and never as the mayor."

Greco said that he has donated money from concerts to area charities and has donated the use of the Tijuana Bar, the former dance hall, to the Wyoming Valley Children's Association for a June 18 dance.

Association representative Bob Aben said that renting a similar facility elsewhere would cost about \$1,000.

"I want to do positive things for the community," Greco said. "I have been trying to maintain Harveys Lake's status as a state-recognized resort area. If this is a resort, not someone's private retirement home, and tourism is the state's second largest industry, I don't understand why I am being harassed like this."

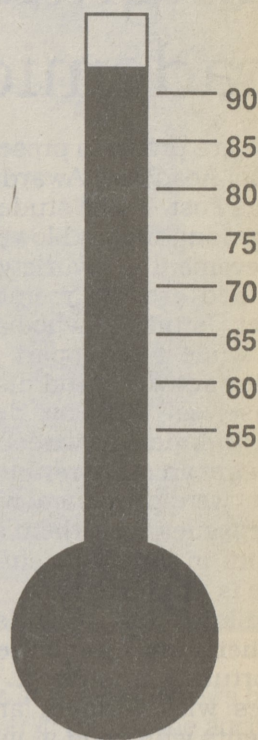
Boice agreed that Harveys Lake isn't private. "There are no gates here," he said. "But in any municipality, the residents and visitors must abide by the laws."

Boice said that of the dozen or so businesses clustered around the lake, very little business other than "the sale of a couple of six packs or some cigarettes" was generated by amphitheater concerts, according to his conversations with business owners.

Greco said that he will announce a decision on the fate of his businesses at the amphitheater in the near future, after "weighing all options."

"Not one person has approached me and asked me to try and get Greco to come back to the lake," Boice said. "No one has come to me and told me that they're upset that he may be leaving."

Before the temperature gets here

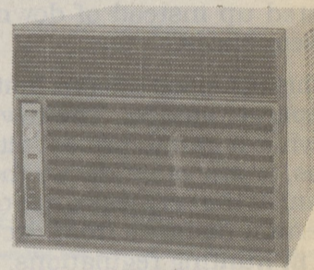


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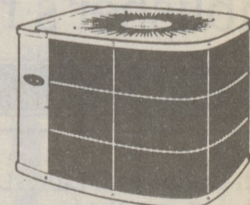
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WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE? - Lynn Aldrich checks her location using a map and compass at the first orienteering meet ever held at Frances Slocum State Park June 12.

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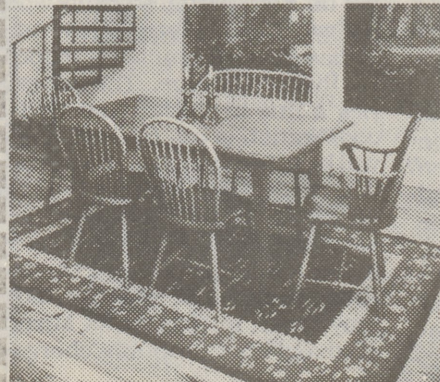
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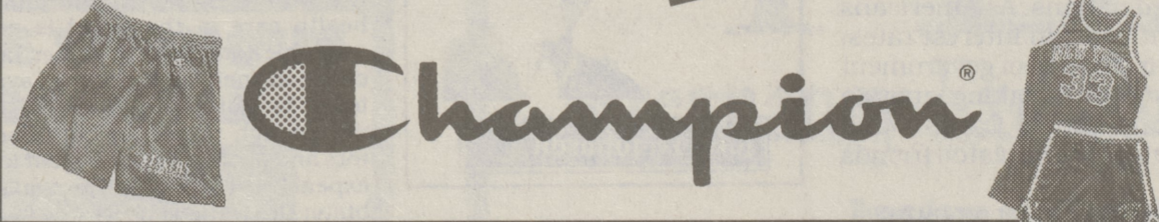
Named to King's Dean's List

Dr. Donald Farmer, vice president of academic affairs at King's College, recently announced that 14 Back Mountain students have qualified for the spring 1994 dean's list signifying a grade point average of 3.4 or higher:

Dallas residents, Marcella Bove, John Kristan, Shelly Hoover, Jennifer Judge, Lance Wega, Mary Feher, Danielle Mayton; Harveys Lake residents, Kimberly Passetti, Kimberly Matzel, Joseph Wozniak, Jr.; Trucksville residents, Kimberly Kaleta and Carrie Reid, and Shavertown residents, Denise Eldridge and Leanne Rogers.

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