

President's Report OABC AGM December 6, 2015

OABC membership fluctuates year by year.

2011=1063: 2012=1603: 2013=1326: 2014 =1350 (approx.) 2015=1550 (approx.)

Jim Webster and Murray Foubister are stepping down from the OABC Board. Each has contributed much to orienteering over many years. Jim and Murray, thank-you for your service. Your spirit of volunteerism is an inspiration to all of us.

OABC is a registered society and Provincial Sport Organization. It supports clubs primarily by applying for and administering grants from funding agencies and acting as British Columbia's representative to Orienteering Canada. Most orienteering activity in BC is conducted by clubs.

OABC receives grants from the Province of BC through ViaSport and the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch. These grants are used to support mapping, equipment purchases, outreach, training of officials, administration, etc. We are sufficiently funded at the moment. We are grateful for the grants we receive, but because they have been unpredictable, we have difficulty spending our grants in a timely manner. This is a continuing problem.

Early in 2016 OABC will be assessed by officials from ViaSport. This assessment will influence our funding beginning in March 2017

Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all participants at official orienteering events become members by paying a membership fee, signing a waiver, and providing (at a minimum) DOB, gender, postal code. Clubs should not require an orienteer who is a member of a North American club to become a member. However, these out-of-town orienteers should sign a waiver. OABC is required to submit these data to ViaSport. Orienteering Canada also makes use of our membership data as part of its case for funding from the federal government.

We need to grow. Growth will make our funding more stable and allow us to provide more orienteering throughout the province. We need to reach out in all areas of the province. The hoped for development of a club in the Comox area has stalled but OABC will support development there as it is needed. In Prince George, Bryan Chubb has established a good relationship with the city and has access to LIDAR. In Salmon Arm, Abbie May lead a successful spring and fall series of events culminating in a SAGE club championship. OABC will support the growth of orienteering in Salmon Arm with mapping, training officials, and coaching.

The 2014 BC Championships were hosted by SAGE. Sabbiston was used for two days in an old-style total time event. Thank-you, SAGE for a well-organized weekend of orienteering on excellent terrain.

The 2016 BC Championships will be hosted by GVOG probably at Whistler.

The 2017 Championships will be awarded by the board at an upcoming meeting.

OABC will continue to provide support to clubs in their efforts to develop orienteering. We hope to establish a stronger relationship with cadets. The cadet movement is placing a greater emphasis upon orienteering than it has in the past. This provides a great opportunity and challenge for us. OABC will help clubs financially and with resources in their work with cadet groups.

OABC will continue to support clubs by training officials and mappers. In 2015 OABC sponsored Coach Brent Lanbaak at camps in Victoria and Invermere. These camps emphasized the skills needed to teach and coach orienteering. OABC also provided mapping clinics and O100, 200, courses and will continue to do so

In 2015 OABC funded the remapping of Camp Thunderbird near Victoria and Lost Lake at Whistler. Each will be used for future BCOC championships. Lost Lake is now connected to Black Magic and thus offers many exciting course planning opportunities.

VicO has partnered with students at Royal Roads University to study the environmental impact of orienteering. VicO has entered into discussions with Capital Regional District about off-trail orienteering so this project could have important consequences.

After several false starts and delays, OABC's amended constitution and by-laws have been accepted by BC Registry and are posted on the website.