

GVOC – 2023 Presidents Report

The Greater Vancouver Orienteering Club (GVOC) has had a good year in 2023, with many evening training events, larger single day weekend events and a few weekend events. Additionally, the OAK program for kids has been very successfully running alongside GVOC's regular schedule of events.

Events

By the end of 2023, GVOC will have hosted:

- 24 WET (Wednesday Evening Training) events which have an average attendance of 35 people (up from 27 in 2022). These events are great for all levels of orienteers but are particularly helpful for beginners to improve their skills on smaller maps and provide a great opportunity to discuss route choices and techniques with more experienced members of the club.
- 10 WJR (Why Just Run) events which take place on a weekend day on a larger, generally forested map. These events have seen an increase in average attendance from 58 to 64 per event from 2022 to 2023, with the highest attendance of over 100 at the Lynn Valley Adventure Run which is always a very popular event!
- 2 weekend events
 - Sprint Camp which is a series of sprint events and training sessions over two days on a variety of maps. Although the weather wasn't as cooperative as we'd hoped, this event was a great opportunity to catch up with friends and work on orienteering skills in a variety of individual, mass start and relay sprint events.
 - Lundbom which was a two day event on this lovely map outside Merritt. It was a novelty for GVOC to get to host an event on such open terrain given we're used to running on west coast dark green forests. The lakeside campsite and beautiful weather provided a wonderful weekend and enticed some folks from clubs in the interior.
- The OAK program for kids in the spring was a sell out and we've got a few who are keen to get racing. A few of them got out for the 3 hour Lynn Valley Adventure Run score-O and did some additional training in the fall so we're hoping to develop this program more in the coming years. As always, volunteer availability may be the limiting factor.

Membership

GVOC has healthy membership numbers for 2023 and we may get a few more at the Stanley Park WJR which will close out the events calendar for us in mid December. As of early November our membership status is:

- 395 full members
- 48 visitors (members of another OC club)
- 59 day of event members

Permanent Course

Laurent Mingo put a lot of time and effort into developing and installing a permanent course on the campus of Capilano University and installing QR codes so that curious passers by can find out what it's all about and complete one of the course options, which start quite easy for total beginners and get harder from there. We're hopeful that this course will see a lot of activity and work is currently underway to extend this into a park area to the west and to install another permanent course in the City of North Vancouver too.

Future plans

Going forward GVOC wants to build on the successes of 2023 and continue to innovate with our events to attract more people to our club and to the sport of orienteering. In particular we are working on strategies to convert our event attendance to volunteers and new executive members to take the club forward into 2024 and beyond.

Caoimhe Murray,

GVOC President