

Cariboo Chilcotin Orienteering Club

2024 Report

The Cariboo Chilcotin Orienteering Club organized 10 local events this past year. With our large inventory of mapped areas, the events were held at 7 different locations. Included within these events were special Easter-O and Spook-O events, hoping to promote orienteering to the young ones.

The CCOC also participated in 'Marsh Magic' at our local Nature Sanctuary. We had over 30 young kids run through a small orienteering course, some using SI units for the first time and loving it.

The CCOC was fortunate to receive a grant from the Williams Lake Community Forest, as well as a matching grant from OBC, to go towards mapping out a new 6 sq km area in 150 Mile House. The area has been used for 2 events this past year and has potential for multi-levelled competition.

The CCOC continues to work with schools to help promote the sport of orienteering. We are also planning a joint event this winter with the local cross country ski club.

For the 2024 year, the CCOC has 107 members.

GVOC – 2024 Presidents Report

The Greater Vancouver Orienteering Club (GVOC) has had a good year in 2024, 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 2024, GVOC will have hosted:

- 35 WETs (Wednesday Evening Training) events, which is up from 24 in 2023. They have an average of 35 people signing up and 31 attending, similar to 2023. 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.
- 11 WJR (Why Just Run) events which take place on a weekend day on a larger, generally forested map (although the 11 does include events at Sprint Camp which could be attended individually or as part of the sprint camp package). These events are great to train for middle and long forest events and are popular with our membership since we can accommodate a wide variety of skill levels. The Lynn Valley Adventure Run was well attended in spite of a last minute reschedule due to the atmospheric river and we still have the AGM at Stanley Park to look forward to in December. Average attendance to date is 70, very close to the 71 we averaged in 2023.
- 3 weekend events
 - Sprint Camp which is a series of sprint events and training sessions over two days on a variety of maps. This event is always a great opportunity to catch up with friends and work on orienteering skills in a variety of individual, mass start and relay sprint events.
 - Sunshine Coast weekend. This event included forest and urban sprint events, along with a banquet and lots of time to catch up with friends old and new. It showcased some great new forest maps and the Sechelt urban sprint, which had some surprisingly interesting terrain! We're hoping that we can continue to develop maps in the area and have more events here in the future.
 - Newcastle Island social. Although this map has quite a bit of unrunnable green salal, it's a great spot for a social weekend! With camping, swimming and orienteering within a few minutes of each other this is a great spot for some social time and might come back into our annual rotation.
- 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 on the 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 2024 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 the middle of November our membership status is:

- 409 full members
- 31 visitors (members of another OC club)
- 31 day of event members

Future plans

Going forward GVOC wants to build on the successes of 2024 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 2025 and beyond.

Caoimhe Murray,
GVOG President

Kootenay Orienteering Club - 2024 Year in Review

The Kootenay Orienteering Club had a very busy & active first half of the 2024 year - followed by a somewhat quieter fall season.

Event Highlights

- Our close partnership with the Kimberley Nordic Centre continued. We held three Ski-O events during the winter, the final one during Nordic Fest weekend in March. A permanent course was also started that participants could ski on their own time.
- The Spring weeknight series was held for eight consecutive weeks from April to June. Attendance was mostly existing long-term members with only a few new members occasionally participating. The last of these weeknight events was a Biathlon Orienteering foot event - likely the first ever held in Western Canada. The participants found the format so much fun and it was such a success that we hope to bring it to a bigger audience in 2025.
- The Rossland branch of the club started up activities again this year - holding events at the Black Jack ski club in the winter months and spring events on foot in parks in Rossland and neighbouring communities.
- In October we hosted the 6-hour Run The Wild event - anticipated all year by local orienteers and bringing in many visitors as well. This was the only orienteering meet the club held in the fall season.
- As usual - KOC was also involved in the local community. We put on the Stair Climb Challenge again, held the Turkey Run-Off, and were responsible for the timing at the big Round The Mountain event in June.

Junior Activities

- KOC re-started a spring junior program over four Saturday mornings for about a dozen youth. We found it beneficial to start with a smaller scope to see what we were able to handle & offer.
- We held many sessions specifically for a youth audience - including three for TrackAttack ski kids and a pair of sessions for McKim elementary students. We were also asked by the KNC regional dry-land camp to return again this year - putting on courses on both Friday and Saturday to a group of 75 youth.
- Over the full year well over 200 youth participated in at least one of these programs.

Membership

- We adjusted our membership scheme for 2024 and saw a healthy rise in our membership numbers - ending the year with 96 members in all versus 67 for 2023. Of those 96 - seventeen are juniors.
- Scott Donald - the original founder of the club back in the 1980s - was inducted into the Orienteering Canada Hall of Fame in the Lifetime Achievement category.

2025 : Future & Challenges

- KOC will be hosting the BC Championships during the fall of 2025. This will lead to much of the organizing resources of the club being focused on this one event over the next year.
- While the club's membership base may have grown over the past year - the number of key volunteers & organizers has not. A majority of the activities of the club for the year was due to the many hours and days of volunteer work of about 8 individuals. As the number of requests from groups to hold events or training for them increases - we are increasingly having to turn some down due to lack of resources and time. If we wish to

continue to grow and improve our local junior program to levels it has been in the past - it will inevitably need greater manpower.

We need to address this gap before we suffer volunteer burn-out, by bringing in more volunteers and building up the skill and experience level of others.

- The club's membership base is still mostly located in the Kimberley area. Without dedicated volunteers in the other areas across the Kootenay's - this will remain an ongoing issue we face.
- While the club has some prized maps around Cranbrook - we have not yet found any new areas for future mapping projects. We are becoming cognizant of not overusing those maps we already have so that they remain special to us and will still be available for important events when necessary.

Looking back over the past twelve months - the Kootenay Orienteering club can be proud of all the orienteering and recreation opportunities we have provided to our members and the community at large. We look forward to hosting all BC orienteers to our corner of the province in the Fall of 2025.

JP Buysschaert
Kootenay Orienteering Club

Sage Orienteering Club President's Report to OBC AGM 2024

The Sage Orienteering Club struggled in 2024. Our volunteer numbers are down, so our offered events are down, so our membership is down. In future years, we need to do a better job of scheduling, making volunteer jobs manageable, and encouraging new volunteers to help organize events.

In many respects, Sage is a conglomeration of four different smaller clubs in Salmon Arm, Kelowna, Kamloops, and Revelstoke; however, we share the main common issue of a lack of coordination, advance planning, and volunteers. Regional District and City parks are either increasingly challenging to get permits, or are impossible to get permits. Other than taking far more volunteer time than it used to, we are able to get permits (when needed) for provincial recreation sites on crown land areas, but these tend to be further from the city where it is harder to draw new participation. Brief summaries of each individual community within our larger club are below:

Salmon Arm

Salmon Arm struggled a bit this past year with key volunteers being busy with other volunteering roles in other sporting organizations. As such, we had very limited local events, which were not scheduled far enough in advance, and were insufficiently advertised to draw significant participation. The one exception to this, and the main highlight of the year was Sage Stomp, which was well attended and received by attendees, despite a relatively weak map pool. There are some plans beginning for next year to start a regularly scheduled junior program in Salmon Arm in the spring to help drive new membership and participation in the sport.

Kelowna

This fall, we continued a weekly evening training series that started last fall which provided some excellent training opportunities and grew slightly from last year. Our largest challenge in Kelowna is not enough orienteers with sufficient experience to help organize local events. Additionally, permitting for most urban parks is impossible, or these areas are insufficiently safe for an evening event, even if we could get permits. We are largely stuck with areas a further drive out of town, which makes local level evening trainings difficult. A bright spot in Kelowna was the Telemark Adventure Run, in partnership with the junior ski team where over 30 juniors attended in addition to some Sage members.

Kamloops

We have very limited volunteer time and resources in Kamloops, which has meant a slow decline in events and membership in the community. This year we had almost no events or membership from Kamloops. Our volunteers in other communities are stretched too thin already elsewhere to help that far from home. Also of note is that Murray Foubister was deservedly inducted into the Orienteering Canada Hall of Fame.

Revelstoke

We returned to organizing some self-directed trainings in Revy, but need to broaden the volunteer pool and have some in person events to help build up the club there. We need to target an O100 officials course here next year with someone from OBC brought in to help with the mentoring on the weekend of hosting an event. Sage lacks the volunteer base to help build up a set of volunteers in Revelstoke who want to help, but need support.

Victoria Orienteering Club

2024 Report

The year started with a successful New Year's event at Beacon Hill Park. A Street O event rounded out the winter, then UVic and a training event in early spring lead into our usual Wednesday evening Determinator series in the spring. This year's series was unusually dominated by experienced orienteers who held off the usually strong challenge from newer orienteers helped by the generous handicap algorithm.

Then club energy was focused on the BCOCs in September. Many thanks to the core team of Larry Gagnon, Linda Hildebrant, Maria Burgess and Ross Burnett. Also, thanks to the many other volunteers and Bruce and Robin Rennie who generously controlled the event. Thanks to all those who made the trip to take part and congratulations to the winners.

We took a collective break for the rest of the year, but events will return in the New Year.