

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