

2023 KOC Presidents Report  
December 9th, 2023  
Chris Bullock

The Kootenay Orienteering Club had a very busy 2023 with 28 different events reaching out to many different groups. We are fortunate to have a great group of highly experienced and motivated orienteers in the club to make this happen.

The events included club orienteering events ( 8 - TNTs, Eager Hills Race in conjunction with AOA training camp, 1 Ski-O events, 2 - snowshoe events, 2 Rogaines), as well as running events (Hoodoo Fiver, Ugly Sweater Run, Two Buttes Fell Run, etc.) and assisting other groups with training events (Girl guides, Regional XC Ski Camp, and Track Attack program). Round the Mountain was a huge success, although the participants will no longer be insured through our club membership and therefore not included in our membership numbers.

We currently have 67 members and have logged approx 671 participants over the course of 2023 in the various events.

We have continued our great relationship with other community organizations including the Kimberley Nordic Club, Kimberley Girl Guides, the Helping Hands Food Bank with a number of successful events. Last weekend's UGLY SWEATER RUN raised a record \$4000 of cash and considerable food as well as over 120 happy participants (and a good number of dogs!).

This year has seen some increasing interest from other communities, partially as a result of our participation with the XC Ski Regional Training camp. John Kenny is starting orienteering activities in the West Kootenays with a school event in Castlegar and a fun introductory event in Rossland. We have also had some interest from a number of parents in Fernie. I'm hopeful our club can support the development of the sport in these communities in partnership with OBC.

Some items on the horizon... We are partnering with Kimberley Nordic Club to offer a 3 race series of Ski-Orienteering events. KOC is looking to re-invigorate our Junior Adventure Runners program in Kimberley in 2024 with paid coach position(s?) as part of a provincial push to promote youth orienteering programs. We will be organizing coach training opportunities for anyone interested in participating. KOC is also due to host the BC Orienteering Championships in 2025, so will be identifying potential areas for mapping (if mappers can be found), or identifying existing maps for restricted use next year.

I am looking forward to taking on the role of Past President (and club representative at OBC) and thank all of the Board members for making 2023 such a successful year.