

Raven Rock Interviews The Interscholastic Championships

□ GREG SACK, OCIN

Larry Vidinha, aka Major, is extremely proud of the Orienteering programs that he spearheads. The numbers are impressive. His high school, LaPorte of Houston, fielded six of the 47 teams in the Interscholastics at Raven Rock, NC., in March. They brought 42 competitors, 36 of whom were kids.

The program began only six years ago. "We were pretty awful" says Major. "Houston is the flatlands. I mean there isn't 5 feet elevation change in the city." Now the school is a leading developer of Team Texas and the Texas Junior Orienteering Camp (TJOC). Plus, Major will be teaching Orienteering as a PE class next year.

"I have to give credit where credit is due. If Jeff Saeger hadn't really pushed us off a few years back, we wouldn't be where we are. We realized we need to grow our own. That includes parents. Three-quarters of them compete."

When asked about parental involve-



ment, he could not stress it enough. It did not start out that way. But now two are assistant coaches and several volunteer in a wide variety of ways.

But the kids are the why and how of it all. They do all of the work; the setup, the cooking, organizing. There is a mentor/mentee program where an experienced student is responsible for a junior member of the team. And when they travel, they study.

"Academics are paramount," says Major. "The kids have study groups and classes. I administer tests and whatever the teachers require. We hold our kids to high standards."

When asked how they train, given the terrain deficit, Major says they jump rope and run bleachers. They try to add a lot of variety and one-on-one work. They map critique as well.

Major is excited about his Orienteering course next fall. "We don't have a textbook. The students will keep diaries, practice designing courses, critique map routes and route choices and work on memory skills. And since it is a PE course, there will be plenty of physical exercise.

"Tatiana Svistun has a lot of good ideas." A former Russian national champ

and former coach of the St. Petersburg University Orienteering team, she has been helping with the team, class and TJOC.

Beside her and the parents, TJOC instructors include Mike Eglinski, Andreas Svenson and Peter and Mickey Snell.

TJOC is a seven day wall-to-wall orienteering sweatfest in June. The kids orienteer 3 times a day. Eighty kids from fifteen schools train at this camp. The emphasis here is on competition.

This camp and team programs are subsidized by the Army, but all of the programs are open to both JROTC and non-JROTC students. Not all programs are.

Frank Campbell of Cobb County Georgia says that they use orienteering as a draw to JROTC. "We tell them if they want to be on the team they have to be in JROTC. We have to have some kind of draw to keep the numbers up."

On the other hand, two-thirds of the Colony team is non-JROTC. Their program, only four years old, also started off poorly. Now there is enough dedication that at least one graduate still travels with the team.

Matt Griger, a founding team member, still thinks of the Colony team as his team. He is proud of how far they have come. Their varsity team beat LaPorte by 23 total team minutes to come in first place.

When asked the secret of their success, the students said parents. But Matt says it wasn't always that way. It was originally just a couple of pushy kids.

In fact, that seems to be how several of the teams got started. A fairly typical scenario is that a student, familiar with orienteering through the family, decides to try to get a team together. When there is parent support, the program grows. With friends, the kids stick with it.

This is the case with the hometeams, the Enloe Eagles (High School) and the Ligon Little Blues (Middle School). When Lori Huberman found out about the





Interscholastics 2 years ago she thought it was cool. She recruited some friends and began training. Her mom, Ruth Bromer, says that they used to take them to train every weekend. Now the friends are mobile and motivated. They train every weekend that their common music interests allow.

The team also sets courses for local events. Lori is still the leader. This just seems natural. Ruth reports that Lori has been orienteering since the day she was born, having gone along for the ride on a Yellow just hours before birth. Lori's team came in fourth and she won the VF trophy.

Lori will tell you that the main ingredient to a successful team is friends. "If you aren't good friends, I don't see how it's going to work very well. It makes the experience a whole lot more fun!"

The kids in the big programs would agree that friendship plays a big part. But the team's existence creates its own draw. One-third of the students interviewed on the Colony team said that they had never heard of orienteering until they heard of the team. Only one-third had been orienteering before joining the team.

So what about after high school? There has been quite a bit of discussion lately of the missing collegiate competitor.

Tim Colston was a founding member of the LaPorte team in '94. He is now a senior at Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute (RPI). He is

due to be commissioned as a Naval Officer in late spring. He brought his team with him. The RPI team was formed just last October. They get no support from the institution, but they are doing it anyway.

Tim says he was annoyed with the bad placement of controls in field exercises with his unit. Now he is the commander of field training.



Tim is not alone. Major reports that three of his graduates have formed college teams, a fourth is in process and there are a few others that are prospects.

Colleges don't usually aid the teams, but they are forming anyway. And such determined students are likely to become O'ers for life. Tim says he will be one. ▲

Opposite PAGE: An unidentified competitor enjoying the sun.

INSET: LaPorte teammates reviewing O-symbols on Saturday.

This PAGE Top: In the back row are the Enloe Eagles' Jonathan McDaniel, Lori Huberman, Brendan Shields, Ed Su, Jonathan Fitz-Simmons; in the front row are the Ligon Little Blues' Dawson Harris, Carlie Huberman, Willy Hardy and Brock Bowden. **Right side top and bottom:** Sunday start and finish scenes. **Middle:** RPI's Team: Isaac Pelt, Alexander Phillipson, Tim Colston, Caleb Cramer.



Clubnet discussion regarding the future of Orienteering

In March of this year, the membership of USOF did a lot of soul-searching over the internet. At first I was inclined to disbelieve the importance of the commentary. I had just gone to the Interscholastics and had seen the lively competition there. How could there actually be a problem? As the discussion unfolded, I became aware of the nature of the problem. Please read the following exchanges and take a few minutes to reflect on the subject. If you would, please send your comments on to me and I will post them and include them in the next newsletter. As teachers, we are naturally interested in making sure that our efforts result in a positive effect on our students throughout their lives.

Subject: [USOFclubnet] Where Have All the Children Gone Date: Tue, 26 Mar 2002 15:43:15 -0800 From: "Bruce McAlister"

Some random comments on the growth of orienteering, or the lack thereof.

Liz Kotowski wrote:

"I'm not saying we have to turn the sport upside down, but we need to find better ways to attract teens, college kids, and adults who will not just show up once a year to stroll around a beginners course with the family after soccer season is over."

And various people have commented, here, at Board meetings, in casual conversation, that orienteering is growing older and doesn't seem to be attracting the 20-somethings that it will need, not just for growth, but to sustain the sport.

First, in setting goals, we have to decide if growth is desirable or necessary, or are we looking for sustainability. While I am not persuaded that growth for growth's sake is necessarily always good, there is certainly a minimum size in order for the sport to function and prosper, and I am persuaded that we need to start thinking seriously about how to attract and maintain interest in younger orienteers. Second, this is not a phenomenon unique to the US. This thread actually started from a British comment. I read the same comments on the Norwegian net, and hear the same thing from Canada. We can learn a lot from others.

Jeff Watson wrote:

> Seriously, I think > that high school and junior high leagues would help. Those of you with > experience in this area can comment. I know that Seattle has a winter > school league that seems to get a lot of participants. However, I haven't > seen this translate into mass numbers of young people at their meets in > the summer. This may be just my limited visibility.

It is not your limited visibility.

The League in Western Washington has been operating for about 15 years. Has about 200 high school participants each year. There have perhaps been several thousand kids in the program over those years. There are today perhaps half a dozen members in local clubs who can trace membership back to the high school league. Eric says we have more, but I am not so sure. However, I must admit that one of those is Eric Bone, presently ranked No. 1 in the US. Perhaps that alone justifies the effort. I hear the comment made that even if we lose the high schoolers temporarily, perhaps the high school experience will bring them back later as family members. Certainly this happens, but I don't see much reason to count on this.

I think much the same can be said about the other school programs, particularly the JROTC programs in the South. There are lots of high school kids at competitions, but I simply don't see equivalent numbers at other meets, nor show up at the college level.

> In the college ranks, there has been a drop off in competitors. Mikell > Platt commented that ROTC no longer requires orienteering training. Do we > have some contacts high up in the military that can do something about this? > Can we do something at a lower level like get a competition going between > the military academies? Should we send an email to the Naval and Air Force > Academy and question their courage and manhood for not going to the upcoming > West Point Meet? >> What about other college competitions? Are there any? We just got a club > going here in Corvallis which is the home of Oregon State University. I > hope to expand to Eugene which is Oregon Duck territory. Someday we'll have > some friendly competitions between the two. This could expand to > competitions with the University of Washington, Stanford, and Cal Berkeley > who all have big orienteering clubs nearby.

Actually the situation in the college ranks is about our most dismal. There will surely be some teams at this years Inter-collegiate Meet, but as of now, not one team is entered. Orienteering is still strong at West Point, and Navy will be at the West Point meet, and a program is starting at Air Force. But college clubs are dwindling, not increasing. Brown, Indiana, Washington, Texas A&M are all gone. When the high school kids get to college, it is unlikely that they will find any college orienteering club or program; the college ROTC program has dropped orienteering; and a lot of college cross country coaches regard orienteering as injury prone (they don't like skiing or snow boarding very much either), and are less than totally enthusiastic about seeing their cross-country runners on orienteering courses. Students come and are gone in a few years, and, locally, faculty members have not been a solution. I don't think any college programme is sustainable on its own. I can't speak for the rest of the country, but locally I have seen some effort on the part of local clubs to maintain college clubs, but nothing on a sustained basis. And the absence of college clubs around the country suggests that that may be the standard situation.

If one looks at the demographics of orienteering clubs (Sid Sachs did an interesting survey several years ago), you will see that the club members are highly educated. College should be our most promising recruitment field; yet it is our poorest. We should be putting as much or more effort into building up college programmes that we are putting into new maps and new e-punching equipment. And certainly more effort than worrying about whether F50 is on Brown or Green.

> Is there a recruiting video that we could show to runners to show off our > sport? I would love to show it to local running clubs and high school > coaches. Summer orienteering would be a wonderful "off-season" training > tool for long distances runners. It could bridge the track and > cross-country seasons with something that adds a little variety in their > training runs.

The best recruiting video I have seen is a French video using college students. I have a SECAM copy, but my I loaned my VHS copy and it was never returned. There are some good training tapes, but they aren't very exciting. USOF set aside quite a few thousand several years ago for video, but I don't think anything has ever been done. And O in Schools has languished since Karl Kolva more or less gave up.

So, what can we do.

A lot. First, and above all, MAKE IT FUN! If you can't win, you should always leave a meet with a sense of accomplishment and of having had a great time. If someone new shows up today, they are lucky if anyone says hello.

Support college teams. Clubs like BAOC and COC (or fill in with your own club) could make support and promotion of college teams major objectives of their clubs. USOF could put more time and effort and MONEY into school and college programmes. Even if this means basically hiring a development person. We are far too hung up on the volunteer aspect of orienteering.

We could lend vigorous support to getting orienteering into the Olympics. This is an IOF project, but it needs a great

deal more enthusiasm on the part of the Federations.

We can learn from Adventure racing. We should not be so tied to the two-day classic meet format. Frankly, I think it is about the stupidest format that could be adopted. We need a lot more Rogaines and Goats and score-o events. These are faster, more exciting, more challenging, and, at least in my humble opinion, a lot more attractive as a sport than running around some trails in a park for the fourteenth time.

And more training for our juniors. We need to TEACH navigation to juniors, and NOT in parks. Out in the wild, please.

And more social events, but not those that have a bunch of 40/50+ers sitting around munching potato chips. We need music, colour, sounds, and, yes, maybe even a few adult beverages.

Well, this has been my 10 cents worth. I will now go put on my suit of armour, and try to dodge the spears.

Bruce McAlister

Subject: Re: [USOFclubnet] Orienteering— The future of O in Schools: A Partnership? Date: Wed, 27 Mar 2002 18:54:12 -0600 From: Carl Sack

Throughout the past few years, I have been acutely (though not as vocally as perhaps would have been good) aware of the problem of orienteering's disappearing youth. I feel that I am a member of an aging class; I do not have much more time before I can no longer be considered a junior, as is the case with many of my orienteering friends. While we are leaving the category, I have seen few new faces to replace us. Those I have seen have been relegated to the super-clubs on the East Coast. There definitely needs to be something done to bring in the younger set. I have a few ideas, though they may or may not be of any use.

I'm not really sure how to approach the under 12 set. I came from a family, as have most of the other seriously competitive juniors at present. So the family approach must not be abandoned. Attracting scouts is also important, though it doesn't seem to have as much lasting effect. I really don't know what more we can do in this age group than what is already being done.

Middle and high school are a bit different. My original club, OCIN, has been fairly active in providing orienteering programs for middle and high schools. While these may expose the kids to the sport and its skills, few of the participants seem to translate into club members and competitors, despite how much positive feedback the programs get. It is apparent, however, that if the sport is to grow, the school population is an important resource. How to tap it?

When one is looking for answers, it is often useful to look at the model provided by others. I think that the key is to look at the model of Cross Country. The number of XC high school teams has blossomed over the past couple of years. What did they do that orienteering didn't? This must be examined.

What it comes down to is a league system. The only way that orienteering is going to get more young competitors than the trickle provided by families is to have a competitive school team system with team meets similar to XC. These meets could be put on by orienteering clubs and correspond with local meets, which would consequently be bigger and happen more often. Clubs would grow to accommodate the influx, using team coaches and the increased funds provided by more entries as resources. The culmination, of course, would be the US Interscholastic Championships. Also, a certain number of these team events could be made ranking events, so as to include these competitors in US rankings and JWOC selection (though each scholastic competitor should have to go to at least one independent A-meet to qualify for these). What is needed is an interscholastic league to go with these championships, which would be a branch of USOF and branches of local clubs.

Please note that I am NOT suggesting a change in the nature of the sport. If all people want to do is run, they have XC.

If they want to run and jump and throw things, they have track. I sincerely believe that becoming less navigation-oriented will neither gain more membership, nor make the sport more appealing in any way.

One thing to consider, though, is the similarity between XC and orienteering, in that most high-schoolers who might be interested in true competitive orienteering, other than JROTC, are to be found in the ranks of XC runners. Since orienteering at this stage cannot rival XC for numbers, one option might be to work with XC leagues to develop combined orienteering/cross country — OXC — teams. In other words, a school would have one competitive team which competed in a certain number of meets each season, half of which would be XC and organized by those leagues already in place, and half would be orienteering, organized by an orienteering club. Training would be divided equally between the two types of skills, which already overlap to a large extent anyway. At the end of the season, each sport would have its own championship event, and all team members would compete in both. In essence, it would be a joint venture between the two sports, which could very much benefit both.

This is my vision for a possible route to attempt to get more juniors. As someone who has recently gone to college and attempted the “traditional” methods of recruitment, I can testify as to how next-to-impossible it is to get these to work with the demands on everyone’s time. Yet my school has a first-year XC team that is fairly large and successful. It is time to start seeking answers to this paradox and learn how our sport can copycat off of others’ successes.

-Carl

Subject: [USOFclubnet] keeping the juniors Date: Wed, 27 Mar 2002 23:18:32 -0800 From: “Lawrence J. Berman”

One of the factors that doesn’t even get mentioned in all this discussion is the support structure, or lack of it.

If you are on a high school XC team, the school provides a coach, uniforms, transportation, and facilities. When you leave HS, it all disappears. I don’t know of any club, except maybe USMA, that can provide such support. So the juniors drift into activities that have enough money to provide it. And I don’t see any way in the short term for us to compete with that.

Larry Berman

Subject: [USOFclubnet] Where Have All the Children Gone - To Nat O Day I might hope Date: Thu, 28 Mar 2002 10:16:31 -0500 From: Jeff F Saeger

I hope something can come of these discussions, ie I hope someone does something. I am a cynic, because as some one pointed out, after all these discussions, we have to go out there and actually CARRY OUT the ideas and solutions. I would like to comment on some of the responses. Let me first say that though no expert, I have been involved in raising two daughters who O a lot, although no longer dependent on us to do so, and have taught O’ to 6 to 20 year olds. That does not make me an expert! You can walk into your local school and volunteer to do an O activity. They will love you for it, the teachers will think it is a wonderful activity.....when you don’t show up, it stops happening. Since it is not in the curriculum and there are so many other things to teach, even if the teacher knew how, there is no time for it. Karl Kolva and Meg Garrett realized this, and were pushing to have it put in curriculums, but as I understand, it is a national or perhaps a state issue. As such USOF does not have the resources to push for it. The only way around this is as a club sport, which means some one has to be there every day to make it happen like track, football and baseball. But at least those coaches are paid, you will not be..... Every college O’ club or Team I know of was started by a student who came from a family which orienteered, when they left, the club disappeared. If the club has a faculty member supporting it, then it will perpetuate. And Eric hit it right on, when he stated that juniors stick with orienteering because of the social as-

pects. This is in fact the same reason many school sports are so popular. There are many track teams in this area with 60-80 members, I know of a XC team with 70 members (only 7 can compete in meets). Why are they there? I discovered this quite by accident when I put on my first US Jr O Team training camp. The friendships which were formed at that first camp 6 years ago still exist, even among those who no longer orienteer! THE training camps have been the biggest boost to the Team. The Junior Team is so successful not because it TRAINS at the camps, but simply because they happen!

Every year I do 3 workshops over 3 days at a local reservation. They host outdoor activities for a nearby school of 5th graders. Lots of activities from boating to shirt making to nature walks are offered. AND Orienteering. The kids LOVE it! Apparently it is such demand that they have to turn them away! But I never see them again at local meets. I give them a schedule, but of course it is up to their parents to get them there

SO here are my ideas:

High School and college is too late to attract new members. You have to get families interested before they commit to high school and town sports too heavily. You must emphasize the “Do It together Aspect of O” Town Recreation Departments offer sport leagues, I think this is good way for O to be introduced and competed. (thanks to Clare Durand for this suggestion, many years ago) I still have not acted upon it myself!

BUT, even that is too late. If you survey orienteers, most I know took up the sport between college and having families. At this age people have money and time. And they are looking for new adventures. So we must target the parents, BEFORE THEY ARE PARENTS!

How to get to them? Media campaigns require lots of ads, we are overwhelmed by media information. To stand out you must repeat over and over, ask anyone running for public office, it's ludicrously expensive these days. Think of the popular sports introduced over the last 20 years, road races, triathalons, Mt Biking, snowboarding, adventure racing. Think of the amount of money spent by sponsors of the sports, shoe companies, bicycle manufacturers, clothing makers, charities, and then car and beer companies!

Orienteering must get exposure to the public, and the most prevalent medium in the USA is television. As much as I personally condemn it as a wasteland, it is the medium most people get there information from, and they believe what they see (big mistake in my opinion). So USOF must have as its priority to get media exposure, preferably on television. That takes money, either we raise it, or we get some one else to pay, a sponsor. Who would want to sponsor orienteering? We would have to wage a huge PR campaign, every club must use lots of its resources to get coverage in first newspapers, then TV. Who is going to do it?

This is just my opinion, Mike Commons is right , do a survey, ask juniors : a)why they are there, b)ask adults why they are there and c) how they were introduced.

BUT, THEN you have to DO something with the information.

MY answers.....I love running in the woods (did this as a kid playing fox and hounds)(finding those controls is a real pain!)By a friend.

Subject: [USOFclubnet] Re: Where Have All the Children Gone Date: Sun, 31 Mar 2002 03:19:51 -0000 From: "philht" <philht@hotmail.com> To: USOFclubnet@yahoo.com

Having laid back and read this thread with interest over the last week or two, I would like to make a couple of points.

First, I will state up front that I generally agree with the Jeff Saeger/Eric Smith/Janet Porter line that it is friends which bring kids in to orienteering, and that initially keeps them there. But there are a couple of details that become more important over time: transportation, and having friends that you ONLY see at orienteering events. For transportation, you can't expect Scout leaders, or coaches, or friends' parents, or anyone except the child's own parents, and eventually him/herself, to get them to an orienteering meet. So, the other line of reasoning which says that the Parents are where you must focus is what eventually wins out. And this is made even more true by the need to have the kids develop a sense of friendship with other "O Kids" whom they don't see all the time at home. If they can walk down the block and play hoops with their friends, it becomes less of an issue to push their parents to drive them an hour or two in order to do something with these same friends; they are more likely to push if it means a chance to see and play and hang out and compete with their special Orienteering friends. Does this mean we need to target only kids who have no friends at home? I don't think so, and my own experience (so far) says you can develop O interest in lots of different kids from a variety of backgrounds. But you can pretty quickly gauge which ones are likely to continue by the degree of involvement (or at least support) of their parents, and/or the degree to which they are sufficiently self-motivated and confident to call around looking for rides or instruction or asking "when's the next meet/meeting". This is the reason Scouts are such a failure, in terms of developing long-term O people: their parents have already just turned them over to the Scout leaders, so the parents will never follow up; and the kids are at the O meet with their own group, so they never get into the interaction with others that is needed to make them want to come back and see those others again.

So, with all that said, where are we? It seems that the logic is circular: you need the kids to get hooked and grow up to be orienteers; but you need the parents to nurture and transport the kids to the events so they will get hooked. Chicken or Egg? There is no "solution."

So I fall back upon a couple points:

1- Think globally, act locally. We all have this goal to "Grow O", but what is the practical reality where we individually are located? If you have a large Club structure, with many maps, and live in a metropolitan area, your options are considerably different than they are if you are in a small Club, can only staff a few meets each year, and have no current involvement in other groups which give you some access to kids or young parents. You have to start with your own situation, and make the most of it, not try to follow some formula. Particularly since there is no surefire successful formula.

2- Make a realistic appraisal of what you personally (or perhaps what you and your spouse/partner collectively) are capable of doing with some degree of effectiveness. This is not meant as an offering of an easy out to people who don't want to bother developing kids/parents to be orienteers ("Hey, I can't do anything, so I'm off the hook"), but rather to say that your skills are not necessarily the same as someone else's, so don't do things that you aren't comfortable with. Returning to my own experience, I am absolutely not a teacher. I don't have the patience (among other things). But my wife is a teacher and does have the patience. So she is the organizer of the Orienteering Club at our School, whereas I do most of the course setting (though my son Marty has been picking this up as a good learning tool) and mapping and longer distance driving, as well as leading the chartered Orienteering Club in our area (EMPO). Are we hitting young adults? No, not directly. We don't have an obvious access point. But we are trying to make the most of the access point(s) that we have: directly in our Middle School/High School, and broadly using the internet and whatever other publicity sources we can find to cover the wider area.

And one more thing I don't worry about too much: is this kid I am taking to an orienteering meet going to grow up to be a lifelong orienteer? That is my goal in doing it, but I am more than satisfied if I achieve the serendipitous result of seeing a child learn a skill, or just have a good time.

-Phil Hawkes-Teeter

Subject: [USOFclubnet] Where have all the children gone Date: Sun, 31 Mar 2002 17:01:00 -0500 From: "Robin Shannonhouse"

I too think we need to do something about getting more O-clubs or O-team in colleges. I'm contacted each Spring by graduating HS orienteers asking me for O-clubs near/at their colleges, rarely is there one near enough for them to make the meets. Heck, I'm contacted by HS Juniors who are considering which college to attend and want to put orienteering in the equation.

I was talking with the father of one HS JROTC grad this time last year. He and his son were disagreeing over college choices because the son ranked the colleges he been accepted to based on how near the orienteering was. The dad had been helping with the team for years and was tired of hearing about orienteering. I don't know where the young man went to college, but the next Fall, the dad was back, his daughter was now on the HS team.

Just last week at Raven Rock I talked with one GAOCer who is graduating from high school this year and has been orienteering both with GAOC and at USOF A-meets with his high school team. He was worried about how he was going to keep orienteering next year. The closest O-club to his college is hours away.

These high school orienteers by and large would LOVE to keep orienteering after high school. Far from leaving orienteering once they graduate, they do everything they can to keep going. I know grads who help coach and/or set training courses for their HS teams. Others have tried to start O-teams at the colleges they attend. But it's hard to attend college and be an O-organizer too. It's tough to continue in any sport when a life-change dictates a move and the sport doesn't exist in your new location.

Robin Shannonhouse rshannonhouse@mindspring.com

Subject: Re: [USOFclubnet] Re: Where Have All the Children Gone Date: Sun, 31 Mar 2002 12:36:42 -0500 From: Greg Sack

This is such an incredibly important subject for the health of our sport. While I agree with almost everything said by Phil, I need to add a slightly more optimistic note. There is a solution, or more appropriately, solutions. Watch for the May issue of ONA with the report on the Interscholastics. A few of the teams are not just recruiting the students. They have begun getting the parents involved with competition, not just as drivers. The schools, then, become ever more important in bringing the "fresh blood" to grow the sport. If you know of any teachers that do not belong to USOF, but should get the O-In-Schools newsletter, please send their name and how to contact info so I can find out if they would like to receive the newsletter on a regular basis. Same if you have a professional interest in education. It is free. And it usually has added info beyond the article in ONA.

Finally, I would like to make an appeal here. It is ludicrous that I am the only person on the O-In-Schools committee. Beside the chair, there should be a person from each level of the education system on this committee: Elementary, Middle, Sr. High, College. If you would be interested in helping make this a real operating body, with a true mission and professional development strategies, Please join me. By myself, about all I can manage is writing the article and answering teacher requests.

<g

As a post-script, I am currently researching concepts to make orienteering more accessible to teachers. If you have any ideas, please share them. We may not be able to get Orienteering into the official curriculum, it may be that it isn't even appropriate at this time, but there have been many instances of the use of orienteering to teach humanities, math, science and for its use in PE programs. Thought of in this way it becomes apparent that it is important for the health of the curriculum and the students for Orienteering to survive and grow.