

Camp Jack Wright

PERMANENT ORIENTEERING COURSE (2004)

WHAT IS ORIENTEERING?

The skill which enables a person to navigate with a map. In the competitive sport, the winner is the person who finishes in the shortest time. However, many orienteers are more interested in enjoying the outdoors, and walk at their own speed. There are orienteers 2 years old and orienteers 80 years old.

WHAT DO I DO IF I GET LOST?

First of all, you might think you are lost, but you are not really.

Wherever you are, you can get to a major feature in about 10 minutes. Fence to the north, stream to the northwest, Farley Field to the west, dirt road to the south, 500kv power line to the east. Once you make it to one of these features, you should be able to find your way back to the camp in another 10 or 15 minutes.

When you decide you are lost, head west. This should bring you to Farley Field. If you encounter dense vegetation, turn and head south. This should take you up a hill towards the camp or the road heading to the camp.

HOW DIFFICULT IS THIS COURSE?

This course has been set up so that a complete newcomer can finish in one to two hours at a gentle walking pace. Most of the course is on or near trails, but some off trail navigation is required to visit all 10 markers. The navigation is easy and should not distract from the pleasant surroundings. During the summer months, the vegetation may make off trail navigation a little difficult. During the winter, you should not have too much trouble getting off the trails. In orienteering terms, this is a beginner to advanced beginner level course.

HOW FAR IS IT?

If you visit the controls 1 through 10 as described below, you will travel approximately 1.6km or about 1 mile. This course is sufficient for First Class requirement 2 (Using a compass, complete an orienteering course that covers at least one mile and requires measuring the height and/or width of designated items (tree, tower, canyon, ditch, etc.)). Measure the height of the flag pole after navigating the course to complete the requirement.

THE MAP

The most difficult part of reading an orienteering map is understanding the contours. The contours on the map are at 5 meter intervals (approx 16 feet). Moving from one contour line to another, you will either gain or lose 5 meters in elevation. However, this course can be completed without any knowledge of contours. Pay attention to trails and to trail junctions. They are pretty accurate on the map. However, during the summer, some of them may be a little hard to follow.

For those who have a compass, the vertical lines with the black triangles on the map are north-south lines known as meridians, pointing to magnetic north.

Orienteering is an international sport which is why all orienteering maps are in meters. The scale of this map is 1 : 3,333. This means that 1 cm on the map is 33 meters on the ground (1 inch = 93 yards).

WHITE areas – open woods

YELLOW areas – fields

GREEN areas – denser vegetation

BLUE – water features

BLACK – man made (buildings, roads, trails, power lines, fences....) and rock features (boulders, cliffs....)

BROWN – land features (contour lines, ditches, pits,....)

The map has plenty of detail which means you do not need to rely too much on the compass. Pay attention to the various features (trails, streams, boulders, fields....) shown on the map to keep track of you location. Orienteering is more about reading and understanding the map - not shooting azimuths and pacing.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE (1-10):

The course should be started from the covered shelter or the flagpole at Camp Jack Wright. The makers are made from 4"x4" treated posts that are about 2 feet tall. Each maker has the number engraved into the top. The front of the post has a 4"x4" orange and white weatherproof square attached.

For the rest of the course just follow the directions:

1 – DIRT ROAD / TRAIL junction – SE side.

(Dirt road indicated by solid black line, trail indicated by dashed black line)

From the covered shelter or the flagpole, go south a very short distance to the start of the nature trail. The first marker is located on the left (south) side of the road and the left (east side of the trail).

2 – BOULDER, 1 meter – SE side

(boulder is a black dot on an orienteering map)

From the first marker (ROAD / TRAIL junction), head east along the nature trail for 160 meters. As you proceed, you will gain some elevation. As you go along, look to the right (south) for a reentrant with a small stream crossing the trail. Most of the time there is very little water running, but you should be able to identify the area easily. A short distance from where the stream crosses the trail, you should be able to identify a boulder that is about 1 meter in height on the right side of the trail. Maker 2 is located behind the boulder (SE side).

3 – KNOLL, 1 meter – S side

(knoll is a brown dot on an orienteering map)

From marker 2, head due north for about 70 meters. The knoll (small mound of dirt) should be spotted before you reach campsite #2 and just to the east of campsite #1

4 – BOULDER, 1 meter – E side

(boulder is a black dot on an orienteering map)

From marker 3, head east for about 60 meters where you will find a dirt road, which is part of the nature trail. It is uphill from #3 to the dirt road. Once on the dirt road, turn left (NNE) and follow the road for about 150 meters where the nature trail Y's to the left. If you miss the junction, you will encounter a clearing with a large, 500KV power line. The junction is about 50 meter before the power line clearing. At the junction, there will be a boulder to the left (west) and the right (east) of the dirt road. The marker is on the east side of the right (east) boulder.

5 – CLIFF, 3 meters - NW foot

(cliff, also called rock face, is indicated by a solid black line with small tag lines)

From marker 4, head north along the nature trail for about 160 meters where you will cross a rocky ridge. After crossing the rocky ridge, follow the line of rocks to the SW for about 40 meters where you will find marker 5 at the foot of a 3-meter tall rock cliff.

6 – BOULDER, 1 meter – W side

(boulder is a black dot on an orienteering map)

From marker 5, head north for about 20 meters where you will find the nature trail. It may be a little hard to identify the trail here some times, especially during the summer. There are several boulders in the vicinity of

the trail here. Once on the trail, head west for about 130 meters. Look for a small pile of rocks on the right (north) side of the trail – indicated by a small black circle on the map. If you miss the rock pile, you will see a small pit on the right side of the trail (brown V on the orienteering map), If you miss the rock pile and the pit, you will see some boulders on the left side of the trail. From any of these locations, you should be able to proceed north for about 30 meters to find the boulder with the marker. Note there are two other boulders between the trail and the boulder with the marker. If you miss the marker and continue too far north, you will encounter some small ditches and then a fence that marks the north edge of the camp property.

7 – BOULDER, 2 meter – W side

(boulder is a black dot on an orienteering map)

From marker 6, head south, back to the trail. Turn right (SW) on the trail. Follow the trail for about 60 meters. There will be a boulder on the left side of the trail. The trail will then make a left turn and head SE. Immediately after turning left, you should see a large boulder (2 meters tall) on the right (west) side of the trail. Marker 7 is located on the west side of the boulder.

8 – TRAIL / STEAM JUNCTION – SW side

DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, THE VEGETATION BETWEEN 7 and 8 MAY BE A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO NAVIGATE THROUGH. YOU MAY WANT TO SKIP 8 and go to 9.

From marker 7, head west for about 60 meters. You will notice a considerable change in the density of the vegetation to the west of the trail. This is indicated by green color on the map. The trail here is marked with RED markings on trees. The trail may be hard to follow during the summer months. The trail indicated the west boundary of the camp. Follow the trail to the north for about 130 meters until it stops at a stream. The marker is on the left side of the trail near the stream. This is the northwest boundary of the camp – the north boundary indicated by a fence running east/west.

9 – ROCK PILE, 1 meter – N side

From marker 8, head south for about 170 meters. At this point you may see the pile of rocks located 30 meters to the left (east) of the trail. If not, head east for about 30 meters. Here you should be close enough to find the large rock pile. There are some smaller rock piles shown on the map just south of the marker.

10 – BOULDER, 1.5 meters – S side

From marker 9, head uphill (southeast) for about 70 meters where you will find the nature trail again. If you miss the trail you will come to the rocky ridge. Once you find the trail follow the trail to the ridge top where you will find the boulder on the left (east) side of the trail.

FINISH (back to the shelter)

From marker 10, continue south on the nature trail (downhill) for about 110 meters back to the camp shelter.

For additional challenge

Try visiting the markers out of sequence. That is, you may want to go from 1 to 3 to 5 to 10 to 7 to 4..... or some other combination.

For more information on orienteering, visit the following web sites:

Vulcan Orienteering Club
www.vulcanorienteering.org

United States Orienteering Federation (USOF)
www.us.orienteering.org

Camp Jack Wright

PERMANENT ORIENTEERING COURSE Addition (2009)

The expansion of Camp Jack Wright has allowed additional orienteering to be added. The additional orienteering posts are the same as the original, treated posts that are about 2 feet tall. Each marker has the number engraved into the top. The additional posts (11-20) are generally more difficult than the original posts (1-10).

General information about the area east of the 500KV electrical transmission line. The south boundary of the camp is marked with a 4 foot fence. **Do not cross the fence. The areas south and east of the fence are regularly used for hunting.** The entire perimeter of the camp is marked by a narrow fire lane. The fire lane should be fairly open and relatively easy to travel by foot. The perimeter of the camp is also marked with red markings on trees about every 50 to 100 feet. The 500KV electrical transmission line right-of-way is kept fairly open. There is a fairly good trail along the west side of the transmission line. The right-of-way south of the ridge tends to be fairly open. The northern part (from the ridge to the north camp boundary) tends to be overgrown with briars which make it difficult to cross.

If you get lost, remember, you are probably still fairly close to your camp site. Generally, you should head due west. This should take you back to the camp or to Tannehill.

Here is a suggested order:

1-2-3-19-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-4-20-5-6-7-8-9-10

The total length of this suggested order is about 2 miles.

For those with limited orienteering experience, this detailed description should help you be successful in finding the posts.

1 – DIRT ROAD / TRAIL junction – SE side.

(Dirt road indicated by solid black line, trail indicated by dashed black line)

From the covered shelter or the flagpole, go south a very short distance to the start of the nature trail. The first marker is located on the left (south) side of the road and the left (east side of the trail).

2 – BOULDER, 1 meter – SE side

(boulder is a black dot on an orienteering map)

From the first marker (ROAD / TRAIL junction), head east along the nature trail for 160 meters. As you proceed, you will gain some elevation. As you go along, look to the right (south) for a reentrant with a small stream crossing the trail. Most of the time there is very little water running, but you should be able to identify the area easily. A short distance from where the stream crosses the trail, you should be able to identify a boulder that is about 1 meter in height on the right side of the trail. Marker 2 is located behind the boulder (SE side).

3 – KNOLL, 1 meter – S side

(knoll is a brown dot on an orienteering map)

From marker 2, head due north for about 70 meters. The knoll (small mound of dirt) should be spotted before you reach campsite #2 and just to the east of campsite #1

19 – BOULDER, 1.5 meter – NW side

(boulder is a black dot on an orienteering map)

From marker 3, head due east (uphill). In about 60 meters, you will cross the nature trail. Continue due east (uphill) for about 70 meters. If you overshoot the boulder, you will encounter a trail along the top of the ridge. Find the trail intersection, head SW on the trail for about 10 meters and go about 10 meters to the NW to find the boulder.

11 – FENCE – W end

(fence is a black line with angled tick marks)

From 19 head east to the trail junction. Take the trail heading south. Follow the trail to the south for about 90 meters. Near the south end of the trail you should see a 4 foot fence. The marker is located at the end of the fence.

12 – stream junction

(stream is a blue line on an orienteering map)

Continue along the fence for 190 meters. You will cross the 500KV electrical transmission line clearing. The stream is very small and only occasionally has water running in it. The post is located where the stream crosses under the fence.

13 – dry ditch

(dry ditch is indicated with a brown dotted line on an orienteering map)

From 12, head NW for 140 meters. You will be travelling uphill in a shallow re-entrant (draw). You will pass a small rise (elevated area) to your right as you near the post. Continue following the small dry ditch till you find the post.

14 – re-entrant, upper part

(re-entrants are indicated by the curved contour lines on an orienteering map)

This is an advanced orienteering section. If you are not comfortable with this, head due east till you reach to bottom of the valley and continue along the valley NE till you reach 15 in the saddle.

From 13, head downhill SE for about 100 meters till you reach the bottom. Continue uphill till you reach the top (This is a steep hill as indicated by several fairly close contour lines) On the east side of the ridge, you should find a re-entrant. The post is located near the upper end of the re-entrant, about 20 meters from the top of the ridge. If you overshoot the post, you should encounter the fire lane along the east boundary of the camp. Do not cross to the east of the fire lane. This is private property to the east of the camp that is used for hunting.

15 – saddle

(saddle indicated by the hourglass shaped contour lines on an orienteering map)

From 14, head N and follow the ridge to the NE till you find the fire lane. Follow the fire lane north along the camp boundary. This will be downhill. As you near the bottom, you will see a saddle off to the left about 20 meters. Look for the post in the saddle.

16 – re-entrant

(re-entrants are indicated by the curved contour lines on an orienteering map)

From 15, head NW. You should follow the re-entrant (draw) uphill for about 90 meters. The post is located about 15 meters from the top of the ridge in the re-entrant. If you overshoot the post, you will encounter a dirt road at the top of the ridge.

17 – re-entrant

(re-entrants are indicated by the curved contour lines on an orienteering map)

From 16, head SW. You should maintain the same elevation and travel along the side of the ridge. This is called “contouring” in orienteering terms. Continue for about 70 meters till you find the next re-entrant. The post is located near the upper end of the re-entrant similar to 16.

18 – rock face (N side)

(rock face is indicated by black line with black tick marks on an orienteering map)

From 17, head north to the dirt road at the top of the ridge. Head SW along the dirt road for about 120 meters. You should see the 500KV electrical transmission line ahead. You will find some small rock faces located about 10 meters to the right (north side) of the dirt road. Carefully work your way around to the north side of the rocks and look for the post at the base of the rocks.

4 – boulder

(boulder is indicated by black dot on an orienteering map)

Navigating from 18 to 4 can be difficult due to the vegetation/briars on the north half of the 500KV transmission right-of-way. The easiest way is to take the dirt road along the ridge to the west side of the right-of-way. Then follow it north (downhill) to the nature trail where the boulder is located on the south side of the trail junction.

20 – trail/clearing junction – NE side

(trail is indicated by black dashed line on an orienteering map)

Navigating from 4 to 20 can be difficult due to the vegetation/briars on the north half of the 500KV transmission right-of-way. The easiest way is to take the nature trail to the north. When you reach the rocky area, head due east and cross the 500KV right-of-way along the fence. (This may be very difficult due to vegetation/briars) The post is located on the east side of the clearing at the junction with the fire lane.

5 – CLIFF, 3 meters - NW foot

(cliff, also called rock face, is indicated by a solid black line with small tag lines)

From marker 20, head west, back to the nature trail. Turn north on the nature trail and cross the rocky ridge. Leave the trail and follow the line of rocks to the SW for about 40 meters where you will find marker 5 at the foot of a 3-meter tall rock cliff.

6 – BOULDER, 1 meter – W side

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