

2010 North American "O" Festival – a 21 event extravaganza!

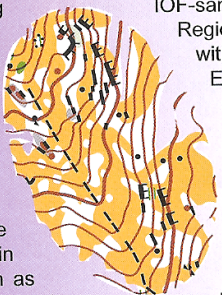
Ever wished you could visit Canada's Rocky Mountains? Next summer, Canada and the United States host the most extensive series of high calibre orienteering events seen in North America for many years. The North American Orienteering Festival, June 26 – July 27, 2010, offers a diverse and exciting roster of 21 events, including several major championships – all set in the spectacular Rocky Mountains and Pacific Coast Mountains. Experience some of the finest orienteering terrain anywhere in the world, such as the open fir forests and grasslands of the Rockies. Add the chance to visit renowned Banff National Park, or Whistler, the 2010 Winter Olympics venue, and you have an orienteering festival you won't want to miss. Festival highlights include the

North American Championships (NAOC2010) in British Columbia, the US Championships in Washington, and the Rocky Mountain "O" Festival in Colorado. The NOAC2010 has courses for everyone, but is also the IOF-sanctioned North American Regional Championship, with 3 World Ranking Events (WRE) in sprint, middle and long distance. Also in Canada are 2 meets in sun-drenched Kamloops, and the Barebones events north of beautiful Vancouver at Whistler. This year's Barebones doubles as the Western Canadian Championships in sprint, middle (WRE) and long distance. The US Championships in Washington State will have sprint, middle and long

courses, plus the US Trail "O" Champs. Later in July, at the Rocky Mountain "O" Festival in scenic Colorado, another amazing series of races feature the Western States Championships, and the US Night, Relay and Ultra-Long Championships.

As if these races aren't enough to grab your attention, the North American Festival organizers are including a Top of the World Sprint Series, if you run in the major sprint events.

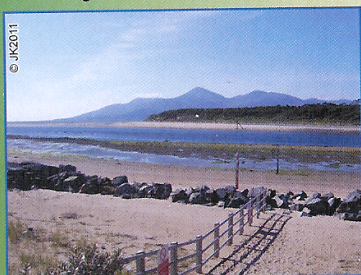
North American orienteers invite you to come across the pond and enjoy our mountain terrain, excellent maps and hospitality! Registration for the NAOC, with early bird pricing, opens December 1, 2009. For full details on the North American "O" Festival, with links to each of the events, visit www.NAOC2010.com. (Source: Juri Peepre)



2011 – The Irish 10 Day !

In case you missed the flyers available at events during 2009, the 2011 JK will be held in Northern Ireland and will be organised by NIOA. Easter is on the last possible weekend in 2011 meaning that the JK will take place from Friday 22nd – Monday 25th April.

The organisers are excited to be staging an event as prestigious as the JK and are working hard to make it memorable for all. The Irish Championships will take place on the following weekend near Dublin and with some mid-week events being planned, create the option of making it an Irish 10 Day!



*'where the Mountains of Mourne sweep down to the sea' (Percy French)
View from the 2011 JK Relays area towards Slieve Donard in the Mourne Mountains*

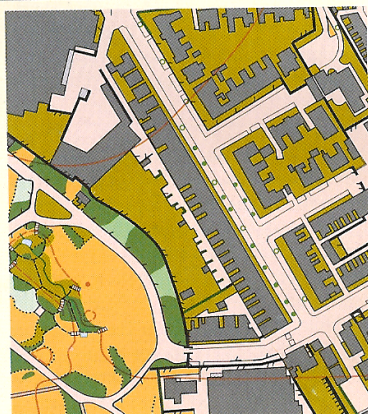
Preparations are well advanced with the organising team in place, key officials appointed and competition areas chosen – well nearly. There are continuing discussions over the Day 2 area which will hopefully be resolved before Christmas. The usual events will be provided as

part of the JK Festival. There will be the Sprint Event on the Friday in the grounds of Stranmillis College in Belfast. The World Ranking Event, Elite Classic and second long event for all classes will be on the intricate open mountain of Slieve Croob on the Sunday. The Relays will then take place in the sand dunes of Tyrella South on Monday.

Trail O will be provided, with planning by the widely recognised expert, Alan Gartside. String courses will be available for our future stars. There will also be prize givings for the worthy winners and the JK social in the form of an Irish ceilidh.

We recognise the importance of easy and affordable travel; therefore the numerous options are currently being explored such as fly/drive, organised shuttle buses and discounts with a major ferry provider. Members will hopefully be aware of the BOF affiliate arrangements with Premier Inns and, as there are 3 hotels (soon to be 4) within easy access of the competition areas, hopefully these will meet with both taste and budget. We are also working on plans to attract a large number of orienteers for both the Foot and Trail O events from outside the British Isles.

In the coming months the website will be fully launched – you can already register for email updates – and mapping will be underway. Key at this stage is developing potential travel options to encourage as many competitors as normally to make the trip to a typical JK. So keep in touch with the event website to find out more. We've also been working closely with our colleagues in the Irish



Extract of the JK Sprint Training Map

Orienteering Association who have kindly agreed to coordinate their 2011 Irish Championships with the JK. These will be held at locations near Dublin on the following weekend which of course is also the May Day Bank Holiday. There will be a Middle Distance race on Saturday 30th April, the Long Distance on Sunday 1st May and the Relays on Monday 2nd May.

In the days in between, a couple of local events will be organised by the clubs in Northern Ireland and the Republic, as well as a wide array of attractions and sites to visit. To find out more – see www.jk2011.org.uk/ or email info@jk2011.org.uk. For the 2011 Irish Championships, see <http://orienteering.ie>. For initial travel and tourist advice see - www.discoverireland.com and www.tourismireland.com (Source: Murray Cowan)