

Mapping Notes

West Point 2006

West Point enjoys a rich history of orienteering mapping. Some of you competing this year are part of that history and the cadets thank you for all your efforts over the years!

The last offset press map produced at West Point was in the mid 90s. Since then the digital data from our maps have been integrated into one large OCAD file. *Look for the large poster size print out of this integrated map this weekend!* With this integrated file, we are no longer constrained by the old map boundaries and produce custom maps to support meets and cadet training. Over the years, however, there have been limited map updates and there are areas in need of renewed field checking. Since arriving back at West Point to teach, I increased our field checking effort and have made significant map updates. For example, as described below, the beginning of Day Two is a newly mapped area. Though significant issues do remain, the course setter has worked to avoid the areas with the most issues.

Hopefully you will enjoy this year's maps and since I will be at West Point teaching for many years to come, I hope you come back each year to see an ever increasing quality of our maps.

Day 1 Area: Day 1 courses are in the vicinity of our classic Lake Popolopen map, and we are calling it LONG POND MOUNTAIN. The map is named for the large hill mass you will encounter during day. Towards the end of your orienteering course you may encounter the Bayonet Assault Course. This course covers a wooded region approximately 300 meters by 100 meters and consists of nine lanes each with 14 small manmade devices along each lane. Symbolizing each device is not practical, so the area is identified with green lettering stating "Bayonet Assault Course". It is safe to cross the area but please stay off the equipment.

Day 2: Area: The Day 2 courses are in the area of our classic Long Mountain map, which we have named DEEP HOLLOW, for the low lying region in the middle of the map. This map now includes a recent addition of a 'lost' section of West Point. The entire area prior to crossing the aluminum floating footbridge was just recently added to our OCAD holdings. This area was on a 1979 map of Camp Buckner made by Mike Platt but for some reason this area never was included on the 1990 vintage map set of West Point. The area was added and field checked this winter and spring.

This map addition allows us to employ a rarity in orienteering competitions, a temporary floating footbridge. Because of the temporary nature of this crossing point and understandable lack of ISOM specifications for such things, the bridge is not symbolized on the base map. Instead, the bridge is shown as a magenta crossing point symbol. The bridge is the only way across the lake and a control is located near the entrance of the bridge, so the route across the bridge will be very obvious.

The region immediately after crossing the bridge was until recently employed during summers to demonstrate various Engineer Obstacles. As a result, there are numerous structures, some of which are composed of barbed wire, in the area. These are marked with the man made structure (black x). For your safety, please stay off the obstacles.

Final Notes

We hope you enjoy competing at West Point and please come see me this weekend about the maps or the meet in general.

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