

Aluminum Floating Footbridge Day 2

On Sunday you will have the opportunity to cross an Aluminum Floating Footbridge across Lake Stillwell. The over 120 meter bridge was erected for your enjoyment by the cadet orienteering team two weeks ago (and will be disassembled next week). This bridge set has long been part of the Army's inventory and this particular bridge has been used in summer engineer training here at West Point for many years.



You will 'encounter' the bridge early in your course. There will be a control just prior to entering the bridge.

Safe Crossing Considerations

The bridge will move up and down while you due to your weight and momentum!

A safe crossing is the priority. Please observe the following the following rules:

- Follow instructions from the bridge crossing personnel
- Cross in single file, please do not pass on the bridge
- Use the hand rails to maintain your balance
- For your safety please do not run, but cross at a fast walk, it should take you one to one and a half minutes
- Allow faster competitors to enter the bridge before you
- Do not stop on the bridge and hold up competitors behind you
- Metal spikes may be slippery!

Bridge Facts

The footbridge is easily hand-erectable and can be used across rivers with currents up to 11 Feet per second. Two weeks ago the cadets of the orienteering team, with technical assistance from SFC Rowse, spent 4 hours over the weekend building the bridge.

To assemble the bridge two cables are first strung across the water gap. The bridge is assembled in components on the near shore and intermittently 'pushed' out until it reaches the far side.

The bridge is assembled from the following components:

- Pontons: Each aluminum ponton is 14' 2" long, 2' wide, and 1' 2.5" and weighs about 100 pounds. The ponton is fabricated from sheet aluminum, reinforced with light aluminum members. It has a false bottom 6 3/4 inches above the true bottom providing a compartment which is filled with a light cellular plastic material, rendering the ponton relatively unsinkable
- Treadway: Each aluminum treadway weighs 84 pounds and has a walkway width of 1' 8 3/4" and an effective length of 11' 3".
- Handrail posts: Each handrail post is a 1 1/4" aluminum tube mounted on an aluminum base.
- Ropes and holdfasts: Each bridge set includes 1/2-inch manila rope to be used as handrail lines, guy lines, and bridle lines; and two 600-foot reels of 3/8-inch wire rope to be used as anchor cables, and as guys for improvised cable towers.

