

## Walborn 2014

A possible Nor'wester was spotted the day before the event, so Science Bob was recruited to keep a close eye on the front – didn't want any thunderstorms sneaking up on us. When radar showed that the storm would likely miss Walborn, the event was on. **Matt and Bonnie Hartmann** didn't want to taunt Mother Nature, so they waited to set the course until the last possible moment.

As the aquatic orienteers began arriving, there were clouds, but nothing in the sky that would prevent the day's activities. Just when we thought it was safe to go on the water, something ominous was spotted. It wasn't a shark lurking in the depths, or a galleon patrolling the shores...it was the dreaded whitecaps. Not particular big, but unmistakably present, they formed with just enough froth at their apex to force the Rangers to declare that the Park boats were not available for rental.

Setting aside the grandeur of a mass start, the goal was to get canoes and kayaks on the water as soon as the participants were ready to go. Unless the rental restriction was lifted, only those who brought their own vessels were destined to take on the course. After a wait of nearly an hour, at about 12:20, we saw the whitecaps melt to benign waves, ready to be attacked with pent-up vigor.

**Michael and Colleen Sabeh** sprang into action. Colleen quickly began processing registrations, while Michael schooled the watercrafters on the course rules, the time limit of two hours thirty minutes, and a devilish twist, complements of course designers Matt and Bonnie Hartmann. The pre-marked map identified 26 controls. At 4 of those, orienteers would find a surprise: hanging above the flag, a simple direction to follow to a bonus flag, raising the total to 30 controls.

The weather held while the paddles were flashing keen and bright. The time passed quickly. More than 80% of the orienteers used up at least two hours twenty minutes of their available time, with many breathing heavily as they raced to the finish line.

The top competitors were no strangers to the leader board at Walborn, Only one control separated the top four canoeing teams, with **Abby Gerdes's** crew claiming victory with 22 controls. The kayakers were almost as tightly knotted, but **John Hoffman** powered through to nab two more controls than the threesome close behind, almost sweeping the field with a total of 28 controls. The winners collected their pirate booty, but all competitors were able to keep one eye on a prize.

Course Designers & Setters: Bonnie Hartmann & Matt Hartmann

Registrar: Colleen Sabeh

Starter: Michael Sabeh

Greeter & Jack-of-all-Trades: **Jeff Dillinger**

Event Director: Ivan Redinger

Control Collection: Bonnie Hartmann & Matt Hartmann & Peter Redinger

## Canoe Results

<u>Team</u>	<u>Time (minutes)</u>	<u>Score</u>
<b>Abby Gerdes &amp; Crew</b>	<b>146"</b>	<b>22</b>
David & Linda Kennard	145"	21
James & Josie Fournier	145"	21
Matthew Johnson & Crew	147"	21
Paul Mutchler & Crew	144"	15
John Blakemore & Crew	108"	13
Edward & Edward Maltba	138"	11

## Kayak Results

<u>Participant</u>	<u>Time (minutes)</u>	<u>Score</u>
<b>John Hoffman</b>	<b>146"</b>	<b>28</b>
Bob Boltz	141"	26
Mark Stypczynski	145"	26
Stephen Johnson	147"	26
Bryce Boltz	151"	24 (25 – 1)
J. Geriles	143"	23
Bob Geriles	143"	23
Bob Curran	157"	23 (25 – 2)
Coner McGuire	146"	22
Fred Mailey	151"	22 (23 – 1)
Charles K. (sp)	146"	19
Nicole Fouts	172"	19 (24 – 5)
Casey Fouts	172"	19 (24 – 5)
Michael MacGze	170"	17 (21 – 4)
John Blakemore	108"	13
Jacob Bonness	138"	6

## POSTSCRIPT – Comments from the competitors

I thought the course layout was great. Controls were challenging to find in some cases, but not impossible. I also liked the four mystery controls. - Steve Johnson

After flipping our canoe and the second control we attempted (ha!), we came back quite nicely.... We particularly enjoyed the "bonus" controls! Thanks for a great afternoon! :) – Abigail Gerdes

Bonus control 28, off of control 12, was ingenious. You could actually see 28 from 12, but if you came at 28 from almost any other angle, it blended into the surrounding vegetation. – Peter Redinger