

Another edition (16th?) of the Crazy Canuck Adventure Challenge is under VAF's belt. In keeping with tradition, I believe it was quite successful and enjoyed by all.

Registration:

77 Venturers  
21 teams  
23 adults  
18 other volunteers

With a few kids dropping out at the last minute, a number of the teams combined, so 17 teams raced in the end.

The course worked fairly well, with the orienteering not taking as long as planned, but the biking taking nearly twice as long. No team got lost on the orienteering, so evidently it was not quite challenging enough. The kids appeared to quite enjoy the bicycle ride through the swamp, with stories of going through in boxers, and plucking leeches off bare feet! With five rappelling lines in operation, there were no bottlenecks at this activity. The aerial runway was a crowd pleaser, and ran until the bitter end (despite an attempt by a possibly little too heavy leader to sabotage it :)). The canoeing had the added challenge of a brisk breeze in addition to being upstream. There was a shortcut possible on the biking, it had been erased from the map, not sure if anybody found it. The crate stacking certainly appears to be a hit with those that tried it, and the climbing tower was a nice distraction before supper.

Ray added a rest stop at the end of biking so the kids could get warmed up and changed into dry clothes. Jamie has suggested that a similar rest stop be added between the hiking and biking. The granola bars at the checkpoints were useful for recharging the kids who hadn't brought enough food.

Communication between the checkpoints via mobiles or 2-way radio would have been useful. Real time GPS tracking and mapping of each team's location would be sweet! We could all sit back and watch a layout of the route on a projector and see their progress :) Borrowing one of the electronic punching systems (<http://orienteer.com/si/sosi.htm>) used by orienteering clubs might be an idea to save some manual labour.

Nobody, that I know of, kept up the tradition started last year by Merrickville and flipped their canoe :)

Funniest moment must have been a lost bicycle team being found by their leaders and being told to go down a road and turn left. Naturally they go to the bottom of the road and turned right! Another team decided to leave the rappelling site the same way they came in...they came back through 20 minutes later.

I know of two small treated injuries. One was a cut finger and the other a lacerated knee (from falling off a bike). The knee injury was a good example of Scout behaviour where a buddy was sent back with the injured Venturer to get him first aid. Doug Proud administered first aid, good thing the lad didn't know Doug just wanted to practice his training from the other day :). Doug completed an incident report. I believe a hospital examination occurred, but no further treatment was necessary.

While checks were made at the beginning of the race for whistles and compasses, perhaps we should add first aid kits to this mandatory check.

Supper went well, serving ~93 people. About 1 1/2 pots of chili remained (we had 5), along with five trays of dessert (we had 14). We needed maybe 50% more buns (we had 128), lots more sour cream (we had 2 - 500ml containers), and a way to keep butter soft in the cold (whipped butter may have been better). Three bags of Tostitos remained out of 14. Restacking and teardown of all the picnic tables, crates, etc at the end of the evening was much appreciated. Though the intention was to have everybody use mess kits, it somehow didn't work out in the end and disposables ended up being used.

Full results are in the attached document. Highlights:

Overall fastest: 14th Gloucester #18 at 3:32, 1st Kanata at 3:45, and 14th Gloucester #17 at 3:54  
Most honest: 1st Rockland at 7:29 when they hit the Merrickville locks  
Hiking: Fastest Carleton Place/1st Kanata at 0:51, longest 1st Rockland at 1:45  
Biking: Fastest 14th Gloucester #18 at 1:39, longest 1st Rockland at 3:46  
Canoeing: Fastest 14th Gloucester #18 at 1:01, longest 1st Rockland at 1:58

Toblerone bars, of varying sizes, were distributed to the top three fastest teams. 1st Kanata will get theirs at the next VAF.

One of the amazing things about the VAF leaders is their willingness to help. Having run area level events in the past, and had leaders being down right rude when asked to help at an activity while there were there with their kids, this was a very nice change. Heartfelt thanks go to, in no particular order (except the first!):

Cheryl Yates	- 14 batches of dessert and putting up with an absent (and very wet & muddy) husband for the past couple of weeks
Pat & Jacques Avery	- 5 large pots of chili and serving supper
Cyndy Courtland	- Bringing the Valley Highlands kitchen and cooking duties
Bruce Morton	- Rappelling
Doug Proud	- Rappelling and lantern supply
Ivan Wood	- Rappelling & aerial runway
Ben Catton	- Activity setup all day Friday & rappelling & aerial runway & hike testing
Adam & Grant Szalai	- Rappelling & aerial runway
Christiaan Burchell	- Rappelling
Barb Bowman	- Starting the teams and finish timing
Jamie Orchin	- Hike end / bicycle start timing
Ray Renton	- Bicycle end / canoe start timing
Murray Jackson	- Aerial runway setup
Bill Ricketts	- Map printing and early start backup
Carol Williams	- Hike route finding and negotiating rights of way
Steve Catton	- Bike route finding
Robert Sargent	- Bike route marking
Stew Hamill	- Hike route finding
Devon Hamill	- Hike testing

Formal thank you letters will be sent to all the land owners whose property we crossed (with their permission!). I did hear of one team that was accosted crossing the clover field, I haven't found out yet where the communication wires became crossed.

If anybody did not get a crest, please let me know. I know I haven't gotten one to Jamie.

Lost & found (will bring to VAF)

- Gloves/hat (Barb Bowman?) - with Cyndy Courtland
- Clipboard (Bill Bowman?)
- Hat
- Gloves
- Carabiner yellow tape
- Petzl Reverso belay device green/purple/red tape

Any comments or suggestions are more than welcome.

My recommendations for the future are to keep the event both physically and skill challenging. The orienteering could evidently be a bit harder, perhaps like the older days in Gatineau. Some additional challenges along the course would add variety; the Apex Challenge in the UK is a good source for ideas (<http://www.apexchallenge.co.uk/>). This is a good opportunity to test Scouting skills.

And now back to Bill for next year.... Have I mentioned that yet :) Though if someone else wants a "challenge", I'm sure he would be willing to discuss.

Allan

<http://www.1stmerrickville.ca>