

Quantico Orienteering Club, Inc.
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2025

Call to Order

President Don Fish called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Roll Call

President Don Fish	Vice President Dennis Doherty
Vice President Aaron Linville	Vice President Michael Newman (absent)
Vice President David & Reiko Rager	Treasurer David Levine
Secretary Beàtri Bennett	Volunteer/Social Outreach Sharmagh Yepremian
Membership Greg Lennon	Director at Large Matthew Knight
Mapping Ted Good	Director at Large Craig Shelden
Immediate Past President Jody Landers	

Others in attendance: Amy Loudon, Sidney Sachs, Francis Hogle and Jon Torrance.

I. Officers & Directors Reports

— **Secretary report** – Beàtri Bennett

The meeting minutes for the 9 July 2025 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting.

Aaron Linville made a motion to approve the 9 July meeting minutes. Jody Landers seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

— **Treasurer report** – David Levine

David Levine shared the treasurer's report with expenditures and revenue reconciled through 31 August 2025.

- The donation to OUSA was completed, and Don Fish received receipt confirmation.
 - The *Grants* budget line was divided into two categories (*Grants-Individuals* and *Grants-USOC*) to improve clarity and tracking of recipients.
 - The two Certificates of Deposit are set to mature before year-end and will be renewed.
 - The current printer, purchased in 2016, is requiring costly repairs. Consequently, the club needs to purchase a backup printer to ensure reliable map production. The budget will be amended to include this expense, and the replacement will be a newer version of the same model to continue using existing toner.
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- Greg Lennon raised concerns about rising toner costs and whether insurance is being charged for participants running a second course. Since these factors may increase the cost per map, he recommends analyzing map-printing costs per participant.

ACTION:

- David Levine will analyze the printing cost per map to determine if toner costs are increasing.

Jody Landers made a motion to amend the budget to increase the Meet Equipment expenditure by \$2500. Craig Shelden seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Jody Landers made a motion to accept the financial report. Aaron Linville seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

— Maryland VP report – David and Reiko Rager

David and Reiko Rager provided updates on past and upcoming events.

Past events

Lake Needwood – 91 starts (45 Intro / 14 Jump to Orange).

- Successful event. Half of the *Jump to Orange* participants became members and a couple expressed appreciation for the follow up email.
- Thanks to Erin Brandt for ensuring the volunteer instructors received clear, coordinated instructions.
- David and Reiko Rager are creating a ‘lessons learned’ document and a separate Event Director’s guide for running these types of events.

Activities/Notes

- Moved to a new storage unit near the previous location; the unit is the same size but significantly improved and includes side access
- Inspected the MD Meet Kit prior to start of season and re-organized materials, replaced damages boxes, created a master inventory list including supplemental materials housed in storage (e.g. canopy, tables, picnic items), and outdated materials in the Event Director binder.
- Completed event director and course designer recruitment for the rest of the season.

Upcoming Events

Rosaryville – QOC is hosting the Mid-Atlantic Championships

The board members discussed whether coaches and volunteers at *Intro to O* and *Jump to Orange* events should receive free entries and how to manage their required registrations and insurance. Greg Lennon proposed adding a discount coupon code to the registration site for eligible events (e.g., Intro to O, Jump to Orange and training events.) The board agreed that volunteers at these events should be compensated; however, there was concern that doing so would be inequitable to volunteers at other events. This topic generated extensive discussion, with strong and differing opinions among members. It has been a sensitive issue for several years, and no clear policy path has emerged due to ongoing uncertainties around implementation. Ultimately, the board agreed to table the discussion until next season and to include consideration of the frequency for offering the *Jump to Orange* event.

ACTION:

- Members with proposals regarding volunteer compensation and the frequency of *Jump to Orange* events should email their recommendations to the Board prior to the next meeting.

— **Virginia VP report** – Aaron Linville and Dennis Doherty

Dennis Doherty provided updates on past and upcoming events as well as permitting.

Past events

Lake Accotink – 204 starts (108 Foot-O and 24 Mountain Bike-O). Mountain Bike O is back this season. The event was successful, maintaining a low DNF rate. The volunteer team quickly addressed a few challenges including a shelter mix-up and several controls being incorrectly numbered.

Occoquan – 295 starts (16 Senior Olympics, 126 ROTC).

- The event was successful with great weather and an average DNF rate. 16 ROTC groups attended including GMU for the first time. A big thank you to all the ad-hoc volunteers who helped with training!
- Don Fish advised against scheduling a difficult Yellow course early in the season.
- Greg Lennon raised the question of whether the club should limit the number of JROTC cadets that a single unit may bring to an event. The board noted that, although some units bring large numbers, no capacity or safety issues have arisen. The decision was to monitor attendance rather than impose a cap on JROTC attendance.
- For safety reasons, future course designs should place the Finish farther from the parking lot.

ACTION:

- Greg Lennon will remove the on-line cap from the JROTC registration page.

Activities/Notes

- Excellent start to the season exceeding last season's average starts of 178.
- Event directors and course setters are confirmed for most remaining VA events. Balls Bluff and Morvin Park still require event directors. Don Fish suggested contacting Jesus Martinez (Loudoun NJROTC) as a potential director for either event.

Upcoming Events

Mason Neck – Maps have been submitted to the park for approval, including the maps intended for Trail-O.

Lake Fairfax – This event includes Mountain Bike Orienteering (MTB-O). Greg Lennon emphasized that MTB-O events should use maps prepared to MTB-O specifications rather than Foot-O maps, and that an updated MTB-O map is required for this event.

Prince William Forest Park (Pine Grove) – Craig Shelden reminded the Virginia VPs that the PWFP event requires additional lead time, as park rangers must review the courses to ensure sensitive areas are avoided.

Craig Shelden noted that Rosaryville and Patuxent are good options for MTB-O but maps need to be updated.

Don Fish reminded the group that park closures during the government shutdown could cause disruptions to scheduled events.

— **Membership, Website, Registration, & Communication** – Greg Lennon

Membership – observed the usual increase in membership at the start of the season.

Website & Groups.io E-Forum – The new Drupal 11 Website rebuild is going well. Testing is underway for an AI-enhanced chatbot; publishing directly the website from Google Docs; and data migration scripts for partial data migrations. Full data migration will occur once testing has been completed. In October, both the existing D6 site (public) and the new D11 site (private for QOC testing) are planned to run concurrently. Key testing will include event announcement & course data editing and results uploading.

A draft website for the 2026 US Nationals has been created based on the Royal Romp website format; the public domain is uschamps.org. Once Greg Lennon receives enough visual media (photos, logos, map snippets, etc.), he will make the website public within two weeks.

Mark Thomsen requested a groups.io subgroup for adventure racers. The board agreed with the request.

ACTION:

- Greg Lennon, Don Fish and Craig Shelden will discuss details for a new groups.io subgroup for US Nationals planning communications.
- Greg Lennon will create a new dedicated groups.io subgroup for adventure racers and coordinate with Mark Thomsen on group membership.

— **Publicity** – Sharmagh Yepremian

Post event meet-ups/Mappy Hour – Post event socials have resumed, and most events will have a social afterwards. A non-woods social event will be planned towards the end of the year.

Volunteering – The season began successfully and includes new event directors, Shannon Ford, Justin Green, Mike Tyson, and Jenny Kuenz. All available volunteers are needed for US Nationals.

Social Media

Facebook – 2.5K followers (organic growth).

Instagram: 1.8K+ followers (organic growth) – increased by 100 since last meeting.

QOC's Google profile indicates a gradual increase in visitors finding us via Google searches. Events, photos, and news are posted 2–3 times per week.

— **Mapping** – Ted Good

This is a slow period for mapping, with mappers concentrating on previously planned updates.

II. Other Business

— **2026 US Nationals Update** – Craig Shelden/Ted Good/Don Fish

Sanctioning has been approved, and Peter Goodwin will be the Course Consultant. The Bowie map is approved. All courses will be submitted to Peter Goodwin in the next couple of months.

Stephen Pepe will serve as Logistics Coordinator (using Michael Dickey and Matt Smith as resources).

The website, promotional materials, and First Bulletin are in the works. Kathleen Lennon has designed a logo and is coordinating with Lexie Brown on a t-shirt design. Sydney Dixon is coordinating the swag, food, etc.

The group decided to exclude recreational courses and appointed Valerie Meyer as registrar.

Craig Shelden presented a shared document outlining the event plan, which includes details on venues, model courses, resources, and key deadlines. The team agreed to collaborate on updating the document and sharing it with relevant committee members. Don Fish emphasized the need to monitor event-related activities, particularly those handled by Sydney Dixon and her team.

— **Update to the Event Director's Handbook** – Beàtri Bennett/Sharmagh Yepremian

Beàtri Bennett provided an update on the proposed revision to the Event Director's Handbook, specifying the age requirement for registered participants.

ACTION:

- Beàtri Bennett will send the proposed update to the board by email for review and approval.

— **Trail-O at Mason Neck with Russ Myer & Daniel Heimgartner** – Don Fish

The Trail-O event at Mason Neck will be organized by Russ Myer and Daniel Heimgartner from the New York area. The board discussed concerns, logistics, registration, and the possibility of reimbursing the organizers.

Greg Lennon made a motion to approve up to \$250 in total, to reimburse travel expenses for Russ Myer and Daniel Heimgartner. Jody Landers seconded the motion. The motion carried, with Ted Good opposed.

— **Formation of a subcommittee to discuss park access issues – Don Fish**

The club was informed that QOC can no longer operate at Greenbelt, despite historical use since 1980. While access has been restored at Lake Fairfax and Manassas, park access remains a recurring challenge; as noted in a recent OUSA forum. To address this, Don Fish will form a subcommittee, chaired by Dennis Doherty, to report back at the next board meeting.

— **Club donation to Austin Dickey Creativity in Advocacy Fund – Don Fish**

The board discussed a potential donation to the Austin Dickey's advocacy fund.

Jody Landers made a motion to donate \$100 to the Austin Dickey Creativity in Advocacy Fund. Beàtri Bennett seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

ACTION:

- With Michael Dickey's consent (to be coordinated by Don Fish), Greg Lennon will add the donation link for individual contributions to the QOC website News section.

— **Orienteering Gear – Greg Lennon**

A U.S. distributor of Noname clothing and Barku shoes expressed interest in becoming a QOC vendor. Greg Lennon requested a volunteer to research the distributor and brands; if satisfactory, the club may consider branding the products with QOC colors.

III. Adjourn

Beàtri Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Greg Lennon seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:52pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 10 December 2025 @ 7 pm via Zoom.

Minutes submitted: Beàtri Bennett