

## Swanson Road

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**September 27**  
**Saturday**



QOC will close out a busy September with classic orienteering courses in the Swanson Road section of Patuxent River Park, courtesy of course setter Craig Shelden and meet director David Levine.

White, Yellow, and Orange courses will start south of the parking area, but fairly close. Brown, Green, and Red courses will have a more distant start about 600 m north of the parking area. All courses use the same finish.

As at all QOC events, free instruction will be offered for newcomers. A QOC member will show you how to read a map, teach you how to use a compass with your map and give you hints on how to navigate your choice of course. Besides that, just wear a smile and the clothes you would for a hike or run in a local park. Bring a compass, if you have one, or borrow one at the event. And dogs (on leash) are welcome too. Driving directions are below. Parking will be on the grass alongside the road within the park; please follow directions from volunteers or, in their absence, do your best to park efficiently as space is not unlimited.

Any youth or large groups attending, please contact the [Event Director](#) [2] so that we can coordinate pre-registration for your group; the group registration and waiver [form](#) [3] is part of the information on our [Group Leaders](#) [4] page.



® **Post-Race MeetUp!** A relatively nearby Panera Bread cafe will be the place for QOC orienteers and friends to hang out and discuss your routes after the event. Ask for details (like location) at registration.

**Location**

Swanson Road Natural Area, North end, Upper Marlboro, MD (Classic)

**Registration**

No advance registration required. Just show up and have fun!

**Start Times**

You may start your course at any time during the start window listed below for your event.

**Schedule**

**Saturday, September 27** 11:00 Classic:  
am -  
3:00  
pm

**Volunteers**

Event [Dave Levine](#) [5]  
Director:  
Course [Craig Shelden](#) [6]  
Designer:

**Course Details**

| Classic Course | Length | Climb (m) | No. Controls |
|----------------|--------|-----------|--------------|
| Name           | (km)   |           |              |
| White          | 2.9    | 24        | 10           |
| Yellow         | 3.2    | 92        | 13           |
| Orange         | 4.1    | 138       | 13           |
| Brown          | 4.5    | 238       | 13           |
| Green          | 6.2    | 334       | 16           |
| Red            | 7.1    | 330       | 19           |

**Course Notes****Classic****Map and Terrain Notes**

Swanson Road Natural Area is a small park located in the Upper Marlboro area of Prince Georges County along the Patuxent River.

Parking is limited, so look for parking spots along the side of the gravel road entering the park and look for volunteers directing you to open spots. The Yellow course has a leg that crosses the entry road, so please be alert for runners crossing it.

The park is also home to the Prince Georges County Radio Controlled (PGRC) Aircraft club

<https://www.pgrclub.com/index.htm> and their flying field occupies the park's largest expanse of solid, clear, level ground. Keeping the field below the flying area clear is a serious issue for RC Flyers. If anyone enters the main cleared open area, the aircraft are required to be urgently grounded by regulation. Orienteers should skirt the edges of the field. Course legs that follow the Northeast part of the flying field perimeter should be



straightforward. The main area of the flying field is marked Out of Bounds.

White, Yellow, and Green Courses have legs that cross the Northeast side of the RC air field. Please stay near the Northeast edge of the field.

Stay out of barns, houses, and other structures.

Aside from the liability issues, some of those buildings are being used by farmers leasing the nearby fields.

Map areas marked Yellow and Orange (usually indicating open fields) may not be clear and easily runnable. Fields that are sometimes cut for hay might be cut by game day, but might not.

The park has three named trails (Red, Blue, and Green). Their markers are 4 inch-wide white plastic, marked at the top with a colored diamond sticker and an arrow to show trail direction. The park also has many white 4-inch plastic pipes placed vertically throughout the fields and woods. The pipes are not mapped and are easy to confuse with the trail markers: Verify, then trust.

Power line fields south of the entry road are likely to have chest-high growth, unless they've been cut by game day. As of 21 September they had not been cut.

In some parts of the park, growth has encroached on white open forest areas that have not been updated on the map.

As usual in the mid-Atlantic region, features marked as dry may be wet (e.g., ditches and small marshes) depending on recent weather.

**Entry Fees**

**Individual Entries**

*Note: juniors = under 21*

|                    | Club<br>Member,<br>adult | Club<br>Member,<br>junior | Non-Mem<br>ber, adult | Non-Mem<br>ber, junior |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Epunch<br>Owner    | \$5                      | \$5                       | \$10                  | \$5                    |
| Epunch<br>Borrower | \$10                     | \$5                       | \$15                  | \$10                   |

**Team or Group Entries**

Participants are welcome to compete together as a single team entry. Teams containing one or more nonmembers are charged the nonmember individual rate. Teams containing one or more adults are charged the adult individual rate. For teams to receive member or junior rates, all members of the team must be members or juniors, respectively. Each extra team map beyond the first is an additional \$2. Individuals or teams desiring to compete on a second course can do so for a reduced fee of \$2/map.



### Important Notes

- At the event, we can only accept payment in cash or check; online, you may use a credit card or PayPal account.
- You may become a member at the event or by joining online via [this webpage](#) [9] (which also explains the member benefits). Membership is completely optional.
- Most of our events use an 'epunch' timing chip for electronic timing. Individuals or groups without their own epunch pay a higher entry fee (see above), which includes the loan of an epunch for that event. Loaned epunches that are lost incur a \$40 replacement fee. Epunches (also known as SI-cards or finger sticks) are usually available for sale at each event as described [here](#) [10].
- Compasses are available at no charge, but if lost incur a \$15 replacement fee.
- Please provide collateral (driver's license or car keys) when borrowing a compass or epunch.
- For additional safety, whistles are available for sale at \$1/each.
- Free beginner instruction is always available - just ask at the registration table.

**Source URL:** <https://www.qocweb.org/events/2014/9/27/swanson-road>

### Links:

[1] <https://www.qocweb.org/events/2014/9/27/swanson-road>

[2] <http://qocweb.org/contact/Levine/Dave>

[3] <http://qocweb.org/sites/default/files/maps/waiver.htm>

[4] <http://qocweb.org/content/group-leaders>

[5] <https://www.qocweb.org/contact/Levine/Dave>

[6] <https://www.qocweb.org/contact/Shelden/Craig>

[7] [http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s\\_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=loc:38.8612,-76.7064&sll=38.8612,-76.7064&sspn=0.076258,0.086346&ie=UTF8&z=14](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=loc:38.8612,-76.7064&sll=38.8612,-76.7064&sspn=0.076258,0.086346&ie=UTF8&z=14)

[8] <https://maps.apple.com/?ll=38.8612,-76.7064&q=Swanson Rd Natural Area&t=m>

[9] <http://qocweb.org/get-involved/join>

[10] <http://qocweb.org/epunch>