



# Clopper Lake

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**February 11  
Sunday**



Orienteer on terrain that is still relatively new near the Clopper Lake section of Seneca Creek State Park (Gaithersburg, MD). There will be eight courses to choose from (2 beginner, 1 intermediate, and 5 advanced), and course notes are now posted below, all thanks to course setter Michael Dickey.

As with all QOC events, we will have free newcomer instruction at this event. 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. Driving directions are below; for those using ride-sharing services, this event is within the DC metro coverage area of [Uberpool](#) [2].

Event timing will be standard: register anytime between 10:45 - 1:15, start between 11 - 1:30, and be back before the controls start being picked up at 3pm.

Other event notes:

- Park entrance fees are \$3/per person or \$5/per person (MD vs out-of-state residents) at the entrance gate. Children in safety seats enter at no charge.
- Registration will be at the Blue Jay Pavilion, towards the west end of the parking area shared with the Nuthatch Pavilion. Carpooling is encouraged. A park map is [here](#) [3]; the Blue Jay Pavilion is way down in the lower left (southwest) edge.
- If we overflow the parking lot, we are allowed to park along the NW side of the road leading to it, i.e. the right hand side of the road as you drive in.
- Bathroom facilities are located at the east end of the parking area.
- Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash.
- There is a disc golf course in this park (see the DNR map cited above for it's location).



- Map scales will be: White, 1:5000; Yellow, Orange, Beige, Brown 1:7500; Green, Red, Blue, 1:10000.

Have some time to volunteer? Contact the event director by clicking on her name below to send her an email. No experience necessary!

Any youth or large groups attending, please contact the [Event Director](#) [4] so that we can coordinate pre-registration for your group; the group registration and waiver [form](#) [5] is part of the information on our [Group Leaders](#) [6] page.

<b>Location</b>	Seneca Creek State Park, Clopper Lake, Blue Jay Pavilion, Gaithersburg, MD (Classic)
<b>Registration</b>	No advance registration required. Just show up and have fun!
<b>Start Times</b>	You may start your course at any time during the start window listed below for your event.
<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Sunday, February 11</b> 11:00 Classic: am - 3:00 pm
<b>Volunteers</b>	Event <a href="#">Heidi Onkst</a> [7] Director: Course <a href="#">Michael Dickey</a> [8] Designer:
<b>Location Details</b>	<b>Classic</b> From I-270, Gaithersburg, Seneca MD, take Exit 10 west on Creek State Rt 117/Diamond Ave. Park which becomes Clopper Clopper Rd. Go west about 2 Lake, Blue miles and turn left into Jay Pavilion the park entrance. Gaithersbur Proceed straight passing g, MD the first intersection and <a href="#">Google Map</a> a parking area. If the [9] event is being held during a time of year when it's collected, pay \$3/pp or \$5/pp (MD state, vs out-of-state) at the entrance gate, then bear right at the next intersection. You may see the lake on your left. After about 0.5 mile, just before the road crosses the dam, turn right onto the small road heading to the Blue Jay and Nut Hatch Pavilions. Both pavilions are in the woods south of their shared parking lot; Blue Jay is to the west. Please carpool if possible. If the lot is full, you may park



on the NW shoulder of  
the road leading to the  
parking lot.

**Course Details**

<b>Classic Course Name</b>	<b>Length (km)</b>	<b>Climb (m)</b>	<b>No. Controls</b>
White	2.8	85	11
Yellow	3.2	100	12
Orange	5.8	190	14
Beige	3.7	165	8
Brown	4.8	185	11
Green	6.2	215	14
Red	8.8	325	17
Blue	10.6	385	22

**Course Notes**

**Classic**

White has a couple of off-trail options after controls #7 and #11. Mapped features are easily visible from the controls. The Yellow course will require some off-trail navigation but there are appropriate linear features to assist. Orange runners will have a course a bit longer than usual, but worth running to enjoy a circumnavigation of Clopper Lake. There is a Beige course option for runners who don't want to take on the Brown that is longer than normal in order to get into some terrain that Brown hasn't been to before.

Brown, Green, Red, and Blue courses will cross Riffle Ford Road. There are no controls placed to mark the road crossing, but there is generally not much traffic. Logical crossings will be in areas of good visibility.

All courses will enjoy open runnable woods. Mapped vegetation and features are generally very accurate, but runners may find some unmapped rootstocks or vegetation that has expanded beyond mapped areas. Red and Blue runners will see green slash on rough open and should expect to find some large, nasty briars in those locations. All advanced courses will cross areas of the disk golf course. Please be respectful of players and do your best to not disturb their game.

**Entry Fees**