

THE SCIENCE OF PARTNER MATCHING

One of the requirements for a ROGAINE that challenges orienteers is the need to find the *correct* partner. Perhaps one can survive a poor partner match for 6 hours, but as the time extends to 12 or 24 hours the tension can mount and your results may suffer. With this in mind we offer a few partner profiles that may help you find the optimal match for this year's

ROGAINE at Allegany State Park on June 10-11, 2006.

(Is your partner on the list? Are you?)

- The **WALKER** is a person who tells everyone at the start that he or she doesn't plan to run a single step. (Don't believe him or her.)
- The **RUNNER** shows up at the start with running shoes, skimpy running shorts and a name-brand singlet. He or she announces that the ROGAINE is just a workout for an upcoming marathon or ultra run.
- The **HYDRATOR** shows up carrying two giant water bottles, a 70 once back pouch and a water purification kit. The Hydrator needs frequent pit stops.
- The **NIGHTHAWK** can be identified by a head lamp that looks like it came out of the front of a car and a battery that weighs more than the entire pack of most other people. In addition this person usually has a backup light and a couple of candles.
- **FASHION PLATES** usually come in teams of four - all dressed exactly the same. These folks come from the adventure racing circuit. They generally have sponsors who require them to wear the latest fashionable clothing -decorated in the NASCAR Modern style.
- Then there is the person who combines all of these characteristics, carries everything ever seen in Outside magazine, and has enough stuff for 24 days, let alone 24 hours. This is the **HI-TECH PACK-RAT**. Do not comment on this person's equipment unless you have a lot of time to spare.
- The **GOURMET** brings a huge variety of fine foods, a stove to cook them on, dishes, silverware and even napkins. It is nice to run into a team of Gourmets who are taking a break far from the hash house.
- Getting into the area of personality types, we first have the **FOLLOWER**. This person will follow their partner anywhere and never question a single route choice.
- The ideal partner for a Follower is, of course, the **NAVIGATOR**. This person wants to make all the decisions, expecting to get nothing but praise from their partner.
- The **PLANNER** is the person who gets their map at 9 a.m. and is still planning when the gun goes off at 11 a.m. Once this person gets going they continue to want to plan at every break.
- A Planner should probably never go with a **QUESTIONER** because this person can't make a decision and is constantly second guessing every move their partner makes. Such a pair may never leave the base camp.
- Of course we all can identify with the true **ORIENTEER** who is constantly comparing ROGAINE to the *real* sport of orienteering and is never happy with the accuracy of the map.
- Another type of partner is the **WANDERER**, who is constantly getting separated from their partner and keeps getting lost. Wanderers can't whistle and usually have a little church mouse voice.
- The **SOCIALIZER** wants to run into other teams so that they have some else to talk with. They are always trying to meet other teams for lunch, are reluctant to end breaks when others are around and have been known to go out of their way to intercept other competitors.
- **LONERS** want to try to complete the entire event saying as few things as possible and seem to resent having a partner. Socializers paired with Loners should not allow their partner to pack duct tape.

You get the idea. Picking the *right* partner can be pretty tricky sometimes. If you don't have a partner we will gladly try and help you find someone, but we are not foolish enough to make any guarantees.

We hope that you find a great partner and that you can come to the Allegany State Park ROGAINE. It promises to be a great event in a beautiful park. ASP has some of the largest groves of old growth forest in the northeast and is home to one of the largest populations of black bears in the country¹. The park's central location makes it easy to reach for Americans and Canadians. We already have a large contingent of Canadians signed up. With camping nearby and barracks on site we offer a range of accommodations unusual for this type of event. The park also offers swimming, mountain biking, fishing and many other activities for you and your family. Check out our web site at <http://roc.us.orienteering.org/> for complete information and online registration

¹ If anyone knows the IOF symbol for "black bear, south side", please contact the course setter.