

ROC the MAP Adventure!

May 21, 2016

The 5th annual ROC map adventure is in the books – this year, with a slightly different name (“ROC the MAP Adventure!” as opposed to the previous “Rochester Map Adventure” name) but the same basic format: There are lots of checkpoints scattered across a large section of Rochester, and at each checkpoint there is a question to be answered. Finding the answer to the question both shows that you were there, and also gives you some information about Rochester and its history that you may well not have known about. Each correct answer scored 2 points; an incorrect answer cost 2 points; the late penalty was 1 point per minute or fraction of a minute.

There were 57 individuals or teams competing this year, consisting of 118 people, of all ages.

We had 115 checkpoints this year, in areas such as downtown, Corn Hill, the South Wedge, Mt. Hope Cemetery, the Neighborhood of the Arts, the Park/East Avenue areas, Upper Monroe, and the Highland Park area. (One had to be thrown out – see explanation later in this write-up.)

We've been pretty lucky with the weather (in particular, avoiding rain) for the first four map adventures, and also for about the first 4.5 hours of this one – but our luck ran out in the last half hour! This meant that people doing the 5-hour category, unless they finished with ample time to spare, came back pretty wet, and probably more important, they came back with wet question/answer sheets. This made scoring the sheets a bit more challenging.

There were significant problems with two of the checkpoints: On #14 (“What does the billboard show?” with choices being cat, dog, fish, or sheep), the billboard was changed between the time the checkpoint was selected and vetted, and the day of the meet. The new billboard had none of the above choices on it! We decided to throw that out for everyone – our apologies to those who went to it, which is probably a high percentage of you, since the checkpoint was fairly close to the start/finish location. Thus, we wound up with 114 controls that were scored.

Then for #9 (“What is depicted in the mural on the SW corner?”), the control circle was shown on the wrong street (one side street from the correct one). Most people who attempted this one did find it, although some lost time; we decided to keep this control in the scoring.

In addition, there were two checkpoints that had somewhat ambiguous answers: #30 (“Color of trim at 61”), the intended answer was A (yellow and purple), but enough people (about 5 or 6) answered D (red) that we accepted either answer. And #55 (“Color of house with solar panels, as seen from the ridge from the south”) had choices that included gray (the intended answer) and white. One of the organizers (one who didn't choose or vet this control) visited it on a walk during the competition, and felt that it was a light enough gray (and also barely visible!) that white would have been a realistic choice, so we accepted either (although only a few people chose white).

In addition, there were a couple of typographical style errors on a couple of questions that didn't seem to cause anyone any difficulty, but both were pointed out by a few people. #93 had “Adwen Inn” as one of the answers, but the actual answer was “Adwen Place” (not a choice listed). And #100 asked about the colors of “birdfeeders”. They were actually “birdhouses”. We apologize for all of these errors or ambiguities.

Congratulations to the following category winners (see next page):

		Category	Name(s)	# right	# wrong	Time	Time penalty	Final score
3 hour	Bike	Family	Gregg Griebel, Paul Taillie, Thomas Griebel	46	0	02:51:50	0	92
		Group	Mark Salas, Megan Granger	52	0	02:55:18	0	104
		Solo	Kim Abell	73	0	02:59:00	0	146
	Foot	Family	Olga Huber, George Huber, Maria Huber	36	1	02:58:00	0	70
		Group	Todd Sheehan, Jean Sheehan	49	0	03:00:20	1	97
		Solo	Gregory Michels	55	1	02:52:43	0	108
5 hour	Bike	Family	Sergey Dobretsov, Tim Dobretsov	114	0	04:24:15	0	228
		Group	Lindsay Worner, Christopher Joyce	90	1	04:50:55	0	178
		Solo	Joel Shore	89	0	04:46:30	0	178
	Foot	Group	Anne Schwartz, Natalie Johnstone	45	0	04:44:20	0	90
		Solo	Francis Boscoe	102	0	04:56:54	0	204

Two of the above category winners are particularly worthy of special mention: The father/son duo (and many time previous winner of the 5-hour bike division in the map adventure) of **Sergey and Tim Dobretsov** not only nailed all 114 controls that we were counting (and with 35 minutes to spare!), but they also found the correct answer to #14, where the billboard had changed (and the checkpoint was thrown out as a result)! Tim went into the store that the billboard was on the outside wall of, and asked if the billboard had recently been changed, and if so, what animal had been on it before! (The answer was yes, there was a dog on the previous billboard ...)

Also, **Francis Boscoe** not only drove all the way from Albany to participate in our event, he totally cleaned up in the 5-hour foot division, by getting 102 checkpoints, with no incorrect answers. I asked him what the distance was that he covered to do that, and he reported that his GPS said 29 miles – 3 miles more than a marathon!

We know it took longer than desired to score the question sheets and work up results. The organizers are actively discussing ways to make this part of the process go more smoothly in the future.

By the way, you all were quite accurate at answering the questions – collectively, you had 2,538 correct answers and only 24 incorrect answers! That's an error rate of less than 1%!

If you have any suggestions for improving this event in the future (including how to better promote it), or if you would like to help work on it next year, please let any of the organizers know!

Thank you all for participating.

- Meet directors: Rick and Dayle Lavine
- Course setters: Rick Lavine and Dick Detwiler
- Map production and printing; registrar: Dick Detwiler
- Vetting: Rick and Dayle Lavine, Laurie Hunt, Dick Detwiler
- Course consultant, publicist, and assistant meet director: Laurie Hunt
- Food: Dayle Lavine, Anne Schwartz
- Logo and publicity: Katy Kuczek
- Registration: Carl Palmer, Laurie Hunt, Anne Schwartz, Rick Lavine, Rukhsana Cofer, Dick Detwiler
- Results: Laurie Hunt, Dick Detwiler, Tyler Borden, Greg Michels, Rick Worner, Linda Kohn, Anne Schwartz