

# California Orienteering Festival Stage 9: Spooner Lake Long NRE The Bruce Wolfe Memorial event

Thursday July 27, 2023

## Meet Director's Notes

Welcome to Nevada, the Silver State!

The scenic journey from Northstar to Spooner Lake takes about 45 minutes by car, or about 55 minutes by bus. There is ample parking available at Spooner Lake State Park, at a cost of \$15 per vehicle. Three 36 or 40-passenger Northstar buses will run approximately according to the following schedule, depending on traffic:

Stage 9 - Thursday July 27 Spooner Lake Long				
	Leave Northstar	Arrive Spooner Lake Trailhead	Leave Spooner Lake Trailhead	Arrive Northstar
Bus 1 40 pax	7:45	8:35	8:40	9:30
	9:35	10:25	10:30	11:20
	Lunch			
	12:20	13:10	13:15	14:05
	14:10	15:00	15:05	15:55
Bus 2 36 pax	8:05	8:55	9:00	9:50
	9:55	10:45	Lunch	
	Lunch		11:45	12:35
	12:40	13:30	13:35	14:25
	14:30	15:20	15:25	16:15
Bus 3 36 pax	8:25	9:15	9:20	10:10
	10:15	11:05	Lunch	
	Lunch		12:05	12:55
	13:00	13:50	13:55	14:45
	14:50	15:40	15:45	16:35

First Start is 9:30am. Courses close by 3:30 pm.

# Course Designer's Notes

By Nik Weber, GCO

**Arena:** The start and finish for all courses are located in the arena area; please do not wander outside the parking lots until you go to your start. The start for all courses is 150m from the northeast corner of the north parking lot down the clearly marked trail. The finish is 50m from the parking area. Please stay on the path to the start. Warming up should be done in the parking lot and along the access road between the highway and parking lot and please watch for vehicles. Emergency bearing is southwest to the dirt road, lake, or highway 28.

## General map comments:

**Trails:** Most trails on Saturday's map are quite distinct, and some dirt roads are mapped as large trails rather than a road symbol. Smaller "indistinct" trails are also fairly distinct once you are on them but might look more like a flat area on a hillside, especially when they are covered in fallen pine cones and needles. There may be unmapped animal trails on the map but they are few and far between. The red and blue courses will encounter the Tahoe Rim Trail, and as such may come across hikers of various types. The only place mountain bikes might be encountered is near the start area; horses and motorized dirt bikes are not allowed in the area.

**Vegetation:** The white forest is very open and runnable with widely spaced trees, with little slash (for the tahoe area) and high visibility. The "rough open with scattered trees" is also very open and runnable with widely spaced trees, and the difference between the two is sometimes minimal especially at the edges where the two blend together. The main difference seems to be that there is scattered knee deep vegetation in the rough open areas while there is close to no ground cover in the white forest areas. Areas mapped as light green either have trees closer together or denser/taller undergrowth; these areas are still fairly runnable. Vertical green hatching lines indicate different densities of manzanita bushes—widely spaced lines indicate bushes spaced far enough apart to get through at a slow run, while closely spaced lines would most likely be quite a fight to get through. Dark green areas are almost impassable; very small dark green areas can be bushes or small trees bunched tightly together. Mapped vegetation boundaries are occasionally distinct, but are sometimes not very distinct at all; an effort was made to correct them in the areas around controls. There is an area near the end of all of the advanced courses where there is active fire prevention work being done, and they are removing a lot of the undergrowth and piling it up into burn piles; these piles (3-4m tall) are not mapped and the distinction between light green and white forest areas is even more indistinct and variable. The clearings in the area, however, are obvious if you keep in mind that the map was made with lidar and it's easier to tell where the clearings are by looking at the tree canopies.

**Rock features:** Like most of the maps of the tahoe area, in areas with few rocks almost all boulders are mapped well, and in areas with many rocks only the biggest or most distinctive are mapped. Usually "small boulders" are less than 1-2m tall. Irregular black features are large rock spires which may be broken up and resemble a rock pile. Most cliffs are mapped as such, but some rocks on hillsides that resemble cliffs may be mapped as individual boulders or boulder clusters especially if they are smaller

than 2m or so. Some of the cliffs mapped as passable might not be easily climbed by most people so it is a good idea to go around them in general. Boulder clusters are usually piles of boulders, although some can be mapped as individual boulders, and boulder fields can contain multiple separate boulders or boulders plus boulder fields. Any of these features around the control sites should be mapped fairly consistently and the rock in question should be obvious in the field. NB: there is an area that the blue and red courses will pass through that was mapped by a different mapper (Bill Cusworth); this area will be mapped more consistently with current mapping conventions.

**Water features:** will probably be wet and full due to the extreme snowfall this winter. Streams are all crossable but some are wide and ankle deep in spots. The lake is as full as it gets, and much of the mapped lake edge is under water. The white and yellow courses may encounter an area where the trail is under water but you can get around the wet area. Runners on all courses should expect to get at least a little bit muddy. Ditches on the map are dry but may be full of pine and fir cones. There should be no snow on the course but if there are still any small patches they are easily avoidable.

**Finish area:** The last few controls for all courses are fairly close together near the finish; make sure you read the map carefully so you do not miss any controls, ESPECIALLY WHITE AND YELLOW RUNNERS. Each control is on a different feature so make sure you also look at the control descriptions—don't punch a control on a tree if your control description says rock.

**Out of bounds:** the shoulder of the highway is out of bounds, as is the meadow/marsh next to the southwest corner of the lake. Please use the trail/footbridge near this marsh or the area south of it to cross and consider the fence line along the highway to be "uncrossable" because if you cross it too far you will be out of bounds.

**Black X:** either picnic tables or benches. Some may not be mapped very accurately in the arena area but this should not affect courses.

**Specific course comments:**

White and yellow courses are fairly short for a "long" event, due to the geographical and topographical constraints of the area and lack of trail network. AGAIN, white and yellow runners should pay attention near the end and make sure they punch all of their controls.

Advanced courses are also shorter than a typical long event but there is excessive climb to make up for that so finishing times should be fairly close to standards. If anyone feels like they are not tired enough at the end of the race, the control pick up crew is always happy for more volunteers. ;) Recreational long orange and short orange courses are the same course for this stage, so choose your rec courses accordingly.

**Water stops:** there will be three on the red and blue courses and one very large one shared with all courses. The large water stop will be a little more than halfway through the other courses at a main junction in the trail system and be marked on the maps with a cup symbol. It is not at a control point for any of the courses except for white.

**Hazards:**

**Wildlife:** there isn't much that you will come across but there are black bears in the area which will most likely run away from you faster than you will run from them. Chipmunks and ground squirrels are everywhere and sometimes let you get close before they startle you. Do not feed the chipmunks/ground squirrels as they can carry plague (*Yersinia pestis*). The out of bounds area by the lake is a nesting area for Canada geese so you would want to avoid that area even if it weren't OB—don't bother the geese and hopefully they won't bother you.

**Altitude:** less oxygen makes it harder to climb the hills and run fast. Pace yourself especially if you are not in peak condition. You will also be closer to the sun so you will get sunburned easily—wear sunscreen.

**Drought:** there will be ample water on all courses, but if you need extra please carry some. You will be sweating but won't necessarily notice it because of the low humidity, so you may lose significant amounts of sodium and may want to carry some kind of sports drink to counteract this.

**Rocks:** watch your footing and don't climb anything you feel uncomfortable about. There are areas on the hillside where sloped rocks are lightly covered in sand; these can twist an ankle if you are not careful.

**Vegetation:** There is no poison oak and few plants with thorns but gaiters are a good idea anyway because there are a lot of sticks and low bushes.

**Special Note:** This event is in memory of Bruce Wolfe, who was originally set to be the course setter. Bruce was a top level orienteer and course setter, and an all-around great guy; and he is missed.