



**2003 GENESIS SPRINT ADVENTURE RACE
Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth, MA (October 11, 2003)**

*By Chip Paterson
October 11, 2003*

Nomad and neophyte Bushwhack to Sixth Place Finish

Scott Cole patiently guided me (Chip) through my first adventure race, the seventh in the Genesis series of short races. The race involved mountain biking, paddling and running, in that order, and was set in the Myles Standish State Forest in southeast MA. Terrain consisted of low-rolling topography, with numerous paved roads, sandy trails and bridle paths, dense scrub forest, and, according to the map, a state correctional facility. Naturally, the course was designed to force teams to trade-off easy travel and longer distances on improved roads against potential deep-sand spinning and beach running on more direct routes through the trails. Without the benefit of doing it a few different ways, it's hard to say whether our route was optimal; nonetheless, Scott did a great job navigating and on at least one occasion talked me out of what would have been a costly misinterpretation of the map. The paddle consisted of two laps around the outside of a large pond- here I functioned primarily in blocking spray coming over the bow of our tub-ish kayak, while Scott took two strokes to my one! We began the run with what we would quickly realize was a grave navigational error- a long bushwhack from the transition area through dense scrub pine, shrubs and thorns directly to the first checkpoint. Emerging a bit bloodied but otherwise unscathed, the remainder of the course was straightforward. After an extended running leg, we finished in just over 4 ½ hours, sixth in our group of 19 teams, and 11th overall out of 52 teams. We had a good time- it was a great first experience for me and I'm looking forward to doing (most of) it again soon.