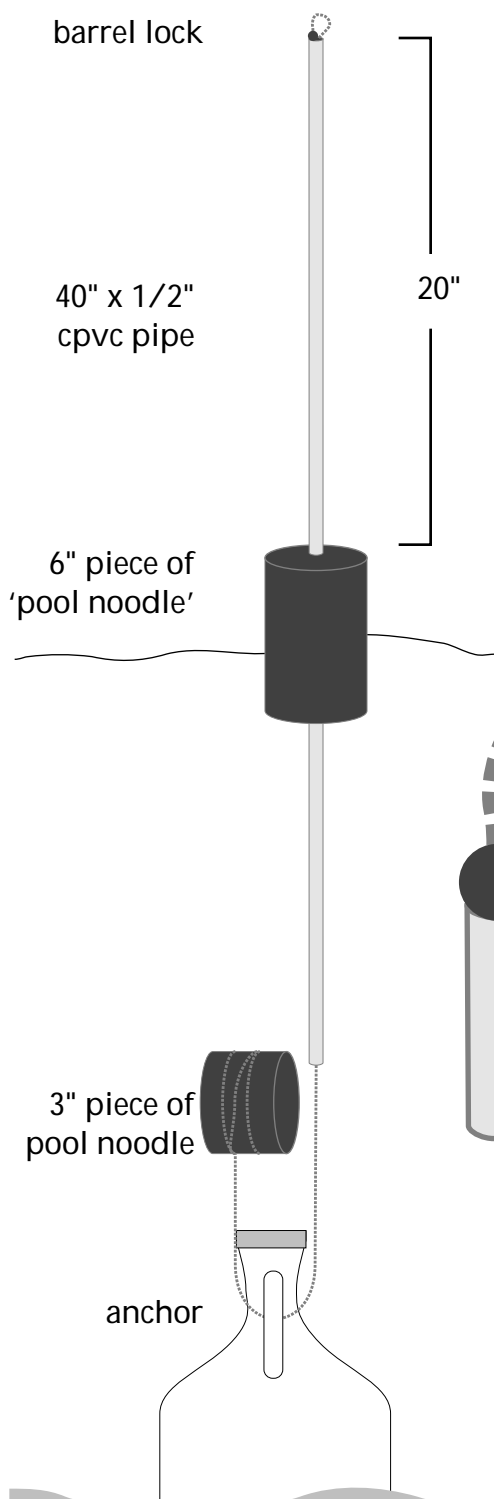


Floating Stick Marker



This is the latest version of the slalom course marker introduced in the summer '92 issue of *Canews*. I stole the barrel lock idea from John Rudolph. Thanks, John.

The buoy itself is a 40" piece of 1/2" cpvc (beige) pipe jammed through a 6" chunk of 'pool noodle' (those long cylinders of flexible foam you can buy for playing with in the water). I glue mine in place with contact cement.

The anchor can be anything appropriate with a handle or loop in it. Sand-filled bleach bottles and the like are fine as are milk bags filled with sand and tied off with a loop.

The anchor rope should be 1/8" or 3/16" in diameter and ideally will be cheap, cheap, cheap. Braided polypropylene and nylon both work fine.

The anchor rope runs up through the pipe and can be fastened at the top of the buoy with a

barrel lock (one of those plastic thingies they use on packs and clothes to tighten cords). You can, if you prefer, save 50¢ and tie it off with a figure-eight on a bight. Being a Virgo, I like to tuck the free end of the rope back down the pipe so that it is out of sight. Adjust the anchor rope to about the right length up here and let the float at the bottom do the rest.

At the other end, the anchor rope passes through the handle or loop of the anchor and is tied to a float made of 3" of 'pool noodle.'

The float keeps rope taut and the buoy upright directly above the anchor. A small plastic pop bottle serves here too if you partly fill it with water—it is less likely to collapse than the foam if it's left in the water for a long time.

Each buoy costs between \$2 and \$4 depending on your supplier and how much rope you need.

Doug Gifford 1995