
THE AXE AND SAW

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Grove City College Outing Club
Garman

www.gccoc.org

Mindy Bodi, Tyler

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

My second semester as Outing Club president has been very enjoyable, although it has also kept me pretty busy. The club has continued to grow and we now have around sixty actives that have paid dues. The semester actually began in August with the amazing week long ZEC Kipawa canoe trip in Quebec which Josh and Erin Butler ('02) put together. Fourteen of us, eight actives and six alumni, paddled an entire week and experienced perfect weather, virtually no bugs, and excellent company. All in all, I would say the ZEC trip was the best \$100 I've ever spent.

September was a very busy month. It began with an Active/Alumni Labor Day cookout at the cabin and the next weekend we held a successful new member outing with over forty prospective members in attendance. The flooding from Hurricane Ivan was just clearing up when thirty-two actives and alumni in four kayaks and nine canoes took to the Allegheny for an overnight canoe trip in late September. Once again we were led by the Butlers, Tom Morris '77, and Cory Gibson '99.

October events included the 2004 Pig Roast where we fed 130+ people on a beautiful Sunday afternoon and a Halloween Party at the cabin. The big event for November was a trail riding/winter camping trip in Tioga County, PA led by club historian Bethany Egan '06. Ten actives plus alumnus Cory Gibson spent a snowy

night winter camping and were rewarded the next day with an excellent riding experience.

Most recently the club hosted its annual Christmas Party at the cabin. There were more people than available bunks on Friday night but food and festive cheer were plentiful. At this point the semester is winding down. We've just had elections and I will be serving a second term as president in 2005 so I look forward to many more Outing Club adventures in the coming year.



Adam Neff '06, President '04-05

NEW MEMBER PERSPECTIVE

Last year, I hardly imagined I would be standing at the top of Overlook Point. A college junior, I have discovered for the first time the many joys and adventures of being a member of the Outing Club. Driving to the cabin is like driving to another world. Away from the grind of studies and a tight schedule, time is virtually non-existent. It's great. You get to lie around and do nothing.

I first arrived at the cabin for the Labor Day cook-out. I remember soaking in the still-warm summer air. Plates piled with home-cooked food. Groups sitting on the steps and out in the grass. Gun shots echoing. You could even do the tight rope if you wanted to. But other than that, you just sit around and enjoy life. I remember leaving on my first hike. A group of about eight of us set out for the forge. The ferns and the high branches overhead were like a mural. A few of us took off our shoes and waded through the creek.

Another great memory from this semester was the Allegheny canoe trip. Friday was a normal day, with a few quizzes and a paper due. I was looking forward to leaving on the canoe trip that afternoon. That night, we sat around crackling campfires, laughing and talking and chowing ramen noodle soup. Last year, I never would have thought that on some Saturday morning I would be floating down a river, past cool looking islands and having to fight the current upstream to wait up for the group.

Overall, I've met a lot of awesome people who enjoy the same stuff I do. I love hearing my skis swish through the new-fallen snow. I love hiking, biking, running, and basically just getting out in nature. This year, both the cabin and away trips have added a whole new dimension to my college experience.

Allison Moore



Labor Day crew chows down after a day of much "labor".

LABOR DAY OUTING

Blasting soda (or pop) cans with an Uzi submachine gun and climbing the pine tree in the front yard were only part of the festivities at this year's Labor Day picnic. Lots of actives and alums gathered to shoot firearms, hike, catch up after a summer apart, and – of course – consume vast quantities of delicious food, including grilled chicken and burgers, mashed potatoes, watermelon, and biscuits from a can, which have been featured often at the cabin this year—most likely because the leftover dough makes amazing monkey bread the next morning! A group of actives, including myself, were led by our fearless leader Adam Neff down to the iron furnace and the stone bridge and past the rope swing, which, as it turned out, was a bad idea to swing on with the water level so low. Cory Gibson set up the famous tightrope, which hosted a few displays of grace and skill (and not a few exhibits of the lack thereof). It was with reluctance that alumni and students parted ways that evening to return to the routine of work or school, but fortunately the Labor Day picnic was only the beginning of a rambunctious OC semester.

Sarah Gruen '06

BIKER CREW

Unknowingly, an unofficial new branch of the outing club was created this fall semester. Members of the OC essentially sought out interest for rides in the meetings, and then created a separate list of all interested in riding. So, often on a whim, someone would set up a ride and anywhere from three to thirteen people would show up. Most of the rides took place on the roads surrounding the college. There were trips to the local flooded strip mines for a little cool off destination, scenic rides, and off-road rides out by the cabin.

One of the best rides of the semester was a ride that took us along Wolf Creek, down to the sewage plant, back up past the school, up Pinchalong Road, and off the road and through a field to get to our final destination, a random campsite in the woods. During a short stop, one infamous member of the club confused a collection of foam along the river's edge for a rock and proceeded to jump onto the "rock". Needless to say she ended up soaked and we ended up laughing.

The Allegheny ride, with about thirteen riders, was by far the largest and longest ride clubbers undertook. We set out from the cabin and piled into two trucks, obviously many were seated in the truck beds, alongside the abundance of bikes. Speaking of bikes, what a motley assortment of bikes there were: mountain bikes, cross bikes, and even a foolish young clubber on a 20" BMX (he kept up well though). The ride took us along the river and through two old train tunnels, the Kennerdell tunnel, and one other.

The OC biker crew is already looking forward to rides in the Spring semester, and several of them are joining

the Grove City College Biking Club which has been formed in the past few weeks and should become official in the spring.

Jon Ferriera '05

HALOWEEN OUTING

No cigar smoking pumpkins emerged from this year's Outing Club Halloween party, but the clubbers still managed to have a good time, as usual. Good food and conversation abounded. The pumpkin carving was exceptional. There were several interesting pumpkins. One showed a well-lit tree and another had a scene with a dog howling at the moon (very appropriate considering that there are now the feral dogs in the area).

Manicotti and cheese, salad, and garlic bread together made for one of the finest meals served out at the cabin. Our new members, Natalie Zesiger, Megan Smith, and Allison Moore headed up the cooking and did a wonderful job, reminding us of the importance of recruiting new members.

Roughly twenty-five people made it out to the Halloween party. The clubbers were pleased to see that the Good Reverend, Dr. Gordon, was present. The cats were there too, however, only most clubbers were pleased they were present.

If one were to summarize the Halloween party this year it would go something like this: Grove City College Outing Club Halloween Party 2004, 25 people, Dr. Gordon, Adam Neff, Dave Hathaway, regular cabin attendees, and additional large event-oriented clubbers all enjoyed the annual celebration. There was pumpkin carving, hiking, manicotti, salad, feral dogs, cabin cats, and of course, cigars.

Jon Ferriera '05



Janelle Wilkie and Val Nyhuis enjoy the bounty that is the pig roast feast.

PIG ROAST PIE MAKING

October first marked the second anniversary of pre-pig roast pie-making at the Gordons' house. Our fearless advisor Dr. Gordon generously offered his kitchen (as well as his front porch and his cigars, as it turned out) to a group of actives led by myself and Sarah Gruen. Thanks to the skills of certain female outing clubbers, we made 30 pies – 12 apple, 12 pumpkin and 6 cherry – between 2 pm and dinnertime. At dinnertime, certain male outing clubbers showed up just in time to order pizza, watch us putting pies in the oven, and smoke cigars on the porch for several hours. To give credit where it's due, they did offer to help. We finished baking by 11 pm – for future reference, it is possible to fit four pies at a time in the Gordons' oven – and a Friday night was well spent, proving to be an excellent start to an excellent pig roast weekend.

Kate Buckwalter '06

PIG ROAST '04

Bikers, Hogs, Cigar Smoke, the roughest people Grove City College has to offer: A Biker Rally Right? Wrong; it is the 2004 Grove City College Outing Club Pig Roast! This year's Pig Roast was a success: With lots of Actives and quite a number of Alums, fun was had by all. Before the official Roast on Sunday, we all enjoyed a number of burly (and some not so burly) activities: The Girls went to The Gordon's home and cooked some mean pies. At the cabin, Devin, Janelle, and others were the "bikers" – they did some extensive mountain biking along the plethora of trails that neighbor the cabin; others hiked the trails as well. Of course, there was the "liberating" of the skewering tree and the greasing of the pig, followed by lots of club members intermittently taking shifts to turn the pig and other fowl victuals (chicken) during the day and night before Sunday. We had a blast with Tom's toys (especially the Uzi) and Tom adopted The Clyde who is now free from all manner of fungi, flees, and other various unhealthy ailments. Dr. Gordon, our Club Advisor, hung around for the weekend to supply us with a lot of laughs and the aromatic cigar smoke (none other than Fidel's Finest).

We had roughly over 110 faculty and their families come to this year's Pig Roast, including some new faculty too. It was good for us to serve them and talk with them a little more informally. The meat was succulent and hearty to be sure – a feast to remember! Indeed, the Pig Roast was a success, and we look forward to next year's festivities...

Matt Farrelly 05

ALLEGHENY RIVER CONOE TRIP September 24-25, 2004

In early September Josh Butler '02 began formulating plans for an Allegheny River canoe trip for the last weekend of the month. Tom Morris '77, Trent Dennison '77, and Cory Gibson '99 were quick to lend their time, expertise and logistical support so pretty much all I had to do was buy the food. Josh and Erin carried nine canoes on their newly acquired trailer. The remaining things: four kayaks, 28 actives, all our gear, and one 90 lb German Shepherd, were crammed into Tom's van, the Butler's Truck, Cory's Truck, and my Jeep. This made for a very interesting ride to our put-in location at the Belmar Bridge.

We spent a mild night camping on the bike trail below the bridge and after a breakfast of oatmeal and doughnuts we broke camp and hit the water. Even a week after the torrential rains of Hurricane Ivan the river was still high and fast and we made the paddle to our take out at the Rockland Tunnel in around five hours. The weather for the trip was generally cloudy but very mild and we saw a fair bit of wildlife, most notably several great blue herons.

Upon our return to the Cabin late Saturday afternoon we feasted on a large spaghetti dinner and while most drifted back to campus, a few of us lingered into Sunday. This fall's Allegheny trip was a great introduction to the club for many new members and a chance for the rest of us to lose ourselves temporarily in a situation as far from school as possible. Thanks especially to Tom, Cory, Trent, and the Butlers for putting it together.

Adam Neff '06

Fall Backpacking Adventures

The GCCOC just would not be the same if it didn't include a bunch of grubby college students spending their days living out of their bags and rolling around in the dirt, in the middle of the forest. Fortunately we were able to keep that tradition alive this semester with two awesome trips up to the Alleghany National Forest.

The first trip was to the Heart's Content Wilderness Area. The group consisted of nine members Jon, Hannah, Dunbar, Janelle, Val, Devon, Dave, Ryan and Tyler. We left for the woods on Friday after classes hiked through a planted pine forest whose long corridors were reminiscent of the Mines of Moria. We passed several small streams and the occasional fellow outdoorsman, taking in the beauty of the lush forest. We camped that night off the trail and slept to the sound of coyotes. The next morning we learned the valuable lesson that Devon's stomach is an endless pit as we watched him down a pot of oatmeal that could have fed an entire country. The next day we finished our 11 mile loop pausing occasionally to enjoy the company of beef jerky and rolled tobacco. We had the pleasure of chatting with a ranger who had been very instrumental in his own school's outing club. The exercise was well needed and unless you get tired of seeing typical Pennsylvania forests for 15 miles, the scenery was spectacular. The end of our adventure took us through an old growth forest with trees climbing to awe-inspiring heights 120+ft feet above the fern-covered forest floor. On a side note if you are looking for a deep theological discussion there is a nice little ice cream shop on the way back with a guy who is more than happy to attack anything you believe, even if it seems that you both

agree. Anyway, in the typical outing club fashion we shunned the normal social interaction of the Grove City College Street Dance upon our return to campus and cooked our Ramen on the sidewalk. The trip was loads of fun.

For those who prefer the scenic vista trails to the wilderness, our second trip to Minister's Creek would have suited your fancy. This time around we had appearances by Jon Watts, Steven Dunbar, Jon Ferreira, Alex Morrison, Abby Barr, and Val Nyhuis. Arriving around twilight they hiked in to find a campsite. The round trip was about seven miles stopping often to practice amateur climbing techniques. On the homestretch at the final vista they were confronted by a band of non-outing club Grovers who would have been much cooler had they been part of our club. Following the meanderings of the creek this hike traversed some beautiful rock structures (for which they wished they had brought climbing gear), varied landscape and breath-taking vistas, definitely one worth doing again.

All in all it has been a great semester for backpacking and those of us who would rather live like the turtle with our homes on our back, we look forward to some snow when we can do it again.

Tyler Garman '06 Alum Sec. '04



New member Ryan Castor leads the way through Heart's Content Wilderness Area.

Horseback Riding

November 12 – 13, 2004.

Then there was Bucky. I put my left foot up and swung up the right. Bucky (the Horse) made my dream of horseback riding a cold, nay, very cold, reality.

The night before, actives President Adam '06, Historian Bethany '06, Carolyn '05, Historian Dave '06, Hannah '07, Jon '08, Kate '06, Leah '06, Sarah '06, and Sharon '05, drove for three hours to Tioga County, PA, where we were to camp for the night (oh... Cory '99 was allowed to come too). We were surprised to find two inches of snow on the ground considering (believe it or not) the unseasonably warm temperatures Grove City had had recently. In this surprise winter camping experience, some learned that a \$50 Therm-a-Rest is worth its weight in gold, others learned why they should invest \$50 in a good groundmat, while others found they were just too weak and had to sit in Cory's truck.

After a warm breakfast of oatmeal, donuts, and hot chocolate around the fire, we made our way to Tioga Trail Farms. We signed our lives away, handed over some greenbacks, and then prepared to take on the open range! It was slow going but probably a good thing we didn't exceed 3 MPH do to vast number of novices (including myself) in tow. Yet, it also made the trotting part that much more exciting (until Sarah decided to stop to sightsee half way through which created some backups and flared tempers along the main thoroughfare).

All in all, the trip was a great success: the sky was clear, the horses and people of Tioga were wonderful fun, no one was thrown, no blizzards, and no

frostbite. Thanks especially to Bethany Egan for putting all of it together! For any who are interested, we went to Tioga Trail Rides, Wellsboro, PA. Search for their website for more information.

David Hathaway '06 Historian '04-'05



Outing Clubbers enjoy the view from atop their noble steeds,

Fall Cabin News

Once again we had a nice turnout for the Summer Outing. Over 30 students, alumni, friends and family participated over the 4 days spent at the cabin. Bob Waugamen was the senior alumni representative and Sue Kidd Knectel's children represented the next generation.

This year we focused on rebuilding the upper yard drains. After completing the lower and rear yard drains in 2003 we managed to dry up a lot of the yard. However the standing water in the basement did not go away and in conjunction with record precipitation the middle of the front yard was a quagmire.

The upper drain was roughly 20 years old and we were concerned that it was blocked with roots. What we found was that it was actually installed by the contractor about 24" higher than the

sand lens that lined up with the spring elevation and the standing water in the basement.

Thanks to some hard work in association with Chuck Limer's backhoe we were able to install a new two level drain nearly 300 feet long and backfill it with 50 tons or so of limestone. Even with a wet August and September, the consensus by homecoming was that the drain was making a difference. We ran out of time and will finish grading and restoration this Summer.

With a Spring and Summer of high winds there was also a great deal of down and damaged timber. A great team effort got all this wood near the road and the cabin cut and stacked for later use or hauled to the woodshed. By Homecoming the actives had filled the sheds and stacked the surplus.

We also spent time looking toward the upcoming major repairs to the cabin and how to provide access for contractors and delivery trucks. Originally we thought that creating a rear entry road would be the best and least intrusive way to provide access. However as reported at the Annual meeting at Homecoming the consensus of the cabin Team is make improvements to the existing road allowing bigger trucks access to the front. The most major change would be widening the last turn just below the gas well and just past were the road and the walking trails cross. Initially this would need to be much wider, but after the renovation project could be reseeded and trees planted to conceal the change. Anyone having any input on this or the ability to do some detailed survey work with us this Summer, please contact Mark Place.

The Summer of 2005 outing is tentatively scheduled for either June 23-26 or July 14-17. Anyone having a

strong preference, please let Mark Place know. We will pin down the date in the Spring *Ax & Saw*. Remember that our Summer outing is open to all alumni, actives and friends.

A couple of reminders:

- Please communicate any maintenance problems to the Active Club Cabin Manager or to one of the Alumni Cabin Managers. There was a problem with a gas light that could have been very serious has it not been repaired. The contact numbers for the alumni cabin managers are in the Cabin Manual. We presently have two emergency kits located in the cabin. In the tool room is a small kit for gas repairs including plugs and fittings. In the locked storage room is a large container with emergency tarps etc. for room damage. Both include contact numbers to get the word out and additional help.
- If you are target shooting please clean up target debris on the range proper and police up all brass in the grass. Shot from a mower brass can do some real damage.
- Please limit driving in the front yard a much as possible. The new drains have made a huge difference, but the yard still can get very soft.
- For those planning Summer activities for youth and church groups, the cabin will unfortunately remain closed until renovations are completed in the future.
- The Cabin Manual was again updated last Fall. Anyone

wishing a copy please let me know and I will be happy to send you one on CD.

Questions, comments, concerns please feel free to email me at mplace@johnplaceinc.com.

Mark Place '77 Alumni Cabin Manager



Reverend Dunbar tamed this not-so-feral dog, also known as The Clyde, to eat from his hand.

Feral Dogs

Reprise of 11-3-04 email to GCCOC-all

Threescore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth at this college a new club, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men should enjoy nature. Yet those who would desire to be free now cower in fear even while walking in their own lands. The dogs of war are upon us! It is vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace -- but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what

course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all club members are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the protection of club members from feral dogs. As per Article II of the Amendments to the Constitution: A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed. Therefore, we the People of the Grove City College Outing Club, in Order to form a more perfect Club, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Grove City College Outing Club Militia. All who have pistols, rifles, knives, swords, hand grenades, large blunt objects, heavy artillery, assault weapons, LEGOs, flamethrowers, stealth bombers, tanks, bazookas, ICBMs, land mines, machetes, and blowguns are encouraged to join. The GCCOCM shall be charge with the following duties:

1. To protect all club members against the threat of foreign animals
2. To protect all club property against damage and to maintain sovereignty within its borders
3. To keep the King of England from pushing us around
4. To be ready for action in case of civil unrest

Therefore, be it Resolved by the Governing Authorities of the Grove City College Outing Club assembled, that the state of war between the Grove City College Outing Club and the Imperial

Government of the Feral Dogs which has been thrust upon the Outing Club is hereby formally declared; and the President is hereby authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the Club to carry on war against the Imperial Government of the Feral Dogs; and to bring the conflict to a successful termination, all of the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the Governing Authorities of the Grove City College Outing Club.

With too much time on his hands,
Steve Dunbar

GCC Outing Club

The Axe and Saw Fall 2004



Alumni-Active Alleghany Canoe Trip September 1 2004

Lee McCoy
992 Slippery Rock Road
Grove City, PA 16127-9889

ADDRESS CORECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321

"Friendship, Fellowship, Fun"