
THE AXE AND SAW

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Grove City College Outing Club

www.gccoc.org

Tyler Garman, Mike Hinkson

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This spring marks my third semester as Outing Club president. The massive numbers of new clubbers we encountered last fall have dwindled to a more manageable and dedicated group of around twenty to thirty actives who are consistently involved. This number has proven more than adequate to fill the club's ranks and populate the cabin every weekend and some weekdays as well. Our semester started out very well with the first ever Wild Game Feast at the cabin in January. Actives and alumni braved a massive blizzard in order to cook, eat two large venison roasts, some squirrel, rabbit and about four gallons of spiced cider. We hope to make the feast an annual event. February saw a determined group of ten actives brave single digit temperatures on the winter camping trip on Dennison Run as well as a trip to the Pittsburgh Symphony.

More recently we had a group of twenty five or so actives and alumni plus one dog for the annual Hill Cleanup. This was followed by a work outing the last full weekend of April. Despite the threat of snow we still accomplished a lot at the cabin and things out there are looking pretty good heading into the summer. Preparations are underway for another week long canoe trip on the Kipawa River in Quebec this August 13-20. Josh and Erin Butler '02 and Tom Morris '77 will be leading a group of around twenty students and alums on

what promises to be another excellent summer trip. Thanks to all students and alumni for making my one and a half terms as OC president easy, and, most importantly, fun.

Adam "El Jefe" Neff '06, Pres '04-05



WINTER CAMPING

Once upon a time... 10 crazy college students stuffed their packs, layered their clothes, and headed off GCC campus for the annual tradition of Winter Camping.

Forecasts predicted 9 degree lows, and there was an inch of snow on the ground as this fateful group hiked out to a spot at a bend in Dennison Run creek, and there set up a nice camp of five tents. (We didn't really need this many tents since there were only 10 of us, and especially because we four girls were all sleeping in one... the others were just results of the overly hyper

boys wanting to show off their personal tents and tent-setting up skills.)

By this time it was dusk and we began to think about dinner. We started a fire in the fire-pit, and got the two camp stoves going as well. We feasted on lots and lots of hotdogs and ramen as the moon came out and it started to gently snow. It was really beautiful, especially with the rushing creek in the background.

After dinner, which was full of general hilarity and various methods of trying to keep as warm as possible, we decided to go up the creek exploring in the dark. This was very fun and invigorating. Our toes and fingers, which had been succumbing to the cold, warmed up quickly as we crunched through the snow, running up small hills and sliding down boulders, cautiously jumping across the creek on rocks, and running into tree branches, all while singing the theme song from Last of the Mohicans. We stopped to look at the stars, took different trails, got separated into two groups, and eventually made our way back to camp.

At the very end we had to re-cross the creek, and the final jump onto a very snowy rock was precarious. Some people didn't quite make it... but the fire thawed and dried them out and melted holes in their gloves and boots.

The fire was really hot by this time, with nice glowing coals. The guys built it up bigger and got out their pipes and cigars. We huddled close to it again, rotating like rotisserie meats in order to keep all body parts as warm as possible. While most people wore gloves, some people warmed their hands by grabbing onto various extremities of their warm friends.

Finally, an hour or two later, (after an adventurous girls-only bathroom trip), we women said goodnight and turned in to our tent and

left the boys to happily fulfill their ritual of putting out the fire.

We attempted to keep warm through the night by sleeping in double sleeping bags (one inside the other) with all our clothes still on and drawstrings pulled tight so that only a small hole over our mouth and nose was left exposed. Some who slept in the middle of the pack and had bags with -10 degree temperature ratings, were toasty. Others were not so fortunate.... those on the outside edges barely slept at all and were almost frozen solid in the morning.

We woke up around 8 am to the boys shouting and whooping, running laps around our tent to get warmed up and banging pots and pans. We packed up and hiked back to the cabin where our alumni friend Cory and his dog Shootz were waiting with a hot breakfast of eggs and blueberry pancakes on the table for us!!!

Winter Camping—for the tough, the brave, or the stupid. Not recommended for mothers of small children.

Abby Barr '07



Cold winter campers bask in the sun on top of the natural bridge.

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Ever wonder what it would be like to experience the most famous circus in the world? Five OC members turned that dream into reality April 14 at Cirque du Soleil. The Cirque du Soleil troupe performed in an enormous circus tent set up on the parking lot of Heinz Field in downtown Pittsburgh. Amazing stunts of acrobatics and artistry dazzled the audience. The performance told the story of Vareki, a young man traveling through a strange and mysterious world of colorful and exotic creatures. Favorite scenes included trapeze artists, women sea creatures gliding across the water, and men flying through the air from swings. The performance sparked conversations of possible reenactments of breathtaking stunts at the infamous cabin, but alas we are but inflexible intellectuals. We would highly recommend taking any opportunity to see Cirque du Soleil in the future.

Emily Russell '05

WILD GAME FEAST

Everyone had a “blast” at the 2005 Wild Game Feast. The snowy weather provided the perfect atmosphere for spending time at the cabin, cooking the game, hiking, and nestling by the fire. Many clubbers, including alumni, were able to be out for the feast. When it comes to wild game, we often hear from family, friends, and PETA members, “I won’t eat that! You killed it yourself?!? It didn’t come from the store!” Yes, all these and more we have heard from time to time. However, for those clubbers who had partaken of the wild game, they may have a different opinion. There were three venison roasts, sautéed squirrel with onions and

peppers, breaded and fried rabbit and squirrel, venison jerky, and other various experimentations that came out quite well. I believe all were satisfied, leaving the table with full stomachs. We also had a tremendous amount of potatoes (both sweet and regular), corn, and bread. I hope that the tradition of Wild Game Feasting continues on year after year. Remember to shoot responsibly and get involved in your local chapter of P.E.T.A (People Eating Tasty Animals).

Matthew Farrelly '05



Wild Game looking good.

SCHOLARSHIP PROPOSAL

In December 2004 Melissa MacLeod, Senior Director of Development, called to inquire about our alumni group. She asked about IRS 401c tax exempt statues which we have, membership size, and harmony in the group. She wanted to know if we would like to create a scholarship fund. This was a surprise and I told her to send me the information and we would take a look at it.

This is the basic information. The minimum donation is \$ 25,000 which can be contributed over and up to five years. Each year about 5% of the value of the principle is awarded to a student.

We could name the fund and establish the conditions of the selection. The final decision on awards is made by a committee of the college.

We could not make any donations from our treasury which ranges between \$20,000 and \$30,000. This is needed to generate funds and pay the taxes, insurance, and supplies for the annual work outing and cabin repairs.

As most of you already know, our cabin is in need of extensive repair and restoration due to age, insects, wood rot, and some original construction methods. Whatever and however we decide to do, the cost will be high due to the remoteness of our location, no electric, no good access road and the cabin size (approx. 2700 square ft.). This work is probably five years in the future and I project will cost between \$100,000 and \$150,000. This will be difficult, but we can handle it.

From this it is not hard to see that from our group finances we could not support a scholarship fund. However this does not mean it is not a realistic possibility and a good idea. Our mailing list exceeds three hundred people over sixty-six years. There are many members who probably like the idea and would support it by giving individually to an Outing Club Scholarship fund.

The purpose of this article is to encourage you to think about the idea and write to me at

Lee McCoy
992 Slippery Rock Rd.
Grove City, PA 16127
Phone # 724-458-7003.

or email our treasurer Tom Ronksley at tironksley@yahoo.com

Let us know your thoughts, opinions about the idea of an Outing Club Scholarship fund and if you would support it financially. If there is a strong consensus in favor of the idea we can work on details with the college later.

Right now we are looking for a consensus and support for the idea. Let us know your thoughts and wishes.

This article makes no commitment to the college for or against the idea, this is simply a survey to float the idea of the Outing Club Scholarship fund. Please remember our group finances can not support such a fund, but individual donations can if enough support is available. If anyone wishes to have more information about this let me know and I can send you the same information I received.

Lee McCoy Alumni Pres.



Zec trekkers 2004

ZEC '04

Last summer 8 actives and six alumni embarked on a journey into Canada. We ended up in ZEC Kippawa - a park a little north of Algonquin. After a fourteen hour drive we were all ready to get out and do some paddling. The trip consisted of three days and one night of paddling and one layover day. The weather was excellent - warm, sunny, little wind, and no bugs. Our first day of paddling took us across several lakes with a few portages in between and landed us on a small island. At the end of the day we practiced flipping canoes and trying to right them again. Flipping

was easy but righting them was a little more difficult. Our second day involved a number of additional lakes, our longest portage (800 meters), and a hour of playing on the so called Ball-Buster falls. We ended the day on yet another island where we would stay for the next two nights. The third day we relaxed on our island. The more ambitious persons constructed a sailboat out of canoes while the less ambitious explored the area and jumped off some nearby cliffs. On our fourth day we paddled a good number of miles on the Cherry River and then headed out onto a large lake. For the first time on the trip we paddled into the wind, charging through 1-2 foot waves and getting soaked in the process. We spent the night and following day on a small island in the middle of the lake. As the fifth day drew to a close we prepared to paddle through the night. The sun began to drop and so did the wind. When we finally cast off from the island around 11pm the wind had died and the lake was glassy smooth. The stars were shining brightly and the northern lights gave a spectacular show. We paddled all night, enjoying God's beautiful creation, until we reached the take out in the cold hour before the dawn. Then it was time to pack up and make the drive back to the States. All in all a most excellent trip, one that we will be repeating this coming summer.

Stephen Dunbar '06 Reverend'05

HOLIDAY VALLEY SKIING

On February 5th, a group of actives headed north for slightly more mountainous terrain to appease our desire for the slopes. Holiday Valley Ski Resort in southern New York was our destination. The skill level was varied

among the group, and we had a good variety of boarders and skiers. Several of us attempted to snow board for the first time. I have one word for that experience: painful! After falling a significant amount of times and hearing my tailbone crack, I switched over to skis in order to actually make it down a slope without multiple wipe-outs. I will say that those who can board make it look much easier than it really is! I'm sure I'll try it again... someday. The conditions were rather icy, especially when the sun went down and the wet snow froze. Thankfully we didn't have any severe accidents. We skied until the slopes closed and then packed up for the drive back to the Grove. Nothing beats the exhausted feeling you get after a good day of skiing in the fresh winter air!

Ashley Knight '06



Dunbar, Ashley, Megan, and Tyler on the chair lift

PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY

On a cold, blustery night in mid-February, a group of 8 adventurous Outing Clubbers donned their fancy duds and sought out the big city of Pittsburgh. Organized by Alex Morrison, this ragtag band piled into their cars and drove downtown to see the Pittsburgh

Symphony Orchestra. Interestingly enough, they were not the only O.C. people who happened to be there. Kaitlin Domanoski was spotted in the parking garage on the way to Heinz Hall.

Their ears were delighted with Samuel Barber's "Adagio for Strings", followed by Antonin Dvorak's "Concerto for Cello and Orchestra Opus 104" featuring 22 year old guest cellist Alicia Weilerstein. Certain unnamed males were star struck. After a short intermission consisting of attempting to get lost in Heinz Hall, the audience was wowed by Ravel's orchestration of Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition."

After enjoying an evening of some much-needed culture, the clubbers stopped at Dunkin' Donuts for coffee and donut holes before returning to Grove City.

Adam Bush '06 VP '05

SPRING WORK OUTING

On April 23, 2005 a large group of active Outing Club members met to care for the cabin. Our esteemed president, Adam Neff, drew up a list of work needing to be done. Work that needed to be completed involved getting the interior of the cabin in shipshape condition, clearing up the surrounding yard, and cleaning up the woods around the cabin.

The work that took place in the cabin included sweeping the floor-space and general tidying. The kitchen cupboards were eviscerated and their contents cleaned. The cleansed dishes were then put back in an orderly fashion. Outside, the leaves on the surrounding lawn were raked into an enormous pile. A copious amount of wood was chopped, split, and stacked to cure.

Some brave souls climbed up on the roof of the cabin and swept that off as well as ridding the gutters of debris.

We managed to accomplish everything on Adam's list. To celebrate our hard work, we consumed a spaghetti dinner that evening in fellowship with several alumni and their offspring. We also helped Mr. Sullivan ('77) celebrate his birthday and he graciously shared his cake.

Keegan I. Hange '08



Men doing manly work

SENIOR DINNER

Senior members of the Outing Club went out with some lovin' and a full stomach this year. Senior Dinner was held on May 4, 2005, and the guests of honor were Jon Ferreira, Beth Hoover, Becky Iden, and Emily Russell. There was a scrumptious meal of steak, mashed potatoes, salmon, corn, raspberry-chip cookies and apple crisp (hope you enjoyed it Jon ☺)! After dinner what could be more appropriate than sitting around a fire, talking about the good old days, and making memories that we'll one day look back on as "the good old days"? Lee McCoy told us stories about past OC memories and passed on lessons that have been learned throughout the years of outing club experience. Although this year's senior dinner

signifies the end of some of those experiences, who knows how many memories are out there waiting to be made? Hopefully you seniors will find the Outing Club as a part of your future- maybe in visits to the cabin, maybe on ZEC trips, or maybe just in the lessons that you've learned through the club. Just remember- there's always a fire to warm your feet, a cup of hot chocolate to fill your stomach and good company when you're a part of GCCOC- which, as Tom says, is "the only club where you're a member for life."

Tiffany Narbe '06

"RUGGED" CANOE TRIP

April 30th

Forecast: rain

Actual weather: rain

Time of departure: 0800

Actual time of departure: much later, in typical Outing Club fashion.

The rain was falling and the temperature had long since dropped, yet twelve members and two commendable souls set out for the Shenango River with unperturbed pace and with smiles on their faces.

A change from the normal Spring Allegheny River trip, the Shenango River turned out to be a refreshing paddle. The rain had stopped shortly after the clubbers had put in which made the trip much more enjoyable. It was more pleasant than it would have been if there had not been any rain that day, because of the delight in the relief from the rain and the special moments of sunshine during the rain; a beautiful and infrequent sight.

At the put in we met the founding member of the Shenango Outing Club. He advised us on the river

and informed us that the Shenango Outing Club was normally responsible for maintaining and clearing the river, but had not yet done so in 2005.

We saw him again at the end of the trip where we took the canoes out and were happy to inform him that the river was entirely navigable and clear. He was surprised to hear that we spotted roughly a dozen Great Blue Herons that had nested along the river's edge and we were happy to have seen them.

Jonathan Ferreira '05



Dr. Gordon our fearless faculty advisor

HILL CLEANUP

Led by our small in stature but big in heart faculty advisor Dr. Gordon and the alumni Tom Morris and Cory Gibson, a group of actives took to the hills. The hill cleanup this year was a big success. Both seasoned veterans of the club and new members showed up for what was a memorable work outing. Operations had bought us new tools and even donated money to the club for our efforts. With rakes and shears in our hands we took off down the hill at a frantic rate clearing the hill from all debris and small shrubs that were just in the way. Abby Bar one of the more animal sensitive actives found a nest of young rabbits and a toad which she proclaimed was her prince. However, when challenged to kiss it no

commitment was made. After watching a few traditional Grove City College Creekings our self sacrificing president decided to take a swim himself. Adam had seen an old wagon wheel at the bottom of Wolf Creek and went in after it. He figured it would be a lovely addition to the cabin after washing off the inch of mud coating it and get rid of the smell. In all, this years hill cleanup was a great success and should keep us in the good graces of the college for at least one more year.

Mike Hinkson '06

SUMMER OUTING – Food/fun/friends/learn a trade!

This Summers joint student-Alumni-friends outing will be held **July 14-17**. We try to rotate months every few years to accommodate different folk's schedules but July seems to work out best for most folks and so July it is this year.



“No Cory it’s not a giant snake to wrestle”

Plans for the projects this year are as usual still in flux, but removal of the excess dirt from the drainage project in '04 and some interim gas line improvement are near the top of the list. After investigating road improvement options for the upcoming major

construction last year, we have pretty well settled on improving access to the front of the property for contractors and suppliers. Some prep work will be done as we remove the excess soil and gravel from the drain project. We will also address the normal summer housekeeping projects. We will plan on attitude adjustment and a swim each night down at the river.

Meals will start with a late lunch on Thursday and run to lunch on Sunday. If you have any menu requests or wish to contribute a favorite dish or dessert, please let me know. There is no charge for the meals.

If you are able to participate this year, even a day or an afternoon, please call or email me before July 12th with the number of adults and children under 10 so we can plan the meals. If there is enough interest, we will try to plan a separate children's program on Saturday. That will require more notice to coordinate volunteers. See you soon!

Mark Place, Alumni Cabin Manager
mplace@johnplaceinc.com
or 412-877-0050

Use of the cabin

As noted in past issues of the *Ax & Saw*, due to the work in progress we have been forced to curtail use of the cabin by school and alumni groups. Several groups are planning day hikes and other events in the yard, and that is great. We are sorry for the inconvenience, but until the floor, kitchen ceiling and gas line issues are resolved we must continue this policy.



Mmmm ... good cabin eats

Summer mowing and bug watch

We arranged to have the cabin retreated last summer for boring bugs after finding evidence that they had survived the first treatment. If you see any carpenter ants or signs of the boring beetles please let us know.

Making the cabin look well used is our best defense against vandals. If you can help with regular summer mowing, please let Lee McCoy or I know. We now have a choice of either the push mower or riding mower.

Email master

If you have a new email or are looking for a classmates email, please drop Cory Gibson or me a note so that I can update our records or see if we can help. We are still running about 100 folks in the database. mplace@johnplaceinc.com, cgibson@gccoc.org

Mark Place, Alumni Cabin Manager



Happy Clubbers Dave, Janelle, Val, and Adam sitting by the fire



ZEC '04 – maybe this year we'll get a few more boats



This can't end well – Are you excited for ZEC '05 yet?

GCC Outing Club

The Axe and Saw Spring 2005



Hill Cleanup -April 2005

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ADDRESS CORECTION REQUESTED

"Friendship, Fellowship, Fun"

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