
THE AXE AND SAW

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Grove City College Outing Club

www.gccoc.org

Tyler Garman, Mike Hinkson

Letter from the President

My two years as Outing Club president have come to an end, but I have greatly enjoyed the chance to lead Grove City's most fun organization. This past semester started off in a big way with the 2005 ZEC Kipawa paddle in August. Twenty almost fearless Active and Alumni paddlers took to the lakes of Western Quebec under the leadership of Josh and Erin Butler '02. For such a large trip things went exceptionally well and despite cold, rainy weather for the last three days of our adventure we still managed to have an excellent time.

During September we had a successful New Member Outing and several camping trips. October saw the annual Pig Roast at the cabin, and despite unseasonably cold temperatures it proved to be another Outing Club success. The food was excellent, the hikes were long, and the preparations for the feast went very smoothly due to the large number of experienced Actives. Late in October the club also had its annual Halloween party where Actives and Alumni carved pumpkins and gorged themselves on more delicious food. Several invigorating hiking trips to the Alleghany National Forest to see the changing leaves helped to mitigate the effects of all the food we ate at the cabin. The weekend after Thanksgiving we had a large work outing where we cleaned the kitchen and restocked both woodsheds, and the second weekend in December we held the annual Christmas

Party. A tree was liberated, garlands were made, a turkey was fried, and much wassail and Tyler Advantage were consumed.

Overall it's been another excellent semester and we already have some fun activities planned for the spring. Again I'd like to thank both the Actives and Alumni for making my two years as OC president a fun experience and, more importantly, for all the great memories I've had in this club since freshman year. Ryan Castor '07 will be the president in 2006 and I'm confident that he'll do a great job.



Adam Neff '06, President '04-05

New Member Outing

It's crazy to think that it was only three months ago, shortly following the start of a new year at GCC, that the Outing Club hosted its annual New Member Outing. The meeting gave freshman and other interested students a chance to come out to the cabin and get a feel of what the Outing Club is really like.

When we first met up at the PLC parking lot on a gray Saturday morning, an awkward silence hung in the air as we all met Cory, Thom, and Clyde the dog for the first time. Later, once we arrived at the cabin, President Adam Neff gave us an oh-so-wonderful tour of the cabin and we met a bunch of people that had been out at the cabin the night before. After sitting around for a while, we decided a hike would be nice, so Adam and Cory led the majority of us on the Natural Bridge hike and the Iron Furnace hike, with a stop at the rope swing. Our hike was followed by lots of people shooting guns off with Tom, and then a yummy spaghetti dinner. We loved real food!

Of the new members that came out to the new member outing, a good number of them have returned for events like the Pig Roast, the Christmas Party, and work outings. Personally, even though I have only been involved as a new member of the outing club for a little over three months, it feels like forever . . . and I am really enjoying it!

Laura Mark '09

A Daring (New) Member Perspective

I'd rather look at my perspective as daring rather than new. Why? Because nothing about the Outing Club is as ordinary and commonplace as "new". Our experiences transcend the

pathetic boundaries of time. That's right-the Grove City College Outing Club exists outside of reality...which is primarily why I joined. As we all know, the reality of Grove City College consists of late nights with Henry Buhl, early mornings with the staff of MAP "café," and long afternoons deciding between sleep or the ever-present abundance of studying that should be done. The Outing Club responds to all the madness by simply sending a mass e-mail begging company for yet another excursion to the cabin. I was confused at first- see, I thought the cabin was a nice, quiet place for students to escape the overpopulation of the library (on a Saturday night) and continue their studying in front of a fire, deep in Pennsylvania forest. When I went out to the cabin for the first time Dr. Faustus, Thomas Aquinas, and my friend Ludwig Von Mises came with me. The second time I went out to the cabin I took caffeine, extra warm wool socks, and a firm resolution to catch up on some overdue sleep.

Maybe that's why my eyes dart to my schedule every time I get an e-mail about a cabin trip (which is usually at least once a day). The cabin is not only in a beautiful place far from the whisperings of Rainbow Bridge and Intervis, but I can almost certainly say that the cabin is where I've met some of my favorite (and unique) friends and gotten some of the best sleep while at Grove City College. My "daring" new member perspective may not actually be that daring, but my time spent at the cabin with the other members of the club constantly dares me to drop out of school and become a permanent resident of the GCCOC cabin. So far I've resisted the temptation, but if the good times keep coming-drop by the cabin

sometime and say hello to the Grove City College dropout who lives in a sleeping bag and hasn't taken a shower in...well, let's just say a while. I'll be there.

Esther Harclerode '09

Ye Olde Logger's Trail

So sometime a long time ago this past fall semester when it was nice and warm and sunny, a group of us (Steve Dunbar, Tyler Garman, Dave Hathaway, Beth Mohr, Janelle Wilkie) headed out to the middle of PA somewhere north of Williamsport to go backpacking for the weekend. Basically, it was on this trip that my life-long dream was fulfilled...I saw a BEAR!!!! Yes, that's right, a bear. For about 5 years since backpacking in West Virginia I had been on a bear hunt and so was praying our entire trip that God would grant my request. The first day...no bear...but Tyler's close run in with a rattlesnake was pretty exciting. We were nearing the end of our trip on the second day, and I had nearly given up all hope of seeing my bear, when all of a sudden we heard a noise in the woods... and there he was! My bear! Seeing the bear was awesome and pretty much made my life complete, but the scenery and trail itself were more than enough to make the trip incredible. There were several points where we were rewarded after a long climb by a breathtaking view of

the valley below us. It was from one these overlooks that the boys decided to give Beth and me a throwing lesson, so we all enjoyed sending rocks crashing through the trees and hurling logs off the edge. The first day after hiking for a few hours we came to this stream called Rock Run that we were able to swim in. Huge flat rocks covered the streambed and made for good sliding, and other rocks lined the edge and were perfect for jumping from (except for Dave who managed to hit his face against a rock in the water and get a swollen eye). The second day was especially fun because we were able to stash our packs to pick up later and so ran through the woods and down the hillsides like mountain goats leaping from rock to rock. We finished off our trip by going to the Olive Garden on the way home unshowered and covered in dirt in true Outing Club style.

Janelle Wilkie '06

Pig Roast Pies



[Pie making for the Pig Roast of 2005 was quite the adventure. Something is bound to go awry, or at the very least be amusing, when there are eight girls, three women of the Gordon Clan, thirty-two pies, two large pizzas, and I don't know how many cats in one house. Pie making was once again held in the graciously opened home of the Gordon's. Unfortunately, Dr. Gordon was not able](#)

be present for the pie-making, I suspect this is why there were no men to be found. Making our thirty-four pies went considerably smoother than the previous year, so I was told; I think it was attributed to the fact that there were no men involved. The eight of us girls, Sarah Gruen, Kate Buckwalter, Natalie Zesiger, Megan Smith, Laura Mark, Keegan Hange, Gretchen Reid, and Renee Erbrecht, did quite a fine job if we may say so. The adventure began in the early afternoon and carried on until well after 1:00 am, with the numbers dwindling as the night went on. Songs were sung (and hummed if we weren't too sure on the words), a few trips to the store were made (you can never have enough Crisco), and Pizza was consumed. Thinking back to that night still sends us into fits of laughter.

Natalie Zesiger and Megan Smith '07

Pig Roast

There are some things that happen over and over and over again—nobody really understands them, and no one knows why they started or when they will end, but we call them 'traditions.'

One of the greatest Outing Club traditions is the annual Pig Roast. Along with that larger tradition comes a lesser-known yet more revered and dreaded one—The Greasing of the Pig. This consists of one specially chosen underclassmen active smearing Crisco all over their hands and forearms and inserting them into both ends of the cold dead pig so that the skewer will be sure to go in smoothly.

This year, as Adam Neff had handed down that great responsibility to Janelle last year, she got to choose the new greaser... and in great wisdom and

spite, she bestowed the honor on me—the only lowly junior present at the time. With great courage I braced myself for the deed and plunged in, desperately trying not to think about what I was actually doing. Photos alone do justice to the tale... and many who have seen them told me they would never ever shake my hand again.



Thanks Abby!

With the pig well greased and skewered, we propped him over the fire and settled in for a long and smoky 24 hr. vigil of roasting. Meanwhile, those not on pig-duty happily shot rounds and rounds and rounds of ammo and busted lots and lots and lots of clay pigeons.

The general frivolity lasted into the night and all through the next day, pausing briefly for a Sunday morning cabin worship service led by Pastor Wilkie (Janelle's dad) with Tyler Garman leading the singing.

Around noon, with tables set, pies laid out, mashed potatoes properly seasoned, and the nicely charred pork pulled off the bones, the guests began to arrive—students, parents, alumni, faculty, and families. After our much-esteemed Reverend Dunbar read a psalm and gave thanks, there was much rejoicing, much food, much fellowship, much conversation, many photos and many dogs running around!. The food

held out and everyone had a good time, with about 100 people served total.

An intense game of mud-wrestling football finished off the afternoon in true Outing Club style, with actives Dunbar, Tyler, Ashley, and Janelle, joined by siblings and boyfriends, vs. alum Dan ????. Though he put up a good fight, I think the actives and their cohorts won.

But the best part is, I get to choose next years pig-greaser.... !

Abby Barr '07

Halloween Party, October 2005

The club held its annual Halloween party on Friday and Saturday, October 28-29 and it proved to be an excellent time. There was ice on my Jeep when I went to drive it out to the cabin Friday night but the cold weather did not deter a large number of Actives and Alumni who showed up at the cabin and consumed large amounts of popcorn and cider while sitting around the fireplaces. Saturday dawned clear and bright—a perfect autumn day—and I have to admit I missed most of the morning and afternoon activities at the cabin because of a long hike, but I'm going to guess that, like most big Outing Club weekends, those activities included shooting, eating, talking, and hiking. For sophomore Keegan Hange that list of activities included cooking as well. She showed off her skills by preparing an excellent repast of authentic Mexican tacos and fresh baked Bread of the Dead (which was really good). After dark on Saturday there was a great deal of pumpkin carving and the crowds thinned out eventually to allow for a fine, quiet Saturday night at the cabin.

Adam Neff '06, President '04-05

' Twas the Week Before Finals Christmas Party 2005

Twice the week before finals and all
through the woods,
Every member was trekking with guns,
food, and goods.

The ham was roasting all snug in the
stove,
In hopes we would get away, even from
the Grove.

The cabin was full of young and of old,
We sat by the fire to keep out the cold.
Erin and Josh were with Cyrus, while
Tom was with Clyde,
Ready to enjoy life, at the cabin we
would abide.

The popcorn was popped and the
cranberries strung,
Oh no! The Christmas carols were in
fact never sung!

String up the popcorn and cranberries



But the hour had arrived, now it was
time,
It was time for liberation, the clock
began to chime!

In the cover of darkness and dressed-up
in layers,
Many would tackle, and then find re-
payers.
The tree called our name, and quickly
we hurried,

Some were walking but others even
scurried.

With perfect round branches so bushy
and green,
We knew in a moment it was the cabin's
tree dream!
At the hand of El Jefe, quickly it fell,
And all the way back there was a
victorious yell.

Some became captives and many were
tackled,
With pretzled arms and legs, friends
were in shackles!
Laughter broke the quiet of night,
All ended in the snow, but gave a valiant
fight.

Now Tyler, Now Steve! Now Laura and
Janelle!
On Megan and Abby- we lost one, she
fell!
To the bottom of the pile, to the painful
below,
Now hold on tight, hold on tight- don't
let go of one toe!

To make it back safely we finally did,
Behind every tree and bush we had
already hid.
Our tree was put up and the garland put
on,
We got warm in the cabin where the
fire's never gone.

And then, in a twinkling, we heard from
the table,
A rousing game of cards- who needs TV
or cable?
As I joined in the game and laughed oh
so much,
The best team won the game, cause
they're awesome, and such.

And then it was time, we needed some
sleep,
All the beds were full and there wasn't
even a peep.
The Grovers were nestled all snug in
their beds,
While visions of Tomlettes and Uzis
danced in their heads.

The night had been a fun and everyone
jolly,
It would happen again tomorrow- oh
goodness-oh Golly!
But we heard as we left and hiked out of
sight,
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a
good night!

Tiffany Narbe '06

ZEC '05

What do you get when you put
17 college students, 5 adults, and 2 dogs
into 10 canoes and send them to 55 miles
of lake in Quebec? The 2005 ZEC
Kipawa trip!!!



ZEC '05... are you coming next year?

The trip included both veterans
and first-timers, and despite some cold
rainy weather, and some sore throats, it
was definitely a success—fun,
refreshing, and relaxing. No one
capsized, no one drowned, and no one
got lost (although some people practiced
their French in case they did). We all
pushed ourselves, learned new skills,

made new friends, saw more of Tom than we ever want to see again, and drank our fill of fresh water from the beautiful Canadian lakes.

Our days were full of paddling. The weather was sunny at first, but skies turned steely for the last half of the trip. But no rain or chilly winds could stop us—we'd push off in the morning after breakfast, paddle and portage till lunch, and then with new energy from pitas, bagels, cheese, sausage, beef jerky, peanut butter, and honey, we'd push off again and paddle till we reached our destination of the day.

Our longest day of paddling was about 20 miles, and our longest portage was a half mile. We paddled through wide lakes and narrow straits, shallow inlets, and choppy expanses, as well as many miles of the slow winding Cherry River on the fourth day. We also had a layover day where most of us slept, bathed, went cliff-jumping, fishing, or exploring. Some people had to paddle all the way back to the lunch spot from the day before and pick up personal items that they couldn't seem to keep track of... but the rest of us had fun! The fresh air and clean water, the water lilies, the mud, the pine trees, the cries of loons, the bantering and sore shoulders, the cliff-jumping and swimming, the brownies a la MacElhaney, and the slightly miserable weather made for great memories and new bonds of friendship. (And while Steve and Jon's canoe may have been the most severely attractive, the canoe I shared with Dave and Janelle, "Ghetto BLUE", was definitely the fastest ☺).

Each night we arrived at our campsite tired and sore, but with a great sense of accomplishment. Tents were set up, hammocks hung, latrines dug, and fires made. Dinners of MREs were a

highlight—lots of surprises and bargaining ensued. We all shared one especially cold dinner huddled under the tarp as a sudden thunderstorm pounded us. The tarp kept most of us dry, and after a little while the storm blew over and the sun came out again to illumine the sparkling wet and dripping landscape. After-dinner entertainment consisted mainly of poetry recitations by Neff, reading, cigar smoking, card playing, journal-writing, ember-staring, and shooting-star-gazing.

The week passed all too quickly. On the last day, as the sun set, we prepared for an intense and cloudy night paddle by napping hard-core all afternoon and evening. Then, with warm clothes on, packs secured, and glow sticks bobbing on the front of our canoes, we paddled the last several miles out. Though some people did not enjoy this night paddle as much as others, we all arrived safe and sound at the take out just as the sun rose. Tired, happy, dirty, satisfied, and sleepy, we packed into the cars for a long drive home. But we were all better, stronger, happier, and browner than when we came. God's steadfast and beautiful creation is truly healing to weary hearts. I can think of no better way to end a summer and get ready for another arduous academic Grove City year than the ZEC Kipawa canoe trip.

Abby Barr '07

Cabin News: Winter 2005

The annual Summer student-alumni-friends outing was a great success! We had 32 folks show up from infants to retired and just coincidentally, managed to get 32 projects done over the four day period.



As with the past several years the focus was on preparing the property for our pending major construction work on the cottage along about 2008. To get competitive contractor prices they must be able to have lumber and concrete delivered right to the front yard and to that end we have been improving the road and yard drainage. Here we find three generations of boys and their toys filling in the low spot in the yard with the material excavated from the old upper yard drain installed in the 1980's.



As usual we tried to balance strategic work with wear and tear projects all wrapped around good eats, fellowship and a nightly swim.

Our ace restoration carpenter Tom Parker was able to reinstall the kitchen ceiling and also open up the outside siding at multiple locations to look for rot and insect damage. Unfortunately we found several test sites with both.



With a great group such as we had, we always try to find projects of interest to all. Other projects tackled this year included a good start on wire brushing and painting our scaffolding, hauling in and splitting a huge amount of wood, a complete overhaul of the foot valve in the spring box and the kitchen pump, installation of monitoring wells on the back side of the cabin, improved drainage along the upper and middle road and the usual housekeeping such as cleaning the kitchen well, washing the windows inside and out, shop vacuuming and wet mopping all of the rooms, scrubbing and applying lime in the outhouses.



With 32 attendees it is just too long a list to thank everyone, but special thanks to Dan Young, Chuck and Henry Limmer, Tom Parker and Brent Slais for bring the really specialized equipment, Sue Kidd Knectel for her help in the kitchen, and of course Marsh Sanford and Bob Waugaman for not only their hard work but providing a great bridge to the earlier years. For those from more recent years, the sight of Cooper working closely with

young minds was worth the drive!
Cooper and Doc gave Marsh a run for
his money on longest drive, but once
again he won the title.



Due to the continued foundation and
flooring issues we will still be limiting
use of the cabin to actives and alumni
outings in 2006. Remember if you are
out at the cabin and see an issue or a
problem please let Lee McCoy or Mark
Place know so that we can coordinate a
response with the active club.



Mark you schedules now for
July 13-16 2006. We'll firm the date up
in the Spring, but that looks promising.
Questions or comments on the cabin,
please feel free to contact me at any
time. mplace@johnplaceinc.com

Mark Place, x77 Alumni Cabin Manager

There's Something About...

There's something about
Your own sturdy pack
Strapped tight on your back
All your earthly troubles bound up in
one sack
Shouldered until the ache dulls

There's something about
Your own two strong feet
Pounding ground as they meet
In a kiss with rich loam that's firm but
so sweet
Rhythm of wandering days

There's something about
Your own bright small fire
Built with tender care
Pouring desperate energy into cold air
Company glowing and safe

There's something about
Your own body heat
Curled up in a sleep
Fresh under the stars adding vigor to
dreams
Close to the person beside you

There's something about
Your own leaf-strewn trail
Matted, damp, and pale
Jagged wisps left after the midnight gale
Covering slumbering life

There's something about
Your own drifting thoughts
With the stream and rocks
Spilling beside you as they gently mock
Laughing at progress and pain

There's something about
Your hair in the breeze
Mirroring the trees
Twisting and following fancy with ease
Free and tied down all at once

GCC Outing Club

The Axe and Saw Fall 2005



Our fearless Jefe liberates our Christmas tree

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"Friendship, Fellowship, Fun"

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