

GCC Outing Club

The Axe and Saw Fall 2008



(This semester's new members assemble on the porch of the cabin at the New Member Outing)

"Friendship, Fellowship, Fun"

Address corrections and updates requested.

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THE AXE AND SAW

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Fall 2008

Grove City College Outing Club

www.gccoc.org

Brandy Tillow

Hello Outing Club friends!

As you've probably heard, this past Homecoming marked the GCC Outing Club's 70th Anniversary. During our preparations, we connected with the GCC Alumni Relations Office and updated our list of alumni to match theirs. We nearly doubled our list, so I suspect there are many of you receiving an *Axe and Saw* for the first time. I hope you enjoy reading about the recent adventures of the GCCOC actives and a few alumni, too.

If there is any other information with which we can provide you, if you have questions or suggestions, or you'd just like to reconnect, we'd love to hear from you! Feel free to contact:

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Letter From the President

Greetings! I hope that you are truly feeling the blessings of this Christmas season.

This Saturday the club will wrap up its 70th year with our annual Christmas party. To summarize the semester, we hosted 200 guests for the annual Pig Roast. Even President Jewell and his wife were in attendance this year! We cooked two pigs with six chickens

stuffed inside each, 120 pounds of potatoes, corn, applesauce, rolls, and 70 pies. It was a perfect fall weekend for such an event and everyone that I spoke with was really enjoying God's creation.

For our 70th year as a club, there were the usual homecoming festivities on campus, plus we had a tent set up with old photo albums and anniversary T-shirts. The fun did not stop there but also included a 70th reunion banquet, breakfast, Sunday morning service at the cabin, and the annual alumni meeting. All those in attendance would agree with me that it was a time of reminiscing and sharing all sorts of stories. The club has been good to a lot of people in the past and with a strong active club, it will continue to give richly to more and more students over the years.

Other events that the club held or participated in included the ZEC Kipawa Canoe trip to Canada, the campus wide organizational fair, a new member outing, day canoe trip down the Allegheny, a few backpacking trips, work outings, concession stand shifts, a Harvest Party, orienteering instruction, and other spontaneous trips to the cabin during the week. The paddle in Canada and down the Allegheny were two of the highlights of my semester. Each had its own beauty and excitement while still providing a challenge to overcome. All in all it was a very busy and active semester. Thanks to all that made it that way and best wishes to the officers of 2009.

May God continue to watch over you and bless all your outdoor adventures!

Sarah A. Lake '09

President '08



(Sarah and Brett paddle through the rapids)

“Life is good” in Kipawa

On the evening of August 16, more than a week before the start of classes, nine GCCOC actives, six alumni, two dogs and seven canoes pulled out of the college PLC parking lot and started the thirteen hour drive up to ZEC Kipawa in Quebec.

The drive was long and taxing—even Major Tom switched drivers to sleep for a couple hours—but we were greeted by gorgeous, sunny weather at the first camp site. The actives took a chilly swim after unloading and setting up camp while the alumni moved the trucks to our finishing point, and afterward everyone settled down for our first gas stove-cooked dinner. A few people took canoes out on the lake, including a group of first-timers (myself included) who wanted to get a feel for paddling before the real fun began. We had no idea what we were in for.

The next morning we woke up to cloudy skies that very quickly gave way to heavy rain. Other than this and another windy day, the weather up there was gorgeous, and much to Tom’s delight, there was no dust and very few bugs. After a long day of paddling, we would spend our evenings huddled around fires listening to stories about fuzzy dogs, eating scrumptious meals cooked over the gas stoves while drinking tea or hot chocolate, and washing dinner dishes offshore. We all looked forward to our “day off” from paddling, and a group paddled across the lake to an area of rock faces and proceeded to “cliff jump” into the chilly water. We were able to make new

friends, as a family of kayakers spent a night at one of the same camp sites we occupied.

There was honestly so much to take in over the course of the whole trip, it can barely be put into words. You experience a kind of purity that can only be found in a place so separated from everyday stress and technology that you lose your normal self for a week on the water.

Jamie Schiappa ’11



(The ZEC trip group... with attitude)

Pig Roast 2008

The 2008 Pig Roast was a smashing hit with over 200 guests and Outing Club members coming out to enjoy the feast.

The festivities began Saturday afternoon with the tradition of shamelessly placing the two pigs on their larger-than-life skewers. Then Tom graced everyone’s presence with his gun collection and allowed everyone present and interested to target shoot. In the evening, the current members and small children put away a significant pot of chili and old-fashioned Jiffy cornbread, topped off with a few batches of no-bakes.

All through the night, you could find several OC members perched by the fire dutifully tending to the two pigs. A great shot in the dark this year- let’s cook the chickens inside one of the pigs! Brett Ely said (and I quote), “I daresay the chicken turned out better tasting than the pig itself.” As is longstanding tradition, Tom awoke early to

single-handedly prepare an omelette with fresh eggs for each person who believed it to be to their benefit to drag themselves out of the bunks and tents for this feast. The first thing I ate Sunday morning? Why none other than wild boar sausage.

After breakfast was cleared, chairs were placed neatly in rows (just as you would see in a church) facing out into God's breathtaking creation. Several hymns were sung—simply voices raised in praise to a wonderful Creator, followed by the giving of a message by Outing Club's Vice President Brett Ely.

As soon as all glory had been returned to its proper place, whirlwind preparations for the arrival of our guests kicked into full gear. Amongst our distinguished guests were: Dr. Dick Jewell and his wife; Dr. Gordon, professor of Greek and religion; Dr. Marsch of the Physics department; Pastor and Youth Pastor's of Slippery Rock Baptist Church with all their little ones in tow; families of Outing Club members; Outing Club alumni through the years; and please let us not forget all the hardworking current members of the club. There was enough food for everyone to have their fill and then some, including the 70 some pies—cherry, apple, pumpkin, and oatmeal chocolate chip.

My most treasured memory of the Pig Roast 2008 will stand as the fellowship of several generations of believers, a glimpse of how God intended it to be, I believe.

Caitlin Peters '11

Pies!

One of the best Outing Club traditions, in my opinion, is the annual creation of 75-plus pies, though I want to say straight off that whoever first came up with that idea was just a tad—well—insane. This year I became complicit in that insanity, knowingly inflicting it upon my unsuspecting crew.*

The party started with a shopping trip to Bilo with Jamie. We bought more baking supplies than I had ever seen in one place before.

The drive to the Gordon's was nice...and the walk back to campus...and the walk back to the Gordon's again... I can do it in exactly 10 minutes, including the walk all the way up to HAL.

We had about 6 people there at any given time. The first pie went in after 45 minutes. At 40 minutes of baking per pie, with 6 pies in the oven at once, I think we estimated about 8 hours of baking. Yeah, right.

We turned out pie after beautiful pie, keeping ahead of the oven all the way. The heroism of that crew... Mary and Kelly were pie-crust experts, so they experimented until each one was just right. Tim took the apple-peeling. His extensive knowledge in that area will soon be invaluable. I suggest a security detail to protect him from assassination. Brandy developed a new ability to make pumpkin pies (bland of course). Kelsey's specialty was...well, organizing everyone. I think we would have fallen apart if not for her. Oh, and Laura Mark.

There was flour, flour everywhere, and by midnight there were still over 20 pies left to bake, including several oatmeal ones, a few leftover pecans, and all the apple pies! So, Brandy and I packed up, cleaned up (with the help of Mrs. Gordon!), and headed out with the taste of Crispy in our mouths to find a new oven.

Fast forward four hours...I was just about zonked, and Brandy had been working on...well, something...for the last few hours, so we switched. At 4 am, Brandy took over oven detail. At 7 o'clock on Saturday morning, I awoke. And there—she—was. Awake, still, and pulling the last of the pies out of the oven.

Suffice it to say, we will change some things next year. But what an effort it was. I proclaim the heroism of all those faithful who toughed it out this semester. And I hope, I dearly hope that they will volunteer next year...and prove their insanity once again.

* A couple were suspecting, and I add them to the list of crazy people.

Katie McIntyre '10



(Active members serve food at the Pig Roast.
Foreground: Mr. Knight and Brett Ely)

Not Now.....Later

For us who always wished we could help the GCCOC financially, but did not have the finances available to gift in that manner, an idea to consider is endowing GCCOC in your will. The largest bulk of your financial resources will be disbursed at the time of your death. To do what you always wanted to do, just include GCCOC in your will. We are heading up an initiative to encourage other alumni to include a bequest to GCCOC in their will. Look for more details in future issues of *Axe & Saw*.

Chuck and Joan Theal

The Aeneid Reading Party

The four days before halls opened in the Fall, Seniors Joel Musser, Will Ross, Taylor Knight, and Bill Robinson stayed at the Cabin and read aloud Robert Fagles' translation of *The Aeneid* in its entirety. Megan Maley ('07), Gia Straw ('08), and Kelli Trease, though lodging in modern civilization,

also joined in and the gods' lines in the epic poem.

All were clad in Roman-style togas, Latin salutations abounded, and Roman food was prepared (if that's possible on an iron skillet) and enjoyed while reclining. The only blatant anachronism was the incessant smoking of pipes by the gentlemen (gladiators). Our consciences were clear, though, for classical scholars unequivocally agree that had the Romans knew about tobacco, they certainly would have smoked.

The highlight of the event was hiking down to the Allegheny River on Friday afternoon to read further, and to compete in Olympic sport for the coveted laurel crown. The qualifying event, the vine swing, involved swooping over a pit and then kicking off a tree on the opposite side to return. All qualified, though Joel also managed to hit a second tree with his head during his return voyage. The others judged that he still qualified and, although Joel still orates beautifully on the virtues of democracy, his Latin hasn't been the same since.

The main sporting events took place in the river: rock skipping, stone shot puts, and swimming against the current. Overall, Bill's godlike strength won him the prized laurel and universal accolade.

Joel Musser, Will Ross, Taylor Knight, and Bill Robinson '09



(Matt Green chops wood, impressing the crowd)

A Banquet of Memories

In celebration of the GCCOC's 70th reunion this past Homecoming, the club held a banquet in Franklin. The alumni were nice enough to let some of the students, including me, crash the party. All totaled, there were 43 alumni plus four actives: Sarah Lake (president), Brett Ely (VP), me (alumni secretary), and Amanda Snead (historian). I enjoyed a meal of not-Bon Appétit food at a table with the Sullivans, the Ronksleys, Lynne Fogel, Lee McCoy, and Amanda Snead. What a crew!

We enjoyed several slideshows that evening. In one, Mark Place outlined recent cabin renovations and what still needs to be done. Another extensive show provided pictures of Doc Kase's cabin through the years. I obviously could not appreciate the show as much as those who have been there, but I still loved looking around the room and knowing that some of the best memories of some of the alumni's lives were being recalled.

The pictures were fascinating, but my favorite part of the evening mirrors my favorite aspect of the club—the stories. We had a 1941 graduate (which puts her as a student when the club was founded) with us that night, and to hear her memories made me tear up a bit. What a unique opportunity! I love the sense of continuity and even family that the Outing Club fosters. People (including Bob McKay and his wife) came from as far as California for the homecoming events. Ruth Smock reminisced as well; she's always ready with a good Outing Club story. And it was Tom Ronksley, I believe, who read several letters from older alumni who could not make it that weekend.

I've never been part of an organization with so much pride in its history and connection throughout generations. It's an honor to be an active member of such a lineage. Thank you!

Brandy Tillow '10

Thank you.

I have never heard so many good stories in my life. The club's 70th reunion was such a blessing in providing a chance to learn about the club's past. After that weekend, I wanted to try and ride in the back of a truck to Yellowstone or maybe go for a polar bear swim in Canada. I am curious if our generation could handle the adventures of times past. The club has indeed changed over the last 70 years, however, I am so grateful to the club alumni for teaching us not only how to have a good time, but life lessons seldom seen in today's culture.

I am so grateful to the alumni who take the time to invest in us college folk. This year has brought many opportunities for me to learn from the best! In Canada I learned what it meant to be a humble leader and real man of God as I watched Josh Buttler. As always, Tom Morris has demonstrated a willingness to serve others as he cooked omelets and patiently taught us to shoot. Cory Gibson lived out a faith that was so evident in his selfless service and real interest in the lives of students. The list could go on and on.

Although many miles away from home, it is so comforting to be a part of a group that has great people, a great heritage and a great place to get away from the stress and business of school. Thank you alumni for investing in us! Whether in time or financially, your gifts are such a blessing. I am very proud to call myself an outing clubber and look forward to new lessons learned. May the Lord bless you as you all have been a blessing to me!

Brett Ely '10

Rainy Escapades in West Virginia

In September, Maria Watson and I ventured down to West Virginia with some other Outing Club Alumni to explore the Dolly Sod wilderness. What we got was a soggy adventure in the sods.

Joined by Ashley Zangus, Sarah Hoobler, Val Nyhuis, Adam Bush, Adam Neff, Tyler and Janelle Garman, and the Garman's friend, Josh Clark, we met up at the trailhead on Saturday morning. The plan was to hike about 2/3 of the trail, camp for the night, and then finish the loop on Sunday. Having done this same loop the previous year, we decided to mix things up a bit and do the loop in reverse. Our hike was pretty uneventful. There was laughing, taking of pictures, crossing streams, and climbing up hills.

The events that stick out in my mind regarding this trip are the views and the rain. It began to rain in the late afternoon on Saturday and did not stop for the rest of our trip. Despite our best efforts, we were all essentially wet through and through. When asked about the trip, former president Adam Neff reflected on the good times: "It's always great to get out and see old friends. Hopefully we'll get some more actives interested in coming in the future."

Laura Mark '09



(Backpacking group in WV)



(Tom cutting potatoes... with a machete)

Summer Outing 2008 – Food/fun/friends/

This Summers joint **student-Alumni-family, friends** outing will be held **July 24-27**, a little later than usual. . We try to rotate the dates every few years to accommodate different folk's schedules, but July seems to work out best for most folks and so July it is again this year.

Plans for the projects this year are as usual still in flux, but we will certainly be looking for any new structural problems. Tree removal around the spring is the priority project this year. We finally have found someone who has developed springs to consult with and a pretty decent article on how the collection system and spring box are supposed to work. Anyone wishing a copy of the report on how to build a spring system just let me know and I will e-mail you the article. It is certainly a change of pace from reading about the war, fuel prices or the primaries. We will also address the normal summer housekeeping projects. As always we will include attitude adjustment and a swim down at the river each evening after dinner.

Meals will start with a late lunch on Thursday and run to lunch on Sunday. There is no charge for the meals.

If you are able to participate this year, even a day or for an afternoon, please try and call or email me before July 22nd with the number of adults and children under 10 so we can plan the meals. As always if you would

like to bring a special dish, or have food allergies etc. please let me know so we can plan accordingly. 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 *Axe & Saw*, due to liability issues 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.

Summer mowing and bug watch

If you see any carpenter ants or signs of the boring beetles please let us know so that we can have the place sprayed again.

Making the cabin look well used is our best defense against vandals. If you can help with regular summer mowing, please let Cory Gibson or I know. We now offer a choice of either the push mower or riding mower. We would like to get a mowing in every 3 weeks or so beginning in May. Let us be blunt, if you have time to visit, you have time to do a little mowing. Even a chunk of the front or the back helps. Mowers (and we now have a lot of choices) and regular gas are located in the back shed. The combination is the same as the gate. Please be especially careful around the shooting area as spent brass is an accident waiting to happen. Always mow that area with the discharge chute facing the creek and away from other visitors or pets. If you find that a mower that needs serviced, please let Cory Gibson or Mark Place know.

Flammable liquids storage

We have relocated all regular and mixed gas as well as oil, kerosene and paint thinners to the new shed. All cans are color coded and / or labeled. PLEASE do not purchase, donate or use plastic storage cans. Every Summer we find plastic cans that have been chewed on by critters. We are trying to acquire only good quality "safety" cans with

spring loaded spouts and integral screens to protect users and the equipment.

Shooting at the cabin etiquette

If you are shooting during a visit to the cabin, please police up the brass and target area. The brass is a particular hazard to folks helping with the mowing and anyone around when mowing or weed whacking is going on.

Email master and web site

If you have a new email or are looking for a classmates e-mail, please drop Cory Gibson or me a note so that I can update our records or see if we can help. We are running about 150 folks in the database.

E-mail mplace@johnplaceinc.com or cgibson@gccoc.org. If you have not visited the official Outing Club web site please take a look at www.gccoc.org Cory has done a super job with this project.

Finally, if you would be willing to receive an electronic copy (e-mail) of the *Axe & Saw* rather than a mailed hardcopy (to save the club a little money) in the future, please e-mail Cory at cgibson@gccoc.org and let him know. Thanks!



(Brett captures Sarah in her hammock.
How embarrassing.)



(Steph shoots while Tom teaches Anna the basics)



(A Sunday morning service at the cabin)

New Member Perspective

As a new member I have recently discovered the awesomeness that is the Outing Club. Last year as a young naïve freshman I didn't initially join outing club and quickly got too busy. However, by the end of last semester, after hearing numerous stories of all the adventures that my Outing Club friends seemed to be a part of, I was eagerly awaiting to the new semester when I could get involved. Sure enough the Outing Club (especially the cabin) was everything I had been hoping for and more. The new member outing, pig roast, and a few other random nights at the cabin opened up a whole new world.

As I think most members would agree, having the opportunity to just get away from the stress of the rest of the world for a night is a wonderful blessing. Sometimes I don't think we even realize when we begin to lose who we really are and what our ultimate purpose is amidst the studies, technology, and bad cafeteria food. The cabin provides a truly unique haven, giving us a chance to just take a breath and refocus. Waking up one morning at the cabin to the sounds of laughing voices, a delicious breakfast (quite possibly the best since I've been at school), and friends sitting by the fire made me realize I had found the "happy place" that I had been looking for.

In my opinion the creation around us is one of the greatest miracles. The colors, smells, and sounds of nature are all daily reminders of how truly awesome our God is and the cabin provides a wonderful way to enjoy these seemingly simple God-given pleasures. I'll never forget sitting outside of the cabin during the worship service on the pig roast weekend, looking up, and simply thinking "this is the way it's supposed to be." Surrounded by tall trees and away from distractions, it was just us and God. I only can hope all those who worked to make the Outing Club and the cabin what it is today realized how much we would all enjoy going there. From being introduced to groundhog soup, "tomlettes," and getting lost in the woods in the middle of the night (thanks go to a certain vice president for that unanticipated adventure) it's been a great semester and I look forward to all the adventures that still await me in the years to come.

"The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles."

- Anne Frank

Kelsey Becker '11

70TH ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRTS: \$10

All proceeds from anniversary t-shirt sales go to the cabin fund



Front: "70 years of GCCOC"
(shown in Cardinal Heather)



Back: "70 years of Outdoor Adventures"
(shown in Gray Heather)

Name: _____ Email: _____

Shirt Order(s): (specify **size** and **color** for each order):

Total Shirt Quantity: _____

To Order: Fill out and send this form and money to Dave Stitt

If you are off campus send order to:

GCC #1682 200 Campus Drive Grove City, PA 16127 (include \$1 extra for shipping)

Questions? Email Dave at stittdr1@gcc.edu

OUTING CLUB STICKERS: \$3 A PIECE!!



Quantity of Design 1 _____



Quantity of Design 2 _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Total Sticker Quantity: _____ Total Price: _____

To Order: Fill out and send this form and money to Dave Stitt

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