
THE AXE AND SAW

Volume 71, Issue 1

Fall 2009

Grove City College Outing Club

www.gccoc.org

Brandy Tillow

Hello Outing Club friends!

It's been a great first semester. 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:

Me! Brandy Tillow – Active Alumni
Secretary

Box 2037
200 Campus Dr
Grove City, PA 16127
E-mail: tillowbm1@gcc.edu

Brett Ely- Active Club President
E-mail: elybm1@gcc.edu

Tom Ronksley- Alumni Treasurer and Chair
Phone: (724)327-7214
E-mail: tironksley@uss.com

Mark Place- Cabin Manager
Phone: (412)877-0050
E-mail: mplace@johnplaceinc.com

Letter From the President

Another exciting semester is coming to a close for the Outing Club. This semester has included a good blend of outdoor adventures, Christian fellowship and lots of good food. Our events included the pig roast, the canoe trip, shooting days at the cabin,

backpacking trips, the new member outing, work outings and are looking forward to a trip to Pittsburgh and the Christmas party in the next two weeks!

The pig roast this year was particularly exciting for me. After praying for good weather we had our first snow of this semester on the day before the roast! We had purchased two hogs and fourteen chickens and got nervous as the temperature dropped. Luckily the weather cleared Sunday and the students hosted 150 guests for a feast. It was great to be able to host Grove City professors, club alumni and family of students.

Any time I am able to take someone to the cabin for the first time, I am reminded of how blessed we are as a club. Their big eyes and amazement are a testament to the great opportunities provided to us by our club alumni. I am so grateful for the escape from school that the cabin offers and the wisdom learned from discussions around the fire. As I am in my last year of school, I have realized that the outing club is what I will miss most about the school. We are quite a strange group of differing majors, backgrounds and ages but there is no better group of friends to spend time with and learn from. Your

gifts of time and resources have truly blessed myself and others in the club. Thank you for the legacy you have left for clubbers to follow. May the Lord continue to bless you and reveal Himself to you as you seek Him!

Brett Ely '10
President '09



(ZEC '09 members growl for the camera)

Re: "Life is good"

Canoes. Cars. Packs. Paddles. Nothing beats piling twenty-one people (and one Siberian husky) into four cars and driving for fifteen hours to spend a full week beating the crap out of ourselves by paddling sixty-five(ish) miles in the Z.E.C. Kipawa. This is the Outing Club, what did you expect? We're all more than a little crazy, right? Good, now that we have that squared away... There was rain. A lot of it. Not when we started out, but when we camped out on our second island I don't think any of us were adequately prepared for the monsoon. But it was fun. It'll take more than an inch of water in our tents to make us gripe. It'll take a steady rain for hours of paddling to make us gripe. That and a portage with 8" of mud to wade

through. Oh wait... The men were manly, at least. They find it exhilarating; a challenge. My paddling partner actually ROARED after carrying the B-boat across the muddy portage. Men are so weird. But you know what? It's weeks like this when I realize that life is good. After all, this is the Outing Club. It's the place where the men are men and the women are too, right? Duh. We're all still alive, although some of us were a bit more so on that trip. How can you not feel alive when even under a moonless sky, the stars cast silhouettes on the lake? When you swim across a lake to climb the cliffs then jump off? When Josh tells the fuzzy dog story to make you paddle faster? When you slide down Ballbuster Falls and get sucked under by the current? All this sure beats studying.

Jamie Schiappa '11

More ZEC Memories

On August 15th I pulled into the parking lot behind the PLC. On top of my car was an eighteen foot canoe, held in place above my fifteen foot long car by two ratchet straps and some foam pool noodles. This year's ZEC Kipawa trip would be my last as an active, and I was excited to contribute a canoe and vehicle to the trip. Around 1:00am on the 16th our little convoy pulled out of Grove City and embarked on our fourteen hour trip to Quebec. The trip and border crossing went smoothly and soon we found ourselves at our first campsite.

Our first day on the water was a short one. The wind was at our backs and we made very good time. Once we had setup camp many different activities ensued. Some people went for a swim to the opposite shore, other's had fun flipping canoes and emptying them of water while

still on the lake. Myself and a few other's opted for some reading. Toward the evening we had s'mores and then retired when the rain came.

The next morning we were fortunate enough to take our tents down mostly dry. We sent Cory Gibson and Matt Green on ahead of the rest of us in order to claim our campsite faster. We had had problems with having to share that site in previous years. This time I had the great fortune of paddling with two of the young ladies on the trip. The three of us managed to keep up with the front of the pack, perhaps with the help of a gentle wind that blew at our backs for most of the day. This day was a long day, with four portages and something like twenty miles of lake to cover. It is also one of the most memorable days, as we encounter the "women's portage" and "ball buster falls". There we let the women carry the canoes, and we played in the water falls, the braver among us actually riding down the falls.

From there it was a short paddle to our next campsite, where we spent our layover day. Some of the more motivated among us decided to set out on a 13 mile paddle that day, while the rest of us stayed around the island. A few of us went to the opposite shore where there were cliffs suitable for jumping off of. While most of us settled on the fifteen foot tall cliffs as being high enough, several of us jumped off of the thirty foot tall cliffs. At that height, you have a few seconds to think to yourself "Oh crap, what did I do?" before you hit the water.

The evening meal was a treat. Mac had utilized the mud oven on the island and made us cornbread and brownies! Also, there was Chili-Mac. The night ended with us telling jokes around the fire, during

which time Tom Morris and his repertoire of jokes was sorely missed.

The next day we paddled the infamous Cherry River. By this time the weather had taken a turn for the worse, being cold, rainy and windy. At lunch Jamie and Matt attempted to run the rapids but failed in a spectacular manner. To their credit, no one else wanted to even try to run those rapids.

To simplify logistics, the last leg of the ZEC trips is usually paddled at night. Saturday morning, around 12:30am we set out for the take out point. One of the great things about the ZEC is the night sky, you can see more stars than anywhere else I've ever been. The Milky Way was a creamy cloud making an arch across the middle of the sky. You could also see satellites, planets, and shooting stars. It always reminds me of Psalm 19:1: "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." God is amazing, as was the sky that night!

Alas, all good things must come to an end, and by the time we pulled in to our take out point at about five in the morning most of us were ready for the trip to be over. We carried the canoes up to the vehicles and were ready to start the long journey home at about six am. The border crossing went smoothly and by midnight we were back at GCC. I'd like to thank Josh and Erin Butler for organizing the trip and planning the meals. Also many thanks go to the alumni who provided transportation and equipment for the trip, including Cory Gibson, Adam Neff, and Mike McElhaney.

Scott Fahle '10



(ZEC'09 serenity)

Annual Alumni Meeting

Beautiful weather, great company, and my favorite reprieve from school- I was at the outing club cabin. This Sunday afternoon getaway was the annual alumni meeting. Pulling up to the cabin, Laura Jo and I saw several alumni on the porch sipping tea and hot cocoa. They looked vigilant and protective of their property, but welcoming at the same time. In attendance were Keegan Hange, Cory Gibson, Tom Ronksley, Lee McCoy, Tom Morris, Laura Geschwindt, Brandy Tillow, and myself, Andrea Wilson.

During the meeting, Tom distributed and discussed the treasurer's report, we reelected the officers, the needs of the cabin were talked over, Laura and Brandy gave an update on the active club, the alumni told stories of the good ol' days, and more. Being a first year outing clubber, I thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the time the alumni spent in answering my questions about the cabin and cabin history. Post-meeting several alumni went for a hike to enjoy the great outdoors.

Andrea Wilson '12



(Andrew Berglund & Andrew Michaelson play with their food at the Pig Roast)

Dear World,

Take note. The Outing Club Pig Roast is the event of the year. This year we had about 150 actives, alumni and guests. But of course the event itself is just the icing on the oft-cited cake. The rest of the weekend was just as enjoyable. In spite of a prediction of rain, the precipitation held off for the entire weekend, leaving us a beautiful day on Saturday for cleaning the cabin and prepping the pigs, and a clear evening Saturday for turning the cooking animals.

The part I was most involved in was of course the pies. We hit a new record with 81 pies. With our new system we were able to turn out pies much faster than last year, putting us in the 12 hour range. We had a host of willing participants, including a good number of menfolk who made pie crust and drove pies back and forth to the

apartments. And Brandy and I were not up till 7 am.

The pig roasting went well, with a few chickens on the side this year also. The stars were beautiful and the conversation stimulating. I had no trouble staying awake, though I can't vouch for the 3 am to 5 am crew that came after us. How bad can it be, sitting around a fire for a couple of hours, right?

Church Sunday, well, I wasn't there, we'll put it that way. The inside of my eyelids was a bit too appealing after two late evenings. I heard good things, though. I woke up afterward, to the bustle of potato mashing and other culinary pursuits. Everything looked so good! And the crowd of alumni gathering around the pig fire was for the first time one among whom I could discern several well-known faces. I love when there are alumni at the Cabin, and experiencing how the club has been. As a club we are as much defined by our history as by our present.

Then there was the feast. Though Thanksgiving is close to my heart, the Pig Roast is a close second. Pulled pork and the best chicken of my life—my theory is, eat fast, so you lose track of how much you've consumed. And of course, the pies. Eating the fruit (literally, if it's cherry, though I don't like cherry) of your labor is such a sweet thing.

So, that's that. The highlight of the Fall Semester, for sure. And my last Pig Roast as an active! Now I can just come back and eat.

Sincerely,
Katie McIntyre '10

Pig Roast 09

Thanks to everyone who helped put the pig roast together, and to all the alumni who came. I've never been to a pig roast before. It was such an awesome weekend! I have quite a few memories I'll never forget! We sat comfortably by the fire in the early morning chill, not wanting to walk too far from its warmth. It was quite an experience seeing the pig go from its natural state to pulled pork. We ate the meat less than an hour after carving it! After we were completely stuffed, a romp in the woods and swinging on vines brought me back to my childhood. Even after I got back on campus, the conversations, food, and good times out at the cabin make me smile!

Anna Trefzger '10



(Ken Young and Tim Noble carve their jack-o-lantern)

Harvest Party

The 2009 Fall Festival was held at the cabin over Halloween weekend. A total of 15 actives gathered with Lee McCoy '59 to celebrate an evening of autumnal

pleasures. A handful of folks even set out into the dusk from campus on bicycles, arriving at the cabin an hour and a half later. All were welcomed to a wonderful meal of shrimp scampi and warm apple crisp prepared by the masterful culinary skills of Brett Ely.

Following dinner and the usual lighthearted dialogue around the dining room table, the pumpkins and knives were brought out. Casual dialogue quickly acquired a competitive edge as the actives split up into teams to begin the diligent and artful process of carving designs. More than one person will recall the covert planning meetings between team members which took place as others peered over shoulders and countertops to deviously observe how others were faring. The entire design stage took well over an hour as everyone labored to win Lee's approval as judge of the pumpkins.

A favorite part of the evening was the lighting of the pumpkins outside in front of the cabin. After carefully considering the contestants, Lee judiciously pronounced Andrea Wilson '12 and Katie Brown '12 as the winners for their curious carving of a monster devouring a small man. Second place went to Grace Watson '13 and Helene Royster '13 for the creepy spider they carved into the side of their pumpkin. Sarah Baltzer '12 took third place for her creative moonlit scene of an oak tree overshadowing a picket fence.

Thanks to everyone who attended for making this a fun event! Many thanks also to Andrew Baur '13 for documenting the evening with his excellent photography.

Dave Stitt '10

Panacea

That's one of those tenth grade vocabulary words you tuck to the back of your brain until you really want to show off. Too bad I don't know how to pronounce it. But I do remember what it means- a "panacea" is a cure-all. (Thank you, faithful grade school teachers.)

Of what do I need cured? Usually stress. And deadlines. And occasionally drama. Namely, the tension-causing elements of life as a Grove City College student. All too frequently I hit the breaking point, and often the suggested solution is to run away to the cabin. But how irresponsible would that be? That's what I ask myself. How can I justify leaving campus- to be out of range of my computer and cell phone and the overall ability to fulfill my responsibilities? I rebuke myself all the way out there and regret my decision even as I slowly, fitfully drift asleep in my bunk.

But, oh, waking up at cabin! Without fail, the stress is gone. Of course, the responsibilities are still there, but they are merely present, rather than looming. Nothing beats rolling out of the warm bunk and stepping onto the porch in the morning sunshine, blanket over my shoulders. To wake with a prayer at the cabin rather than the rush on campus- well, it saves my sanity on a regular basis.

There are of course evenings that I legitimately plan my excursion to the cabin- club gatherings and special visits and such. But more and more frequently my trips down Dewoody are spontaneous, and my mornings at the cabin are filled with gratefulness for escape.

Mornings at the cabin are my panacea (however you say it).

Brandy Tillow '10

Yoga on the Roof

While all work outings are always enjoyable, this past Saturday's (Nov 14th) work outing, was one of the best work outings I have attended. Not only did we get a very respectable amount of work done around the cabin, but we also had a wonderful time doing it. I was in the group in charge of sweeping off the roof of the cabin and cleaning out the gutters, so I had a bird's eye view of the all of the goings on outside. The group of boys, busily chopping and hauling wood, the teams raking leaves on the lawn and dragging them by tarp into the woods, and best off all three very crazy girls doing roof top yoga.

After most of the outdoor work was completed, including the digging out of the spring box, Jamie and I threw together a lunch of garlic buttered pasta and leftover garlic bread, not bad for an unplanned meal. After lunch, dishes were done and bunkrooms were swept and mopped. When the cabin was deemed spick and span, a majority of the members disbanded and returned to campus to do the mountains of school work they had been neglecting. But, since it happened to be a gorgeous fall day, Jamie, Cory, and I ended the day with a wonderful hike, past the natural bridge, down the Pipeline trail, to the Ridge trail, down the rather precarious Blunder trail to the river, and then back up the Kennerdale Trail. Overall it was defiantly an awesome day at the cabin.

Laura Geschwindt '12



(Sunday Morning at the Pig Roast)



(Andrea, LauraJo, and Jamie put down their brooms to pose on the cabin rooftop)



(Teamwork makes chopping wood a breeze.
Good work, guys!)

Excerpts from the cabin Logbook

Saturday, August 14, 2009
We leave tonight for ZEC 2009 and since I didn't feel like doing more than twenty hours of driving in a day I came up late last night from Virginia with Wes Bell. Upon our arrival a little after ten o'clock we met Matt Green and Lincoln Larsen in the yard, took pity on them, and let them in...

Adam Neff '06

Sun. Aug 30, 2009

For my very first trip to the GCC cabin, we shot off some guns- rifle & shotgun- at soda cans & newspapers. Dinner was delicious! I've never boiled water to wash the dishes before either. What a fun experience.

Ariel Austin '12

Friday, September 11, 2009

David Stitt, Katie Brown and I biked to the cabin yesterday... We made the 17-18 miles in exactly two hours at a fairly

moderate pace. Along the way we conversed about dodging traffic, conquering the hills and generally staying alive.

Tim Noble '12

Sat. 12 Sept. 2009

Cory taught a bunch of us to play Flux... trippiest game ever. Definitely buying it. Was rudely awakened by Brett's breakfast bellowing. It's good to be back. So good.

- Jamie Schiappa '11

18 Sept. 2009

11:30- Built a fire to dry the pants from the Funnel Game's latest victim... Now off to find a good book & fall asleep in one of the Adirondack chairs.

- Jamie Schiappa '11

19-SEPT-09 Late AM

Nice night. Nice Hike. Life is good.
Cory Gibson '99

25 SEPT 2009

Madison is a traitor and slept by Laura but that's OK. Mikka still loves me.
Cory D. Gibson
est 1977 class 1999

10/17/09

HAPPY PIG ROAST!! The annual frenzy is here at last! From the alumni vantage, it is great to see the cabin full of life! Hats off to those involved!

Mike McCarty '77 & Ben

10/29/09

Studying by headlamp improves my concentration. Maybe I'll try this in class...

- R. Cooper O'Neil '10 ΑΔΕΛ
Sleeping while others are studying is blissful. Maybe I'll try this in class...

- Brandy Tillow '10

Perhaps I should attempt sleeping while lecturing, just to show solidarity with the students.

- tdg, AFA

10-31-09

Cory, Laura, and I sat around and worked on solving the problems of the world. There was also discussion of splitting a bit of wood.

~ Keegan Hange '09

November 15, 2009

Ben entertained us all with some tasteful guitar licks, including an original which he made up on the spot, the words of which he dutifully records:

“Courting in the Kitchen”
(to the tune of Desolation Row)

C I was sitting in the Kitchen
F C watching the women clean
G They looked back and glared at me
F C told me I was rather mean
C They pleaded with me earnestly
F C Said give me a helping hand
G I said you can have Steve Rigos
F C They said no we need a stronger man
F Come back in here Tim Noble
F C and help us with the dishes

G Came back here Tim Noble
F C Make one of us your misses.
- Benjamin C. Cox '12

11/27/09

Did not find any early bird or door buster sales here today but enjoyed the peace and quiet. Life is good in DC but



nothing compares to the atmosphere found here... Until next time little cabin...

Sarah Lake '09



seriously in need of repair and boy were they. In the end not only were the deck, stairs and railing replaced, but the ledger board and wall behind the deck had to be completely rebuilt. The scope of the rot and insect damage pretty much doubled the scope of the project. Henry shifted it a bit to the right to make basement access easier and everything was stained and sealed before we left.

Summer Outing 2009: Mark Place '77 Alumni Cabin Manager

Once again our dedicated summer crew started out with one list of projects and morphed it into a very full four days.

The men's wing deck and stairs had been identified as

As part of the pending major cabin upgrade project we also numbered every board and batten around the cabin and removed roughly 20% of the boards so that we could document the structural, water and insect damage for the architect. It was, as expected, a good news bad news story. Some areas are in good shape and others are really bad. We actually had to do emergency repairs in a couple of areas. The good news was that we also answered a lot of questions about how the cabin was built. This will allow the architect to make better informed recommendations. Some of what we found was shall we say creative carpentry back in 1939-40. Every area was photographed for future use.

In addition to these two major projects willing hands led by Dan Young created a more formal backstop for shooting. Not only was it constructed from salvaged timber but hopefully it will create a safer shooting environment.

As we do every year all of the gutters and drains were serviced, all of the power equipment was serviced and the riding mower was repaired. The trails and yard were mowed and trimmed back and several hanging snags (widow makers) were removed.

Keegan Hange, our chief bug, inspector did her annual survey and found significant enough infestation that Lee McCoy arranged for the cabin and sheds to be sprayed for the first time in several years. Keegan also made an inspection template that will facilitate tracking bug things in future years.

We had a little more focused turnout this year than some years but were pleased to welcome back to the fold Mitch & Julie Brown and family, past president Mark Fleming after say 20 years, and many of our alumni summer regulars; Henry Limmer, Dan Young, Jason Saterson, Mark Fair, Sue Kid Knechtel with the kids, Terry Clever, Marsh Sanford, Mike & Ben McCarty, Cory Gibson, Keegan Hange, Chuck & Joan Theal, almost newlyweds Scott & Missie Davis, Dan Dougherty. A couple of actives were also able to join the festivities. Special thanks to Sue and Joan for keeping the kitchen humming and the crew very well fed and hydrated.



I expect that we will rotate back to a July date in 2010- most likely the 3rd or 4th weekend out of 5 next year. If anyone has a strong preference for one or the other please drop me a line at mplace@johnplaceinc.com.