
THE AXE AND SAW

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Grove City College Outing Club

www.gccoc.org

Jack Raubach

Hello again, Outing Club friends!

As the academic year comes to a stressful end, and summer looms large and warm on the horizon, it is refreshing to look back on a year well spent with the Outing Club.

I hope as we share this semester's OC experiences with you in The Axe and Saw that it remind you of your own time spent in the Outing Club. Feel free to contact me or anyone listed here with questions or suggestions, and a good summer to everyone!

Jack Raubach '12 Active Alumni Secretary
Box 264
200 Campus Drive
Grove City, PA 16127
E-mail: RaubachJB1@gcc.edu

Laura-Jo Geschwindt Active Club President
E-mail: GeschwindtLJ1@gcc.edu

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

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

Letter From the President

Greetings to all Outing Club Alumni and Friends,

This semester has been an interesting, but not untypical, fall semester for the Grove City College Outing Club. We had numerous successful work outings, ran the concession stand, and hosted several special events at the cabin including the annual Pig roast. Overall it was a wonderful semester, made so by the

students who worked hard maintain the cabin, who worked in the concession stand, and who deepened their love of the outdoors through the experiences they gained this semester.

This semester began for the club with the organizational fair, where we had a table set up to provide information about the club to incoming freshman. Many students stopped by the stand and asked questions about the club and our activities. The freshman liaison, Tim Noble, and I did our best to share the wonder of the club with these frightfully overwhelmed freshmen. We followed this up with a new member outing at the cabin the flowing weekend. This first event was fairly successful. Some more adventurous new students came out on Friday night and stayed over at the cabin, while more came out Saturday morning. Cory Gibson '99, gave them all a brief history of the cabin, a tour, and introduction to cabin appliances. The afternoon continued with a hike to the stone bridge and iron furnace, and concluded with hot chocolate in front of the fire. Our efforts were rewarded by the joining of about ten new members to our ranks. While many of the new members were actually not freshmen, we hope that the freshman will return next year when they have gotten a better handle on Grove City life and choose to be part of the club.

During this semester we had five work outings throughout the semester. Led by cabin manager Jed Seltzer, the students experienced all of the joys of maintaining the cabin and preparing it for winter. Lots

of wood was split, leaves were raked, floors were mopped, and fun was had by all. While all of the necessary maintenance was done and more, a few special projects, like re-staining the storage shed, will have to wait until spring due to unfavorable weather this fall.

The rainy weather, however, did not seem to hurt our concession stand sales, and thanks to the efforts of vice president Andrew Baur, we had a very successful concession stand season. This semester we were made aware by the college that there are certain codes and regulations that have to be met in the stand and this spring we will be taking the appropriate steps to bring our stand and services up to code. Next fall we will have to undergo an inspection by the Department of Agriculture on the concession stand, but since the student club is taking all of the appropriate steps to ensure success, I have complete faith that the inspection will not present a problem.

Besides the necessary work outings and concession stands, the active club also hosted several events and enjoyed several trips. The first major event of the semester was Homecoming. The student club had a tent on the quad to greet alumni who were visiting campus and many spent the weekend at the cabin enjoying the company of visiting alumni. Our next, and biggest, event of the semester was the Pig Roast. The weekend was a great success despite rather unfavorable weather. Visiting Alumni, college employees, and guests all enjoyed a meal of barbequed roasted pork, mashed potatoes, corn, baked beans, and plentiful pies, prepared by the student club. The students also enjoyed a fall party at the cabin, where we all carved pumpkins and enjoyed a meal provided by Jed Seltzer. There was also a Christmas party at the cabin where once again good food and company was shared by all.

Unfortunately the rainy fall made many trips impossible; but thanks to alumni Cory Gibson '99 and Josh and Erin Butler '02 the students did get to enjoy a wonderful fall canoe trip down the Sehnango River. While it was only a day, it happened to be one of the most beautiful days this year and everyone had a wonderful time on the river. Cory and I have also hosted several movie nights at our home where pizza and laughter filled an evening. Overall, despite the less than wonderful weather this fall, the student club has still enjoyed a semester full of fun and outdoor enjoyment.

Of behalf of the entire active student club we would like to wish our Alumni and friends a happy holiday season!

Best wishes,

Laura Gibson

GCCOC President 2011

Zec Kipawa 2011

The cool night breeze blew across the PLC parking lot unconcerned with the mass of people boats and gear filling up the pavement. It was August 20th, 9 days before the start of school and group of Grovers were making ready for a wild adventure. More specifically a 70 mile canoe trip in the Zec Kipawa wilderness of southern Quebec.

The 16 hr drive passed slowly but we are a resource full group and found ways to occupy our time, in particularly sleeping.

We arrived at Hunters point Sunday afternoon and set up came. We then proceeded to spend the rest of the even swimming and enjoying a warm campfire before retiring for the night.

After a quick breakfast we started our paddle bright and early Monday

morning. This paddle went without incident and we made it to the campsite before lunch as it was only a distance of 8 miles. We camped on a beautiful island and spent the day exploring, swimming and playing cards. A few small rain clouds spit a little but it really wasn't even enough to get us wet. Mac started to display his awesome cooking skills that night and would continue to be the master chef for the rest of the trip.

Tuesday morning dawned with a sunrise so beautiful words can't give justice to it. Unfortunately as we began our 20-mile paddle the sky became over cast and we paddled for a bit in misty rain. This dark time was lightened by Josh butler telling the fuzziest Dog Joke. Tuesday was a long paddle and had two long portages. These were quite interesting and tiring but all 22 of us made it to through to the second campsite island.

A few of us crazy students decided 20 miles of paddling wasn't enough and spurred on by the stories Tim Noble '12 told of cliff jumping Meredith Morgan '12, Andrea Wilson '12, Tim Noble '12, and myself swam the few hundred yards from the island to the main land and had a fun time Jumping off the cliffs while Ariel Austin '12 Todd and Jessie followed in a canoe and also jumped off the cliffs. Exhausted and well-fed, most of us slept soundly that night looking forward to a day of relaxation on Wednesday as we weren't going to paddle again till Thursday. Wednesday brought a day of rain and mist. Many of the canoers took to their tents, others gathered fire wood or explored the island but Zack DelDuco and I did the coolest thing every and built a hobo shelter the night soon fell and the rain stopped. A warm happy fire lit up a ring of eager faces that night as Stories were told and jokes cracked. Adam Neff read a Jack London

story that was entertaining and Tom Morris told a few jokes.

Thursday was a beautiful paddle down the Cherry River. Though it was 25 miles of paddling it was a fun paddle for the most part. 5 Mile Lake was rough but not horrible and the river was gorgeous. Though we had 6 short portages it was a nice paddle. The went smooth and well but it must have been going overly well because as we came out into Lake Ostibonigue the wind was in our face and the waves fought us for every inch of water we covered. A few brave souls ventured onto a large island to get fire wood while others took off and headed for Dodge, (which happened to be a smaller island were would camp).

After getting the camp set up and eating supper we sat around the fire listening to the loons and the waves lap upon the rocks. Sarah Baltzer '12 started a story and soon a whacky tale unfolded as each person around the fire added to and twisted the story.

Friday was a great day and since we were not going to paddle till midnight people went about their business swimming, gathering firewood exploring and getting eating by leaches. The day paced quickly for some and slowly for others. Josh Butler lead a claim dive. We had an awesome modified white elephant candy exchange game after supper and spent the next half hour stealing candy off each other.

As we were planning on leaving at midnight for the fabled 14-mile night paddle most of us took down our tents and slept under the stars. The departure got delayed until 1:45 due to strong head winds and so Zack DelDuco '13 Mary Chehi '13, Meredith Morgan '12, Casey Trexler '14 and I built up the fire and basked in its warmth.

The wind finally resided and the night paddle began. The night was cloudy and the lake dark. The glow sticks on the canoes were the only source of light. I can only imagine what an observer from shore would have thought seeing 22 glowing lights gliding over the lake but for me it was a cool experience. I would like to say that the night paddle went well for everyone but one unlucky boat lost both the occupants to the cold water of the night (I won't mention any names but this story forever will be a black mark on their reputation). Luckily none of the gear was lost and looking back in retrospect the incident was quite funny.



(White elephant like candy game: Mac stealing a snickers bar from some poor soul)

We made it to the last portage and carried the canoes back to the vehicles. An amazing trip was coming to its end. Exhausted Grovers climbed happily into warm vehicles and the ride back to the states and to the Grove seemed much better than the ride to the Zec Kipawa. The trip was amazing and the people great. It was an honor to be able to go on such a trip and I would like to thank all the alumni who made the trip possible. The beauty of the Zec was an amazing wonder displaying the glorious handiwork of God. Jedediah Seltzer '14

Zec Kipawa 2011

In all my (short) years of outdoor experience, I have yet to come across a wilderness group expedition that is as well organized, enjoyable and memorable as the GCCOC's traditional Zec Kipawa canoe trip. I first journeyed through those northern lakes on the 2009 trip, and came to greatly appreciate and respect the pristine area we explored and the fantastic company we kept. In addition, every expedition hurtles the adventurer up and along the learning curve, and I thoroughly enjoyed learning every aspect of the art of canoe travel from the gracious and capable alumni that guided the trip. Every aspect, that is, except that of the inevitable portage. Nothing positive can be said about the bone crunching experience of hoisting a 60 pound canoe onto your neck and taking a long, slippery hike. It builds character though, right?

As I entered my senior year this year and the alumni announced yet another Outing Club foray into the wilds of Canada, I naturally found the invitation irresistible and signed up immediately. I eagerly looked forward to the upcoming trip, and the anticipation only heightened over the summer as I frequently paddled in my canoe with my dog through the tributaries and muddy waters of the Missouri River – a far cry from the clear, pure water of the Zec. And so, a week before my senior year commenced I found myself exactly where I wanted to be: in a van filled with outing club friends trundling through the night towards a week of the best lake canoeing I've ever experienced.

The trip itself lived up to all my expectations, even those idealized by the past memories that had been polished glossy smooth by trickling time and set high on a pedestal. It was even made even

better as I recognized the various islands, lakes, campsites and landscapes like old acquaintances and took on the intermittent portages with a more refined technique. We were blessed with good weather and even the rare gift of a strong tail wind during the long paddle up Lake Saseginaga (the wind did take its vengeance later in the week however, blasting our small convoy in the face during our long, wet approach to our final camp island). We thoroughly enjoyed all that the rugged Canadian wilderness had to offer: deep, dark night skies for star-gazing, the rest island with its cliff jumping, swimming in water as cold and clear as glass and, of course, the infamous ball-buster falls for those that were willing to risk it all. All this was topped off by the trip's classic traditions, lending the expedition a patina that only the Outing Club could offer. From Josh Butler's peculiar motivational stories to the women's portage and the time-honored campfire jokes, poetry recitations and candy exchange the trip lived up to the Outing Club standard of adventure and camaraderie.

As quality an expedition as the Zec is, nothing ever goes exactly as planned and every trip has its casualty to fate, coincidence or the unexpected. I feel particularly qualified to speak on one such memorable mishap as it was I that fell victim to a brief but devastating lapse in better judgment that landed me and my paddle partner in the water at 4 AM in the morning during the night paddle that comprises the last leg of the journey. As GK Chesterton once said however, "An adventure is only an inconvenience rightly considered", and our impromptu immersion, though cold and jarring, was no more than such an inconvenience, and even our gear was fortuitously spared as the canoe stayed upright.

We arrived at the vehicles only a few hours later, wet (some more so than others), bedraggled and exhausted and began the long drive back to Grove City. The Zec Kipawa canoe trip once again delivered an outstanding and memorable week of adventure and friendship. None of it could ever have happened without the countless hours that the alumni put in to plan and organize though. My special thanks go out to the Butler family, Cory and Laura Gibson and Tom Morris, without whom the trip would not have been possible. You guys run one heck of an expedition!

Timothy Noble

Pig Roast 2011



(Cory Gibson '99 carrying the soon-to-be-roasted pig)

It was that time of year again. The time to sign up for shifts turning the all-important pig for the annual Pig Roast. Helene Royster '13 and I looked at each other. We both knew that she would be graduating this coming May, a year early, and this would be her last Pig Roast as a student. The past two years we have done our pig shift together. This year was our last chance to claim a night shift, a time we had never taken before.

When we made our way to the sign up list, slots were already filling up,

especially the night shifts. We ended up grabbing the shift from 4 to 6 a.m. Some call it the graveyard shift.

Pig shifts fall into the category of being quality time with other club members. Of course, shifts from 8 to midnight have lots of company to visit with in between building up the fire and shoveling coals under our piggy. Then the ones at night are time spent with a select few, maybe even just one other. The fire is your duty and friend; all else is cold and silent.



(Jedediah Seltzer '14 whittling a spit)

At 4 a.m. Sunday morning I was woken up with someone shaking my foot. Our alarms hadn't gone off and it was a good thing we notified Tommy Sites '15 as to where we would be sleeping. Otherwise, Tommy would have pulled a double shift.

Once at our post and staring into the fire, we thought of Bible stories that had to do with fire. We took turns reading about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego being saved from the fiery furnace and then of Elijah calling down fire from heaven in a grand showdown with the prophets of Baal; both stories of great faith. There is no better time to reflect on truth than around a fire in the silence.

The actual day of the Pig Roast went smoothly. It only began raining as Dr. Gordon, our club advisor said "amen"

to close our Sunday service. The dripping of precipitation didn't keep guests from filling the cabin and spilling out into tables under tents outside. It was a good weekend of quality time with others; whether in the silence of the graveyard shift or in the friendly noise of a good party.

Grace Watson, '13

Pig Roast 2011

I arrived at the cabin the day before the pig roast, and found it already awash with preparations. There were pits to be dug and filled with coals, floors to be mopped, chickens needing spitting, the chosen few still recovering from inflicting the same on the swine. With the efficiency of twenty enthusiastic clubbers, we demolished the day-before preparations, and spend the night sitting around the fire with the pig-turners, listening to the quiet of the woods, the steady drip-fizz of the pig, and the sounds of somnolent contentment from Tom.

The evening was full of stories, reminiscing about our year thus far as a club, the ZEC trip, and catching up with our alumni friends we had not seen for over a month. It was comforting to hear the same old stories and the same old jokes, while the smoke and warmth from the fire made our eyes slowly heavy. The night was clear and cold, and the cabin was soon full of sleeping members dreaming eagerly of the feast to follow.

After fueling up with (T)omelets, the club sprang into action once more, preparing more mashed potatoes than practically imaginable, as well as various other sides. Roasting was rapidly wrapped up, and the pies lay out on the table. There was a brief time of quiet for the morning service, where Ben Cox led us in song and

Dr. Gordon in scripture. The service was conducted in the morning sun on the lawn of the cabin, with the shadows of the forest lying striped across the lawn. Immediately afterwards, however, the inevitable rain began.



(Benjamin Cox '12 leading the musical portion of the Sunday morning worship service)

The meal was consumed in the traditional fashion, under what cover one could find in the gentle misting that turned the lawn into a total mud pit. The food was delicious, and the pecan pie plentiful. As expected, the food disappeared much more quickly than it was created, and the sated mouths of faculty, students, and alumni turned once more to the casual banter that makes the cabin such a wonderful place.
Zach DelDuco, '13.

Pig Roast, 2011

It is a strange and welcome testimony to the Supreme Author of our history that weeks in which life seems most bleak and bare are broken by the simple pleasures afforded from fellowship with our fellow creatures. Such was the case on this the 15th of October, a date that saw the annual Outing Club Pig Roast. The feast, as usual, was an occasion at which many new memories were formed, and even more rekindled by friends long

missed. Quite hard to believe that it's been all of three years since my first pig roast, even harder to recall the many changes in the faces there, my own included.

The rain no doubt kept many guests from arriving, but we were a merry group nonetheless. Indeed the story telling that oozed from seasoned old OC veterans and active members alike lent a great deal of camaraderie and continuity to our group which spans so many ages. Breaking bread and bone with them as well as our beloved faculty brought a sense of hearth and home which is so often lacking from college life. All in all, a welcome respite. I look forward to returning as a seasoned old alumnus next year!

Benjamin Cox, '12

Fall Party

On November 12th the GCCOC held their annual Fall Party at the cabin. Jedediah Seltzer organized the event and provided the homegrown pork roast, which was delicious! Accompanying the roast were mashed potatoes complete with GRAVY (yes, Laura Jo remembered this time). After the meal, card games were played, pumpkins were carved, and of course the dishes were washed. Helene, Laura Jo, and some others made pumpkin pie.

I should add at this point that my sister, Amber, was visiting for the weekend and was at the party as well. She really seemed to be enjoying her first Outing Club experience, so I thought we'd put her to the true test. The funnel game seemed like a perfect addition to our night! A few members had been speaking to the difficulty of the game. Amber with her competitive nature was intrigued and

wanted to play. When the time was right, I demonstrated how to play; only missing being drenched myself by Jed's sheer mercy. With no suspicion of foul play, Amber stood up, put the funnel in the front of her pants, placed the coin on her forehead and leaned way back, as was demonstrated. The next moment she had a cup full of water swirling through the funnel into her pants. She was a good sport about it, but she did get even with me later. A price well worth the fun!

At this time a few members went for a long night hike, even Amber with her wet pants. Other members stayed cozy by the fire. As with all Outing Club events, it was another night of good food, great fun, and even better friends.

Casey Trexler '14



(President Laura Gibson '12 carving a pumpkin at the GCCOC Fall Party)

Sleeping Under the Stars

A warm October day called outing club members to the cabin. Sarah Abdelmeski '12 invited me to come with her saying that she wanted to sleep outside with the weather so warm. Not being able to pass up the opportunity, I agreed.

We weren't the only ones thinking along those lines. Kevin Hanse '13, Dave

Stitt '11, Sarah Baltzer '12, Cory '99, and Laura '12 Gibson, and Josh and Erin Butler '02 were also out. After dinner some played a board game and the rest of us decided to go for a walk.

The moon was nearly full and was so bright that we didn't need any other light to guide our way. Unfortunately, it wasn't able to steer us away from muddy spots so we just had to tromp on through them. We stopped in an open place and admired the fog surrounding us. While the moon made some stars difficult to see, Sarah Baltzer managed to show me the constellation Cassiopeia.

When we got back, we decided it was time to turn in. We wanted to sleep outside but I can't say that we were going to be "roughing it". We took tarps and spread them out and then carried out cabin mattresses and laid them on top. It was my first time to sleep outside and I thought the set up was wonderful.

Before we drifted off to sleep, a night hiking party came back with a porcupine that had begun to tangle with some of their dogs before someone clubbed it. As Josh Butler began to skin the varmint, I realized that I wasn't going to be sleeping anytime soon with the show going on at the cabin steps. I decided it was time for me to watch my first skinning.

I can't say that I want to skin something myself but now I know something of how it is done. Once the porcupine was stripped to just the meat and bones, there didn't seem to be much of it left. They ended up freezing it and pulling it back out to eat at the Pig Roast. I had a bite and the meat was much better than I thought it would be.

Andrew Michelson '12 showed up right as we were getting into our beds a second time and joined us outside. I loved being able to lay down in my warm and

comfortable sleeping bag and look up at the night sky through the branches of the tree. Sometime about 5 a.m. I woke up again and was delighted to be able to see the stars even better because the moon had disappeared.

Waking up in the morning was not quite as pleasant as I found the outside of my sleeping bag wet with dew. Breakfast and clean-up was simple and I made it back onto campus in time to clean up and go to church. What a wonderful way to spend a weekend.

Grace Watson '13



(Helene Royster, '13 and friends at the GCCOC Fall Party)

Cabin Report, Winter 2011

Once again we had a nice turnout for the annual alumni-students-friends outing in late July. 23 students and alumni participated in the weekend traveling from as far away as Memphis. This group was able to complete 37 projects in no small part because the cabin was in great shape through the efforts of the Active Club lead by President Laura Gibson.

In addition to the usual routine maintenance projects such as mowing, trimming, drain cleaning and shop vac'ing the entire cabin, the most critical project was the doubling of 16 seriously damaged floor joists. This work is a band aid solution until the major renovation project is started, but allows for continued use of

the cabin. This damage is a combination of wet rot and insect damage.

Each year a detailed inspection of the support structure is done by alumni Keegan Hange and Mark Fair and the status of every joist and beam documented. During this inspection 12 more joists were identified for replacement in 2012 and the need for shim adjustment under previous repairs was identified and completed.

Much time was also spent dealing with the damaged pine trees and damage caused by the pine trees that came down in last Spring. Thanks to Andrew Baur's connections we had the equipment to not only deal with the debris but also the much of the damage to the yard.

Some of the other projects completed include repairing the shed ramp, cleaning and repainting the gas light reflectors in the dining room and adding an additional light and reflector over the stoves. The pump was repaired and all of the gas lights were cleaned and serviced by Henry Limmer providing much better light output. Since we had the right equipment we also removed some junk like the old tractor while servicing all the mowers and the tractor.

The tentative date for the 2012 Summer Outing is July 19-23. As always friend and family are welcome and all meals are provided starting with lunch on Thursday.

Mark Place, '77, Alumni Cabin Manager

Greetings to all my fellow old people,
(from Tom Morris)

I had the good fortune this Summer to accompany the Club with several other alumni on the annual summer bush trip to the ZEC Kipawa in Quebec. We even saw a bear, albeit a small bear. Yes, the canoes and packs are getting heavier and the roots and rocks harder and the rain wetter. I do

not know how Doc Kase did it for all those years. I was also invited to and got to attend the active Club Christmas Party the first weekend of December with several other geezers. Ditto the annual roasting of the swine which replaced the turkey dinners that my generation cooked for students and faculty. The vision of the Rev./Dr. Ross Foster carving two turkeys at once is still vivid in my mind. The Club is doing quite well and I am impressed with the active students. The seed that Doc Kase planted has grown and continued to blossom and the responsibility for ensuring the perpetuation of his vision has been passed on from the founding members of the 30's and 40's to my generation and those that have come after us. And that torch which has been passed on is not a light burden.

In everything that the alumni do with respect to the active club, the vision of Doc Kase and what he was trying to accomplish is paramount. Doc was trying to preserve knowledge of a way of life that was disappearing in the United States, even in 1938, but was still irrevocably entwined with the American psyche. To that end he maintained Pringrove in the Algonquin and his mother funded the construction of our Cabin in Pennsylvania that the Club has used these past 70 plus years. It is with respect to our Cabin that I have been asked to write a short note about the restoration proposal approved at the last meeting and some of the issues that led up to it.

The Cabin is in reasonable shape, given its age and location. But that is a relative term. It was built over 70 years ago in an area that is anything but dry and those that built it did not know they were erecting an edifice meant to last generations. I think even Doc Kase himself was impressed with the resiliency of the Club. Those that came before my

Class (Bill Goucher, Bob Alrich, Dave Robinson and the rest from the 40's and 50's and 60's) did repairs as they were needed. But with increased age also came the increased frequency of breakdowns and repairs. "Brother, ain't that the truth!!"

It became apparent that more extensive restoration that was beyond our capability was going to be needed to ensure the viability of the Cabin for future generations. Everyone was agreed in principal. The devil is in the details. There were essentially two irreconcilable points of view. I remember at one meeting that an individual stated that the Cabin was not a museum. Well, in a certain respect, it is. A living museum dedicated to the preservation of a particular way of life. There were those of us who wanted to preserve the Cabin as it is, with no modern conveniences. I remember Bob Alrich writing in the preface to the first 1975 edition of "Pringrove Through The Years" that he thanked Doc for all the things he had done to Pringrove over the years - nothing. And that it remains a haven from pressure, pollution, and perfidy. I suppose one could call ours the point of view of the sentimentalists. The other point of view was that for the same money, a new building could be built which would be more solid and last a lot longer everything else being equal. And it was proposed by others that the Cabin be stripped to the bare bones and rebuilt entirely. It was suggested at a meeting that some boards could be stripped from the inside walls and reattached to appease the sentimentalists. I was not particularly impressed. It was also suggested that another Cabin be built on another section of the property. From a strictly engineering point of view, stripped entirely of sentimentality and without taking into consideration deed restrictions, that point of view is correct if all we are

doing is building a Cabin in the woods.

There were a number of hypothetical legal issues raised in support of modernizing the Cabin as well as a few that were actually pertinent. There are several minor restrictions on the deed with respect to the Game Commission from whom the title was procured by Bill Goucher in 1964. Essentially, we can do anything we want with regard to the Cabin as long as we respect the following: "No structure or building shall be erected on said tract other than the building now existing thereon and no substantial additions to or enlargements thereof shall be made." Bottom line, we cannot legally move the Cabin to another location on the property or build another one on a different location. Nor can we increase the square footage substantially or change the imprint. Other than this, we can do whatever we want as far as the Game Commission is concerned. And fortunately, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the County and Township has also classified and taxed us as a residence for almost 50 years and reaffirmed that classification with each reassessment. That simplifies things considerably.

Without getting into specific personalities, the debate continued and both sides dug in and nothing was accomplished. Remarkable how many Alpha types there are in the Class of 1977! In the meantime there had been several disputes concerning the removal of trees, replacement of original 1938 windows, etc. without permission from the Association. All things were being done with the best of intentions but from a different philosophical point of view. One side did not comprehend any emotional attachment to the walls and specific appearance of a building in the woods or to things that our predecessors had built or installed, or to trees that could not be

replaced for another 50 years while the other side could not comprehend the lack of comprehension. The debate meanwhile was going nowhere. To make matters even more complicated, the matter was not being presented as the debate that it was in correspondence sent out to the Association in emails or in the Axe and Saw. Furthermore, very few members actually make the annual meeting required to be held and were not privy to the discussions going back and forth. Nor are the meetings video taped/recorded and put on discs for all to see on the GCCOC web site.

Accordingly, over the last two years, I personally discussed the matter with approximately 100 alumni from the Class of 1977 on up through 2010. I wanted to get a feel for what everyone wanted. Obviously, with over 400 alumni on the rolls, no one can talk to everyone. But I was able to talk to those that were the most active. It is an issue with any republic. But with maybe 6 or 7 exceptions, everyone else wanted the Cabin preserved the way it was, did not want any modern "improvements" and were only willing to donate funds if that was the stated intent. And not only the stated intent, but they had to absolutely trust that the funds would only be used for that and would never be used for what most considered the destruction of the Cabin. Several told me that they would rather see it fall apart than be turned into something it was never intended to be. Bottom line, most simply did not trust the judgment of several individuals to do what the group wanted and/or to spend the funds of others in a judicious manner. The final blow was a request for \$40,000.00 in the late 2010/early 2011 Axe and Saw to do a "study" when we cannot build a new Cabin on the property and can't do anything other than restore what we have where it is. This request was made after

the 2010 meeting. I was gravely ill and had become so at the 2010 Pig Roast a week before and was sick for two months and missed that meeting as did Lynne Wolfe (Historian) and Sarah Otto (Secretary). Sarah was replaced at that meeting. I believe only 7 or 8 people were in attendance. Because almost no one in the Alumni Association would donate money to do what they opposed and the "new cabin" group wanted, it was also approved at that meeting that the School be approached for funds. I was horrified. I heard what it took Jack Martin '42 to get the College to back off and execute a Quit Claim deed to the Association when they tried to seize the Cabin in the 80's. No one trusts the school except 6 or 7 that I know of. With money come strings. There is a reason the school accepts no Federal funds. While I trust Dick Jewell implicitly and he is a good man and I like him, I do not trust the trustees. But I do trust their reasoning regarding accepting funds and strings because it is sound.

Those of us who wanted to restore the place figured that when no one would donate any funds to capitalize their proposal, the others would see the light without any conflict, and fall in line with what everyone else wanted and then we could "git it done". No one could do what we disagreed with if they did not have the funds to proceed and they were not willing to fund the project themselves. Instead, after that 2010 meeting where no one was there to oppose anything contrary to the Will of the mass of alumni, it was agreed by the 7 or 8 people there to approach the school for funds. I was told that Dick Jewell was even asked if the school would take out a mortgage on the place. At that point, I realized that things had gotten out of hand and there was no way to avoid the nastiness of the next meeting. In my opinion, the situation had now reached

the point where the Independence of the Cabin/property/Association was now in jeopardy.

The first thing was to select a group of individuals that everyone knew and trusted and believed in to do what had to be done to preserve the Cabin in all ways possible in the present form. I needed representatives to span the years from my year (1977) up until the 2000's. It had to include those people that would be running things after we were gone. Let's face it; the Class of 1977 has already become part of the check out generation between cancer and heart attacks and a few other things. It had to be people who were active with the Club. One must not forget that our Corporate Charter says we exist to support the Active Club AND maintain the Cabin for their use as part of that support. During the 2011 meeting, one alumna asked what she would get out of this and I replied "absolutely nothing." What we do is for the Students, not us old people. I needed people who either knew Doc Kase intimately or had at least met him and/or been to Pringrove. I needed people who didn't just come out to the Cabin when no students were around but people who did Canada bush trips and loaned canoes and tents and drove cars, and taught people how to paddle and use MSR stoves and put a mob of mountain climbing students up in their homes in Colorado. People who attended the Christmas parties and pig roasts, and wild beast feasts, and Allegheny trips. People who loved the students like Doc did. I approached eight individuals, some of whom are living legends in Club lore. Trent Denison '77, Mike McCarty '77, John Sullivan '77, Mike Scalise '77, Kevin Stevenson '86 (although I understand that his wife Chris Dolfi '87 has veto power on his votes), Ron Lang '96, Cory Gibson '99, and Josh Butler '02. I imagine that Ron,

Cory, and Josh will be running the Association some day. They all agreed. This group contains two attorneys and four engineers and several very successful business people and is active in all aspects of the Club. And I can personally attest that they love the Cabin with all their heart and soul. I then sent out a memo/email to as many people that I had email addresses for to either attend the meeting and/or correspond with everyone else and sent a copy of my proposal. The wave of support was overwhelming. Lastly, in order to ask for money, one has to bite the bullet himself. But no one is going to spend that kind of money and put it into the hands of someone whose judgment he does not trust to be in sync with the Association majority mindset.

And then we had the meeting at Homecoming. It was, quite frankly, unpleasant. I made my proposal. The gist of it is summarized below. We had approximately 40 emails in support but one cannot, as of now, vote by email. But everyone there knew about them as they were on the Club site. Lee McCoy abstained from voting (as President - he would have broken a tie if necessary) but told me he thought it was a great idea when I briefed him on the telephone before I made the proposal at the meeting. I also abstained as I had made the proposal. As Tom Ronksley (TR) Treasurer '77 wrote, everyone had an opportunity to present their point of view and it was a "spirited discussion". There was a point made that the Association was abdicating their responsibility by appointing nine people to make the decisions. From the point of view of most of the alumni I spoke with, it appeared that the problem was that three people had been making all the decisions and they were contra the will of the majority and that now three times the number of people

were going to do so and were sworn to do what the majority said they wanted. They were simply different people. The question was also raised by a member of, I believe, the Class of '85 regarding how they would get the money in the event of my unfortunate and untimely demise (it was known that I had been sick on and off since my hospitalization in 2008) and he was informed that the funds were available should that occur from my sons and I had made provisions for that possibility. This was another reason for the nine people. The point was brought up that it would be cheaper to build a new building. Since I was footing most of the bill, not the Association, that was not relevant although we agreed that the point was valid, lack of relevance notwithstanding. After two hours of debate, the proposal was accepted, and I made the first \$40,000.00 donation. Five people voted against it, everyone else present either abstained or were in favor. Quite frankly, given the nine people chosen, the number of emails in support, and the financial condition of the Association, I was surprised the debate lasted as long as it did. The Dr. Edmund H. Kase Jr. Cabin Restoration Fund was then created.

Hopefully, everyone will realize that in any political institution, where members vote on what is to be done, the fact that the many disagree with the few and vote how they feel, is not a personal attack by the many on the few. It is the democratic process. That is how the system works. It wasn't a situation where the majority just did not understand what needed to be done as was suggested. They understand perfectly. They simply did not agree with the minority point of view. Just a different vision.

And that is the whole thing in a nutshell. I will make five payments of

\$40,000.00 each Homecoming. I assume that Sully and Micky and several others who are by this point financially secure will contribute as well. Speaking of which, donations, made out to the GCCOCAA, can be mailed to Tom Ronksley at 4946 Simmons Circle, Export, PA. 15632. Please specify whether it goes to the Goucher Fund, principal only, interest to be used for taxes and insurance, or for the Dr. EHK Jr, Cabin Restoration Fund.

As an aside, it will be proposed that all future meetings, to the extent technologically feasible, will be recorded and made available on site. We also need to advance a proposal to allow voting off site by some sort of electronic means.

These two proposals will keep everyone in the loop as well as give everyone a voice in the Association. There will also be 20-25 alumni at the Cabin over New Years. Those in the area that are free to do so should stop out. Probably not the most exciting New Years party you ever attended but there are worse places to be than a cabin in the woods with gas lights, kero lamps, and a blazing fire.

Best regards,
Thomas J. Morris III '77
VP GCCOC Alumni Association
Major USMCR (ret.)
Member NJ/PA/OH Bars
H PH 856-848-1740
W PH 856-848-6945
W FX 856-384-2938
H EM majortjmorrisiiiiusmc@comcast.net
W EM majortjmorrisiii@comcast.net

The gist of the proposal follows, edited to provide the major details.

It will be proposed on Sunday, and voted on, that a group of NINE people restore the Cabin. All NINE have agreed to serve in this group. They are me, Tom Morris '77, John Sullivan '77, Mike Scalise '77, Trent Denison '77, Mike McCarty '77, Kevin Stevenson '86, Ron Lang '96, Cory Gibson '99, and Joshua Butler '02. All of us have been active with the Club as well as the alumni association. In furtherance thereof, if approved by a vote of the members present, I will agree to donate \$40,000.00 each Homecoming, starting this Sunday, for the next five Homecomings, for a total of \$200,000.00. Others are welcome to donate as they see fit. If it is more, I will make a sixth donation in the same amount. These funds will go into a separate account to be known as the Dr. Edmund H. Kase Jr. Cabin Restoration Fund. The funds can ONLY be spent by the unanimous decision of the ABOVE mentioned NINE people who will have sole say over what is to be done. Should one or more of us die or resign, the remainder will make the determination. Interest can be applied to the Goucher Fund BUT as principal only and interest used to pay taxes and insurance. ANY funds not used on the Cabin when the NINE of us feel the work is complete will be transferred to the Goucher Fund afterward, principal to never be touched, interest only to be used for taxes and insurance, as an endowment.

This is what we propose. That the Cabin be raised, the soil underneath removed to allow for a five foot crawl space underneath and a cement pad poured. That the beams underneath be replaced. That new support pillars be installed underneath. That a new footer and wall be built around the entire perimeter of the Cabin. That a drain be

installed from the middle of the Cabin to the ditch below the spring which is below the Cabin level and should solve the water problem under the Cabin . The entire interior of the Cabin is to be preserved. The 1938 windows that remain will be preserved. The original tongue and groove roof over the girl's wing will be preserved. A pad will be installed under the fireplace in addition to the cement floor. The rebuilding of the front porch will be made the length of the living room.

If the majority present vote for this, and quite frankly, unless someone else is going to come up with the \$200,000.00 in the next four years I don't see where anyone has any choice in the matter, we will attempt to do the restoration between April and September 2016 so the Club could have their wild beast feast in March and the Pig Roast in October. As we are providing the money, we will retain the firm to do the job and other than someone watching as they wish, will require NO alumni assistance and in fact non-interference with the Contractor will be part of the provisions. Those that have been active with the Club the last 38 years know all nine of the individuals in this group. Doc Kase was very dear to me and I had numerous discussions with regard to his vision of the future for the Cabin and the Active Club. While there is nothing I can do about Pringrove, I think I have a pretty good idea of what he wanted to be done for our Cabin. This one vote on Sunday will solve the problem. It will also enable us to repay Doc vicariously for everything he did for us.