
THE AXE AND SAW

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Spring 2017

Grove City College Outing Club

www.gccoc.org

Ellen Albers & Alyssa Black

Greetings, Alumni!

Spring has graced Grove City with its presence (always a miracle)! While cold conditions never keep clubbers indoors, the inviting sunshine evokes a stronger desire to go outside. Furthermore, the opening of the cabin offers an even greater incentive to partake in life beyond schoolwork. I believe I speak for all club members when I say THANK YOU to the alumni who have and continue to contribute time, effort, and funding to preserve our beloved cabin. The value of this gift goes beyond words.

Toward the end of this issue, Mark Place has apprised us of the construction that has taken place over the past year and the restoration projects that are yet to come.

In other news, the club has thrived this semester hosting events that revolve around food and good times. Many students in the club are anticipating the highly acclaimed ZEC canoe trip in August. It has been an exciting year for me to join the club. What an honor to serve the alumni, for it is you that make this club so amazing. Enjoy the newest issue of the *Axe and Saw*!

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Letter from the President

Jake Dudt '18

This has been the semester of anticipation for the Outing Club. The cabin construction had kept us out all last semester. We greatly looked forward to the Wild Beast Feast when the construction would be completed to the point of getting back into the cabin. For some of the freshman, it was their

first time in the cabin. Big thanks to Tom for financing this much needed renovation.

The WBF was an absolute blast. There were around 45 people and tons of good food. It was awesome to catch up with and meet new alumni.

The club saw a good amount of freshman enter the club last semester. Two of those went on to become officers and an awesome group of freshman have also stayed active. I am really excited to see how the club will grow in the next few years.

This semester the club bought some gear for backpacking trips. Items like a water filter and stove will be a huge benefit for future club backpacking trips. The club's finances are the best they've been in recent memory. The money made from the concession stand continues to allow us students to pay for the Pig Roast and other events out of pocket.

That being said, the efforts and funds from alumni have made things available and possible for us student which would be impossible if only left to us. Everything done to the cabin is a huge blessing. Thank you very much. The club could not be what it is without you all.

Slug and Snail Take the Trail

Megan Lawson '20

Over Spring Break we went hiking on the Appalachian Trail. It was a great trip, but one particular day stands out to me. The third day on the trail we had about nine miles to hike, which isn't that many, except when you are an especially slow hiker like I am. The trail names that my caboose buddy, Alyssa Black, and I gave ourselves were Slug and Snail; we may have been slow but we kept going. Slug and Snail took the trail that day with dreams of seeing the alleged ponies that were on the trail somewhere.

The first five miles was normal forest, ending at a beautiful waterfall. It was the exact halfway point of the entire trip! We stopped for lunch of granola bars, Nilla Wafers, and fruit snacks (10/10 would not recommend to a friend). The next four miles, we were told, would be easy peasy. We then embarked on the part of the trail we now refer to as "the desert." The trees were very bare and everything around was a gloomy brown. The rest of the group quickly disappeared ahead of us; Slug and Snail were soon alone on the trail.

After a couple hours of silence, and the sky becoming increasingly overcast, we both became a little crazy. In the distance we heard bird calls that we thought were coming from our group, but the sounds were originating from so far up the hill that we were convinced it couldn't have been them. We kept hiking farther and farther away from the spot we believed we heard the group. Soon, we arrived at a fork in the road where we saw a sign for the first time since lunch. We were very excited, to say the least. The sign pointed in the direction of the shelter we thought we were staying in that night, but we weren't 100% positive. It was only $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to the shelter; we were jazzed. It was a steep hill ahead of us, but we didn't have that much farther to go so we were pretty positive—until the hill kept going and going. Then, it started to rain. Our very tired bodies and slightly crazy minds really started to lose it. If we weren't so dehydrated I'm pretty sure we would have started to cry. Instead, we decided to laugh. Laughing was our replacement for crying as we hiked up the hill. However, it was a very long hill, so our laughter soon died a way and was replaced by my attempts to create a song to keep us motivated. It lacked tune and good lyrics, but it kept us going. We finally reached the top where the rest of the crew was lounging in the shelter. It was quite a relief. The best days of backpacking are always the hardest days.

Although we didn't see the ponies, our group bonded through our tiredness and loss of sanity.



Interview with Ruth Smock

Ellen Albers '19

Dale and Ruth Smock were deeply invested in the Outing Club from 1939 when Dale was a student to 1980 when he retired as department chair of general engineering at Grove City College. Dale served as faculty advisor for the club for over thirty-five years and chaperoned at the cabin with his wife, Ruth. Dale passed away in January of 2007. Ruth currently resides at Orchard Manner, 20 Orchard Dr, Grove City, PA 16127.

What led you and your husband to become involved in the Outing Club?

My husband was in the club while he was a student at the college. Later we moved back for him to teach electrical engineering and he became the Outing Club advisor. Back then the students had to have chaperones, so we went out all the time. We enjoyed it and they needed us!

How long were you chaperones for the club?

From the time Dale graduated in 1942 until he retired in 1980. During the war, the United States Naval Training School was on campus. My husband taught pre-radar his senior year.

I don't know how he was doing that; taking regular college classes and teaching for the military at the same time. One dormitory was completely for military. The Navy and Marines liked to go out to the cabin with us on the weekends. They did a lot of work out there, mowing the lawn and keeping the cabin up. There weren't many men on campus during the war, but there were all these handsome officers. The girls had a good time. Can you imagine? Walking from the dorm and having an officer walk with you! As soon as the war ended, the students started coming out to the cabin and the Outing Club became very popular. Most people don't know it, but Grove City College did a lot for the war effort.

What did you enjoy most about being part of the club?

I just loved the outdoors. My husband enjoyed the outdoors, too. We always did a big campfire and we would sit around the campfire singing and things like that. We always had such a good group, such great friends.

Were the rules different back then?

We always had to cope with the dean. They called her Dean Jean and she was a real problem. Dean Jean was awful strict and she would check up on us. You never knew when she would show up! She used to question the new freshman girls to find out what we did in the Outing Club. The freshmen wouldn't know any better and would tell her about something they thought was exciting, but to her it was wrong. It made you so mad because we never did anything wrong. We instructed all the students who went out, don't tell the dean anything! We never had a problem as long as we were chaperones. No one has ever had a problem with the Outing Club.

What outings did the students do in the early years?

They took lots of trips into Canada. Dr. Kase was the founder of the club and he had a cabin there. He had all kinds of boating equipment, motor boats and canoes. He was the dean of the chapel. His mother furnished the money and they built that beautiful Outing Club cabin.

On backpacking trips, students love chili mac. Was there a staple food that students used to eat on trips or at the cabin?

There wasn't anything they didn't like to cook.

Did you cook for them?

Oh, no! Absolutely not. We were the chaperones, not the workers. We just had such a nice time together. I never knew what they were going to cook. You never knew what you might be eating.

Let's put the rumors to rest. What is the real story about the boy, the board, and the bear?

I don't know about that. You know there are bears around there.

(We may never know what really happened!)

How has the cabin changed over the years?

Until the time that my husband retired, we didn't see many changes. The Outing Club members were so proud of that cabin. They kept it going.

Have any presidents of the college spent time at the cabin?

Dr. Harker was an outdoors type of man. He would come out sometimes. He even had his own cabin someplace. Chaperones were required, but it was difficult to get faculty chaperones.

You have enjoyed a longer life than most people. What do you attribute that to?

I'm 103! Most of my friends have died. But they didn't run out to the cabin all the time. If

you run around with the Outing Club students, you live forever!

Beast Feast

Bryan Miller '19

The first major event that has occurred since the grand opening of the cabin was the yearly Beast Feast, an event of friends, food, and DOGS!! The day was full of activities. One of the activities I participated in was a caving excursion with people. During the caving a porcupine was spotted sleeping, but when a second group entered the cave, the porcupine had left its spot. It was a cool experience. Soon after, food preparation began. Shamrock shakes were started in the main room, which later was moved to the right room. After moving to the right room males were not able to enter without the girls yelling at the fact that there was a boy there. After leaving the room, I decided to sit in the corner of the kitchen because I enjoy it. In order to not be thrown out, I sat in the corner of the room and waited until the cooks were tired and then I got up and helped. That is how to get a spot working in the kitchen if there are too many people to begin with. After the preparations of the food, everyone partook in the consumption. It was all delicious. After the meal, it was time to retire for the night so I got a ride back to campus. It was exciting to be at the cabin again and see all the alumni. I cannot wait for next year.

Why Does Every Event Devolve into Throwing Food at Each Other?

Katie Ross '19 and Amy Lang '19

At first, we were afraid, we were petrified; there was too much Crisco! Thanks to a [minor] calculation error, we ended up with four times the ingredients we needed. BUT WE HAD TWO WHOLE ROLLING

PINS AND A FANCY PASTRY MAT – thanks to Josh. Crust creating commenced as calmly as conceivable, all parties covered in something food related.

We did make somewhere around 48 pies, but it wasn't until the last round was baking happily in the oven that the real fun started. You see, we had quite a bit of extra dough left over so the only reasonable course of action was to throw it at each other (this seems to be becoming an Outing Club tradition). The highlight of this endeavor was when we'd decided to split the big ball of dough into two smallish balls that we'd lob around simultaneously. It should've been a scene from a movie; Katie had just barely managed to catch one and was beginning to double over in laughter when her movement put her directly in the path of a rogue missile – the second ball! It smacked her right in the face and down she went. Amy followed suit, laughing hysterically and turning eggplant purple from oxygen deprivation.

You might think that this was the lowest we could sink, but you would be severely mistaken. We, hungry and tired college students with an abundance of leftover ingredients, decided to conduct a baking experiment affectionately named 'The Apple Flower,' (it would not turn out well). Then, all was calm on the baking front until Megan smacked Madi with a handful of flour. All bets were off, the gauntlet had been thrown down – it was every Outing Clubber for herself. What had started as a subtle handprint sniping turned into an all-out flour dumping so dramatic and destructive (and messy) that we were forced to move the battlefield to the parking lot. By the end we were all covered in flour - and this is no light dusting we're talking about, we were literally caked in it - which provided the perfect scene for a photo-op.



“Do it for the science!” is a sort of dangerous phrase if you think about it. It can turn a semi-rational pie baker into an egg chucking crazy person. You see, we wanted to determine how much of a dough cushion was needed to keep an egg from breaking when thrown from a window. It was a very important question. We tried a variety of sizes, each time screaming “HALVE THE DOUGH;” the neighbors were obviously thrilled. Our results: The volleyball size was the funniest, the football made the best *splat* sound, and the softball was the smallest successful attempt. In this moment, we were victorious, covered in flour, and hungry.

We went to Taco Bell, flour and all, for a mildly satisfying end to a ridiculously entertaining day.

ARTICLECEPTION! - *the story behind writing an Axe and Saw article*

Amy had a lot of really stupid suggestions, like comparing baking pies to white girls in tanning salons, or gingers at band camp, and she kept wanting to use the word ‘angsty.’ All of these were vetoed. You’re welcome.

Yeah, well Katie is really good at backspacing over funny things I write. Of course, I am just so hilarious I guess it’s natural for someone to be jealous. *shrugs*

Quotes from the evening:

Katie: “No unnecessary similes!”

Katie: “We aren’t getting graded on this... just judged.”

Amy: “By a lot of alumni with guns.”

Katie: “Halve the Dough! Wait... Have, halve, half have. Woah, what?” *mind blown*

Katie: “I am mostly here for quality control.”

Amy: “You mean STIFLING MY CREATIVE PROCESS?”

Katie: “Do you want an ‘a’ or a ‘the’ there, because right now it says ‘a the perfect photo-op’”.

Amy: “You know, I’m getting real tired of your sass, ok? Do you want a roommate or an article?”

Katie: “That makes literally no sense”

Cabin News

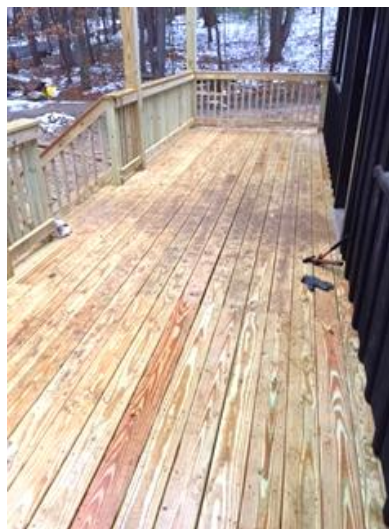
Mark Place '77

Alumni Cabin Manager

Phase 1 of the cabin restoration project has been substantially completed thanks to the generosity of Tom Morris '77 and others. Trent Denison '77 provided week to week project management and a point of contact for other team members being 5 hours closer than Tom. Pictures and posts from the project including some exceptional time lapse shots are available of Face Book at GCCOC RENO.

In summary, the cabin was elevated almost 10’ in the air and a complete new foundation was installed featuring 4000 PSI fill in block for the first 10 courses with horizontal and vertical steel reinforcing to a 9’ inside height. A 4000 PSI reinforced concrete floor was installed along with new inside and outside drainage running to the creek. Additional downspout connectors were also installed for

future use. A corrosion resistant fiberglass double basement entry door was installed and it will be equipped with the same keypad lock as the front door providing access to all members in good standing.



Inspection of the cabin while elevated confirmed what our annual inspections had shown, that additional major structural repairs were needed. These repairs continued the work that had been done over many summers as we tried to keep the cabin standing until a restoration project was possible. It was a credit to the folks that participated in many dark and dirty summer repairs that the specialist restoration carpenter did not feel the need to make any changes to those projects and in fact was

reported to be quite complimentary about some of creative solutions engineered by Henry Limmer, Chuck Limmer, Mark Fair, Cory Gibson, and Scott Davis over the past decade. In addition to the much needed structural repairs, all of the 1938 gas distribution lines were replaced as we had had several failures in the recent past while working under the cabin. A new floor furnace was installed in the dining room area replacing one from the early 1980's. An additional gas wall light was installed in the Girl's Wing for added safety. The water line from the spring was extended and a new gas service entry and meter were installed by our provider.

As the elevation of the cabin was increased as much as 36" in places, a combination of new porches, steps and fire escapes were needed. The outstanding general contractor hired for the project repaired or replaced all of these structures to the current building codes while making them very attractive. The new front porch now spans the entire living room. This will provide greater functionality and also a safer experience for all users.

There is much site restoration work yet to be done. Basically the entire yard was damaged or outright destroyed during the construction work all the way around the cabin. The contractor worked through the winter to get the cabin back in use as soon as possible, but I can tell you that at times the mud was near to the top of your boots. In addition the road was modified to handle heavy cement and lumber trucks and will need much work. It is far from Honda ready. If you are planning a visit to the cabin do not assume that you can drive down until all of that work is completed.

As soon as we get a handle on the restoration work, we will be setting dates for more than one friends and family Summer Outing. This will be the 41st Summer Outing since switching from Memorial Day weekend back

in the 70's. We will be sure to get the dates out by using the alumni email list, but if you are interested and not an email person, please give me a call at 412-877-0050 and I will provide details by phone as they develop.

There is additional work to be done and that will be on the agenda for the annual meeting at the cabin Sunday October 8, 2017 at 2:00 PM.

80th Anniversary Save the Date

Based on the tradition of celebrating anniversaries every 5 years starting with the 40th back in 1978, 2018 will mark the 80th anniversary of the Outing Club. Homecoming weekend next year will be September 29-30th.

We anticipate having a reunion dinner Saturday night and our annual business meeting at the cabin starting at 2:00 PM. More details will be provided as plans develop!

The Alumni Association Now on AmazonSmile

Thanks to one of our alumni, the GCCOC Alumni Association is now on AmazonSmile!

Under AmazonSmile, the Alumni Association will get 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases made by folks that select us as their charity of choice. And apparently you have the same selection of items to purchase under AmazonSmile as you do with Amazon.

So, if you don't already send your purchase donations to another charity, why not identify the GCCOC Alumni Association and have donations sent there? Use the link below to access AmazonSmile and link your donations straight to the Alumni Association.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1411392>

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION NEEDED

After discussion with our president and several alumni, we are planning to streamline our mailing list, eliminating those alumni who no longer wish to receive the Axe and Saw. This process will not be completed until 2017, so please be patient.

That being said, we need you to take action!

If you wish to continue receiving the Axe and Saw, please email Alyssa Black (previously Rachel Kenney) indicating you wish to receive the mailing or cut out the card below and mail it to Alyssa Black (address on page 1). **IF WE DO NOT HEAR FROM YOU** by Fall 2017, you will be eliminated from the list.

NOTE: This is the **LAST TIME** this notice will run. Once you have responded, your “vote will be cast” and you will be kept on the list. Thank you!

<p>Yes! I would like to receive the Axe and Saw in the future!</p> <p>My name is:</p> <p>Any address changes:</p> <p>Any comments:</p>
