
THE AXE AND SAW

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Spring 2018

Grove City College Outing Club

www.gccoc.org

Rachel Glessner & Katie Ross

Greetings, Alumni!

Well Spring has Sprung! After the winter snow that continued into early April, the warm weather is back and here to stay! It's an exciting time here in Grove City where we are hiking and enjoying the weather as we approach summer.

This semester, I (Rachel Glessner) alongside Katie Ross, were happy to serve as the new Alumni Secretaries of the club! It has been a fun semester to capture new stories!

In other exciting news, there are articles about the upcoming GCCOCAA 80th Reunion dinner and program!

Thank you again for your continual support and all you do for us Alumni!

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Letter from the President

Ellen Albers

Greetings, Outing Club Alumni!

I can't help but wonder as I peruse past Axe and Saw entries if you all aren't tired of hearing about yet another backpacking trip that was accompanied by torrential rains or another semester with conditions resembling those of Antarctica (This has been one of those semesters by the way). I like to imagine you smart ones who have moved to warmer, milder climates laughing at the weather conditions and associated perils we students so willingly endure, but there is certainly good reason we endure them as you well know! The friendships and memories forged through these experiences will last a lifetime.

It has been a semester full of activity for the Outing Club including a backpacking trip in Shenandoah National Park over spring break where we put the gear purchased last spring by the club to good use. We had beautiful hiking weather in February with no significant amount of rain or snow!



The annual Valentine's dinner was a success and very relaxing for the ladies. The gentleman of the Outing Club came out dressed in their best to serve dinner to the ladies of the club. The Wild Beast Feast was also a great event. Good food and company was enjoyed by all who attended. Among other activities, students have enjoyed baking pies for the annual pie sale, attending cabin work outings, playing volleyball on our intramural team (Go, *Outsiders!*), and above all, spending quality time together at the cabin, no doubt in front of a roaring fire. The cabin continues to be a place of escape and an avenue for unexpected adventures for students. On a recent hike with a group to the overlook, a bald eagle was spotted soaring above the river.

As we look to close out a great semester, we will be graduating some amazing seniors who have made significant contributions to the club in their time here. I wish you all success as you look toward new promising adventures and hope to see many of you at future club events as alumni! In

regards to the future, we have a fantastic team of active officers and current actives and are already looking forward to next semester's prospects. I wish you all a happy summer and I hope to see you at Homecoming and the Pig Roast!

Apples and Pumpkins and Berries, Oh My!

Angelina Donatelli '20

This year was my first year being a member of the Outing Club. I can 100 percent say that I have been taken completely out of my element since joining the Outing Club. I have never been much of an "outdoorsy" person in the past because of some health limitations, but I have always wanted to get out of my comfort zone and go on some pretty awesome adventures. This past semester I went on a 7-mile hike with the club that I never would have thought possible in the past, and it was such an accomplishment to be able to complete that hike. Being able to accomplish something like that made me want to join the club and do more things like that out of my comfort zone. This semester one of my favorite events/activities that we did in the Outing Club was the annual pie sale, especially the baking aspect. This year we sold 61 pies and made around 68 pies!! The morning started off with getting all the stations prepared for the day. The first floor of Larry house was dedicated for making the pie crusts, apple, cherry, mixed berry, and peach pies. Whereas the second floor of the house was dedicated for making the pumpkin and pecan pies. We split the number of volunteers in half and I was in the group that was working on the first floor.

The first part of my day was spent being a part of the group that was either making the pie dough or rolling out the dough to put in the pie pans. The whole time while we were doing this we were listening to some classic Disney music, courtesy of Amy, where everyone was letting their inner child free and singing along as loud as we could. When we weren't singing our hearts out to Disney music, we were listening to some laid-back Folk music that Josh decided to play for us because Amy's phone died. What was probably the most enjoyable and fascinating thing to witness was everyone singing their favorite camp songs. Either Josh or Kate was the leader of most of the songs, and it was funny to see Josh make a dramatic entrance from the kitchen into the area where we were rolling the pie dough, to start off a song, or to finish a song. A personal favorite of mine was the baby bumble bee song, it probably gets stuck in my head at least once a week now, but it reminds me of the hilarious memories from pie baking. Another fun part of the day was seeing all the interesting creations that people would make. Josh made a little miniature pie, which turned out pretty cute, and a little penguin named Pete made out of pie dough. He survived his time in the oven and came out really nice! Then there were some questionable things that were made. Like Bryan's sketchy looking eggs. All that I know is that they contained cinnamon and sugar. There might've been something else added into it, but I am not too sure. Once we had a good bit of the pies in the ovens we had some spaghetti for lunch thanks to Megan, which was very good and so much better than Hicks food. For dessert we had some of the left-over apples that we cut up from earlier and let me tell you the fresh fruit was amazing to have, especially if you

added some cinnamon and sugar to them. After we had lunch, and got most of the pies in the oven, we cleaned up and just waited for the pies to bake. Some people took a nap, did some homework, talked with everyone, or just basically relaxed until the pies were done baking. It was a long, but enjoyable fun day and I am excited to bake some more pies in the future!

OC DIN DIN

Amy Lang '19

Usually before a meeting on Thursday, some Outing Club members meet at MAP for dinner, which I generally refer to as "OC Din-Din." Megan (VP, and resident Outing Club Dinner coordinator) has refused to adopt that name. During this time, the conversation ranges from funny to weird *and* funny, and so, now, I'll elaborate on some of our discussions.

Most forefront in my memory is what I'll call the "beard-knitting" conversation. I believe it started when I suggested that, given a long enough beard, one could knit themselves a beard sweater. Then a few of us argued over the proper way to knit the back of the sweater and how you'd go about the arms. Then someone suggested that the next step in human evolution was obviously using the beard hair to trap air in order to live underwater – which is apparently impossible, because of the oils or something. Ok, so no underwater people for now, but what about a beard *boat*? Madi: "You'd need a really long beard for that... I've been wondering how long the longest beard was." Jonathan: "Oh, it's almost 5 and a half meters." Madi: "You've looked this up before, haven't

you?” Jonathan nodded proudly, pleased with his beard related trivia knowledge.

On another fateful Thursday, Madi had a taco. As she bit one side, all the toppings fell out the other, eliciting a groan of frustration. “Well, we’re adding tacos to the list of things you shouldn’t eat on a date.” “This list is growing exponentially.” Spaghetti, for obvious reasons, is at the top of this list, along with ribs and most things found at a barbeque. “What about pizza? You can’t make a mess with pizza!” Oh, contraire. I recounted the story of how eating a slice of pizza resulted in a circle print of tomato sauce on my neck. The conversation devolved from there. We eventually found ourselves with nothing but water, apparently, though, even that wasn’t safe! What if you spilled it on yourself? What if you squeezed lemon into your eye, or worse, your date’s?! It seemed too much to risk. So, we were left with a water, pre-squeezed lemon, and a straw. This somehow turned into Danny, with a sippy cup, asking for a highchair at a McDonalds. The cashier would ask, “Is there a baby with you?” “Nope, it’s for me!” Danny would reply, gleefully hopping into the seat and scooting away to his table.

Among other things, we’ve discussed the plans for my funeral (yes, I’ve thought about it, *extensively*), Danny’s aeropress, spirit animals (apparently Jonathan’s is a wolf, and Bryan’s is a fennec fox), and the time I licked Bryan’s arm on a reflex.

OC Din-Din is certainly the highlight of my week, and I am truly blessed to be able to fellowship with such lovely people, who happen to have a talent for ridiculous hypotheticals.



Oh Deer! – The Tales of Spring Break 2k18!

Megan Lawson '20

Warning there were several animals killed in the making of these memories ... and a car.

The trip started with all cars exiting the parking lot at 4:21. After we loaded up into the three cars and had witnessed a unicyclist riding cross campus (why were you awake at 4 am kid?). We began are journey to Shenandoah state park to hike a portion of the Application Trail including eight miles that day. One specific vehicle named the Struggle Bus began its adventure differently than the others. We began our journey by accidently taking the PA turnpike (S.O.S. why is it so expensive?) which we immediately exited and found a Dunkin Donuts where we retrieved coffee for our driver Danny. Due to our coffee detour, we got the privilege of driving through Pittsburg at 5 am and it was quite beautiful. Our adventure continued next with tunes for several hours until we missed our exit, which led to a more scenic route. After taking a brief gas stop, we continued our journey to the wilderness we had traveled so far and it wasn’t even 8 am! It started

pouring rain as we continued our drive. Three deer decided to cross the road. Deer 1 made it, as well as deer 2, but deer 3 was not so lucky. The struggle bus ran into the back end of the deer making it fly through the air and as reported by one of the passengers the deer's leg flew a different direction. After a brief moment of shock, the struggle bus pulled to the side to examine the car. The headlight and front of the car were definitely smushed and all that was left of the deer was tufts of hair. Struggle bus was definitely damaged but was able to make it to a mechanic. At the mechanic numerous phone calls were made, old donuts were eaten, and ballet was learned. After several hours and countless plan b's struggle bus 2.0 with more leg room (a rental car) was packed full of our packs and we headed back to the road.

Finally arriving at the trail we had found a new spot to hike in so we no longer had to hike 8 miles (yay). The majority of us headed to the trail while five brave souls went out to drop off the cars at the end point in the very dense fog... there were no deer this time. After arriving at the camp site we began to prepare our dinner. After gathering water, I began to light the stove but things went a little wrong and large flame appeared and almost burned through a nearby hammock that was attached to our shelter. Luckily some people are faster thinkers than I and moved the stove and stopped the shelter from being burned down. And to round out the night half of the rice for our dinner was poured on the ground. Overall a great first day on the trail and we hadn't even hiked yet! The drivers arrived at the camp site at 10 pm 12 hours later to when we were originally to start hiking.

The rest of the trip was much more mundane (thank goodness). It was filled with cheese, the food kind, puns and cheesy smiles. There was snow and flying chainsaws attached to helicopters. The views were crazy pretty and so worth the drive down. After 38 miles, we ended our short trip and headed back to school. On the way back one car hit a raccoon and the other hit a squirrel. All three cars hit an animal thus making this trip one of the most deadly... to wild life. Moral of the story if you are an animal do not cross the road.



Beast Feastaganza

Joshua Bauder '20

Having been only to two beast feasts, I am far from experienced in the matter of judging a good one from a bad one. In my humble and somewhat uneducated opinion, this beast feast was excellent. While the fire roared in the fire place, cards were cracked out and dealt between players. The cabin was always abuzz with friendly conversation filled with laughter that floated on the fire roasted air up to the ceiling. We devoured great tasting and expertly cooked boar, quail, chukar, and pheasant courtesy of our esteemed chefs, Tom and Sue. To accompany such delectable beast roasts, we had oven toasted garlic bread, masterfully

blanched and sautéed green beans, hearty mashed potatoes, white rice, and scarcely touched pig heart. Remembering the savory smells is making it hard to write, but believe me, it was delicious. By the way that many people waddled about shortly after clearing their over filled plates, the feeling was mutual. In all, the beast feast was the best I have yet to attend, and I much look forward to the next one. Thank you to all who put the much-appreciated work in to make the event go as smoothly and be as enjoyable as it was. I look forward to seeing even more people there next year to share the experience with.

A Look Back

Alyssa Black '18

The Org Fair. This is where it all started. Walking through the hordes of people crowded around countless tables I think is stressful for every freshman. It sure was for me. My roommate at the time wanted to check out the outdoor club she heard about, so we kept our eyes open as we wandered around. It didn't take long for us to find the table with a tent set up and a tall, energetic redhead I recognized from OB standing next to it. I never would have guessed that a few short years later I would be there to watch this same redhead get married!

My time with the Outing Club has been full of stories. From running out of water to hitting a deer to hiking or canoeing in the rain for hours, Outing Club trips are always an adventure. We were never short on "hard fun" and there were several occasions where we had to laugh so that we wouldn't cry, but we always had a great time and came back with hours of stories to tell and retell over and over.

One of my absolute favorite trips was Spring Break 2017. The weather was beautiful, the views were spectacular, and the company was, well, interesting. What started as a group of seven strangers became a (very weird) family in a week's time. We bonded over a freezing first night, a lack of food, hobbit horses, and the infamous "three-quarter mile day" (which I would not have survived without my trusty trail partner, Snail). More than a year later, this same group, plus a few added family members, still meets weekly for family dinner.

Between all the big trips and events, there have been many excursions to the cabin for hiking, dinner, and spending time with friends. While these ventures don't have as many stories to go along with them, they have been some of the most meaningful times. And who could forget the pies. If you compared the number of pies I have helped make with the number of miles I have hiked with the club, I'm really not sure which would be more.

Through the Outing Club I have met some of my closest friends and favorite people. One of these is my roommate of two years – someone else who knows the importance of having introvert time together. Another has joined me for 7:15am breakfast twice a week for over a year and a half. Yet another friend has fed my Pokémon Go addiction by playing with me for hours upon hours. Then there is Snail, who is never far from my side. These people, and so many more, are what have made the Outing Club such an important part of my college career.

It is hard to believe my time at Grove City College is almost over, but I know the friendships and memories will continue on. I started out being a part of the Outing Club,

but over the years the Outing Club has become a part of me.

Cabin News!

Mark Place '77 Alumni Cabin Manager

2018 Summer Outing: After a 1 year hiatus, we will resume the annual alumni, student, families and friends with the 2018 **Summer Outing June 14-17**. We know this is Father's Day weekend but we felt a June date was important for multiple reasons.

Phase 1 and 2 of the cabin restoration project have been substantially completed thanks to the generosity of Tom Morris '77 and others. Pictures and posts from the project including some exceptional time lapse shots are available on Facebook at GCCOC RENO. If you have not yet seen the renovations, this is a great opportunity.

That said, even as Chad our outstanding contractor finishes up the finishing details, there are many projects that need addressed. Some are our usual summer items like servicing the spring, clearing drains and repairing the backstop at the range and some are related to final cleanup from the renovations. We can use all the help that we can get as usual.

As usual meals will begin with lunch on Thursday and run through lunch on Saturday. Please contact me at mplace@johnplaceinc.com by Tuesday June 12 to assist with meal planning.

Final grading of the yard may limit the normal tent sites but we obviously have 20 acres of options. ☺

Summer Use of the Cabin: While the cabin is once again 100% structurally sound, there

is still work in progress. There is much yard work to complete so that we can reseed and hopefully have grass for the 80th Reunion and the Pig Roast next fall. Chad also still has tools and supplies stored inside and out. Work to be complete includes grading, additional window work and some fireplace work that might impact your plans. Please check with Lee McCoy or me before scheduling any outings so we can consult with Chad on his activities.

Use of the Range: During a recent visit the range was full of old target materials and tarps full of brass were left in the yard. Please enjoy the range but allow time to clean up old targets, police up the brass and replace the tarps.

GCCOCAA 80th Reunion – Dinner and Program

*Sue Kidd Knechtel '88, Mark Place '77,
Dan Young '83, & Tom Ronksley '77*

Reunion Planning Committee

When: Saturday, October 6, 2018 - 6pm

Where: Quality Inn and Conference Center, 1411 Liberty St, Franklin, PA

Watch for a summer mailing with more detailed information and a Reservation Form!

As with recent reunions, there will be an Outing Club tent on campus Saturday afternoon, the Saturday evening dinner and program, Sunday breakfast and lunch at the newly-renovated cabin, a Sunday worship service at said cabin, and finally the 2pm Sunday annual meeting also at said cabin.

RE lodging...

- Rooms are being held at the Quality Inn under the name "Outing Club" at prices from \$204/night to \$213/night

(AppleFest is the same weekend in Franklin). Call 814-437-3031 to reserve.

- The cabin is available. See notes on reserving space elsewhere in this Axe and Saw.
- Other hotel possibilities:
 - o Knights Inn Franklin 814-432-2101
 - o Motel 6 Barkeyville 814-786-8375
 - o Quality Inn Barkeyville 814-786-7901
 - o Super 8 Grove City 724-602-4257
 - o Comfort Inn Grove City 724-748-1005
 - o Comfort Inn Mercer 724-748-3030
 - o Best Western Grove City 724-748-5836
 - o Candlewood Suites Grove City Outlets 724-748-6900

80th Anniversary Cabin Reservation Questionnaire

Sue Kidd Knechtel '88

Fellow GCCOC alumni,

With all the upcoming activities occurring at homecoming this year, we want you to be sure to have a bunk for you if you plan to lodge overnight at the cabin. In addition to Our Alumni anniversary there are the normal 5-year anniversaries, as well as other events that will bring people to Grove City for the weekend. In order to make sure no one is without a bed, we would like to get an estimate of who plans to sleep at the cabin and when. There were no overcrowding issues in 2013 and these answers do not need to be set in stone, but an estimate will help to plan for those who may wish to bring

tents to camp out in, should the indoor lodging become too crowded for their liking.

You can reply to these questions by email to slkgeneral@hotmail.com, or send to 132 Dave St, New Brighton, PA 15066. The number for cabin questions prior to the weekend is 724-847-4693.

If coming to homecoming or the Anniversary Dinner.....Do you plan to stay overnight at the cabin during homecoming 2018? Yes or No

If no, there is nothing more to do, and we'll see you there. If yes, continue thru the next set of questions

- 1) How many people will be in your group for the weekend, including yourself? _____
- 2) What night or nights do you expect to be there? Thurs Oct 4 Friday Oct 5 Sat Oct 6 and/or Sun Oct 7
- 3) Do you plan to a) bunk in the cabin b) tent in the yard c) sleep in your car or something similar? d) prefer to stay in the cabin but can bring a tent if I need to.

If you chose 3b or 3c, thanks for letting us know, we look forward to seeing you. If you chose 3a) or 3d) let us know if anyone in your party has bunk location requirements/limitations. (top/bottom etc).

Although this may all seem silly to you, if by chance we do get full, I would hate for someone who has driven hours to get there, and made plans to sleep in the cabin, show up late Saturday night after their events, only to find the bunks are all full, as well as the local hotels. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the cabin and dinner.