



# THE AXE AND SAW

## Grove City College Outing Club

### Alumni Newsletter 1998

#### Just a Note

Welcome to another edition of The Axe and Saw. Alane Benson and I are the new Alumni Secretaries and we would like to apologize for the missed edition at the end of the fall 1997 semester. This was due to a lack of articles (not lack of events, mind you). However, we feel that that loss has been well made up for in this newsletter. We have tried to cover both last semester and this one in this newsletter. Anyway, happy reading!

-Wendy Measel

#### From the President...

It is a true honor to serve as president during the sixtieth year of the club. The fall '97 semester was a very successful semester for the club. Thanks to the great weather, hard work, and the winning football team, we netted over \$3000 from concession stand sales. That really boosted our checking account! The annual pig roast was a huge success. Over 70 faculty and staff turned out for the Pig Roast, which was held outside this year because of the fantastic weather. The Alumni/Student work outing held in October gave actives an opportunity to mingle with Alumni—plus we got a lot of work done. Unfortunately, the annual Canada trip fell through, but many of us went on a Vermont trip. The spring semester was kind of disappointing because of El Nino messing up winter for us, not enough snow! But overall, this has been a good year for the club.

As my studies get more difficult, I find the cabin and the surrounding woods to be such a refresher. On the weekends, I appreciate so

much the good times and great friends that I have in the Outing Club. Cabin runs after the meetings, camping trips, mad dashes to 8:30 classes the next morning; they are all part of the Outing Club.

-Dan Wiley

#### Officer Changes

Fall 1997	Spring 1998
President: Betsy Pluss	Daniel Wiley
Vice Pres: Jeremy McKinnis	Megan Artz
Treasurer: Brian Noftsier	Eric Kindig
Secretary: Jocelyn Andrell	Bethany Smith
Historians: Laura Otto	Larry Manross
Dan Wiley	Messina King
Alumni Sec: Max Hopkins	Alane Benson
Corrie Mitchell	Wendy Measel
Chaplain: Jason Richwine both times	
Cabin Manager: Henry Limmer both times	

#### Pig Roast 1997

This year's pig roast was a big success (a snortin' good time!). Among attendance at the annual event was the president of the college, Dr. Moore and his wife. As a token of the club's appreciation, Dr. Moore was presented with the pig snout. Between 70 and 80 faculty members and college employees came to the outing club cabin for the pig roast. In addition to the roasted pig, the club members also prepared and served roasted chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, apple sauce, rolls, and assorted pies. The club was fortunate enough to have good weather and everyone was able to eat outside for the first time in the past four years.

-Ginny Rogers

## Rock Climbing

To celebrate the first day of fall, a group of twelve festive Outing Club members embarked on a pilgrimage to Panther Rocks, just north of Oil City, for an afternoon of rock climbing. The sun shone happily on our backs, taking a bit of the cool crispness out of the air. We could not have had more perfect weather. With three ropes set up there was plenty of opportunity to conquer the lofty crags set before us. There were many interesting climbing techniques displayed that day by the first-timers as well as those with more experience. Among these techniques were climbing barefoot, swinging 15 feet out from the rock, and scrambling up as fast as possible. Unfortunately, some of us stayed too long and, being late for dinner on campus, were "forced" to stop at Main Moon for some excellent Chinese cuisine. Not only did everyone have a wonderful day of climbing, but we also gained some Chinese wisdom from the insightful words in our fortune cookies.

## Backpacking Trip

On Saturday, 4 October 1997, we went camping at Heart's Content camp-ground, somewhere in the Allegheny National Forest. It was a beautiful weekend in the middle of an Indian summer. Eight of us went camping: Laura Otto, Andy Gaydos, Betsy Pluss, Megan Arzt, Stef Bubeck, John Holmer, Larry Manross, and myself. Laura, Andy, Betsy, and Megan arrived at the parking lot of the campground around 4pm. They left the rest of us a note on Betsy's car telling us which trail to start out on. They all love to backpack, so they hiked about an hour and a half before setting up the campsite. They didn't mention on the note how far they were going.

When the rest of us got to the parking lot around 9 or 9:30pm (well after dusk, I'll add) we found the note and started off, expecting to find them within a half an hour - tops. We had two good flashlights and one mini-mag for four hikers, one of which hadn't even brought a

book-bag or backpack for their gear, just a shoulder-strap sports bag. So we stumbled through the dark woods, struggling to follow the poorly marked trail and watching for campsites on either side of the trail. We passed three other campsites, each time very excited, assuming it was our group - but they weren't. After stopping several times to discuss our options, whether to go back to the cars (perhaps we'd already passed their site and didn't see it) or to continue, we decided to just keep plugging along till we gave up and camped on our own. At least we had my 2.5-man tent that we could all squish in. Meanwhile, back at the campsite, they're all making wagers on what time we will arrive. Once they all lost, they started betting on whether we'd arrive at all.

It was shortly after they had given up on us and gone to bed that Megan (who likes to stay up late) heard us making noise and yelled to us. This was around 11:45pm, after hiking at least two hours without knowing our destination. We were so happy to get there and be able to sit down. Unfortunately, we could not sit for long: a thunderstorm was approaching. We got the tent set up and had about 10 minutes to waste before it started raining. We climbed into our tents and went to bed. It rained quite a bit, and most everybody ended up getting wet. Eventually it stopped raining, and it turned out to be a beautiful morning when we got up. We made ourselves some oatmeal on Betsy's stove, then headed out for a nice hike back to the cars. Overall, it was a good trip, although some didn't like the long hike or the wetness. I can understand why they were so upset; it could have been worse. But for those who like to hike, it was wonderful. We had beautiful hiking weather and a nice forest to hike in.

-Eric Kindig

## Joint Alumni-Member Work Outing

The Joint Alumni-Member Work Outing was a huge success. We completed a lot of work and still had time left over to have fun... like we always do. Over the course of the day

we chopped firewood, cleaned the gutters, and repaired a section in the roof. We thoroughly cleaned the kitchen by washing the millions of dishes kept in storage and in the cupboards, and cleaned the floor, walls, ceiling, stove, and cupboards. That evening we relaxed, ate s'mores, enjoyed some slides provided by the alumni, and shared memories of past occasions. We also carved jack o' lanterns, shot pumpkin seeds at each other, and explored a bunk room converted into a "haunted house" by the alumni's kids. All who attended had a great time.

- Messina King

### **Christmas Party**

It was the week before finals when the Cabin was filled with Outing Club members celebrating the coming holiday. A few inches of fluffy snow covered the ground making it seem more like Christmas. It was a tremendous change from the rain and 70 degree weather the week before and, since this was a Christmas party, we were happy to have snow. The festivities commenced with an impromptu snowball fight / football game. With the air full of flying snow and a few scattered threats, we preceded to get completely soaked and muddy. Long before we got tired of that, the sky grew dark and we headed inside to eat dinner. A huge feast was prepared with roast beef, mashed potatoes, corn, green beans, bread, applesauce, etc. Part of the reason for the feast was to honor the graduating Dan Fischer ('98) for all his craziness, service, and commitment to the Outing Club. Another reason was that we were tired of cafeteria food and needed some real food and fun. After the dishes were washed up, we tramped through the State Game lands in search of the perfect Christmas tree. We found a particularly fine specimen and dragged it back to the cabin. The rest of the evening was spent sharing jokes, cook-the-can (a Wiley Family secret), stories, and decorating the tree. We hung strings of popcorn over the tree, more for the mice than for the tree. Oh well, it's

Christmas. The next morning we found 4 inches of fresh snow and we couldn't pass up the opportunity to have another snowball fight and also make some large snowmen. A hike to the Bluffs concluded that party and it was back to studies and classes. However, we all felt rested and so much better, even though we knew the terrible doom that lay before us - FINALS!

-Dan Wiley

### **Vermont Trip**

Every meeting, we heard more and more discouraging news about the annual Canada Winter trip. Finally it was official, we would not be able to go. We had been looking forward to roughing it with Outing Club alumnae for a week, with polar bear swimming, cutting ice, and the other things we had heard so much about from Outing Club members that had been to Canada before. However, when it seemed as if we would not be able to go, our vice-president, Megan Arzt, offered the use of her family's cabin in Vermont. Soon we were on our way to Vermont. On December 29, about 12 Outing Club Members had arrived at Megan's place. We soon discovered that the cabin was very small and it would be a tight squeeze as soon as the others arrived. However, that didn't matter, we weren't going to stay indoors anyway. Snow hiking, snow shoeing, cross-country skiing, snowboarding, skiing, and just plain messing around in the snow was on the agenda. In the evening, we played rook, gin rummy, and Uno until we couldn't stay awake any longer, and then it was time for bed. Well, not exactly bed, more like floor. By the time New Year's Eve rolled around, there were about 25 or 26 of us packed like sardines into that tiny cabin. Much to our gratitude, Besty Pluss' mother provided a huge turkey dinner on New Year's day. It was great to have a place to go to on a winter trip. Some reminded us, "It's not Canada." Hopefully the club can return to Pringrove and continue the tradition of great memorable Outing Club trips.

-Dan Wiley

## First Cabin Outing of the New Year

Saturday, 24 January marked the first weekend of the 1998 spring semester. About a dozen students gathered at the cabin for a spaghetti dinner. It was pretty much just an excuse to be lazy and sit by the fire. We did chop some firewood though, so we can say something was accomplished. Later in the evening we set off some bottle rockets in the front yard. Henry Limmer, cabin manager, had a small propane torch which he used to light multiple (20 or so) bottle rockets simultaneously. The only draw back to that approach was the occasional stray bottle rocket. However, no one was hurt so it was all fun and games. (It's all fun and games until someone loses an eye, then it's just fun.) Anyway, the first weekend went well. Many more activities and stories are to follow this semester. It should be a good one.

-Jason Richwine

## Work Outing



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Since there was no snow this winter, we had a work outing on Saturday, 31 January to Sunday, 01 February. The plan was to chop firewood, since we were beginning to run low, and to make an attempt at insulating the floor of the cabin, which had not been done in the sixty years its been standing. We insulated about half of the floor by super-gluing Styrofoam to the under-side of the cabin, but the glue was tough to work with and a better adhesive was needed to finish the job. As long as what is up stays up, we will save some money on heating costs, which will be nice. The firewood chopping was even less productive since all three of the chain saws were incapacitated. All we could do was split the few pieces that had already been cut and then waste the rest of the afternoon. Jason Krest, bored with not having anything to do, decided to take down a dead tree with an axe. That was exciting and he finally finished after only a few hours of chopping. For the most part, the work aspect of the work outing was

disappointing, but at least we all had a good time hanging out in front of the fire later that evening.

-Eric Kindig

## Caving Trip

On 01 February, six members of the Outing Club went to Bear Cave in Latrobe. Christopher Cummings, Betsy Pleuss, Ryan Mitchell, John Mitchell, Messina King and Alane Benson set out early for their adventure on a beautiful February day. The hike up to the cave was unexpectedly muddy but this did not discourage these determined Grove City students. The temperature in the cave was comfortable and we eagerly explored some of the favorite spots of those who had ventured forth on previous occasions. We also crawled through an infamous tiny opening to get into the next section. It was a very enjoyable afternoon. We returned to wash our muddy clothes in the evening after an interesting trip. Some of us had never gone caving before and were fascinated by what we saw. All are looking forward to the next caving experience.

-Alane Benson

## Valentine's Weekend

Valentine's Day - the day to go out to a quiet dinner with your significant other, or sit close as you watch a movie, or shoot guns at the cabin. While the campus prepared for a romantic evening out, a few brave souls headed to the cabin to meet Tom Morris, Trent, and the gang.

It was a warm Saturday for February. A warm sun was shining (a rarity in Grove City) and the weather was perfect for hiking in the woods. Wearing light clothing, the afternoon consisted of long hikes down the Cascades to the Allegheny River, up to the Bluffs, and back to the cabin. Supper was pushed back as the eager cabin dwellers gladly shot off the many guns that accompanied Tom on his trip from New Jersey.

After the sun started to go down, a filling

dinner was eaten amid entertaining stories and loud jokes. (Did someone say that Valentine's Day was for quiet dinners?) As the night chill began to creep into the woods, the inhabitants of the cabin emptied onto the trail leading to the old cement bridge to enjoy the crisp cool air. Along the way, the new deer fence was examined as well as an old pile of deer guts. It is amazing what can intrigue an Outing Club member in the middle of the night. On the way back to the cabin a bright harvest moon rose into the clear sky for the hikers' viewing pleasure.

Sunday morning held a promise of weather similar to that of Saturday. A hike to the Iron Furnace could only be held off long enough for a filling breakfast of "aborted chicken embryo's and pigs stuffed into their own intestine." Yum! The day progressed similar to Saturday with hiking excursions and guns. What could be better?

-Betsy Pluss

### Ice Skating

The Outing Club went ice skating towards the beginning of this spring semester. Only a small group attended, but the trip was still quite fun. Ice skating was the most wintry event we could think of for a hot and sunny February day. So we headed off to Bladerunners in Cranberry. We showed our grace and skill to the rink's surface as a few of us cleaned it with our butts. Any bruises were however forgotten over an excellent Italian dinner at Galifti's. We then finished the day with a short trip into Pittsburgh.

-Ryan Mitchell

### PENNs vs Buffalo

On Saturday, 14 March, a group of Outing Club members headed to a PENNs - BUFFALO game in Pittsburgh. The trip was led by Brian Noftsier, as usual. This time we had seats in nosebleed heaven where we could see the scoreboard (unlike the previous hockey game trip where you couldn't see anything). This was my

first live hockey game and, though I wish there were only two periods, the game was okay. The Penguins tried very hard to lose. The most exciting part of the game was the gloves-come-off fight. The PENNs managed to pull off a win at 3-1. The traffic on the return trip was horrible! We waited 1 hour in the parking garage before being freed from our cement enclosure. If you ever go to see a hockey game, park somewhere other than the garage and walk or take the trolley to the arena. All in all, it was a fun trip. We got to eat junk food and hang out. About 20 other outing-clubbers attended and we even got our name on the scoreboard.

-Laura Otto

### Spring Skiing Trip

It was the middle of March before Grove City finally received enough snow for us to go skiing. Snow here is just not the same as it is in Vermont or Colorado. When we do get snow, it is usually wet and sticky—not the kind of snow for skiing. We left campus for Seven Springs, near Ligonier, PA on a sunny day in March. It was just a small group, Ryan Mitchell, Sarah Otto, and myself who neglected our assignments for Monday (who needs to do homework anyway?). Mostly, we just wanted to make sure that we didn't forget how to snowboard, having done it only once that year. It was a great evening for skiing, with slightly springish conditions. Hopefully, next winter we will get some more substantial snow.

-Dan Wiley

### About the Alumni Mailing List

Our mailing list is constantly changing and we make every effort we can to keep it up to date. The mailing list is maintained by Tom Ronksley, our treasurer. If you have any new address changes or know of anyone who has moved and have their address, please send them to Tom. If you would like a copy of the latest mailing list, you can get one by sending \$2.00 to

Tom for postage and handling at the address below.

Tom Ronksley  
4946 Simmons Drive  
Export, PA 15632  
(412) 327-7214

### **Summer Cabin Usage**

The use of the Outing Club cabin during the summer of 1998 will be the same as in past years. During the summer months Outing Club alumni, Outing Club members, and faculty can use the cabin for a weekend or vacation free of charge. Reservations are made in the following order: Outing Club alumni have first choice, active Outing Club members have second choice, college faculty have third choice, and then rental groups have fourth choice. If you stop by the cabin on a weekday, the chance of someone being there is small, but the weekends must be by reservation only. If you happen to reserve the cabin and someone in our outing club family stops by, remember it is a big cabin and make them welcome as you would any friend.

Call or write Lee McCoy for information on available dates and arrangements for keys at:

Lee McCoy  
247 Nicklin Road  
Grove City, PA 16127  
(724) 458-7003

### **Summer 1998 Canoe Trip**

The Outing Club alumni will be taking a summer canoe trip in August. The trip is for Outing Club alumni, members, and friends. The trip will be to Algonquin Park in Ontario, Canada. If you are interested, contact Tom Morris at the following address or phone number. Tom has organized many summer and winter trips to Canada. If you can make this

trip, wonderful. You should not miss this week-long, high adventure with Tom.

Tom Morris  
1693 Second Street  
Thorofare, NJ 08086-3087  
(609) 848-6945

### **Grove City College Outing Club Sixtieth Reunion**

This year, 1998, marks the sixtieth year since the founding of the Grove City College Outing Club by Esther Post and Dr. Edmund Kase. It has been a remarkable organization over the years and has been for many the most treasured memories of their college years. It is indeed a most remarkable event that our cabin was built the same year the club was founded. Plans are now being made for our sixtieth reunion on homecoming weekend 3 & 4 October 1998. We plan to have a dinner at Howard-Johnsons on Saturday evening at 6:30 and to have breakfast and lunch at the cabin on Sunday with our annual business meeting Sunday afternoon. A special mailing will be made in May or early June with detailed information on the plans for the reunion. Along with the sixtieth reunion, we plan to initiate a fund raising drive of some type to help increase our working principal and to plan for a major replacement of the cabin roof in the next few years.

We have reserved rooms at Howard-Johnsons for those of you who would like to stay there overnight. Each person will have to make their own reservations directly with Howard-Johnsons by calling (724) 748-3030 and do not forget to tell them you are with the Grove City College Outing Club Alumni group. Howard-Johnsons is located in Mercer, PA two miles south of the town at the intersection of Route 19 and Interstate 80. Hope to see you all at the sixtieth reunion. Come and bring your memories with you!

-Lee McCoy

**Outing Club 1998  
Annual Summer Outing  
June 12-13-14**

The Summer outing has been moved back to June after a good turnout last August, to allow fine tuning of plans for the gala 60th celebration the first weekend in October.

Unless we have major Spring storm damage, we will focus on access issues such as the road and drains that might cause problems with 60th activities and general items to help keep the cabin in shape. The Actives did a great job during the Fall semester with general upkeep. Hopefully this will continue this semester and we will not spend a lot of time on cleaning. Dr. Dan's super new mower from last year will make short work of any grass cutting.

To encourage maximum participation in final planning for the 60th, Saturday Dinner will be set up to allow plenty of time for any committee type work or reports, and possibly a swim if the weather cooperates.

All meals will be provided at no charge to willing helpers, I simply need a count for each meal by age group prior to June 10.

Remember **ACTIVES** in particular, alumni friends and family are all welcome.

Please feel free to call or e-mail with any questions.

Regards,

Mark Place, Alumni Cabin Manager

Mark Place  
134 East Bruceton Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

Voice Mail: 412-887-0050  
E-Mail: MP306@aol.com

Friday	Dinner	(6:30)	adults	___	kids	___
Saturday	Breakfast	(7:30)	adults	___	kids	___
Saturday	Lunch	(12:30)	adults	___	kids	___
Saturday	Dinner	(6:00)	adults	___	kids	___
Sunday	Breakfast	(7:30)	adults	___	kids	___
Sunday	Lunch	(12:30)	adults	___	kids	___

**Please deadline by June 10.**