
THE AXE AND SAW

Volume 69, Issue 1

Spring 2007

Grove City College Outing Club

www.gccoc.org

Maria Watson

Letter From the President

Dear Outing Club Members Past and Present,

Greetings! This semester has been very full for me as I became acclimated to my office. For the past semester I set the goal of having the club plan outings further in advance than before. For next semester I hope that we actives can build more order into the club's annual outings by keeping records of what was needed for each. This process has been facilitated by my predecessor, Ryan Castor. In his continued enthusiasm for the club, he, along with some classmates in Teams and Team Leadership, worked on preparing manuals for the officers. They outline responsibilities in a calendar format with space for taking notes on how events went and additional responsibilities that need to be noted. This collection of binders is a wonderful new asset, and I hope it will continue to grow in usefulness in the years to come. This will be carried out by my fellow 2007 officers, who are wonderful people. I appreciate the work they have done and the constructive input they have had. I feel we will accomplish great things next semester.

In the future there are many club events that I anticipate with excitement. The summer work outing in July will be fun. I hope to meet many new people and connect more faces with the names I have heard in stories. The ZEC canoe trip this summer will be my first extended canoe trip and I am so excited I could jump out of my skin. In the fall semester I am looking forward to seeing many of you for the Pig Roast, October 12-14.

My odyssey as president would not be complete without time spent at the cabin. Over the past few months I have been enjoying it more than ever before, with trips out there on a weekly basis. Relief of the stress

of the week comes in the instant of stepping into the cabin. There I have acquired useful skills. While I am no lumberjack I have learned the art of reducing a respectable log into small shards of kindling. I have also become more competent at concocting a meal from random items in the fridge and cupboards. I have come to the conclusion that nearly anything can be turned into soup.

Hikes have been a key part of my cabin time. As I have marked the land of Western Pennsylvania with my boot prints, it has marked my heart. The changeful beauty of the woods never ceases to amaze me. I have especially enjoyed the wildlife, which is more apparent here than in the agrarian area I come from in Ohio. The best were the flying squirrels that made themselves known on the canoe-trip-turned-into-a-hike. I love being able to see the interesting creatures God has created.

Though I am glad the schoolwork of the semester has ended, I do regret that I must depart from the presence of friends who have become very dear. To the seniors who are leaving active status and joining the ranks of alumni, I bid you all farewell. I have enjoyed spending time with you and pray that your journeys into Real Life are smooth and that you still have time to head to "no place in particular" on a regular basis.

Lastly, I would like to extend thanks to you alumni for your support of the Outing Club. Without you the cabin and the Outing Club would fade into a memory. Your interaction with the actives is one thing that I think makes the Outing Club great. To those of you whom I have met, I have enjoyed your company. To those of you who do not make it to the cabin, the legacy of appreciation for the

world beyond Grove City College you have left us has indeed enriched our lives.

Fondly,
Keegan I. Hange '08 Pres. '07



A New Member Perspective

As a second semester sophomore I had never heard of the cabin or the Outing Club. After hearing a couple friends talk about the Christmas party, asking a lot of questions and a few emails I ended up at my first meeting. That weekend I went to the cabin for the first time. It was so refreshing to find others who shared my passion for the outdoors and who equally enjoyed getting away for the weekend for some quality rest and relaxation. In the first few weekends, I learned all the tricks of the cabin and developed a genuine love for the club. Since that time I have spent almost every weekend and a few weekdays at the cabin reading by the fire, talking with good friends, hiking, and cooking in the kitchen. After a long and stressful week on campus it is so wonderful to head out to the cabin and all the familiar things of the club- driving past Spike's Place, looking at the stars while walking down to the cabin, lighting the gas lamps, chopping kindling, getting water, drinking tea or coffee by the fire, making popcorn, the list could go on and on. My time spent at the cabin and with the other members of the club through other activities has truly been a blessing to me and is definitely one of Grove City College's best kept secrets!

Sarah Lake '09

A Feast of Game

Once a year, the members of the Outing Club gather with a single purpose: to consume as many wild animals as opportunity affords. Though small in number, this year's crew downed more than their share of our furry friends. Rabbit, deer, and wild turkey yielded up delightful aromas and more delightful tastes. Outstanding in the author's memory is the venison stroganov - fall-apart tender chunks of meat in a thick, delicious burgundy sauce. All in attendance left well-satisfied, with enough wild game packed away to last until the next feast is called. Or at least until the pig roast.

Andrew Brinkerhoff '09

Work Outing

Winter work outings are all about proving how tough you are. You can choose to shovel until you've blistered your hand into a disgusting red mass and the path is clear practically back to campus. You can join the group chopping wood out back, where the men separate themselves from the boys and come in at dinner boasting of their log count.

Or you can do what I did: clean out the refrigerator. It doesn't *sound* too strenuous, does it? So how does this task prove that I'm just as tough as Craig, who wielded his mighty axe and kept the fire roaring, or Cooper, who overcame the massive drifts and made the trudge from the cabin to the parking lot doable after dark? Well, have you ever *seen* the inside of that fridge? More importantly, have you ever *smelled* it?

A little side note: the members of the Outing Club are genuinely nice people. And we like to eat good food - in large amounts. It is perfectly logical, then, that once one cooks these palatable wonders and eats one's fill, one leaves behind the leftovers for the next visitor. Splendid. Thank you. However, very rarely

are labels put on said leftovers, and they tend to build up, rot, grown tentacles, and (I swear) multiply. During this fateful work



outing, Maria and I decided that enough was enough, and (more or less) enthusiastically volunteered to prove our strength of character by tackling the refrigerator.

Who knew mold could come in so many varieties? Colors and textures of mush that I had never dreamed existed were suddenly sliming down my arm and being dumped into the trash on top of an international assortment of cheese, reduced to a similar consistency. Hey, did you know that sausage could rot? I was under the impression that it was basically preservatives in casing. No, no. It can *definitely* rot. So can onions, ranch dressing, and countless other unidentifiable substances formally classified as food.

Well, a couple of hours and many, many Lysol wipes later, we joined the group for dinner. As the wood-choppers and shovelers told their tales of strength and valor, Maria and I smiled, knowing that we had faced the ultimate horror and come out victorious. We had defeated... I mean, *cleaned*, the cabin refrigerator.

Brandy Tillow '10

Canoe Turned Hiking Trip

Being a new member of the club I have wanted to be very active in it. Being an engineering student however has made that goal a bit more difficult. But when I heard of a chance for an over night canoe trip I was on

board immediately. Never mind the physics homework that was due the next Monday. Never mind that fact that the forecast for the weekend was cloudy, windy and a high somewhere in the mid 40's. I can honestly say that I've canoed in worst conditions.

The plan was to meet out at the cabin Friday night and head for the river (I don't even remember which one, honestly I didn't care as long as there was a river) Saturday morning. Saturday morning came, along with an excellent breakfast prepared by the hands of Tom Morris I believe (as you will notice my memory isn't exactly photographic). However for reasons unknown to me, sitting and talking in the cabin seemed more inviting to everyone than canoeing in the semi-apocalyptic weather.

All was not lost however, as we soon decided to take a hike. Again being a new member I haven't had the opportunity to explore much of the area around the cabin, so while I wanted to be on the water, hiking around wasn't bad either. It turned out to be quite an adventure as we found a drainage pipe made from a hollowed out log, a porcupine, and some unidentified flying rodents. The rodents being particularly amusing since they seemed to be putting on a show for us while driving the dogs nuts.

The day was brought to a close with some more excellent cooking from Mr. Morris, followed by dessert at king's before being dropped off at campus by Esther. The canoe trip turned hiking trip was very enjoyable. Perhaps I'll find more ways to escape Hoyt and be more active in the club!

Scott Fahle '10

Indoor Climbing Extravaganza

On the bright and sunshiny (unbelievable, I know) Sunday afternoon of March 25th, a small band of adventurers from our beloved club did just what you would expect such a band to do - seek the joys and thrills that only a GCCOC outing can provide. This time it was to an indoor climbing facility at a nearby camp. Once everyone made it there, despite Cory's best efforts at losing the closely pursuing vehicles,

we set out to climb. There were plenty of people there with enough experience that everyone got the chance to climb quite a bit. We climbed, we fell, we had a grand old time overall. There was, in addition to the climbing walls, a ball suspended at the top of the facility, as well as a nearby platform. Such a contraption quickly caught the curious clubbers' eye. The idea was that you would be strapped in to the harness, ascend to the platform, and then fly to the ball, which instantly gave one the status of "daring," or some such term.



Well, that was the idea, but we quickly found out that GCCOCers are way to good at flying, either that or they are already daring and hardcore enough that this presented very little problem. John, however, decided to take this a step further and attempt a swan dive from the platform. This he did, and he was happy.

Phil Shaughnessy, '09

Senior Dinner

I couldn't believe it was actually happening. The senior dinner this year was being prepared for ME! Time flies... This

year's gracious cooks were Laura Mark, with help from Maria Watson and Sarah Lake. They took the order, went to the grocery store, and went out to the cabin early to be diligent and productive. A little later, we seniors showed up, and found delicious aromas wafting out of the kitchen. The menu was steak (grilled by Corey Gibson), mashed potatoes, Dr. Gordon's famous Caesar salad, and bread. All the food was plenteous and delicious. Ten people showed up for dinner, including the three cooks, two alumni (Corey and Adam Bush) and five seniors—Ryan Castor, Doug Haus, Valerie Nyhuis, Matt Heistand, and myself. I did my best as the Hathaway-appointed humble glutton, but managed only one large serving of everything, not the three steaks that Dave ate last year. As a surprise dessert, Laura and the girls had made an amazing, delicious caramel-brownie-chocolate-cake. With vanilla ice-cream on top, it was absolutely fantastic. It was probably the best dessert I have had all year. Thanks to all the cooks for a lovely dinner, thanks to the other seniors for making it such a great four years, thanks to the cabin for staying in one piece during my student days, and thanks to the alumni for everything they do to keep the club alive! I can't imagine my college experience without the club... it would have been dismal.

Abby Barr '07

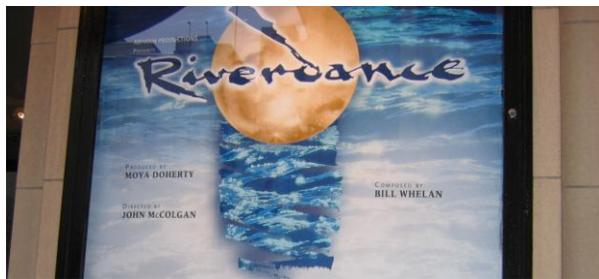


Riverdance Comes to Pittsburgh

I am always amazed at how diverse members of the outing club are! Whether rock climbing, canoeing, or just hanging out at the cabin, we like to have fun while experiencing

the great outdoors. For most of us, ripped jeans, T-shirts, and hiking boots are the norm. That's why I was surprised when I saw these same people in skirts and button-down shirts, in the beautiful Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh, watching Riverdance!

We left campus around 5:30 on Wednesday, March 28th. We were certainly a snug group, as there were 15 of us carpooling in 3 cars! Once we got to Pittsburgh, found the right parking garage, walked to Heinz Hall, and picked up our tickets, we were all pretty excited for the show to begin. And what a show it was!



Riverdance was just as amazing as it sounds! The celtic music of fiddle and flute, combined with the nimble feet of the Irish step dancers, created a magic which was almost tangible. There were some dances filled with beauty, while others created an atmosphere of tension in the room, including a dance-off between two men. They effectively drew us into their spell of danger and intrigue.

It was an amazing evening for those of us who went. I especially enjoyed the opportunity to go with my fellow outing club members! And now, I can say as I sit writing this in my bare feet and baggy T-shirt, Riverdance provided one of the most memorable times in the outing club this year!

Amanda Snead '09

Broken Bridges Aren't Quite So Broke

We started off bright and early. If bright is defined as that blissful state which one is in following a good breakfast, where one is sorely tempted to walk past the door of that 8 a.m. class and continue straight back to bed. By early, well . . . it was early. For a Saturday

morning. For college students. But, some had stayed the night in the cabin and others had made the morning drive from campus, so the crew prepared for the task at hand. The morning's goal was to do anything possible to fix up some of the bridges along the Cascades Trail. To that end, the crew grabbed work gloves, tools, and lumber and loaded the slave labor with the supplies.

What?!? No slave labor? Darn. Always have to do things the hard way.

So the crew carried the assortment of 2"x4"x10's, 2"x8"x10's, hand saws, hammers, and nails down the trail. Mika didn't carry anything.

The first bridge was crooked. The angle was bad enough that if the bridge had been covered with ice, it could have been a short slide off the side. Keegan organized some rock hunting, which led to the bridge being leveled. The old handrail (which was just lying along the bridge's base as an impromptu toe rail) was turned into a more permanent toe rail with Cory's addition of a few nails. A new handrail was cut from a 2"x4" while other pieces were used to shore up shaky supports. When completed, the resulting bridge might have actually considered safe.

The majority of the remaining work involved repairs to the steps on the suspension bridges. During that period, Sarah's work with the hammer really stood out. She was continuously blaming her problems on either the quality of the nails or the quality of the wood. She may have been better off claiming she was developing a new form of abstract art (please see included photo).

The last bridge required the repair of some repairs that were done over some rotting wood. To get those fixes done, Craig and Zach held up the bridge while Cory made the necessary adjustments.

When work on the last bridge was done, the crew hiked out. The hike up the hill was more enjoyable, as most of the lumber had been used in the repairs.

A special thanks to Cory Gibson for organizing the trail maintenance and providing tools and supplies. The rest of the

crew consisted of Keegan Hange, Esther Harclerode, Sarah Lake, Zach Shipley, and Craig Hamilton. The work was not all that bad and everyone was glad to give something



back to the trails often used by the Outing Club. Hopefully a few more people will join the fun the next time something like this is organized.

Craig Hamilton '08

Wolf Creek Clean-Up Day

On April 28th at around 9:00 am, 7 campus groups and Dr. Jenkins's Environmental Science class got together to clean up the creek with a total of approximately 70 people (including 2 professors and 5-6 grounds crew members). This year for the Hill Clean Up, we decided to work with other groups on campus in a campus-wide effort to clean the creek up. The Outing Club was one of the organizing groups for this event. Working with Tom Gregg, VP of Operations, and the grounds crew, we were able to accomplish a whole lot more than just working by ourselves. Roughly two thirds of the entire hill was cleaned. Four tires were removed, along with large mounds of trash that was in and around the creek. Along side this, many large piles of wood were made from

collecting dead fallen wood, as well as wood from the old wood mill that was located on/near the creek many years ago. The grounds crew will later dispose of the trash piles we made and will burn the wood piles.

Probably the third best part of the day (the first being our actual cleaning of the creek and second being the coffee and Danishes Operations bought for us) was the photo shoot. The college hired professional photographers to come and photograph the whole day as it was a big event for the campus. But at one point, they literally had Doug Haus (that's me writing) pose for several shots, he felt like a supermodel. I guess he may as well have been since he's dang good lookin'.



Next year, we will consider working again in a multi-group effort to clean up the creek. Thanks to all to helped out.

Doug Haus '07

Note from Lee McCoy

On January 28, 2007 Dale O. Smock passed away at age 91. Dale was one of the founding members of the original outing club and after graduation in 1942 served as faculty advisor to the club for over thirty-five years.

We are including Dale's obituary in the Axe & Saw and a note from his wife Ruth. Ruth wanted us to let you know that anyone who wants to make memorial donations to the Grove City College Outing Club Alumni Association in honor of Dale may do so.

You can make donations by contacting our treasurer Tom Ronksley at 4946 Simmons Circle, Export, PA., 15632 or e-mail Tronksle@TSTARinc.com.

We are a 501C3 non-profit tax exempt organization with a tax exempt number for anyone who needs it at any time.

Many Outing Club Alumni made it to the viewing and the memorial service.

Dale and Ruth Smock have been a part of the Grove City College community for generations. Many of you know them from your college years and many are in your professions because of them.

My dad and Dale were the best of friends belonging to the local Kiwanis Club for years and having coffee together daily when weather permitted.

Ruth is home alone now, and I would like to ask those of you who knew Dale to drop her a line at her home, give her a call or send an e-mail - Ruth Smock, 206 E. Washington Blvd., Grove City, PA., 16127. Home Phone: 724-458-9714. E-mail: dsmock@zoominternet.net.

We thank God for people like Dale and Ruth and the many years he has given them.

Ruth, on behalf of all your Outing Club Alumni members and friends, we thank you and Dale for your years of friendship and service to the community, church, college, and country.

God bless you,
Lee McCoy

Obituary of Dale O. Smock

Engineer taught at GCC, was active Tower member

Dale O. Smock of 206 E. Washington Blvd., Grove City, died at 3:37 p.m. Sunday Jan. 28, 2007 in the emergency room of Grove

City Medical Center, Pine Township, after a nine-month illness. He was 91.

Born in Cochranton on Feb. 13, 1915, he was a son of Laurence J. and Gladys May Smock.

He moved to Grove City on Aug. 11, 1942, and lived in the same house since 1957.

A 1933 graduate of Cochranton High School, Mr. Smock earned several academic degrees, including: a bachelor's degree in engineering from Grove City College in 1942; a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in 1962; and a master's degree electrical engineering from Purdue University in 1962. He also attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Mr. Smock also attended U.S. Naval Training School at Grove City College, and was an instructor in pre-radar from March 1942 to March 1945.

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, he served from May to November 1945.

He worked for Grove City College from 1942 to 1980. He became an instructor in the general engineering department in 1945, and later progressed from assistant to associate, then professor. He retired as department chairman in 1980.

A life member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, he also belonged to American Society Engineering Education; Tau Beta Pi-National Honorary Engineering Fraternity; Kiwanis Club of Grove City; and Grove City College Outing Alumni Association.

Active in Tower Presbyterian Church, Grove City, Mr. Smock was a former deacon, trustee, and elder.

On Aug. 3, 1942, he married the former Ruth Elizabeth Porter. She survives at home.

Mr. Smock was very fond of his nieces and nephews, who survive: Brenda Oakes and husband Robert, Tampa, Fla.; and Jane Hill and husband Curtis, Cochranton; four great-nieces; a great-nephew; and a great-great-niece.

He also leaves a brother, Glenn L. Smock and his wife, Twila, of Cochranton.

Mr. Smock was preceded in death by his parents.

Calling hours were Tuesday (1-30-07) in Cunnington Funeral Home Inc., Grove City.

Funeral service is at 11 a.m. today (1-30-07) in E.J. Fithian Chapel of Tower Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. John Culp, pastor, officiating.

Interment in Cochranon Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations be made to: Tower Presbyterian Church, 248 S. Broad St., Grove City 16127; or to Grove City College, 100 Campus Drive, Grove City 16127.

Letter from wife of Dale Smock to Outing Club Alumni

To my dear friends in the Outing Club Alumni,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you sent for remembering Dale. He would have been so pleased as I was. Also thanks to the many that called at the Funeral Home and a special thanks to those that attended his funeral on that sad day for me. It meant a lot to me to know you cared so much for him. In deep appreciation.

Ruth Smock
(also his brother Glenn and family)

70th Reunion Approaching

While about a year and a half away, it will soon be here. The reunion will be on October 18, 2008. We plan to have it at the Inn in Foyburg. This is where we had our 65th reunion. The food was good and the facilities were excellent. Our first reunion was in 1978 at forty years and we have had one every five years. This will be number seven.

There are many overnight facilities in the Barkeyville, Grove City and Prime Outlets areas, as well as the cabin. As the time draws near, we will let you know the details. Mark your calendar!

Homecoming this year is October 6, 2007. Don't confuse the dates.

Summer Outing 2007 – Food/fun/friends/learn a trade!

This summer's joint **student-Alumni-family, friends** outing will be held **July 19-22**. We try to rotate months every few years to accommodate different folk's schedules but July seems to work out best for most folks and so July it is again this year.

Plans for the projects this year are as usual still in flux, but we will certainly be looking for any new structural problems and will get a coat of insect resistant stain on the new shed erected in 2006. Some additional selective fire wood cutting, possible tree removal around the spring and some survey work are all on the consideration list. We will also address the normal summer housekeeping projects. We will plan on attitude adjustment and a swim down at the river each evening after dinner.



Meals will start with a late lunch on Thursday and run to lunch on Sunday. There is no charge for the meals.

If you are able to participate this year, even a day or for an afternoon, please try and call or email me before July 17th with the number of adults and children under 10 so we can plan the meals. As always if you would like to bring a special dish, or have food allergies etc. please let me know so we can plan accordingly. If there is enough interest, we will try to plan a separate children's program on Saturday. That will require more notice to coordinate volunteers.

See you soon!

Mark Place, Alumni Cabin Manager
mplace@johnplaceinc.com or 412-877-0050

Use of the cabin

As noted in past issues of the *Axe & Saw*, due to the work in progress we have been forced to curtail use of the cabin by school and alumni groups. Several groups are planning day hikes and other events in the yard, and that is great. We are sorry for the inconvenience, but until the floor, kitchen ceiling and gas line issues are resolved we must continue this policy.

Summer mowing and bug watch

We last had the cabin retreated in 2006 for a major carpenter ant attack last summer. If you see any carpenter ants or signs of the boring beetles please let us know.

Making the cabin look well used is our best defense against vandals. If you can help with regular summer mowing, please let Cory Gibson or I know. We now offer a choice of either the push mower or riding mower. We would like to get a mowing in every 3 weeks or so beginning in May. Faculty advisor (and Doc Kase look a like) Dr. Dave Gordon has volunteered to be the mowing needed judge and take a lap or two with the riding mower.

Email master and web site

If you have a new email or are looking for a classmates email, please drop Cory Gibson or m a note so that I can update our records or see if we can help. We are running about 150 folks in the database. mplace@johnplaceinc.com or cgibson@gccoc.org If you have not visited the official Outing Club web site please take a look at www.gccoc.org Cory has done a super job with this project.

Dale O. Smock '42; friend, advisor, educator, Outing Club member extraordinaire

In late January we received word that Dale had passed on after a lingering illness just before his 92 birthday. Thanks to Tom and Jane Gregg, we received word in time for several of us to travel to Grove City to share this sad time with Ruth at visitation on

January 30th or the memorial service the next day in Grove City. Flowers were sent by the club honoring Dale's many years of service.

Dale and Ruth have been such a part of so many of our lives and the activities of the club as a student and Professor that a paragraph or two can hardly do these fine people justice. Alumni VP Tom Morris offered the following capsule look at Dale's long career.

Dale was one of the charter members of the Outing Club and a member of the Adelphekos fraternity. He taught radio operations for the U.S. Navy at GCC during WWII and taught there for 37 years, retiring in 1980. As a Professor, he was Chairman of the EE Department and also advisor to the Outing Club, the Adelphekos Fraternity, and the radio station. He often served as chaperone with his wife Ruth during overnight Cabin outings. He was a true friend of the Club as well as the Adelphekos and an ardent supporter of both as well as Grove City College until the day of his death. The world is now a lesser place.

While Ruth has also contributed to community and campus life in so many ways, I think most of us always thought of them as an inseparable pair. You never seem to hear Dale or Ruth, but Dale and Ruth. I guess 64 years together is what makes that happen

Ruth has asked that anyone wishing to honor Dale make a contribution to the Outing Club Alumni Association Goucher Memorial Fund in his name. Memorials, donations and dues can be sent to Alumni Treasurer Tom Ronksley at 4946 Simmons Circle Export, PA 15632.

GCC Outing Club

The Axe and Saw Spring 2006



Lee McCoy
992 Slippery Rock Road
Grove City, PA 16127-9889
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

"Friendship, Fellowship, Fun"

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City, State 98765-4321