
THE AXE AND SAW

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Spring 2008

Grove City College Outing Club

www.gccoc.org

Brandy Tillow

Letter From the President

Greetings to all past, present, and future Outing Clubbers;

My first semester as OC President was a busy one for me but much enjoyed. As the club started its 70th year, we planned many outings. Some were poorly attended or canceled due to weather but were nonetheless much enjoyed by all those in attendance. Activities included: The annual Game Feast, climbing at Seneca Hills, a presentation about the Summer canoe trip as well as one by Tumpline in Alaska and Chile, a concert in Pittsburgh, horseback riding, planning for the 70th reunion in the fall, Wolf Creek Cleanup, Senior Dinner, and a number of work outings. As always, there were other spontaneous nights and relaxing weekends spent at the cabin playing games at the table or relaxing by the fireplace in those comfortable Adirondack chairs. In a way I pity other college organizations because they are not as blessed as our fine club to have an off campus location such as our little cabin to enjoy fellowship, friendship, and fun. Not only is the cabin a place to congregate but it is also a place to relax from the stressors of this world and school without worldly distractions. Thank you to all the active students and alumni who have contributed over the years to keeping our cabin in working condition and maintaining it for future students to use and enjoy.

As I look forward to next semester, student teaching, planning the 70th year reunion, the pig roast, and other routine outings, I am almost overwhelmed. At the same time I am very excited for what these experiences may bring. On Homecoming weekend, October 18, 2008, we will celebrate the club's 70th year in existence. Already, plans are under way as alumni organize a

banquet in Franklin and actives plan features such as a tent on lower campus, 70th year T-shirts, GCCOC stickers, meals at the cabin, and much more. This gathering of new and old members will definitely be good-humored and pleasant for all that are able to attend.

Summer is looming just around the corner. As I anticipate my summer job just a few miles down the road from our cozy cabin, I hope to see many of alumni and possibly a few actives at the cabin this summer! Until then it is my prayer that God watches over all of our members and their families. Be safe and wise in all your outdoor adventures in the coming months!

Sarah A. Lake '09

President '08

Work Outing Mission: Firewood

Last semester I hadn't attended a single work outing due to an insane course load (calc 3 and discrete math at the same time? Whose bright idea was that!), and my guilty conscience had forged in me a desire to attend as many work outings as I could this semester.

While some of the club's wonderful ladies cleaned up the cabin, the men who were present had one major goal for the weekend: Firewood. We fired up a pair of chainsaws and went to work on the pile of scrap wood in front of the cabin while another group of us set off to find a tree worthy of the cabin's fireplace. It was slow going at first, but eventually we established a system that had us moving really fast. We filled the wood box behind the cabin as well as some other wood boxes.

I must say it was a good experience. I learned that lunch tastes better after working hard all morning, not to mention when it's off

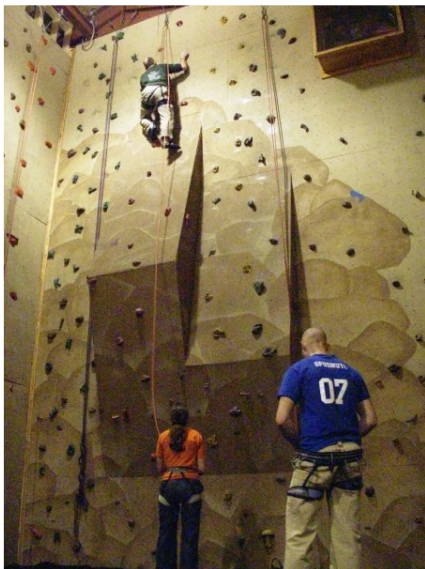
campus. It's a good feeling to work on something other than calculus and computer programming. It feels good to get outside and work with your hands after spending weeks working on paper or on a computer.

Scott Fahle '10

Allegheny Forest Adventures

The third weekend in April a few of us gents went for a short jaunt in the Allegheny National Forest, Hickory Creek Wilderness. We spent most of the first day cruising about on forest roads and picking up cryptic clues from fishermen and huntezxrs as to the whereabouts of our trailhead. A little cheese and sausage cheered us up enough that we actually found it an hour before dark. We hiked almost the whole trail the next day, stopping for the usuals—lunch by a woodland brook, tea in a grassy meadow, bludgeoning bears, etc. A wet and piney camp fire ended the day while Andrew crooned us songs from his childhood until we fell asleep like little wildebeests under their mother's warm body. We left early the next day and the forest wept.

Taylor Knight '09



(Corey climbs at Seneca Hills)

Extreme Sledding

It seems like outing club members are always up for an adventure! This past winter was no different. It was a snowy night at the cabin, and while sitting around the fireplace, a group of us decided that we wanted to go sledding. It didn't matter to us that it was dark outside!

Cory Gibson then spoke up about an amazing sledding hill that he knew about from growing up in the area. He said most of the "locals" knew that it was the best sledding hill around. It was, he informed us, actually a quarter mile downhill road which they don't plow in the winter. Perfect for sledding!

He told us that "it's a bit of a drive, but it will be worth it." So we loaded up in two cars and set out to make our first stop at Walmart to buy more sleds. Well....it turned out that they didn't have sleds anymore; they had already started to put out all of their spring merchandise! Hmm, what should we do? We finally decided to buy a plastic container to see if it would work as a sled.

After a half hour drive, we arrived at the top of the sledding hill. There were already some people there! They had a huge bonfire going and were all standing around keeping warm while others took turns going down the hill. One of the guys had his snowmobile and was pulling the sledders back up the hill. He even helped to pull all of us outing clubbers back up the hill- it certainly saved us a lot of walking!

The sledding was amazing, and soooo fast. We had to watch out at the bottom though and swerve in time to miss all the rocks. Let's just say, never buy a plastic container and use it for sledding. All you will have in the end is a bunch of plastic pieces!

We didn't get back to the cabin until around one in the morning. All in all, it was another outing club adventure worth remembering. Hopefully we will be able to go again next year.

Amanda Snead '09



(Spruce Knob hiking group)

Adventures on Spruce Knob

The last weekend of March, a group of 2006 and 07 alumni and one current active member, often mistaken for alum, gathered together for a weekend hiking adventure. Prompting this weekend getaway was the upcoming departure of Steve Dunbar into the wild wild west for his solo adventure of the summer. Those in the hiking party were Adam Neff, Dave Hathaway, Steve Dunbar, The Garmans, The Mercurios, Val Nyhuis, Adam Bush, Brady the dog, and me.

The original plan was to meet at the top of Spruce Knob in West Virginia (the highest point in the state, I think, as well as the darkest spot in the region) around 11 am. Well, of course plans never go as intended, and after all groups were accounted for and cars were shuttled to the ending trailhead, we began around 2pm. And then Tyler Garman forgot that he had forgotten to bring tent stakes or something like that; always leave it to Tyler to create some craziness. The plan was to hike 12 miles down the mountains in two days. Too bad we hiked most of it in one day, and camped about ½ mile from the trailhead.

We could not have asked for better weather or a prettier day. The hike was beautiful and there was much revelry and relaxing along the way. It was refreshing to be among my first Outing Club friends. And I was reminded again that the KGC will probably never die, no matter how far those boys get from each other.

In the end, it was a fabulous and relaxing weekend trip. No rain, no snow, one day of easy hiking (all downhill, I might add), and beautiful scenery. We said goodbye to Steve Dunbar, who is now currently working his way through the Western United States. God speed Sir Dunbar.

Laura Mark '09

Horseback riding

Hands and Hooves for Christ.

A crisp day full of standing in the barn,
Huddled near the doorway to be in the
sunshine.

Smelling horse.

Wearing a helmet, tight nylon under my chin,
Impatient to ride. A goat in the barn—
With snake eyes. Chasing it around to get the
tape off it;

Maybe just reaching out to pull the tape off
gently.

One little red horse too frisky to ride.

Two big yellow ones, too massive to move.

Trail ride to the top of a wide hill,

Views bigger than I knew Pennsylvania could
hold.

Why is not life always like this?

The up-and-down of the playful trot,

Horse and rider together riding.

Lunch time leisurely on the back porch

Socks of rainbow colors showing wet

Laughter ringing out over the beautiful hills.

At the end, a hay bale pulpit in the barn

Gives the glory and the fun and the purpose of
it all to God

Can we think of a better way to spend a
Saturday?

To play warrior princess on the back of a steed

To remember that life was meant to be full

And full of purpose.

To feel one's heart swell with the glory of
riding

And the glory of being

And the glory of knowing God.

Live courageously.

Live like you're riding a horse.

Katie McIntyre '10

Wolf Creek Clean Up

Wolf Creek Clean-Up: eating muffins, helping out the school, using loppers, and gettin' good an' dirty... What's not to love?

On April 5th, along with several other organizations, we assisted the Department of Operations with tending to the hillside that overlooks the football field. We started off at the top of the hill and worked our way downwards, raking leaves and manicuring the vegetation. At the bottom of the hill we amassed a massive pile of sticks. Working together, several of us eradicated a cluster of red dogwood intertwined with oriental bittersweet.

It was enjoyable time shared with each other and with students from other organizations.

Keegan Hange '08



(Cooper and Sarah face off on the rink)

“Spring” Break

During our "Spring Break" seven members of the outing Club, Steve, Stephanie, Jacob, Brandy, Cooper, Brett and myself traveled east to the Pocono Mountains to enjoy several days of skiing, ice hockey on the frozen Mill Pond, skating across the frozen lake, and plenty of relaxing away from the academic atmosphere of the Grove. Even though the title of our break usually makes one think of warmer weather, warmer temperatures and less layers of clothing, this was not the case of our trip. We constantly were bundling up in order to stay warm during our adventures out into the elements whether racing down the slopes or

crashing into snow banks alongside our makeshift hockey rink. Mrs. Ely made us amazing meals each day so that when our energy was nearly gone we were quickly resupplied for another round. We all returned to school exhausted but knowing that we had shared wonderful adventures together.

Sarah Lake '09

Summer Outing '08 - Food/Fun/Friends

This Summers joint **student-Alumni-family, friends** outing will be held **July 24-27**, a little later than usual. . We try to rotate the dates 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. Tree removal around the spring is the priority project this year. We finally have found someone who has developed springs to consult with and a pretty decent article on how the collection system and spring box are supposed to work. Anyone wishing a copy of the report on how to build a spring system just let me know and I will email you the article. It is certainly a change of pace from reading about the war, fuel prices or the primaries. We will also address the normal summer housekeeping projects. As always we will include 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 22nd 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. See you soon!

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

Additional information from our Alumni Cabin Manager:

Use of the cabin

As noted in past issues of the *Axe & Saw*, due to liability issues the work in progress we have been forced to curtail use of the cabin by school and alumni groups outside of the Outing Club. 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

If you see any carpenter ants or signs of the boring beetles please let us know so that we can have the place sprayed again.

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. Let us be blunt, if you have time to visit, you have time to do a little mowing. Even a chunk of the front or the back helps. Mowers (and we now have a lot of choices) and regular gas are located in the back shed. The combination is the same as the gate. Please be especially careful around the shooting area as spent brass is an accident waiting to happen. Always mow that area with the discharge chute facing the creek and away from other visitors or pets. If you find that a mower needs serviced, please let Cory Gibson or Mark Place know.

Flammable liquids storage

We have relocated all regular and mixed gas as well as oil, kerosene and paint thinners to the new shed. All cans are color coded and/or labeled. PLEASE do not purchase, donate or use plastic storage cans. Every Summer we find plastic cans that have been chewed on by critters. We are trying to acquire only good quality "safety" cans with spring loaded spouts and integral screens to protect users and the equipment.

Shooting at the cabin etiquette

If you are shooting during a visit to the cabin, please police up the brass and target area. The brass is a particular hazard to folks helping with the mowing and anyone around when mowing or weed whacking is going on.

Email master and web site

If you have a new email or are looking for a classmates email, please drop Cory Gibson or me a note so that I can update our records or see if we can help. We are running about 150 folks in the database. (cgibson@gccoc.org or mplace@johnplaceinc.com)

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.



(Our chefs- Sarah Lake, Laura Mark, and Katie McIntyre- practicing kitchen safety...?)

70th Anniversary Celebration: Homecoming Weekend 2008 October 18-19

After the very successful 40th celebration way back in 1978, at the insistence of Doc Kase, it was decided that we should meet every 5 years to maintain the friendships started in the club, to keep the spirit of the club alive and to keep folks up to date on strategic issues.

This year the committee researched several locations for rooms and a Saturday night dinner location that could meet both our needs and our budget. The decision was made to return to the site of the 40th in nearby Franklin based on affordable room and banquet rates and the proximity to the cabin and campus.

A block of rooms has been reserved under "Outing Club" for both Friday and Saturday nights. These rooms are first come first served directly with the Quality Inn (814) 437-3031. After September 22 they will be released to the public. Tom Ronksley negotiated a very good rate for the rooms.

The cabin will also be available both Friday and Saturday nights. Please let student club President Sarah Lake (lakesar@gcc.edu) know if you are planning on staying at the cabin and expect a bunk. For those over 50, all bunks are first come first served these days.

While details are still being firmed up, with some great input and assistance from the student officers, we have come up with the following schedule of activities. Details including the cost per person for each event will follow this summer in a special mailing and will also be available on the web site www.GCCOC.org.

As in past years, the student club has designed commemorative t-shirts for the 70th. Shirts can be ordered in advance for pickup at homecoming and can also be mailed for a slight additional charge. Please see the T-shirt order form for details. A limited number of shirts will also be available for sale at homecoming and at the other activities.

During the homecoming festivities on the lower campus Saturday look for an Outing Club Alumni tent. Students will be presenting information on current activities and will provide alumni with a coupon for a complimentary hot dog and soft drink at the Outing Club operated concession stand. This tent is a first for the club and it should be a great place to hookup with friends old and new.

Saturday night will feature a dinner and program at the Quality Inn. A cash bar will start at 6 PM with dinner to follow at 7 PM.

As in past years, we will be showing slide shows etc from past trips, as well as having the many scrapbooks available to enjoy.

Everyone's memories are welcome. A CD or memory stick version will make things even easier. If you are bringing slides, based on past experience we would suggest bringing your own "antique" projector. We will plan on having a laptop, digital projector and screen set up. Dress is Outing Club formal, khakis, plaid shirts, boots. Moth balls in pockets however are considered bad form. ☺

On Sunday morning activities will move to the cabin. 7 AM breakfast will be available for the earlier risers.

At 10 AM The Reverend Earl F. Fair will lead a morning service. Earl is the father of past president and faculty member Dr. Mark Fair. Earl and his wife Glenda are both Brule Lake alumni as well as Outing Club parents to Mark and brother Matt. We are pleased to welcome Earl back to our grassy pulpit where he has shared with us on past occasions.

Starting about Noon, lunch will be served. At 2 PM the annual Alumni Association business meeting will start.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact any or all of us.

Tom Ronksley- Alumni Treasurer and Chair

Phone: (724)327-7214

Email: tIronksley@uss.com

Mark Place- Cabin Manager

Phone: (412)877-0050

Email: mplace@johnplaceinc.com

Sarah Lake- Active Club President

Phone: 814(673-7937)

E-mail: lakesar@gcc.edu

70TH ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRTS!

All Proceeds from Anniversary t-shirt sales goes to the cabin Fund



Front: "70 years of GCCOC"
(shown in Cardinal Heather)



Back: "70 years of Outdoor Adventures"
(shown in Gray Heather)

To pre-order a shirt to pick up at homecoming or to have one sent to you, fill out the order form below:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Shirt Order(s): (specify **size** and **color** for each order):

Total Shirt Quantity: _____

Shirts will be reserved and available at the Outing Club's tent at homecoming and other homecoming events. Send order form to 822 Newport Terrace, Blacksburg, VA 24060 Questions? Contact Laura Mark at markle1@gcc.edu or (314) 566-7761.

OUTING CLUB STICKERS: \$3 A PIECE!!



Quantity of Design 1 _____



Quantity of Design 2 _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Total Sticker Quantity: _____ Total Price: _____

To Order: Fill out and send this form and money to Laura Mark, and include \$1 extra for shipping if you are off campus: 26 Springfield Court, St. Louis, MO 63122 or 822 Newport Terrace, Blacksburg VA 24060

Questions? Email or call Laura at markle1@gcc.edu or (314) 566-7761

GCC Outing Club

The Axe and Saw Spring 2008



(A View of the Allegheny River from the Overlook - Photo by Cooper O'Neil)

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Grove City, PA 16127-9889
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

"Friendship, Fellowship, Fun"

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