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# THE AXE AND SAW

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Grove City College Outing Club

[www.gccoc.org](http://www.gccoc.org)

Joscelyn Seaton & Rachel Schmidt

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## Greetings Alumni!

Spring is finally here! After a long and cold winter in Grove City, I am so excited to see the sun again. I hope that you have had the opportunity to venture outside and enjoy the spring blossoms. The Outing Club was very active this semester. Looking at my calendar, almost all of my weekends were filled with some type of Outing Club event. The members of the club are now some of my best friends on campus. I hope you enjoy reading their accounts of the adventures that we all have had.

This summer Lynne Fogel and I will begin writing a history of the Outing Club. Any stories that you remember would be greatly appreciated. Please read Lynne's article at the end of the newsletter for more details.

If you have any questions or would just like to reconnect with the club, we'd love to hear from you!

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## Letter from the President

This has been an incredible semester for the Outing Club, and despite it being the snowiest and coldest that many of us have ever seen, this winter didn't stop the club from going on some great outings! I would like to say thank you to all the alumni who have been a part of the club this semester. Your interaction enriches the students' time in the club and allows us to take part in outings that would otherwise be impossible. There have been several outings this semester where alumni have been involved and made each outing even better, and I know of many clubbers (myself included) who can't wait to take part in one of the epic ZEC trips which we have all heard so much about!

The club will miss several seniors as they graduate this year and join the ranks of alumni, I wish them the best and I hope they will stay active with the club even though their time here at the Grove City has come to an end! I hope that many of you will also consider joining the summer work outing at the cabin. The club really appreciates everyone who sacrifices their time to help out, and we

realize that the cabin couldn't exist without the hard work you all put into it!

The club has participated in a wide variety of outings this semester, from rock climbing and biking to running and a whole lot of backpacking. We continued the traditions of the annual Valentine's Day dinner and Beast Feast, and also played plenty of outdoor laser tag! This semester also saw the continuation of backpacking on the North Country Trail, with the club still aspiring to complete the entire Pennsylvania section! Without further ado, please sit back, relax, and enjoy reading the Spring 2014 Axe and Saw.

~Evan Avery '16

### A Spooky Night

Old man winter had gotten comfortable in November and decided he liked western PA. He didn't care whether the residents of western PA liked him or not, he was here to stay for an extended vacation. By the time the Outing Club Valentine's dinner rolled around in February many poor souls desired the cold to end and longed for even a glimmer of warmth to sweep through the region. With such a long brutal winter blanketing the land in snow, one might ask why would anyone abandon the warmth of the cabin for an adventure in the cold of night, with temperatures dipping into single digits?

For me, the answer was: "time waits for no man." I was not even supposed to be in PA but my flight to UNC was cancelled so I came to the Valentine's dinner to enjoy the fellowship that was to be had. Earlier in the semester a group of actives had made a trek to the fabled Spook Hill in Fredonia, and I had longed to go as well as it had been over a year since I had gotten to sled those slopes. Making the most of what little time I had

left in PA, I coerced seven other students to brave the cold and to leave behind the crackling fire and the glowing lights of the cabin. We began our adventure at Spook Hill. Evan A. '16, Alex K. '17, Lauren M. '15, Rachel S. '16, Liz C. '14, Annie H. '15, Sam K. '16, and I (Jedediah S. '14) piled into three cars and headed towards the hill.

Lauren, Rachel, Alex, and I were jamming away in the car when I noticed that Annie was falling way behind in her Jeep. Finally I stopped along the road and Evan pulled up behind me. Eventually Annie came pattering along in her Jeep. After a brief discussion, we learned that her transmission was going and that she had to head home. With one member down and a little saddened, the remaining 7 of us pushed on through the night until we arrived at Spook Hill.

Some serious sledding occurred for the next few hours as Spook Hill is a 1/2 mile no maintenance winter road. Let me tell you, those polar vortexes worked wonders on that hill and our sleds seemed to fly as we plunged head first down the steep hill. We raced, wrecked, and sped down the hill for hours sometimes walking back up and sometimes getting a lift in, or pulled behind, Evan's truck. What a great time, being pulled behind a truck in a sled. Trucks pulling things is the way it is supposed to be! Finally as we realized the hours were ticking away we decided to head back to the cabin or back to campus.

Evan left ahead of me as his truck was already running and warmed up. I spent a few minutes in my car warming it up and headed for the cabin. . . little did I anticipate what awaited me around the bend. . . I mean literally around the bend! You see Evan is a southern boy and not used to snow and ice on the roads. As such, he sometimes takes turns too fast and ends up in a ditch. Imagine my surprise when I pulled around the bend

and there lay Evan's truck sitting in a field.

The passengers piled out of both our vehicles and tried to push the truck out of the ditch, but the snow was too deep. Evan's tires were off the ground in the back and buried in the front. Not wanting to wait an hour for help to arrive, I hooked my little Scion Xa to Evan's truck and yanked him out. It was slow going at first, but then I remembered to put the little car in 4 wheel drive and just walked him right out. . . I will never forget the night that I had to pull a truck out with my little car. It was loads of fun and having 7 people helped immensely.

This was a good night spent with good friends and full of adventure, laughs, and tales to be told later. I usually write about big trips or grand adventures and yet I think little things like this are sometimes the most memorable. I am sure as all you alumni read these articles submitted humbly to you by current members of the club, you too will remember the great times you had as members of the club. This organization is truly a special gift that has been essential to the lives of many people throughout the past 75 years. I personally know the thing I will miss the most about Grove City is in no ways the college! Indeed it is the Outing Club I will miss: the far away exciting trips, the close-to-home adventures, day hikes, feasts, bonfires, board games, food, guns, fellowship, and the people I have had the privilege to know. I look forward to adventures as an alumnus, but I will cherish most strongly these adventures I have experienced during the last four years as a member of the greatest college organization!

~Jedediah Seltzer '14

### Valentine's Day Dinner

(Or, as the current student secretary of the club accidentally called it, The Beast Feast.)

The menu—which had been diplomatically voted upon—consisted of green beans (despite protests that glazed carrots are better), sweet potatoes with a delicious brown sugar sauce, bacon-wrapped steak, very good chocolate covered strawberries, and Cory's crême brûlée. At one point, we girls spotted the boys licking the melted chocolate from the pot into which they were dipping the strawberries. I *think* (and hope) this occurred *after* they had finished dipping the strawberries! At any rate, they managed not to eat all the chocolate—there was plenty on the strawberries.



After the food was ready and we girls had heaped our plates, we realized that even on Valentine's Day at the cabin we had managed to keep things GCC appropriate. The girls filled the table, forcing all the boys to other parts of the cabin. Once it was dish-washing time, I decided to argue with the boys washing the dishes—partly because I felt like I should help but mostly because it was fun to watch them try and throw me out of the kitchen (quite literally). I finally gave up when Cory Gibson threatened me with the propane torch. All in all, no one was harmed (excepting the cows sacrificed to

give us steak), the food was delicious, and the Valentine's Day Dinner at the GCCOC cabin was a success!

~AnnieLaurie Holfelder '15

### **Ski Trip to Hidden Valley**

On a Saturday in late February, seven Outing Clubbers and a couple friends excitedly headed out for Hidden Valley Ski Resort looking forward to spending the day skiing and snowboarding on the slopes. We were all in high spirits from the get-go, happy that the trip was able to go through as planned by Jared Matthews '15 and Josh Glessner '15, given the chance of bad weather leading up to the day of the trip. Usually, a group of Grovers would appreciate a day of 40 degree weather with a chance of rain instead of snow during the height of winter, but in this case, we were worried the warmth and rain might make for a sorry day of skiing. But luckily, as we got ready to leave Saturday morning, the skies were clear and the air was warm but brisk, and we piled into our cars and set off on the two and a half hour drive toward Hidden Valley. The group consisted of experienced skiers as well as a couple first-timers, myself included.

We arrived at Hidden Valley in the early afternoon, got our gear, and joined the crowd of skiers on the hills. It was a popular day for skiing—the weather was clear and refreshing (even nice enough for skiing in shorts!). The snow was thick and not too slushy. I remember how smooth and effortless it felt to glide through the snow as I stepped out with my skis for the first time. We rode up the lift together for our first run down, which I survived only with the help of the others after wiping out more than a few times. However, it wasn't long before I learned to balance, cut, and weave, and by the end of the day I even worked my way up to

braving a few of the black diamond slopes. We spent the rest of the afternoon skiing down the variety of runs and hills Hidden Valley has to offer and had a blast! We stayed together as a group most of the time, lifting up and riding down together, racing and dodging each other down the slopes.

After breaking to eat, we continued to ski in the lights after the sun went down and the crowds thinned out. It became much colder and the slopes became icier—the snow was slicker and wipeouts were more frequent! Thankfully, no injuries were incurred, although there were a couple close calls! Rachel Schmidt '16 discovered that skiing in shorts can be risky after falling on the cold ice with her bare skin, but she still thought it was worth it! I myself had a few hard tumbles on the steeper slopes, but looking back I appreciate them as part of the experience.

Finally, after the resort shut down for the night, we packed up our stuff and headed back toward campus. We stopped at Eat'n Park on the way back, where we spent some time eating, relaxing, and reminiscing on the fun we had. We arrived back at campus late into the night, exhausted and ready for rest. The ski trip was fun for all of us, and I personally greatly enjoyed my first experience skiing and will definitely be looking forward to any future Outing Club ski trips!

~Matt Freiling '16

### **Red River Gorge Backpacking**

Over spring break, Lauren McGarvey, Josh Glessner, Evan Avery, and I (Rachel Schmidt) gathered at Jared Matthew's house in Pittsburgh. The adventure began with a trip to the store to buy food the evening before leaving for Kentucky. After much arguing about various products, we were ready to check out. As we were about to leave, someone

commented “where are the tortillas?” After going back to get the tortillas we thought we were set this time, but we wouldn’t find out until later on the trip about another missing ingredient.

The next morning, we left chilly Pennsylvania only to find that in Kentucky, just a few days before, a snowstorm had come through the Red River Gorge area. The sun was shining, but the snow provided much entertainment. Many snowballs were thrown, some up in the sky to see who could catch them while hiking and some at one another... which ended badly when Lauren got a muddy snowball thrown in her face.

After setting up tents in the snow, we proceeded to cook dinner and start a fire. The guys were in charge of dinner and the girls worked at starting the fire... neither worked out well. After hours of melting snow in the pot and attempting to reach boiling temperatures (with a garbage bag as the lid), we made mac and cheese in warm water and added what we thought was chili meat. The so called “sloppy joe sauce” is indeed just sauce which when mixed with mac cheese creates one of the most disgusting meals any of us have ever eaten. That’s a lesson we will never forget.



After a cold night in the snow we tore down camp quickly and hiked up to Gray’s Arch, which was beautiful with the many icicles. The rest of the day we hiked towards the Indian Staircase. Since Josh and Jared had hiked this route before, we trusted them in their navigation skills. Even though the other 3 of us doubted them, their navigation skills proved successful as we arrived at the Indian Staircase in the setting sun. This time we were more efficient in setting up camp and dinner was successful with a delicious rice and chicken dinner. We made a big fire and “roasted” our socks and gloves over the fire to dry them, which resulted in some of them being melted.

The next morning on the Indian Staircase was beautiful and peaceful; we spent the morning looking out over God’s creation and soaking up the sun. Since the route we had taken the day before was now covered in ice that had fallen throughout the night, we climbed down the staircase to the road where we ate lunch sitting in the middle of a parking lot. With the sun shining we hiked throughout the day and found a beautiful campsite where we set up camp. The teamwork was phenomenal and I successfully started a fire, which turned into quite a large fire by the end of the night. We spent time playing cards, throwing trees off cliffs, and talking around the fire until late into the night.

The next morning we hiked back to the car and set out for the next adventure, which all of us were aware of except Josh. The look on Josh’s face when he realized we were going caving was priceless... he was very surprised and excited! We arrived at a cave where we met up with Helene Royster, who took us through the huge and amazing cave. We exited the cave covered in lots of mud! The sun was setting now and we still had to drive back



to the campsite to set up camp, but instead we changed our plans and went to Olive Garden for dinner... which was absolutely delicious. We then decided to drive back to Jared's house through the night, which happened to be daylight savings time, so we didn't arrive back until 4am. All in all a successful trip... and the best backpacking trip I have been on.

~Rachel Schmidt '16

### Football

Outing Club is by far the best campus organization that Grove City College offers. The people are some of the greatest that one will ever meet, the adventures memorable, and the fun endless. While Outing Club primarily puts its focus on the great outdoors, Outing Club takes care to have diverse interests and new events that are sure to provide a greater bond between all members of the club.

Joscelyn Seaton '16 thought that it would be a great idea for us to get together and have an Outing Club football game and we all agreed that it was an awesome idea. She took the time to get everything organized and the event planned! On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, about twelve Outing Clubbers took to Thorn Field for an afternoon filled with competition and fellowship.

The game was officiated by Dr. Gordon, and a stellar fan base consisting of Anna O'Neil, Robin Lawson, and Andrew Baur came to cheer on both teams. There were big passes, trick plays, and great defense brought by both teams that made for an awesome game! We found the teams were a bit uneven in the first half of the game and made some adjustments for the second half to make the game a little more competitive. Both teams battled hard and we found that Outing Club has quite a bit of talent for football.



When all was done, we all went to dinner together at Hick's and continued on the fellowship and fun that we had started down on the field. Outing Club is certainly the best club that Grove City College has to offer and with the great leaders we have, it is sure to stay that way. Outing Club seeks to grow in Christ and in relationship with the other members with all the great trips and outings we go on, but also in the other events, like this football game. Hopefully this will be a tradition that is continued in the years to come as it surely was a lot of fun!

~Matt Leatherow '16

### Hot Dog Roast

The outing club made the best of a not quite successful spring concession stand by having a hot dog roast with the leftovers. A group went out to the cabin the night of the Gala. Who wouldn't rather eat fire-roasted hot dogs and explore the great outdoors than awkwardly dance with a bunch of Grovers? Apparently only 8 outing club members would.

We began the night with a nutritious meal of hot dogs and candy. We had tons of hot dogs left over so everyone had to step up and eat as many as physically possible. Dan proved to be the preventer of wasted hot dogs by eating a whopping 7 dogs after having already eaten dinner! Robin also discovered that

roasted Swedish fish are quite delightful, but I am unsure I agree with her on this one. After a good dinner, the shenanigans, rather the completely mature and responsible activities, began.

Jed showed us how if you pick the right tree, you can climb high enough to let your weight bend the tree and bring you back to the ground. Many of us had a lot of fun doing this. Matt had a more exhilarating experience than most. While bending the tree down, he got stuck in another tree. Being wise advisors, the rest of us told him to climb higher. Heeding our advice, he climbed higher only to break the tree and fall. But all was well, and he survived with no noteworthy injuries.

We spent the rest of the night searching for porcupines since Alex had never seen one. We found 3 while hiking the trails in the state forest. None were harmed during our adventure, being only chased by a group of college students. We may have also discovered a Sasquatch, although he was never seen, only heard. It was either him or a group of intoxicated people. I choose to believe the former.

-Lauren McGarvey '15

### North Country Trail

I first became interested in the Outing Club as a freshman, but I never followed through until I finally joined the club this year as a senior. As a result, I finally experienced my first backpacking trip this semester. Although I waited until senior year, my fellow backpackers made sure I got the complete first-trip experience—including carrying the cooking pot, a task I'm told is usually reserved for freshmen.

Several members of the club have been working on completing a section of the North Country Trail, so our goal was to hike roughly 20 miles during this trip.

We started off on a beautiful, although snowy, April morning. There was something exciting about setting off into the woods knowing we didn't plan to return that night. That day, we hiked around a reservoir and along a forest stream, which the trail occasionally crossed. The elevation changes were challenging, but made finding a campsite roughly 13.5 miles later even more rewarding. I learned to put up a tent correctly, gather "dry" firewood, and even attempted to use my limited fire-building skills.



The next morning dawned still cold, but sunny. We hiked the remaining 5 miles at a more relaxed pace, enjoying the beautiful woods and warm sunshine. By the end of the trip, I was already formulating a mental wish list of backpacking gear. The trip was one of the highlights of being in the club this year, and I now hope to do a great deal more backpacking in the future.

-Katherine Wingard '14

### Running to the cabin – Evan's perspective

One day upon visiting the cabin, I decided to look back on some past log book entries and see what former clubbers had been up to. As flipped through the pages I noticed one entry which piqued my interest, it was written by two girls who a

few years prior had actually walked to the cabin. I was impressed, and immediately noted to all around me that this was totally crazy and that it is a really long ways to the cabin. If only I had known how true of a statement this was.

Partway through this incredibly snowy spring semester, in which running outside was a death-wish, I mentioned to the club that I thought we should get a group together and do something that had never before been attempted by the club (extremely ominous words considering the breadth of activities the club has participated in). I thought we should run to the cabin. The response from the club upon saying this was anything but ecstatic, with comments including the words “psychotic” and “stupid.”

I really wanted to run to the cabin though, so after a few more weeks of trying to get everyone psyched up, I decided to set the trip for one fateful Saturday. The final crew consisted of six bikers with myself running the route and Joscelyn planning on tag-teaming the run with alumnus Cory Gibson. The final route had little traffic, but was two miles longer than the normal trip, to make the run a solid 19.5 mile test of endurance.

The day of the run came and it started out quite well, with Joscelyn and myself running at a good pace and Alex Kiselica riding his bike beside us. The other bikers, unbeknownst to us, decided to ride straight to the cabin however. We didn't think of this as a problem at first, but then we remembered that they had most of the water, and all the snacks, and all the Gatorade. This was going to be interesting.

The first five or six miles rolled by with little trouble as both of us were used to running this far. Then it got a little bit harder as we approached double digits. At the halfway point I began to separate from

Joscelyn and Alex. This was ok but I quickly realized my mistake as they had the only water bottle. Now my only option was to run the last 10 miles without water. The run became even more exciting as it was a race against time because a thunderstorm was predicted to hit a little bit later in the day, and was beginning to bear down.

Another surprise came as Joscelyn decided to run the entire way! Cory notified me of this as I was running, and said that he would keep her company. I was happy to hear that Joscelyn would be finishing the entire run, and I was glad that Cory and Alex would be there for moral support. Now I just had to focus on finishing.

To my surprise, the rest of the run actually went pretty well, and I finished up without feeling like I was going to die! After cheering on Joscelyn as she completed the last leg of the run and then returning to campus afterward, both Joscelyn and I agreed that the run wasn't as bad as we thought and we will be trying again this fall!

~Evan Avery '16

### **Running to the cabin – Joscelyn's perspective**

Evan Avery and I ran 20 miles to the cabin. TWENTY WHOLE MILES! I still cannot believe it. Do you know what's funny about running 20 miles? Ten miles is only 50% of the total run. How are you supposed to encourage yourself knowing that you have 10 more miles to go after you have already run a gruesome 10?! I now have a profound respect for people that run 100 miles. Can you imagine 10 miles being only 10% of your total run? I would probably start weeping. Maybe that is what your body does when it sweats...Tears are just free-flowing from your pores.



Evan hatched the idea for the 20 mile run at the Beast Feast. As he described in his account of the run, he was on board with the idea the whole time. In contrast, I was actively finding ways that I could avoid the 20 mile ordeal. I tried to convince other actives to split the distance with me. In my perfect plan, we each would bike 10 miles and run 10 miles. Unfortunately, it looks like I will not go into politics. My persistent lobbying did not succeed. I didn't persuade any actives. Zero. Zilch. Nada.

The morning of the run was beautiful. For a March day in Grove City, Evan and I could not have asked for better running weather. It was not raining, and the temperatures were in the 50s. Five bikers joined us. One biker, Alex Kiselica, stayed with us. We really enjoyed his company.

For the first 8 miles, Evan and I kept a 9 minute mile pace. With Alex riding beside us, we engaged in guessing games and exchanged riddles. To our mutual chagrin, Alex and I had already heard the other's riddles beforehand. We never stumped each other. Not once. As our mileage accumulated, Evan and I conserved our breath and became satisfied with gazing at the wide-open countryside. I found myself marveling at the expansive cornfields and the cattle. Being outside

was so mentally refreshing after having studied in the confines of Henry Buhl Library.

At mile 11, Cory Gibson joined the group. Evan continued to run 9 minute miles, and I didn't. Cory and Alex stayed with me, and I am still so grateful for their company. To defeat the last 9 miles, I embraced a "mind over matter" battle tactic. Frankly, the last 6 miles were awful. I had asked my legs to do the impossible. They were only conditioned to run 3 miles, and I had demanded that they multiply their norm by 7. The odds of my surviving the 20 miles were almost as slim as the odds in favor of my dad winning the next Miss America pageant. If it wasn't for Cory, Alex, and their stories, I would not have made it. Cory's running tips also helped me conserve energy.

Needless to say, I was thrilled when the run was over. When I saw the gate to the cabin, I kissed it. When I saw the door to the cabin, I hugged it. When I saw food, I ate it. Out of all of my life experiences, I have never felt as accomplished as I did when I ran the 20 miles. I have never felt so tired either. Cory, Evan, and Alex were excellent running partners. I cannot wait to run to the cabin again, especially when I am in better shape for it!

~Joscelyn Seaton '16

### **Summer Outing 2014: July 31 to Aug 3**

This year's annual alumni, students, friends and family outing will be later July to see if this might work out better for folks. Based on past July weather it should be dry and good swimming in the evening, if a bit warmer for sleeping.

Right now based on recent inspection trips by the cabin team it looks like we will have a pretty light project list for a change although that can change in a minute. Every few years we get a break in the action and can really enjoy what the cabin offers.

We will of course have the usual list of general repairs, maintenance, mowing, trimming, drains and cleanup to accomplish but that list goes pretty fast with many hands. Dan Young reports a good deal of newly down wood which we will probably yard for the Actives to tackle.

As always meals will be provided starting Thursday noon and continue through Sunday noon. If you are able to join us please contact Alumni Cabin Manager Mark Place by email [mplace@johnplaceinc.com](mailto:mplace@johnplaceinc.com) or phone 412-877-0050 or Sue Knechtel [slkgeneral@hotmail.com](mailto:slkgeneral@hotmail.com) by July 28<sup>th</sup> to assist with meal planning and with any dietary concerns.

### **Summer use of the cabin.**

The cabin remains closed to use by outside groups and groups affiliated with alumni due to the ongoing repairs and liability issues. The property itself can be used as a staging or activity area. Please contact Lee McCoy 724-458-7003 or Mark Place 412-877-0050 regarding any summer activities at the cabin.

### **Shooting at the cabin**

If you shoot at the cabin please police up you target materials (and haul them home with you) and your brass. Brass in the grass becomes shrapnel when expelled through a mower chute.

Please refrain from placing targets above the top of the log back stop for safety reasons.

### **Summer Mowing**

Regular mowing is critical to a strong yard and to the lived in look that helps limit vandalism. If you have time to use the cabin, please take some time and mow as much as possible with either a push mower or the tractor. Please check the oil before using any of the equipment. The lock combo on the shed is the same as the gate. If there are any issues with any of the mowing equipment please let Mark Place or Cory Gibson know so we can get it looked at.

**Grill Use**

If you use the new propane grill please take time to clean it when you are done. If the propane is getting low, please let Cory Gibson or Mark Place know. We keep a second tank under the porch and the lock combo is the same as the gate and the shed.

**Refrigerators**

Please do not leave anything in fridge after finals week, no juice, no condiments, NOTHING. Lee, Cory and Mark have all found the gas off for several weeks and the refrigerator reeking and beyond disgusting. Please help us with this.

## Club History and Memory Book

Well, friends, it was somewhere around 1990 that Holly, former long-standing alumni historian, handed over to me several large boxes of club archive material and her title. She told me that she had been meaning to write a history of the club for years but never got around to it. She hoped that my youth and enthusiasm would lead to completion of the task. Well, it didn't. And each passing year seems to bring less available time for the project. Last year at Homecoming, I was reminded once again that the clock keeps ticking, and if this project doesn't happen soon we will have lost many great stories from years and trips gone by.

Fortunately, a new infusion of youth and enthusiasm was injected into the project when current alumni secretary Joscelyn Seaton contacted me with the very same idea Holly and I have had before her. Together, I hope that we might actually succeed. If you have an Outing Club story from your years at Grove City and beyond, one that gets retold by request, please put it in writing and send it to us! We'd love to chronicle things like: cabin outings that required chaperones, the trucks that the club used to own that were used to transport students to the cabin or even on major trips like Yellowstone National Park, fundraising activities the club used to do – like chopping and selling firewood, accounts of major trips (though not a minute by minute trip diary including every meal and portage – just a summary account!)

Send stories, copies of photos and/or memorabilia to:

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