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# THE AXE AND SAW

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Grove City College Outing Club

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

Annie Laurie Holfelder & Kate Perry

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## **Greetings, Alumni!**

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It seems like not long ago, I was writing my first Alumni Secretary letter, and now I am writing my last! This election year will not see a repeat of Kate and myself as Secretaries. I will be graduating in the spring, and Kate is looking to move into other aspects of Club leadership. I must say, it's been an exhausting, albeit rewarding, run. I have loved collecting articles from my fellow clubbers and being able to give back to one of the most unique aspects of the Outing Club—our alumni. However, as some of you may have noticed, the spring issue had a few hiccups. I'm thankful to say we worked out the kinks, with the help of Tom Ronksley and the staff at the Alumni Office. That being said, you will please take notice of a small section at the end of the newsletter. We are looking to streamline the mailing process, and this section will tell you how you can help us better serve your needs. Once again, thank you for all you do for us Actives, and may the Christmas Season find you well. Enjoy the snow and the outdoors!

—Annie Laurie Holfelder '16

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## **Attn: Fiercely Independent Alumni**

Some of you have strongly requested that your address info NOT be shared with the College. I'll be sharing addresses with GCC soon and want to be sure to honor your request. Please shoot me an email if you want me to keep your address info private.

**- Tom Ronksley**

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## **Letter from the President**

*Alex Kiselica '17*

Hello Outing Club Alumni!

Surprisingly, Grove City College and the surrounding area has experienced a lot of favorable weather this fall. The warm weather, which lasted into the beginning of November, has allowed for some of the best weather for our trips.

With the start of a new semester the club had the pleasure of welcoming many new members into our family. These new members of all ages fit right in and wasted no time in participating in the exciting outings that we have had. I know I speak for

the rest of the group when I say that we look forward to seeing what they will bring to the club in the coming years.

As always the semester was a busy one for the club. Our annual new member camping trip had an astounding fifty people that participated in the dinner, a bonfire, and a hike led by Cory Gibson. The yearly canoe trip on the Allegheny was spectacular and everyone seemed to have a great time, as usual. This semester has also seen a good bit of backpacking in the club. There were trips to Red River Gorge in Kentucky, the Adirondacks in New York, and Mount Roan, a section of the Appalachian Trail in North Carolina. The club also participated in the fall party with “Olympics,” held out at the cabin. This event included one-legged racing, log throwing, pumpkin carving, and lots of good food and fun!

The pig roast went very smoothly, and I would like to thank everyone, especially the alumni who pitched in and helped! The pig, chickens, pies, and side dishes were delicious, as evident by the little leftover food. It was great to meet everyone who was able to make it out, we ended up hosting around a hundred and fifty students, faculty, and alumni. I hope to see everyone again next year, especially if you were not able to make it this year!

I have truly enjoyed my time as president of the club this fall. It has taught me so many valuable lessons and I am truly honored to have lead the best club on campus. The memories that have and will be made with such wonderful people while being a part of the club will be the memories that I remember for the rest of my life. I hope that in reading all about the fantastic outings that we have had this semester, you

will be able to reminisce about your favorite times spent in the club.

Regards, Alex Kiselica '17

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### **Backpacking over Labor Day weekend- Adirondack Mountains**

*Evan Avery '16*

Normally Labor Day weekend is so early in the school year that backpacking trips almost never happen, either because of having to organize a trip over the summer, or due to the busyness of everyone during the first few weeks of school. This year, however, Labor Day weekend came one week later in the school year than normal, and Alex Kiselica decided in the summer that the Adirondack Mountains were calling.

It started like any other backpacking trip, we packed up the cars the night before and headed out directly after classes on Friday afternoon. The drive to the Adirondacks was fairly uneventful, with some interesting interactions with an extremely friendly cashier (Maureen), and some classic road tripping struggles (including me turning off the car before the end of the movie Inception).

My truck arrived at the parking lot deep in the dark woods at the end of several logging roads, and after searching for places to camp nearby, we decided to just bivouac in the dirt parking lot using the back of the truck and some tents. We had been able to leave earlier than the other car, so now we just had to wait. A friend of mine was also supposed to join us, but he hadn't arrived yet either. We weren't overly worried because it was a somewhat difficult drive to get to the campsite/parking lot.

It started getting late though, and so we gave both vehicles a call. Rachel's car had the wrong coordinates it turned out (my bad), so she was still about 45 minutes away. But things only got worse from there. It turns out that my friend had gotten in a car wreck on the way to the parking lot, so he wasn't going to be able to make the trip at all now (he was fine). After giving Rachel

some (correct) directions, we eventually all ended up in the same parking lot/campsite and we were ready to finally begin backpacking. A very bleak beginning indeed.

At this point things could only get better. And they did! The next morning we began backpacking and quickly realized how nice it is to backpack when the weather is superb and it is neither snowing nor below freezing! The trail and mileage were more pleasant than our average trip, and the leaves were also beginning to show tinges of color. This wasn't what made the trip special though. It was the lakes which made this trip exceptional.

Everywhere it seemed lakes surrounded the trails we were hiking. Normally this would just have been scenic, but everything changed because it was warm enough to swim. As we hiked the first day we came to a nice lean-to shelter and stopped for lunch. Due to the low mileage we were actually able to take a swim break! It was so good. As we continued hiking that day we came to a sandy beach, with the sun out and the temperature at about 75 degrees. Life was good.

After sprawling out and enjoying the sandy paradise, we continued to make our way to the first campsite. Unfortunately for us, with it being Labor Day weekend, the shelter was taken. We made do with a campsite though, and enjoyed a peaceful afternoon and evening with a long swim to another spit of land and back.

The next day we knew what we had to do. Because of the amount of people on the trail, we would have to get to the next shelter quickly to secure it for ourselves. So after another great day of hiking and meeting some other hikers whose motto was "more beers than miles," we came to a free shelter. About one minute later another hiker came through to try and grab it- we were happy to have won the race!

With plenty of time to spare, we gathered a massive amount of firewood and then hit the water again. This time, however, Rachel and I had the brilliant idea to use our mattress pads as inflatable rafts! It actually worked perfectly, and we were able to lounge on the water in the midsummer day. The entire group enjoyed doing a little exploring, always keeping a watchful eye out for the ever-present six inch leeches. After another long swim, we arrived on a different island and enjoyed basking in the sun. After appreciating the sunset, we all retreated to the campfire and had a peaceful evening, burning not even half of the wood we had collected... Oh well, a courtesy pile is never a bad thing for the next hiker.

Now it was decision time. The hike out in the morning was only going to take a few hours, which would give us time to take a side detour. Our options were a fire tower with a good view on a nearby mountain, or going by Niagara Falls on the drive back to the Grove. We chose the Falls.

So after driving out the backcountry logging roads, we made our way quickly to an Olive Garden in the ritzy town of Victor, New York. After our backpacking ritual of gorging ourselves on Italian food at the end of a backpacking trip, we made a somewhat extended stop at a police station to retrieve a lost wallet, and then proceeded to make our way to the falls.

We must have been quite the sight, an unshaven and somewhat disheveled looking crew of boisterous college students. After marveling at the power and awesomeness of the falls for some time, we all agreed that this was probably beyond our whitewater rafting capabilities. As all good things must come to an end, we sadly made our way back to the vehicles with the realization that a crushing amount of schoolwork awaited us. Only a small price to pay for a weekend of memories which will last a lifetime.

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## **An Active Member's Perspective on the New Member Outing**

*Alex Metzger '17*

Earlier in the semester, before frigid temperatures and forlorn-faced, exam-laden students graced freedom's college, the best Grove City College club hosted its new member outing at the trusty cabin. As this wasn't the first new member outing that I had attended, I knew that the bunk rooms would be saturated with Outing Clubbers, active members and hopefully-soon-to-be active members alike. As much as I enjoy sleeping in the same confined space with fifty fellow students, I decided to take the opportunity to camp out in the woods. But I'll talk about that later...

The first order of business was dinner. Kate Perry '18 and I were given the task to feed up to sixty hungry college kids with a considerably meager budget. This is a frightening task. You don't want to buy too few calories. Hungry Grovers metamorphose into ravenous wolves that eat you alive and complain about HUMA classes. We decided on spaghetti and the various items that accompany the main entrée. To our surprise, we paid drastically under-budget and bought more than enough food for the whole crew. Apparently, Outing Club members not only love the outdoors, they also are expert grocery shoppers.

After dinner, we made the obligatory campfire and s'mores, reflected on the meaning of life, and talked about the impending "night hike." The group split up into two parties: one going on a short hike to the Overlook, the other on a perilous Odyssey to the great unknown, led by our fearless alumnus, Cory Gibson. I opted for the short hike this time. After a relaxing hike coupled with stimulating conversation, my roommate (he has been with me the whole time. I just haven't mentioned him) and I left the group in search of a camping spot.

We found a clearing with a few trees to hang our hammocks. Cleverly, we set up

a rainfly, on the off-chance that we might experience a light drizzle during the night. Also, we set up the rainfly to cover only one of the hammocks. We made a little fire, ate Snickers bars, put out the fire, and then climbed into our separate hammocks for the night. At around 1:30am, as I was sleeping comfortably under my rainfly, I began to hear a slight tapping on my temporary roof. I thought to myself "How nice. A nice little drizzle. I'm sure it won't rain harder and soak my roommate, Anson, while he is sleeping." The rain subsided briefly, then at around 3:00am, celestial firehoses began to assault our place of slumber. I was still under my rainfly, awakened by the noise of the torrent. My roommate, however, did not have as pleasant of an experience. In order to escape further drenching, he staggered over to my rainfly, placed his sleeping bag on the moist ground beneath my hammock, inserted his body into said sleeping bag, and remained there motionless until morning.

In the dawn after that restless night, we packed up and made our way to the cabin for some oatmeal and much-needed coffee. After breakfast, we said our good-byes and drove back to campus. A dorm room bed had never felt so warm, dry, and comfortable as it had that first night back at the college.



## **GCCOC Pig Roast**

*Maddie Romano '19*

I am a freshman this year, I have enjoyed being a part of the Grove City College Outing Club for the past couple of months. About a month ago, I got to be a

part of the Annual Pig Roast the club puts on every year. I went up to the cabin the night before to help prep the food and the cabin for the event. It was all really fun. My friend and I were given the job of greasing the pig. I can definitely say that it was an experience that I never thought I would have. It was one of the nastiest and funniest things I have ever done. Later that night, a group of us went out to the field and we went star gazing, it was really cool, the sky was so clear that we were able to see so many shooting stars. The Outing Club has been an amazing part of my college experience so far, even though I have only gone to a couple of events, like the New Member Outing and the Fall Party. I really enjoyed being a part of this year's Pig Roast and I can't wait to be a part of more Outing Club events.



### **Red River Gorge**

*Natalie Jordan '17*

Have you ever felt as though you were destined to like something? That had been my relationship with backpacking for the majority of my life - a sense that I had already gone and enjoyed the experience though the event had never occurred.

Needless to say, backpacking had been on my bucket list, just begging to be crossed off of it.

Regardless of how much I assumed I would like backpacking, I still wanted to prepare for the case that I might not enjoy it. Backpacking attracts a very specific type of personality: one that refuels by retreat into nature and denial of luxuries while working

well with a group. Not everyone would find walking all day and chili mac enjoyable (crazy right?!). And so I mentally prepared to try and prevent disappointment.

But I loved it. I really did. The weather was splendid, the trails beautiful, and the company fun-loving. I had never been to Kentucky before, but the Red River Gorge area was rugged yet trek-able. The first day, I never realized how many different shades of green there are in the world. It was a little overwhelming at first to see so many nuances in nature. If you try and take them all in, you can't, but if you don't take the time to notice them, you are missing out. Nature seems to give a sort of paradox here: it demands to be seen but the harder you look the less you actually observe.

We stopped for lunch by the arch. After we ate, the group decided to explore the area. We climbed up on top of the arch and later bouldered near it. There was an overhang of rock above the gorge with level footing leading to it, just wide enough to get to the other side. Most of us scaled our way over and took in the view.

After the arch, we restarted our hike and detoured some of the way to the campsite, so our arrival took a little longer than expected. By the time we arrived, we were all pretty tired and ready for a meal. But before we could cook, we needed water. I went down Indian Staircase with some of the guys to get and sanitize the water. After spending all day hiking, the extra descend and climb was tiring. But the job was essential and it was rewarding to help in that way. The staircase was also a neat part of history and made you appreciate the natural geography of the land. That night, we ate (chili mac of course) and star gazed by the fire. It was truly a beautiful night and the company made it all the more memorable.

The next day's hike went by fast in comparison to the previous day's. There were a couple of uphill climbs that were intense, but they made rest all the more



sweet. We stopped for lunch on a big rock overlooking the valley. The sun was shining down and some of us took naps. Again rest never felt so good. Shortly after we left the lunch site, we were near the cars and ready to leave Kentucky.

The trip made me appreciate the little things in life that often go overlooked. It is easier to notice the blessings you have when you have been stripped down to the bare minimum. And that is rejuvenating at its weakest and transcendental at its finest.

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### **Olympics and Fall Party 2015**

*Margi Haiss '18*

This year, I had the pleasure of planning and running the Olympic Games and Fall Party with Michael Augspurger '18 and Allison Beggs '17. The games began in the early afternoon. The ground was wet, but luckily it wasn't raining when we began. There were 4 teams of three and the events included the "wheelbarrow" race, sack race, log toss, three legged race, pyramid race, and plastic snake slingin'. With so many athletic people, the games were vigorous, fast and competitive. Though, for some of the races, it felt like we were competing more against the mud, and the logs we were using as the starting line, rather than each other. We were supposed to have a race to the Christmas Tree Farm and tug of war, but the rain that began during snake slingin' brought an end to our games and we all shuffled into the cabin dripping wet.

Annie Laurie Holfelder '16 and Kate Perry '18 set about making chili for dinner while everyone else talked, played games and the winners of the games were announced. First and second place were only separated by one point. The high light of my night was making pumpkin pies with Lauren McGarvey '15 and Annie Laurie. I had the joy of watching Lauren beat pie doughs into pans and battling with Annie Laurie over pie filling. I knew we needed to get a bigger bowl, because we were making a double recipe, but Annie Laurie insisted on using a

small bowl, just to see how full we could get it. With only one can of condensed milk left, we had that bowl to its absolute maximum before I finally got to pour it over into a bigger pan. I feel like we accidentally made too many pies. We totaled eight, with four normal pies with crust and four pumpkin crisp pies, because we had more filling than crusts. After a substantial dinner of chili, rolls, baked potatoes, a HoHo cake and lots of pie, the table was covered in newspaper and the pumpkin carving began. The creations included multiple faces, a GCC symbol, DNA and a landscape carved on the pumpkin surface. From the pumpkin carving stemmed the roasting of pumpkin seeds and the competition of chugging the water produced from gutting the pumpkin. Yes, that contest was as unpleasant as it sounds, just ask Alex Kiselica '17 and Matt Leatherow '16. The night was finished off with sitting by the fire place, talking with the alumni who were present, and reminiscing on the good times of being in Outing Club.



*Brian Miller '19 and Joscelyn Seaton '16*

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### **Square Dancing**

*Joscelyn Seaton '16*

"Square Dancing has some magic to it. You may begin a square dance with a frown, but you cannot help but finish with a smile." – A Square Dancing Sage

Square dancing is back. The Outing Club has gained a renewed vigor and excitement for dancing.

The New Vernon Grange Hall began the square dance season at the beginning of October. Since the start, we have been going to the biweekly dances. We are becoming deeply immersed within the dancing community. We now have square dancing friends and square dancing jokes. Oh man, do we have some great stories! We just love square dancing.

You may remember my previous Axe and Saw entry about square dancing. I wrote it during my freshman year – in spring 2013. As a senior, I cannot believe how the time has flown. It seems like just yesterday that I went to my first square dance in New Vernon with Lee McCoy '59, Andrew Baur '13, Casey Trexler '14, and Annie Laurie Holfelder '16.

Much to my surprise, I have recognized several square-dancing friends from years past. The flirty old men are still there. The polka pros are still polka-ing! The ninety-two year old man is still alive and swinging. He can still swing me off my feet! The caller stills calls his favorite dances. The kids have grown into excellent dancers. When you walk into the room, you can still feel the excitement of the old and young couples. The cheerfulness of the square dancing community still remains.

Margi Haiss '18, Walter Greathouse '17, Annie-Laurie Holfelder '16, and Caroline Sedmak '16 are my fellow square dancing enthusiasts! Together we have shared so many laughs and have introduced many friends to the art of square dancing. Walter has become an excellent square dancer. He will spin you off your feet. If that does not work, he is a great slow dancer. Margi is an excellent recruiter. When we had more guys than girls attending the first square dance in October, Margi ran through the halls of MEP asking each of her friends to come square dancing. In the last minute, she recruited her friend Olivia – the best Polka-er on this side of the Mississippi! What a surprise! Caroline and I are suitemates.

After we return from a night of square dancing, we'll talk about it for hours in the suite bathroom! We cannot stop laughing and reminiscing about our favorite parts of the night. We have found that it is incredibly hard to fall asleep after having so much fun. My nights spent square dancing have been some of my favorite at Grove.

The Square Dancing Sage is right. It's impossible to leave a square dance without a smile on your face.

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### **Cabin Report Winter 2015**

*Mark Place '77 Alumni Cabin Manager*

Once again we had a small but enthusiastic turnout for the annual alumni-students-friends outing in late June. This group was able to complete many projects small and large in no small part because the cabin was in great shape through the efforts of the Active Club. The weather was again a factor with a beautiful 2 days followed by over an inch of rain starting late Saturday afternoon.

In addition to the usual routine maintenance projects such as mowing, trimming, gutter and drain cleaning and sweeping the entire cabin, the major project was a complete upgrade of the range area with the addition of real steps with skid resistant treads, a new bridge and major renovations to the back stop. Much of the timber for the improved backstop came from the large white pines removed from the spring area several years ago. Dan Young and Mark Fair lead the backstop renovations and Henry Limmer and Mitch Brown led the step and bridge team.

Some of the other projects completed include repairing the shed ramp, the pump was repaired and the riding mower engine received a tune-up and new push rods. All of the mowers were serviced. The spring box was cleaned and the drainage around it cleaned out. As usual Sue Knechtel and Julie Brown did a super job with meals and kitchen organization and cleaning.

### Shooting Range Reminders

When hanging targets please do not hang them on the outside two vertical timbers. They are protecting the 4x4 posts that hold the log pile in place. Some stray rounds will happen but hard core hits may affect the integrity of the back stop.

Also please pick up your brass especially when shooting from the grass. Loose brass makes for dangerous shrapnel from the lawn mowers.

Please remove decimated target material. There are always trash bags in the kitchen



### AFFIRMATIVE ACTION NEEDED

After discussion with our president and several alumni, we are planning to streamline our mailing list, eliminating those alumni who no longer wish to receive the Axe and Saw. This process will not be completed until 2017, so please be patient.

That being said, we need you to take action!

If you wish to continue receiving the Axe and Saw, please either email Annie Laurie Holfelder indicating you wish to receive the mailing or cut out the card below and mail it to me (A.L. Holfelder, address on page 1). **IF WE DO NOT HEAR FROM YOU** by Fall 2017, you will be eliminated from the list.

NOTE: This notice will run for the next several mailings. **ONCE** you have responded, your “vote will be cast” and you will be kept on the list. Thank you!

**Yes! I would like to receive the Axe and Saw in the future!**

My name is:

Any address changes:

Any comments: