
THE AXE AND SAW

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Grove City College Outing Club

www.gccoc.org

Rachel Glessner & Katie Ross

Greetings Alumni!

Welcome to another issue of The Axe & Saw! I (Katie Ross) have been honored to serve as an Alumni Secretary over this past year, and have been so blessed to be a part of this club. I am now a senior, and over the past few years I have made so many great memories and friends through Outing Club, and learned so much in the process. This semester was certainly no exception to that trend. As always, I hope you enjoy the accounts of our adventures (or sometimes misadventures).

Also, in honor of the club's recent 80th anniversary, we have chosen to include articles from several older issues of The Axe & Saw as throwbacks to earlier eras in the history of this club we all love so much. Also included is a proposal for a future alumni and actives trip to Alaska.

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Letter from the President

Ellen Albers

Here we are at the end of another incredible year in the Outing Club. As I write this, a dusting of snow is accumulating on the world outside and I keep thinking of how lovely the wood will look covered with snow and how beautiful the cabin will look in its midst as smoke rises from the chimney.

At the start of the new semester, we welcomed many new people into the family. There is something to attract just about everyone to this club whether it be cooking, outdoor activities, organizing trips, cozy cabin weekends, or connecting with people. We have enjoyed the privilege of

introducing new members to the cabin and the unique culture of Outing Club.

All these new members came just in the nick of time given that this season, the college has hosted more home football games than any season in recent memory. There was no lack of helping hands in the concession stand for every home game. Big shout out to our VP and MVP, Megan Lawson, and everyone who worked in the stand!

The Pig Roast was a smooth event thanks to the hard work of the actives and all the alumni who helped! The only hiccup was a scare on Sunday morning when the pig refused to get up to temp followed by the pig lighting up in flames during the Sunday morning worship service. We definitely didn't attempt to put out the grease fire with water... All was well. The pork was saved and fully cooked in time to be served to over 100 students, alumni, and Grove City College faculty who were in attendance. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of this great event.

Among other activities of note this semester was the celebration of the club's 80th anniversary at Homecoming. What a wonderful weekend where students can meet alumni from many different years and hear their stories, many of which put our audacious enterprises to shame.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as president of the best club on campus this fall. I hope that as you read the accounts of our escapades from the semester, you will recount your own stories and memories, preferably with a cup of something warm in hand and listening to the crackle of a fire.

Adventure is Out There!

Shelley Downward '20



Brian Miller '19 (front) & Katie Ross '19

Dolly Sods 2018 was a great trip filled with adventures. We were in West Virginia which is beautiful in the fall and we successfully started on the right side of the trail (unlike last year).

The adventures began with the trail itself. Most of the trail was just mud and I think we all deserve Olympic medals for our agility in jumping from rock to rock, hanging onto bushes, and clever destruction of vegetation to avoid it (never mind the fact that I definitely wiped out on the last day and my glove still smells disgusting from the mud). The trail was at times difficult to locate, which was perfect for more adventures. We often would be hiking along and then realize that we were no longer on a trail and hadn't been for a while, but thanks

to the navigational abilities of the crew, we were able to find our way through trees and rock towers back to the trail or what we made into a trail. Now mud was not the only natural obstacle that we had to navigate through, we also encountered several stream crossings. One stream was large enough that we couldn't go through the water with boots on and the rocks were a little too far apart to get across easily. So, we scouted out the river for a while and finally decided to just go for it. Half the group used teamwork and impressive balance to move some more rocks and get across jumping from rock to rock. The other half took off their shoes and very carefully waded across the cold stream. My Floridian feet were definitely red by the time I got across, but shout-out to Bryan Miller who stayed in the water the whole time to help us all across.

There were many more adventures on the trip such as melted shoes, free books from a gas station, difficulty with bear bags, and the nick-naming of Jeffy, but the time came for our trip to come to a close.

We had beautiful weather pretty much the whole time except for the last day which was rather cold and windy, but we made it through to our cars and rewarded ourselves with a traditional post-hiking Olive Garden dinner. We got our own private table to the side and I'm pretty sure it is because we smelled (definitely worth it). Overall, I greatly enjoyed these fall adventures and getting to know some more friends.

Labor Day Canoe Trip

Natalie Kriley '20

Over Labor Day weekend, active members of the club along with



Rachel Glessner '20 (front), Natalie Kriley '20 (middle) & Rebecca Jones '20 (back)

alumni took a short weekend trip canoeing on the Allegheny River. We set out in the early afternoon Saturday and spent the afternoon paddling down the river.

Throughout the day we played games and had squirt gun battles to pass the time. At one point we pulled off to the side of the river and climbed up the hills to a bridge where we stopped to admire the beauty of the river, while a boat below us set off firecrackers as they sped down the river. Many took the time throughout the trip to swim alongside the canoes to cool off.

That night we relaxed on an island around the fire eating Jambalaya from a box and enjoying each other's company. We pitched tents and slept while rain poured outside, soaking any clothes we had hung up to dry overnight. The next morning, we were off again for the short trip to the next launch where we got out of the river. The trip was not a long one, but it was a great chance to

relax and spend time with both alumni and actives as we entered the new school year.



Jantzen Hose '22 (left) & Grace Keibler '20

My First Pig Roast!

Jantzen Hose '22

When I signed up for Outing Club, I never expected what adventures I would go on: more specifically the Outing Club pig roast. I didn't really know what to expect when I signed up for shifts and committees, but I knew that I would do things I had probably never done before.

My weekend started with pie committee, where we had a few minor measuring errors which were fixed in the end. It was right before I left the house that I was persuaded to ride up to the cabin a lot sooner than I had planned. At the time I was unsure about why I was persuaded so heavily to be there when the pig got there. We arrived at the cabin where I met a few alumni and we ate the great food made by Tom. Then it was time to spit the pig. Little did I know that being the only freshman girl I would have to be one of the people to grease the pig. After trying to get out of it, I

ended up doing it with another new outing club girl.

Then we watched the pig get put on the spit. Around this time the group named the pig, Jessica. Then the roasting began, and I had a great time talking with alumni and actives.

Looking back, I can honestly say that my first pig roast experience was interesting. It wasn't a bad one, just a new experience that I am glad I got to have. My first pig roast experience was a success for me.

In Honor of 80 Years of GCCOC Please Enjoy these Past Club Adventures:



Rock Climbing in '98

Cory Gibson '99

Rock Climbing: September 20, 1998. Take an unseasonably warm Mid-September Saturday afternoon and 14 Outing Club members, and you have one nice combination for a rock-climbing trip. The group left campus early in the afternoon and headed for McConnell's Mill. Upon arriving at the park, we headed for the rocks above Eckert Bridge. Driving down the road, we realized that we were not the only ones with

the rock-climbing bug. The rocks were literally crawling with people. We walked around for about twenty minutes before we found a spot just to repel. We finally set up a repel station and after everyone went down, we split up into two groups to see if we could find any good climbs. We discovered two good climbs, one was a wall with few holds, and the other was on the corner of a rock face. After completing the wall with a few holds we all regrouped back at the corner face and set up two climbs there. It was getting late, and people started getting tired. Everyone completed a successful climb, and we decided to head out and grab a bite to eat before heading back to campus. We wanted to stop at Dream Spinners on 422 toward Butler to see the photo albums of the old cars, but to our dismay, the owner informed us that the albums were gone because people were stealing pictures. The meal was good anyway, even though we didn't get to see the pictures of classic cars.



Spring '03 - Fran Montemayor & Andrew Holmberg Shoot the Potato Gun the day of the Senior Dinner

Busy Outing Clubbers in '62

Heather Campbell '64

The Outing Club has just completed another busy semester. We started the year by scoring a second-place tie in the Organizational Fair in September. Our first all-club activity was a Sunday picnic at the cabin, and we were all very pleased to welcome the 53 people present.

Our next activity was a fall hike at Cook's Forest, for which the weather was extremely beautiful and cooperative.

In October our money-making endeavor was picking apples, having them pressed, and selling cider. Rather successful for our first attempt at cider-making.

For our fall cave trip, we went to the bear cave near Derry, Pennsylvania, and again enjoyed all the pleasures (and discomforts!) of caving that we previously had enjoyed at Delaney's.

For our Thanksgiving outing this year we were pleased to have Dr. and Mrs. Harker as our guests in addition to several other faculty members. Again, everyone enjoyed himself, and it was a toss-up whether it was the faculty or the students who had the most fun and did the most eating.

Our second big money-making project, selling Christmas trees, was a success; we were all sold out five days before Christmas.

The "fellas" again made their excursion into Dr. Kase's cabin in Canada during Christmas vacation to conclude the activities for 1962.

We started the new year with a weekend outing at the cabin. Then we sponsored a movie on campus, again pushing up the treasury a good bit. Skiing at

Corry would round up our activities for the semester.

Right after final exams we started in again with our annual trip to Allegany State Park in Red House, N.Y., for skiing.

Now we are eagerly anticipating our spring semester's activities, knowing they will be just as much fun as those of the fall.



Drawing from the Axe and Saw 1962

A Feast of Game in '07

Sarah Lake '09

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, 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.

Halloween Party in '05

Adam Neff '06 (President '04-'05)

The club held its annual Halloween party on Friday and Saturday, October 28-29 and it proved to be an excellent time. There was ice on my Jeep when I went to drive it out to the cabin Friday night, but the cold weather did not deter a large number of Actives and Alumni who showed up at the cabin and consumed large amounts of popcorn and cider while sitting around the fireplaces. Saturday dawned clear and bright—a perfect autumn day—and I have to admit I missed most of the morning and afternoon activities at the cabin because of a long hike, but I'm going to guess that, like most big Outing Club weekends, those activities included shooting, eating, talking, and hiking. For sophomore Keegan Hange that list of activities included cooking as well. She showed off her skills by preparing an excellent repast of authentic Mexican tacos and fresh baked Bread of the Dead (which was really good). After dark on Saturday there was a great deal of pumpkin carving and the crowds thinned out eventually to allow for a fine, quiet Saturday night at the cabin.

OUTING CLUB THEME SONG in '62

Composed by: Sue Monk, Joan Murtland, & Judy Weeber

(Sung to the tune of "I've Been Working on the Railroad")

We are going on an outing
In our Outing Club truck,

Bouncing over all the mud holes,
Hoping we won't get stuck! (we hope not)

Please don't roll us out so early,
We all stayed up too late last night.
Can't you smell the bacon burning,
And it isn't even light.

Want to take a hike?
Paddle a canoe?
We've got our own tabogan, too.
Pick up your skis,
Your old snowshoes,
It's off to break a leg or two!

No one's in the kitchen; I'm starving!
The fireplace is smoking and
The room is freezing!
Gotta get back for chapel,
And the old red truck won't start!

Cabin News!

Mark Place '77 Alumni Cabin Manager

Phase II of the renovations at the cabin, as seen by those who participated in the 80th Anniversary activities at Homecoming, are nearing completion. Chad our contractor is still working on window restoration in the wings and has masonry work to do on the fireplaces. By the time you read this update the new floor furnace should be vented and the gas lines hooked up.

The Summer Outing was earlier than normal in June as we focused on getting the yard started. Multiple triaxle dump truck loads of top soil were rough graded by the excavating contractor and then finish graded by two past presidents, Jim Black and Craig Hunt. Without their expert tractor and tiller work it would have been a monumental job. A temporary sprinkler system was installed

using a small gasoline powered pump and whenever Mother Nature did not provide enough rain, Michael Augsperger, Mark Fair, and Dave Gordon did a great job monitoring moisture, taking care of erosion issues, and top seeding. Within a few weeks we had essence of green and by Homecoming the grass was thin but gaining ground. It was a strange growing season, and more work will be required in 2019.

Thanks to Matt, Mark, Michael, Doc, TR, Dan, Cory and Henry for their cheerful raking, rototilling, and rock picking. Thanks to Sue for managing the kitchen and Jane Gregg for a super opening day lunch.

When visiting the cabin please remember that the road drains are aggressive to protect the yard from run-off, and please do not drive past the gravel at the top of the yard. The yard is still settling, and the grass cover is still limited.

The usual summer work such as cleaning the spring and checking lights and lamps was also accomplished.

Please also make sure the basement door is closed and locked if you are the last one at the cabin to leave. With the easy to use key pad like the front door, more folks



have access and the person who opened the basement may have left before you.

A last note regarding the gas lights: please remember that the valves require a push to turn the flow of gas on, and a gentle turn the opposite way to turn them off. We have had several valves damaged from turning the handle without pushing in, and that can result in an out of control lamp. If there are flames coming up around the mantle the lamp needs repaired.

Also, the gas lights are configured for use with preformed mantles. Coleman “tie on” mantles are designed for much higher gas pressure and will not provide nearly as much light. The preformed mantles do cost more but with a little care should last several semesters.

Happy Holidays!



Alaska Trip Opportunity

Jim Black '66

Are any of the Alumni or Active members of the Grove City College Outing Club interested in getting together for a trip to Alaska during the summer of 2020 or 2021?

I know many of us do not know each other, but we all belonged to the Outing Club and love the outdoors. My proposal is not to take a cruise but to travel to Alaska on the Ferries (Alaska Marine Highway) http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/vessel_amenities.shtml (this is how the natives travel).

The ferries can accommodate any size RV, accommodations are on board for overnight stays, and tents are permitted on deck. These ferries travel the same route as the cruise ships and have talks by Parks Service employees along with full service restaurants.

This trip would include travel by ferry, road, and rail and could be for anywhere from two weeks to a month. We would want to experience all of Alaska and maybe get in a little fishing and hunting.

It will take time to plan such a trip. Going as a group can be a great experience. If interested please e mail me at black43@earthlink.net or call me 740-350-2344



Vice President Megan Lawson '20 (left) & President Ellen Albers '19