

# The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Issue # 13 Month # 01

January 2009

## Welcome New Member

Mike Cunningham

## Dec 31 Harmony Silvester Celebration

In 2008 Harmony will once again be the first community in North America to welcome in the New Year. The town will kick off its afternoon celebration at 2 p.m. with the Harmony Silvester 5K Run through the town and the surrounding countryside. Awards will be given to the top finishers and there will be random prize drawings so that every runner will have a chance to win a prize. Following the race, a band will perform traditional German music on the main stage in the Harmony Square from 3:15 to 4:45 p.m. A new addition to this year's event will be Pittsburgh's Premier Magician, Chuck Caputo, who will perform from 4:45 until 5:30 on the main stage. Prior to his stage show, Magician Caputo will be performing magic tricks as he strolls through the crowd. When the magic show ends, the countdown to "New Years" will begin. At 6 p.m., which is midnight in Germany, revelers will welcome in the New Year with the Ball Drop and the Silvester Fireworks Blast. Food and drink will be available at the Harmony Inn, Otto and Gerts, and the Harmony Museum. Local merchants will have special post-Christmas sales all day. According to Council President, Jeff Smith, this event was designed with young families in mind. There is no admission charge to any of the events. The Harmony Museum will be open for tours, show a short comedy film that's a New Year's Eve tradition in Germany, and offer a pork and sauerkraut buffet dinner as the borough conducts a family-oriented New Year's Eve celebration on German time.

The Harmony Museum will offer tours for 3-5:30 p.m. for a donation, with free admission for continuous showings of "Dinner for One" at the Main Street end of the museum's Stewart Hall. The German dinner that begins at 4:30 p.m. in the main section of Stewart Hall will continue until the buffet is depleted. Its \$10 and first come first served. If you can't make it to the afternoon events, or want to party some more, join us at the Butler Ring in the Arts Festival. Call Joyce at 724.526.5407 to hook up with your BOC friends.

## January 7 Monthly Meeting

Join us on Wed Jan 7 when Tom Niggel, physical therapist and clinic director of the Butler office of Panther Physical Therapy who will discuss home treatment of outdoor injuries. Panther Physical Therapy has offices conveniently located in Southern Butler County and the North Hills at Allison Park, Butler, Wexford, and Zelienople. More information about them can be found at [www.pantherpt.com](http://www.pantherpt.com).



## Annual New Year's Day Picnic

Celebrate the New Year and keep your resolution to **Get Outside More in 2009** at our annual New Years Day picnic. It starts at 12 noon Jan 1, 2009 in Moraine State Park at McDanel's Launch Shelter. (Watch for signs) Bring a warm dish to share (electric available for crock pots, etc) Dress appropriately for the weather and hike/ bike / kayak / cross-country ski, etc depending on conditions.

## Dec 31 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Butler Ring in the Arts

An entertainment bargain, the \$10 admission button allows patrons to attend as many performances by local and regional entertainers as they can fit in between the hours of 6 PM and midnight. Several of the performances and activities will be geared for families with children, including the Magic of Tim Kutch. Other attractions include live entertainment by jazz, blues, and rock bands, classical music performances, organ recitals, and art exhibits. Admission for children between the ages of 6 and 12 is \$5 and admission for children under 6 is free. Parking will continue to be free. Buttons which will be available Dec 31 include a schedule of performances and a map of venues.

## Message from our President John Stehle

Well, I've completed one year of being BOC President. It's been fun for me, and I hope it's been the same for you. I'm excited to do it again.

As always, it's fun to be with BOC people, whether they are out doors or in. We hike and ski and paddle and all sorts of things (check the list) together - and later we get together to joke and reminisce about what we did. That's what it's all about. Many friendships have been formed over the years in the BOC, and I hope that many more will be formed out of the things we do this year.

So this year, don't miss out. Join us on or lead an outing.

Of course being president isn't that hard when there are so many talented people around doing all the work. It's incredible all the things that get accomplished in a year, and it's all thanks to you and our friends in the club. You see what has to be done and you do it. I'd like to give a big thank you to everyone who organized an event, led an outing, brought food, setup a meeting room or any of the many things that made it happen. I also want to thank those who saw a new person at a meeting or an event and make that person feel welcome. It's really what makes our club special.

Thanks for all your support, help, and participation, and here's to another fun year.

*John Stehle*

## Dec 20 Christmas Bird Count Report

We saw 22 species and 250 birds at Moraine E. of Rt 528.

Canada Goose - 5  
Tundra Swan - 19  
Mallard - 1  
Bufflehead - 2  
Ruddy Duck - 6  
Wild Turkey - 3  
Bald Eagle - 1  
Northern Harrier - 1  
Red-tailed Hawk - 5  
Ring Billed gull - 1  
Mourning Dove - 36  
Downy Woodpecker - 3  
Blue Jay - 16  
American Crow - 10  
Tufted Titmouse - 1  
Starling - 100



Red-bellied Woodpecker - 2  
Northern Flicker - 2  
Yellow-bellied Woodpecker - 1  
Bk-capped Chickadee - 21  
Eastern Bluebird - 10  
Cardinal - 4

## BOC Directory

### President

John Stehle 724.283.0191

### Vice-President

Jean Adams 724.453.1685

### Secretary

Jan Berg 724.867.0261

### Treasurer

Ben Brugmans 412.361.3623

### Backpacking

Steve Bickel 724.794.3719

### Canoeing

Joyce Appel 724.526.5407

### Database

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### Editor

[editor@butleroutdoorclub.org](mailto:editor@butleroutdoorclub.org)

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### Membership

Helen Coyne 724.776.0678

### Skiing

Paul Henry 724.347.3282

### Trails

Ron Rice 724.538.8475

### Rambles

Gina Wilson 724.772.7022

Dana Asbury 724.376.3526

### Webmaster

Dave Adams 724.453.1685

### Board Members-at-large

Carol Bickel 724.794.3719

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**“The purpose of the Butler Outdoor Club is to provide year-round outdoor activities for the enjoyment and fellowship of our members, while creating awareness, appreciation and conservation of the environment.”**

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**Visit our club website for the latest event updates and club news at**

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

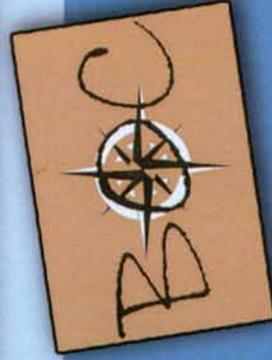


# Butler Outdoor Club

## Monthly Meetings

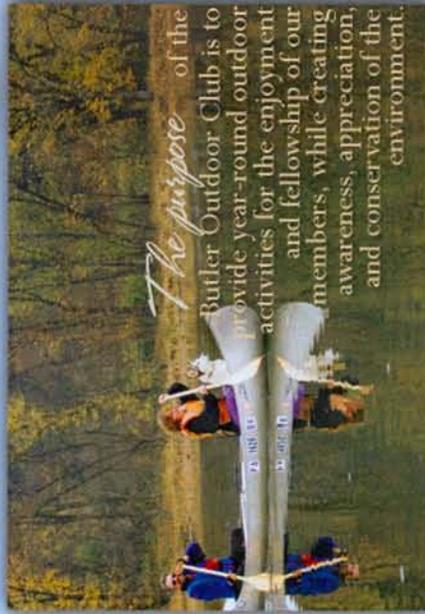
held on the first Wednesday of each month, are open to the public and include outing announcements, featured speaker, visual presentation, or outdoor educational program.

*Come Join Us*



Butler Outdoor Club  
PO Box 243  
Butler, PA 16003

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



*The purpose* of the Butler Outdoor Club is to provide year-round outdoor activities for the enjoyment and fellowship of our members, while creating awareness, appreciation, and conservation of the environment.



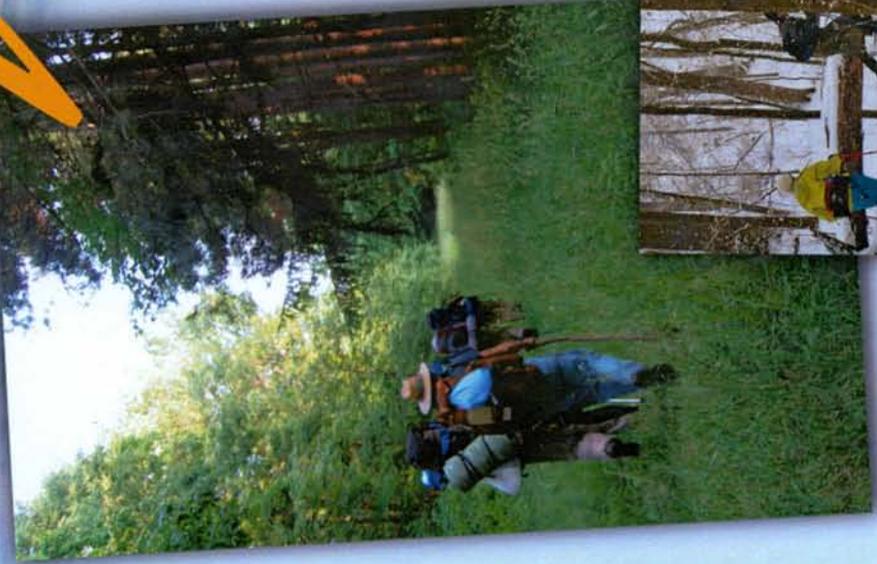
*Meet friends  
Gain new skills  
Explore the outdoors*



# Welcome To the Wonderful Outdoors

The Butler Outdoor Club promotes outdoor education and provides year-round activities in Western Pennsylvania and surrounding areas. These activities are geared for all levels and are designed to provide recreation and to foster a better understanding and responsible use of the environment.

Our activities include hiking, backpacking, biking, birding, canoeing, kayaking, XC skiing, snow shoeing, camping, and trail maintenance.



## Area Outdoor and Educational Events

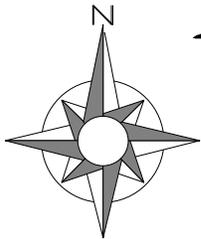
Dec 31	<p>Harmony Silvester Celebration In 2008 Harmony will once again be the first community in North America to welcome in the New Year. The town will kick off its afternoon celebration at 2 p.m. with the Harmony Silvester 5K Run through the town and the surrounding countryside. Awards will be given to the top finishers and there will be random prize drawings so that every runner will have a chance to win a prize. Following the race, a band will perform traditional German music on the main stage in the Harmony Square from 3:15 to 4:45 p.m. A new addition to this year's event will be Pittsburgh's Premier Magician, Chuck Caputo, who will perform from 4:45 until 5:30 on the main stage. Prior to his stage show, Magician Caputo will be performing magic tricks as he strolls through the crowd. When the magic show ends, the countdown to "New Years" will begin. At 6 p.m., which is midnight in Germany, revelers will welcome in the New Year with the Ball Drop and the Silvester Fireworks Blast. Food and drink will be available at the Harmony Inn, Otto and Gerts, and the Harmony Museum. Local merchants will have special post-Christmas sales all day. According to Council President, Jeff Smith, this event was designed with young families in mind. There is no admission charge to any of the events. The Harmony Museum will be open for tours, show a short comedy film that's a New Year's Eve tradition in Germany, and offer a pork and sauerkraut buffet dinner as the borough conducts a family-oriented New Year's Eve celebration on German time. The Harmony Museum will offer tours for 3-5:30 p.m. for a donation, with free admission for continuous showings of "Dinner for One" at the Main Street end of the museum's Stewart Hall. The German dinner that begins at 4:30 p.m. in the main section of Stewart Hall will continue until the buffet is depleted. Its \$10 and first come first served. Afterwards join Joyce Appel and BOC friends at the Butler or Pittsburgh New Years Eve Celebrations. Call Joyce at 724.526.5407.</p>
Dec 31	<p>5th Annual Butler Ring in the Arts An entertainment bargain, the \$10 admission button allows patrons to attend as many performances by local and regional entertainers as they can fit in between the hours of 6 PM and midnight. Several of the performances and activities will be geared for families with children, including the Magic of Tim Kutch. Other attractions include live entertainment by jazz, blues, and rock bands, classical music performances, organ recitals, and art exhibits. Admission for children between the ages of 6 and 12 is \$5 and admission for children under 6 is free. Parking will continue to be free. Buttons which will be available Dec 31 include a schedule of performances and a map of venues.</p>
Jan 1	<p>Annual New Years Day BOC picnic Noon at McDanel's Launch Shelter. Bring a warm dish to share (electric available for crock pots, etc) Hike/ Bike / Kayak / Cross-Country Ski, etc as weather permits.</p>
Jan 3	<p>Jennings Environmental Education Center Program Step Into Snowshoes Dates 1/3/2009 - 2/28/2009 Time 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Throughout the winter a limited number of free snowshoes are available for use. What a great way to explore the snowy landscape and to keep fit during the winter months! Snowshoes are available on a first come/first served basis Monday through Saturday between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. A program detailing the history of snowshoeing, snowshoe styles and snowshoe instruction will be presented every Saturday at 1:00 p.m. A valid driver's license must be provided in order to borrow. Snowshoes must remain in the park and are only available when there is at least four inches of snow cover. Please call the Center at 724-794-6011 to ensure adequate snow conditions.</p>
Jan 7	<p>BOC Monthly Meeting 6:30am at the Butler YMCA Our monthly meetings are 6:30 pm social hour, 7:30 pm announcements and 8:00 program on the first Wed. of each month usually at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington, St. Butler, Pa. Join us on Wed Jan 7 when Tom Niggel, physical therapist and clinic director of the Butler office of Panther Physical Therapy who will discuss home treatment of common injuries.</p>
Jan 9- 11	<p>Wilderness Lodge cross country ski weekend near Wattsburg, Pa. and near Peak n Peak Ski Resort - (Option to downhill ski, tube hill, hike, antique, visit Erie.) Dinner included in the price. Breakfast and lunch are on your own but can be purchased at the Lodge. This old lodge is very unique and brings out a warm hospitable glow of its own, with a "Winter Wonderland" outside. Groomed trails range from easy, harder and more difficult. Paul Henry and others can give free lessons. If you wish, bring an or'derve to share before Sat.evening meal. Wine, liquor, beer can purchased at the Lodge bar very reasonably. There</p>

	<p>is a large sitting room with couches, fireplace, TV and tables. Bring a game if you like. Reserve early because rooms fill up fast! Can rent you skis but must know ahead of time. Singles, \$75 per person. Two couples sharing a room, \$160 per couple. Private room for one couple, \$170. Joyce Appel 724-526-5407 or joyceappel@windstream.net</p>
Jan 17	<p>Jennings Environmental Education Center Program: Prairie Improvement Day Date 1/17/2009 Time 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Description Shake off those midwinter blues by pitching in at the park. The Jennings staff is looking for interested groups and individuals willing to spend a morning helping us manage our unique prairie ecosystem. Discover some of the secrets of one of Pennsylvania's last prairies, and help us keep it looking its best! Then warm up over hearty mugs of soup provided by several generous local restaurants. Each participant will receive a commemorative soup mug. Participants must be age 12 or older. Please register for this program by contacting the Center at 724-794-6011 no later than January 9.</p>
Jan 17 18	<p>Free Penna Cross Country Ski Association XC Ski Lessons at Laurel Ridge State Park Cross Country Ski Area 1:00pm Lessons are scheduled also on Jan 25, Feb 7, and Feb 21.</p>
Jan 19	<p>Let's go ice skating @ Schenley Park Ice Skating Rink in Pittsburgh on Martin Luther King Day. Venture Outdoors sponsors this annual event and its absolutely free! The activities start at 12:00am until 4:00pm. You walk past the outdoor ticket booth and enter thru the front door where Venture Outdoor has set up a Registration Table. You get a ticket for free ice skate rental . There are many other activities including roasting marshmallows for s'mores, crafts, sleds available if there is snow and munchies. You may purchase hot chocolate and hot dogs. Joanne Winwood 412.371.3167</p>
Jan 23-25	<p>Jennings Environmental Education Center Winter Mountain Adventure Description The Laurel Hill Lodge will be our home for the weekend as we spend two days exploring the beautiful Laurel Highlands in winter. Let Jennings, Laurel Hill and Ohiopyle staff be your guides for this overnight, all inclusive winter adventure. Learn or perfect your cross country skiing skills on the trails at Laurel Ridge Ski Area. Discover the science behind snowflakes, then free your inner child to play in the snow. Trek on snowshoes among the giants of an old growth hemlock forest. Experience the crispness of a winter night from a horse-drawn sleigh. Relax by a warm fire, and enjoy the lovely scenery and ambiance of Laurel Hill Lodge. Enjoy great food, good fun, and new friends! Overnight accommodations, interpretive programs and instruction, equipment rental and meals are included in one low fee of \$225.00. The adventure begins on Friday, January 23 at 6:00 p.m. at Jennings and concludes Sunday, January 25 at 4:00 p.m. at Jennings. This Outdoor Adventure is designed for congenial people over the age of 18 who are in relatively good physical condition. Enrollment is limited. Participants must register by contacting the Center at 724-794-6011 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday no later than January 9.</p>
Jan 30-Feb 1	<p>Ski/Cabin Weekend at Prince Galitzen State Park - Friday January 30 to Sunday February 1, 2009 Cost is \$38.00 per person (of any age) Accommodations are in heated Modern State Park Cabins Include indoor bathrooms w/ shower, full kitchen, and two to three bedrooms depending on cabin. Pets are not allowed. Bring your own bedding, towels, shower supplies, cookware, utensils and food. I have booked three six and three eight person cabins, but they are now full. Call to be put on the waiting list or I can give you the number to call and book your own cabin. Check in after 3:00 pm on Friday and check out by 10:00 am on Sunday. We plan to have a "Hash Run" and "Scavenger Hunt" with prizes. Cabins are right on the Glendale lake for possible ice fishing, walking on if frozen or kayaking or canoeing if it is warm. If there is snow we can also cross country ski on trails near the cabins. They do not rent skis at the park so you will need to bring your own or get in touch with Joyce Appel and Paul Henry. They are coming and can fix you up with skis and shoes. (724-525-5407 or joyceappel@windstream.net )Nancy Barnes 724-502-4019 or nsbarnes@zoominternet.net</p>
Jan 30-Feb 1	<p>Explorer Club Wilderness Lodge Cross Country Ski Weekends Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2009 and February 6-8, 2009 Wilderness Lodge is a great place to get away for the weekend. It has a rustic lodge with a beautiful wooded trail system. Ryan and Holly Janes have been busy making some upgrades to the bathrooms. The weekend package includes Friday and Saturday night lodging and Saturday night family style supper.</p>

<p>and Feb 6 - 8</p>	<p>Breakfasts and lunches are available for a modest additional cost but feel free to bring your own food or snacks. The Lodge has a licensed bar with modest prices so we are not allowed to bring our own alcoholic beverages for consumption in the common areas. Ski rentals are available for \$8. and the trail fee is \$15. Double rooms are still limited and go fast so book early. Singles are hostel style with three to five beds to a room. Reservations will be firm only when I receive your check in person or in the mail. Please make checks out to Marianne Kasica. There are no refunds within 3 weeks of the weekend that you have registered for but you may find a same sex replacement for yourself. I will confirm your reservation by email or by telephone. If you have any questions, call Marianne Kasica at 412 665-9554, evenings or email me at <a href="mailto:marianne@pitt.edu">marianne@pitt.edu</a> . Wilderness Lodge is located at 13488 Weeks Valley Road, Wattsburg, PA 16442, east of Erie and close to the NY state line. Telephone is 814-739-2946. If you need directions check the Wilderness Lodge website (<a href="http://thewildernesslodge.net/">http://thewildernesslodge.net/</a>). If you are going to be in late on Friday or not arrive until Saturday morning, please call and let us know. Since this trip goes out to many people and clubs, please fill out the accompanying registration form and sign the waiver. Singles: \$80 per person for the weekend Doubles: \$196 for two people for the weekend Double rooms are limited and go fast so book early. Singles are hostel style with three to five beds to a room. See you when the snow flies. Marianne Kasica <a href="#">Registration form</a></p>
<p>Feb 7</p>	<p>Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy Winter Outing 10:30am - 3:00pm Join us for a 5-6 mile deep winter hike from the Harmony Trail to the Rachel Carson Trail. We'll meet at the Beaver Shelter on Babcock Blvd. in North Park and carpool to the start at the Harmony Trailhead on Rt 910. Ten we'll follow the Harmony Trail to the Brooktree spur, to the Bluebird Trail, to the Braille Trail, to the North Ridge Trail, and end at the Rachel Carson Trail western trailhead. Moderate difficulty (decent sized hills at Brooktree and going up to the North Ridge, otherwise gently rolling) Hot tea, cocoa, and treats afterwards. For details and to sign up, contact Mark Eyerman at 412.492.0375 or <a href="mailto:bongofury@verizon.net">bongofury@verizon.net</a> or Marian Crossman at 412.366.3339 or <a href="mailto:dmc@pitt.edu">dmc@pitt.edu</a>. Free and open to all.</p>
<p>Feb 20- 22</p>	<p>Allegheny State Park cross country ski weekend near Salamanca, NY - (Option to snowshoe, hike or sightsee) Cardboard sled race and potluck dinner Sat. You have time now to think of a great cardboard sled to make so get started! There is no limit to your imagination...last year proved that! Prizes for fastest, funniest, and most unique sleds. We will have the warming hut to get together Friday and Sat.evening to socialize and for Sat.potluck, so bring a game. Groomed trails here are the best around, built and sloped just for skiing.(Easy, intermediate and more challenging) Paul Henry and others can give free lessons. Breakfast and lunches are on your own but cabins have stove, oven and refrigerator. Reserve early because cabins fill up fast! Can rent you skis or snowshoes also but must know ahead of time. Singles with 4-6 per cabin, \$45 per person. 2 couples per cabin, \$100 per couple. Joyce Appel 724-526-5407 or <a href="mailto:joyceappel@windstream.net">joyceappel@windstream.net</a></p>
<p>July 10- 19</p>	<p>BOC Maine Campout Joyce Appel and Paul Henry plan to coordinate our annual campout this year at the camp of Carol and John Gregory, who were some of our original BOC members and still are !!! It is located near Acadia National Park in Maine. Limited space to sleep in the camp but we will also take tents to accomodate people in the large yard. Plan to rent a 12 passenger van, maybe two if enough are interested. We will pull a trailer with canoes and if we have a second van, we will pull an extra car. We will leave Friday night or Sat.morning and head home the following Sat., getting back Sun. There will be lots to do. The camp is on a large lake where you can hike or paddle. Hiking trails, biking, other boating places, festivals, museums, quaint towns and villages are all nearby, besides Acadia National Park which is along the ocean where you can tour around, walk around, hike, bike etc., and Baxter State Park in central Maine where you can hike around the bottom or hike to the top of Katahdin, largest mt.peak in Maine. I strongly advise the Katahdin hike for those of you who like to hike and John Gregory would love to lead you on that trip...a hike you will never forget and cannot be described. It will be a wonderful time and it has been a dream of John and Carol to buy a camp where BOC could come up and have a campout!!! So their dream has come true and we heading there this summer for a week of fun and fellowship. Call or email Joyce for details and plans. Plan to join us by getting days off work if needed and mark your calendar. Joyce Appel 724-526-5407 or <a href="mailto:joyceappel@windstream.net">joyceappel@windstream.net</a>.</p>



**Steve & Carol Bickel, Dorothy Weisberg, Dave Adams, Tom Baumbardner  
and John Stehle participate in the Xmas Bird Count at Moraine State Park**



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**Butler Outdoor Club  
PO Box 243  
Butler, Pa 16003-0243**