

The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Issue # 14 Month # 1

January 2010

New BOC Board Members

Mike Daily and Tammy Veloski were appointed as club co-vice presidents at our last board meeting.

Tammy Veloski enjoys hiking, taking pictures, canoeing, caving, rock climbing, and camping. She plans to try xc-country skiing and snowshoeing at Wilderness Lodge, and hopefully will add those to her interests. Tammy is displaying her new gps which will help her keep John Stehle's hiking mileages accurate.



Mike Daily enjoys kayaking, canoeing, sailing, trail biking, xc-skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating and camping.

12 BOC members and supporters had a fun time wrapping presents for Christmas shoppers at LL Bean on Friday Dec 18. Everyone was in the Christmas spirit with the added benefit of \$124 in tips and a \$200 donation from LL Bean. Thanks to following for coming (Helen Coyne, Ed and Dottie Scurry, Sandy Devonshire, Dorothy Weisberg, Kathleen Griffin, Sandra Simpson, Tom and Boop Baumgardner, Jan Berg, Joyce Appel, Paul Henry, John Stehle; and thanks to Dave Adams for arranging it.



Jan 6 Monthly Meeting

Our monthly meetings are at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington, St. Butler, Pa. Join us at 6:30 pm Wed. Jan 6 when Paul and Joyce relive their 10,000 kilometer trip with Linda X through the "Wild West of Canada."... from the dinosaur fossil-laden bad lands of Alberta through British Columbia's Jasper and Banff in the /Rocky Mts. to the last remaining herds of Wood Bison, north of the 60th parallel in the Northwest Territory. See the off the beaten path sites that most tourists never experience. Train robbery! Aboriginal history! Wildlife! Spectacular scenery! For more information call John Stehle Cell 724-256-0674

Volunteer Vacations

The American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations are a series of trail stewardship projects on America's public lands. Part volunteer trail work project, part kick-back outdoor vacation. Groups of 6 to 15 volunteers work one or two weeks on a project. All trips are now listed www.americanhiking.org Check them out. Make new friends, experience a great sense of accomplishment, observe nature up close, and give back to the trails you love.

Chautauqua Wine & Chocolate tour

Celebrate Valentine's Day or just make a winter - get-away on February 6 & 7 on the Chautauqua Lake Erie Wine Trail. Each winery will pair a unique chocolate creation with a special wine. \$35 per person/ \$60 per couple Tour begins in Erie and runs to 14 wineries along the lake to Fredonia, NY. Reservations can be made at a wonderful B & B for Saturday night. Call or email Carol and Steve Bickel for more details. 724 794 3719 or sbickel794@aol.com Check out more details at www.chautauquawinetrail.org This tour sells out so tickets must be purchased early.

From the President's Desk

At the December 2009 board meeting, we elected three officers to serve in 2010. I would like to welcome Steve Bickel as our new Treasurer. And thanks to outgoing Ben Brugmans for 2 years as our Treasurer.

Jan Berg agreed to run for another term as Secretary. Thanks for your continued service to the club.

Jean Adams didn't run as vice-president after serving for two years and two years as president. Thanks, Jean, for all you did in those years.

Two new board members, Mike Daily and Tammy Veloski. were appointed as co-vice-presidents. For issues requiring the vote of the elected officers, their vote would count as one. I greatly look forward to their contributions to the board.

I also agreed to run for a third and last term as president, and was re-elected at the December meeting. Thanks for you vote of confidence. I look forward to a good year.

I also want to thank the regular members of the board who fill the committee chairmanships or regularly come to the board meeting : Ron Rice, Joyce Appel, Paul Henry, Gina Hench, Dana Asbury, Tom Baumgardner, Helen Coyne, Dave Adams, and Carol Bickel. They are the ones who keep the club going.

Also, the time our board of directors meeting has changed to the third Monday of the month, from the third Tuesday of the month.

BOC Christmas Bird Count tallied 22 species and 446 birds. The adventurous participants were Steve Bickel, Dorothy Weisberg, Bill Klobnetz, George Moser, Tom Baumgardner, and John Stehle

We started at Swamp Road at 7:30 AM, moving to South Country Club Road, then Isle Road, then to the Church at 528, then the launch at the 528 bridge and the road along the water, then the next launch along 528; then Barkley Road ending at the Lake, then the trail head along Barton Road. We finished at around 2:00 PM when we went over to the Bickel's for a hot chilli lunch.

The weather was mostly snowy and overcast with a temperature of 25. A great time was held by all.

BOC Directory

President

John Stehle 724.283.0191

Co-Vice-Presidents

Tammy Veloski

painthorse_33@yahoo.com

Mike Dailey 724.452.7870

Secretary

Jan Berg 724.867.0261

Treasurer

Steve Bickel 724.794.3719

Backpacking

Steve Bickel 724.794.3719

Canoeing

Joyce Appel 724.526.5407

Database

Tom Baumgardner 724.794.4913

Editor, Webmaster

Dave Adams 724.453.1685

editor@butleroutdoorclub.org

Hiking

Tom Baumgardner 724.794.4913

Membership

Helen Coyne 724.776.0678

Skiing

Paul Henry 724.347.3282

Trails

Ron Rice 724.538.8475

Rambles

Gina Collela Hench 724.712.6695

Dana Asbury 724. 376.3526

Board Members-at-large

Carol Bickel 724.794.3719

“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.”

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

www.butleroutdoorclub.org

Tour de NCTA Stage 9

For stage 9 of the tour de NCT of PA, 10 hikers showed up for a perfect December morning, with a light overcast no wind and around 28 degrees. A perfect day for a walk.



We met at the Glades Dam parking lot and shuttled over to Leonard road to begin the 7.5 mile trek through State Game Lands 95. It was the first Sunday during deer

season, and we saw neither fur nor feather for the most of the hike. The first half of the trail stays along a wide valley, going through meadows, woods and along lakes, beaver dams and creeks. Thanks to the care of the Butler Chapter, the trail was in great shape, and because of that we made excellent time. Before we knew it, we were at Vulture Rocks for our lunch break.

It seemed so fast that I thought that I overestimated the length again, like I did on Stage 8. But it turns out we were just making excellent time, around 3 mph.



After lunch the sun came out full and warmed us for the rest of the hike. At around the 6 mile point we took a side excursion to see the overnight camping area, called Tamarack Trails at the Glades Camp Site.



This area is adjacent to the state game lands and provides a place for the through hiker to stay overnight.

And we want to give a special thanks to Bill Stegman who is the adopter of this last segment. We finished the hike in good time, and many of us were able to return to the trail head at Leonard Road where the local Glass Blowing Center was having a holiday open house. The craftsman were demonstrating their art and we were able to check out their many fine items for sale. The Glass Blowing Center also is eager to cooperate with the NCT as regards providing facilities for hikers.

The Tour may take a break for a couple of months and resume in March 2010. If you want to join us, call John Stehle to confirm and for directions at stehles@yahoo.com or 724-256-0674.

NCTA Photo Contest



Hello Pennsylvania NCTA

and friends! I put a selection of 50 or so photos online for voting. Now **YOU get to choose** who wins! Winners will be announced next Tuesday, Jan. 5, Here's what you need to do:

1) Go to this link:

<http://www.facebook.com/northcountrytrail>

2) If you haven't signed up for facebook yet, now is the time to do it! There's a green button right on the page that says "sign up"-- It will walk you through the steps. If you have an account, log in!

3) After signing up or logging in, return to the link <http://www.facebook.com/northcountrytrail> and (if you haven't already,) click on the "**Become a Fan**" button at the almost-top center of the page. (This is necessary for voting! Plus, when you click that button, you become part of the group and get updates about the NCT!)

4) Click where it says "2009 PA NCT Photography Contest" next to a picture of a yellow newt. Can't find the link? Use this one: <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=135551&id=50064785815&ref=mf>

5) Voilà! You've found the album. Now go through the pictures (Click on the first one, then select "next" to look through the rest of the album.)

6) When you find a picture you like, look beneath it for the word "**like**" (next to the word "comment"-- you can comment, too, but "like" is the important part because that is what will be tallied). **Click on "like,"** and the page will reload... Beneath the picture it should say something like "You like this" with a thumbs up sign.

You did it! That's all you have to do to vote (really, it's easy... so give it a try)! You can vote for as many pictures as you want... but remember to get all your votes in **before next Tuesday!** Then stay tuned-- I'll be announcing the winners!! Good luck to the entrants-- and to the rest of you, if you need ANY help with facebook or voting, please email me pacc@northcountrytrail.org or call me (724-368-8811)

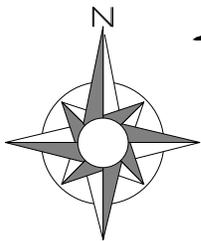
Area Outdoor Activities and Events

Jan 1	New Years Day Picnic, noon at McDanel's Launch Shelter, Moraine State Park North Shore. Bring a warm dish or drink to share. No electric will be available. Bring your camping stoves, etc. Hike, bike, paddle, xc-ski, sled as weather permits.
Jan Feb	Throughout the month of Jan. and Feb.- We will cross country ski as snow conditions permit us to do so. A notice will be sent out to BOC members when we decide to have a pickup trip. We can fix you up with skis and boots also. Joyce Appel and Paul Henry 724-526-5407
Jan 6	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. Each meeting includes outing announcements, a featured speaker and slide show or outdoor educational program and is open to the public. Join us on Jan 6 when Paul and Joyce relive their 10,000 kilometer trip with Linda X through the "Wild West of Canada."from the dinosaur fossil-laden bad lands of Alberta through British Columbia's Jasper and Banff in the /Rocky Mts. to the last remaining herds of Wood Bison, north of the 60th parallel in the Northwest Territory. See the off the beaten path sites that most tourists never experience. Train robbery! Aboriginal history! Wildlife! Spectacular scenery!
Jan 9 10	Jan. 9th - 10th Backpacking on the Laurel Highlands Trail. We will be parking at the Rte. 653 parking area and hiking a moderate 5 1/2 miles to the Grindel Ridge shelters and returning to our cars on Sun. Contact Joe at 724-924-9248-- hardis123@msn.com
Jan 8 10	BOC Winter Weekend (Fri.-Sun.) Wilderness Lodge near Wattsburg, PA. Hike, snowshoe or ski. Rentals available. We stay at a very rustic, antique lodge with a great home cooked dinner included Sat. night. You can purchase breakfast and lunch separately. Trails are groomed and marked easy, moderate and difficult, so they are good for beginners or experienced. Before the Sat. dinner, we will have a Happy Hour with our derves, cheese and wine. Bring something to share if you like. Laws prohibit taking your own bottle and drinking it in the Lodge, must be kept inside your bedroom. Otherwise, you can buy bottles from the Lodge Bar, very reasonable, and can drink it anywhere in the Lodge. I advise buying your bottle there rather than bringing your own. Prices are for the whole weekend. \$76 per person, singles. \$164 per couple in room with another couple. (Check first, only a few are available.) These weekends are favorites of many and fill up fast. I will not confirm your spot until I have your check. Send check payable to: Nearby motels are still available to stay in - make your own reservations. Joyce Appel 1899 State Route 268 East Brady, Pa. 16028 Questions? 724-526-5407 joyceappel@windstream.net
Jan 9	Celebrate Winter Trails Day, a fun filled day of snowshoeing for beginners, at Jennings Environmental Education Center on Saturday, January 9 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. This program, for ages 8 and up, will include the history of snowshoes, a complete introduction to the sport of snowshoeing and a winter activity hike. Equipment will be provided, although personal equipment is welcomed. To occupy the little ones (children under 8 years old), staff will be available to conduct winter activities and crafts in concurrence with the program. Please register no later than December 31. 724-794-6011 or go online at http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/list.asp?ICSORG=6203
Jan 16	Prairie Improvement Day at Jennings EEC 9:00am to 1:00pm. Each volunteer will receive a soup mug and restaraunts will provide soups for lunch. Participants must be 12 or older and dress for the weather, including gloves and sturdy shoes. Volunteers will clip trees, which if left to grow would threaten the prairie and eventually eliminate the blazing star prairie flower that blooms each summer. Register for the program no later than Jan 8 by calling 724.794.6011 or go online at http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/calendar/list.asp?ICSORG=6203
Jan 22 24	BOC Winter Weekend(Fri.- Sun.) Allegany State Park near Salamanca, NY. I have rented 10 cabins for the weekend. They are basic cabins with heat, refrigerator, stove, counter and table. Bring covered dish to share for "pot luck" dinner on Sat. Warming hut has a few snacks and hotdogs. Otherwise, bring your own

	snacks, breakfast and lunch. We plan on having a cardboard race on the sled hill. If you want to be in the race, you have plenty of time to come up with an idea for your cardboard sled. Prize for winners and for originality of the cardboard sled!!! \$55 singles \$120 per couple These weekends are favorites of many and fill up fast. I will not confirm your spot until I have your check. Send check payable to: Nearby motels are still available to stay in - make your own reservations. Joyce Appel 1899 State Route 268 East Brady,Pa. 16028 Questions? 724-526-5407 joyceappel@windstream.net
Jan 24	Sunday, Jan. 24 - Cross Country Ski at Oil Creek State Park with the Erie Outing Club. For time and details: Tom Baumgardner 724-794-4913
Jan 29 Feb 1	I am now taking reservations for the Third Annual Prince Galitzin Winter Cabin Camping Trip. Basically I have booked several Modern State Park Cabins at PG State Park near Altoona, PA. Activities include cross country skiing (pretty certain we will have rentals available at extra cost), hiking, eating, Big Fun Scavenger Hunt, playing music so bring your instruments. just to name a few fun things. It is also a "Family Friendly" trip. Friday Jan 29 thru Monday Feb 1, 2010 Booked thru Monday so you do NOT have to check out by 10:00 AM on Sunday morning like we had to last year! Cost per spot for the whole weekend is \$45.00 I try but cannot guarantee roommate requests... Therefore.... If you want to book a whole six person cabin for your friends or family it is \$249.00 Eight person Cabins are \$311.00 Check in on or after 3:00 PM on Friday January 29 Check out anytime before 10:00 PM on Monday February 1, 2010 Reservations are on a FIRST PAY FIRST SERVE BASIS You will pay me directly. Contact me for payment information and questions you may have about this really fun trip! Nancy Barnes cell: 412-877-0703
Feb 13	The Great Backyard Bird Count Here's an opportunity to learn the basics of bird identification and feeding, while contributing to research about bird populations. Join Jennings and the Bartramian Audubon Society for an informative birding session. Observe and count birds at the feeders and find out how to contribute data to the Great Backyard Bird Count. Use your new skills to observe birds and submit your own data at home. This program is designed for ages 12 and up. Please register by contacting the Center at 724-794-6011 by February 5. Phone 724-794-6011
Feb 13 14	Anyone interested in winter camping at Oil Creek State Park/ Cow Run/ Shelter #5 and #6 on February 13th should meet at the Petroleum Center Parking lot at 10:00 Am. At that time a decision will be made to hike in with gear/hike with gear sledged in from the road access lot (1.5 miles from shelters)/ or hike in from the road access area. I will bring 5 gal of water and a slitting maul for wood. I will also have panels for the sides of the shelters to keep most of the wind and snow out. Contact me for more information. Dave Myers 724-588-2767
Feb 20	Cherry Pie Hike Feb. 20, 2010 - Follow George Washington's footsteps with the Butler Outdoor Club and Butler Chapter of North Country Trail Association to commemorate his birthday. Meet at the Old Stone House 10 AM, north of Butler, on Rt. 8. There will be a short hike and longer hike on the old Venango Trail, now part of the North Country Trail. There will also be a free presentation on George Washington with cherry pie and drink at the Old Stone House. For evening meal, go for optional dinner at the North Country Brewing in Slippery Rock. For details, call John Stehle 724-283-0674 or Dan Mourer 724-445-3315 and we need to know how many cherry pies to make!



BOC Christmas Bird Count Lunch at Steve & Carol Bickels



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