

The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Issue # 14 Month # 3

March 2010

Membership Renewal

It is time to renew your membership in the Butler Outdoor Club again. Membership runs from March through February and cost \$15 per person, or \$20 per family.

An additional \$10 is required if you wish to receive your newsletter printed and mailed to you. This helps to subsidize our costs of printing and mailing each issue. Please fill out the application form that is in this issue or can be downloaded from the website or picked up at a meeting and pay in person at the March meeting or mail your check to Butler Outdoor Club, PO Box 243, Butler PA, 16003-0243.

Moraine State Park Groomed Ski Trails

There is great cross-country skiing at Moraine State Park this winter season. The park is grooming the Sunken Garden Trail and the Pleasant Valley Trails on the South Shore of the park. They can be accessed by taking S. Shore Drive exit from Rt 422 and going past the park office park at the first parking area on the right. The Sunken Garden trail is down to your right and the Pleasant Valley Trail can be reached by crossing the loop road on your left.



Mar 3 Monthly Meeting

Our monthly meetings are at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington, St. Butler, Pa.

Join us Wed. Mar 3 when Julie Elkins, PA Communications Coordinator for the NCTA, will be the speaker.

Julie is an AmeriCorps member serving the four PA chapters of the NCTA from November 2009 through mid-August, 2010



She is an honors graduate of Penn State Behrend, in Erie, PA with majors in Political Science and Psychology and minors in International Studies and Civic and Community Engagement.

Julie is originally from the North Sewickley area, graduating from Riverside High School in Beaver County. Julie hopes to attend graduate school this fall; she plans to pursue studies in water resource science, management, and policy.

Julie will be giving a presentation titled "Communications 101: Five tricks of the trade that will help you increase visibility and bring new interest to your organization." She will be sharing tips about using social networking tools, taking your photography to the next level, and reaching out to potential new members.

Come out on March 3 to meet Julie, learn about what she's doing for the NCTA, and brush up on your promotion skills!

For details call John Stehle Cell 724-256-0674

2010 Annual Cherry Pie Hike

Our founding father must have been smiling upon us on Saturday. The Cherry Pie Hike went off very well. The weather was sunny and warmer than it has recently been. The snow was deep, but not too deep, thanks to our scouts (Joyce Appel, Dave Adams and Pat Henry) that went out the day before to make a trail for us. And over 80 people were out on one of the hikes that retraced the steps of our great forefather and president, George Washington.

A special thanks to all who made the hike possible, especially to Aaron Cowan and his group, and Slippery Rock University for the great program and the use of that amazing example of our history which is the Old Stone House. And thanks to the volunteers from the NCT and from the Butler Outdoor Club, especially Joyce Appel, for organizing everything. And thanks to the North Country Brewery for the cherry pies and coffee and beverages. And a thanks to Jennings Nature Center who supported us with overflow parking and an alternate hiking opportunities.

You may have noticed the cool cherry-red t-shirts worn by some people that promoted the Cherry Pie Hike. Those shirts were specially designed by Julie Elkins, our NCT communications coordinator. If you would like one of your own, you will need to contact Julie this week to place an order. Here is her note to me: Anyone who wants to purchase t-shirts can email me (pacc@northcountrytrail.org) by this Friday (2/26/10) to place their orders. Shirts are \$12 if you can pick them up at a Butler Chapter meeting, or \$15 if you want it shipped. I just want to give hike attendees one last chance to place an order before I send the numbers in to the printing company.

Attached is a nice article that appeared in the Butler Eagle, however there was a mistake on the attendance. We got over 80 people, not the 40 that was in the Butler Eagle article. Below is a link to some pictures on the Butler Outdoor Club photo journal that includes some pictures of the hike.

Photos from the Cherry Pie Hike can be seen at

<http://butleroutdoorclubphotojournal.shutterfly.com/>

and on facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/PA-North-Country-Trail-Association/248795517529>

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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.”

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

www.butleroutdoorclub.org

Area Outdoor Events and Outings	
Feb 27	Moonlight Skis - 7:00pm ski hut Oil Creek State Park - take skis, headlamp, snack for get-together at ski hut after skiing, incase of no snow hike will be held; free; 814.676.5915
Mar 3	<p>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.</p> <p>Join us on March 3 when Julie Elkins, PA Communications Coordinator for the NCTA, will be the speaker at the March meeting. Julie is an AmeriCorps member serving the four PA chapters of the NCTA from November 2009 through mid-August, 2010. She is an honors graduate of Penn State Behrend, in Erie, PA, with majors in Political Science and Psychology and minors in International Studies and Civic and Community Engagement. Julie is originally from the North Sewickley area, graduating from Riverside High School in Beaver County. Julie hopes to attend graduate school this fall; she plans to pursue studies in water resource science, management, and policy. Julie will be giving a presentation titled "Communications 101: Five tricks of the trade that will help you increase visibility and bring new interest to your organization." She will be sharing tips about using social networking tools, taking your photography to the next level, and reaching out to potential new members. Come out on March 3 to meet Julie, learn about what she's doing for the NCTA, and brush up on your promotion skills!</p>
Mar 6	<p>Join Paul Henry and Joyce Appel to do short outdoor presentations (10-20 min) at the Moraine Trails Council Yukon Rush winter event. This is a great time for the cub scouts to come out in the snow and cold and have fun and learn about new things. Some info about the event: • The event is Sat March 6th • Last year we had 300+ adults, scouts and siblings. • The age range is from 6 to 12. • The time is not hammered out yet but it is usually 8-1pm. • It will be at the Butler Airport. • There is indoor (hanger) and outdoor space. Email Joyce at joyceappel@windstream.net or call 724.526.5407</p>
Mar 19 20	<p>The Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania is having our 12th Annual Bluebird Conference this year and I would like to invite everyone to our Conference. 12th Annual BSP Conference to be held at the Penn Stater Hotel, State College, PA March 19 & 20, 2010 Bird and nature fans are invited to join members of the Bluebird Society of PA . This event is open to the public and offers an opportunity for families, students and people of all ages to discover the wonders of Bluebirds and other cavity-nesting species. Educational offerings at the conference include presentations by the BSP President, Harry Schneider, Bluebirds - Ducks Unlimited's Fred Senderoff < Pennsylvania Ducks > and Marcus Schneck, a nature writer with The Patriot-News in Harrisburg, columnist & Author. Outdoors in Pennsylvania > Attendees will learn all about bluebirds habits and what is needed to attract bluebirds and other secondary cavity nesters to their backyards, gain practical information about providing food sources for bluebirds and how to deal with bluebird predators and pests. In addition, learn how to help preserve the wonderful waterfowl – the Wood Duck. The conference ends with an illustrated program about nature travel across Pennsylvania. Vendors offering wildlife items for purchase and informational pamphlets will be present at the conference. The Conference fee is \$35 per person including Continental Breakfast and Lunch on Saturday. There is a \$5 savings for registrations received by February 16, 2010. Download a flyer with details at www.thebsp.org</p>
Mar 20	<p>As we are still enjoying the "Snowmagedon" of Feb 2010, it might be hard to believe that the snow will be gone in a month. Or so I hope. And with the arrival of spring we are ready to resume our Tour de NCT of PA with stage 10. We will be doing the last section in Butler County, the section that passes through Stage Game Lands 95 and that goes through Parker and crosses the Allegheny River. This section is very interesting for a couple of reasons. It goes through beautiful Hemlock woods and has a couple of nice overlooks. And a special treat are two bridges built by Dan Mourer with help from the Butler Chapter and many others in the PA Council of the NCTA. These bridges are long (48 feet) and cool because of their arch shape. The first bridge is near the El Dorado Road Trail Head and the other is at the Eastern end of the game lands. One other nice point is that the trail was laid out through the gamelands by Dan and Peggy Mourer's son, Ben, as an Eagle Scout project. I think you will agree he did an excellent job. We will be road walking through Parker, the smallest city in the USA. At the foot of the hill the trail crosses the</p>

	Allegheny River, at which point the trail drops down to the rail-to-trail. The NCT stays on the rail-to-trail following the river to Foxburg, for a total of about 8 miles. This hike will be in conjunction with a community hike which the Butler Chapter is sponsoring. We hope to have a some new hikers along with us, hopefully some local people who want to learn about the NCT. Afterward you may want to have something to eat at the Foxburg Inn, or some of the other nice eateries in the area. The plan is to meet at the Foxburg plaza right across the Rt 58 bridge, on the east side of the river at 9:30 AM, Saturday, March 20, 2010. We will then shuttle to the El Dorado trailhead and walk the 8 miles back to Foxburg. Time: Saturday, Mar 20, 2010 - 9:30 AM. Place: Foxburg plaza parking lot, just across the Rt 58 bridge. RSVP is requested for notification of changes - but is not necessary. See you there.
Mar 21	Raccoongaine Sunday, March 21, 2010 Raccoon Creek State Park (30 miles West of Pittsburgh) 3 hour and 6 hour foot race "mini" rogaine In a rogaine-style format, individuals or teams have a fixed time (3 or 6 hours in this event) to visit as many checkpoints as possible walking, running and resting as they see fit. Event start at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 21, 2010. The registration desk opens at 8:30 AM. Maps will be distributed at 9:00 AM. There is a mandatory meeting at 9:45 AM at the start location for all participants. Organizers: Western Pennsylvania Orienteering Club- website: www.WPOC.org The web site is http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RaccoonGaine
Mar 26	Moonlight Skis - 7:00pm ski hut Oil Creek State Park - take skis, headlamp, snack for get-together at ski hut after skiing, incase of no snow hike will be held; free; 814.676.5915
Apr 23 25	Keystone Trails Association Spring Meeting and Hiking Weekend, Wellsboro, Tioga County, PA. Lots of great hikes, presentations and displays.
May 8	First Annual Moraine Preservation Fund 5k race/2 mile walk Saturday May 8, 2010 9 AM North Shore Moraine State Park Timing & results provided by The Runner's High of Grove City, PA \$25 fee includes tee shirt and race packet For more information, please contact: Jack Oris jackoris@hotmail.com
May 16 22	Gene Wilhelm, BOC Outstanding Contributor nominee in 2009, is leading a nature study trip to the eastern shore. It is billed as follows: ECO-EXPEDITION – EASTERN SHORE for more information email genewilhelm@aol.com
May 28 31	BOC Annual Outdoor Extravaganza 3 days of fun filled outdoor activities. Joyce Appel 724.526.5407
Jun 19	The fourteenth annual Rachel Carson Trail Challenge is on June 19, 2010, the Saturday nearest the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. The Challenge is a 34-mile long, one-day, sunrise to sunset endurance hike on nearly the entire brutal Rachel Carson Trail. Unlike a footrace, the "challenge" is not to come in first or win, but to endure, to finish the hike in one day. This time, the Challenge starts in Harrison Hills County Park and ends 34 miles later in North Park. for more information goto http://www.rachelcarsontrails.org/rct/challenge/rctc10
Jul 9 10	Morrison Run Backpacking/Paddling Trip on 7/9/10-7/12/10 Backpackers will meet at the Trailhead off of Rt. 59 at a time of their choice. Paddlers will meet at the southern end of Red Bridge on Rt 321 North of Kane at 10:00 AM on 7/9/10. Put in will be on the western side of the bridge if there is enough water.(other arrangements may have to be made such as the north end of Red Bridge). Unload gear and boats there and then park vehicles at the Longhouse Trail Head for the North Country Trail about 100 yds. south of the bridge. Paddle to Morrison Run Camp Ground (about 2 ½ hrs) to site #24 and #25 (if available) in the Morrison Bay area. More sites may be needed depending on participation. Sites are \$10 per night. Bear bags are required as is a water bag to bring water back to camp for purification. Exploration of the area i.e. hiking, bird watching, fishing, paddling to other locations, and just relaxing are in order for the stay. We had a bear making the rounds between camp sites last year so plan accordingly. John Stehle should have some of the information packets from last year available. For more info and to sign up call Dave Myers 724-588-2767.

Butler Outdoor Club Membership Form

____/____/____
Date

Mail to: Butler Outdoor Club, PO Box 243, Butler, Pa. 16003-0243

Renewals are due March 1 each year.

PLEASE PRINT

Annual dues are \$20 - family, \$15 - individual plus \$10 for news letter via US mail if desired.
Make checks payable to Butler Outdoor Club

Send my newsletter via US mail (for an additional \$10) ____ or via e mail ____ and trip updates via email ____ Y or N

Name	Age	Sex	Rel.	Phone (H)	Phone (W)	Cell Phone
				e mail		
				e mail 2		

Privacy Policy: we do not distribute our membership list to any outside organizations. This information is for internal club use in mailing newsletters, brochures, questionnaires and for use by club officers and outing leaders.

Address: Street or P.O. Box	City	State	Zip+4

Name of person to notify in case of emergency	Relationship	Phone #

I would like to participate in these activities.														I would like to help in these areas:													
Hiking	Backpack	Road Bike	Trail Bike	Canoe	Kayak	Sailing	Car aCamp	Caving	Bird Watch	Nature Events	Cross Country Ski	Snowshoe	Orienteer	Trailwork	Ice Skating	Down Hill Ski	Membership	Newsletter	Picnics	Monthly Program	Lead Outings	Other	Fund Raising	Special Events	Annual Dinner	Setup Before Meetings	

Please read the following assumption of risk and liability waver very carefully.

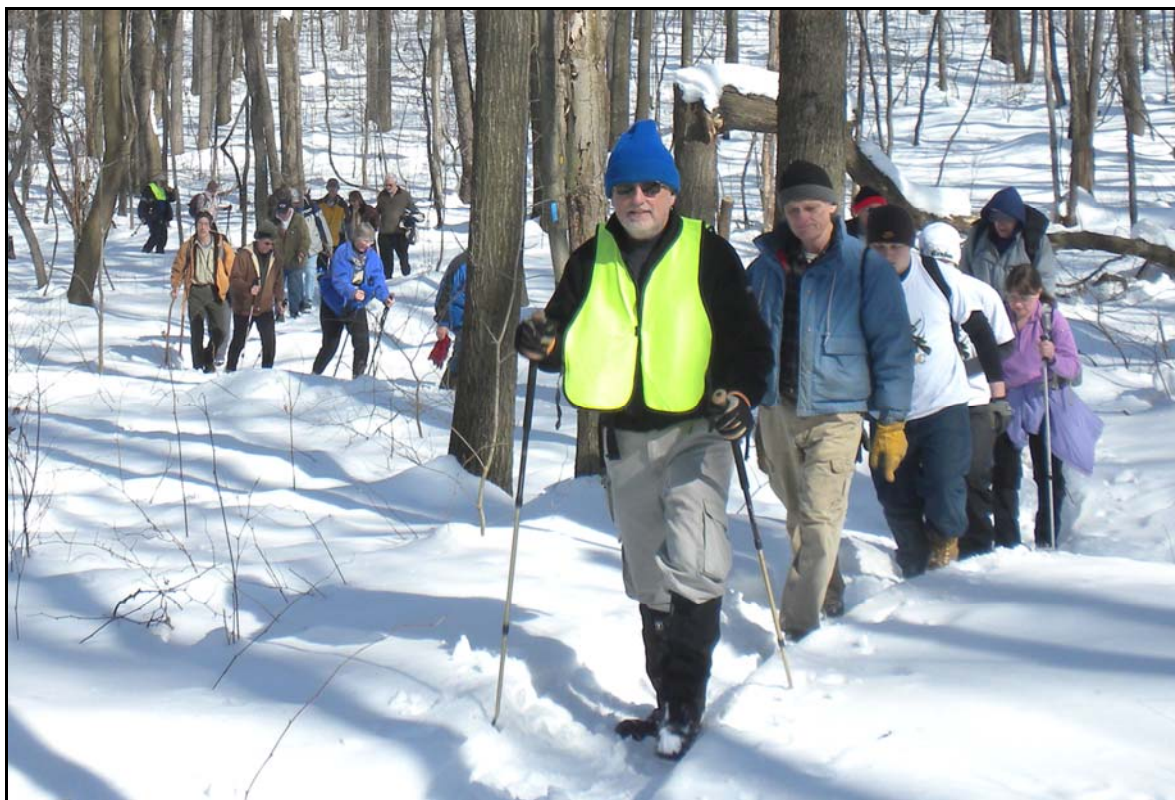
By signing this application you are agreeing to all provisions, implied or otherwise, of the waiver.

IN CONSIDERATION of being permitted to join the Butler Outdoor Club and participate in its activities, I _____, for myself, my personal representatives, heirs, and next of kin hereby acknowledge, agree, and represent that I fully understand that most BOC activities, including but not limited to, white water, rock fall, avalanches, crevasses, exposure to severe weather, crowning, equipment failure, and the misuse of equipment by myself and others, could result in my suffering serious bodily injury and/or death and I HEREBY 1. RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE Butler Outdoor Club, its instructors and or participants in any teaching activities, and/or of the individual officers or members of BOC(hereinafter collectively referred to as "releases" from all liability to me, my personal representatives, assigns, heirs and next of kin for any and all loss or damage, and any claims or demands therefore on account of injury to my person or property or resulting in my death whether caused by the negligence of the releases or otherwise while participating in any activities conducted by BOC and/or any of its individual members. 2. AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS the releases and each of them from any loss, liability, damage, or cost they may

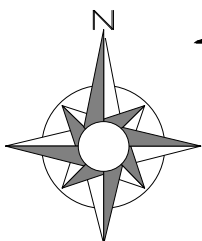
incur due to my participating in any way in any activities conducted by BOC and/or any of its individual members whether caused by the negligence of the releases or otherwise. 3. ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND RISK OF BODILY INJURY, DEATH, OR PROPERTY DAMAGE due to the negligence or releases or otherwise while participating in any way in any activity conducted by BOC and/or any of its individual members. I further expressly agree that the foregoing release, waiver and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and if any portion thereof is invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue if full legal force and effect.

I HEREBY WARRANT THAT I HAVE READ AND VOLUNTARILY SIGNED THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, AND FURTHER AGREE THAT NO ORAL REPRESENTATIONS, STATEMENTS, OR INDUCEMENTS APART FROM THE FOREGOING WRITTEN AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN MADE.

Signature(s) (Assumption of risk must be signed) _____ Date _____



2010 Cherry Pie Hike



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