

The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Issue # 15 Month # 7

July 2011

BOC July 6 Meeting

Please join us July 6 at 6:30pm for a BOC picnic meeting at Moraine State Park's Lakeview Beach Shelter # 3. Bring a dish to share. BOC will provide hot dogs. Come early and bike, hike, swim, paddle. Short program on geo-caching after the picnic dinner. Bring your gps units if you have one. We will have some temporary caches for you to find. Our program will cover the basics of getting started geocaching, some helpful hints to find caches and practice finding some temporary geocaches in the Lakeview Beach area of the park.

Geocaching

Geocaching is a real-world outdoor treasure hunting game. Players try to locate hidden containers known as geocaches, using GPS-enabled devices and then share their experiences online. Did you know there are 1,441,043 active geocaches and over 5 million geocachers worldwide? It's a great family friendly outdoor activity. Geocaching allows you to practice using your hand-held gps unit which is helpful when you use it hiking or backpacking, etc. Many areas offer you special geocoins when you find a set number of caches hidden. Some examples are the Allegheny GeoTrail in northern Penna; the Butler Freeport Historic GeoTrail; the Armstrong County GeoTrail ; the North Country GeoTrail in the Allegany National Forest; and the Seaway Trail.

The Butler Freeport Trail website has more detailed information and links to local geocaching groups such as BACON and PAGA. Go to www.butlerfreeporttrail.org.

Club Insurance

Our club has purchased insurance to protect our leaders from lawsuits that may arise from BOC sponsored trips. See page 3,4 and 5 for a copy of the instructions and our new trip signup and waiver form.

July Ramble

The July Ramble will be Sat, July 9th at 1 pm. Meet at the parking lot at the end of old 422 (take the 528 exit off of 422 and follow the signs for the Oil Well Museum). We'll walk back to the Oil field which will be running that day. Also, there will be a display of antique tractors at the well.

KTA Trail Work Week



BOC members Joyce Appel and Tom Baumgardner work on the new NCTA trail section in Moraine State Park. See article on page 2.

The Butler Chapter of the North Country Trail hosted the KTA work week in June. Twenty-six volunteers showed up at various times from Tuesday to Sunday, putting a reported 622 hours into the project during the work week, and not including the many hours put in by NCT and Park volunteers in the months prior to the work week.

The project required a lot of planning and preparation, starting off with Dan Bickel, the manager of Moraine State Park, having to get approval from the DCNR for adding new trail to a park. Then Tom Baumgardner, with the help of the Butler Chapter volunteers, spent many hours planning the best route, acquiring materials, and defining all the work that needed to be done, so that the KTA crew would be ready to start when they arrived.

The new trail is 2.6 miles long and includes a total of 9 bridges, including a 94 foot bog bridge. The new section of trail includes many points of interest, including a great view of the spillway from Lake Arthur, very nice views of the lake, the 9 bridges, and a passage under the Route 422 bridge.

The work involved a lot of side-hill digging, a good deal brush clearing and stump removal, much bridge building, a few water control structures, a lot of hauling and spreading of wood chips, and of course blazing and signage. Several of the workers had a lot of fun using the power equipment and trail vehicles that belonged to the Park and the NCT. The park's Bobcat proved to be a very effective stump remover.

Those staying overnight found the Davis Hollow Cabin, to be a very nice place to eat, sleep and relax after a hard day of trail work. The final blazes were painted and the last of the wood chips were spread on Sunday afternoon, letting everyone feel a great sense of accomplishment for having contributed to this truly beautiful trail. Thanks KTA for your support.

Here is a link to the pictures on Shutterfly.
<http://butleroutdoorclubphotojournal.shutterfly.com/1906>

BOC Directory

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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

BOC Insurance

The sad truth in today's society is that incorporating no longer protects you from liability if someone gets seriously hurt at one of your activities. Board members and trip leaders risk losing their life savings if they lose in court and at a minimum could lose thousands of dollars if they win, in costs to defend themselves. The board and I didn't think that is fair to have that liability for providing what we consider to be services for our members and friends. We therefore went out and purchased liability insurance to cover us and our leaders should anything unfortunate happen. The insurance will cover legal fees and court costs as well as pay all damages as long as we follow their rules.

The rules are fairly simple and straight forward. The first rule is that for all trips we must have every participant sign our new waiver that the insurance company approved. The second rule is that you should ask every person participating on the trip to read and sign the waiver. If you tell them to sign it without reading it, the waiver could be declared invalid. The third rule is that the trip starts and ends at the parking lot and does not include transportation. The fourth rule is that it will only cover certain activities that I will describe in detail. The last rule is that leaders must not willfully put people into unsafe conditions below a certain standard of responsibility. The last rule is kind of vague and needs to be such and must be in the best judgment of the leader.

Ok so what do they cover? They will cover social activities, hiking, canoeing up to class II, kayaking up to class II, rafting up to class II, bike riding as long as it is not on highways, on city streets or extreme mountain biking, backpacking, trail work, cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

If you wish to include more activities than on this list we can go out and get additional insurance to cover them but it has to be brought up to the board and the board must approve of the additional costs. The other way to sponsor say a down hill skiing trip is to get the resort that you are going to name the Butler Outdoor Club as also insured. This is a common practice in insurance where someone like Peek and Peek sends us a copy of their insurance with our name being added to the bottom. If something happens, their insurance covers both them and us. Our insurance allows us to do the same thing so we have named DCNR and Moraine state park as also insured and can name others as necessary. We will continue to advertise trips by others where we are not a sponsor and will try to make clear that we are not responsible and can in no way insure of someone's safety. These trips will be labeled BOC non-sponsored events.

In short insurance won't protect us from the dangers of the outdoors but it can protect us from dangers of the courtroom if we follow the simple rules. Please help if you are leading trips by getting people to sign waivers and by using common sense. If you do get an "also insured" certificate send it to Tom Baumgardner so that I can put it with our other insurance coverage. If you have questions write or ask me or another board member and I will do my best to get you and answer. Attached is a copy of our new waiver.

Tom Baumgardner

Butler Outdoor Club Sign-in Sheet and Liability Waiver

Outing:	Date(s):
Leader:	Assistant Leader:

Sign-In Sheet & Acknowledgment of Outing Member Responsibility, Express Assumption of Risk, and Release of Liability

I understand that during my participation in this Butler Outdoor Club Outing, I may be exposed to a variety of hazards and risks, foreseen or unforeseen, which are inherent in each Outing and cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of the Outing. These inherent risks include, but are not limited to, the dangers of serious personal injury, property damage, and death ("Injuries and Damages") from exposure to the hazards of travel and the Butler Outdoor Club has not tried to contradict or minimize my understanding of these risks. I know that Injuries and Damages can occur by natural causes or activities of other persons, animals, trip members, trip leaders and assistants or third parties, either as a result of negligence or because of other reasons. I understand that risks of such Injuries and Damages are involved in adventure travel such as Butler Outdoor Club Outings and I appreciate that I may have to exercise extra care for my own person and for others around me in the face of such hazards. I further understand that on this Outing there may not be rescue or medical facilities or expertise necessary to deal with the Injuries and Damages to which I may be exposed.

In consideration for my acceptance as a participant on this Outing, and the services and amenities to be provided by the Butler Outdoor Club in connection with the Outing, I confirm my understanding that:

- I have read any rules and conditions applicable to the Outing made available to me; I will pay any costs and fees for the Outing; and I acknowledge my participation is at the discretion of the leader.
- The Outing officially begins and ends at the location(s) designated by the Butler Outdoor Club. The Outing does not include carpooling, transportation, or transit to and from the Outing, and I am personally responsible for all risks associated with this travel. This does not apply to transportation provided by the Butler Outdoor Club during the Outing.
- If I decide to leave early and not to complete the Outing as planned, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to leave and waive all liability against the Butler Outdoor Club arising from that decision. Likewise, if the leader has concluded the Outing, and I decide to go forward without the leader, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to go forward and waive all liability against the Butler Outdoor Club arising from that decision.
- This Agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by law. If any provision or any part of any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or legally unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby and shall remain valid and fully enforceable.
- To the fullest extent allowed by law, I agree to **WAIVE, DISCHARGE CLAIMS, AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY** the Butler Outdoor Club, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and leaders from **any and all liability** on account of, or in any way resulting from Injuries and Damages, even if caused by **negligence** of the Butler Outdoor Club its officers, directors, employees, agents, and leaders, in any way connected with this Outing. I further agree to **HOLD HARMLESS** the Butler Outdoor Club, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and leaders from any claims, damages, injuries or losses caused by my own negligence while a participant on the outing. I understand and intend that this assumption of risk and release is binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, and includes any minors accompanying me on the Outing.
- I have read this document in its entirety and I freely and voluntarily assume all risks of such Injuries and Damages and notwithstanding such risks, I agree to participate in the Outing.

I have read the attached **Sign-In Sheet & Acknowledgment of Outing Member Responsibility, Express Assumption of Risk, and Release of Liability** in its entirety and I freely and voluntarily assume all risks of such Injuries and Damages and notwithstanding such risks, I agree to participate in the Outing.

Printed Name	Signature**	Home Address	Cell Phone		Emergency Phone	BOC Member	Early Sign-Out
			Email Address*	Name/Relation			
							<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

** If a minor is going on the trip, the minor's guardian must sign on the minor's behalf.

Butler Outdoor Club Sign-in Sheet and Liability Waiver

Printed Name	Signature**	Home Address	Cell Phone		Emergency Phone		BOC Member	Early Sign-Out
			Email Address*		Name/Relation			
							Yes No	
							Yes No	
							Yes No	
							Yes No	
							Yes No	
							Yes No	
							Yes No	
							Yes No	
							Yes No	
							Yes No	
							Yes No	
							Yes No	

* Supply your email address to receive periodic communications from the Butler Outdoor Club.

BOC Sponsored Events

Jul 6	<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>Each meeting includes outing announcements, a featured speaker and slide show or outdoor educational program and is open to the public.</p> <p>Please join us July 6 at 6:30pm for a BOC picnic meeting at the Lakeview Beach Shelter. Bring a dish to share. BOC will provide hot dogs. Come early and bike/hike/swim/paddle. Short program on geocaching after the picnic dinner. Bring your gps units if you have one. We will have some temporary caches for you to find.</p>
Jul 9	<p>The July Ramble will be Sat, July 9th at 1 pm. Meet at the parking lot at the end of old 422 (take the 528 exit off of 422 and follow the signs for the Oil Well Museum). We'll walk back to the Oil field which will be running that day. Also, there will be a display of antique tractors at the well that day.</p>
Jul 15 17	<p>Kinzua/ Morrison Run Paddle/Backpacking Trip Paddlers: Meet at southern end west side of Red Bridge on Rt.321 (north of Kane) 200ft. from the Longhouse Trail head at 10:00 AM 7/15/11. Parking will be at the Longhouse Trail Head due to the limited space at the put-in point. If the water is low, the put-in will be at the North end of Red Bridge at the boat ramp(Fish Commission Launch Permit may be required). Once gear is loaded, a 6 mile paddle north to Morrison Run sites #23 and #24 along the bay if available(first come first served). Backpackers: Meet at the Trail Head off Rt. 59, 3.9 miles east of Morrison Bridge at a time decided by those participating and hike into Morrison Run by a route of your choice. Contact: Dave Myers 724-588-2767.</p>
Jul 31	<p>Leader: Mike Ciccone Co-leaders: Paul Henry & possibly Joyce Appel July 31, 2011 Sunday 10AM Allegheny River/ Mahoning Creek Kayak/ Canoe Trip (up to 17 miles; 8.5 upstream & 8.5 back) Paddle upriver on the slack water of the Allegheny River 2 miles paralleling the Armstrong Bike Trail. Turn up Mahoning Creek, easy slack water, and wind your way upstream past camps into sparkling clear water in this deep Gorge. Around 2 miles is where the creek becomes rocky. We will stop for a break/ lunch on a rocky island. At this point we will paddle back down Mahoning Creek re-entering the Allegheny River. Continue paddling North up to 7 miles past numerous small towns, and travel through a very scenic stretch of river with large hills on both sides. When in sight of the Lock 9 Dam (the largest and Northernmost Lock on the Allegheny River) we will paddle back downstream on the opposite side of the river back to our starting point. Please contact Mike Ciccone at 724-584-8045 if interested in this trip and to obtain directions to the Templeton, PA Fish and Boat Commission Launch (put in/ take out). There is no shuttle on this trip and estimated trip time is 5-6 hours including stops for lunch or if people just want to stop.</p>
Sep 9 17	<p>Backpacking trip on the AT/Long Trail in Vermont 9/9/11-9/17/11 (strenuous) 7 Days on the trail, two days travel time. Trail head is on the west side of North Adams Mass. To Manchester Center Vt. Elevation at start is 660ft. at North Adams and 2200ft. at the Seth Warner Shelter in VT. 6.6 miles. Thereafter, 6-10miles per day at 2000ft-4000ft.Contact the Green Mountain Club for the map (waterproof)and handbook for the Long Trail. The map for this section of the AT is more detailed than the Long Trail map. Arrive at North Adams /Williamstown on 9/9/11 and start at the trail head on 9/10/11 at 9:00 at Phelps Ave off Rt. 2 . Contact Dave Myers 724-588-2767 for more info. 1. Seth Warner Shelter 6.6 miles from North Adams trail head 2. Congdon Shelter 7.4 miles from Seth Warner Shetler 3. Melville Nauheim Shelter 5.9 miles from Congdon Shelter 4. Goddard Shelter 8.5 miles from Melville Nauheim Shetler 5. Story Spring Shelter 8.8 miles from Goddard Shelter 6. Stratton Pond Shelter 10.6 miles (long day with a mountain to climb) from Story Spring Shelter 7. Stratton Pond Shleter to Old Rootville Rd. and Manchester Center 10 miles 8. Either a parked car oat the trail head on the Old Rootville Rd or public transportation back to Williamstown(service only runs on weekdays)</p>
Nov 12	<p>BOC annual dinner at the East Butler Firemans Hall Mark your calendars!</p>

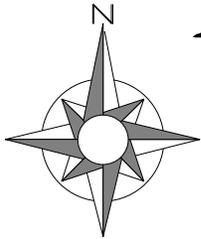
Other Area Outdoor Events

These events are listed for public information and are not sponsored nor endorsed by the Butler Outdoor Club. We assume no liability for anything that happens if you participate in these activities.

Jul 1	NCT GeoTrail started June 1st. 100 individual caches, hidden approximately a mile apart on the ANF Chapter section of the NCT from the New York border north of PA 346 trailhead to the PA 66 trailhead south of Marienville. Earn a commemorative NCT 2011 Medallion; you will need to find 50 of the 100 caches. You can download a coder sheet on the cache pages. Find the cache, get the code word, write it down on your coder sheet, and once you get 50 caches, you can submit it to the ANF Chapter. There are only 100 Medallions being offered, so first come first served!
Jul 10	McConnells Mill State Park Program: Hike 10:00a.m.-2:00 p.m. Meet park staff at the parking lot above Breakneck and Eckert bridges, off Cheeseman Road, ready for a moderately strenuous four mile hike on the North Country Trail. We will learn some tips on trail cooking and backpacking along the way. Wear sturdy shoes, bring plenty of water and snacks for the trail. We will hike as far as Walnut Flats along the Slippery Rock Creek, then back.
Jul 10	Treasure Hunting Geocaching Sunday, July 10, 2011—1:00-3:00 p.m. Moraine State Park– Pleasant Valley Picnic Area Geocaching is becoming more and more popular. People are beginning to discover this new and interesting pastime. Meet the park naturalist at the Pleasant Valley Picnic Area, on the South Shore of Moraine, to learn about and take part in some geocaching. Moraine State Park has several GPS units that will be available to participants to use during the program.
Jul 23	Wild Edible Plants Saturday, July 23, 2011—2:00 p.m. McConnells Mill State Park– Kildoo Picnic Area Were you ever curious about how native people lived off the land? Many Pennsylvania plants are edible, even tasty. Learn some basic plant identification, and take home some wild recipes. Park at Kildoo Picnic Area, walk down to meet park staff at the courtyard of the mill.
Jul 24	Who Let the Dogs Out? Sunday, July 24, 2011—10:00a.m.-12:00 p.m. Moraine State Park– Pleasant Valley Picnic Area Bring your canine friends for some exercise and a swim to cool down afterward. Join the park naturalist at the Pleasant Valley Picnic Area on the South Shore of Moraine for a moderate two-mile hike followed by a doggie swim in beautiful Lake Arthur. This helps introduce Moraine’s new dog friendly shore area! We will also review some tips for helping out your pet if they encounter some animal troubles while out for a hike. Only friendly and vaccinated dogs please! Pets must leashed at all times.
Aug 6 7	Moraine Regatta 2011 - a weekend full of family oriented fun and activities at Moraine State Park For more details see www.lakearthurregatta.org
Aug 11 14	The 2011 North Country National Scenic Trails Annual Conference will be held in Dayton, Ohio this year. See www.northcountrytrail.org for details and registration information.
Aug 12 14	The Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival will be coming to the Butler Country Fairgrounds. Butler Tourism Bureau is organizing it and has asked Butler Outdoor Club and NCT to provide a few hikes and canoe trips Sat. and Sun. Friday, they hope to break Guinness World Record with longest jeep parade. Watch for more details later, but mark your calendar. If you would like to help or lead a trip, contact Joyce Appel, 724-526-5407 or joyceappel@windstream.net
Sep 30 Oct 2	KTA Fall hiking weekend will be hosted by Butler Outdoor Club and Butler Chapter of NCT. Camping, inside lodging, and food will be provided at Lutherlyn Camp, but optional. We plan on having various levels of hikes, a bike ride, canoe trip and a few excursions, along with Friday and Sat. evening entertainment. Mark your calendars. If you would like to help or lead a trip, contact Joyce Appel, 724-526-5407 or joyceappel@windstream.net



Tour de NCTA Final Stage 22



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