

The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Volume 18 Month 02

February 2012

BOC Feb 1 Meeting

Please join us at 6:30 pm at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington, St. Butler, Pa. Rick Carson will present a program his adventures as a chief park ranger. Rick grew-up in Butler and has a park and recreation degree from Slippery Rock U. and a criminal justice degree from I.U.P.

He started his career with state parks in the summer of 1977 and currently for the DCNR is an instructor for firearms; use of force/ PR-24 baton; O.C. mace; water rescue; ice rescue; and boat operations. He is also a search and rescue manager.

Moraine Winterfest Highlights

Thank you to Paul and Joyce for providing cross-country skis and lessons and to Venture Outdoors for the snowshoe lessons. A short trail was groomed for novices to try out the skis. Several BOC members were among the 1100 attendees who supported the fest. Carol Bickel won the Chili Cook Off event. Snow conditions were perfect and many skiers also enjoyed the improved Sunken Garden Trail on the South Shore which was also groomed for xc-skiing.



Ground Hog Day Picnic

The annual BOC Groundhog Day picnic will be Saturday, February 4 at Jennings Environmental Center. We will meet at the pavilion on the prairie side to eat at 11:30 am. Bring a covered dish to share. Paperware and hot cocoa will be provided. Depending on the weather folks can hike, x-c ski, or snowshoe. Come early or stay after the picnic.



First Day Hike

The First Day Hike was held after our BOC picnic at Moraine State Park. The hike began at McDanel's Launch with a brief orientation by John Stehle. Forty nine participants from all over W. Penna. enjoyed the scenic hike on the new NCTA trail over past the Lake Arthur Dam to the Rt 422 bridge and back.



Kennerdell Hike

Nine hikers joined Steve and Carol Bickel at Kennerdell to hike the snowy trails on a brisk January morning. They hiked 7 miles in about six inches of snow, but the sun was out and sky was blue, so we had a great time enjoying the 23 degree weather.



Clarion Chapter NCTA Hike

Twelve hikers enjoyed a hike with the Clarion NCT chapter Sunday near Cook Forest. Although we started out in the single digits, by 2:00 it was up to 19 degrees! At the end of the hike we were met at the trailhead with hot cocoa and granola bars. Next month's hike will include a cookout at their new shelter near Gravel Lick Road.



BOC Directory

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Nature Study

Dorothy Weisburg

"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

Annual Cherry Pie Hike



The Butler Chapter North Country Trail, along with Aaron Cowan and the History Department of Slippery Rock University, will be hosting the annual Cherry Pie Hike on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at the Old Stone House.

The Old Stone House, an 1822 wayside inn is at the intersection of Routes 8, 173 and 528. See their website at www.oldstonehousepa.org.

There will be three sessions, starting at 9:00, 11:00, and 1:00. Cherry Pie and coffee, tea and water will be served, compliments of the North Country Brewing Co) in Slippery Rock.

See their website at www.northcountrybrewing.com.

At around 20 minutes after the start time of each session, Dr. Cohen and his assistants from the History Department will have a talk about the history of the area.

After each talk, there will be an opportunity to take a hike along the North Country Trail, which is approximately in the area of the old Venango Trail which George Washington and Christopher Gist would have travelled in 1753. After each talk there will be choice of 2 hikes, a long hike of about 4 miles and a short hike around ½ mile.

The short hike will leave from the Old Stone House passing the Foltz one-room school house and to the acid mine water treatment program run by Jennings Environmental Education Center, and then returning back to the Old Stone House. Hike should take less than an hour.

The long hikers will first drive their cars over to the Jennings Center across Route 8, and meet their hike leader at the parking lot on the prairie (right / north) side to begin a 2 hour hike along the North Country Trail. Moving your vehicles across the road will free up the limited parking spaces at the Old Stone House for the next group.

After the hike, many people like to head up to the North Country Brewing Co. at 141 S. Main Street, Slippery Rock PA for some fine food and drink. (Great beer and root beer!!!)

Please contact John Stehle via email or phone to reserve a spot at the Old Stone House. Please indicate which program you would like to attend. Email: stehles@gmail.com Phone: 724-256-0674.

Yahoo Groups

The Butler Outdoor Club has started a group on Yahoo to enable members of the group to post announcements of BOC outings, impromptu outings or private trips.

Many other outdoor groups including WPPSA and the Erie Outing Club successfully use this and other forums to publicize group and individual outings to other members or to the public.

You can join by going to this website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ButlerOutdoorClub/>

KTA Spring Hiking Weekend Apr 27-29

Registration is now available online for the Spring Hiking Weekend in Wellsboro, Pa. Information and registration form is available at the KTA website: www.kta-hike.org.

2012 KTA TRAIL CREW Week #1 May 29-June 3, North Country Trail

The Trail Crew will be working on general trail maintenance. Camp at Davis Hollow Cabin, a frontier cabin owned by Moraine State Park. John Stehle will be the crew leader, 724.256.0674 or stehles@gmail.com.

KTA Appeal

The Keystone Trails Association (KTA) has been an important asset to hikers in Pennsylvania, and specifically to anyone who enjoys trails in the Butler Outdoor Club. They help us in the following areas:

Looking after the hiker's interests in legislation and with agencies such as the Game Commission and the DCNR

Organizing and supporting trail building around the state, and particularly on the North Country Trail

Organizing various hiking weekends, gatherings, and races, of which many of us have partaken and enjoyed.

These programs and efforts all cost money, as you know, so the KTA has asked its member clubs to ask their members to consider an extra level of support for this most worthy organization. A \$10 annual donation from each member was suggested.

Please consider donating something to the Keystone Trails Association, so that they can continue standing up for our interests in Harrisburg, and around the state.

In these days of budget cuts and negativity toward environmental issues, who will speak for the hiker and outdoors person?

Please be generous. You will be glad you did. Mention your affiliation with the BOC, NCTA, etc.

Mail your donation to: Keystone Trails Assoc.
101N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

You can view their latest newsletter at:

http://www.kta-hike.org/images/PDF_Docs/Newsletters/Feb12.pdf

Their website is at www.kta-hike.org.

Wilderness Lodge Weekend

Thirty-nine people assembled together to have a fun snowy weekend Jan 6-8. Two others stayed at a nearby motel since my lodge spaces were full, but they joined us during the day, evenings and Sat. evening dinner.

Well, we did not have a snowy weekend as usual. There was snow, but little. Some still skied, some hiked, and some just hung out at the cozy unique lodge.

If you have never been to Wilderness Lodge, you must go sometime. When I say unique, I mean unique...its rustic, cozy with huge fireplace and full of antiques with pure old time country hospitality.

We had a "Happy Hour" before dinner on Saturday, played my made up games with prizes, socialized and played more card and board games that the lodge had.

We even honored "Helen Coyne" with a reward for being the one who has come to Wilderness Lodge the longest of those present.



Area Outdoor Events and Activities

BOC Sponsored Events

Feb 1	<p>Our monthly meetings are 6:30 pm social hour, 7:00 pm announcements and 7:30 program on the first Wed. of each month usually at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington, St. Butler, Pa.</p> <p>Join us at 6:30pm as Rick Carson will present a program on his adventures of a chief park ranger. Rick grew-up in Butler and has a park and recreation degree from Slippery Rock U. and a criminal justice degree from I.U.P. He started his career with state parks in the summer of 1977 and currently for the DCNR is an instructor for firearms; use of force/ PR-24 baton; O.C. mace; water rescue; ice rescue; and boat operations. He is also a search and rescue manager.</p>
Feb 4	<p>The annual BOC Groundhog Day picnic will be Saturday, February 4 at Jennings Environmental Center. We will meet at the pavilion on the prairie side to eat at 11:30 am. Bring a covered dish to share. Paperware and hot cocoa will be provided. Depending on conditions folks can hike, x-c ski, or snowshoe. Come early and stay late.</p>
Feb 19	<p>Winter Tracks Hike. Take a look for winters signs of wildlife. Animals tell the stories of their lives by the tracks they leave. Learn how to gain insight into each character and the narrative of their travel with Dorothy Weisberg our club naturalist. Come discover what our woodland creatures have been up to. We will meet at the gated area to Davis hollow Marina on North shore road up from Union road at noon. This hike is snow dependent. About a 2.5 mile hike.</p>

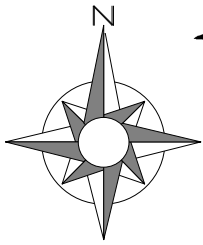
Other Area Outdoor Events

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.

Feb 5	<p>Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy winter hike on the Harmony Trail from 10:30 am to 02:00 pm Join us on our annual 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. Moderate difficulty, hot tea, cocoa, and treats afterwards. FREE and open to everyone (no need to sign up)! More details: http://www.rachelcarsontrails.org/Members/sgmentzer/wo2012</p>
Feb 17-19	<p>Chocolate and Wine Event along Lake Erie from Erie to Silver Creek, NY. contact www.lakeeriewinecountry.org for info and tickets</p>
Feb 18	<p>Square Dance at Harrisville Fire hall 8-11:00. Contact Steve Bickel for more info</p>
Feb 25	<p>Annual Cherry Pie Hike at the Old Stone House – see details on page 4.</p>
Mar 25	<p>Raccoongaine III at Raccoon Creek State Park In a rogaine-style format, individuals or teams have a fixed time to visit as many checkpoints as possible. Organizers: WPA Orienteering Club – for more info see websites www.wpoc.org or http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RaccoonGaine Also see Facebook at "Raccoongaine"</p>



BOC Kennerdale *Hike*



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