

# The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Volume 20 Month 8

August 2014

## Next monthly BOC meeting August 6, 2014 at 6:30 PM at the Butler YMCA

Our speaker will be Christina Handley, president of the Allegheny Aquatic Alliance, a local nonprofit organization devoted to water protection. Over the last 2 years, they have organized a major cleanup project on Connoquenessing Creek with the goal of restoring the entire 50 mile waterway back to its beautiful, natural state by removing the old tires and other garbage that line it's banks and pollute it's water. In 2000, this creek was rated the second most polluted waterway in America.

The Alliance has tackled a 10 mile section each year, starting in Zelienople. In the first 20 miles they have removed 85,000 pounds of garbage from the "Connie." This year they will move into the city of Butler. There are still 30 miles to go and many volunteers are needed to achieve the ultimate goal. The cleanup is on August 23, 2014.

## Puddle Duck Update by Dave Adams

Our club PDR sailboat is sporting a BOC logo and racing stripes thanks to Carol Bickel. On Thursday Dave Adams, Tammy Velosky and Rayanne Aiken boarded the craft for an evening sailing adventure. We had checked Bear Run – too choppy; Pleasant Valley was too calm, but McDanel was just right. Soon we were sailing around the bay, tacking and jibing to test our skills and the boats seaworthiness. We slowly worked our way down to the island and decided to sail around it. Going down was a breeze but the channel on the other side wasn't deep enough for our centerboard; we tried various maneuvers including pulling up the centerboard but the wind was dying down and we sailed back to the deep side and slowly tacked our way back north aided by some paddling when the breeze became intermittent. As the sun started to set we could see our destination but the wind and waters became calmer as the sun set. We finally made it back at 9:00 pm with the help of our paddle and a light breeze. Only a week of practice sailing left before the North American Puddle Duck Championship Race at the Moraine Regatta Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.



*Duckzilla on lake Arthur with Dave Adams and Rayanne Aiken aboard*

## Annual Dinner

Admission to the November 8 BOC annual dinner may be purchased at our monthly meetings in August, September, and October. You may also send a check for \$15.00 marked "annual dinner" to

**Butler Outdoor Club  
PO Box 321  
Harrisville, PA 16038**

Also volunteers are needed to share their memories of the 20 year history of the BOC in word and slide show. Please contact Carol Bickel immediately if you are interested. Otherwise we will have the usual speaker format.

# THE 25th ANNUAL MEDIEVAL FEAST AT RIVERSIDE



Be our guest at Ye Olde Castle Riverside as you journey back to the age of kings and queens, knights, damsels, jesters and jousters!

Join in the fun as your wenches and knaves not only perform a BRAND-NEW show, they also serve a plentiful feast!!!

**Eat, drink and be merry!  
All without utensils!**

**Anyone interested in a great time at the Medieval feast Saturday, October 18 at 7:00 pm OR Sunday, Oct 19 at 2:30 pm in Cambridge Springs? \$43 per person includes a wonderful meal and great dinner show. Contact Carol Bickel at [cbickel@zoominternet.net](mailto:cbickel@zoominternet.net) to make reservations. Due date is August 10. These tickets sell out fast so we want to get a table together ASAP.**

The Keystone Trails Association (KTA) will field its Trail Code Orange August 30 at Oil Creek State Park. Code Orange events are one-day trail care events. Camping may be available and food is sometimes provided. Volunteers should contact trip leaders to indicate their intent to participate and get up-to-the-minute information. [http://www.kta-hike.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=20&Itemid=37](http://www.kta-hike.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=20&Itemid=37)

Leader: Ed Lawrence; [cathyed@frontier.com](mailto:cathyed@frontier.com); 570-925-5285; Meet: 8:00 AM at Park Office; Camping available Friday and Saturday nights. Trail Care weekends begin Friday evening at the designated campsite. A full day of trail work on Saturday is followed by an evening of campfire sociability and possibly a meal out at a local restaurant (Dutch treat). After a morning of additional trail work, the weekend concludes about noon on Sunday. If you can't spare an entire weekend, you can join the group for whatever portion is convenient. No experience or special skills are required. Tools and work gloves will be provided.

## **BOC Directory**

### **President**

Steve Bickel 724.794.3719

### **Vice-President**

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### **Officer at-large**

Jan Berg

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### **Skiing**

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### **Trails**

Ron Rice 724.538.8475

### **Nature Study**

Dorothy Weisberg

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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)**

follow us on facebook at  
**[www.facebook.com/butleroutdoorclub](http://www.facebook.com/butleroutdoorclub)**

**All BOC events are open to the public. When participating in Butler Outdoor Club events, it is assumed that all participants are responsible for their own safety and of their dependents (such as children) at the event. The facilitator is simply providing an opportunity for everyone to enjoy the event together and is not assuming responsibility or liability for the safety of the participants. All travel is not part of the event and is done at your own risk. To be considered as participating in our events all leaders must fill out a waiver form and all participants must read and sign that form.**

## BOC Sponsored Events

Aug 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>Join us 6:30pm August 6 at the Butler YMCA when Christina Handley, president of Allegheny Aquatic Alliance, a local nonprofit devoted to water protection will present a our program. Over the last 2 years, the Allegheny Aquatic Alliance has organized a major cleanup project on Connoquenessing Creek for the goal of restoring the entire 50 mile waterway back to its beautiful, natural state by removing the garbage and tires that consume it. We have tackled 10 mile sections each year, starting in Zelienople and this year we are moving into the City of Butler. So far in just 20 miles we have removed 85,000 pounds of garbage from the Connie! And we still have 30 miles to go. We need many, many volunteers to continue our success and achieve our goal. The cleanup is on August 23, 2014.</p>
Aug 9	<p>BOC Bike ride - Meet 9:00am at Gumtown Park, Water Street, New Bethlehem and ride the Redbank Valley Trail (Crushed limestone). Check out trail events afterwards. see below schedule of events. Jean and Dave</p>
Aug 20	<p>Our annual miniature golf outing will be held at Eracer's on Aug 20 at 6:30 pm. Optional ice cream afterwards. The rain date will be August 27 at 6:30 PM. Eracer's is located on route 68 south of Butler. If you have questions, please contact Jan at 724-867-0261.</p>
Aug 24	<p>Wilderness Canoe Trip - Meeting Sunday evening, Aug. 24th at a campground near Sudbury. We will head into the wilderness Monday and canoe until Friday or Saturday, Aug. 29-30. Sight see Aug. 30-31. You can head home Aug. 31 or Sept. 1, which is Labor Day. Wilderness trips are our favorite. There is always lots of wildlife with beautiful sunrises and sunsets. However, you must pair up with a canoe partner. One person carries a lightweight canoe balanced on your shoulders and one person carries a backpack with supplies for you and your partner. Canoes can be rented there. Call Joyce Appel or Paul Henry for details and costs. Joyce (724) 526-5407 or Paul (724) 815-3555</p>
Nov 8	<p>BOC 20th anniversary annual dinner. East Butler Firemans Hall - Menu includes roast turkey with stuffing or ham loaf; mashed potatoes; green beans; tossed salad; spicy coleslaw; 20th anniversary cake. Sp - silent auction - club displays, etc.</p>

## Other Area Outdoor Activities and 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.

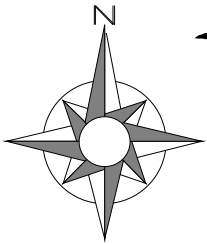
- Aug 2 3 Regatta at Lake Arthur - Live entertainment, water, air, and land events, craft and food vendors, children's activities, Smokey Bear, "Puddle Ducks", homemade sailboats, canoe, kayak, and sailboat races are just a few of the fun activities to experience at this year's Regatta. There are even Saturday night fireworks over the lake! Music performances both afternoons. Admission and parking are FREE. For more information, visit [www.lakearthurregatta.org](http://www.lakearthurregatta.org).
- Aug 9 CCTA PRESENTS OUTDOOR ADVENTURES 2014 A CELEBRATION OF THE REDBANK VALLEY TRAIL PA's 2014 TRAIL OF THE YEAR at GUMTOWN PARK, WATER STREET, NEW BETHLEHEM, PA 16242 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ATTIICS AND CELLARS DAY - COMMUNITY YARD SALE 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. SK RUN (TENTATIVE) 8:00 am registration GEOCACHING 8:00 a.m. Registration 9:00 a.m. Start ROUND TRIP HIKE TO THE CLIMAX TUNNEL 9:00 a.m. Registration 10:00 a.m. Start FISHING TOURNAMENT 9:00 a.m. Registration 10:00 a.m. - 2:00-pm. Start VENDORS 12:00 Noon - 7:00 p.m. KAYAK POKER RUN 12:00 Noon Registration 1:00 p.m. Start WINE SALES AND TASTING Restaurants in the Area AWARD CEREMONY 3:00 p.m. Start BIKE/HIKE ON YOUR OWN AnyTime FOOD/BEVERAGES CHINESE AUCTION AND SPECIAL EXPERIENCE PACKAGES 7:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.
- Aug 14 Butler Chapter NCT picnic out at the picnic pavilion on the property of Dave Sileo. It is a lovely setting beside a lake for a picnic. BOC members welcome. When: Thursday, August 14, 2014 - at 6:00 or later Where: 748 Mahood Road, West Sunbury, PA What: Picnic - bring a dish or a snack. Also, you could bring a something to sit on. Dave has 35 acres, with miles of hiking trails, and a disc golf course. Come on out to meet you fellow NCT'ers. Take a walk. Try your hand at disc golf. Get to see some old friends, Get to know some new ones. Dave said he will provide the hot dogs and picnic supplies again. So don't miss this nice chance for a relaxing evening. Here are directions from Butler: From the intersection of Route 422 and Route 8 in Butler, go north on Route 8 to Route 308 - 1.2 miles. Take Route 308 north for 5.7 miles to Mahood Road. Make a left on Mahood road and go 0.4 mile. 100 feet after Weis Road, the drive-way for 746 and 748 will be on your left. Go up driveway to #748. (about a 1/4 mile) to a lake and house on your left. John F Stehle cell - 724-256-0674
- Aug 22 Moraine State Park Progran - Stargazing Party Friday, August 22- 8:00p.m. North Shore Bike Rental The night sky holds many mysterious and magical sights. Join the park naturalist and members of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh (AAP) (<http://www.3ap.org/>) and the Kiski Astronomers Group for a hands-on star gazing party at the bike rental station on the North Shore of Moraine State Park. AAP will have several telescopes to try out and will provide its expert guidance to locate many interesting sights in the night sky. We will also view a presentation of pictures from the cosmos. Bring a blanket, chairs, bug protection and snacks and plan for a great night at Moraine
- Aug 23 Clarion Chapter NCT August Hike - Meet 9:00am at the gas station in Leeper at the intersection of Routes 36 and 66. Carpool to the trail head on Rt 66 near Vowinckel.

Aug 23	<p>3rd Annual Connoquenessing Creek Cleanup Celebration August 23 @ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Allegheny Aquatic Alliance - Join us every year in protecting our local waterways. This creek was rated the 2nd most polluted waterway in America in 2000 and has remained fairly unchanged until we began this cleanup mission in 2012. We have successfully removed 85,000 pounds of garbage, including nearly 900 tires! The more volunteers we have the more garbage that can be removed! With your help we will clean up this precious waterway from its current deplorable state! Contact Christina at <a href="mailto:alleghenyaquaticalliance@hotmail.com">alleghenyaquaticalliance@hotmail.com</a> to sign up. All volunteers will be provided with t-shirt, lunch, and be invited to the celebration party with food, drink, and live music to follow the cleanup. Join Us!</p>
Aug 23	<p>The tenth annual Baker Trail Ultra Challenge will take place on Saturday August 23, 2014. If you want to volunteer please contact Patty Brunner; <a href="mailto:pabrunner2@yahoo.com">pabrunner2@yahoo.com</a>. <a href="http://www.rachelcarsontrails.org/bt/ultrachallenge/uc14">http://www.rachelcarsontrails.org/bt/ultrachallenge/uc14</a> The Ultra Challenge is a 50-mile ultra marathon on the Baker Trail. Unlike the Rachel Carson Trail Challenge, this is a footrace; the "challenge" is for you or your relay team to win, or at least finish in 14 hours or less! This year, the Ultra Challenge starts at the northern trailhead in Forest County at 6:30 AM. Runners will follow the Baker Trail south for 40 miles to Summerville, then turn east to Brookville and end at the Brookville YMCA. The deadline for finishing is 8:30 PM.</p>
Aug 24	<p>Join Pennsylvania State Park staff for an all-inclusive guided backpacking trip for beginners along the North Country Trail from August 23 at 9:00 a.m. to August 24 at 3:00 p.m. The adventure will begin at Jennings Environmental Education Center with the basics of planning and packing for a trip, then will get on the trail at Moraine and include tips on navigation and selecting gear, backcountry cooking, water filtration and purification, and more, plus an overnight in a trailside shelter. The pace and terrain will be easy to moderate, but participants should be able to hike up to 8 miles or for at least 4 hours. Instruction, overnight accommodation in trailside shelters, all meals and snacks, and all backpacking gear (sleeping bags, backpacks, etc.) are included. This experience is open to participants 16 and up. All minors must be accompanied the entire time by an adult. Registration is \$50 and is EXTREMELY limited. Registration begins June 30 and closes August 4. To register, contact Jennings Environmental Education Center at 724-7984-6011 or email <a href="mailto:jenningsssp@pa.gov">jenningsssp@pa.gov</a>.</p>
Sep 20	<p>McConnells Mill State Park Program - Hemlocks of Hells Hollow Saturday, September 20 1:00p.m. The Eastern Hemlock, our state tree, defines many of the beautiful valleys we love in Pennsylvania. Learn about this lovely tree while enjoying many points of interest along the Hell's hollow trail. We will hike out and back along the easy waterfall trail, with an opportunity to stop after the easy walk, or extend your hike a little further along the moderate North Country Trail. Our walk will meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Hell's Hollow parking lot (no facilities), about a 15 minute drive from the gristmill. Dress for the weather, bring water, and wear sturdy shoes.</p>
Sep 27 28	<p>22nd Annual McConnells Mill Heritage Festival Saturday and Sunday, September 27 and 28 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. History is in motion at the 22nd Annual Heritage Festival at McConnells Mill State Park. The festival celebrates the operational time period of the historical gristmill from 1852 to 1928, and costumed vendors will display crafts inspired by this time. Bluegrass music and free tours of the mill will be offered. The historic gristmill houses the fascinating machinery that ground the grain for the community surrounding Slippery Rock Gorge. A civil war encampment brings history to life, and artisans &amp; craftsmen will demonstrate their skills throughout the festival.</p>





*BOC hikers at Cook Forest on July 26, 2014*



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**Harrisville, PA 16038**