

The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Volume 21 Month 1

January 2015

December Meeting

The BOC Christmas party was held at the December membership meeting. Also decisions were made about club officers. There were no new volunteers to fill the positions of president, treasurer, secretary and vice president of the club. The current officers all agreed to continue in their positions for the next year.

next Membership Meeting

The next membership meeting will be at 6:30 pm on January 7, 2015 at the Butler YMCA. There will be no speaker for this meeting. Instead, we will have a brainstorming session to explore new ideas for the future of the Butler Outdoor Club. Bring your ideas for activities that would interest the greatest number of people and would encourage them to participate and actually become members of the club.

BOC Annual First Day Picnic and Hike! January 1, 2015

Our First Day Picnic will be at noon at the McDanel's shelter on the north shore of Moraine State Park. Bring a hot dish to share. Don't be late because our first day hike begins at the bike rental at 1 PM.

The timing is important because Moraine State Park is inviting the public to join the hike and you will need to be at the bicycle rental by 1 o'clock.

The plan is to hike on the NCT from the bike rental to the link road shelters and back for a hike of approximately 5 miles. Those participants who do not want to hike that far may turn back at any point to shorten their hike.

There will be portable toilets at the bike rental and McDanel's, and there is a composting type toilet at the Link Rd Shelters.

Remember, attending this event gives you credibility as a hardy outdoor club member, especially if the weather is bitterly cold.

Groundhog Day Picnic

The next BOC groundhog day picnic will not be on groundhog day, because that would be on a Monday. The picnic will be on January 31, 2015. Bring your favorite picnic food and join the search for the hidden groundhog. The location for this unparalleled event will be announced at a later date.

Christmas Bird Count December 20, 2014



Five of the eight birder's

Temp: 28 - 32

Wind: calm

Lake Arthur: partly frozen

AM: cloudy

Time: 7:30 to 1:00. Distance: ?

(same as last year)

Field party: 8 birders;

(8 * 5.5) 44.0 hours

Dave Adams

Jean Adams

Rayanne Aiken

Tom Baumgardner

Steve Bickel

Fredrick Schwartz

John Stehle

Tammy Veloski

Cont'd on next page



John Stehle, the chief birder

Count:

Pileated Woodpecker - 2
Gray Catbird - 1
Common Crow - 33
Blue Jay - 30
Pheasant - 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker - 2
Northern Cardinal - 5
Canada Goose - 2
Tree Sparrow - 1
White-Throated Sparrow - 4
Dark-eyed Junco - 2
Hairy Woodpecker - 2
Wild Turkey - 9
Red-tailed Hawk - 6
Northern Harrier - 1
European Starling - 18
Black-capped Chickadee - 33
Cedar Waxwing - 60
American Robin - 12
Downy Woodpecker - 1
White-breasted Nuthatch - 3
Tufted Titmouse - 2
Morning Dove - 1
American Coot - 1
Feral Pigeon - 17
House Sparrow - 2
Bald Eagle - 2
Ring-billed Gull - 6

Species: 28 Count: 269

This was a higher than average number of species for us, and a lower than average count. The almost total lack of waterfowl, in spite of a good amount of open water was disappointing. There were a few duck hunters around who had already reached and flushed out what ever may have been around.

BOC Directory

President

Steve Bickel 724.794.3719

Vice-President

Tammy Veloski
painthorse_33@yahoo.com

Secretary

John Stehle 724.256.0674

Treasurer

Carol Bickel 724.794.3719

Officer at-large

Jan Berg 724.867.0261

Backpacking

Steve Bickel 724.794.3719

Canoeing

Joyce Appel 724.526.5407

Database

Tammy Veloski
painthorse_33@yahoo.com

Webmaster

webmaster@butleroutdoorclub.com

Editor

Frederick Schwartz schwafm@gmail.com

Hiking

Steve Smith
belsmith@embarqmail.com

Membership

Helen Coyne 724.776.0678

Skiing

Paul Henry 724.347.3282

Trails

Ron Rice 724.538.8475

Nature Study

Dorothy Weisberg

“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

follow us on facebook at
www.facebook.com/butleroutdoorclub

Wilderness Lodge:

Hike, snowshoe or cross country ski. (Rentals available or bring your own.)

We stay at a very rustic, antique lodge with a great home cooked dinner included Sat. night. (This year we can also have a dinner at the Thursday optional New Years Day Party.) You can purchase breakfast and lunch separately from their menu. 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 hors d'oeuvres, 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. There is a very large sitting room with tables, couches, TV, table games, fireplace and bar. This place has its very own snowbelt. When no snow around, you may drive and find snow there within 4 miles of the place. (Downhill Peak n Peak and tubing hill are nearby.)

Allegheny State Park:

Cabins are on the Summit and trails all go out from the Cabin Area. (No trail pass needed.) This is a snow belt and snow continues to stay and lay in that area to the end of March in a normal winter, even when there is no snow down in the valley below. Cabins have 2 bedrooms with 2 beds in each and one large sitting area room with table, stove, oven, refrigerator, cabinets. No running water. Bathrooms and showers are very close to all the cabins, within short walking distance. I plan to rent the Warming Hut for Saturday evening for "pot luck" dinner and socializing. We also have cabins until Monday morning, so you can stay all day Sunday and pack up any time you want or stay over and pack car Monday morning. And don't forget about our "Cardboard Sled Contest." You can be a participant or cheerleader. Make a cardboard sled and enter various races on the sled hill Saturday before the potluck dinner. Prizes for winners, originality, best painted sled, best decorated sled, most durable...who knows what Joyce Appel will come up with for categories. It is fun and hilarious. Join us!

There are ski rentals and snowshoes. However, Paul Henry can fix you up with skis cheaper, but he needs to know ahead of time. He can't find the right skis, shoes, poles and have them loaded at the last minute, so don't dilly dally in telling me you want them. They are at my house and he is here only on weekends to pack them up. He must know before the weekend of and the sooner the better. We need your shoe/boot size, height and weight.

Joyce: 724-526-5407

Area Outdoor Activities and Educational Events

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

Jan 1	BOC annual First Day Picnic and Hike at noon at McDanel's Shelter, North Shore, Moraine State Park Bring a hot dish to share. We will meet at 1:00 pm for the hike at the Moraine State Park bike rental parking lot and hike out and back along the NCT in the direction of the Link Road shelters. Hike length is slated to be 4-5 miles long but participants may execute a shorter hike by turning back and returning to the bike rental earlier. There will be portable toilets at the bike rental and McDanel's, and there is a composting type toilet at Link Rd Shelters.
Jan 2-4	Jan. 2-4 & 23-24 Wilderness Lodge Weekends “groomed trails, lots of snow and fun. Call Joyce at 724-526-5407 early to reserve space at the lodge.
Jan 7	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 slideshow or outdoor educational program and is open to the public. Join us Wednesday Jan 7 at the Butler YMCA.
Jan 31	Groundhog Day picnic
Feb 27- Mar 2	February 27 - March 2 - Allegany State Park, New York cross country ski weekend. Stay in rustic cabins or nearby motels. Call Joyce to register at 724-526-5407.

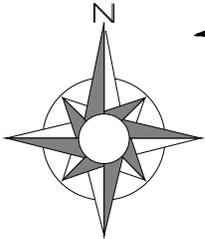
Other Area Outdoor Activities and Events

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.

- Jan 3 Jennings Owl Prowl - Saturday, January 3, 2015 at 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the Jennings Environmental Education Center, 2951 Prospect Rd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-5023 Princes of darkness and lords of the nighttime sky, owls are superb, highly specialized predators. Discover why owls' nocturnal habits, silent flight and ghostly appearances have fascinated people for centuries. Come owling for the evening January 3 at 7:00 pm at the Jennings Environmental Education Center and explore the folklore, natural history, and adaptations of the mysterious creatures of the night. Following a brief indoor presentation, prowl among owls and other wild nightlife on a guided walk along Jennings' darkened forest trails. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress appropriately for the weather conditions including layered clothing and a wind proof/water proof outer layer.
- Jan 17 Winterfest is Saturday January 17, at McDanel's area on North Shore Drive. Activities include ice skating, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, hiking, and ice-sculpture and dog sledding demonstrations. Moraine Preservation Fund is hosting this popular event <http://www.moraine Preservation Fund.org>
- Jan 24 Clarion Chapter NCTA hike: Gravel Lick to Environmental Center
Meeting place : Cooks Forest Environmental Center
Saturday January 24 at 10:00 AM
- Feb 14 Clarion chapter NCTA hike: Red Bank Valley Trail
MeetingPlace : Sheetz Brookville
Saturday February 14 at 10:00 AM
- Jun 12 14 The A-100 Hiking Challenge The Allegheny National Forest Chapter of the North Country Trail Association will hold the annual Allegheny 100 Hiking Challenge on June 12th through 14th, 2015. The adventure covers a 100 mile stretch of the North Country National Scenic Trail in the Allegheny National Forest. Hikers will climb over rolling hills and pass through many beautiful stream valleys. For 2015, the hikers will travel north to south. The A-100 challenges hikers to traverse 100 miles, 75 miles, 50 miles or 25 miles in a 50 hour time period. This challenge is for anyone, regardless of skill level, who wants to test themselves against the trail. Pre-registration for the A-100 will open in March, 2015. For more information visit the NCTA website at <http://northcountrytrail.org/get-involved/special-events/> or email anf@northcountrytrail.org



Ski weekend at Allegany State Park in 2013



The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Butler Outdoor Club
PO Box 321
Harrisville, PA 16038