

The Compass

The Butler Outdoor Club Newsletter Butler, Pennsylvania

Volume 21 Month 3

March 2015

Next Membership meeting March 4, 2015 6:30 PM at the Butler YMCA

The Quest for Ice Winter Adventures in our State Parks

Mike Ciccone will present a slideshow on his winter adventures in various state parks. These include Presque Isle, Moraine, Maurice Goddard and Long Point state parks in Pennsylvania and New York.



This meeting is a good time to pay the Butler Outdoor Club membership dues, if you have not already done so. These contributions to the functioning of the club are always due in March and secure your membership for the year until next March.

An ambitious, but friendly, person is being sought to function as assistance editor of this newsletter. Please express your interest to Fredrick at this monthly meeting. No pay, but great prestige.

If you enjoyed the Civil War Program at our BOC February meeting you may be interested in the collection of Civil War artifacts located in the Civil War Room at the Carnegie Free Library in Carnegie, Pa.



Docent Martin Neaman in the Civil War Room

Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall
300 Beechwood Avenue Carnegie, PA 15106
Phone: 412-276-3456

<http://www.carnegiecarnegie.org>

The Civil War Room is open Saturdays
11:00 am – 3:00 pm and during week by
appointment.

Among the many items on display are guns, swords, uniforms, and rare photographs.

The Carnegie Free Library on March 7 8:30 am – 4:30 pm presents a day-long Civil War symposium, "Road to Appomattox," featuring talks on Lincoln and various battles. Register by Feb 28 - \$45 full day, \$20 half day.

See brochure at
<http://www.carnegiecarnegie.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Brochure.pdf>



You are invited to KTA's

SPRING HIKING WEEKEND

Camp Swatara, Berks County, PA

April 17-19, 2015

The Keystone Trails Association will host its annual **Spring Meeting and Hiking**

Weekend from Friday, April 17 to Sunday, April 19, 2015, at Camp Swatara, in Bethel, Berks County, PA.

In addition to hikes of all lengths and levels of difficulty organized by the **Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club (BMECC)**, we will also have a hoedown with a four-piece band with a caller, Ken Saul and the Blue Mountain Ramblers, to celebrate the BMECC's 100th anniversary! We'll also have a maintainer's workshop, boating, mini-golf, bonfire, opportunities to try out the climbing tower, and more! For more information go to www.kta-hike.org.

Cherry Pie Hike Review

Young George Washington and his travelling companion, Christopher Gist, along with their time traveling interpreter, Rodney Gasch, made it to the Annual Cherry Pie hike on February 21 this year. These visitors from our frontier past made it despite the heavy snow which discouraged most of our modern hikers from venturing out, with only about 30 of the normal 120 who have attended in the past. There were three possible sessions to attend, where participants had pie and coffee provided by the North Country Brewing Co., listened to a presentation by Rodney Gasch and re-enactors Bob Shaner and Dan Nehrer, as they helped us understand the life and times of western Pennsylvania just prior to the French and Indian War in 1753. Following the presentation, people could choose to go on a short hike with a Jennings ranger, or on a long hike with a Butler Chapter hike leader. See last page for a photo of one of the hikes. --John Stehle

Spring Waterfowl Migration

Spring waterfowl observation day will be on Saturday, March 28, 2015; meet at 9:00am at the waterfowl observation platform on Old Route 422 at Moraine State Park. We will stay there for about an hour, and then move on up to the Route 528 Bridge. After that we will work the other access points to Lake Arthur along Route 528 and then over to the South Shore section of the park. This should take us to about 1:00. If there is any interest, the excursion could continue to the North Shore or even points north. --John Stehle

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

Fredrick 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

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2015

Fourth Annual



Ride!

A Journey of Spectacular Scenery, Fabulous Food, and Fun Friendships Along The Armstrong Trail!

Hosted by The Armstrong Rails to Trails Association and The Allegheny Valley Land Trust
All Proceeds to Benefit Development of The Trail

Event Starts and Ends at the Nautical Mile Campground
530 Stone Ave, Templeton, PA
Rain or Shine

RIDE / WALK

58 mile Round Trip Ride: Templeton to East Brady to Kittanning & back to Templeton; Starts at 9:00am

28 mile Round Trip Ride: Templeton to East Brady & back to Templeton; Starts at 9:30am

18 mile Round Trip Ride: Templeton to Kittanning & back to Templeton; Starts at 10:00am

8 mile Round Trip Family Ride: Templeton to Mosgrove Train trestle & back; Starts at 10:30am

2 to 3 mile Round Trip Walk/Short Ride: Templeton towards the south & back; Starts at 10:30am

FOOD/FUN

DONATION

Fruit and water at the starting point
Picnic lunch at Nautical Mile Campground in Templeton - (vegetarian and kid friendly options will be available)
Fire pit with smores, kids' activities & live music!

\$25.00 - Regular registration by May 9
(Register and pay by March 30th and receive a Trail Hat)
\$30.00 - Late registration/walk-in after May 9
\$15.00 - Children ages 10-18
\$5.00 - Children under 9

REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Ride/walk option: 58 miles ___ 29 miles ___ 18 miles ___ 8 miles ___ 2-3 miles ___

Send completed registration form with check made out to Armstrong Rails to Trails Association to:

Toni Henry, 901 Purdum St., East Brady, PA 16028.

Contact Toni with any questions at toni.henry51@gmail.com or 412-759-9152



SAVE THE DATE!



It's an unforgettable adventure with scenic mountain views and warm, welcoming communities. [Join Rails-to-Trails Conservancy for our premier trail event. Register today for the 2015 Pennsylvania Rail-Trail Sojourn!](#)

Returning to the Montour Trail and the Great Allegheny Passage, the 2015 sojourn continues the trailblazing tradition of previous rides.

This year's ride will visit new communities and utilize new camping and accommodation sites. Not only does this provide fresh attractions for returning riders, it also continues the sojourn's theme of helping more communities boost their local economies through trail tourism.

[Join us June 21-26 for the 2015 Pennsylvania Rail-Trail Sojourn, a fully supported, six-day trail adventure!](#)

The Sojourn is for all ages and skill levels—from the young to the young-at-heart, aficionados to first-timers, families to freewheelers.

You'll experience firsthand why these amazing trails continue to grow in popularity as you explore the historic, picturesque communities and ride through spectacular scenery along the Montour Trail in Pennsylvania and the iconic Great Allegheny Passage into Maryland.

[Learn more about the 2015 Rail-Trail Sojourn, and register today!](#)

Happy Trails,

Tom Sexton

Director, Northeast Regional Office

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

BOC Sponsored 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.

[Outing Sign In Waiver](#)

Feb 27	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.
Mar 2	
Mar 1	BOC Hike/Ski/Snowshoe depending on conditions - Meet 1pm at the Sarver Trailhead (Rt 356S) for a hike south along Buffalo Creek on the scenic Butler Freeport Community Trail for an hour or 2 or 3. Dave and Jean Adams
Mar 4	Our monthly meetings are 6:30 pm social, 7:00 pm announcements and program promptly after announcements 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 6:30pm Wednesday March 4 at the Butler YMCA for The Quest for Ice - a slide presentation by Mike Ciccone on his winter adventures in various state parks. These include Presque Isle, Moraine, Maurice Goddard and Long Point State Parks in PA and NY.
May 13	BOC Dolly Sods Backpacking trip The Dolly Sods Wilderness area in West Virginia is arguably one of the most unique and beautiful hiking areas on the East Coast. The high plateaus are made up of wind carved sand stone, stunted red spruce, grassy meadows and sphagnum bogs. Mark your calendars for the BOC spring backpacking trip May 1 - 3. Car camping nearby on Friday night will enable everyone to get on the trail early Saturday morning for a 12 mile loop to be hiked in two days. This could be the perfect time for beginners to try a relatively short hike and even experienced hikers will relish the spectacular scenery. Backpacking groups are limited to ten hikers so sign up at the meeting or email Steve Bickel at sbickel@zoominternet.net.
May 16	BOC Ohio pyle Bike Ride meet 10am at the train station trailhead and ride up along the Yough River to Confluence and back. Optional stop in Confluence for snacks/lunch. Dave and Jean Adams
Jul 10 11	BOC member camp out The group camping area at Five Points in Moraine State Park has been reserved for Friday, July 10 and Saturday, July 11 for all BOC members to enjoy two nights of free camping together. Non-members may also camp with a member for a \$5 per person per night fee. The camping area is centrally located in the park so biking, kayaking, swimming, hiking or just plain chillin can be accommodated. Bring your own gear and food. Capacity is limited so sign up at the meeting to ensure your spot.

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.

Feb
28

Home Sweet Home: Backyard Maple Sugaring Saturday, February 28 at 8:30am to 12:30pm Jennings Environmental Education Center 2951 Prospect Rd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-5023 Here is an opportunity for adults who want to try making their own tasty maple syrup! From choosing appropriate trees through tapping, collecting and evaporating maple sap, participants will learn, observe and practice the steps in the sugaring process, and discover how it can be done on a backyard scale. Information and resources will be provided for finding out more and getting started at home. An optional tour of Jennings sugar bush will follow the workshop, from 1-2 p.m. The program is free, with equipment available to purchase. Registration is required by February 20. Call 724-794-6011 to register.

Mar
14

Clarion NCT Chapter monthly hike - Saturday March 14 at 10:00 AM Camp Coffman Road to Route 322 Meeting place : Country Fair at Shippenville Info: contact Devin Callihan 814-319-5058

Mar
19

KTA Invites All Hikers and Trail Lovers to 2nd Annual Membership Celebration and Film Festival Thursday, March 19, 2015, starting at 6:30 pm at the Wesley Center of Camp Hill United Methodist Church, 417 South 22nd Street, Camp Hill, PA. Last year, we began our tradition of the KTA Membership Celebration and Film Festival, said Wanda Shirk, President of KTA. We will continue it this year, with an emphasis on Pennsylvania's hiking trails. KTA will celebrate its work, the states precious trails, and the backbone of KTA - its membership. Our 2015 event will feature several films, all about trails in Pennsylvania, Shirk said. Last year, we focused solely on the Appalachian Trail. This year, we will feature other equally beautiful trails that may not be as well-known. It will be a great opportunity to learn about new places to hike. Attendees will be given an opportunity to cast a vote for their favorite film, and the film with the most votes will receive the coveted KTA Film of the Year Award. In addition to some great films, the event will also spotlight KTAs advocacy efforts on trails and wild

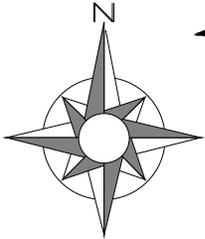
spaces, feature other hiking, trails and environmental organizations, and celebrate the KTA membership base, she said. It is a unique opportunity for new and experienced trail enthusiasts to learn more about KTA and the footpaths we help protect throughout the state. Last year, eighteen partner organizations, member clubs, non-profit and commercial businesses had displays at our Membership Celebration, Jim Foster, Chair of the event, said. Please contact us if your organization or business would like to set up an informational or retail table during the event. Tickets for the KTA Membership Celebration and Film Festival are just \$15.00. Non-members will, in addition to admission to the event, also receive a one-year introductory membership to KTA. Tickets can be purchased in advance at <http://tinyurl.com/nk8wqm3> or at the door. Additional information about KTA and this event is available at www.kta-hike.org. KTA is a federation of membership organizations and individuals dedicated to providing, preserving, protecting and promoting recreational hiking trails and hiking opportunities in Pennsylvania. KTA also represents and advocates for the interests and concerns of the Pennsylvania hiking community.

Apr 18 Saturday April 18 at 10:00 AM Kiser Wagner to Brenniman Road
Meeting place : Country Fair at Shippenville

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



Cherry Pie Hike on February 21, 2015. From left: Dave Adam, Randy Feehan, Sharon Feehan, Jean Adams, and Steve Smith.



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