

# THE AXE AND SAW

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Spring 2021

Grove City College Outing Club

[www.gccoc.org](http://www.gccoc.org)

Brian Ross and Evalyn Summers

## *A Message From the Secretaries:*

Greetings all! As the spring semester is ending, it's time for the next Axe and Saw! Evalyn Summers and I (Brian Ross) are your current alumni secretaries. We here at the college have had a ton of fun times throughout this spring semester, despite the restrictions, from the Valentine's day dinner early on, the wonderful spring break trip down in North Carolina, and to Beast Feast with the alumni, and everything in between. We hope you enjoy this edition of the Axe and Saw!

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## *A Message From the President:*

*Adam Cramer*

Hello Everyone,

It has now come to the point in the semester where I get to write to all of you

and reflect on all of the fun we have had this semester, and there is certainly plenty to reflect on. The semester started off strong with Valentine's day dinner after which many people spent the night and fun and good food was had by all.

Our next trip was Spring break which I was personally determined to have at all costs. We went back to Linville Gorge in North Carolina and spent 4 days hiking, exploring, and summiting mountains. For many of the members it was their first ever backpacking trip since we had not had a fall break last semester, but everyone powered through the steep inclines and declines and everyone had a good time with minimal suffering.

The final big trip we did was Beast Feast. This was my first beast feast and what an adventure it was. I am so thankful for all of our incredible alumni for making this trip happen as, at least in my opinion, it was one of the most memorable trips I have been on. Shooting a machine gun was an experience like no other and certainly not one I will soon forget. It was an excellent time and it was wonderful to get to know the alumni better and have everyone crowded onto the porch just listening to old war stories.

This semester was certainly a wild ride for many of us and didn't seem to show any sign of slowing down but I think that was what made it so exciting. I want to close out this letter by thanking all of the alumni and all of my fellow officers for everything they do. This club could not exist without you and I am endlessly appreciative of that. I also want to take time to thank our alleged faculty advisor, as he is endlessly supportive of the club and always has some insight to share whenever you run into him. With all that, please enjoy the Axe and Saw for Spring 2021!

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### **The Outing Club on Thin Ice**

*Alex Taaffe*

On Saturday March 6, the Outing Club went to the Hess Ice Rink to skate for a few hours. It was crowded with little kids who undoubtedly outskated the Outing Club. Most of us had very little ice-skating experience, but we still had a good time.

The place was so full it was hard to do more than skate slowly, but Lauren Brockway, our token Idahoan, decided to race someone. The dude she was racing won, but he did not get to enjoy his victory for long. Lauren ran right into him because she did not know how to stop. Luckily, he

was standing on the wall, and it absorbed most of the impact. The sound of the crash echoed through the rink. It was quite the sight to see.

I expected to be a horrible ice skater because I'm from Texas and as anyone could guess, their ain't much ice back home. I was pleasantly surprised to find that my roller blading skills transferred over to ice skating. I put most of the yankees to shame. My favorite blonde in the club, Bethany Dawn, had a hard time skating so I gave her a hand. She messed up my no-fall record when she fell and took me down with her. I was not pleased.

There were three young men on the rink who were paralyzed or missing their legs from the knee down. They sat in little seats with a single big skate on the bottom and pushed themselves along with small metal sticks. They were really fast, and they obviously enjoyed themselves. The men raced little kids, which was fun to watch. One of them even helped Katherine Smucz, an Outing Club member, up when she fell, which was pretty impressive for someone in a seat 4" off the ground. It was nice to see people that disabled having a good time.

After about an hour and a half of skating they kicked us off the ice. We all left

for the big room attached to the rink, but I saw about twenty little kids standing on the edge of the rink itself. I went out there to see what they were gawking at and found that they had a massive machine laying down new ice. I stood there and watched it until it was done. It was quite impressive, but I was the only person over eight years old who thought so. I had never seen a Zamboni before. The Outing Club had a great time at the rink. I'm sure we will go again soon.

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### **Linville Gorge: The Spring Break Saga Continues**

*Abby Treusch*

Let's recap:

Spring Break. 2020. Outing Club enters the Linville Gorge Wilderness area for a week of fun backpacking adventures. Several days later, Outing Club exits Linville Gorge Wilderness to find the world in a state of utter chaos. Outing Club wants to turn around and go back to hide in the woods.

This was the start of those "unprecedented times" that we all have heard so much about and have personally lived through. Do we take responsibility for starting a worldwide pandemic by backpacking in North Carolina? Why, no... of course not! That would be silly! But

maybe, just maybe, the curse could be reversed if we re-enter the Linville Gorge Wilderness area for round two of fun backpacking adventures. So that's exactly what we did.

A group of thirteen of us, comprised of mostly freshmen, caravanned back on down to North Carolina with plans to hike the opposite side of the gorge from what we did the previous year. In the four days that we were there, we experienced rain, tornado-like winds, and beautiful sunny clear skies. We summited Hawksbill peak in the rain on the first day, Table Rock mountain in the blue skies on the second and slept through what felt like a tornado in between. Highlights of the trip included singing hymns around the campfire; plenty of trail shenanigans; a rather visually unappetizing, but incredibly delicious glop of mashed potatoes, chicken nuggets, stuffing, and gravy; and creating the kinds of friendships that can only be forged when a group of people are thrown together into the wilderness for several days of hiking.

Was the Corona curse reversed? Nope! But we got something even more special out of this trip: cherished memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

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## **A Beast of a Beast Feast**

*Benjamin Salaj*

We arrived at the cabin at 12:30, and for lunch Etienne started cooking several fish we caught in Wolf Creek just upstream from Rainbow Bridge. Just after we finished eating the alumni arrived, and the freshman there, who were the majority of us, got to meet them.

We played fetch with a dog who refused to play it with anything other than a rock, while many of us talked with the alumni. We shot rifles, pistols and shotguns for hours, including shooting full auto in 3 round bursts and shooting a shotgun by holding down the trigger and continually pumping. For some of us, shooting full auto was their first time ever shooting a gun, and we all loved it! Dinner included Quail, Wild Boar, and Alligator Chili. It was great fun and a great introduction to the alumni for many of us!

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*Cabin Update*

*Mark Place '77*

*Alumni Cabin Manager*

## **2021 Summer Outing**

The annual alumni, students, families, and friends outing will be **August 12-15**.

After a very limited COVID outing to address the basics in 2020, we are looking forward to a great turnout and a return to normal.

As usual meals will begin with lunch on Thursday and run through lunch on Saturday. Please contact me at [mplace@johnplaceinc.com](mailto:mplace@johnplaceinc.com) or by phone at 412-877-0050 by Tuesday July 23rd to assist Sue Knechtel with meal planning. While we would love to see you all 4 days, please feel free to join us for a day or even a meal. Many regular participants from years past have been missed, don't be a stranger! It is high time to introduce your spouse and children or grandchildren to the cabin.

At the moment we will be addressing the usual tune-up details like the gutters, spring, mowers, saws, drains etc. and may have to deal with some major tree issues. Weather permitting there should be plenty of time for a hike or a swim each day.

### **Summer use of the cabin**

Please check with Lee McCoy or me regarding Summer use of the cabin to make sure there are no large groups scheduled. If you do enjoy the cabin, please allow some time to help with mowing and wood splitting. The push mower and riding mower are in good shape and ready to use. Please let me know if the gas for the mowers is running low. Keeping the place mowed and looking like someone could show up at any time is our best and lowest cost possible security system.

If you can help with mowing this summer, please let me know. Thanks to alleged faculty advisor Dr. Dave Gordon for his many mows each summer. If we get it cut every say 3 weeks, it is not an all afternoon project when it is cut. Even if you do part of the yard it is appreciated.

The new grill works great, please clean it when you are done and if the propane is low, please consider getting the tank refilled.

Also please remember to not leave any food in the fridges after finals. The gas periodically goes off for various reasons and finding a fridge full of spoiled stuff is a very unpleasant experience that Lee and I as well as others have had before.

### **Use of the range**

Please enjoy the range but allow time to clean up old targets and to police up the brass. Before you leave.

### **Fireplace restorations and new hearths**

Our ace contractor Chad has restored the fireplaces making them safe for another 80 plus years. As part of that work beautiful new stone hearths were installed. Regardless of how thick the stone is, please do not split wood inside on them. Firewood and kindling should be split outside. Please do not bring in more wood than you will be using as that can introduce harmful insects into the cabin.

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