Photo Contest Winner

"Atsion Lake Reflection" by Anonymous

President's Message

Joe Fabian

This month we have a mixed bag of news to report. The Club held a grand social party at the Riverton Country Club last month. Under John Kerney’s leadership, we had fine food, drinks, music and dancing. There was also a slide show presentation of our club’s events. A good time was had by all who attended.
I led a few hikes in my hometown of Cherry Hill and neighboring Haddonfield. The Haddonfield hikes were combined with discussions regarding points of interest from the Revolutionary War era. Also, I have been accused of being a “traitor” for being seen participating in other clubs’ activities! This is not true, of course, but I do also belong to the Bike Club of Philadelphia and have been participating in their Sunday Wissahickon hikes to explore another area and learn how our sister clubs deal with its administrative challenges to perhaps help the OCSJ manage its activities and leaders better.

Lastly, I am very sad to report that one of our cycling club members was killed. She was struck by a pickup truck while riding with another cycling club in northern Burlington County. This was not an OCSJ ride, but she was a regular rider with our club. She left a husband and two children.

Joe Fabian, President OCSJ  
President@ocsj.org

**Vice President's Message**

**Barbara Berman**

Our annual election results were announced at the November Board meeting. The Executive Board, which begins its new term effective January 1st, is as follows:

- President: Joe Fabian
- Vice-President: Barbara Berman
- Recording Secretary: Eloise Williams
- Membership Secretary: Rosemarie Mason
- Treasurer: Fran Horn

Thank you to all who voted. This is your club, and we are counting on you to help make it even better than it is.

I wish all of you a very happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year! Here’s to 2022!!

Barbara Berman  
Vice President OCSJ  
vpocsj.org

**Activity Chair's Message**

**Frank Pearce**

As the year comes to an end, we wish you the best in the Holiday season. 2021 was a year with many challenges. I hope coming together with others on club activities made things a little better.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Holiday Tailgate on the 18th. Please remember to thank the leaders who make the activities possible and consider becoming a leader.

May 2022 bring many happy memories,

Frank Pearce  
hornt71@verizon.net
TRAIL MAINTENANCE NEWS

Trail Maintenance Representative:
Ro Mason

The OCSJ trail crew is currently trimming and re-blazing the Batona Trail from Batsto Village to the Lower Forge campground sign; approximately 7 miles.

A big Thank You to the 23 crew members who participated in the “Gathering of the Greens Day” on November 27th with Russell Juelg of the Franklin Parker Preserve.

And another big Thank You to those 7 crew members who braved a 24 degree wind chill on November 27th to trim a section of the Batona on the annual “Give Thanks/Give Back Trail Work Day”.

Happy Holidays to everyone!!

Ro Mason

To volunteer, email Ro at romason@comcast.net

Click for Trail Maintenance Events

CYCLING NEWS

Cycling Chair: Neil Kornhauser

Cycling follows all the “rules of the road” just like vehicles. When you are on the roads on a bicycle, you are considered a vehicle. When was the last time you drove your car without a rearview mirror? I’ll bet the answer is never!
If you do not use a rearview mirror while biking, then you are absolutely putting yourself and others you ride with in danger. As a cyclist you need to be aware of riders, vehicles and pedestrians in front of you, on either side of you, AND BEHIND YOU. Many vehicles are extremely quiet, especially the electric ones. Oftentimes, you cannot hear a car or other cyclist approaching you from behind. A quick glance in the mirror is all you need.

Mirrors come in different styles; they can be mounted on your handlebar, helmet or even on your cycling glasses. No matter which one you choose, make sure the mirror is placed on the left. I personally use a mirror that mounts to my cycling glasses. I have found mirrors that attach to the handlebar vibrate too much for my taste, making it a bit harder to see what's behind you.

Give the rear view mirror a try; I know I cannot ride without one! Be safe out there on the roads and trails.

Neil Kornhauser  nkornhauser@gmail.com

Click for Cycling Events

HIKING NEWS
Hiking Chair:  Diane Mason

Happy December Everyone!

Because we have so many new hiking members, I thought we would spend time this month brushing up on Hiking Etiquette. Being a good hiker doesn’t just mean going the distance, it also means being a considerate hiking partner. Here are some important “Do’s” to keep in mind. Bear with me, there’s a lot of ground to cover…

DO help each other avoid getting stuck on a waitlist:

- Be signed up for only ONE hike on any one calendar day.
- Edit your RSVP to “not going” if you cannot make the hike. This will open your space for another hiker. Familiarize yourself with the club’s Policy on Late Cancellations and No Shows.pdf
- Become a leader. You are never stuck on your own waitlist.

DO help make your (volunteer!) leader’s job easier:

- Read the event description carefully. Ask yourself,
  1) Can I walk that fast? or,
  2) Do I have the patience to walk that slow?
  3) Can I hike that far?
  4) If the description says “few breaks”, can I go that far without ‘going’?
- Show up for a hike only if you have made it onto the “Going” list. The leader may have purposely kept the group small or the participants may have pre-arranged their shuttle. The leader can turn away people who show up unexpectedly.
- Arrive 15 to 20 minutes early to sign in. Gather your gear and be ready to leave when the leader says, “Let’s go!”
- Keep behind the Leader and in front of the Sweep. If you get ahead, you’ll miss a turn. If you get behind, the group will worry you are lost.
- Be an official member of the hike. Unofficially following behind the group is strongly, strongly, strongly (did I mention, “strongly?”) discouraged. It is unfair to those left on the waitlist and you are not covered by the club’s insurance.
• Wait for the leader’s signal that break time is over; neither hurry the group nor be slow to pack up.
• Check with the leader before bringing your pet. If given the OK, our furry friends must remain on a leash and stay at the back of the pack. Just a heads up…The group will grumble if your pet holds up the hike by repeatedly stopping and sniffing or trotting off the trail.
• Bring non-alcoholic beverages to club events including tailgates, campfires, and campouts. Consuming alcohol is in violation of club policy and is illegal in State Parks, Forests, and Campgrounds.

**DO** enjoy your surroundings and the company. When on a hike be sure to:

• Make it a goal to meet someone new.
• Ask questions about what you see.
• Look up. Stop watching your feet once in awhile and enjoy the view.
• Remember…Reaching the end of the hike is not our destination. Our destination is to enjoy the journey along the way.

See you on the trails,

Di

Diane Mason hiking@ocsj.org

[Click for Hiking Events]

**Backpacking/Camping News**

Backpacking/Camping Chair: **Kevin Drevik**

Keep checking Meetup for when backpacking will resume.

Kevin KDrevik@aol.com

[Click for Backpacking/Camping Events]

**KAYAKING/CANOEING NEWS**

Kayaking/Canoeing Chair: **Frank Pearce**

For any paddling activities scheduled for November through March, it is club policy that all paddlers must wear wet or dry suits subject to approval of leaders.

Frank Pearce Hornet71@verizon.net

[Click for Kayaking/Canoeing Events]

**Cross Country Skiing/Snowshoeing News**

Cross Country Ski Chair: **Vacancy** - Volunteer Needed

[Click for CC Ski Events]

There are two Cross Country Ski trips planned:

Cross Country Skiing in the White Mountains of New Hampshire
Monday, January 17, 2022 to Monday, January 24, 2022
Swiss Chalets Village Inn, Intervale NH

Cross Country Skiing in Vermont
Colonial House Inn, Weston VT
Thursday, February 24, 2022 to Monday, February 28, 2022
https://www.meetup.com/Outdoor-Club-of-South-Jersey/events/281492864/

For information regarding ski or snowshoeing events, contact Barbara Brandt bbrandt46@gmail.com

SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS
John Kerney - Social Committee Coordinator

The Fall Social was held last month and was a huge success. A good time was had by all who attended. Due to the overwhelmingly positive response, we are considering adding a Spring Fling as well!

We are working on scheduling our winter events. We are considering ice skating and welcome any ideas you have.

Thank you for supporting your OCSJ Social Committee events. These events give us the opportunity to develop friendships and have fun with fellow members you might not otherwise meet on a regular activity.

John Kerney
crewkern@live.com Questions? Call or text John 609-706-7264

Member Spotlight
Spotlight On: Fran Horn
by: Vera Stek

If there were ever an Olympic gold medal for the amateur athlete who has traveled the most to pursue a love of outdoor activities, Fran Horn of Cinnaminson would win hands down.

A club member for nearly four decades, Fran has not only participated avidly and widely in the many outings offered by OCSJ, but has also stepped up...
repeatedly to take on necessary tasks, such as leading activities, editing and publishing the newsletter and guarding the treasury.

Not to be limited to one or even two sports, Fran does it all: skiing, hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking. Looking for advice on how to successfully participate in any of these activities? Fran is the go-to expert. She’s traveled to all around the U.S. and Canada, Europe (Scotland, Switzerland, Ireland and Italy, to name a few places), and Nepal. “We are not super athletes, just people who have decided to spend our free time in the outdoors,” Fran says, encouraging all to join to get outside and get fit.

If you’ve ever been on a hike with Fran, you’d know it because she also warm and welcoming, friendly and outgoing. Here’s her story:

Q. Tell us a little about yourself.
FRAN: I am a girl who grew up in Tacony. Yes, I hiked in Pennypack Park many times. I was lucky enough to go to college and get a very good job in the defense industry. I am married with a wonderful family including a husband, children, grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. As you can see, I did not get more than 5 miles from the old neighborhood.

In 1975, my brother Bill was returning to college and needed some money, so he sold me a Peugeot bicycle. And the rest is history.

Q. When and why did you join the Outdoor Club? Why do you think belonging to a club like OCSJ is important?
FRAN: After a few unsuccessful attempts at membership, I joined the OCSJ Biking group in 1983 and have been an OCSJ member ever since. This is a very valuable organization to our members. We exercise our bodies, exercise our minds and make lifelong friends and new acquaintances and learn new skills.

We also impact the community. For example: OCSJ is committed to “leave no trace.” We participate in Trail Work, local cleanups and contribute to various local groups. Bikers demonstrate their skills on the road; kayakers demonstrate their skills on the water.

Q. Why volunteer to become treasurer and a hike and bike leader, etc.?
FRAN: I have been a bike leader since 1989. At times, I also have led hikes, cross-country ski trips, and the Cape May Trip.

Around 2010, I was approached to become Treasurer – just for a year or two. I have a background in computers, organization and project management, so I was able to take this job over. Since I have been Treasurer, I have participated in the move to a more computerized organization with the following:

OCSJ Newsletter
Meetup
Wild Apricot Website and Membership database

I do enjoy a challenge.

Q. Is there any place in the world you haven’t been that you’d still like to get to?
FRAN: I do love to travel and have lots of plans including the bike and barge trip to France in the summer of 2022. In the spring, we plan to travel and hike in New York State. In July 2023, I plan to go back to Switzerland for a hiking trip. I would also like to travel to Washington State for a biking/kayaking trip.
Q. What are some of the most memorable active vacations you’ve been on? How do you decide where to go and what to do?

FRAN: My most memorable trip was the Ride Across America. This route was first used in 1976. Sadly, during the trip, I developed problems with my feet and was not able to finish the last 800 miles. With my very good friends (Ann, John and Ora Sue), I did ride 60 miles a day for 60 days. That is 3,600 miles in 2 months.

Q. How did the COVID pandemic affect your outdoor activities?

FRAN: OCSJ members really landed in a sweet spot during COVID. We were able to keep up our activities, because most of our normal activities are outside and our members were responsible and considerate with the use of masks, social distancing and vaccinations.

Q. Anything ever happen on a club hike that was really memorable? Something funny, sad, tragic?

FRAN: So many trips, so many people; where do I start. I will be traveling along and think of:

Dave kicking a gigantic turtle off of the road;
Don Villanova leading the Sunday rides to 4 mile circle – every Sunday for years;
Toni’s hike in Franklin Parker when the soles fell off of my hiking boots;
My first kayak trip with Pat and Chris and Dot;
The kayak trip when a spider fell into my granddaughter’s kayak. She jumped into my kayak. We were lucky to be rescued by Bobby;
My double metric century on the Beast of the East;
My first OCSJ Bike trip in 1983 with Jim Bodnar;
Trail riding in the 1990s with Joe and Chris.
Biking and skiing with Judy (RIP).

Q. Any tips for newer members?

FRAN: BE prepared, outgoing and friendly. We would love to talk to you; come over and join the group. Ask questions. We have all of the answers, but some answers are better than others.

Q. What’s something about yourself that might surprise others to know?

FRAN: I am a shy, retiring person who never thought that I would have over 1,300 friends.

Q. Anything else you’d like to say about anything?

FRAN: When you meet a board member, thank them. A lot of planning and coordination goes into keep this club viable. We welcome your encouragement, suggestions and complaints. (Yes, we have heard them all before.)

FOR SALE:

14 foot Necky Skeg Touring Kayak $300  Includes cockpit cover and skirt
Purchased 2004 some scars but floats and maneuvers fine  sgtb414@gmail.com  pick up near Ocean City, NJ

Women’s Medium Dry Suit Top:  $175 or best offer.
Never worn. Like new condition. Sells new for $250. Fits small to medium woman. Mindy Gumminger mgummingermssn@gmail.com

2 SealLine Clear Dry Bags $20 5 Liter and 30 Liter size. Quality bags. Used once. Dan (OCSJ Member for 40+ years) call or text 609-923-9469
Mt Laurel for pick up near Laurel Acres

| Women’s 1980’s Trek 2300 Multitrack Bike $200. Upgrades and Newer Tires. Elaine Epaulli@optimum.net |

Women’s 1980’s Trek 2300 Multitrack Bike $200.

Elaine Epaulli@optimum.net

For Sale: Gregory Backpack - $25
Men’s Medium. Purchased at REI about 10 years ago. Mrichardspt@gmail.com 609-304-3898

To Give: FREE: 2 Ocean Kayaks 15’ Sit On Top Approx. 30 years old. 2 paddles included. They have been stored outdoors and need cleaning. Very heavy. Mrichardspt@gmail.com 609-304-3898

Submit your REQUESTS and OFFERS to: j9padge@gmail.com for publication in the next Newsletter and on our Website.
Include a description of the item you are requesting or offering, photos, price or terms of loan, and your contact information. All transactions will be conducted privately between the individuals.

**Please update when items are no longer available**

ANNUAL MILEAGE CLUBS

For members who like to set goals and keep track of activity:

The Grand Mileage Club - Hike 1000 miles per year. Report your mileage monthly to Jenny Buffington at TotallyBuff@comcast.net

500 & 750 Mileage Club - Hike 500 or 750 miles per year. Report your mileage monthly to Ann Palaitis at ann.m.palaitis@gmail.com.

Bicycling Mileage Club - Cyclists report their miles annually to Neil Kornhauser at nkornhauser@gmail.com.

Kayaking Mileage Club - Kayakers report their miles annually to Erika Blank at powerofpink58@verizon.net.
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Your club is made up entirely of volunteers. You will get more out of it, if you put more into it! There are many opportunities to help behind the scenes and on activities. Ask about it on your next event. Let the leader know if you have any time or talents you would like to share with the club.

Board of Trustees - The OCSJ Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 pm. Currently, our meetings are on ZOOM. To attend the meetings, contact the OCSJ President, Joe Fabian, at president@ocsj.org

Social Committee - Seeking fun-loving people to help plan social events. If you would like to join our Social Committee, contact John Kerney at crewkern@live.com

Website/Computer/Social Media - Help Wanted - We are actively seeking someone with website/database/computer experience. Contact the OCSJ President, Joe Fabian at president@ocsj.org

OCSJ follows and encourages practicing the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace

Click for LNT Info

OCSJ MEMBERSHIP

There are several ways you can join or renew your OCSJ membership.

1. Click the button below.
2. Go to OCSJ.wildapricot.org or download the Wild Apricot app to your mobile device. Click on the “Join OCSJ Here” button and follow the prompts.
3. Mail a check payable to: "OUTDOOR CLUB OF SOUTH JERSEY"

Mailing address:
Outdoor Club of South Jersey
PO Box 74
Oceanville, NJ 08231

Membership Level:

- Family Member - $25.00 Subscription period: 1 year (No automatically recurring payments)
- Family Auto Renewal - $25.00 Subscription period: 1 year Automatic renewal (recurring payments)
- Single Member - $20.00 Subscription period: 1 year (No automatically recurring payments)
• Single Auto Renewal - **$20.00** Subscription period: 1 year
  Automatic renewal (recurring payments)

Membership Questions: Please contact OCSJ at membership@ocsj.org

[Click to Join OCSJ]

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