

OCSJ Newsletter

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To: Janine Padgett <j9padge@gmail.com>

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**Outdoor Club
of
South Jersey
NEWSLETTER
July 2022**



Following a Trail in The Mullica River Fire Area

President's Message

Joe Fabian

On Saturday June 11, 2022, our club hit a successful double header. First, we held our rescheduled club picnic at Pakim Pond in Brendan T. Byrne State Forest. The weather gods looked in favor on us with only a few brief sprinkles. We had great food and company. A few members brought kayaks for attendees to try out on the pond. Among other board members and leaders, we should thank Frank Pearce, Vicky Gordon, Chris Denneker, Ro Mason and Di Mason for their efforts. We also held a bicycle ride and a few hikes in conjunction with the picnic.

After we cleaned up the picnic site, I took some extra food down to Cape May. There our club was holding its 30th annual weekend at the Chalfonte Hotel, a quaint 1876 Victorian hotel. I understand the hotel is the oldest hotel in Cape May, which is America's first seaside resort.

Our club conducted bike rides and hikes, including beach walks. The dining was excellent and we hosted an outdoor cocktail party. I understand our Treasurer, Fran Horn was the primary organizer as was our Vice President, Barbara Berman. In attendance were a mix of long time members and new members. I also spotted among others, Janine Padgett, our newsletter editor and Maura Mawn, who helped organize our leaders' CPR classes, which could very well be a life saver.

I also was asked to remind everyone to be careful with fire in the pine barrens. There was a massive 15,000 acre fire called the Mullica River Fire. (Note that some media incorrectly called it the Mullica Hill Fire). It was apparently started by an illegal campfire deep in the woods. Another smaller fire broke out at the long abandoned Terracotta Brick Factory on Woodmanse Road. Be careful with fire in the pine barrens and check the current status of fire rules before starting any campfires.

Joe Fabian, President OCSJ President@ocsj.org



Vice President's Message

Barbara Berman

It is hard to believe it's July already. As you all know, OCSJ has many different types of activities for you to participate in. The weather has been great to do all the things we have to offer – hiking, biking, and paddling. We have so many activities listed on Meetup that sometimes it's even hard to keep up with all the emails. That is a good thing because our activity leaders are what keeps the club going. Even if you only participate in cross-country skiing, those trips are being planned now, and they are being offered on Meetup as well.

Since we are an outdoor club, we are all aware how joining in with others who have similar interests has a positive effect on our well-being, both physical and mental. Now is the time to take advantage of everything. In addition, if you have been thinking of becoming an activity leader, the chairs will be more than happy to talk to you about what is involved.

Barbara Berman, Vice President OCSJ vp@ocsj.org

Activity Chair's Message

Frank Pearce



Wharton State Forest Trails Status

Notice from Wharton State Forest:

As you probably have heard, Wharton State Forest was severely impacted last week by a wildfire that was started by an illegal campfire set along the Mullica River. As a result, all recreational trails along the Mullica and Batsto Rivers between Atsion and Batsto Village suffered significant damage. State Park Service staff and volunteers have assessed everything and have begun repairs. Unfortunately, because repairs are ongoing and there still are hotspots in the burn zone, we will not be able to open everything for the July 4th weekend: Hiking trails We hope to reopen these trails on July 9. Mountain Bike Trails We hope to reopen these trails on July 9. Mullica River From U.S. 206 to "Lock's Bridge" will reopen on July 1. Lock's Bridge to Constable Bridge will remain closed indefinitely. Batsto River From Quaker Bridge to Batsto will reopen on July 1. Mullica River Camp We hope to reopen this campground on July 15. Until the everything reopens, stay safe and stay off the trails. All other trails in Wharton State Forest are open and ready for you including the new Whispering Pines Hiking Trails and the new 1808 Hiking Trails Visit njparksandforests.org for information about Wharton State Forest.

On Saturday June 25 a group of "Firewalkers" State Park Volunteers hiked various trails (Mullica,Purple,Green and Batona) to check their condition. These volunteers were also members of OCSJ-but not participating as OCSJ members.

The trails they surveyed appeared mostly like "the Yellow Brick Road" from the Wizard of Oz. Burned on both sides leaving the trail untouched.

Carsonite posts were melted, and some trail markers burned.

Frank Pearce hornet71@verizon.net

TRAIL MAINTENANCE NEWS

Trail Maintenance Representative:
Ro Mason



The OCSJ trail crew was on summer hiatus when the crew was requested by the Wharton State Forest management staff to walk and assess the hiking trails that were in the Mullica River Fire zone. The wildfire burned almost 15 thousand acres in WSF on Sunday, June 19. Because the area was still smoldering and experiencing flare ups, the crew, aka "The Fire Walkers", worked under the NJ State volunteer program (not the Outdoor Club for insurance reasons). The 14 Fire Walkers broke into 4 groups and covered approximately 25 miles of The Batona, the Mullica River Trail and the Purple and Green trails. They noted damaged signs and blazes and where trees needed to be removed. Thank you to those whose schedules allowed them to be available for this invaluable work. The trails should reopen to the public by July 10 and the crew will re-blaze and replace signage shortly thereafter in conjunction with the WSF trail stewards.

Ro

Rosemarie Mason, Trail Representative
To volunteer, email Ro at romason@comcast.net

[Click for Trail Maintenance Events](#)

CYCLING NEWS

Cycling Chair: Neil Kornhauser





June has been a really busy month for cycling; road, hybrid and mountain bike. Not counting the 5 rides that were canceled because of rain, we had 41 rides just in the month of June! High gas prices did not even stop our dedicated crews from getting out there. OCSJ member have cycled the:

- Perimeter of Manhattan
- Hills of Pennington
- D & R Canal
- Streets and bike paths of Cape May
- Streets of Philadelphia to the Flower Show
- Streets and bridges of Ocean City
- Williamstown Bike path
- Trails of the Pine Barrens

These "specialty" rides do not even include our regular rides all over South Jersey, including our Monday night "Tortoise and Hare" ride/race and our Wednesday evening C+/B and C paced rides.

Many of our rides also involve food: full lunch stop at the end, ice cream, pastries, pies....not necessarily all at once! However... given the number of miles our members ride we certainly can eat all of the above!

*Special thank you to Bruce Erdman for running a "Basic Training Ride", a ride for entry level bikers going over rules of the road and bike safety followed up with a short ride in a neighborhood to practice these skills.

**Look for another installment of a "Basic Training Ride" led by Jeff Fields on July 11. Thank you Jeff!! All the new riders appreciate these rides.

SEE YOU ON THE ROADS AND TRAILS!

Neil Kornhauser nkornhauser@gmail.com

[Click for Cycling Events](#)

HIKING NEWS

Hiking Chair: **Diane Mason**



If you have looked at the hiking schedule lately, you'll have noticed that the hiking season has slowed down as everyone tries to avoid the heat, humidity and bugs of a South Jersey summer. But, there is no reason to stop hiking.

This is your chance to explore different places with our leaders who offer walks on wide or paved paths in urban parks or suburban neighborhoods. Join this rapidly growing segment of our hiking group and enjoy an early morning walk or an after work stroll. You'll find hidden gems, learn a little local history, and make new friends while getting in your miles.

Then, over the summer give some thought to becoming a leader when the new hiking season begins in the fall. Where is your favorite place to go? Map it out in your mind. Practice with a friend figuring out good places to take a break along the trail. Then contact me at the email address below. We'll provide all the support you need to get you going as a leader.

See you on the (urban and suburban) trails!

Di

Diane Mason hiking@ocsj.org

[Click for Hiking Events](#)

BACKPACKING/CAMPING NEWS

**Backpacking/Camping Chair:
Kevin Drevik**



June was a very active month for backpacking. Tom started the month off with a 2-day trip to Wind Gap, PA. Kevin then ran an intermediate 2 / 3-day trip in Vermont, and then Ann finished the month with a 2 or 4-day trip in Pennsylvania that ran into July. A lot going on!

For July, we've got a 5-day trip in New Hampshire in the White Mountains (pretty rough mountains). In August, Ken Mayberg has a trip planned for Acadia National Park in Maine for camping/hiking, while Kevin has another trip planned in New Hampshire 4-days. Very busy time this summer!

See you on the trail!

Kevin KDrevik@aol.com

[Click for Backpacking/Camping Events](#)

KAYAKING/CANOEING NEWS

**Kayaking/Canoeing Chair:
Frank Pearce**



I would encourage anyone planning on attending an event to read the description fully and make certain they completely understand. If you have questions, contact the leader.

If an event mentions a shuttle be prepared for it. Shuttles are a private affair not part of the official OCSJ activity. If you have concerns and don't wish to participate, you are responsible for other arrangements. Let the leader know what those plans are.

If you decide to remain on the water after others have landed, you are responsible for informing the leader that you have left the trip.

If an activity mentions stops along the way, be prepared to remain with the group. If you proceed on your own, you have left the group. Be prepared to make your own arrangements.

Have the courtesy to be on time, don't expect the group to wait for you. If a charge for parking or use of a ramp is mentioned, be ready to pay.

If there are requirements to participate, make sure you meet them. Example: previous experience, leaders, no children, no member guests etc.

Always check Meetup before leaving to check the status of the event. Weather, leader availability, water levels may change and affect the event.

If the information is there READ IT.

Frank Pearce hornet71@verizon.net

[Click for Kayaking/Canoeing Events](#)

Cross Country Skiing/Snowshoeing News

Cross Country Ski Chair: Barbara Brandt

We have 5 cross country ski trips planned for next winter:

1. North Conway, New Hampshire Jan. 16-22
2. Stowe, Vermont Jan. 22-27
3. Pulaski, New York Feb. 17-20
4. Snowy Boonville, New York Feb. 20-24
5. Weston, Vermont Feb. 24-28

Details for all these trips should be posted on the Bicycling/Cross Country Ski Meetup site by the time this newsletter comes out (or shortly thereafter). You can also find the detailed trip information from the skiing drop-down menu on OCSJ.org once the trip is posted.

Note that signing up to attend these overnight events is more complicated than signing up for a day trip. Please read the entire trip description carefully and follow all instructions for reserving your place.

Barbara Brandt bbrandt46@gmail.com

[Click for XC Ski Events](#)

Member Spotlight

Spotlight On: JOE LOGAN

by: Vera Stek

Joe Logan dedicated his life to service to his country and when he retired, he began dedicating his spare time to the Outdoor Club. From life as a paratrooper to life as a leader of canoe/kayak trips, Joe has always used the safety-first knowledge he gleaned throughout his careers.

While there have been tough times for sure, Joe has kept moving forward. He and his wife love wilderness canoe camping, though he has run 128 trips on the Toms River, as well. Joe said he keeps track of their miles, "but we don't have any set goals. We just like being out there and enjoying the trip and the company."



Here's his story:

Q. Tell us about yourself:

JOE: I grew up in East Meadow on Long Island, New York. I enlisted in the Army right out of high school to be a paratrooper. I stayed in the Army until retirement and then worked for the Army at Fort Dix as a civilian. In April 2005 I retired and in July of 2005 my wife of 44 years had a heart attack and passed away. We had known one another since third grade. We have four children, seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Q. When did you join the Outdoor Club?

JOE: In the summer of 2006 I joined with the Piney Paddlers and the OCSJ at that time. It was in 2007 that George and Leona suggested I start leading trips. I had been on the Ocean County Toms River Race a couple of times so I picked the Toms as the river I would start running trips on. At that time no one was conducting any Toms River trips. To date we have run 128 Toms River trips.

Q. Do you only kayak?

JOE: We have kayaks but 95 percent of the time we use one of our canoes. The "We" is Judy Champion who lived down the block from me. Over the years she had expressed an interest in paddling, so we started paddling together. On May 15, 2015, we were married on Cedar Creek at the dam in Double Trouble State Park. Skip Arey performed the ceremony.

Q. What are important safety tips you can pass on?

JOE: In my other life I was a "Jumpmaster" for paratroopers, so safety is always on my mind. For kayaking, it's the PFD and being able to make a wet exit. As a paddler you should know how your PFD acts once you are in the water. Try testing it sometime just to see how it fits once you are in the water.

Also, as a kayaker, you need to know how to exit your boat once it rolls over and be able to get back in from the water. For a canoe, you roll over and you are out. Which we have done a number of times.

Q. What are some of your favorite trips?

JOE: Judy and I enjoy wilderness canoe camping. We load everything in the canoe and head out. We have been to the Boundary Waters of Minnesota twice, Algonquin Park in Canada twice, down the Buffalo River in Arkansas, the Yellowstone, the Allegheny, and just about any place that has water.

Q. What are some of your other interests?

JOE: I am active in veterans affairs and have attended many Army reunions. This Memorial Day we were in Jaffrey, New Hampshire, to dedicate a memorial stone to PFC Thomas Van Campen who has been missing (MIA) since July of 1965.

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

JOE: I enjoy picking up trash. I walk my block with a picker upper and a bag. And we go into the state forest picking up trash. When they have a community clean up we bring the canoe and work the lakes.



New Jersey State Park entrance fees will be waived for all visitors, regardless of state residency. Anyone who already purchased a 2022 annual State Park Pass will automatically receive a full refund. Other individual park fees remain in place, including but not limited to camping, interpretive programs, and mobile sport fishing permits. Visit the website [NJ State Parks](#) for up to date information and status of the parks.

Corresponding Secretary

Maura Mawn

Caring Cards: If you know of an OCSJ member who would benefit from receiving a card of congratulations for a milestone birthday, life event or a note of condolence, contact the Corresponding Secretary and a card will be sent on behalf of the club.

Maura Mawn, Corresponding Secretary mmawn@comcast.net



Shout Outs: Want to submit a "Shout Out"? Have you experienced a leader on an event that exceeded your expectations? Has a particular person gone above and beyond in their capacity as a leader or a participating member of OCSJ and you want to let everyone know? Tell about your experience in an email to the Corresponding Secretary and it will be published in our next Newsletter.

ANNUAL MILEAGE CLUBS

For members who like to set goals and keep track of activity, join a Mileage Club and get a token of your achievement at the end of the year.

The Grand Mileage Club - Hike 1000 miles per year. Report your mileage monthly to Jenny Buffington at jbuffington924@gmail.com

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 Frank Pearce at hornet71@verizon.net.

"THE OCSJ MARKETPLACE"

The Place to: BUY - SELL - GIVE - BORROW



FOR SALE: Two women's Brooks saddles used for only a few rides.
\$100 for both, \$75 for one. Mindy mgummingernsn@gmail.com



ISO: I would like to borrow a trunk mounted bike rack
for a mid-size sedan to transport one bike.
Janine (Marlton area) j9padge@gmail.com

Only newly added items will appear in the newsletter.
Check the Website under Items for Sale. Click the link to see all Items:

[Marketplace Items](#)

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****

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](https://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](#)

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 your leader about it on your next event. Let them 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

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



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

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