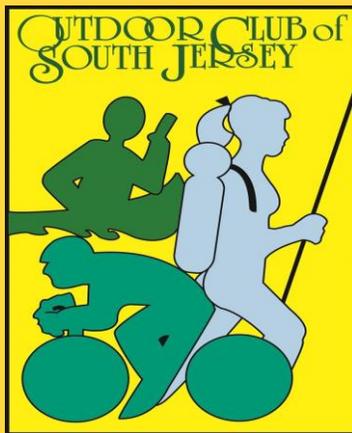


**Outdoor Club
of
South Jersey
NEWSLETTER**



September 2021

Photo Contest Winner



"Columbia Rail Trail" by Carmen Cortese

President's Message

Joe Fabian

President@ocsj.org

OCSJ Members,

Just as we started to relax a bit from the COVID-19 pandemic, the mutated virus has been spreading again. Darn! Because of this, regular in-person board meetings have not yet resumed. Nevertheless, with appropriate precautions, we plan to hold our Leaders' Appreciation Banquet and general membership Social Event to have some safe, personal interaction and discuss our summer adventures. Many members have had epic summer adventures, as have I.

I have picked up kayaking as an activity. On July 1, 2021, A club member and I kayaked from Pond Eddy, NY to Matamoras, NY on the Delaware River, knocking off 10 relatively exciting miles on a weekday, when almost no one was on the water. In August, we doubled the distance by kayaking from

Skinner Falls to Minisink (Barryville), NY. We had 19 confirmed sightings of bald eagles on the river, presumably hunting for fish near the surface for a meal. One beaver was spotted along with a few deer. We also encountered lots of class 2 and 2+ category rapids.

The Friday evening fitness hike will resume in mid-September with Trish leading, after enjoying the shore this summer. We can count on the Mason sisters to resume their trail maintenance work as soon as the weather gets a bit cooler and the bugs, chiggers and ticks die off. Ro always does a fine job leading her crew and improving our pineland trails. Hiking has not seemed to have let up much this summer. In the fall, I plan to lead a few weekday evening historical hikes in Cherry Hill, NJ.

On a less positive note, a few of our cyclists have had mishaps with injuries. Otherwise, I hear the cycling section is going well. Bottom line, despite the challenges from the pandemic, our club has held up well.

Joe Fabian, President OCSJ

Vice President's Message

Barbara Berman

vpocsj.org

The addition of the OCSJ Marketplace to our newsletter has been a great success. Using the "Buy, Sell, Give, Borrow" section of our newsletter, I am happy to say, I was able to find a new home for my bike rack. It now belongs to someone else who can use it, and it didn't end up in a landfill.

One thing I'd like to stress is that if you make arrangements to check out whatever is being sold, please show up. The person who is getting rid of an item is waiting for you. If you find you cannot make the time you both agreed upon, please be courteous enough to contact the person in advance, so they aren't waiting around for you. Everyone's time is valuable. We realize emergencies crop up, but let's make that the

exception, not the rule. This is another great addition besides all of our wonderful activities that the club has to offer.

Looking forward to seeing you at events!

Barbara Berman Vice President OCSJ vpocsj.org

Activity Chair's Message

Frank Pearce

hornet71@verizon.net

Safety has always been a top priority for the club. We are still dealing with COVID-19 issues. A new concern is the aftermath from what had been hurricane Ida. It has caused varying degrees of damage in areas we bike, hike, and paddle. Potholes, loose sand, gravel, fallen branches etc. can easily cause spills while cycling. Hikers can experience all of these. Fallen trees and other debris combined with fast moving water are recipes for serious injuries for paddlers. For these reasons, be extra careful. If you spot a hazard, make others aware. If someone is injured, depending on the severity of an injury, don't hesitate to call 911. Err on the side of safety. If an injury involves the head or spine, always call even if the injured refuses treatment.

Stay safe,

Frank Pearce

SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

John Kerney - Social Committee Chair



OCSJ Members
2nd Annual Fall Social
November 20, 2021
5:30 - 8:30 pm
Riverton Country Club

RSVP/Info

Hello Members! Great News. Our 2nd Annual Fall Social is planned, scheduled and ready to go. All we need is YOU!

The event will be held at Riverton Country Club in Cinnaminson. This is a fantastic private venue. There will be a delicious dinner buffet including dessert and of course music for dancing. (There could be some additional surprises as well).

Click the **RSVP/Info** button above and submit your payment early, as we expect this to be a sell out event. There will be limited spots and we had over 100 members attend our first Social two years ago.

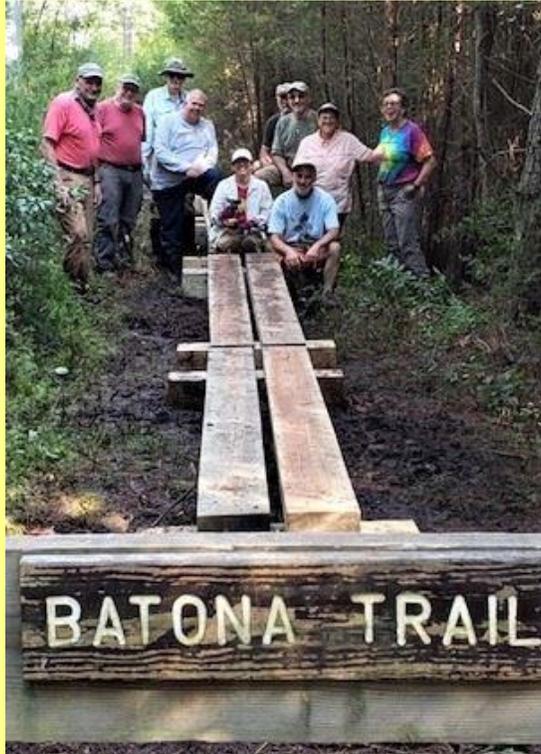
Questions? Call or text John 609-706-7264

John Kerney Social Committee Chair
crewkern@live.com

TRAIL MAINTENANCE NEWS

Trail Maintenance Representative:

Ro Mason



The OCSJ trail maintenance season started off with a bang - the bang of a sledge hammer and other tools to construct a 200 foot raised walkway to replace the failing one on the Batona Trail in Bass River State Forest. This was a two day project that involved 11 volunteers, including Frank Pearce and Howard, a BRSF staff member who are not in the picture. At lunch, we were treated to beautiful dulcimer music selections by Ken Mayberg.

Ro Mason is our Trail Representative

To volunteer, email Ro at romason@comcast.net

[Click for Trail Maintenance Events](#)

CYCLING NEWS

Cycling Chair: Neil Kornhauser



September is generally a cooler month and with that brings many new adventures on the roads and trails. OCSJ continues to offer unique rides in many different areas. I personally do not enjoy riding from the same location over and over again, so our club's selling point is to offer as many rides from as many different areas as we can.

This month brings road rides from Batsto, Hammonton, Southampton, Sweetwater, Cape May, NYC, Northern Burlington County, Mercer County, Salem and Cumberland Counties and mountain bike rides in the woods at Black Run, Atsion and Batsto. Check out our calendar for all of our excellent adventures.

Labor Day was another huge success with 5 different rides going on ranging from entry level to fast. Over 50 people participated even though we rode an hour later due to an early morning rain. The roads dried up nicely and everyone had a great time. A big thank you to all of the leaders that made our All Paces Rides a huge success.

As always we are always looking for volunteers to lead rides, please contact Neil if you are interested.

DIY Monthly Tip:

For those people that have disc brakes, sometimes they will squeal and most of the time that is caused by dirty rotors and pads. Never touch the rotors with

bare hands because the oils in your hands can cause the squealing. Make it a habit of taking a CLEAN rag or paper towel soaked in rubbing alcohol or denatured alcohol and cleaning the rotors on both sides. Your pads can also be cleaned by taking the wheels off and “flossing” them with another rag soaked in alcohol. If you have hydraulic cables, never depress the brake levers with the wheels off. This should take care of the squealing.

See you out there and see you all on the roads and trails!

Neil Kornhauser nkornhauser@gmail.com

[Click for Cycling Events](#)

HIKING NEWS

Hiking Chair: Evelyn Minutolo



Hiking in PA can be very rocky...!

Leave No Trace, means no banana peels, no apple cores, no orange peels, no toilet paper, etc. It also means do not stack rocks, This was once thought

of as harmless, but it is very harmful to the environment. Park rangers spend way too much time taking them down, so if you see them and they are not trail markers (usually only in the desert or in a very rocky area with no trees) take them down and inform others not to stack rocks.

Please be aware if your dues are not up to date you will be deleted from Meetup next month. If you have not paid the current dues, please go to <http://www.ocsj.org> and click join us. Best \$20 I ever spent!!!

It looks like COVID-19 just isn't going away. Please do your best to do your part to end this once and for all. Stay safe. Protect others.

Featured hike:

Ridely Creek, Sept 18 at 10am, This will be a loop hike, over varied terrain, of around 7-8 miles, at an easy/moderate pace. Bring food and beverage. We will find some place to take our break. The trails can be muddy, rocky and rooty. A good pair of hiking shoes/boots is recommended.

If you do not see hikes that fit your pace or distance, then it may be time to step up and lead a hike yourself! IT COULD NOT BE ANY EASIER!!! More leaders = more hikes! If you need help setting up a hike or have questions or if you are interested in leading, email Evelyn Minutolo.

Thank you and see you on the trails. Let's go hiking!!!

Evelyn SunsetWaterfall@aol.com

[Click for Hiking Events](#)

OCSJ follows LNT (Leave No Trace)

*For more information on the
7 Principles of Leave No Trace, click the link...*

[click for LNT info](#)

Backpacking/Camping News

Backpacking/Camping Chair: Kevin Drevik



Backpacking/Camping continues to have a busy time here as fall approaches. We just completed a four-day trip in the New Hampshire White Mountains – and boy were those tough! A lot of rock scrambling, but we all ended up being okay.

For the next several months we have trips planned, all the way out to November. Look for them on Meetup. We also have some other potential trips the leaders are planning.

- September: Moderate backpack in Pennsylvania
- October: Moderate backpack in New Jersey (Batona) and a 3-day backpack in Vermont to the Massachusetts border.
- November: Tough backpack trip in central Virginia.

Hope to see you out on the trails!

Kevin

KDrevik@aol.com

[Click for Backpacking/Camping Events](#)

KAYAKING/CANOEING

Kayaking/Canoeing Chair: Frank Pearce



Thunder/Lightning Storm Safety

If you are caught in a lightning storm here are some recommendations from experts:

- Get off the water!
- If no shelter is available, crouch down, feet close together with your head tucked down and your hands over your ears. Spread out, keeping people several yards apart. Minimize your contact with the ground - don't lay down.
- Don't shelter under tall, isolated objects like trees or poles. Instead, look for a dense group of trees or shrubs of a similar height.
- Avoid objects that conduct electricity such as graphite and metal paddles.
- Monitor the storm - Lightning has been known to strike 10 miles away, though; the usual strike distance is 3 - 5 miles. Thunderstorms move swiftly. After you see lightning, count the seconds until you hear thunder. Every 5 seconds equals 1 mile in distance. A count of 5 means lightning is overhead. If the time increases, the storm may be moving away. - If you see lightning but don't hear thunder, the storm is probably 15 miles away. If you hear thunder, the storm is within 10 miles - lightning strike distance.
- In the event of a lightning strike, call or send for help ASAP. Victims without a pulse, may be revived with CPR; and 80% of those struck by lightning survive.

Check Meetup for our latest events on the water.

Frank Pearce HORNET71@VERIZON.NET

[Click here for Kayaking/Canoeing Events](#)

Cross Country Skiing/Snowshoeing

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

[Click here for CC Ski Events](#)

If you have any questions, contact Barbara Brandt bbrandt46@gmail.com

Member Spotlight

Spotlight On: Jim Robostello

by: Vera Stek



For decades, many South Jersey youngsters got their first exposure to the Pine Barrens during a week-long camp at Mount Misery, where they lived in a large rustic cabin and explored all aspects of the outdoors. Most have fond memories of their time at the camp and it began a life-long love of the Pines. That was the case with *James Robostello* of Bridgeton.

Jim has been an Outdoor Club member for nearly 4 decades and hasn't yet had his fill of hiking. He recently became a club hike leader to spread his appreciation of the sport and his quirky sense of humor. Here's his story:

Q. Tell us about yourself.

JIM: I grew up in Blackwood, one of 6 kids. It seems like it was normal for the area and the times for everyone to have a large family. The nuns in grade school were from Malta. I have this memory of them being very excited to see snow for the first time.

I live in Bridgeton now, and retired after working in manufacturing for 35 years. We made hospital pads and puppy pads for the pet industry.

Q. When and why did you join the Outdoor Club?

JIM: I think I joined the club sometime in the 1980's. When I first moved to Bridgeton, desegregation hit and I couldn't go to my neighborhood school. I then needed to go across town. The class that I was in got picked to spend a week at Mt. Misery in the Pine Barrens. I had never seen so many pine trees and so many stars at night. They scared us to death with their stories of the Jersey Devil and the ghost stories. The City Park and the zoo were nearby, so I have been hiking ever since.

Q. When and why did you become a hike leader? Do you have any hiking goals?

JIM: First I would like to thank all of the other leaders for all the great hikes. I have been leading for a little over a year. I wanted to do more. I like the challenge and I like seeing new places. I tried kayaking once or twice; I couldn't sit still for that long.

Astronomy is one of my passions, so I would like to do something at night. Maybe I can start with the binoculars and tripod somewhere.

Q. What are some of your favorite hikes?

JIM: All of them. I love the history of the area and going to Batsto and Carranza. I do like hiking on the Batona Trail. I like going to Blackwood; I get a chance to reminisce about my childhood.

Q. Have you gone on hiking/backpacking vacations? If so, where? Any places on your bucket list?

JIM: I spent a week at the Grand Canyon and Sedona when I turned 60; it was 6-6-16, so I wanted to go somewhere special. It was. It was awesome. I hope to get back to the North Rim and Utah someday and maybe also Alaska and Hawaii. The other states would also be a fun destination.

Q. Do you see any down side to hiking? Ever had any problems on a hike?

JIM: Ticks and chiggers are always an issue. Someone once said on a hike years ago that ticks can't swim. I always remember the drill to get into the shower and wash my clothes.

I have never had a problem on a hike. I did see paramedics at Parvin with a hiker on a stretcher with an ice pack on his ankle going past me on the trail. It was a reminder to be careful.

Q. Do you do most of your hiking on club outings or on your own? Has COVID interfered with your hiking?

JIM: I do about half of my hikes on my own and the other half with the club. COVID did make it more difficult to get out. I still found a way to get out either at Parvin or the City Park and the Zoo.

Q. What are some of your other interests?

JIM: Music is a must and finding as many vinyl records as I can. I love old movies, history, bicycling and photography.

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

JIM: I am still hoping to find Quaker Bridge Mall on Quaker Bridge Road at Atsion.

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

JIM: I do count the number of miles that I have traveled. If you count the number of miles that the earth travels around the sun in one year —

584 million miles — I have traveled about 37500 billion miles in my life. And I have never been lost!

"THE OCSJ MARKETPLACE"

The Place to: BUY - SELL - GIVE - BORROW

FOR SALE:

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 Medium Dry Suit Top: \$175 or best offer.

Never worn. Like new condition. Sells new for \$250. Fits small to medium woman. Mindy Gummingier mgummingiermsn@gmail.com

Inflatable Kayak \$50 Good for easy lake paddling.

Air pump \$25

Paddle \$50

Contact Fran: Franhorn@aol.com or 856-287-6565

For Sale: Gregory Backpack- \$25

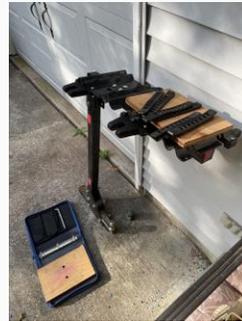
Men's Medium. Purchased at REI about 10 years ago.
Mrichardspt@gmail.com

609-304-3898



To Give: FREE Bike Rack

heavy duty 4 bike carrier that can be used on a vehicle pulling a camper.
Fits 2" hitch receiver. Need to dispose of it soon. Steve and Ana Gross
cheliz97@yahoo.com





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****



September Deadline for Taking Photos

Annual Calendar Contest: If you think you have a great photo, save it to your phone, camera or PC, so you can find it when it is time to submit your entries. Photos must be taken between September 2020 through September 2021 to be eligible for the 2021 contest.

Any questions, contact Mike Engel ikemengel@hotmail.com

ANNUAL MILEAGE CLUBS

Some of our members like to keep track of their annual mileage and have formed groups within the club. If you would like more information, please contact them.

The Grand Mileage Club - These hardy folks strive to hike 1000 miles per year. They report their mileage monthly to Jenny Buffington at TotallyBuff@comcast.net

500 & 750 Mileage Club - These folks strive to hike either 500 or 750 miles per year. They report their mileage monthly to Ann Palaitis at ann.m.palaitis@gmail.com.

Bicycling Mileage Club - Bikers 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

We Need You

Board of Trustees - Interested in joining the OCSJ Board? 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

Publicity - Are you an influencer? Love social media and publicity? We would like to get the word out and have the OCSJ appear in more places both in print and online. Contact Janine Padgett at j9padge@gmail.com with any ideas or if you would like to help.

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

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

[Click to join OCSJ](#)

OCSJ MEMBERSHIP

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

1. Click the button above.
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"

Our mailing address is:

Outdoor Club of South Jersey

PO Box 1681

200 Walt Whitman Ave

Mount Laurel, NJ 08054-9998

Membership Level:

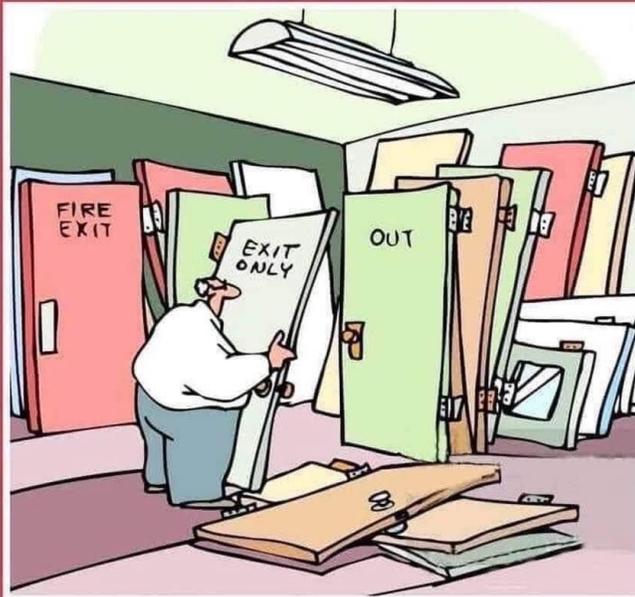
- Family Member - **\$25.00** Subscription period: 1 year (No automatically recurring payments)
- Family Auto Renewal - **\$25.00** Subscription period: 1 year Automatic renewal (recurring payments)
- Single Member - **\$20.00** Subscription period: 1 year (No automatically recurring payments)
- Single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

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

TREKKER

The latest printed Trekker is available quarterly from Board Members and Leaders. The Trekker is also available at The Print Shop, White Horse Pike in Stratford, NJ.

Contact: Doug Hillebrecht at 856-309-8817



Bob loved the outdoors. Wound up with quite a collection.



click the icons

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