

AO Newsletter – Volume 17 Number 3 – Autumn/Winter 2007-2008

Autumn 2007 Round-Up

Autumn began with our annual Lobster Cook-Out/Beach Party at Jones Beach. You may ask: why Cook-Out and not a Lobster Bake? The way a Bake is done is to dig a hole in the sand and put in firewood and then the pots that contain the lobsters and the fixings. As that is prohibited by the State Park regulations, so we do the next best thing – the cookout.

The weather forecast called for mild temperatures and partly cloudy skies, and it held true when we started off. Halfway through our meal, it clouded up fast and started to drizzle but we took it in stride. When the drizzle got a bit heavier, we persisted on, thinking it would be over in a few more minutes. Well, it went on for an hour or so, and we were soaked, and finally decided to pack up and go home. While we were loading the cars, the clouds broke, the rain stopped and the sun came out. The dozen or so people who stayed then made the trek down to the beach and stood around for another hour until sunset and then we split.

The next outing was the annual Shelter Island Bike Ride and we headed to our usual destinations such as Rams Head Island and Kissing Rock. Since we schedule this outing a week later than usual, the Tuck Shop – our Ice Cream Shop--had already closed for the season. No Ice Cream that day.

A week later was the Bulls Island Camping Trip. Apart from our driving through heavy fogs to reach the campsite, the weekend weather could not have been more perfect. It was sunny both days, with mild temperature. We spent Saturday biking down the Rail Trail to Lambertville and then hoping across the Delaware River to kitschy New Hope, PA. After a lazy lunch at a sidewalk café, we returned our rental bikes and biked back to the campsite.

The following Saturday was a hike up to Pine Meadow Lake in the Harriman Park. It was said to be an easy hike but it wasn't that easy. See separate article on this one. The very next Saturday was an easy but long hike at Minnewaska. And just like the Lobster Cookout, we got rained upon on, with no place to duck for cover. Once again the weather forecast failed us. Also see separate article on this outing.

One week later we scheduled a Biking and Wine Tasting event but there were no takers. And there were only a handful of people at the Bull Hill/Mt Taurus hike on the following weekend.

On the following Sunday, we had a surprisingly larger turnout for Orienteering. Seventeen AO'ers and friends broke up into at least five teams to try their map reading and orientation skills.

Harriman State Park Diamond Mountain Hike, October 13, 2007

By Cynthia Chin

It is my first time going on hiking. And it turned out to be my favorite AO event. I cheered and shared my experience of this event with many others. In my plain broken English, I now share my experience with you, my fellow AO members.

With Henry- the Gandalf the Grey- as our leader, someone said during our journey that we would enjoy our trip and get home safely.

We started right off climbing uphill. That was some kind of warm-up. While trying to catch up with our breaths, we talked and helped one another to take pictures. As we got really warmed up, the comedians of our club began the show. We laughed. We were the laugh materials. With the bright colors of the leaves, the valleys, the water, the eagles flying freely in the sky, the fresh air, all the stresses and worries we had were gone with the wind. We enjoyed all of those and had loads of fun. The miles were just getting shorter and shorter.

After lunch break on the Diamond Mountain top, we had the choices to either take the easy way or the challenging way home. As explained to us, the path to the more scenic sites is more challenging. Of course, we were not a bunch of chickens. We voted for the more scenic path. Looking down, those steep rocks became live and seemed to threaten to throw anyone on their backs over the cliff. But we were a team, and helped each other to get down safely.

The photographers of our club took some great pictures. I was glad that I weren't picking my nose and got caught while doing so. I am very happy that we were shown in the pictures helping each other throughout the entire hike.

It was a happy hike and we were an awesome crowd.

Minnewaska State Park Hike
By Cynthia Chin

What a scenic trail! With Kenny as our leader, we felt like taking a walk in the Minnewaska State Park and it was a really easy one. Though it may seem to be a long journey, yet with the hiking companions we had--we talked, we laughed, stopped here and there to enjoy the colorful leaves and the picturesque view, and took pictures--the road just disappeared behind us.

Somewhere in the middle of the trip, we met the AO's biking group. We joined and greeted each other. It was very nice to see the two groups meet.

It was a little unfortunate that our comedian group got into a little accident and couldn't join us. But we bumped into each other at the end of our hike. It was really glad to know that they were not physically injured.

I took many photos, and by the time we went to the waterfall, my camera was out of battery. I couldn't take any more pictures, so I admired others for their best posts and helped them taking pictures at the end of our journey.

It was a really relaxing and easy hike. As other member said, it was an excellent trip for energy recharging. I certainly would like to go back again for the carefree and joyous environment.

Upcoming Events

Jan 12th – Saturday – Intro to Snowshoeing

Jan 24th-27th – Thursday-Sunday – Extended Ski/Ride Weekend @ Killington VT

Feb 2nd – Saturday – Ice Skating @ Wollman Rink