



SUSQUEHANNOCK HIKER

On Foot in Potter County...God's Country



Spring 2019

PO Box 643 • Coudersport, PA 16915 • www.stc-hike.org • info@stc-hike.org

The purposes of the STC are to build and maintain trails, aid in the conservation of wetlands and wildlife, and promote good fellowship through the medium of hiking and nature study.

2019 Independence Day Parade & Monthly Meeting / Picnic



Photos by Lois Morey

For the third year in a row, if you are looking for a way to celebrate Independence Day that will include a small town 4th of July parade, a backyard picnic with tables filled with your favorite picnic foods, the comradeship of fellow hikers and friends, then mark your calendars for Saturday, July 6th. The Morey family is once again hosting the annual get-together at the home of Lois Morey located three miles west of Galeton on Route 6.

The day will start by gathering at the Morey Farmhouse about 9:30 to carpool to the Galeton School where the line-up for the parade, which starts at 11:00, takes place. As a group we will hike alongside our STC tool trailer for approximately one mile wearing appropriate hiking gear including a walking stick if you'd like. We want to look as authentic as possible. After all, we are seasoned hikers!!

Returning to the farmhouse we will then enjoy a full array of picnic foods. Be sure to bring an ample-sized dish-to-share along with your own table service. Hot dogs and hamburgers with all the condiments and toppings will be provided by the club's officers as well as soda and lemonade.

Following this will be our regular monthly business meeting. Be sure to bring your own folding chairs.

The afternoon will continue with a hike in the immediate area, or you can just enjoy relaxing and visiting with new friends or old.

Primitive camping is available for those coming a distance, or if you'd just prefer to camp and avoid the heavy 4th of July fireworks traffic that evening. For more details and a reservation, please email loismorey46@gmail.com or call (814) 435-8270.

Weather permitting, Galeton's famous 4th of July fireworks are scheduled for that evening. If you have never been to these fireworks, then this should be the year to do just that. They are spectacular – advertised as the best on the east coast!!

If you prefer a much quieter evening, a backyard campfire complete with marshmallows to roast, can be enjoyed.

For an all-American July 4th, the Galeton parade, STC picnic, and opportunity to wrap it up with fireworks or a campfire can't be beat. Join us for a memorable day on Saturday July 6th and let the good times roll!!

The Big Shoes Awards

By Wanda Shirk

When Wil and Betty Ahn retired in 2010 as president and secretary of the STC, after three decades of dedicated service to our club and trail, we realized that they were leaving “mighty big shoes to fill.” The club established the “Wil and Betty Ahn ‘Big Shoes’ Award for Lifetime Achievement” and gave the first honor to Wil and Betty. The tenth and final Big Shoes Award went this year to Bob and Helen Bernhardt.

The awards have been presented annually, with three tokens of appreciation. The first is the gift of a song, “Mighty Big Shoes to Fill,” with lyrics specially written for the recipients and sung by the gifted “STC Chorus” at the February Frolic and Annual Awards Dinner. Along with that is presented a beautiful plaque with the shape of a hiking boot, incorporating a variety of wood types, grains, and colors, made by our own wood-craftsman Joe Allis. The final and on-going part of the award is honorary lifetime membership in the STC.

Recipients since the Ahns have been Tom and Jayne Fitzgerald in 2011, Bob Knowles (2012), Tom Leete (2013), Dick Hribar (2014), Bill Boyd (2015), Joe and Barb Allis (2016), Lois Morey (2017), and Curt and Penny Weinhold (2018).

A plaque with the names of the ten honorees stays with the club. The award was designed to honor just ten of the top club contributors, for several reasons. One is that some members’ level of volunteer time has run into the thousands of hours, and as we move on down the line, we did not want to decrease the deep meaning of the award by awarding recipients whose participation, while extensive and valuable, did not compare to the level of our top ten. In addition, honorary life memberships could not be given out every year indefinitely. It also becomes more difficult to write the song when smaller niches have been filled by additional nominees. Finally, it should be acknowledged that we have asked a lot of Joe Allis in his volunteer plaque-constructing time and labor every year for ten years.

Having noted that, the club wishes to recognize several runner-up nominees who would have been worthy recipients. Gary and Alice Buchanan of Coudersport were first runners-up, followed by long-time faithful maintainers Lowell and Barbara Luft; by Bob (Butch) and Kay Davey, whose early involvement included laying out the trail in the late 1960s; and by John and Joan Eastlake, who helped lay

out the Link Trails with the BFT and have also been long-time trail maintainers and historians, especially of CCC camps in this area of Pennsylvania.

Bob and Helen Bernhardt, this year’s awardees, have been maintainers of the 4.1 miles of the STS from Lyman Run Road to Sunken Branch Road for decades – the Fish, Ewing, and Crooks Trails sections. Both are circuit hikers, with Bob coming in early as Circuit Hiker # 30. Helen finished more recently and – let’s just say her log is still “a work in progress.” Although they lived in Wellsboro, Bob and Helen drove to Potter County regularly to join our monthly meetings and had one of the best meeting attendance records in our tribe. Bob was one of our more tech-competent members and did our Facebook postings. The two were avid tent-campers who always took advantage of the opportunity to join our free annual camping weekend at Ole Bull State Park for the August camporee, and Bob’s stories around the campfire were some of the best – because he was “out there” and had the adventures. Bob was also noted for running the God’s Country Marathon for a couple of decades, dropping back to continue running the half marathon for several recent years, including just months before his untimely and unexpected death this past September. Helen faithfully joined the club volunteers at our GC Marathon Water Station, where we always cheered Bob on.

Helen Bernhardt receiving award



Photo by Wanda Shirk

Although the final Big Shoes plaque-award has now been presented, we still value all our STC volunteers, and the February dinner will still include recognition and awards. Stay tuned!

2019 Trail Care Planning

By Bill Boyd

As soon as weather and access roads permit, we plan to begin some bridge projects - part will be bridging the Greenlick Run stream in perhaps 3-4 spots, and the other will be placing bog-bridging along the Hogback Trail. Apparently the trail followed an old RR grade through the Greenlick Run, but over time the grade has washed out and left hikers facing several wet crossings. The club has acquired an Alaskan Chainsaw Mill and we are presently making some practice runs. This mill is a cutting guide which attaches to the chainsaw, enabling one to cut a slab from a log, and then cut planks from that log, of whatever thickness you choose.

Bill Boyd demonstrating chainsaw mill



Photo by Dave McMillan

What we'll try to do in Greenlick Run is locate a log of suitable length and around 12" or so in diameter, rip it approximately through the middle, making two sections of bridging. We'll then hook up the come-a-longs and drag it into place. Hopefully this can be done early enough in the year so the water level is up, enabling us to judge how high these bridges need to be placed. An alternate we're considering is to rip thick slabs from a log and place those for the bridges. The length, slab thickness (both affecting the weight) and distance to carry will all need to be evaluated at the site.

The method to be used for the Hogback seeps is basically the same, except the slabs or planks will be placed on cross-pieces, high enough to clear the muddy areas. These seep areas stay wet all year so this project can be done later. At some seep spots rocks and cord-wood have been placed over the years. These help some, but both rocks and the cordwood are slippery when wet, and we're hoping

that the planks, being rough-cut, will provide a safer walkway.

Over time, using this same milling method we plan to place some benches at strategic spots along the STS.

This year we again will be erecting a trail shelter along the STS. This one will be along the Gravel Lick Trail, west of McConnell Road. And once again, the weather needs to cooperate and the roads must be suitable to travel, so the dates vary widely on when we can begin these projects.

Doug Wetherbee with chainsaw pack



Photo by Larry Holtzapelle

Our first order of trail care will be our annual "Spring Around The Trail", usually in April. This is when each section volunteer goes through and clears what they can, and reports back on whatever they might need help with. This first trip is a good time to aggressively lop back branches - that way they are not growing out into the trail over the season. Later they can go through and run a weedwhacker or (handheld) brushcutter, which the club has. Plus they can update their blazing if needed. If there are stretches that are suitable to be mowed with a walk-behind brushcutter/mower, the club has these also. We send these with an experienced operator, but most anyone can learn to operate them. These are used when there are heavy growths of briars, etc. that need mowing.

Spring trail work update

By Bill Boyd

Trail Care 2019 is off to a running start. At least a dozen of our maintainers have been out on various sections of the STS, since the first of the year. Joe Allis did some grooming of the cross-country ski trails in the Cherry Springs and Patterson areas. Larry Holtzapple and Doug Wetherbee have been busy on several occasions - clearing some of the East Fork Crossover Trail (EFT) and putting up some signage, re-routing some of the Fish Trail and putting some cordwood in a wet area, removing a nasty blowdown on Cardiac Climb. John Halter accompanied them when clearing from Lyman Run Rd. to Sunken Br. Rd. Curt and Penny Weinhold skied out the Ridge Trail to chop down a briar patch. Chris and Karen Bell cleared part of the West Branch Crossover Trail (WBT). Chad Rugh, April Castano, and 5-yr. old son Henry cleared their section from Sunken Branch Rd. to the register-box at Denton Hill. Mark and Denise Kelly cleared part of the Hogback Trail

Some of the crews reported snow still on and some debris still frozen down, but in most cases they go through again later so it will be all taken care of. Some of the back roads are a little risky to travel on at this time of the year, with some snow and ice still on, but fortunately no mishaps occurred. April will be a whole different story with both roads and the weather getting better - last year we recorded over 314 hours for the month. May and June also will be quite busy months, what with more small streams to bridge and another shelter to erect. The good news at this point is, that all STS maintenance sections, including the two crossover trails, have volunteer maintainers. So you can thank these folks for a great trail.

Spring Canoe Trip

By Bill Boyd

A recreational activity we attempt to include each year is a canoe trip down Pine Creek, from Watrous to Ansonia. This is about a 10 mile float on an easy stretch of water, taking about 4 hours, with a lunch stop approximately halfway. We watch for a river-gauge reading at Cedar Run of around two to two and one-half feet. This is an indication of suitable depth for canoeing on this upper stretch. At any lower level you encounter many shallow spots where you're dragging bottom - not good for the boat. You have to be ready to go on this trip on short notice, as the water level and weather both should be OK for a "GO." If you would like to consider taking part, send your email address to Bill Boyd. billboydsts@gmail.com The river gauges can be found by Googling USGS river gauges, if you would like to check them. And in some

cases, there are those with a canoe who need a partner, and also some partners who need a canoe ride, so stay in touch if interested.

Bob Webber Memorial Field Trip

On (Good) Friday, April 19, it is five years since we lost "Legend-in-His-Own-Time" Bob Webber and the club will have a Bob Webber Memorial Field Trip. The plan is to meet at the Lumber Museum at 10 a.m. and visit the reconstructed Webber cabin. After that, we will car pool to the Black Forest Inn on Rt. 44, where folks can buy a great burger or other menu item for lunch, or anyone who prefers to can pack a salad or sandwich for an outdoor picnic. Following lunch, Curt Weinhold will lead us down Rt. 44 to the pump station for a short, leisurely, not-strenuous hike to the site where the Webber cabin originally stood. The hike includes a great vista or two, does not have a lot of elevation change, is on decent dirt treadway, and is about 3 miles round trip. Those who carpool could expect to be back to the Lumber Museum by about 4:30-5:00 PM.

Welcome New Members

David and Patricia Errick, Port Allegany, PA	Koloman Erway, Pittsburgh, PA
Terri Gigliotti, Port Allegany, PA	Ralph Heberle, Coudersport, PA
Jacob Hoot, Rochester Mills, PA	Elizabeth Jarrard, Coudersport, PA
Charlene and David Luthi, Jr., Nescopeck, PA	Jean MacFarlane, Narberth, PA
Marjorie Moore, West Palm Beach, FL	Richard Mumper, Wellsboro, PA
Gary L. & Ella Louise Russell, Richmond Hill, GA	Steven Spahr, Mechanicsburg, PA

Newest Circuit Hiker Award Recipients

1183 Richard Mumper, Wellsboro, PA	1184 Kevin Busko, Huntingdon, PA
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Newsletter / Membership Final Reminder

Notice: For members that have not renewed their membership by payment of their annual dues this will be their last newsletter.

Newsletter Editor

By Wanda Shirk

For the past ten years, execution of our club newsletter has been helmed by the Fitzgerald family, with Tom as editor-in-chief, computer-savvy daughter Becky as layout and production staff, and Jayne on the team as folder, labeler, and stamper.

Almost every organization struggles to find someone with both the willingness and ability to do all the tasks of putting out a newsletter. A group like ours has double the challenge. First, most of us are of the low-tech generation that is clueless about the modern mechanics of getting things into and out of a computer in newsletter fashion. Second, we are "outdoor people" more than "sit-at-screen people." The Fitzgeralds have been a winning combination for us, with the whole package of volunteer spirit, a millennial-generation whiz kid, and all Tom's history with and love of our club and our trail. We cannot thank them enough for their decade of service.

The challenges of aging eyes as well as aging every other part of body and brain have made newsletter production harder and harder for Tom, so when a new volunteer stepped forward, Tom called Dave "an answer to prayer."

Introducing our new newsletter editor,
Dave McMillan.

Dave has a long history with hiking, backpacking, the STS, and the STC. In fact, I credit him with changing my life in a couple of wonderful ways, one regarding reading material he suggested to me years ago, but the other relating to our common love of trails.

When I joined the STC in September 2000, Dave was the club's KTA representative and wrote a column about KTA for each issue. When I got my first STC newsletter, I read his recommendation that every hiker should be a member of the Keystone Trails Association, to make a minimum contribution to the preservation of trails in our state. I sent in my \$15 like a good girl, never expecting to have anything to do with the state association, but then I got *their* newsletter and learned about "trail care weekends." The first one in 2001 was on the Donut Hole Trail, and based out of Hyner Run State Park. That was not far distant, so I decided to go. I had one of the pleasantest and most memorable weekends of my life and made new friendships that have deepened over the past two decades. My horizons were broadened as I learned about all of Pennsylvania's trails

from there. The rest of the story is too long for this newsletter! But thank you, Dave!

Rest assured that our new editor will continue Tom's tradition of using "100% recycled words."

From the New Newsletter Editor

While I've been a STC member since 1997 my involvement has diminished over the past several years as paid work and homestead building projects have taken over my time. Well, its time for that to change, and I look forward to once again contributing to the club and being involved in club activities.

For contributions to the newsletter, letters to the editor and other newsletter business you can contact me at:

stc.hike.newsletter@gmail.com

The deadline for contributions to the next newsletter is July 1st.

Looking forward to seeing you at club events and along the trail. Dave McMillan

HELP WANTED: Tombstone Engraver.

We had hoped that at our Spook Hollow Shelter, instead of a sign on the top, we could place a thin stone marker, like an old cemetery tombstone, with the words SPOOK HOLLOW SHELTER on the stone, and perhaps a ghost or two somewhere at the top and/or bottom in the perimeter. We had a guy who did tombstones and was going to do this free for us, but soon after he volunteered, both he and his wife were diagnosed with different types of cancer, and they moved out of Potter County to be closer to a daughter and a treatment program. We still hope to implement this idea. If you have a large, smooth, flat STONE to contribute, that would be great as step one, and if you know of someone who could do the engraving for us, that would be great for step two. Of course, we'd love to have someone volunteer, but we can pay to have the work done. We'll be checking around, but please get in touch with us if you can help on this or know someone who can.

Contact Wanda Shirk

wshirk49@outlook.com or [814-848-7944](tel:814-848-7944)

Discovering Switzerland, Liechtenstein,

Austria & Bavaria

By Penny Weinhold

Curt and I began our trip in Bern, Switzerland. The name Bern means “Bear” in Swiss. This city of approximately 160,00 is the capital. Much of the architecture is preserved, as the battles of W.W. II did not enter the area. The Old Town section has cobblestone streets, small shops, a trolley system and many people riding bicycles. The Hotel Bern was our “home” for four nights. The façade was original “Old World” with modernization within. Highlights were a trip up to Gurten Mountain for a sweeping panoramic overview of the mountain and valleys. A day long trip took us to Lake Geneva and Chillon Castle, situated on the Lake. Before heading back to Bern, we were treated to a two-hour Golden Pass Train Ride to Gstaad, a lovely village which serves as a ski resort in winter. Next, we were off to Lucerne on the Lake. The town is noted for its stately architecture, chocolates and Rolex watches. Most of us took the Cog Railway up to Mt. Pilatus (about 7,000 ft). There one could look down on the lake to view how large it was. Below we could hear an alpine horn a short distance in the gorge. There was a short climb up a winding trail for an even more breath-taking scene of a glacier far in the distance. Then it was back to Bern for a gourmet meal at the Kornhaus, an elegant Medieval style restaurant. The next day we again did a fair amount of walking in Bern taking in more sights. It was then off to a brief stop for lunch in Kaduz, Liechtenstein. This is the fourth smallest country in Europe ruled by a Prince. On this stop one needed to have their passport stamped.

Back onto the motor coach, we traveled about 1 ¾ hours over a mountain pass into the Austrian countryside and shortly arrived at Innsbruck, noted for hosting the Winter Olympics in 1964 and 1972. It is also the headquarters for world famous Swarovski crystal jewelry. The Alps encompassing the town were awesome. Again, cobblestone streets, quaint restaurants and shops were everywhere. Our stay there was at the Hotel Innsbruck. Not content to just remain downtown, we again boarded a Cog-Railway to take us up on the Mountain to Nordkette National Park. Although our hike there was brief, we noted the trees, wildflowers and mushrooms of the forest were unlike any we have back in PA. The views down mountain were, of course, splendid. For the entire trip, daytime temperatures hovered in the mid-70’s. We sure lucked out on choosing days in very late summer. We had only one brief sprinkle

of rain while walking to a café in Austria. Back in Innsbruck, some of us took the elevator up the Olympic Ski Jump while others did a Historical and Cultural tour of the town. Ahh, the smell of fresh baked bread in the 1795 Bakery. That’s right, it was established in that year. The Swarovski Crystal Production and Shoppe was nearby. The crystals are made with quartz and sand combined with an age-old secret process. One evening we were treated to a Tyrolean Dance and Folk show. My, could they yodel and dance up a storm! Three men entertained on stage with their long alpine horns, receiving raucous applause. Our next road trip was to lower Germany in Bavaria. Crossing the border, we had been instructed not to forget our passports, as Germany is most strict on any entering their country. A border guard did enter the front of the bus, smiled and said “Oh, a group of “young people””, which certainly brought laughs, when he departed the bus. We were all in the 50+ Club. A winding two-lane road took us past the Zugspitze, tallest mountain in Germany, then through the villages of Unterammergau and just beyond Oberammergau. This town is the site of the Passion Play, held every ten years. The village population is about 5,500 and almost half the residents are involved in the Play in some way. It centers on the Life of Christ and the Crucifixion. We had an ample 2 hours to explore shops, the Church of St. Peter with its elaborately painted ceiling and ornately done cemetery with lovely flowers in full bloom. In each town we visited on the trip, large churches were a focal point and centers of much activity with both pious residents and tourists.

The next day (September 22) we traveled to Munich, Germany airport for the 9 ½ hour flight home, with so many memories of a never-to-be-forgotten adventure.

Gstaad, Switzerland



Photo by Curt Weinhold

Trails End

In 2018, the STC lost a few dedicated members whose passing will be felt within the club for several years to come. We will fondly remember the following members as they frolic on idyllic trails beyond our current reach:

- Bob Bernhardt
- Yvonne Parker
- Floyd Lounsbury
- Tom Schultz
- Dawn McManus

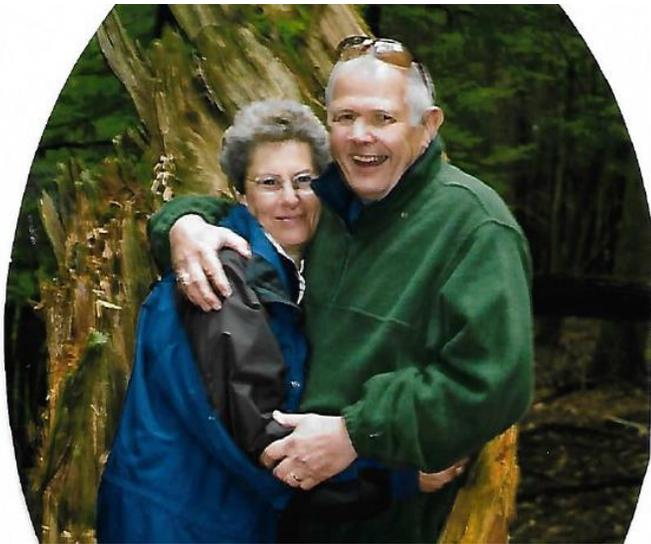
G. Dawn McManus, age 81, Coudersport, PA, passed away July 3, 2018. A life member of STC, she was the sister of Bill Boyd, our club treasurer and trail care crew leader. Our condolences to Bill and the family.

Floyd Lounsbury, age 83, Galeton, PA, died July 26, 2018. A 40-year member of STC, Floyd and his wife Beth were trail maintainers long before the official trail care system was organized. He taught English and Speech for 34 years in Galeton Schools. Floyd enjoyed the outdoors, hunting fields and forests as well as fishing lakes and streams. Our condolences to Beth and family.

Bob Bernhardt

Long-time STC member, Robert C. Bernhardt, 77, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, September 22, 2018. He was born in Pittsburgh, PA, but moved to Philadelphia at age two. He and his wife Helen had shared 53 years of marriage and lived in Wellsboro for the past 12 years.

Helen & Bob



Over the years Bob was extremely active in the church where he directed youth plays, was a boy scout and pioneer brigade leader, taught Sunday school to teens,

volunteered with the Awana youth program, was involved in prison ministries as well as being a deacon and elder.

Bob's true passion was being outdoors, whether he was running, hiking, or biking. Bob started backpacking in 1969 on various trails including the newly formed Susquehannock Trail and soon became STS Circuit Hiker #30. Bob and Helen joined STC in 1972. He and his son Chad backpacked numerous other trails including the Quehanna, Donut Hole, Black Forest, Chuck Kieper, and parts of the Mid-State Trail to mention a few. Bob, Helen and Chad maintained about 3-4 miles of the Appalachian Trail for about 8 years. He was a member of KTA, Rails to Trails, Asaph Trail Club and the AT Conference. Most recently Bob and Helen were trail maintainers for 4.12 miles of the STS. When asked his most memorable times in life, he replied that it was time spent backpacking with his boys.

To stay in shape for backpacking, Bob started running which soon turned into a favorite activity. He ran the Potter County marathon 20 times and at least 50 half marathons in various locations. He also qualified for the Boston Marathon at the age of 40. Over the years he ran upwards of 100 marathons.

One of the most interesting stories of Bob and Helen's trail memories was their first backpacking trip on the STS, early in their marriage, when they were in their twenties. Bob scoffed at Helen for packing too much: "It's JULY! You don't need a sleeping bag liner!" (Wrong! She nearly froze stiff, in possibly the worst night of her life!) Then on night two, when it was rainy, they opted to sleep on the porch of an empty camp at Young Woman's Creek. As they were about to fall asleep, a car pulled up! The camp owner thought Helen – as she sat up in her sleeping bag – was a bear, and pulled a gun on her before she screamed her humanity! (The owners then brought them in, gave them a bed in the loft, and fed them a great breakfast the next morning.) The weekend trip ended at Ole Bull State Park the next day, where Helen found out that Bob's plan for getting back to their car in Cross Fork was to hitchhike! Bob – cute young guy that he was in those days – failed repeatedly to catch a ride, so finally Helen agreed to stick her thumb up, and the next car stopped for them. Whoo!

In addition to his wife Helen, he is survived by his sons, Chad (Nadine) Bernhardt of West Chester, PA and Kyle Bernhardt of Denver, CO; four grandchildren, two brothers, one sister, several nieces and nephews.



Susquehannock Trail Club
PO Box 643
Coudersport PA 16915

2019/2020 Event Schedule

When: April 6, 2019 @ 5:00 PM	When: August 8-11, 2019	When: December 14, 2019 @ 5:00 PM
What: Monthly Meeting	What: Annual Camporee	What: Christmas Party
Where: Joe & Barb Allis's Galeton, PA	Where: Ole Bull State Park Cross Fork, PA	Where: Lois Morey's Galeton, PA
When: May 11, 2019 @ 5:00 PM	When: September 14, 2019 @ 5:00 PM	When: January 11, 2020 @ 5:00 PM
What: Monthly Meeting	What: Monthly Meeting	What: Monthly Meeting
Where: Donna Batterson's Coudersport, PA	Where: Saulters' Preserve Coudersport, PA	Where: T.B.D. _____ _____, PA
When: June 8, 2019 @ 5:00 PM	When: October 12, 2019 @ 5:00 PM	When: February 8, 2020 @ 5:00 PM
What: Monthly Meeting	What: Monthly Meeting	What: Monthly Meeting
Where: Lyman Run State Park Galeton, PA	Where: Wanda Shirk's Genesee, PA	Where: T.B.D. _____ _____, PA
When: July 6, 2019 @ 11:00 AM	When: November 9, 2019 @ 5:00 PM	When: March 14, 2020 @ 5:00 PM
What: Independence Day Parade	What: Monthly Meeting	What: Monthly Meeting
Where: Downtown Galeton Galeton, PA	Where: Bill Boyd's Coudersport, PA	Where: T.B.D. _____ _____, PA
When: July 6, 2019 @ Noonish		
What: Monthly Meeting		
Where: Lois Morey's Galeton, PA		

T.B.D. = To Be Determined