

April, 2021

Outdoor Club of South Jersey



April Newsletter



President's Message

Joe Fabian

Hello all:

I do not intend to slight the hikers or paddlers, but this month I want to write about cycling and inspire them. Spring is here and it is time to hit the roads. Cycling is my lifelong passion. A bicycle is a beautiful and special machine, but ultimately, it is just a tool for experiencing and creating outdoor memories that can carry in your mind. I love bikes and sometimes they seem to me to be alive and animated by magic, but it is I who makes those moments I treasure happen.

Our cycling chair, Neil and his regular leaders are doing a fine job. The evening weekday rides are starting and should continue through the early fall. It's better than going home and watching television after work. Wear your bicycle helmets and obey traffic laws. Ride safely and often.

Joe Fabian President OCSJ President@ocsj.org

Vice President's Message

Barbara Berman

April showers bring May flowers. Finally, the weather is warming up, the buds on the trees are coming out, and the flowers are blooming. The same is true for OCSJ. We are thriving as well. We've had and will continue to have many hikes, bike rides, and backpacking events scheduled. In addition, kayaking and canoeing will begin soon too.

The Board realizes there is sometimes an issue with people signing up in time, but please, as a member, put your name on the waiting list. You would be surprised how many times people have to cancel for whatever reason, and you'll be able to attend the event. As you know, it is up to the leaders to post their events, which includes when and how many people can attend.

We are doing our best to accommodate our members. This is a volunteer organization, and we would love it if you would like to lead an event. The more leaders we have, the more events we can offer. The Activity Chairs will help you understand our processes and will give you as much training as you feel is

necessary. This is your club. Let's all work together to make it even better than it is.

Barbara Berman Vice President OCSJ vpocsj.org

Activity Chair's Message

Frank Pearce

Want to get more involved with the Club?

The club is made up of volunteers. All leaders and board members and section chairs are volunteer members. There is a club meeting once a month that you may attend, (presently via Zoom), where the business and overhead of the club is managed. Most trips and events are created and organized by individual leaders themselves and posted on our and Meetup sites.

How do I become a leader or helper?

The first step may be to approach a leader to volunteer. You may start out by helping the leader or find out more information on how to become a leader and our requirements. You can contact any board member as well for that information. We encourage you to be involved.

Frank Pearce hornet71@verizon.net

BIKING

www.meetup.com/Outdoor-Club-of-South-Jersey/

Message from the Cycling Chair:

Neil Kornhauser



March was a good month for cycling with many rides in the Pine Barrens [and other parks] on mountain bikes along with more and more road rides. Now that the temperatures are increasing, we will hopefully add more road rides of paces from D (entry level) through B+ (18 + mph). At the moment, we only have Wednesday evening road rides from South Jersey Airport.

We need people to step up and lead evening rides, weekend rides and weekday rides. Without leaders there are no rides. If you have been riding with the club for a while, now is the best time to lead a ride or two. Contact Neil, the cycling chair, and see how easy it is to get started. Do not rely on someone else to lead; we certainly want our calendar of rides to be full. Please give back to our great club. Thank you in advance!

Monthly DIY Tip:

Cycling in bright sunlight even with sunglasses on can sometimes be challenging. To cut the glare, I have been using a cycling hat with visor made to fit under my helmet. The brand I use is from a company called Halo. This hat has a built in sweat band and I must say, I will never cycle without it in sunny conditions. If you need more info please email me

As always, thank you and see you on the road and trails.

Neil Kornhauser nkornhauser@gmail.com

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

www.meetup.com/Outdoor-Club-of-South-Jersey-Hiking/

Message from the Trail Maintenance Chair:

Ro Mason



The OCSJ trail crew assisted the Wharton SF staff with installing a 215 ft raised walkway on the very popular and sometimes flooded Orange Trail. Those not working on this project trimmed and re-blazed the Mullica River Yellow Trail.

This past month, the crew started trimming the Red Trail in the Franklin Parker Preserve. We completed trimming the White Trail in Batsto with the Wharton trail stewards and replaced a few small footbridges on the Batona. We clipped and reblazed several miles of that trail, also. Janet Horton and Anthony Venti were very instrumental in re-blazing the entire Mullica River Trail on several Saturdays.

What a great crew!!! Many thanks!!!

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

HIKING

www.meetup.com/Outdoor-Club-of-South-Jersey-Hiking/

Message from the Hiking Chair:

Evelyn Minutolo



Good News! We have gained a few new leaders, which means more hikes. If you are on the fence about leading, please consider stepping up.

I'm also excited to hear of more hikers picking up trash as they hike and people becoming aware of the Leave No Trace policy which means nothing, not even biodegradable items are to be tossed into the woods. Carry out your apple cores and banana peels. I encourage you to bring a bag on your next hike and pick up some trash.

Unfortunately, people canceling in under 24 hours are causing people on the waitlist to miss the hike. Today, we had 5 cancellations the morning of the hike, preventing those on the waiting list from getting to the hike on time. Please be considerate of your fellow hikers and try to cancel at least 24 hours in advance. Sometimes people are signed up for more than one hike at a time, which also causes problems for other hikers.

I truly appreciate all our leaders do for the club, we can't do it without you! Let's Go Hiking!

Evelyn SunsetWaterfall@aol.com

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

[click here](#)

Backpacking/Camping Trips

www.meetup.com/Outdoor-Club-of-South-Jersey-Hiking/

Message from the Backpacking/Camping Chair:

Kevin Drevik



Schedule for 2nd quarter of 2021 is currently looking like this:

[Hike the Appalachian Trail in Virginia | Meetup](#)

Month	Date	Start	End	Timeline	Map	Dist
Apr	11-13	VA56	Salt Log Gap	3 day Wknd	VA 17-18	16.9

[Beginner's Hike on Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania | Meetup](#)

May	15-16	PA309	Bake Oven Knob	Wknd	PA 20-21	9.3
Beginner						

[Hike the Appalachian Trail in Vermont and New Hampshire | Meetup](#)

June 12-14 VT9 North Adams MA 3 day Wknd VT 9 19.3

See you on the trail!

Kevin

*If you would like to organize a trip or for backpacking information, contact Kevin at KDrevik@aol.com

KAYAKING

www.meetup.com/Outdoor-Club-of-South-Jersey-Canoeing/

Message from the Kayaking Chair:

Frank Pearce

We hope to start running a reduced schedule for 2021. Unlike most club activities, paddling usually involves shuttles. This presents additional COVID-19 concerns. (Note shuttles are not part of the official paddle activity. You make your own decision on participating in a shuttle.) We may start with lower-risk trips that do not need ride sharing.

New leaders are always welcome. Contact me if interested, and we will arrange for the process to become a leader.

See You on the Water,

Frank Pearce HORNET71@VERIZON.NET

Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Trips

www.meetup.com/Outdoor-Club-of-South-Jersey/

Cross Country Ski Chair: Vacancy - Volunteer Needed

**HISTORIC CAPE MAY WEEKEND JUNE 18, 19 & 20,
2021**



To start the summer season,
you are cordially invited to join us for our annual Cape May outing.

Our headquarters, as in years past, will be:

THE CHALFONTE HOTEL

301 Howard Street

Cape May, NJ 609-884-8409

info@chalfonte.com

LIMITED TO OCSJ MEMBERS

TO CONFIRM YOUR RESERVATION: please return the application with your payment. Due to the high response to this event, we will accept reservations with payment as they are received by Jim Bodnar JRBodnar@verizon.net

For more information and a trip application, please use the following link: <https://ocsj.org/TRIP-DETAILS>

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

John Kerney - Coordinator

Keep checking Meetup for updates on Social Events.

John Kerney crewkern@live.com



INTRODUCING:

THE OCSJ MARKETPLACE

BUY - SELL - GIVE - BORROW

Too much stuff? Want to upgrade and get some cash for your used gear or simply gift it to another outdoor lover? Have you been wanting to try something new, but do not want to commit to purchasing the equipment before you know if you will enjoy it? Well this is the place to go!

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

Calling all Photophiles, Shutterbugs and Photographers

Many of you are taking and posting amazing photos of OSCJ events. There are definitely some winners out there! Why not save your favorite pic and submit it to our 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. Files should be at least 3MB and good quality printing. 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

...save your photos!



Leaders' Banquet

Our plans for our annual Leaders Appreciation Banquet are currently on hold due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

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

OCSJ MEMBERSHIP

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

1. 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.
2. 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

OCSJ PARTICIPATION POLICY:

OCSJ is a member organization. Membership funds pay for insurance and other organizational overhead costs.

Prospective members and Guests of OCSJ members may try one regular activity from each of our activity sections without joining. Thereafter, they must join to be eligible to attend future events and activities.

Participants on activities that charge a fee, must be members of OCSJ, except where the trip is a joint trip with another club and the participant is a member of that club. If there is space available, members of OCSJ may bring guests on a day trip charging a fee. Participants on overnight trips that charge a fee must always be an OCSJ member.

***NOTE - PRIORITY ON ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION WILL BE GIVEN TO PAID MEMBERS AT THIS TIME.**

Any comments please contact: Joseph Fabian (president@ocsj.org)

MEETUP

To receive up-to-date club events and activities, join Meetup. It is helpful to include a photo of yourself on your Meetup profile. This is helpful for the leaders to properly identify and welcome you to the activity you are attending. Our activities are listed on the following Meetup sites.

Click Links Below to Join and View

- * [Hiking/Camping/Backpacking Events Link](#)
- * [Biking Cross Country Skiing Events Link](#)
- * [Kayaking Events Link](#)

[Note: You must join each Meetup group separately](#)

If you are planning on attending an event, do not forget to RSVP in Meetup. This is important information for the leader. Of course, if your plans change, please cancel your RSVP. Meetup will automatically send you an email if the activity is cancelled by the leader.

TREKKER

The latest printed Trekker is available quarterly from Board Members and Leaders. The printed Trekker is also available at

The Print Shop, White Horse Pike in Stratford, NJ.

Contact Doug Hillebrecht at 856-309-8817