

The Waldorf Triangle...

Have you ever gotten so carried away with your fellow hikers on a trail that you just accidentally missed a marker for a turn you were supposed to take? Well, we did...and, we weren't very proud of our mistake. Just two weeks before the big event, where we had 14 show up plus 4 furry friends, Mark Zawodny and I scouted this trail in the Cedarville State Forest and were actually quite amazed at how well the trails here were marked as well as the description of the trail from the hiking guidebook. Interesting enough, we followed the guidebook to what we thought was a T and we came up a mile short of the hike's data in the guidebook, during the scouting. The same trail at Cedarville had a starting marker that listed a shorter distance. We aren't sure if the guidebook had a typo or the guidebook had an extra

section that we must have overlooked.

Unfortunately, we ended up detouring on the "real" event and took a similar trail (in distance), but missed out on many of the cool views from the trail we were supposed to take. A participant's handy GPS helped us get back on track. And, gosh, we thought we might have to whip out a compass - ah, one of those ancient tools!

We got back to the cars at the scheduled time, but feeling a bit bad about getting lost in what we've dubbed the "Waldorf Triangle" (a play on the Bermuda Triangle thing). We all made it back safely and look forward to the repeat of the event (next time on the proper trail) in February.

Join us on February 2nd for a cooler version of this hike at 10:00 AM on the "Blue Blaze Heritage Trail," in Cedarville State Forest. Sign up at: www.marylandoutdoorclub.org

-Amy Pickwick



November 10th hike in the Cedarville State Forest was led by Amy Pickwick/Mark Zawodny. Photos: Amy Pickwick

News You Can Use

First Social Hour Held

Some of our members ventured out for our first Social Hour with the MOC on the rainy Tuesday evening. We met at Bill Bateman's Bistro in Severna Park, MD on November 12. Topics of discussion included event suggestions, things to do in the area, recent relocations, and suggestions for a future Social Hour location (possibly in Columbia, MD). On December 10th we'll be meeting at BBB again in Severna Park. Stay informed with last minute details via the MOC web site.

If you plan to attend our December Social Hour, bring a \$10 or less, unisex, new, wrapped "holiday" gift. We'll have a small, informal gift exchange for those that show up with gifts!

www.marylandoutdoorclub.org

Attend January's Movie Night FREE...

Sign up and pay for January's Tuesday Night Movies event before or on January 13th and you'll be entered to win a full refund of your ticket price for this January 28th event! Only one winner will be randomly selected. And, remember no refund requests will be honored beyond January 13th, except for the winner!

www.marylandoutdoorclub.org

December Contests

1) For the month of December, the MOC member (excluding officers) that shows up to the most MOC sponsored events (excluding Social Hour) will win a new MOC T-shirt!

A tiebreaker will be randomly selected from a drawing at the January Social Hour (if need be).

2) For the month of December, the MOC member (excluding officers) who refers the most new members to the club will win a sticker of their choice from our online store.

The new members must be in the Maryland vicinity (MD/DC/VA) to count towards the final results. They will only count if they specify the MOC member's name that referred them in the quick survey featured at the end of the online membership sign up page. Later acknowledging who referred them, after they've become a member, will not work. The MOC also retains the right to contact your referrals to verify their legitimacy.

In the event that there is a tie in the number of members that refer new members, each will be awarded a sticker.

Upcoming Events

Wed, Dec 4 @ 7:15 PM

Jammin Java & Live Music
(Todd Sheaffer - Solo/Acoustic)
Vienna, VA



Tue, Dec 10 @ 7:30 PM

Social Hour
Bill Bateman's Bistro
Severna Park, MD



Sat, Dec 14 @ 8 PM

Indoor Ice Skating
Herbert Wells Ice Rink
College Park, MD



**Tuesday Night Movies
Cancelled for December**
(It is Christmas Eve)

Fri, Jan 10 @ 8 PM

Red, White, & White Night
Residential Location TBA
College Park, MD



For more info on upcoming events, please visit the "Events" tab on our web site.

Health News Flash

Good news for allergy sufferers!!!

Claritin, a popular allergy medication, will soon be available "over-the-counter" at a cost that may fall below what some are paying now for the prescription (even considering that insurance picks up most of the cost).

On Wednesday, November 27th, the FDA approved the drug for store shelf placement.

American patients are paying an average of \$17 per month for the prescription (after insurance) whereas other countries are picking up the non-sedating antihistamine off the shelves for about \$11 for a month's supply.

Allegra and Zyrtec users will be glad to hear that both of their medications are also in the works to become over-the-counter in the nearby future - the action is still pending with the FDA.

See the FDA web site for more on this and other news:

www.fda.gov

Organize an Event

Interested in organizing a MOC event? It's simple, fun to do, and gives you great leadership experience that you can use on your resume.

There is a step-by-step guide to help members pull off a successful and safe event in the Member's Area of the web site. Reach this page by logging into the Member's Area from any page on the MOC web site, then continuing to the "Organizer Info" link on the left.

If it sounds like something for you, please let us know. All members are qualified for holding some type of activity - whether it would be outdoor, indoor, or traveling to new places.

events@marylandoutdoorclub.org

Product Spotlight

Have you been to our online store lately? There are lots of cool new products that you may not have seen yet. Here are a few that you may want to consider picking up:

Flying Disc



A great way to show your MOC pride while hanging out in the park with your friends or playing a game of fetch in the back yard with

Fluffy. \$6.99/each

Baseball Jersey



Popular with both men and women, our jerseys are available in M, L, XL, and XXL. They are available in blue/white (shown), black/white, or red/white

combos. \$19.99/each

Frosted Mug



What better way to keep your nice cold beverage cool, than by sipping it from your frosted mug that is both dishwasher and freezer safe. Made of

glass and definitely will be a conversation starter! \$14.99/each

Oval Sticker

Proudly display your membership in the MOC with this very noticeable "MOC" sticker! The new fad, these stickers are made to last - no fading in the sun or bleeding in

the rain. \$2.49/each

See more products by visiting the "Shop" link under the Extras tab on our web site!

December Birthdays!

Some of our members are turning another year older! The MOC wishes them all a happy and safe birthday!

12/9 Rebecca Odabashian
12/12 Margrit Marks
12/15 Gail Korb
12/21 Vicky Barone
12/22 Brian Ames
12/23 Sandra McGill
12/24 Patrick Johnson
12/27 Thomas Dunne
12/28 Amy Suman
12/28 Mark Zawodny (b'day party details coming to markzawodny.com soon)
12/29 Dawn Ibbott

Happy Holidays!

No matter what religious holiday you celebrate, or maybe you don't celebrate one at all, we wish you, your family, and friends the safest and most pleasant holiday season possible.

Please be safe on the roads, and remember that drinking and driving is not worth the risk. Catch a cab or get a designated driver!

Also, as New Year's Eve approaches, we'll be posting the most interesting and/or well advertised events for ringing in the New Year on our "Area Happenings" web page. Stay tuned!



Tip of the Month

This year, why not pack some GORP (good old raisins and peanuts) while traveling to see your family by plane, car, or even to serve at your holiday gathering on the coffee table! Here's a great start for your mix, then improvise with whatever you like or will give your GORP a personal touch!

unfrosted cereal or granola
raisins
chocolate candies
roasted peanuts

Other Suggestions:
dried fruit
sunflower seeds or nuts

For Award-Winning Recipes:
<http://www.backpacker.com/article/0,2646,2046,00.html>

Also, if you plan on using public transportation this holiday season, please, please, please check out the great travel tips, that are just plain smart at:

<http://travel.discovery.com/tips/international/safety.html>

Monthly Statistics

As of December 1st:

135 - Total Members To Date
34 - November New Members
57% - Female Members
43% - Male Members
31.9 - Average Member Age

Ads & Classifieds

Advertise in the Monthly Explorer
Does your business want to advertise in the Monthly Explorer? Reach hundreds of potential customers each month with a free ad - in exchange for bartered items/goods. Contact us for details.

explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org

Place a Monthly Explorer Classified
Classifieds can only be placed by MOC members. With classified space you can sell single item goods (depreciated merchandise) or place notices. Classifieds are \$5.00 per 25 words or less. The MOC has the right to refuse or edit any classified. Send your classified, and amount due to Maryland Outdoor Club, ATTN: Monthly Explorer Publication, P.O. Box 854, College Park, MD 20741.

Deadline: the 15th of each month for the following month's issue.

Monthly Explorer

Submit reviews of events, articles, tips, etc. to the Newsletter Editor 30 days in advance of the next issue release (1st of each month). We'll review your work, and ad it to the newsletter if we feel it appropriate. You'll be given credit for the work although it becomes property of the club.

Write for the Monthly Explorer on an ongoing basis. Contact us for details.
explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org

Get the Monthly Explorer Delivered

The MOC hands out a limited number of Monthly Explorer publications at our monthly Social Hour events, as well as posts an electronic copy to our web site. However, if you prefer to receive our publication by mail, please fill out the following form, cut it out, and return it to Maryland Outdoor Club, ATTN: Monthly Explorer Publication, P.O. Box 854, College Park, MD 20741 with \$6.00 (Payable to Mark Zawodny) to cover S&H for a year.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____

Please
Place
Postage
Here



P.O. Box 854, College Park, MD 20741

Officers

Amy Pickwick

Founder & President

apickwick@marylandoutdoorclub.org

Mark Zawodny

Treasurer & Co-Founder

mzawodny@marylandoutdoorclub.org

Positions Open:

Vice President

Event Coordinator

Social Coordinator

Advertising & Promotions Coordinator

Safety & Equipment Rental Coordinator

Legal Coordinator

Preservation Coordinator

Newsletter Editor

Interested in a position? Please contact Amy by e-mail or come to Social Hour and talk with Amy directly. The duties are defined and we can show you what responsibilities you'll take on by becoming an officer. It's fun and is great on your resume!

Join the MOC

The Maryland Outdoor Club conducts all administrative tasks through our web site to cut down on processing time & costs. If you are interested in signing up for membership, you need to go to marylandoutdoorclub.org and click on any of the "Join Now" buttons you'll find throughout the site. Signing up is a relatively short process and will save you time later on when you sign up for events and don't need to re-enter all of your information.

The MOC does not sell or share your personal information with any third-party.

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE!!!

Save a Tree

If you are done with this issue, please consider throwing it in your paper recycle bin instead of into a trash can.

Contact Newsletter Editor

We are looking for a Newsletter Editor! Do you have Adobe PageMaker experience/software, editorial and writing experience, organizational skills, meet deadlines, and are looking for something fun and creative to do in your spare time? Please contact Amy if interested!

Until the position is filled, I'll continue to try my best...

All comments, questions, and suggestions are welcome.

-Amy Pickwick
explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org