

The MOC Turns 1

Wow - a year has gone by already...it's hard for those of us that have been with the MOC since the beginning to believe it. But, this March 18th, we turn a year old on our date of inception.

For those of you that aren't familiar with the MOC's history, it was actually based off of a similar club started in the Fall of 2000 in Atlanta, Georgia. The Atlanta Outdoor Club (AOC) has over 900 members as of this month. They hold between four and eight events a month, and typically fill up every event. The MOC is quickly approaching similar figures.

With that said, you can see that it's pretty important for us to see our number of members increase quickly. The more members in the MOC, the better the variety of events we will have, the more often we will hold events, and the more varied the geographic location of the events will be (including the ability to travel far from home). Basically, the more people we get to join, the more likely we'll fill up

our events and not have to cancel them. At the same time, overall event costs drop, allowing us to pass a discounted rate onto our event participants. And, the more members that join, the more people we'll have that will be able to organize events.

To help with our new marketing initiative, we had our first press release go out this month, with more expected in the future. That should mean some real publicity soon and, in turn, more members.

Currently, our most common methods of people finding out about us is through online links, secondly through free classified ads in local papers, third through member referrals, and fourth by spotting one of our flyers. So, to those of you that have been marketing the club to your friends, family, and coworkers, definitely don't give up - it's working! We have an average of 10 people signing up for membership per week!

Thanks to those of you that have helped spread the word, organize events, or even just show up! We look forward to the good times to come!

-Amy Pickwick



The Maryland Outdoor Club celebrates its first birthday!

Don't Forget!

We will be celebrating our one year anniversary, of the official club "kick off," on July 19! You can sign up for our **1st annual picnic & anniversary celebration** on our web site. *Note: the location is still being finalized.

www.marylandoutdoorclub.org

News You Can Use

Go to March's Movie Night FREE

Out of all of the sign ups that we have for March's Tuesday Night Movies event, come 5 PM on Tuesday, March 11, one winner will be randomly selected out of a drawing at our March Social Hour to attend this event for free. If that person has already paid for the event, they will receive a refund. The winner must be present the night of the event, but not the night of Social Hour, to claim their prize. Should the winner not show up the night of this event, the ticket will be given away in a similar fashion for our April TNM event. Good luck!!!

www.marylandoutdoorclub.org

Dog Owners: Win a Dog Lover's Book

We're having another contest! Between March 1, 2003 and April 30, 2003, send in your best digital dog photos. These photos can be cute or funny, but please keep them clean. Each member is allowed a maximum of one entry per day. All photos become property of the club and you give us permission to use these pictures on our web site or in our publications. The top 10 submitted photos (as judged by the officers) will be posted to the Member Area from May 1, 2003 and May 31, 2003 where members are allowed to vote on their favorite choice! On June 1, 2003, the winner will be announced and awarded a brand new edition of "The Dog Lover's Companion to Washington, D.C. & Baltimore: The Inside Scoop on Where to Take Your Dog" book. To enter, submit your photos with the dog(s) name(s), your name, phone number, and e-mail address to:

dogcontest@marylandoutdoorclub.org

Be on a Reality TV Series: Spymaster

The new reality TV series, "Spymaster," is looking for some talent! And, they've decided to let the MOC members in on the auditions!

Spymaster will air on TLC and Discovery Channel USA. It is based on a similar series that was filmed for Discovery Channel Europe last year, where a group of contestants were put through a three week "spy" training camp. Wall to Wall Television is looking for people to take part who have a great sense of adventure. The training the contestants are put through is very intense but at the same time interesting and fun. The course will be run by former CIA, FBI, and Special Forces personnel.

If you are interested in applying, see the "News" area on the MOC site for more information. All entries must be in by March 17th.

Upcoming Events

Tue, Mar 11 @ 7:15 PM

Social Hour
Rocky Run Tap & Grill
Columbia, MD



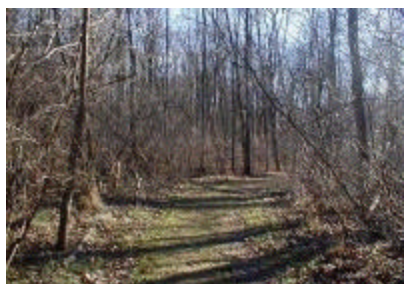
Thu, Mar 20 @ 7 PM

Eat, Drink, & Shoot Some Pool
Rock Bottom Brewery
Bethesda, MD



Sun, Mar 23 @ 1:30 PM

Easy Loop Day Hike
Featuring: The Mound Builder Trail
Clarksburg, MD



Tue, Mar 25 @ 8 PM

Tuesday Night Movies
Muvico, Arundel Mills Mall
Hanover, MD

Sat, Apr 5 @ 9:30 AM

Bike the Capital Crescent Trail
Georgetown to Bethesda
NW Washington, DC



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

Go Ahead, Take a Hike

Now that the weather is starting to show signs of Spring, dust off your hiking gear and hit some of the area's best trails. Whether you are looking for a peaceful retreat or to get back in shape, there are trails for everyone in and around Maryland. Here are some recommended areas to enjoy on foot. Play it safe - go with a friend! (New to the area? Log into the MOC Member Area where you can find others in your geographic area in our Member Network to accompany you on a hike).

- Deep Creek Lake
- Catocin Mountain
- C & O Canal Towpath
- Appalachian Trail
- Gunpowder Falls
- Calvert Cliffs
- Assateague Island

More information on these locations can be found here:
www.dnr.state.md.us/outdooradventures or www.gorp.com

Did you know we have a list of recommended outdoor enthusiast books and magazines available to order on our web site?

Check out:
www.marylandoutdoorclub.org/extras/bookshop.asp

Organize an 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.

events@marylandoutdoorclub.org

Bowling for Columbine



If you haven't heard the hype about this thought-provoking film by Michael Moore, you should definitely take some time to go see it.

I bet most of you would be surprised to hear that more Americans kill each other with guns than any other people on Earth (by an astounding margin)!

I bet you'd be stunned to hear that there are banks in America that are also gun dealers AND give away a FREE gun when you open a bank account with them!

I bet you'd be shocked to hear that most gun violence happens in suburban America!

I bet you'd not believe why... Michael Moore looks at the possible reasons that so many Americans are so fearful, often times media-provoked, and own guns.

You can catch the film at local theaters for a limited time:

Loews Cineplex Inner Circle 3
2301 M Street, NW, Washington, DC
Fox Chase
4621 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA

To learn more and find out how you can help out, see the Bowling for Columbine web site:

www.bowlingforcolumbine.com/home.php

March Birthdays!

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

3/1 - Dave Michaels
3/1 - Isabel Lin
3/4 - Debbie Jones
3/5 - Joseph Price
3/6 - Gregg Davis
3/6 - Maurice Lin
3/10 - Douglas Barnes
3/12 - Eric McCray
3/14 - Shawn Justice
3/17 - Michelle Rudek
3/18 - Elizabeth Walkup
3/18 - Keira Wickliffe
3/21 - Doug Guidorizzi
3/22 - Natalie Granzow
3/24 - Jennifer Tobin
3/25 - Mark Dean
3/27 - Angela Jansen
3/27 - Brandy Hayden
3/27 - Nancy Jedziniak
3/30 - Stuart Pechner
3/30 - Hilma Munson

St. Patrick's Fun

Looking for the best places to unwind and grab a pint of green beer this year? Here's a few selections that you might want to try:

3/15 (11 AM - 9 PM) Shamrock Fest
Arlington, VA (5 City Blocks)

Galway Bay, Annapolis, MD
Sean Donlon Irish Pub, Annapolis, MD
Claddagh Pub, Baltimore, MD
J. Patrick's Irish Pub, Baltimore, MD
Mick O'Shea's, Baltimore, MD
An Poitin Stil, Timonium, MD
Flanagan's Irish Pub, Bethesda, MD
The Dubliner, Washington, DC
Fado Irish Pub, Washington, DC

Tip of the Month

If you plan on visiting a number of Maryland State Parks or National Parks over the next 12 months, consider investing in a park pass.

The National Park Pass costs \$50 annually and admits the pass owner and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle. Where a park has a per person entrance fee, the pass admits the owner, a spouse, children, and parents.

The National Park Pass can be ordered online at www.nationalparks.org or by phone at 1-800-GO-PARKS.

The Maryland State Park pass costs \$60 and offers free day-use entry to parks for everyone in the private vehicle, free boat launching, and a 10% discount on state-operated concessions and boat rentals.

The Maryland pass can be ordered online at www.dnr.state.md.us or by phone at 1-800-830-3974.

Monthly Statistics

As of March 1st:

223 - Total Members To Date
41 - February New Members
59% - Female Members
41% - 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



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