

Hot to Trot

It's been a busy six months of new events, new organizers, and new friends since this newsletter was last updated. We had amazing weather throughout the summer and fall, and some amazing new events. A few highlights:

Moderate Day Hike on Catoctin

Organizers: Colin Babb, Walter Preissler

The first signs of winter greeted the group as they set off on this first-time hike location for the MOC. Greeted first by a closed portion of the trail (even nature is no longer free from "security concerns"), the group set off undaunted. After getting slightly disoriented, thanks to a van blocking the trail sign, the hikers made it to Cunningham Falls, spying lingering signs of September's Hurricane Isabel.

"Then the real hike began," noted Colin, with a clothes-shedding steep climb to Wolf and Chimney Rocks. Chimney Rock turned out to be the more spectacular, with views of Frederick and central Maryland. The last of the fall colors lingered for the group's trek back to their cars.



Saturday, Nov. 8, Hikers pose at Chimney Rock on Catoctin Mountain Hike. At right, the rollerbladers and bikers from Saturday, Nov. 15 at Rock Creek Park gather for a photo after touring the park, before heading out to dinner then back to the park for stargazing.

Blading, Biking and Stargazing

Organizers: Joanne Milne, Katie Stofer

Since Beach Drive through Rock Creek Park is closed to cars on weekends, there was plenty of room to roll in this urban oasis near Northwest D.C. The group split into twos and threes so everyone could enjoy their own pace. Some of the more adventurous bikers explored the trails and nearby roads as well, and some of the skaters were invited to join a roller hockey game - Joanne had on her officer hat, handing out club business cards.

After a couple of hours in the brisk fall afternoon, most of the group reconvened at Silver Spring's Mi Rancho for dinner before heading back to the park for stargazing with the National Capital Astronomers. Despite the city lights and scattered clouds, the group took in some stellar views, including Cassiopeia, Mars, and Uranus, with and without telescopes. Everyone agreed that next time, the club stargazers would get out of town.

Horses, Game Nights, and Karaoke!

Thanks to all our members for organizing several other outdoor and social events in the month of November (and previously). Keep up the good work!



News You Can Use

1,000+ Members

The Maryland Outdoor Club has hit 1,000 members and continues to grow at about 4 new members a day. Thanks to everyone that continues to advertise this fun group to your friends (including our member that referred two new members to the MOC at the Baltimore Marathon port-a-potty line in October) and keeps coming back for more. To see more statistics about the club, visit our online Statistics page in the About Us section of the web site.

What else does this mean? Many members have noted that our events fill up much more quickly these days. But so many members means many more potential event organizers! All our events are led by member volunteers, so we need you to organize things you'd like to attend yourself. If you've gone on a hike, consider leading that same hike in a different season. Need a mentor or buddy to help you organize? Try contacting someone through the member network of the web site. Watch for more expanded organizer resources on the web site and advertised here soon.

Welcome New Officers!

The influx of new members means that running the club became a bigger job than just Amy and Mark could handle, so recently, some members stepped up to take on larger roles within the club:

Brian Loughery, Events Coordinator
Brian works with organizers, posts events to the web site, and manages attendance and waiting lists. If you've got an idea for an event, Brian can get you started.
bloughery@marylandoutdoorclub.org

Colin Babb, Historian
A historian in his day job, Colin manages the event archives, posting write-ups, final attendance lists, and photos to the web site.
cbabb@marylandoutdoorclub.org

Joanne Milne, Community Relations Coord.
A natural go-getter, Joanne updates the "Area Happenings" section of the web site, and works on partnerships with outfitters and other area clubs.
jmilne@marylandoutdoorclub.org

Katie Stofer, Newsletter Editor
If you can't figure this one out ... Katie also solicits articles and information from members. Deadline: 1st of the month - articles, 15th - ads.
kstofer@marylandoutdoorclub.org

December Events

Thu, Dec. 4 @ 6:45 PM
Free Clinic on Camping Supplies
REI College Park

Fri, Dec. 5 @ 8 PM
Comedy Factory Night Out
Baltimore, MD

Sat, Dec. 6 @ 9 AM
Difficult AT Hike - Chimney Rocks

Sat, Dec. 6 @ 10 AM
Moderate Hike in Frederick, MD

Sun, Dec. 7 @ 12:15 PM
Wine Tasting, Scavenger Hunt, and
Dinner
Takoma Park, MD

Sun, Dec. 7 @ 4:30 PM
Holiday Cookie Exchange
College Park, MD

Tue, Dec. 9 @ 7:15 PM
2nd Annual Holiday Party

Sat, Dec. 13 @ PM
Moderate Hike - Patapsco Valley

Sat, Dec. 13 @ PM
Moderate Hike - Great Falls, VA

Sat, Dec. 13 @ AM
Day Trip to New York City

Sun, Dec. 14 @ AM
Wine Tastings in Virginia

Sun, Dec. 14 @ 1 PM
Intro to Bartending Class

Tue, Dec. 16 @ PM
Ice Skating at the National Gallery

Sun, Dec. 21 @ AM
Difficult AT Hike - Gathland St. Park

Wed, Dec. 31 @ AM
New Year's Eve Snow Tubing

Wed, Dec. 31 @ AM
New Year's Eve - Big Night Baltimore

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

Learn About a Park

Learn about a National State Park in
our region:

This Month: **National Arboretum**



Located just outside Maryland, actually, in the heart of Washington, D.C., the National Arboretum was established in 1927 by an Act of Congress. Besides conserving plants for research and preservation, the Arboretum's 446 acres and 9.5 miles of roads provide some quite scenic hikes not far from home. The Arboretum houses an amazing array of plants, including hollies, crabapples, azaleas, daffodils, magnolias, boxwoods, irises, daylilies, peonies, dogwoods, and maples. Major garden features include: aquatic plants, the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, the Asian Collections, the Conifer Collections, the National Grove of State Trees, the Friendship Garden, the Native Plant Collections, The National Herb Garden. You can walk, bike, or drive the roadways, and numerous other hiking trails wind through the grounds. Try a full moon hike, where you can see a fantastic overlook of the city, the Koi Pond, the Anacostia River, the Capitol Columns and the Herb Garden under floodlight and moonlight, all the while exercising on a five-mile hike through the grounds. The Arboretum is open every day of the year except Christmas Day.

<http://www.usna.usda.gov/>

Organize an Event

It's simple, fun to do, and gives you great leadership experience that you can use on your resume. If it sounds like something for you, please let us know.

events@marylandoutdoorclub.org

The MOC Wants You



Membership in the Maryland Outdoor Club is always free. That means that we are entirely volunteer-run. Everything you see, from the events to the newsletter to the webmastering, is all done thanks to generous donations of time. Looking for something cool to do in the New Year? Why not think about helping out at the MOC?

There are many ways you can get involved. Some low-commitment ways to help out include donating funds and equipment, becoming a Social Greeter and welcoming people to Social Hour, or helping promote the club by posting flyers.

But you already do those things, you say, and you want to do *more*? Well, have we got the jobs for you. One of the areas we always need people to help out in is organizing events. But organizing doesn't have to mean a lot of work - if you've been on a hike with the MOC, why not consider leading that same hike, or co-leading with a friend? The event details are often still on file. Don't see an event you'd like to? Don't want to go alone? Set it up as an MOC event - you may also find a nice group discount. Use the Member Area of the website to recruit a co-organizer. Watch for "new organizer" and expanded organizer resources soon. events@marylandoutdoorclub.org will get you started on the right foot.

Have other skills that you'd like to put to work for the club? We're still seeking some officers. This can be a great addition to your resume, too. Check out our volunteer page on the website, or please e-mail Amy Pickwick: apickwick@marylandoutdoorclub.org

Still want to be involved, but none of the listed positions fit your interests, or see somewhere where we could use your talents? Let us know! We'll do our best to find a place for you to help. You can always help with the newsletter...

Too Many Birthdays!

Some of our members are turning another year older! But, with six months of birthdays to cover and so many new members, we can't fit them all in here. Happy Birthday to everyone we missed over the past few months. Check the web site in the News section for birthday listings from now on.

Happy Holidays

Again, there's lots of days we missed this summer, and it seems like even more holidays coming up in December. Whatever you celebrate, the MOC wishes you and yours a safe and bright (and snowy?) holiday season. Don't miss the MOC holiday party December 9 at regular social hour time and place, but you must sign up on the web site for this one. Also check the web site for upcoming holiday-themed events. You have no excuse for not having New Year's Eve plans this year.

In keeping with the holiday spirit, the MOC will be donating to two charities this year and collecting from interested people at and after the Holiday Party. We'll be giving to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to support our local outdoors areas and also to the Salvation Army to help some people have a little happier holiday. If you'd like to donate but will be unable to attend the event, please contact Amy Pickwick for donations of goods or Mark Zawodny for monetary donations.

apickwick@marylandoutdoorclub.org
mzawodny@marylandoutdoorclub.org

Tip of the Month

This month, take a moment to log into the online Member Area and update your profile! Many of you have outdated information in yours.

Pay particular attention to your phone numbers. Many of you have your work number listed as your primary phone number for the club. The problem this presents is that your "primary" phone number is the only number for you on event attendance lists. And, should we need to call you the day of an event to reschedule, cancel, or confirm, we have no way to reach you. Your primary phone number should be the main number the club's event organizers can reach you at in the hours leading up to an event. And, remember, if you don't want others to see your phone number, you can turn the "view" of your information to "off" by changing your preferences in the online Member Area.

So, don't get left out from important event changes - update your info!

Monthly Statistics

As of December 1st

1143 - Total Members To Date
93 - November New Members
61% - Female Members
39% - Male Members
32 - 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 add 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 "Maryland Outdoor Club") 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

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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

Watch this space... for upcoming information about changes to the newsletter. What do you want to see here? Have an idea or an article for the Monthly Explorer? Send it my way. Got a gripe? a Gaffe? Those are fair game, too.

One final note - buy raffle tickets and MOC merchandise. Check the website - they make great holiday gifts for those hard-to-buy-for people on your list.

-Katie Stofer
explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org