

## The Wild Life is Calling

It was wild life and wildlife this month of witches as the MOC headed to ye olde Renaissance Festival, listened for critters a local wildlife refuge, got lost in a maize maze and finally repented by planting trees in Annapolis, among other mysterious and Hallowe'ny events.

### Renaissance Festival Trip

Organizers: Kate Buck

It was thrilling to walk through the gates to enter another world; we weren't in Maryland anymore. We spent our day drinking mead and hard cider, eating chicken legs and scrumptious food, playing Renaissance games, and watching stage acts. I think our favorite stage act was the "Fight School" where we learned about the development and use of swords through history and watched duels. Mark won at the axe-throwing competition, Tony practiced his skills at throwing knives, Allyson became a skilled archer, and Kate got put in the stocks for being a cheat. Overall the lords and ladies enjoyed a nice day of merriment!



### Corn Maze Adventure

Organizers: Brian Loughery, Joanne Milne

Finding our way around St. Mary's County was probably harder than the maze itself! The maze had two trails, the first of which was by far the more challenging. But once we figured out a few of the clues, we were on our way. When we found the middle of the maze, characterized by large letters and an airplane carved into the corn field, we knew we were almost home. During the second trail, we encountered a strange little boy who seemed to know a lot about the maze. He answered to "Dill Pickle" when he heard it over intercom, at which point he would run off into the maze toward the entrance. We figured his family probably owned the farm. After conquering the maze, we had a bite to eat, then headed out for our own little hayride around the corn maze. We also checked out the petting zoo and the pumpkins before heading back home. The day at the corn maze offered some of us city folk a taste of the country life and the autumn tradition, if only for an afternoon.



Testing our medieval skills at the Renaissance Festival, left. Right: A bright, sunshiny autumn day calls for a hayride around the corn maze.

## News You Can Use

### Inside this Issue:

From Idea to Archive - Organizing a Successful MOC Event and News of Everyday Heroes, p. 2. Tales of the "Amish Army" on p. 3.

### Want to help out?

**The MOC is looking for a few good officers:**

*Calling those who like to handle money \$\$\$:*

**Controller** - Need someone that is good with QuickBooks, accounting, taxes, etc. Record intake and outtake of club funds as a whole.

**Event Accountant** - Experience with Excel, accounting. Track intake and outtake of events.

*Maybe you're more the computer type?*

**Web Assistant** - Proficient at Photoshop, and light HTML. Responsible for updating the slideshow(s) of images on the home page of the site and Non-MOC Event listings. Other duties will be defined over time.

*If you really like to get your hands dirty:*

**Safety & Equipment Rental Coordinator** - Manage club equipment. DC/Baltimore corridor location preferred.

**Legal Coordinator** - Must be a member of the Maryland Bar. Help with legal documentation, etc.

Don't forget - organizing events helps the club, too! Let us know if you're interested in lending a hand and having the club continue to run the way *you* want it to!

### Wondering where the pictures from your event are?

If you're browsing the archives and don't see pictures from your event, consider sending photos that you took to our historian for our pages. Email photos with captions to: [historian@marylandoutdoorclub.org](mailto:historian@marylandoutdoorclub.org)

Kudos to Jeff Schneider, our new web guru, for adding the "writeup posted" icon to the archives in addition to the photos icon.

### Coming next month:

Gifts for the outdoors-inclined; Cutting down on holiday excess; Ways to give back to the club and the community; Part II of *From Idea to Archive*. And much much more!

## Upcoming Events

**Tue, Nov 9 @ 7 PM**  
**Social Hour at Red Robin**  
**Columbia, MD**



**Fri - Sun, Nov 12-14 @ 2:00 PM**  
Difficult Cabin Camping/Hiking Wknd  
in PA

**Sat, Nov 13 @ 11:00 AM**  
Baltimore City Hike - Landmarks  
Baltimore, MD

**Wed, Nov 17 @ 7:00 PM**  
Clinic on Event Planning I  
College Park, MD

**Thu, Nov 18 @ 8:00 PM**  
Amy's Big Birthday Bash  
Annapolis, MD

**Sat, Nov 20 @ 10:00 AM**  
Moderate Manassas Battlefield Hike  
Manassas, VA

**Sat, Nov 20 @ 9:00 PM**  
Dinner at Blue Agave  
Baltimore, MD

**Sun, Nov 21 @ 1:30 PM**  
Tour of Oriole Park at Camden Yards  
Baltimore, MD

**Tue, Nov 23 @ 7:00 PM *\*\*tentative***  
**Clinic on Event Planning II**  
**Towson/Baltimore, MD**

**Fri, Nov 26 @ 10:00 AM**  
Moderate Hike - Patapsco  
**Patapsco Valley State Park, MD**

**Sat, Nov 27 @ 10:30 AM**  
Difficult Hike - Little Devil's Stair  
Shenandoah National Park, VA

**Sun, Nov 28 @ 9:30 AM**  
Difficult Hike - Seneca Creek  
Montgomery County, MD

**Tue, Dec 14 @ TBD**  
MOC Holiday Party - Register online  
Columbia, MD

*For more information on upcoming events, please visit the "Events" section of our web site.*

MOC Monthly Explorer + 2

## From Idea to Archive

So you've been in this creature we call the MOC for a few months now, gone on a couple hikes, maybe come to Social Hour once or twice. Now, you've got a great idea for an event and you're just looking for someone to organize it. Or maybe you think you'd like to give this organizing thing a try because it looks like fun and truthfully, you like the power-trip idea. Well, look no further - that organizer is You!

But where do you go from here? How do you turn your "Hey, that might be fun" thought into a "Welcome to the Maryland Outdoor Club - I'll be your organizer today" reality? Or maybe you're lacking inspiration for an event idea? Or Life has gotten in the way of nailing down details. Hopefully, this guide will map out the road to a successful event.

First of all, you can call on the officers to help you out. Our Community Relations Coordinator, Joanne Milne, can serve as a co-organizer or match you up with a member who is interested in a similar event. Joanne can also guide you to resources to find ideas, both submitted by members or on other lists of local activities. Think about things you've always wanted to try, or things you've done several times but always like to do with other people. Look through the archives to see what you've missed out on - chances are others who missed it, too.

The next step is the nitty-gritty for the event. Block out both time for the event and some planning time on your calendar. Yes, there will be some time necessary to find a carpool spot, get directions to the event, decide on a meeting place, etc., but again, you're not alone in this. Try splitting the co-organizing duties so that one of you who has hiked the trail many times serves as the actual leader down the trail, while the other gets the details and does much of the prep work coordinating participants. Or, use popular park-and-ride spots that you've gone to as a participant. Do something in a neighborhood where you spend a lot of time and are already familiar with. Perhaps pick an event that is popular every year and use the details from the

year before (ask Event Coordinator Brian Loughery for help with this)- the trails, parks, and ice skating rinks in the area don't move very far year to year.

Finally, consider bringing your idea and the information you have to an Event Organizer Clinic. The officers there can help you with any questions and you can get things going while it's fresh in your mind; there's no chance for the opportunity to pass you by. Or come to the clinic without ideas - I guarantee we can find something for you!

*Coming next month: Tips for the Day Of the Event.*

## No Time Like the Present

*Excerpted and adapted from <http://cms.firehouse.com>, via AP wire.*

Been putting off that emergency training, first aid, or survival course? Consider how quickly you might be called upon to use your skills:

Grant Campbell, a Shelby, North Carolina, landscaper, took an emergency medical technician course so he could help people if needed. It came in handy sooner than he could have expected.

One day after he took the EMT exam, he helped rescue a woman who fell the equivalent of five stories down Crowders Mountain. The woman severely fractured her leg, Campbell's training probably saved Bramson's life, said Mike Horne, chief of Crowders Mountain Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad, who responded later along with other departments. The woman was in critical condition at a nearby hospital as of November 1, 2004.

"Seeing three leg bones sticking out of someone's leg is almost surreal," said Campbell, 27.

He wrapped her wounds with gauze, and tore her sweatshirt to make more bandages. To direct rescuers, they began blowing whistles and screamed.

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## “AmishArmy” Storms Adventure Race

by Evonne Tang

The Balance Bar Adventure Sprint took place in Richmond, VA on October 3, 2004. The race involved a 6.6 mile run (for those in Canada, it's about 10K), a 7+ mile mountain bike ride, 1.5 miles of kayaking across the James River, another 5 mile mountain bike ride, and 6 special tests in between each leg. I raced in the co-ed division with Grant Killian and another MOC member, Jesse Allen, as the Amish Army,

The adventure began with trail running, including traversing waist-deep creeks. Our team motored along and never paused for a moment. We completed the run in a little over an hour and faced our first special test: use 3 cinder blocks to cross a path. Teams had to make their way from one side to another walking over the cinder blocks only. If anyone touched the ground at anytime, the team would be sent back to start over. Did I mention one of us was blind-folded?

Upon completion of that task, we were off to our first bike ride, which quickly reminded me why I don't like mountain biking. We rode partly on fire access road and partly on single-track trail. I tried to ride the trail as much as I could, flying off the bike a few times. But during my months of training, I mastered flying off and getting up immediately before anyone had time to ask if I was alright. We also had to cross more of those creeks with waist-deep water. To save time and to conserve my energy, but *reeeeally* to help maintain his balance, Captain Grant carried my bike each time. Poor Jesse hit a 9-inch nail about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way into the ride and got a flat. We decided to move on to the next special challenge and on to the kayaking so that we had time to come up with a solution to our problem.

The next challenge involved walking across a spider web without ever touching the web, and one teammate had to be off the ground. Being the lightest person on the team, I got a piggy-back ride (Gotta love racing with two strong men!). Then we had to leapfrog over our teammates in a mud pit. Our fearless captain dove right into the mud and Jesse followed. Then it was my turn to leap

over my teammates and lie flat in the mud. I can't do this special test any justice without showing you pictures. Sean, my official photographer and cheerleader, took a lot of photos of us in the mud pit. We weighed at least 5 pounds more as we emerged from the mud pit.



Off to the kayaking. Lucky for me, the challenge for us was to paddle across the James River with 3 people, but 2 kayaks and 2 paddles. Woo hoo! I got to be the Queen of the Nile for a while (Gotta love racing with two strong men!) until we got to the half way point, where one teammate had to get out of the kayak and run on the bridge across the James River to meet up with the other teammates.

Being the weakest kayaker, I got out and ran back. We were back at the transition area and facing the challenge of fixing a flat tire on an old mountain bike. Guess what, Grant only had 29-inch tube, which didn't fit, and I had left my 26-inch tube at home! Luckily, bless his heart, one of the elite racers - Flash, who had finished the race (an hour earlier!!!) lent us his bike. We were off on our second mountain bike ride.

Knowing better what to expect this time, I hopped off the bike every time I saw a narrow path until..... I got to this one path that was very straight, but also very narrow with a sloping downhill on the left and a fence on the right. Now I had ridden this path without issues in the first leg so I thought I could conquer it one more time, even though I was pretty tired by now. I had to remind myself to concentrate on the riding, to focus on the trail marker at the end and not to look down the slope on the left. I rode half way across when I lost my focus, looked down the hill and

FLOPPED OVER down the slope with my bike. This time, I could not get up quickly, nor could I get up by myself. My legs were cramping and Jesse had to help me up. At this point, I had no courage to ride the rest of this narrow passage. After I recovered from the fall, I started running with the bike and realized that I could run with the bike much faster on this narrow strip than I could ride it. Hmmmm... something to remember for future races.

Finally, home stretch - across the monkey bars. At this point, the volunteers of the race were anxious to get home so that they gave us tips and help. Last but not least, we faced the 12-foot wall. We couldn't use a rope to climb up the wall until at least one teammate had climbed over. Being the lightest person on the team, my teammates could practically throw me over (Gotta love racing with two strong men!); then I threw the rope down for Jesse and Grant to climb up.



We crossed the FINISH line triumphantly at the 5-hour mark. I am pleased to say that we all finished the race without major injuries, and we weren't the last team to finish!!! (uh... never mind the fact that the pros finished in 2.5 hours). Jesse hurt his knee diving into the mud pit, and I got a few nasty bruises and many scrapes from falling off or flying off or flopping over with the bike, but that was all. Afterwards, the Amish Army and fellow racers the Sirens went for a celebratory drink and lunch with our cheerleaders and photographers. I had a ton of fun and would recommend anyone interested try it once. If it weren't for the mountain biking section, I would do it again in a heartbeat!

## Monthly Statistics

As of November 1st

2146 - Total Members To Date  
75 - October New Members  
60% - Female Members  
40% - Male Members  
32.6 - Average Member Age

## Officers

### Amy Pickwick

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## Calling all Creative Types

Remember, if you're a budding artist, photographer, writer, cartoonist, etc. we'll be glad to use your submissions!

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## Member Bulletin Board

*The MOC does not maintain a bulletin board on its web site because it's too hard to monitor, so we've made it a feature of the newsletter. Use this area to hook up a team for a race, get a group together for a special non-MOC event, or to do other networking.*

This month:

MOC Member John Putman is a football fan - "Looking for other MOC NFL football fans to get together to watch the games at local Baltimore establishments. The location would change from week to week. From The Gin Mill in Canton to Damon's in Perry Hall, for example. Each location would have access to all the games if, for some strange reason, you are not a Ravens fan. I would get directions and times, etc. together. Gee this almost sounds like an event..."

*Please use the Member Area of the web site to contact John.*

Your not-so-humble newsletter editor, Katie Stofer, plays in a local Baltimore kickball league and is currently recruiting for the Spring season, as well as searching for other sports to tide us over in the meantime. If you want to get back to your inner child playing kickball or other sports, let's get some MOC teams together!

*You can find Katie's various email addresses in numerous places throughout this newsletter and the web site. Maybe I'll give you a prize if you can locate every occurrence.*

MOC Founder and President Amy Pickwick, is currently seeking a walking activity partner for morning walks around Lake Elkhorn in Columbia, MD.

*Amy likely has more email addresses than Katie does. Hard to believe, huh?*

Got a post for the board? Email  
explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org

## Join the MOC - It's Free!

The Maryland Outdoor Club conducts all administrative tasks through our web site to cut down on processing time & costs. If you want to sign up, go to [marylandoutdoorclub.org](http://marylandoutdoorclub.org) and click on any of the "Join Now" buttons you'll find throughout the site. Signing up is a short process and will save you time when you sign up for events.

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

## Ads & Classifieds

Your business can reach hundreds of potential customers each month with an ad in exchange for bartered items/goods. Contact the editor for details. MOC members can sell single used items or place notices. Classifieds are \$5.00 per 25 words or less.

## 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.

## Recycle This!

Ever wonder what to do with used athletic shoes? Consider sending them (any brand) back to Nike, who recycles them into new shoes and playground surfaces through their Reuse-a-Shoe program. Visit their web site for local donation sites or an address to send the shoes directly to Nike:

<http://www.nike.com/nikebiz/nikebiz.jhtml?page=27>

## Editor's Corner

I think it was about this time last year that I signed on to write this crazy thing each month. It's certainly been fun, if nothing else seeing how late I can get it done before Social Hour. Thanks for sticking with me through what has been a rather busy year for the club and for me. But really, what choice do you have? I guess you could contribute your own content to the newsletter ...

-Katie