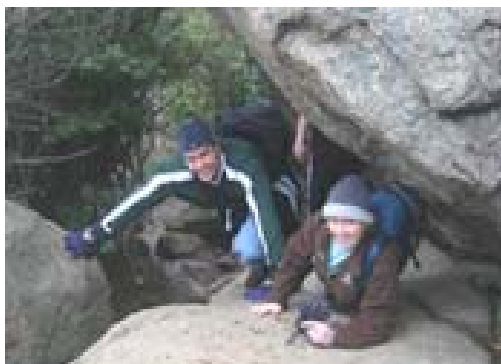


Old and New

Instead of ditching old events in the New Year, the first month of 2005 saw the MOC bring back some old favorites as well as make new favorites. MOC members submitted old standby Old Rag Mountain, returned for more of Jesse Allen-led cross country "skiing and snowshoeing" (snow not included) adventures, and even traded old for new fencing to help the National Park Service at a historic Civil War battlefield. While the weather swung from extreme to extreme, there were still smiles aplenty (or were those just chattering teeth?) ...



Amy and Stefan think Old Rag rocks.



Thankfully, modern technology is allowed at these old battlefields.



The group at Old Rag can truly smile afterwards.



Why are all the guys just standing around watching while the girl does the work?

News You Can Use

Inside this Issue:

Member Spotlight p. 2; Why Scouting Makes Sense p. 3; Member Bulletin Board p. 4

Calgary Outdoor Club Gets Good Press

Our sister organization, started by a friend of our founder Amy Pickwick, got some great press in the Calgary Herald recently. A nice profile of the club and COC founder Rhonda Scheurer appeared in the paper. See the MOC web site for details.

Be a sweetheart - help out the MOC!
We're always looking for event organizers, social greeters, and extra hands who have special talents to share. Want to help in another way? We love that, too! Send us an email with your interests.

The MOC is also looking for people interested in a little more:

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.

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.

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.

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

Coming soon ...

From Idea to Archive - How to Host a Successful MOC Event Part II: The Day of the Event; Best of 2004 Winners.

Upcoming Events

Sat, Feb 12 @ 2:45 PM
American Visionary Art Museum
Baltimore, MD

Sat, Feb 12 @ 6:45 PM
Ice Skating at Fells Point
Baltimore, MD

Wed, Feb 16 @ 7 PM
Clinic on Event Organizing
College Park, MD

Sat, Feb 19 @ 8:30 AM
MD Challenge Training Hike
Myersville, MD

Sat, Feb 26 @ 10 AM
Moderate Cat Rock Hike
Cunningham Falls/Thurmont, MD

Fri - Sun, March 4 -6 @ 5 PM
Hiking and Hottubs
Deep Creek Lake, MD

Sat, March 5 @ 9:30 AM
Difficult Day Hike - Tibbet Knob
Big Schloss, VA

Tue, Mar 8, 2005 @ 7 PM
Social Hour at Red Robin
Columbia, MD



Fri - Sun, March 11 - 13 @ 11 PM
Skiing/Snowshoeing Weekend
Harman, WV

Sat, Mar 26 @ 7:15 AM
Paintball
Bowie, MD

Fri - Sun, April 22-24 @ 5 PM
Western Maryland Waterfalls
Weekend
Deep Creek Lake, MD

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

Don't see anything interesting? Why not organize something? See the Organizer Area in the Member Area of the web site, or speak with an officer.

Member Spotlight

Brian Loughery Event Coordinator



MOC Member since: July 2002 (member #11!)

Primary Involvement with MOC: After about a year of just showing up at events and having fun, I decided I should become more involved with the club. Since October 2003 I have served as the MOC Event Coordinator, working with all our event organizers and trying to keep the club running smoothly.

Favorite Adventure Sport, Social, or Travel Activities: Hiking, camping, and traveling to various National Parks around the country

Currently resides in: Columbia, MD

Originally from: PG County, Maryland

Favorite TV shows, book, movies, music: The Simpsons, Stargate SG-1, CSI, JAG; Anything by Orson Scott Card, Robert Jordan, or Michael Crichton; Movies - too many to list!; Music - Sarah McLachlan

Favorite sports team: Washington Redskins, Maryland Terps, Michigan Wolverines

Favorite local "getaway": The Delaware shore

Other fun info about you: I met my fiancé through the MOC.

Best part about organizing for MOC: Introducing new people to all the great things the MOC has to offer.

Spring is in the Air?

Since it's been too cold so far for most of this winter, it seems too early to think of spring, and yet the date of the Cherry Blossom Festival is already set ...

The 2005 National Cherry Blossom Festival is scheduled for March 26-April 11. The festival's National Cherry Blossom Parade will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 9, on Constitution Avenue between 7th and 17th Streets NW.

The blooming of the cherry trees around the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. has come to symbolize the natural beauty of our nation's capital city. Hundreds of thousands of city residents and visitors from across the nation and around the world come here to witness the spectacle, hoping that the trees will be at the peak of bloom for the Cherry Blossom Festival, Washington, D.C.'s rite of spring.

The famous trees, a gift from Japan in 1912, signal the coming of Spring with an explosion of life and color surrounding the Jefferson Memorial on the Tidal Basin in a sea of pale pink and white. Exactly when the buds will open is not an easy question to answer, but the National Park Service Regional Horticulturalist Robert DeFeo has been fairly accurate in his forecasts over the past several years.

Once the buds begin to expand in late February or early March, they can be monitored and the days counted before they can be expected to bloom. The forecast is based upon the weather forecast, and close inspection to determine the stage of bud development.

During the season, the Parks Service offers Cherry Blossom Walks and Cherry Blossom Bike Tours Saturdays and Sundays meeting at the memorials. For more information, visit the cherry blossom homepage: <http://www.nps.gov/nacc/cherry/index.htm>

Courtesy National Parks Service

Why Scouting Makes Sense

MOC Founder and President shares some important reasons for scouting hikes when leading groups for the MOC.

Whenever you are leading a hike for a large group of people, and affecting many personal schedules in different, sometimes unknown ways, it is vital that you scout your hikes in advance of the "big day." Some people may have to get home to let the babysitter off their duty by a specific time, or some people may not have packed enough water, snacks, or been properly outfitted due to the misrepresented hike, or perhaps you get out to the hike only to find that the trail is overcome by downed trees or other maintenance problems. (I've had hikes where we've gotten there only to find there is no place for us to park!) Whatever the reasons, it helps to scout your hiking trail(s) within one or two weeks ahead of the "big day."

By scouting, you can confirm your directions to get to the event, help keep participants from getting lost, recommend driving times, and confirm the length and elevation change of the hike. Scouting will help you to memorize trail turns, and will let you know if you need to cancel or postpone the hike due to unexpected not-up-to-par trail conditions. You can also determine the best spot to take a break for lunch, such as near the best sight or scenery.

Never, ever, ever scout alone. To find someone to scout a hike with you, refer to your Event's Attendance List (in the Member Area of the web site) or pick a time convenient to your co-organizer (if you have one). Also, the Event Coordinator (events@marylandoutdoorclub.org) can also recommend someone or a group of people for you to scout with. Scouting in a group is also highly recommended for women in the MOC. Women, please never scout alone with a gentleman (or group of men) that you have never met before.

Please make sure to build adequate time into your schedule to completely scout the hike. You'd feel much better making wrong turns with two people rather than with a group of twenty. So, make sure to hike the

entire route.

I also recommend that you scout the same day and time of the week as when you will be holding the actual event, to better plan for parking lot conditions, usage of the trail, hunting (which happens on Saturdays in Maryland during the cooler months), etc. If your event falls on a Sunday at 10 AM, then go the previous Sunday at 10 AM to scout. This will also give you time to update your participants by e-mail before the "big day."

During the scouting, remember to check billboards for any changes or warnings in the park, pick up an updated copy of the trails map, and acquire the Park Ranger phone number for emergency use.

You may not realize just how much scouting helps you until you go one time without doing it and then you feel in over your head. And no one wants bad member feedback. So scout, it's the right thing to do!

For more information about organizing MOC events, simply log into the Member Area of the web site, then click Organize An Event on the left. All MOC events are organized by the members for the members. They are what you make of them!

Cartoon Courtesy Doug Frik,
<http://www.frikoutdoors.com>

A Sweeter Valentine

Valentine's Day has become the second biggest shopping event of the year. How can you get more of what matters this holiday and everyday? Check out some tips for finding fair trade chocolate, organic flowers, and other more satisfying Valentine's treats at the Center For a New American Dream's Conscious Consumer web site:

<http://www.newdream.org/consumer/>

New to Backpacker

Backpacker magazine is adding two pages of regional content for its readers. To help find such content, they are seeking submissions from local hikers and backpackers. If you'd like to see your name in print and the MOC newsletter just doesn't do it for you, contact Amy Pickwick for submission guidelines and details.



Monthly Statistics

As of February 1st

2281 - Total Members To Date
99 - January New Members
59% - Female Members
41% - Male Members
32.8 - Average Member Age

Officers

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Event Coordinator
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Social Coordinator
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Carrie Graff

K-9 Coordinator
cgraff@marylandoutdoorclub.org



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 Bulletin Board works! Last month a roommate connection happened through the Bulletin Board.

MOC Founder and President Amy Pickwick sends this message: Sick of your roommates? Want to get out for a weekend?... I'm looking for a house/dog sitter for March 4-6 in Columbia, Maryland for a very friendly, wound-up, 30 lb. dog while I lead a MOC event. You will be compensated. Contact Amy at webgirl@thepickwicks.com, if interested.

Volleyball players wanted (especially girls!) to play in a coed league with NASA employee club on Friday evenings at the Greenbelt gym. Games are at 6:20 or 7:20 Friday evening. We are done by 9 PM so there is plenty of time to go out Friday nights. I've been playing with the group for over two years and it's a lot of fun. When I started, I'd only played volleyball in grammar school and on the beach, but I've gotten a lot better. The levels are mixed and everyone is very patient! Experienced players can also find a place on some of the more advanced teams. Please contact Rani Chohan if interested.

Member emails can be found on the MOC web site.

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 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.

Calling all Creative Types

Remember, if you're a budding artist, photographer, writer, cartoonist, etc. we'll be glad to use your submissions! Those of you planning to submit for Art-o-matic 2006 can use this as a test bed for your ideas

Editor's Corner

Promises, promises. The newsletter is a little late this month due to an early social hour (the 8th) and your editor's extended vacation. But, I got exactly zero submissions for the Best of 2004 survey, so I have no answers for you there. I do have a much-belated member spotlight, Brian Loughery, who's been in and highly involved with MOC since nearly the beginning. Also be sure to check out Amy Pickwick's article on the importance of scouting hikes to ensure a safe and fun trip.

-Katie Stofer