

## Marching Toward Spring

March reminded us that yes, Virginia, it's still winter as we got some of the snowiest events of the entire season. Even the cross-country skiing and snowshoeing event, which was revolving around frolicking in the snow, managed to see snow in version 2.0. The best part was that the longer days meant more time to enjoy the fluffy stuff and more sunshine meant somewhat more moderate temperatures as well.



Look very closely and you'll see the snow that fell on the Weverton Cliffs hikers.



Skiing and snowshoeing events really \*are\* better with snow!



Proof of hiking at Hiking and Hottubs.



Tuna fish? I thought this was a training hike for HAM!

## News You Can Use

### Inside this Issue:

Member Spotlight and new K-9 Corner, p. 2; An Overseas Adventure by Mike Lashinsky and Bikers Beware, p. 3; Member Bulletin Board and Eight Things Overheard on the Gathland Hike, p. 4

### New Officers!

Please welcome to the ranks of MOC officers Laura Paszkiewicz, Event Accountant, and John Putman, Assistant Event Coordinator. Find their contact information on page 4 of this newsletter. Colin Babb, our current Historian, is also now an Assistant Event Coordinator.

### New Web Site Features

We have not let Web Developer Jeff Schneider get away from his computer ... er, rather, Jeff continues to be voluntarily hard at work improving the MOC web site. This month, we have a new feature for organizers - a streamlined and more printer-friendly attendance list. Don't forget to check out his changes to the ability to update your event registration as well.

### New Outdoor Club in the "OC" Family

With the newly-created Toronto Outdoor Club, our "web" of outdoors groups grows to four. MOC Founder Amy Pickwick first founded the Atlanta Outdoor Club when she lived there before moving back to her native Maryland. Next came the Maryland Outdoor Club, with which I hope you are all familiar. Then, another Atlanta alum moved to Calgary and we went international with the Calgary Outdoor Club. Now, a former COC member is heading up TOC, which will likely get into full swing in the coming months. If you're traveling, check out our sister clubs!

### Spring Organizer Clinics on the Way

Watch for upcoming clinics on organizing events for the MOC. Officers and organizers walk you through the step-by-step process for creating and hosting a successful event. Learn how to snag details from earlier events at the same place and how to find a co-organizer to help with the planning.

### 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, and we'll see how they fit the club's needs.

## Upcoming Events

For more info, visit the "Events" section of our web site.

**Sat, Apr 16 @ 8:15 AM**  
**Tree Planting at Greenbury Point**  
**Annapolis, MD**

**Sat, Apr 16 @ 10 AM**  
**Easy Hike at the Smithsonian**  
**Washington, DC**

**Sun, Apr 17 @ 7:15 AM**  
**Paintball**  
**Bowie, MD**

**Sun, Apr 17 @ 8:30 AM**  
**Halfmoon Mtn - Mod/Diff Day Hike.**  
**Wardensville, WV**

**Sun, Apr 17 @ 11 AM**  
**Mod. Day Hike & Wine Tasting**  
**Hereford/Parkton, MD**

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

**Sun, Apr 24 @ 10 AM**  
**Bike Ride on NCR Trail**  
**Ashland, MD**

**Sun, Apr 24 @ 7:30 AM**  
**Experts Only AT Hike (Bears Den)**  
**Paris, VA**

**Thu, May 5 @ 5:45 PM**  
**Cinco de Mayo Walk and Dinner**  
**Ellicott City, MD**

**Fri - Sun, May 6 - 8 @ 7:30 PM**  
**HAM Cabin Rental**  
**Pen Mar, MD**

**Sun, May 8 @ 11 AM**  
**Easy Hike on Mother's Day**  
**Calvert Cliffs - Scotland, MD**

**Tue, May 10 @ 7 PM**  
**Social Hour at Red Robin**  
**Columbia, MD**



*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.*

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## K-9 Corner



Hey fellow dog lovers! I thought I would take this opportunity and this space to introduce myself officially as the K9-Coordinator of the Maryland Outdoor Club! My

name is Carrie Graff, and I am the owner of a black lab/rottweiler mix named Shadow. She was rescued from the Humane Society in Minneapolis, MN at the age of 1 and within the first month was on her first hiking/canoe trip to the Boundary Waters. Ever since, she has accompanied on numerous hikes, including several multi-day treks out west. Rarely ever do I go hiking without her.

My role is to try and encourage other dog-owners and dog-lovers to participate and plan dog-friendly events. If you have never hiked with your dog, or even if you have but want to know more about it, the first Hiking with your K-9 event will be held at the PetCo in Annapolis on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm. Details and sign up will be posted soon on the Maryland Outdoor Club website. Included in this seminar will be information about dog safety on the trail, dog gear (essential and non-essential), basic first aid, where to hike, and general etiquette while on the trail with your pooch. Future events will center on backpacking with your dog, dog social hours at local dog parks, and hopefully a weekend getaway for you and your four-legged friend!

Return here every month for information on dog related issues. If there are specific topics you would like to see addressed, or if you have anecdotal stories of you and your K9 companion we can share in the newsletter, write to me at:

[cgraff@marylandoutdoorclub.org](mailto:cgraff@marylandoutdoorclub.org)

Carrie



## Member Spotlight

**John Putman**  
**Assistant**  
**Event**  
**Coordinator**



*Greenbrier State Park in Maryland atop  
the frozen lake this past February*

MOC Member since: August 2003

Primary Involvement with MOC: Active member, event organizer, and now (drum roll) MOC Officer!

Favorite Adventure Sport, Social, or Travel Activities or MOC Events: Cycling, hiking, camping, trying new restaurants: the more exotic, the better.

Currently resides in: Baltimore, MD.

Originally from: I'm locally grown. Grew up in Bethesda.

Favorite pop culture: Blind Justice/L.E. Modesitt Jr./While You Were Sleeping, Independence Day, the list goes on and on/ everything except most country and western.

Favorite sports team: Ravens, Os, Terps, closet Redskins fan.

Favorite local "getaways": North Point State Park, Gwynns Falls Trail, Port City Java

Pets: two cats: Chablis and Chardonnay. Just kidding! About the names anyway.

Other fun info about you: Have traveled extensively thanks to my dad, who wrote for National Geographic.

Best part about organizing: The MOC is a great way to meet new and interesting people while doing fun stuff.

Anything else: Avoid Tibetan restaurants, unless you really like goat.

April 2005

## Bikers Beware - Thieves use Pen to Pick Locks!

You may have heard the story and dismissed it as an ugly rumor, or thought that it only affected older model locks, but the worst is true: Kryptonite and other tubular cylinder bike locks, most commonly the U-Lock style rigid locks, can be picked with an ordinary ballpoint pen. There are some interesting videos online of people doing just that, and quickly.

No one can say for sure this is what happened on a recent MOC event, but a member's locked bike was stolen in broad daylight from Baltimore's Inner Harbor. It was locked with a tubular-cylinder key lock to a rack at the north end of Harborplace, with all the other event participants' bikes. After a 1.5-hour lunch, one bike from the group was missing, despite the lock and the crowds.

Kryptonite is offering free lock replacement to the less vulnerable disk-style cylinder locks. Go to their web site to register and get information on how to exchange your lock. You must have at least one key for the lock. The offer seems good for locks even as old as ten years (I am sending mine back soon). Kryptonite allows you to register your bike for protection from theft when locked, with replacement value up to \$1000 for one year or up to three years with additional fee (restrictions apply in NYC, apparently a high-theft area).

Oh yeah, the technique also works on some vehicle locks and vending machines, so you might consider swapping those out as well. Also, don't forget to register your bike with the local police and to etch identifying numbers or words on the frame and other removable parts to help in recovery on the chance of theft. Homeowner's/renter's insurance can help as well, but often the deductible is high.

Sources:

<http://www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/kryptonite.asp>

<http://www.kryptonitelocks.com>



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## Adventuring Abroad

Living in a big city has its advantages but tends to make one anxious. This is especially true in a city like London. It lacks the towering canyons of steel that characterize Manhattan but its blend of zigzag streets and lack of organization creates its own temperament. I had had enough and I was ready for some scenery and solitude. I persuaded some of my roommates to buy train tickets to a region of England called Cornwall to go hiking for the weekend. We reserved our train tickets on Wednesday and we were on a train from Paddington to Penzance by 10:30 Friday morning.

The English countryside was everything it has been cracked up to be. Rolling green hills and pastures separated by ancient stone walls. Sheep and cows dot the landscape along with the odd farmhouse or small village. The train slowed to its inevitable stop at the station in Penzance and we disembarked with nothing but our backpacks and lofty expectations for the weekend. We found a bus that would take us to our starting point for the next day and our hostel for the evening in Sennen Cove, about a mile north of Land's End which is the most western point of the island.

The next morning we started walking on the Coastal Footpath, which is a trail that snakes and twists its way around the Cornwall region in the southwest for six hundred miles. After we passed through the town of Sennen we could see the Land's End peninsula running away from the rest of the coastline. It is a harsh and rugged swath where the sea meets the land in southern England. Green fields and pockets of small trees eventually fall off into jagged hundred foot cliffs to the blue-green ocean. The cliffs and naturally-formed caves along the edge of the land as well as the few beaches that exist in this stretch are as dramatic and beautiful as we could have imagined from the tour books. The water was so clear and brilliantly-



colored that we thought we were in the Caribbean even though it was February and 35 degrees with high winds whipping off of the Atlantic. We found a small beach that we ventured down to and saw a lagoon that was crayon-perfect aqua. The water that crashed into the lagoon had carved a perfect slit in the middle of a rock over the ages. I soon stepped in what appeared to be sand but was actually five inches of freezing ocean water. It was then that I fully appreciated the benefits and wonderment of an extra pair of socks.

We fell short of our ambitious goal of hiking for the day. We underestimated the difficulty of the trail and the effect the constant ocean wind would take on our stamina. My roommates and I hopped a bus back to Penzance after no car would take a risk on picking up four exhausted American backpackers in the middle of nowhere in southern England. The train ride back to London was long and anti-climatic as we broke through the silence of the English countryside, but we were glad for at least a small respite from the big city.

*Mike Lashinsky contributed this article. You can give him feedback by finding his email in the Member Area, or by contacting the newsletter editor.*

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## Officers



### Jesse Allen

Preservation Coordinator  
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### Colin Babb

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### Rebecca Frankengerger

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### Carrie Graff

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### Amy Pickwick

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### John Putman

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### Jeff Schneider

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### Katie Stofer

Newsletter Editor  
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## Monthly Statistics

As of April 11th

2614 - Total Members To Date  
116 - New Members in March  
60% - Female Members  
40% - Male Members  
32.9 - Average Member Age

## Member Bulletin Board

### Kayaks for Sale!

MOC Member Felicia Savage is looking to part with two kayaks: (1) Dagger Medieval (blue and green) whitewater playboatish, used, purchased from River and Trail Outfitters. (2) Yak Board sit-on-top, unused. Paddles, skirt and other accessories. Pictures on request, prices negotiable.

*Please find Felicia's email in the Member Area of the web site.*

The Biennial Appalachian Trail Conference is July 1st - 8th in Johnson City, Tennessee. This is a week long conference offering hikes, excursion, workshops, nightly entertainment, inexpensive lodging and meals. The following website has all the information on hikes, excursions, etc. and the registration form:

<http://www.southernhighlands2005.org>  
I have attended this conference for the past 20 years and it is a lot of fun and you get to hike in a new area with some great people. I would like to organize a carpool and/or a caravan to Tennessee.

*Please contact Linda Gohlinghorst through the Member Area of the web site.*

## Eight Things Overheard on the Weverton AT Hike

1. Is it snowing?
2. Those Boy Scouts sure are slow/fast/young/crazy!
3. I thought this was a 7-mile hike!
4. What do you think of the Harvard president's remarks about women's abilities to do science?
5. You went all the way to Delaware for what?
6. It's snowing!
7. Are you going to HAM?
8. Well, a lot of other people here thought it was a 7-mile hike, too, until they read Brian's email ...

*Got an idea for any number of things? See your name in print in an upcoming newsletter by submitting your ideas!*

## 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.

## 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

Now we'll see if anyone reads \*this\* section of the newsletter. I have started, mostly for my own amusement, rearranging the officers' names on this page. Can you guess the arrangement? If so, I may be able to scrounge up a token prize for you, as well as mention you in the next newsletter for your sleuthing skills. Anyway, this first go-round is easy. First correct email to me wins! MOC Officers and their families are ineligible for this offer. Void where prohibited by law. Must be over 18 months old to play.

-Katie