

# Monthly Explorer

www.marylandoutdoorclub.org

Volume 5 / Issue 6

Adventure Sports • Travel • Social

**MARYLAND**  
Outdoor Club

P.O. Box 652, Columbia, MD 21045

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Monthly Explorer Contributor:

Tom Reichelderfer

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*Interested in being a contributor? Send articles, story ideas and general comments to [explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org](mailto:explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org)*

## Row, Row, Row Your Boat...



*In the Spring, a MOCer's fancy turns to thoughts of ... rafting. MOC hit the rapids twice in June. Organizers Colin Babb and KC Yi took nineteen MOCers to the Poconos for an extended weekend, with Cynthia Glaser and Doug Hanford leading another group up to Ohiopyle for the day.*

## Gas Prices Getting You Down? Five Hikes under an Hour Drive

One of the top benefits of living in the Baltimore / Washington, D.C. area is the easy access to nearby hiking spots. In fact, some sites claim that this area could be considered the Mid-Atlantic's best for day hikes.

For many, the Shenandoah National Forest is probably the top day-hiking destination that leaps to mind, but there are a number of hikes within just an hour drive from the Washington Beltway.

**1. Greenbelt National Park.** The trails in Greenbelt National Park make a perfect escape for an easy day of hiking and picnicking. The trails run through woods, with some portions being slightly rocky. You can hike an easy 6 mile loop with just 25 feet of elevation gain.  
*More information: [www.nps.gov/gree/](http://www.nps.gov/gree/)*

**2. Anacostia Tributary Trail System.** This network of trails is

part of the American Discovery Trail (coast to coast system of trails). The trail is relatively flat, and meanders through woods and wetlands. Civilization pops up along the trail, with noteworthy stops like the College Park Aviation Museum or Lake Artemesia.  
*More information: [www.pg parks.com/places/parks/anacostia.html](http://www.pg parks.com/places/parks/anacostia.html)*

**3. WB&A Recreational Trail.** The WB&A Trail runs along the site of the former Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad. The trail description labels it as a 5.6-mile trail with five bridge crossings, two tunnel crossings, and two at-grade intersections. Oh my! Future planning extends it to Anne Arundel County.  
*More information: [www.pg parks.com/places/parks/wba.html](http://www.pg parks.com/places/parks/wba.html)*

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## Member Spotlight: Tom Reichelderfer



**Member Since:**  
Summer 2005

**Lives in:**  
Crofton, MD

**Originally from:**  
Annapolis, MD

**Pays the bills by:**  
Attorney, U.S. Government

**Listening to:**  
Good rock and roll from various artists.

**Favorite Adventure Sport / Activity:**  
Hiking, biking, and SCUBA diving. Basically anything that gets me outside or around the water.

**Favorite TV show:**  
NOVA (PBS). I also really enjoy a good rerun of Married With Children.

**Favorite Sports Team:**  
None. I'm basically a self proclaimed sports dunce.

**Favorite Local Getaway:**  
The beach (Assateague) and the mountains (Monongahela National Forest, WV).

**Pets:**  
None. The creatures in my house aren't invited.

**What's on your to-do list?**  
I have a dive trip to Bonaire. I'm also contemplating other adventure travel, but I haven't figured out where to go.

**Other interesting facts:**  
I'm a former U.S. Navy officer where I served on a destroyer and an amphibious assault ship. I also worked as a Seasonal Park Ranger with the MD Park Service while in college. I still haven't figured out what I want to be when I grow up.

## MOC News & Updates



### Save the Date...

Don't forget! MOC's annual picnic will be on Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at Downs Park in Pasadena, Maryland. Mark your calendars. Details on time, cost and registration will be coming soon.

### Be a social greeter...

Looking to get more involved with MOC? The Club is looking for members to assist at social hours by acting as a Social Greeter. This would entail helping out at social hours by taking a shift with greeting people as they arrive at social hour. It's a great way to meet new people and goes a long way to helping new people feel more comfortable. If you're interested, please contact Ian Wright at [iwright@marylandoutdoorclub.org](mailto:iwright@marylandoutdoorclub.org).

### Earthlink & Mindspring E-mail Subscribers

The MOC is getting a lot of "bounce-backs" from people that use @earthlink.net and @mindspring.com e-mail addresses. To make sure that you aren't missing out on important e-mails, it's an easy fix in your e-mail preferences. Go to your e-mail account Spam preferences and enter that you will accept e-mails from @marylandoutdoorclub.org.

## Map Your Latest Route

The USA Track & Field Web site has a new feature that allows you to map out your latest walking or running route to see how many miles you've been covering. Go to [www.usatf.org](http://www.usatf.org), click on America's Running Routes, then Create Route. You can select any location in the U.S. – even down to the zip code – and map out your route. There's even an option for a satellite view of the route.

Once you've finished mapping, you can save your route to their database for other runners (or walkers) to access. When mapping a route on winding roads, make sure to click where your turning points would be. Otherwise, you'll be mapping a straight route.

### Monthly Statistics

3,686 – Total Members to Date  
87 – New Members in May  
60% – Female Members  
40% – Male Members  
33.9 – Average Member Age

## Five Hikes, One Hour Drive

Continued from page 1

**4. Rock Creek Park:** Created in 1890, Rock Creek Park is the oldest urban park in the National Park Service. Just the main section of Rock Creek Park adds up to 1,754 acres of land. Beach Drive closes on weekends to accommodate bike riders, but a number of smaller paths veer off the main path. The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) maintains these trails. According to the Rock Creek Web site, these trails consist of a blue-blazed trail that follows the east side of the creek, a green-blazed trail that follows the western ridge of the park and tan-blazed connector trails. [More information: www.mc-mncppc.org/trails/trails\\_maps/rock\\_creek.shtm](http://www.mc-mncppc.org/trails/trails_maps/rock_creek.shtm) or (PATC Map N)

**5. MD/VA's Potomac Gorge Area:** There are a number of hikes in this area. While the 184 miles of the Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) Canal Towpath might be difficult for a day hike, one of the most popular hikes in the D.C. area feeds off a short portion. The Billy Goat Trail is a short 3.8 mile hike with along a short section of the C&O Canal Towpath that leads you to a rock scramble. Extend the hike to 5 miles by continuing along the towpath to the Olmstead Overlook.

Across the river, Great Falls National Park has fifteen miles of trails. The Matildaville Trail runs for a brief 1.1 miles past the old canal town of Matildaville. The River Trail runs over rocky cliffs, and meets up with the Ridge Trail, which follows a footbed used by settlers heading west. Couple these trails with a brief .7 mile trek along Difficult Run.

*More information:*

*C&O Towpath: [www.nps.gov/choh/](http://www.nps.gov/choh/)*

*Billy Goat Trail: [www.nps.gov/choh/Recreation/Trails/greatfallstraildescriptions.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/choh/Recreation/Trails/greatfallstraildescriptions.pdf)*

*Great Falls National Park: [www.nps.gov/gwmp/grfa/trails/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/grfa/trails/index.htm)*

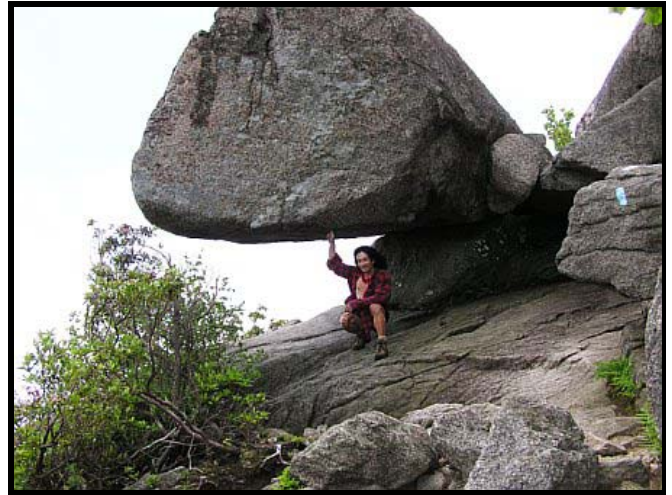
**Next issue: Feeling frivolous with gas money? We'll take you on the road for top hikes within a two hour drive of Washington, D.C.**

*Trail listing courtesy of REI / College Park*

### What do you think?

Have you been on any of these hikes? Think that the Billy Goat Trail is overrated? Or do you know of any other nearby hikes that should be on the list of the top five for the Baltimore area? E-mail [explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org](mailto:explorer@marylandoutdoorclub.org) with your reviews or recommendations. Or just to say "Hi!"

## MOC Feats of Strength



*MOC member relaxes while hiking Old Rag Mountain during a recent weekend camping trip. Old Rag is often listed as one of the most popular – and challenging – hikes in the area. The summit (3,291 feet) is reached after a mile of rock scrambling; the view is well worth it.*

## Finding Hikes

A number of Web sites contain profiles of area hikes to give you an idea of what to expect. The MOC Archives (found on our Web site) can give a good overview of hikes we've taken in the area. Other sources of information include:

- ✓ **Localhikes.com** This Web site contains trail information for hikes across the U.S., including details on length and difficulty. Most of the profiles also have topographic maps and pictures. Hikes are grouped by state, then by metropolitan area.
- ✓ **Trails.com** A subscription is needed to access most parts of this Web site, but you can get a very brief overview of some hikes in the area.
- ✓ **REI ([www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com))** if you search for your store and click on more information, most stores will list popular hikes in the area. And, the sales associates are often a wealth of information.
- ✓ **PATC ([www.patc.net](http://www.patc.net))** The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club store has a wide range of maps and guidebooks. Members do receive a discount when ordering from their Web site, but you can also purchase the guides at REI. Their Web site also has helpful descriptions of trails, as well as links to other sites.

## Upcoming Events

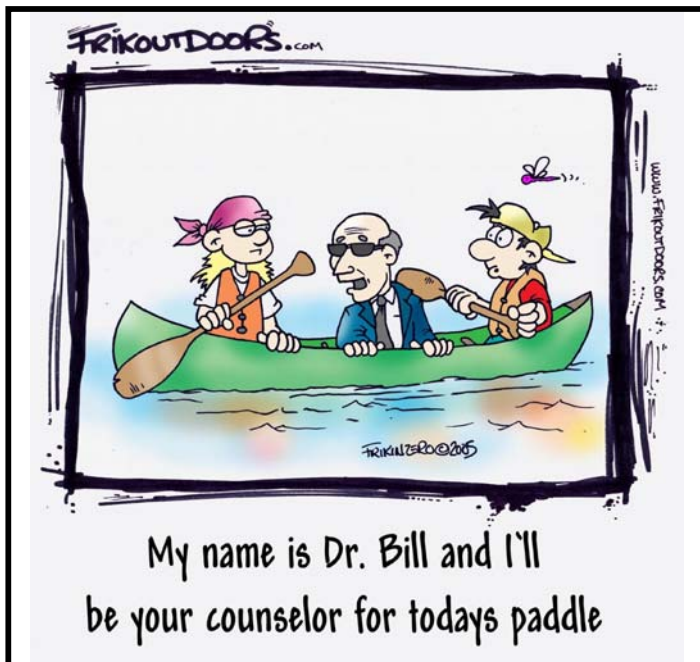
To see our full list of upcoming and events in the works, visit the MOC Web site: [www.marylandoutdoorclub.org](http://www.marylandoutdoorclub.org). Interested in something that's not on the list? Why not organize an event? See the organizer section on the MOC Web site, or speak with an officer.

Want to share organizer duties? You can use the new Member Forums or post on the Message Board to find a co-organizer.



Social Hour	Tuesday, 6/13
Kayaking & Canoeing on the Potomac River	Saturday, 6/17
Eastern Shore Bike Ride	Saturday, 6/17
Moderate/Difficult Hike: Kelly's Run & Tucquan Glen	Sunday, 6/18
Easy Hike & Outdoor Brew Experience	Sunday, 6/25
Potomac River Whitewater Tubing	Saturday, 7/8
Let's Dish! Meal Preparation Party	Wednesday, 7/26

**Join MOC:** Visit [www.marylandoutdoorclub.org](http://www.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. MOC does not sell or share your personal information with any third parties. The Maryland Outdoor Club conducts all administrative tasks through our Web site to cut down on processing time and costs. Want to be more involved? Officer and volunteer positions are still available.



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