



Miami Valley Outdoor Club

March, 2008

March 4 Meeting:

Backpacking-Climbing Trip to the Wind Rivers and Tetons

At the March 4 members meeting, David Wood will take us back to a time when gear was army surplus or mail order, water filters were unknown and he was able to carry 70 pounds in his backpack. This was a two-man trip with an outdoor club friend which included 5 days backpacking and one ascent in the Wind River Range of Wyoming, and an additional week in the relative civilization of the Tetons. There we learned that Disappointment Peak is aptly named, and that the Grand Teton is truly Grand. He will also provide a few tips on how to, and how not to, start backpacking from personal experience.

His talk will begin at 7:00 P.M., preceded by the business meeting at 6:30 P.M. Come at 6:00 for socializing and trip planning. The meeting will be at Wegerzyn Garden Center, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton.

Upcoming Activities

Brokner's Skunk Cabbage Hike

The MVOC annual Brokner's Nature Center Skunk Cabbage Hike will take place on Saturday afternoon March 2 at Brokner's Nature Center in Miami County, near West Milton. The skunk cabbage is the first wildflower to burn it's way through the snow in late winter every year.

For meeting time and details contact Sandy or Dave Todd at 698-5046.

Germantown Hike

Get your legs in shape for the summer hiking season. Join Connie Steele at Germantown Reserve on Saturday, March 15. She plans on doing the 6.8-mile orange trail, stopping in the middle for lunch. We will meet at the nature center at 10:45 am, hitting the trail promptly at 11 am. Be sure to pack a lunch and bring water. Dogs on leashes are welcome. If interested, call Connie at 698-5397 or email at connsteele@msn.com.

Hueston Woods State Park Maple Syrup Festival

March 1-2 and March 8-9

Main Bech Parking area - explore the process of maple sugaring from the methods used by Indians to the Modern Methods used today. A pancake breakfast is offered from 7am to 1PM for a small fee. More information: 513-523-6347.

Hocking Hills State Park Maple Syrup Festival

March 8-9.

This Maple Syrup Festival takes place between 12 noon and 4Pm at the naturalist cabin behind Old Man's Cave Visitor center.

Time to Renew!!

January 1 was the start of the new membership year. Keep your mailings and email announcements coming. Membership forms are on the back of this newsletter.

Trip Reports

Chili Draws a Crowd

By Sandy Todd

The year's Chili Cook-off drew the largest crowd ever. Twenty-four adventurous and hungry hikers gathered at Sycamore State Park day-use barn to plug in our crock pots of chili and arrange the other sumptuous goodies. As the day progressed several others MVOC'ers dropped in to say "Hi". Ella Himes and Gary Mount led the group on a wet but invigorating four mile hike.

Back at the barn we warmed our toes by the roaring fire in the huge wood stove - then the eating and judging began. We had 8 different chillies to choose from plus snacks and yummy desserts. **Sheryl Faulkner's** chili was voted most unusual; **Louisa Guardione's** chili was the hottest and **Sandy Todd** repeated her win of best chili for the 2nd year, winning the coveted GOLDEN SPOON.

Miami Valley Adventure Summit Feb. 8, 9, & 10

by Lindy McDonough

Seven MVOCers stepped up to "wo/man" the Miami Valley Outdoor Club booth at the 3rd annual Adventure Summit at Wright State University - which was bigger and better than ever. Many thanks to **Gary Mount** who set up on Friday night, and Saturday volunteers **Connie Steele, Jim Nies, Brian Stadler, Linda Clevenger, and Mike Nelson** and his spouse - me. Many other MVOCers were spotted strolling around the event on Saturday.

It was great fun talking to all the outdoor enthusiasts who passed by. One visitor renewed his membership and a past MVOC president stopped by to say how happy she was to see that our group is thriving. Years ago she dropped out to raise a family, but may be ready to get involved again.

Our table was right next to the Buckeye Trails people who expressed interest in partnering with us on a trail maintenance project. Connie Steele is working out the details.

(Editor's note: Connie has worked out the details and the trip will take place the weekend of April 12-13. More details next month.) A number of us attended various outdoor presentations and MVOC member **Andy Niekamp** had standing room only at his talk on hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Other

MVOC Member in Antarctica
From Andy Niekamp by way of the MVOC mailing list

MVOC member **Julie Spinner National**, who has worked for several years as an environmental officer for the Celebrity cruise line, is now in McMurdo, Antarctica, providing environmental, health, and safety support services for the National Science Foundation/United States Antarctic Program/Raytheon. You can keep up with her adventures by going to her blog:

<http://www.frozenintheantarctica.blogspot.com>

If you enjoyed Julie Spinner's Antarctica blog and would like an email each time it is updated please send Julie a note at jaspinner@hotmail.com. She would be happy to put you on her update notification

New Officers Elected

The slate of officers was elected at the February 5 meeting. Two new individuals stepped in to fill slots: Andy Niekamp became the webmaster and Jim Nies has taken over the newsletter editor job. Contact information is on the back of this newsletter.

Board Meeting, Thursday, March 13

This month's board meeting will be at Marion's Piazza, 3434 N. Dixie Dr., at 6:00 p.m. All club members are welcome.

Coming Up

Mar. 2 Brukner Skunk Cabbage Hike

Mar. 4 MVOC meeting

Mar. 13 MVOC Board Meeting, Marion's Pizza

Mar. 15 Germantown Hike, Connie Steele

Mar. 19 April Newsletter Deadline

Apr. 12-13 Buckeye Trail Trail Building at Fort Hill.

More in next month's newsletter

Apr. 19-20 Trail Building at Wildcat Hollow

May 6 Member meeting at Gander Mountain

Upper Peninsula Cross-Country Ski Trip

By David Wood

Our trip started with a storm. Not one of those namby-pamby storms that come quietly during the night and leave two inches of snow by morning, but a howling northern blizzard, where the snow fell and blew horizontally in 40 MPH winds, the temperature was below zero and so was the visibility. There was not enough visibility to drive to a restaurant for lunch, and walking the three blocks into the wind was impossible. So we gathered in the Sault St. Marie motel lobby and ate the miscellaneous food we had brought in the cars. Meanwhile the Todds were driving north through the lower peninsula in conditions barely better. The Mackinac bridge was closed because of the storm, so they checked into a motel just south of it. That was Sunday.

Monday morning the Todds were able to drive across the bridge and up highway 75, while the rest of us did a chilly cross-country trail in a Sault St. Marie park. We then managed to get everyone together for lunch and a drive to Paradise. The roads had been plowed, so after checking into our cabins we drove to Whitefish Point. There we put on snowshoes near the lighthouse and tramped out onto the jumbled ice and snow to the Lake Superior shore.

Tuesday we drove to T Falls State Park. We cross-country skied a six mile loop which passed by several viewpoints to the falls, which looked like root beer surrounded by vanilla ice cream. After a lunch at the park we snowshoed about two miles, breaking trail to the lower falls. The weather was still cold but clear, giving us beautiful views of both falls.

There are two cross-country ski trails near Paradise. We did the shorter one Wednesday morning, in fact most of us did it twice- once breaking trail and the second time enjoying the trail we had established. We attacked the other, longer, trail in the afternoon, breaking trail with snowshoes over nearly half of the loop. Thursday some of us skied the same section of

trail, while the others snowshoed the other end of the trail. Both groups were stopped by clear cutting which obliterated all trail signs in the middle of the loop. In the afternoon we traded places, and in the middle of the windswept clear cut area we finally met and were able to continue around the loop. The snow was fantastic, several feet deep and almost covering the trees.

During our time in Paradise we took turns preparing meals in the fully equipped cabins, and ate very well. When we left Friday morning it was with a feeling of regret. Nevertheless, we weren't done skiing. We all checked into a motel in Greyling and then drove out to Hanson's, a downhill and cross-country ski resort which contained a maze of trails. They were of varying levels of difficulty, but all were wide and beautifully groomed. We skied until dark, and left for Dayton the following morning.



Membership Response Form

Annual dues are \$16 for singles or \$24 for families. New members joining after July 1 may pay half a year's dues.

Name _____ I'd like to join _____ I'd like to renew _____

Address _____ I'd like more information _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____

Email Address _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please circle one: (Include) (Do not include) my name and information on the annual roster sent to all MVOC members.

I hereby declare that I am at least 18 years of age and agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Miami Valley Outdoor Club. I do hereby relieve the Miami Valley Outdoor Club and/or its officers and members from all responsibility and liability regarding any loss, injury, or accidents incurred at, or related to, any club activity or function.

Signature _____ Date _____

MVOC Officers

President:	Sandy Todd	698-5046	saza3@hotmail.com
Vice President:	Gary Mount	367-6702	glmount@yahoo.com
Secretary/Treasurer:	Dale Bockhorst	433-5533	dalebockhorst@yahoo.com
Programs Director:	Dwight Gehring	836-8515	dgehring@worldnet.att.net
Newsletter/Publicity:	Jim Nies	275-9614	jnies@aol.com
Activities:	Donna Gehring	836-8515	dgehring@worldnet.att.net
Webmaster:	Andy Niekamp	296-0245	andyniekamp@gmail.com

Miami Valley Outdoor Club
P.O. Box 292571
Dayton, OH 45429
www.miamivalleyoutdoorclub.org