



A Message from the MCM President

Bill Saunders

The Mountain Club has experienced another busy and productive summer thanks to the contributions of our many hard-working volunteers. Here are some highlights:

Leadership Changes. David Juppe has stepped up to fill the Awards Committee Chair position left vacant by the death of Bob Carson. We also have several changes related to our hike scheduling positions. Marcie Scubert has volunteered to serve as Hike Coordinator for a new category of Wednesday hikes called Moderate Plus. Mark Malnati and Kathy Lyons are replacing Carolyn Bauer as the Wednesday Tweener Hike coordinator. Ellen Nedde is the new Weekend Hike coordinator, and Gerry Sneeringer handles changes to posted hikes after they have been placed on the schedule. We are grateful for our new volunteers who have filled these important vacancies.

Anniversary. The 90th anniversary of the initial hike that led to the formation of the Mountain Club will take place in October 2024. MCM plans to have a series of activities during 2024 to share information about our history and celebrate our achievements. We have formed a committee to plan the anniversary events. Stay tuned for announcements as our plans are fleshed out!

Membership. As of the beginning of September, our membership has reached 823 memberships and 1,052 individual members.

Hiking. We continue to lead hikes at a rate of between 300 and 400 hikes per year, giving our members a wide choice of locations and difficulty levels. In September and October, our hikers had the opportunity to participate in multiday hiking events in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and in Shenandoah National Park. These special trips were extremely well attended. Many thanks to Roberto Llanso and Jody Blatt for organizing those two trips. We have begun offering a fourth hike on some Wednesdays (Moderate Plus)—these are longer than our Tweener hikes but move at a slower pace than our Hard hikes.

Half-HAM. On September 30, MCM held a very successful 21-mile Half-HAM hike from PenMar County Park to Washington Monument State Park. Forty club members started the hike, and 37 completed it—while the other three all hiked a very respectable 18 miles. As usual, the hike was extremely well organized and managed—a testament to the organizational skills of director Sharon Sniffen and the dedication of about 40 volunteers who helped run the event. We expect to offer a full 41-mile

Hike Across Maryland in May 2024.

PVSP Support. The 2023 Patapsco Trail Fest was held in September at the Pickall area of Patapsco Valley State Park. More than 20 persons took part in three hikes led by MCM: Bill and Carolyn Bauer led a 4-mile hike, Diane Rogers led a 6-mile hike, and Janine Grossman led an adaptive hike. The hike leaders were assisted by Joan Montanari, Charlotte Doyle, Somona Puiu, Rose Eicker, Jackie Killip, and Doug and Marcie Schubert. Thanks to Janine Grossman for coordinating MCM's participation at Trail Fest.

Appalachian Trail Activities. In addition to our regular A.T. maintenance and corridor monitoring work, our Supervisor of Trails, Jerry Wright, has continued a series of work crew events through the summer to prepare for the construction of a new footbridge at Tagg Run this fall—the work crews have felled large trees, dragged and milled the trees, and moved and split rocks as part of their prep work. A crew of youth workers from the Pennsylvania Conservation Corps finished work this summer at the Alec Kennedy shelter on trails to connect our new tent pads at that shelter. Three of MCM's active Appalachian Trail volunteers (Jack Spitznagle, Dennis LeCompte, and Suzy

Gerlak) took part in an Emerging Leaders workshop organized by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Preserving Our History. MCM Archivist Janine Grossman and I are working with the Maryland State Archives to have some of our historical records (which are stored at the Archives) digitalized so that they can be preserved and shared. The MCM Council approved an allocation of funds for this last spring, and Archives staff will be conducting scanning this fall. At the end of the project, there will be digitalized copies of newsletters, Council meeting minutes, and photograph scrapbooks dating as far back as the 1934 founding of the Club.

I'm proud of the Mountain Club's progress on so many fronts. All of this is due to the dedication of our many volunteers. As we grow in size, there is a need for more hikes and backpack trips, and I hope some of you will consider becoming new trip leaders. Even if you lead only one hike per trip schedule, when combined with other new hike leaders you can add value to our program. For more information about becoming a hike leader, contact Steve Kempler at sjkempler@gmail.com or Tirzah Rom at tirzahrom55@gmail.com.



Half HAM: A Great Hiking Experience for all Involved

Jon Hyman

As one of the participants in the Half Hike Across Maryland said: “It was perfect hiking weather, the A.T. was challenging but in great shape, and all the Mountain Club support people couldn’t have been nicer.”

The Half HAM is the Mountain Club’s 20-mile hike on the Appalachian Trail from Pen Mar to Washington Monument State Park. This year’s event took place Sept. 30 and had 39

hikers. At four stations along the way Club Members provided water and other beverages, snacks and first aid.

The first Half HAM was held in 2021, and it will be held every other year, alternating with the HAM, the Club’s 41 miles-in-one-day hike, which has been going strong since 1940. The next HAM will be held the first Saturday in May, 2024.



Hikers sign in and get bibs



Half HAM participants and volunteers



A participant leaves the Ensign Cowall checkpoint



The top five finishers



The first HAM hiker finishes

Members Enjoy Shenandoah Hikes in October

Jody Blatt

On Oct. 17 and 18, approximately 30 Club members and friends joined together to enjoy Shenandoah National Park's fall foliage. The trip celebrated a tradition started by Club member Dan McQueen years ago. Each day, two different hikes were offered, providing a variety of terrain and views.

One the evening of Oct. 17, we gathered for an informal pot luck happy hour outside at Skyland Lodge. While the fall color was not yet at peak, the temperatures indicated fall was in the air.



Marc at Dark Hollow Falls



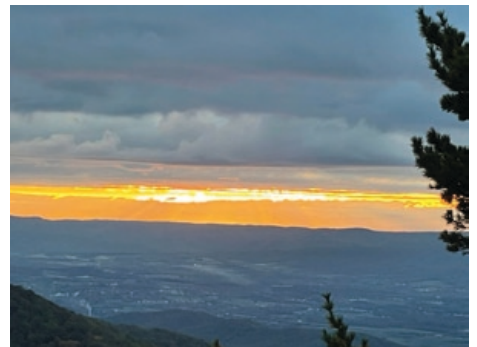
At Rapidan Camp



Sunset on our Happy Hour



Some areas already had "shocks" of color



Shenandoah Valley Sunset



On the Appalachian Trail



Mary and Kathy, on trail highs



Hawksbill Summit, the highest point on the Skyline Drive.



Crossing Mill Prong



Sue and Patty, on trail lows



The mountains becoming full of color

Club's Sept. New Hampshire Trip Hikes Presidential Range

Robert LLanso

A Mountain Club trip to the White Mountains of New Hampshire Sept. 25-29 consisted of day hikes to four of the most beautiful summits in the Whites: Mt. Chocorua (3,500') via the Champney Falls Trail; Mt. Moosilauke (4,802') loop via the Gorge Brook Trail and Carriage Road; Mt. Eisenhower (4,760'), on the Presidential Range, via the Edmands Path; and the crown of all, Mt. Washington (6,288') via the challenging Jewell Trail.

There were 10 hikers on the first hike to Mt. Chocorua, nine on the second and third hikes to Moosilauke and Eisenhower, and seven on the last hike to Mt. Washington.



During the Club's 5-day trip to New Hampshire's White Mountains, led by Roberto Llanso, several hikers posed for a photo on a Mt. Washington hike. They are from back left: Travis Persick, Roberto Llanso, Anastasia Lolas, Steven Williams, Sue Ann Persick, Gerry Sneeringer, and Christina Lansford.

fun walk through rock ledges near the top. The summit views of distant mountain ranges, valleys, and lakes were phenomenal. Everyone did great and enjoyed a well-deserved lunch on the leeward of the summit ledges, as the weather was fine but a bit windy.

Chocorua is named after a Pequawket Indian Chief, who in the 1700s and according to legend took revenge on a settler's family named Campbell after the mysterious death of Chocorua's son while in the care of the Campbells. In retaliation, Campbell killed Chocorua on the peak of the mountain, but not before the Indian uttered a curse upon the lands of the White men. Chocorua most likely simply fell from the peak, but this version of the legend is, among others, majestically told by poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Mt. Moosilauke included a side trip to the South Peak, where there is a fine view of the Connecticut River and the Green Mountains of Vermont. Particularly impressive was the view of the portion of the Appalachian Trail we just followed as it descended Mt. Moosilauke and then ascended

the South Peak.

The hike to Mt. Eisenhower was long and the trail wet, but everyone tackled the last steep half mile to the summit with great endurance and team effort. After lunch, some of the hikers continued to Mt. Franklin (5,001') along Crawford Path for another mile while the happy ones who remained behind basked in the afternoon sun until the group reunited for the descent.

On day 4, we took a break and toured some of the most beautiful sites in the Whites. We walked the Flume in Franconia Notch State Park, a deep, natural gorge and boardwalk extending 800 feet at the base of Mt. Liberty and visited a covered bridge. We stopped at the (now historic) Old Man of the Mountain site, where huge granite cliffs most famously resembled the profile of a human face. The Old Man collapsed in 2003, but today the profile is recreated in an historical plaza.

After this, we drove to Crawford Notch and visited the Appalachian Mountain Club's Highlands Center and the Willey's House and Museum, hiked along the shore of Ammonoosuc Lake (half of the trail was closed), and climbed Elephant's Head, where the hiker is rewarded with a bird-eye view of the notch.

We were lucky in that the Highlands Center's invaluable collection of Bradford Washburn's original photographs of historic mountaineering was open for viewing. Brad Washburn



Mountain Club hikers descend Mt. Eisenhower (photo R. Llanso).

was a New England mountaineer who climbed many of the world's highest peaks and succeeded on some of the most difficult technical routes of the French and Swiss Alps. Along with Vittorio Sella, he was the finest mountain photographer of his generation. The

Highlands Center's permanent exhibit includes fantastic large-scale, black-and-white photographs of Mt. Washington and Alaska's highest peaks. Finally, on the Kancamagus Highway, we stopped at the scenic Swift River Rocky Gorge

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How Does the Club Schedule So Many Hikes Every Four Months?

Steve Kempler

The short answer to the above question is that it has many dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers.

For 90 years, the Mountain Club of Maryland has maintained a cadre of Hike Leaders who've been exploring trails, recording interesting trail features, researching areas and history, and then sharing their findings. Currently, MCM has over 60 ACTIVE registered Hike Leaders (more than a dozen VERY active Hike Leaders), yielding over 350 hikes just over the past year.

Each leader has his or her own specific hiking interest, hike leading method, and speed/distance/terrain combination. As a result, MCM hikes provide a variety of interesting hiking.

Establishing the hike schedule involves several parts that are coordinated by another set of MCM volunteers. The hike schedule is developed in four-month increments: March to June, July to October, and November to February. The four-month schedule is made 'officially' available three to four weeks prior to the beginning of the schedule. But the entire process actually begins before that.

Two months before the beginning of a four-month schedule, e-mails are sent out by Hike Coordinators, to all registered Hike Leaders, soliciting descriptions of hikes they wish to lead. MCM has Hike Coordinators for Wednesday Hard, Wednesday Moderate Plus, Wednesday Moderate, Wednesday Leisure, and Weekend hikes. For their hike category, Hike Coordinators collect, edit (if needed), and enter hike descriptions, into the making of a schedule, seeking to have hikes Wednesdays and Weekends, every week.

Hike Leaders, upon receiving the e-mail requesting hike descriptions, begin contemplating, planning, scouting, and writing their hike descriptions. Scouting involves hiking trails to determine distance, difficulty, lunch locations, and interesting trail features. Hike Leader thus become familiar with the trail, and ensure the path is not blocked or flooded. This is often a trial-and-error process. Many leaders have had many opportunities to explore new trails and already have hike leading plans in hand.

During the next month, Hike Leaders submit their

hike descriptions through the Club website's Create a New Hike tool, where they provide information needed by potential participants. These submissions, received by the relevant Hike Coordinator (e.g., Wednesday Moderate hikes go to the Wednesday Moderate Coordinator) to build the schedule.

Hike Leaders can also enter specific requests to the Hike Coordinator. For example, they can specify additional dates on which they wish the hike to be scheduled. In addition, hike Leaders can choose to Submit a Past Hike they would like to repeat, saving them from having to submit the same hike multiple times. When notified of a repeat hike request, hike Coordinators 'clone' the past hike and schedule it along with other submitted hikes.

Submission of all hikes are due approximately one month before the start of the four-month schedule. To remove potential conflicts (e.g., two leisure hikes submitted for the same day, in close proximity to each other) and make sure all weeks are covered, Hike Coordinators may interact with Hike Leaders. Once the hike category coordinator and leaders are satisfied, the Hike Coordinator 'publishes' all the hikes in their category. All hikes will be officially published three to four weeks before the beginning of the four-month schedule. In some cases, a Hike Coordinator will publish hikes as she/he receives them, giving the schedule a head start before being complete.

But that's not the end of the story. By using an online schedule, the Club can add, cancel, and alter hikes throughout the year, making them known to members when they next check the schedule. Unpredicted things can happen over a four-month period, such as bad or dangerous weather, so changes can be made after the four-month schedule is published. Additional hikes are submitted through our hike submission tool (as usual) but are now received and published by the Schedule Changes Coordinator. Hike cancellations and hike description changes are e-mailed to: ScheduleChanges@mcomd.org, and, also, received by the Schedule Changes Coordinator.

So, there you have it. That's how we manage to schedule so many hikes every four months.

ALONG THE TRAIL



Kathy Souder led this 18-person hike at Liberty Reservoir Oct. 11. It was the first hike that MCM scheduled in the new M+ (moderate plus) category. An M+ hike is longer than a Tweener, but not as fast as a Hard hike. This hike was about 8-11 miles, and in the 2.25-2.5 mph range.



Hike leader Marc Lipnick (front third from left), poses with participants in the Club's recent Lake Roland Big Tree hike. Lipnick, who volunteers with the Maryland Big Tree Program, showed hikers a Baltimore County champion—a scarlet oak, the park's largest white oak, an American sycamore, a big leaf magnolia and a stand of big yellow poplars.



Hikers gather near the rapids on Bill Saunders' May Hike in the McKeldin area of Patapsco Valley State Park.



On a Sept 27 hike at the Granite Quarry in Patapsco Valley State Park, hikers surround a rusted old car in the woods.



Everyone keeps a steady pace on one of the Club's dog hikes, as a pup looks back to make sure everyone is accounted for on the Loch Raven Woolf! hike.



On a September hike on the Roland Park footpaths, in the grotto behind St. Mary's Seminar, several hikers pose for a photo.



Hikers pause on an Oct. 11 Club hike near Hemlock Gorge in the Prettyboy Reservoir.



On a hike with her brother in the White Mountains, Maggie Love took this photo of hikers at the top of the Ammonoosuc Ravine Trail as they readied to hike back before remnants of Hurricane Lee hit. She and her brother had hiked up that trail to the Lake of the Clouds and the next morning were going to hike over to Mizpah Spring Hut but it was strongly suggested not to venture out, as there were 90 mph winds along the ridge and very low visibility. They waited an extra day then hiked the Crawford Trail back down.



Participants pose during a late April hike led by Jon Hyman at Loch Raven watershed.

Student Crew Builds Trail at MCM's A.T. Shelter

By Bill Saunders

During the 3-week period between July 24 and August 11, a trail crew of high school and college students working for the Pennsylvania Conservation Corps worked at MCM's Alec Kennedy Shelter, completing our project to add tent pads there.

Last fall, an Appalachian Trail crew assisted by MCM volunteers built five tent pads at the shelter. In this summer's project, the student workers built a loop trail that connects the tent pads to the shelter and privy facilities. The work, funded by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, was directed by two crew leaders with general guidance from Michele Miller and Bob Sickley of the nearby Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) Regional Office.

Much of the trail-building activity required removing the initial layer of leaves and duff, then digging out large rocks from the new path and breaking up rocks to

fill the holes, as well as digging multiple holes in the very rocky soil for signposts. Finally, the crew fenced off the old unauthorized tenting area used by campers, to allow reforestation.

Since more A.T. hikers than in the past now choose to sleep in tents rather than in shelter buildings, because of the availability of lightweight tents, MCM wants to have tenting capability at each of our four shelters. ATC policies call for individual tent pads built into hillside slopes (or tent platforms if the ground is too rocky), rather than congregate tenting space on flat open ground, to promote a sense of solitude and wilderness experience. This completed project at the Kennedy shelter supports that goal; MCM hopes to continue this effort at our other shelters.



The trail crew removes rocks.



The trail crew works with Michele Miller and Bob Sickley.

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and visited Sabbaday Falls.

On the last day of our trip, we hiked Mt. Washington from the west side following the Jewell Trail. Normally Mt. Washington is climbed from the Tuckerman Ravine or the Boott Spur on the east side, but the Jewell Trail, while challenging, is more comfortable and less crowded. Although it rained on the descent, the weather at the summit on Sept. 29 was warm and the wind calm, truly awesome for a mountain with such dangerous weather. The MCM team did fantastically well, with

an awesome four-hour hike on the ascent, including several 10-15 minute breaks, and three and a half hour hike over wet rock on the descent. Some of the hikers decided to ride the Cog Railway off the mountain, but we who hiked down had the better views. The weather during the week was nearly perfect, and the forest had just the right amount of fall colors. Make sure to pencil this trip in your calendar as we may have a second offering next year!

MCM Volunteers Continue To Work on the Tagg Run Bridge Replacement

Site work on the Tagg Run, Pa., bridge replacement project (described in the July 2023 issue of HHP) started March 25 with felling of white oaks for use as stringers and decking/rails and the identification of boulders to be shaped and used for foundations. Since then, volunteers from MCM and other groups have assembled for approximately 15 scheduled work crews, plus ad hoc trips to strip bark, mill lumber on site, cut and remove abutment stones, prepare foundations, and reroute the existing trail.

A team from the Appalachian Trail Conference's (ATC) Mid-Atlantic Crew arrived on site in mid October to help move the stringers into place and to facilitate final foundation work, milling, and construction. As of Oct. 31, the ATC Crew and MCM volunteers were working to move the huge stringer logs across the stream and secure them in place. These photos show examples of the work underway throughout the summer and fall.



MCM Leads Hike For International Students

Bill Saunders

On September 16, I led a hike for 16 international students and four members of the Tree of Life Church (Carlisle, PA) at Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Pennsylvania. The students are attending Dickinson Law School or Penn State University, and the group included students from countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Asia.

The Tree of Life Church organized a day of socializing and fun for foreign students at these schools, and their plans included a hike to the Pole Steeple overlook, for which I

volunteered. After meeting at the Pole Steeple parking lot, the group hiked to the Appalachian Trail, and then hiked up South Mountain on the A.T. to the Pole Steeple connecting trail. Along the way we discussed topics such as the history of the A.T. and historical iron production in that area. The participants spent a lot of time at the overlook ledges enjoying the view and taking photos. Afterward, the church made a donation to MCM in appreciation of our assistance.



MCM Volunteers at KTA Challenge Trail Run

Bill Saunders

On September 9, 2023, Club members Dennis LeCompte, Dick Paaby, Bill Saunders and Jerry Wright helped the Keystone Trail Association run the annual KTA Trail Challenge, a trail run along the Susquehanna River. We were stationed at the crossing of PA-372. Most of us volunteered for the 9:00 -

1:15 p.m. shift, although Dennis generously also volunteered for the second shift.

The MCM volunteers helped set up and manage the food station and helped runners cross the very busy highway safely. Jerry Wright administered first aid when needed.



New members for June – September 2023

Albee, Ross	Congedo, Lisa	Gease, Bonnie	Kafonek, Stephanie	Luthardt, Maureen	Novak, Ed	Saltzberg, David	Stine, Carolyn
Albright, Suzanne	Curtis, William	Gee, Glenn	Karrasch, Wendy	Mattejat, Peter	Nowak, Kristine	Schenning, Ellen	Sunar, Shilpa
Barczak, Nick	Deshpande, Rishi	Gensler, Norlene	Kaszer, Evelyn	McErlean, Tom	Noyes, David	Schwabe, Jim	Taylor, Greg
Barlup, Tracy	DiLegge, Larry	Gossage, Holly	Kittner, Steven	McNulty, Anne	Ormsbee, Luanne	Scott, Kate	Troy, Kelly
Bartels, Harrison	Dilli, Sue	Graves, Earl	Kolodny-Hirsch, Doug	Michaelson, Janine	Paul, Emilie	Sevak, Jignesh	Vann, Judy
Baumgold, Jesse	Drgonova, Jana	Gung, Yumei	Kotzum, Timothy	Mikkelsen, Tara	Rew, William	Shaffer, Josh	Walsh, Chip
Behlen, Fritz	DuBois, Kathleen	Hitch, Jessica	Kramer, Quentin	Murguia, Michelle	Rice, Michele	Shaffer, Katie	Zamarin-Gedney, Catherine
Behlen, Michele	Dzakowic, Kathryn	Hoffner, Dan	Kudrnac, Kris	Murphy, Charlie	Riggin, Maryanne	Sharifi, Muhammad	
Bell, Hiram	Endres, Joe	Hoffner, Debbie	Kwon, Anna	Murphy, Sarah	Rivetti, Allison	Shoab	
Bindon, Mark	Fischer, Steve	Howard, Keegan	Laug, Julia	Murthi, Sarah	Roche, Robyn	Shipp, Bill	
Booth, Lisa	Ford, Heather	Iverson, Hana	Laun, Jim	Muse, Patrick	Rogal, Deborah	Sholler, Dennis	
Bosch, Chris	Fredrickson, Dave	Jackson, Hugh	Leeser, Tracy	Mysiuk, Rebecca	Rowe, Geraldine	Silveira, Cindy	
Breen, Loretta	Friedel, Mary Beth	Jaka, Carol	Lehrich, Iris	Nangle, John	Royer, Robert	Sinclair, Timothy	
Brouwers, Pim	Galindo, Bonnie	Jakubowski, Alexandra	Lesser, Susan	Neal, Susannah	Rozics, Ellen	Smith, Susan	
Burnett, Sandy		Judd, Jennifer	Lindsey, Deirdre	Niemeyer, Mark	Salloum, Farid	Spergin, Ed	
Cho, Da		Jurkowski, Jim				Spies, Elaine	
Cohen, Neal		Jurkowski, Joan				Stefani, Laura	

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Jack Spitznagle
Maryland A.T. Management Committee:
Jerry Wright
PA A.T. Advisory Committee:
Dennis Hurley

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