

MCM FIRST PERSON

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I joined MCM in 2000 when I retired from the Baltimore City Health Department as a bureau director. I traded the camaraderie of the the workplace for the camaraderie of fellow hikers. I had heard of MCM from years before. Several of my teachers at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute were MCM members, one of whom took several of us students on a moonlight hike near Carlisle, PA. By the way, I haven't seen any moonlight hikes on the MCM schedule for a long time.

My only hiking and backpacking for a number of years was with my son's Boy Scout troop.

Upon retirement I had told myself that I would not take on any responsibilities. That did not last long-- within two years in MCM I was scouting and leading hikes. And then I began filling various club positions.

I did not participate much in MCM trail maintenance activities. However, every Tuesday morning I could be found in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park in Baltimore City doing trail maintenance and blazing and trail map creation.

I assisted with the Hike Across Maryland a number of times by being a section sweep. The first time was at the beginning—thinking I would have the rest of the day free. Climbing that hill out of Pen Mar in the dark was not fun. Another time I selected the last section because I knew it was downhill and level along the C&O canal. Did you ever try walking behind the last—and slow—HAM hiker!

When I first joined MCM I took part in and led some Wednesday hard hikes. During the year, the AT in Maryland was covered by a number of out-and-back hikes. I led some of them. One day the coordinator for those hikes asked if I would mind someone else leading them. I then realized that my pace had become too slow.

Now in my 85th year I still do some of the Wednesday Leisure Hikes.

In the earlier years, weather-related hike cancellations were rarer than today. Also, rare was the requirement to sign up for a hike—you showed up by the announced start time and that was that.