



Miami Valley Outdoor Club

February, 2009

February 3 Meeting:

Elections, Camping Lake Superior Provincial Park

The program for February will feature Dwight Gehring and others speaking on the club's trip to Mackinac Mill Creek and Lake Superior Provincial Park last September

In addition, annual election of officers will take place. The meeting will be held at the Wegerzyn Garden Center, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton. Join us at 6:00 for trip planning, followed by business meeting at 6:30 and the program at 7:00.

Upcoming MVOC Activities

Annual Chili Cookoff

Mark your calendars for Feb. 1 for the 4th annual Chili Cook-Off and walk. Again the club has reserved the day-use barn at Sycamore St. Park. (the entrance is off of Snyder Rd.) We'll gather at 2:00 and plug in our crock pots of chili and then proceed on our winter walk. After the walk we will warm up by the wood stove and begin the hard task of choosing this year's best chili. Remember the coveted golden ladle could be yours ---

If chili is not your forte just bring a dessert of a yummy snack to share.
Please bring your table service.

For further info contact Sandy Todd 937-698-5046 or saza3@hotmail.com
Hope to see you there.

Feb 8-14 Cross Country Ski Trip

Looking for something different to do this winter? For our cross country ski trip we have located a B&B right on the AuSable River in Grayling, MI. We are being given super rates. The B&B is located in a

residential area close to downtown Grayling so even if you are not a skier other options are available to you.

There are many pathways surrounding the Grayling area for those who like to snowshoe and rentals are available in the area. The tentative schedule for our week is below. Join us for all or part of it. Room rates range from \$55 for two ;\$75 for three; \$85 for four. There is a lounge with fireplace. We will have kitchen privileges. The web site for the B&B is canoeborchers.com. Contact David or Virginia Wood 937-426-9875 to let them know you would like to join the trip.
Sunday 2/8

LV Dayton between 9:30-10:00 (if snow, leave between 8:30-9:00). Arr Borchers's B&B
Monday 2/9 thru Wednesday 2/11

Skiing, tubing, snowshoeing at various facilities in the area.

Thursday 2/12 thru Saturday 2/14 Ski in region
Check out Saturday and return to Dayton late.

****If snow conditions not good will check out on Wednesday. Forecast is for temperatures to remain below freezing. Light snow most days. Cross Country Ski Headquarters has snow machines. Downhill skiing and tubing available at Hanson Hills.

Snow depth at this time (Jan 23) is 19-28
Because of the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter (almost \$80/issue) and to be able to afford some of the favorite activities without raising dues, the board voted in January to go to email delivery of the monthly newsletter. Special provisions will be made for those without an email address.

MVOC Newsletter going to all-email delivery.

More Upcoming MVOC Activities

Saturday, February 28, 2008

Glen Helen Skunk Cabbage Hike

This has been a trying fall and winter. And it isn't over yet. A record breaking windstorm first and then snow and ice storms. I am really starting to look forward to Spring. The first wildflower of the season should be poking its little tips out of the ice covered snow banks at the end of February. So, come and hike with us. We can spot the skunk cabbage and cruise by and say hello to the raptor center. We will begin our 2 hour hike at 2PM. Call for meeting

place. Contact person: Donna or Dwight Gehring 836-8515 or dgehring@worldnet.att.net

Here is a second chance to walk through the woods in search of the northern species of skunk cabbage. We will meet in the parking lot of Brukner Nature at 2:00 on March 8th. Wear appropriate shoes (maybe mud). Brukner Nature Center is located at 5995 W. Horseshoe Bend Rd., Troy, OH. For further information contact Sandy Todd at 937-698-5046.

MVOC Trip Report

January Cross Country Ski Trips

David and Virginia Wood

Snow conditions did not appear too good for our first trip scheduled for January 10-11 so four MVOCERS and one dog opted for a crunchy hike along the trails at Carriage Hill Metropark. The air was nippy and there was snow in the air, forecasting better conditions for the weekend of January 17,18,19.

It turned out that on January 11th over a foot of snow fell on Cleveland with lesser amounts extending all the way down to Mansfield. So on Saturday January 17 three MVOCERS traveled to Malabar State Park to check out their trails. Little has changed since we skied there over a decade ago except that they have built a wonderful visitor center that provides a comfortable place to rent skis and warm up afterwards. The trails continue to be challenging, but there are at least two miles of trail for beginners and many more trails suitable for snow shoeing. Both skis and snowshoes may be rented at the visitor center from 11-4 on Saturday and Sunday.

Board Meeting, Thursday, February 12

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

Sunday Feb. 22 Newsletter Deadline

Registration for Ohio Paddlefest is now open. This annual event which occurs Jun. 26 and 27, 2009, features paddling the Ohio River and lots of other action. See <http://www.ohioriverway.org/paddlefest/> for more info and to register.

Late in the afternoon (the standard trail was a lot tougher than we remembered!) we headed to Lake County north-east of Cleveland. A good two feet of snow awaited us. As usual the ski center at Chapin Forest provided a warm fire and well groomed trails. Unfortunately, Sunday is the day the Hilltoppers are on the trails so the trails were busy with kids 6+ who skate away with glee. Thus we were happy to try the simpler trails at Penitentiary Glen in the afternoon and enjoy the tranquility of their nature center and its bird watching area. Our find of the day were the trails at the Holdon Arboretum. There is a trail/parking fee, but the area is less crowded than Chapin Forest and the trails groomed only for the classic skier. We also discovered an excellent restaurant in Kirkland near all the trails and a good motel for those who like a pool and spa at the end of the day.

On Monday we took a short ski at the Kendall Winter Sports area in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Another good area with lots of options for all levels including sleds. Again both ski and snowshoe rentals are available.

Membership Renewal Time Is HERE!!

This word from Dale Bockhorst, Secretary/Treasurer: February 1 is the start of the new membership year. Don't risk missing any of the 2009 newsletters; email notices about impromptu outings and last minute changes; lots of fun activities; guest speakers; our annual July picnic, December feast and auction and mid-winter chili cook-off; announcements of other outdoor activities in the Miami Valley like GearFest and the Outdoor Summit; and the comraderie of people who love the outdoors! Renew today! You'll find a membership form on the back of this newsletter. Please be sure to include your email address on the form when you renew, even if you have submitted it in the past.

State Park events

February 7 **Malabar Farm** xc ski workshop beginning at Noon. Pre-registration and \$30. required. This covers rental for the ski equipment 1-419-892-2784.

February 7 **Malabar Farm** Evening Owl walk 7:30 - 9PM pre-registration and \$10 fee required bring a flashlight. 1-419-892-2784.

February 14 **Hocking Hills** Sweetheart Hike 5 - 7PM Ash Cave Parking lot. Enjoy a cozy fire and refreshments after the hike 1-740-385-6841.

February 15 **Miami County** Charleston Falls 1 3PM Valentine Dog Walk.

February 21 and 22 **Caesar Creek** Maple Syrup hike. Learn the tree tapping and maple syrup making process.

February 21 **Caesar Creek** Hike 10am to Noon. Continuous starts from, the wellman meadows Boat Ramp off of Oregonia Road. 4 mile self-guided hike. Soup and refreshments after the hike 1-513-897-2437.

February 21 **Hueston Woods** Winter Hike 11am. Meet at the visitor center and caravan to the Big Woods thru old growth forest 1-513-524-4250.

Each of these web sites has an event page with activities to enrich your life. Websites of county parks in our area:

miamicountyparks.com co.greene.oh.us/parks/ co.warren.oh.us/parks

Other Outdoor Action

MetroParks Activities

The Adventure Summit

Friday, Feb. 20 5:00 - 8:00 PM

Saturday, Feb. 21 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wright State University Student Union

Featuring educational presentations, exhibitors and Ann Bancroft, polar explorer.

Bancroft will also be the featured speaker on Friday evening, Feb. 20 at 8:00 as part of Wright State's Presidential Lecture series. WSU's office of Event Services (775-5512) should be able to tell you where on campus this lecture will be held For more information, see www.theadventure-summit.com.

Intro to Rock Climbing \$30.00 fee

Sat. Feb. 14 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Sat. Feb. 28 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Earn your belay certification while receiving an intro to rock climbing. Site: Urban Krag, 125 Clay St., Dayton To register call (937) 277-4374. Register by the Monday prior to program.

Women's Intro to Climbing \$30.00 fee

Sat. Feb. 14 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM

Sat. Feb. 28 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM

Earn your belay certification while receiving an intro to rock climbing. Site: Urban Krag To register call (937) 277-4374. Register by the Monday prior to program.

Intro to Rappelling \$30 Fee

Learn to rappel. This class will cover the basics of rappelling, rope handling, communication and safety. Site: Urban Krag To register call (937) 277-4374. Register by the Monday prior to program.

Hike for the Health of It

Every Saturday and Sunday in February except Valentine's Day, beginning at 2:00

Consult the Five Rivers Metroparks website for details/locations.

Kayak Sampler \$10 fee

Sun. Feb. 1 5:00 - 7:00 PM

At Kleptz YMCA in Englewood. Sample a variety of touring, recreational and whitewater kayaks, learn different styles of kayaking and test out boats you may be considering. Call 937-277-4374 to register.

Kayak Roll Lessons

Sun. Feb. 8 5:00 - 7:00 PM \$50 fee

At Kleptz YMCA in Englewood learn to roll a kayak. Call 277-4374 to register and gain more information.

Wilderness First Aid \$165 fee

Sat-Sun, Mar. 7-8 8:00 AM to 6 PM both days

Possum Creek Metropark, Educational Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Road

Wilderness Medical Associates, with this course, teaches participants what to do in a medical emergency when help is far away. Participants will earn a first aid certificate that is good for three years.

Call 275-PARK for further information.

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

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. **When renewing, please be sure to include your email address, even if it hasn't changed from last year.**

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

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|-----------------------|----------------|----------|---------------------------|
| 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 |