Another Noose

Last February the Washington office organized the Regional Transportation Study Committee to fight the massive 122-mile Outer Beltway, another noose around Washington which would cut through six counties in Maryland and Virginia. The State of Maryland is its most eager advocate.

Led by Rhea L. Cohen, Assistant Washington Representative for the Sierra Club, the new group was quickly joined by freeway fighters and civic activists in the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia, Baltimore, and the Washington suburbs of Maryland. They began a campaign to require a transportation alternatives study of the entire Washington metropolitan area.

This week, like a runaway bulldozer, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHWA) disclosed that it has already hired a consultant and determined the scope of the corridor study for the expansion of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. The SHWA asserted its intention to turn the scenic Parkway into an expressway so that truck traffic could roll down from the existing I-95, across a five-mile stretch of the proposed Outer Beltway in Prince George’s County, to the B-W Expressway, to be dumped into the District of Columbia.

Testifying at SHWA project initiation meetings this week, RTSC called for a transportation alternatives study of the whole Baltimore-Washington corridor with full pub...

Thank You, But

Many thanks to those members who have contributed to their Group newsletter. The treasury is some $180 fuller—this will cover the cost of mailing three issues (third class).

"The Washington Conservationist" is the primary channel for informing members about meetings, outings, and local conservation issues. Many of our 2700 plus members have not yet contributed $2. If each of us gives $2, the Metropolitan Washington Group would have more than $5400—this is enough money to ensure continued and expanded publication. We, the members, receive about $3.00 per year from the Potomac Chapter—this money would pay for only two issues of "The Washington Conservationist." But the Group has expenses to keep the other programs functioning.

Please send $2 now to: James S. Finucane, Treasurer, 4545 Linnean Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008.

Geoff Hechtman
Chairperson

Support Our Advertisers

More Meetings

The next general meeting will be Tuesday, January 14, 1975 at 8 p.m. in the Woodward Room of the National Wildlife Federation—1412 16th St. N.W. (16th & O Sts.), Washington, D.C.

Richard Lahn, Assistant Washington Representative of the Sierra Club, will discuss the status of Congressional energy bills one year after the "energy crisis" surfaced. Other aspects of the "energy problem" will also be covered. Mr. Lahn is responsible for making the Club's views on energy known to Capitol Hill and White House officials.

There will be another general meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 1975 at 8 p.m. on the campus of American University. Look in the next issue of this publication or check local newspapers for the meeting room.

Brock Evans, Director of the Washington (Staff) Office of the Sierra Club, will be speaking on Congress, national lobbying by the Club, and important national legislation affecting conservation and the conservation movement.

These meetings are open to members and non-members alike. In the upcoming months, the program will probably be expanded to two or three meetings each month in various locations around the metropolitan area. Programs will deal with current local, metropolitanwide, and national conservation issues.

I-66, Alive

Old highway plans never die; therefore, I-66 is alive and well albeit in a somewhat different configuration (6 lanes now, more to be added when we are not looking). The Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation (VDH&T) is still pushing this monstrous project despite the demise of two of its staunch proponents—Joel T. Brynhill and Stanford E. Purvis. Virginia's eight incumbent U.S. Representatives and two U.S. Senators plus Sen. Howard Baker (T.N.) and Sen. Jennings Randolph (W.V.) will surely continue their efforts to "ram" this highway through Arlington and Fairfax Counties (VA) in spite of strong opposition by citizens, virtually all metropolitan area governments, and important Federal agencies.

If I-66 does not pass through your backyard, no need to worry—the other dominos (I-266, I-695, Palisades Expressway, Potomac Freeway, Glover Archibald Expressway, New York Ave. Industrial Freeway, Baltimore-Washington Expressway, Outer Beltway) will surely affect us even if they do not pass through our backyards. By the way, air pollution is not confined to; it likes to sprawl over large areas so that it can ease our breathing and improve the skyline. Oh, we don't need to breathe. We like our automobiles so much. Why not spend our lives immobilized in perpetually clogged highways resembling a spider's web? Spiders like to ensnare and entangle their victims. Gasoline is cheap and stations are fighting for our attention. Clean air and oil are in abundant supply. With all the planned highways completed, we could well afford to burn up additional millions of gallons of gasoline, to substantially worsen air pollution, to increase the balance of payments deficit.

Of course, this is all a dream. Right? If not, try another letter to your Representative (Hon. _______ U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515) and Senator (Hon. _______ U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510). Ask your Congresspersons to forward your comments to U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Claude S. Brinegar. Mr. Brinegar may want to give you a Christmas present—the first domino of many to come. But then again, if I-66 dies (by letters killing its finances), there will be less likelihood of some other dominos coming to life—physical and fiscal life.

*Call Geoff Hechtman on (703) 471-1279 if you don't know the names of your Congresspersons.

Geoff Hechtman
I-66, Status

Environmentalists and local government officials await VDH&T’s analysis of the 6-lane configuration for I-66 as mandated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Next stop will be FHWA’s recommendation for construction to U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Claude S. Brinegar. If Mr. Brinegar approves construction of this $763 million highway (maybe before Christmas), citizens groups will need to take legal recourse. A decision by Brinegar to allow construction of the mass transit alternative only will probably motivate the State of Virginia to file suit. Further Congressional legislation requiring construction of one of the several highway options is a definite possibility. Support for the mass transit option is very gradually growing on Capitol Hill. Courtroom appearances remain likely. There are some very important legal points in question—citizens in the metropolitan Washington area may yet help set some national legal precedents.

Geoff Hechtman

$ for I-66

The Metropolitan Washington Group will need about $2,000 to take I-66 back into the courtroom. The Executive Committee is looking for fundraising projects. We expect to take a tax-exempt account for I-66 fundraising in the near future. Until then, we ask members holding garage or yard sales to consider donating the proceeds to the Group.

Geoff Hechtman, Chairperson

Support Urged

"The Sierra Club’s Annual Fund Appeal should be supported by every member." Referring to the Report mailed to every Club member in early November, Chairperson Hechtman said, "Contributions to the Club are essential to maintaining its staff impact on both federal and state legislation and to assist volunteers at the chapter level. Contributions to the Sierra Club Foundation aid the Club’s conservation research and education programs. The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund allows the Club to enter the courtroom where many significant cases have been won but more remain."

"Though we are fundamentally a volunteer organization, staff work is a vital part of the Club," Hechtman continued. "Each of the three members of the Sierra Club family needs and deserves your support.

Contributions may be made payable to which ever part or parts of the Club you select, Sierra Club, Sierra Club Foundations, or Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. Contributions to the last two are tax deductible.

Send your check or checks to the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 7999, Rincon Annex, San Francisco, CA 94120.

Election Results

The Group’s Elections Committee submitted its report at the November 14 ExCom meeting. Four positions were to be filled; those candidates receiving the four largest tallies were elected to 2 yr terms. Incumbents—Roger McClure and Amy Milten—have been reelected. Joining them are Lizbeth Carr and Charles Williams. Because of two vacancies on the ExCom, the two new members-elect have been seated.

Book Review


To anyone who still thinks that the energy crunch is but a passing phenomenon, this paperback will be a good jolt back to reality. To anyone who is at all apprehensive over where the energy binge is taking us and who wants a brief summary of where we have been and where we are, this 340-page paperback is strongly recommended. The word brief is an adjective applied by anyone who has even scanned a recent bibliography of references on the energy problem will readily admit. But it is concise, well written, and contains much basic data as to where our energy resources come from, how they are used, and what must be done to avoid a major social and political crisis.

The author is a former head of the President’s energy policy staff and director of the Energy Policy Project of the Ford Foundation. The book’s central argument is that there is no way that current per capita energy uses in the United States can continue much longer. Escalating use or even continuing present rates of exhaustion of energy resources, if one or the other does not wreak total havoc on all environments or eco-systems through thermal, air or water pollution, may generate such an uncontrollable scramble for resources that civilization will collapse.

Enough has been written about the materialistic orgy of the past 100 years to make it unnecessary to recount these sins. The final chapter of Freeman’s book, 1985 and Beyond, argues well that if we can break free from these habits, which have a short past and probably a short future, the prospects of a society more concerned with life than with things are not only good but exciting. Little that Freeman says is new. In fact this same chapter includes a quotation from Edmund Burke (1729-1797):

"The public interest requires doing today those things that men(sic) of intelligence and good will would wish, five or ten years hence, had been done."


d... ONLY ONE WAY TO GO

Hiking
Caving
Climbing
Backpacking
Mountaineering
Cross Country Skiing

... THERE IS A DIFFERENCE

A complete Cross Country Ski Shop for the finest in equipment, expertise, and ethic.

A Mountain Shop run by Mountaineers
Hudson Bay Outfitters

10580 Metropolitan Ave.
Kensington, Maryland 20795
940-3615 940-5013

316 E. Diamond Ave.
Gaithersburg, Maryland
940-2474
Outings

GENERAL INFORMATION

Trips go on, regardless of weather. Cars are pooled at close-in meeting places. Riders share car expenses. An optional $5.00 per person to the Group Outings Fund is requested. You need not make a prior reservation. Each trip announcement specifies it. Bring lunch and water on all day hikes and money for optional supper stops.

A PLEA FOR LEADERS

The MWG Outings Program needs additional leaders for all types of outings. To qualify, you must be a Sierra Club member, must have participated in previous Group outings, and should have thoroughly scouted your outing prior to leading it. When you receive this newsletter, there will be ample time to schedule outings for February and March. Contact one of the Group Outings Co-chairmen, Dick Williams (703-524-5408) or Pat Hopson (202-484-0183), to volunteer as a leader.

Special Outing — Harpers Ferry or Bust — March 1975.
Second annual one-day marathon hike from Georgetown to Harpers Ferry along the C&O Canal Towpath, 100 km. (62 miles), several more modest train rides are planned. Call or write Ray Martin, 2203 42nd Street, N.W., Apt. 3, Washington, D.C. 20007, telephone 202-338-1906, or call Loren Friesen 202-628-7893 for further details.

1 Dec. Sat. Old Rag Snp. Fairly strenuous 8 mi with interesting rock formations and grand views. Meet at 8 a.m. at Cooper School. Leader: Jerry Stikind (202-631-1184), and Pat Hopson (202-484-0183).

7-8 Dec., Sat-Sun. Backpacking, Harpers Ferry, W. Va. Moderate hiking. First day 10.5 mi on Maryland Heights-Elk Ridge Trail; second day 8.5 mi on AT from Crampton Gap Shelter to Harpers Ferry. Meet at 8 a.m. at Hecht Co. Montgomery Mall. For reservations call Carol or Terry Medlin (301-322-2691) after 6:30 p.m.


8 Dec., Sun. Birding, Blackwater Wildlife Refuge. Special outing to Blackwater Wildlife Refuge, about 10 miles from Cambridge, Md., with emphasis on birding. Bring lunch and binoculars or camera. We should see snow geese, many other water fowl, and possibly ospreys and eagles. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot at Sears Landover Mall. Leaders: Dick Williams (703-524-5408) and Ruth Douglas (703-521-6141).


Jan., Sun. Day hike, Appalachian Trail, Md. Moderate 9-10 miles along the AT from Bear Spring Cabin to U.S. 40, with several panoramic views, and passing the first monument to George Washington. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Hecht Co. Montgomery Mall. Leaders: Harry Kidd (703-354-5839) and Pat Hopson (202-484-0183).

Calendar

12 Jan., Sun. Photography trip, Call Bernard (Boots) Judy (301-937-8437) for location, details, and reservations.

12 Jan., Sun. Clean-up trip, Billy Goat Trail, Md. Join us for a working day trip removing trash from this popular nearby trail. We hope that removing trash from this area will deter others from adding more. Bring lunch and water and strong, large containers (suggestion: pack and frame with plastic lining). Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot opposite Old Angler's Inn on Macarthur Blvd. When weather is inclement, call leader Lizbeth Carr (703-243-1586) before 8 a.m. to confirm the outing.


18 Jan., Sat. Day hike, Big Run Trail, Snp. Moderate 7 miles with panoramic views from the Appalachian Trail in the southern section of SNP. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Cooper School. Leader: Terry Medlin (301-322-2691 after 6:30 p.m.).

19 Jan., Sun. Day hike, Cedarville State Forest, Md. Easy 8-10 miles in southern Md. state forest. Meet at 8 a.m. at Cooper School. Leader: Jim Clarke (301-869-3058).


22-23 Feb., Sat.-Sun. Backpacking, Hazel County, Snp. See remnants of old cabins and other relics of mountain folk. Moderate 8 miles each day; limited to 8 people. For reservations call Terry Medlin (301-322-2691) after 6:30 p.m.

23 Feb., Sun. Day hike, Appalachian Trail, Northern Section, Snp. Moderate 10 miles along the AT from Compton Gap to Hogback Mtn. Meet at 8 a.m. at Cooper School. Leader: Dick Shultz (301-299-8184).

Meetings

12 Dec. (Th.) 8 p.m. Executive Committee meeting will be held at 1500 Wilson Blvd. Arlington (Rosslyn) in the penthouse conference room of Systems Planning Corps.

13 Dec. (Fri.) 8 p.m. The social group will gather at Pam Lees home in McLean, Va. Please call Pam (301-559-3589) if you plan to come. We'll be showing Sierra Club film.


19 Dec. (Th.) 8 p.m. DC Conservation committee will meet in the Common Cause office (3rd floor) at 2030 M St. NW.

6 Jan. (M) 8 p.m. Md. Conservation committee will meet at the Chevy Chase, Maryland library, 8005 Conn, Ave.

9 Jan. (Th.) 8 p.m. Executive committee meeting will be held at 1500 Wilson Blvd. Arlington (Rosslyn) in the penthouse conference room of Systems Planning Corps.

14 Jan. (Tues.) 8 p.m. The General Meeting will be held in the Woodward Room of the National Wildlife Federation Bldg. 1412 16th St. NW (16th & O St.) The speach will be by Richard Lahn, Washington Rep. for the S.C. Program: "Energy."

16 Jan. (Th.) 8 p.m. DC Conservation Committee will meet in the Common Cause office (3rd floor) at 2030 M St. NW.

7 Jan. (Sun.) 3 p.m. The social group will gather at the home of Jim Clarke (301-869-3058) in Gaithersburg, Md. Amy Milliken. Conservation Director for the Metro- politan Washington area will talk informally about local conservation projects and activities. Please call Jim if you plan to attend.

23 Jan. (Th.) 8 p.m. Conservation Comm. for Northern Va meets at Lubber Run Recreation Center—300 N. Park St. (Park St. & Mason Dr., near U.S. 50), Arlington, Va. Call Geoff Hechtman on 471-1279 for more information.

3 Feb. (M) 8 p.m. Md. Conservation committee will meet at the Chevy Chase, Maryland library, 8005 Conn Ave.

11 Feb. (Tu.) 8 p.m. General meeting at American University. Check local newspaper or next "Conservationist" for room. Speaker will be Brock Evans, Director, Washington Office, Sierra Club.

13 Feb. (Th.) 8 p.m. Executive committee meeting will be held at 1500 Wilson Blvd. Arlington (Rosslyn) in the penthouse conference room of Systems Planning Corps.

20 Feb. (Th.) 8 p.m. Conservation Comm. for Northern VA meets at Thomas Jefferson Library–4741 Arl. Blvd (near Loehmann’s Plaza on U.S. 50), Falls Church, VA.

20 Feb. (Th.) 8 p.m. DC Conservation committee will meet in the Common Cause office (3rd floor) at 2030 M St. NW.

21 Feb. (Fri.) 8 p.m. The social group will gather at the home of Marilyn Kincaid in Wash. DC. We will have a special slide presentation for your enjoyment. Please call Marilyn (202-338-0862) if you plan to attend.

A Midwinter's Night at the Canoe Club

Old Town Canoes and Kayaks

America's premier maker for 65 years

Widest selection & lowest prices in Washington

Green Canoe, Inc.


Spring River Corp.

881-5606

We offer their Canoes and Kayaks, as well as

Open Wed. Thurs.

1406 Randolph Rd.

Beth Rockville & Bethesda Fri. and Sat.
Environmental Gifts

1. Surprise your friends and family with a gift membership to your favorite conservation organizations.
2. Prune a friends Holly Tree, dip in Holly preservative, pack in waxpaper in box and mail to your relatives in Florida. They will love the Seasons Greens.
3. For your gardening friends, subscribe to organic gardening magazines, send lady bugs and praying mantis to keep their pests away.
4. Bind your leftover computer print out sheets between decorated covers and present as eco-note paper.
5. Choose a live tree and plant to plan it in front of the Clear Cut S.C. office on “C” St. (or some other neighborhood blight).
6. And of course, do not forget the wonderful S.C. Books, Calendars, and puzzles as mentioned elsewhere in the Conservationists.

And do avoid unnecessary wrapping paper when you can have so much fun decorating your old newspapers!

Help Needed

One volunteer to record minutes of Group Executive Committee’s monthly meeting. Call: Geoff Hechtman on (703) 471-1279 for more information.

One volunteer to help with correspondence and other administrative tasks. Hours to be arranged, flexible. Prefer person living in one of the following areas: Reston, Herndon, Great Falls, Oakton, Vienna, Sterling, north Fairfax, McLean, west Falls Church. Call: Geoff Hechtman on (703) 471-1279 for details.

Books, Calendars

The Metropolitan Washington Group has received new additions to its stock of publications. Of interest for Xmas giving are: Sierra Club Jigsaw puzzles; Sierra Club Portfolios (Mountain & Desert; Trees: National Parks Centennial Portfolio; Baja); all four types Sierra Club calendars. Regular stock of posters, totebooks and Ballantine books also available. These publications will be on sale at general membership meetings or can be ordered by calling JoAnn Garges (301) 469-8120.

Staffed

With this issue of “The Washington Conservationist,” a staff assumes production responsibilities. Rachel Evans is coordinating collection and solicitation of articles and other copy. Collecting and synthesizing information on meetings is being done by Sally Dunbar, Social Group Chairperson. Lizbeth Carr, new member to the Group Ex Com, will serve as artist and layout specialist. Ad sales are handled by Geoff Hechtman.

MATACIA OUTFITTERS

Canoe Trips: Potomac, Shenandoah, Thurston, Hughes, Story, Amstett, Lake Cascap, Goose Creek, North Anna, North, Passage Crews. Rapahannock, Rich.

Overnight Trips: Daniel Swomo, Smoke Hole, Shenandoah Valley, South Branch Valley.

Hiking Trips: Cave Mt., Signal Knob, Old Rag Mt.

Pre-registration required for all trips. Trips are scheduled each Thursday. Any canoe or canoe trips for $25.75 (includes accident insurance).

CALL OR WRITE – LOUIS S. MATACIA

3766 Gallows Rd.
Vienna, VA 22180
(703) 560-8993
FOR DETAILS AND TO REGISTER.

Gearing Up, 1975

The November elections will bring several new members to Congress next January who have expressed some interest in and commitment to environmental issues. The Correspondence Committee has been formed to keep all legislators informed of how its members feel about environmental issues. Now is a good time to write your legislator, new or reelected, to congratulate him and mention your views on those issues that are of special interest to you as a member of the Group, Chapter, or Club.

Elected Representatives from areas in the Metropolitan Washington Group are:

D.C.  Walter Fauntroy
Maryland 4th Dist. Marjorie Holt
5th  Gladys Spellman
Gilbert Gude
Virginia 8th Dist. Joseph Fisher
10th Herbert Harris

Some of the local issues that deserve particular mention are the opposition to the I-66 extension, support of Potomac National River plan, support of Chapter objectives and Club objectives including the Eastern Wilderness Area Bill, preservation of the Grand Canyon National Park.

To receive the correspondence alerts with more information on specific issues on which to base your letters contact Walter Wells, 3606 Veazey St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008; (202) 362-0260.