



M-DTS NEWSLETTER July, 1997

M-DTS WORK PARTY -- 9:00 a.m., Sunday, August 17
M-DTS MEMBER'S MEETING -- 2:30 p.m., Sunday, August 17

For both the work party and member's meeting, meet at the home of Jim Hooper south of Wrightsville in York County, PA. Jim invites us to bring our bathing suits for a dip in his swimming pool.

There are two work party projects to choose from:

1. Improve the trail up the steep slope heading south from Fishing Creek - heavy work with mattocks etc.
2. Refresh blazes on the M-DT between US Route 30 and Pinchot Park (about 30 miles- all on roads). We hope to have three paint crews at work. Bring paint set-ups.

All work party participants should bring lunch and water.

Directions to Hooper's: From Rt. 30 - westbound from Lancaster or eastbound from York

Get off at Wrightsville exit onto Cool Creek Road. Head south to Wrightsville. At first light, turn left onto Rt. 462. At bridge, bear left and go under bridge onto Rt. 624. You are now on the M-D T! Follow 624 south for 1.3 miles, then turn right onto Hill/Trinity Church Rd (the M-D T also turns right). Go over top of hill and down to a little school house. Turn right onto Kline Run Rd. (3rd rd). You are leaving the M-DT.

From Rt 83/York Take Prospect Rd (Rt. 124) east to East Prospect. At the intersection where Rt. 124 turns right proceed straight between the church and the bank.



Minutes of the June 15, 1997 M-DTS Member's Meeting

The meeting was held on the roadside at Gaging Station Bridge on Muddy Creek following the work party. Those in attendance were: Jim Hooper, Pat O'Dell, Billy Neuman, Clair Piersol, Mary Bleecker, Ron Gray and Yvonne Blades. Tim Schmidt was present for the work party.

The minutes of the March 2, 1997 meeting were approved as circulated.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Bleecker presented the treasurer's report for the period from January 1, 1997 to May 31, 1997.

Income		Expenses	
Membership dues	\$1820.00	Newsletter printing (Jan. & April)	125.01
(16 new, 118 renewals)		Stamps & envelopes	236.00
Donation from Shanks Mare	425.00	Trail Maintenance	38.86
Sale of Map/Guides	171.95	Administration	76.77
Matured CD	786.11	New Map/guide costs	115.72
Interest	10.54		592.36
	3213.60		

Balance in checking account on 12/31/96 \$700.12
Income minus expenses 1/1/97-5/31/97 \$2621.24
Balance in checking account as of 5/31/97 \$3321.36

A CD worth about \$2463 matures 2/12/98

Another CD is renewed month to month and is currently worth \$6,100+

The secretary distributed a list of those in arrears with 1997 dues after the dues notice in the January Newsletter and a final notice in the April Newsletter. The list was reviewed and the removal of 16 names from the membership roles was approved.

Jim Hooper suggested that an amendment to the Mason-Dixon Trail System Inc. bylaws be made to require an independent audit of M-DTS finances. The auditor could be a member of M-DTS but not an officer.

New Map/Guides

Yvonne Blades reviewed the current status of the new map/guide project. The USGS topographical base maps have been scanned by the printer (Blyler of Lebanon) and the input sent on CD-ROM to Yvonne. She is now working with the help of Walter Steuber and his Adobe Photoshop computer program to add the map title, road names, and the route of the M-DT on each of the 10 maps that cover the trail. It is a slow process but she expects the quality of the final product to be very good. The 8.5 x 20 inch maps will be folded accordion style. We will be responsible for assembling the sets. Blyler will provide a plastic bag with a hole at the top for each map set. Expected completion date - October? The text has been prepared by Rick Maerker; however some revisions will be necessary. Copies of the text will be sent to the Trail Coordinators to check for errors. Yvonne suggested we form a marketing committee to market the maps to outdoor retailers.

Election of Officers

The nominating committee, consisting of Turner Darden, chair, Mike Wright and Jim Denny presented the following slate of candidates for the term from January 1, 1998 to December 30, 2000:

President	- James Hooper
Vice President	- Pat O'Dell
Vice President	- James Denny
Secretary	- Yvonne Blades
Treasurer	- Mary Bleecker

A mail-in ballot will be included with the next M-DTS Newsletter.

Trail Reports

Western Section - Western Terminus to Mill Creek Coordinator: Ron Gray

Some relocations are needed in Pinchot State Park to avoid wet areas. Ron Gray will contact the park manager. A group of volunteers organized by the park have been making improvements in the park trails.

- Jim Hooper reports that the trail up the steep slope southbound from Fishing Creek needs improvement.
- Work is needed on the up-hill trail from Sawmill Run to the Otter Creek campground.
- There is a large blowdown on the M-DT on the ridge above Mill Creek. Jack Schultz has cleared a detour around the blowdown.

Central Section - Mill Creek to Havre de Grace Coordinator: Pat O'Dell

- At today's work party, Pat O'Dell and Tim Schmidt cleared the M-DT through Peavine Island. It is now in good shape.
- A second work party, Ron Gray, Jim Hooper, Tim Schmidt and Clair Piersol, made two trail relocations, and cut blowdowns along Muddy Creek.
- A third work party, Yvonne Blades and Mary Bleecker, cleared the trail and painted blazes from Atom Road towards Peach Bottom. Blazes along Grove Road and Robinson Run Road were repainted.
- No further work has been done on the North Park relocation in Havre de Grace, the site of our March 2 work party. The Susquehanna Greenway committee and Mr Kirchendorfer of Havre de Grace are looking into sources of money and /or manpower to complete the project.

Eastern Section - Perryville to Eastern Terminus Coordinator: Turner Darden Ph.

- Herb & Yvonne Blades have now blazed their new 1-mile relocation through woods in Elk Neck State Forest. The relocation replaces 1.3 miles of road walking.

Other Business

- M-DTS Tee shirts: There has as yet been no report from the committee (Dick Tobias and Tim Schmidt) made in September 1996 to look into costs and suggest a design for a M-DTS Tee shirt.
- Ron Gray reported that at the last Keystone Trails Association meeting it was announced that anyone planning to do trail maintenance work on Pennsylvania State Game Lands must contact the regional SGL office first. The appropriate regional office for the M-DT area is in Allentown.

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800 - 228-0791

*Southeast Regional Headquarters
Box 2584 RD #2
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Next Meeting

The next M-DTS members' meeting and work party will be held August 17, 1997. We will meet at the home of Jim Hooper south of Wrightsville at 9:00 am for the work party and 2:30 pm for the member's meeting. Work parties will improve the steep climb south from Fishing Creek and repaint blazes north from Route 30 to Pinchot State Park.

Update from the Appalachian Trail

M-DTS president, Rick Maerker, and [redacted] of the Chester County Trail Club are through-hiking the Appalachian Trail. They began in Georgia on March 29th. The latest report is: they are now entering New Hampshire, and they are both in good shape. The expected completion date is August 21, 1997.

HIKE ACROSS DELAWARE

The Wilmington Trail Club will hold it's 9th annual Hike Across Delaware on Sunday, October 19, 1997 at 9:00 am. The 14.7 mile route follows the C & D canal from Chesapeake City, MD to Delaware City, DE. The cost is \$10.00 which includes transportation and refreshments. Everybody is welcome.

For more information and registration call [redacted]