

OCC offers a Rocky trip as a matter of course

By LEM MESEE
Outdoors writer

Two field trips to the Rocky Mountains are being offered by the Auburn Hills campus of Oakland Community College.

The first will be July 9-20 to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks in Wyoming. It will be a repeat of a course offered last summer.

The trip will include a whitewater voyage down the Snake River and geological explanations of the area's features. A physical education course in hiking will be offered in conjunction with this course.

The second course, July 22-27, will cover major geologic features at Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho and Glacier National Park in Montana.

All national park entrance fees and camp permits are covered by the course fee. Students must provide their own camping equipment, food and transportation.

To reduce expenses, car pools are being formed. There are a few vacancies for students with families.

Information on registration and fees are obtainable from the OCC Auburn Hills science department at 852-1008 ext. 333.

STONY CREEK Metropark near Rochester features an early morning walk entitled "A Look at the Small" at 9 a.m. Sunday, June 10.

Naturalists will lead nature trail hikers on a close look at small creatures they may never have noticed. Register in advance by calling the Stony Creek nature center at 781-4221.

You can visit the nature center on your own to see seasonal exhibits of live reptiles, amphibians and other wildlife. Naturalists will answer questions. Visitor hours are 10-5 on weekends and 1-5 on weekdays.

Stony Creek features three nature trails from a half-mile to 2 1/2 miles long.

For these turkeys, life is a double shot, monthly

By DENNIS ROSENBLUM

What do about 20 Wayne County sheriff deputies, a bunch of airline pilots and some disco devotees have in common?

Once a month — at least — they down a double shot of Wild Turkey in one of the oddest group rituals this side of Lawrenceberg, Ky.

The downing of the booze is the only requirement for membership in what is not surprisingly one of the fastest growing clubs in town, the Wild Turkey Club.

"We're hoping it'll be big like the Moose or something," said Valerie Kostore, secretary of the club, at the May meeting.

As might be expected, the whole thing started out as a joke.

Back in February, sheriff deputy Larry McKinnon wandered into Jac's Lounge near Metro Airport to toast his own birthday.

"After I got carried out of here, somebody decided we ought to have a club," he says. Three months later, McKinnon has found himself as president of a group which has 275 or so members and is still growing.

"After I got carried out of here, somebody decided we ought to have a club. It's turned into a helluva thing."

"It's turned into a helluva thing," says McKinnon. "They come in here, they buy a double shot of booze, and they're in the club."

Becoming a member gets one an official membership card and a bright orange Wild Turkey Club T-shirt (proclaiming Jac's as "world headquarters"), in addition to at least a slight buzz from the required double shot.

Wild Turkey, the pride and joy of a bourbon distillery in Lawrenceberg, is no Shirley Temple of a drink. Its 101 proof is the blood-thinning force behind "gonzo journalism" Hunter Thompson, who is characterized in the comic strip "Doomsday" as Uncle Duke — a fellow who protects his house with land mines and spends a fair portion of his life on the floor of a bar.

THE GIMMICK behind the club is that members have to down their shots at Jac's, which has resulted in a hefty increase in business for the bar. Things are doing so well since the turkeys started flying in, in fact, that the owners are talking about expanding the building.

"The club was formed for two purposes," says McKinnon. "To go out and party and have fun, and to increase profits for the sponsors."

The partying is easy to figure out. A crowd shows up at Jac's on the first Saturday of the month, pays the dues, downs the drinks, does a bit of disco dancing, downs some more drinks, meets some new friends. . . you get the idea.

And the potential profits seem to be attracting some sponsors who think the goodwill gesture will bring more business. For Jac's, of course, things are going just great in this regard: the bar is selling more Wild Turkey in a night now than used to be sold in months.

At the May meeting, a \$100 watch was raffled off to a member. The watch was donated by a jeweler who couldn't sell it and wanted to unload it for a tax writeoff.

BUT FROM THE club's drunken beginnings is emerging a plan for a real social club.

There are plans for a picnic. McKinnon says he expects about 700 people to attend.

And he talks of doing things to help handicapped kids. "But we can't do it without dues," he says. "We're gonna have to talk about dues eventually."

The membership is a melting pot of young and middle aged people, including Wayne County sheriff deputies and various types who work or hang out at nearby Metro Airport, like pilots and traveling salesmen.

One guy from Alaskan International Airways wants to start a chapter of the club back home somewhere, and other folks from Massachusetts and California have expressed interest in the same.

In case you were wondering, one member of the club says they don't see too many stewardesses.

SO FAR, things are off to a fine start for the turkeys.

"Getting a bar loaded with 250 people partying is remarkable," McKinnon says. "We have not had one argument or one dispute in this bar." One can only assume that the presence of the deputies has a sobering effect on any budding fighters.

"I guess I helped put something together that people like," he says. "We're gonna get involved in everything we can that's a good cause."

Will the turkeys get to be like the Moose? Will the stewardesses ever show up? Will the bar run out of Wild Turkey?

Only time — slowed a bit by massive doses of bourbon — will tell.

Document storm loss for taxes

Taxpayers who suffered business or property losses from the recent ice storm may be eligible to deduct some or all of their losses on their federal income tax return next year.

Losses to business property are generally deductible in full, according to the Internal Revenue Service. Personal property loss deductions, however, are limited to the amount of loss exceeding \$100 for each occurrence, the IRS said.

To claim a casualty loss, a taxpayer must be able to substantiate the loss, compile a list of those items damaged or destroyed and determine their value immediately before and after the loss occurred. Before-and-after photos of damaged property are helpful, as are the judgments of independent appraisers.

The IRS said that the portion of a loss which is subsequently reimbursed by insurance is not deductible.

Detours, slowdowns reported

The state Department of Transportation said westbound I-695 (Waller P. Reuther) Freeway is closed from I-94 in Roseville to Dequindre Road in Warren.

Traffic along the nine-mile segment is being rerouted to the service drive.

Potential traffic slowdowns in state highway construction areas include:

Northbound and southbound M-39 (Southfield) Freeway over Ecorse Creek in Allen Park — reduced from three to two lanes for bridge construction.

Northbound and southbound Orchard

Lake Road at I-696 in Farmington Hills — reduced to one lane for bridge repairs.


Traffic in Farmington Hills on Middle Belt and Farmington roads at I-696 — reduced to one lane for bridge repairs.

US-10/US-24 (Telegraph Road) — being widened between 12 Mile Road in Southfield and Orchard Lake Road southwest of Pontiac.

Northbound and southbound Novi Road traffic in Novi — diverted to a temporary roadway at I-96 due to interchange construction.

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