



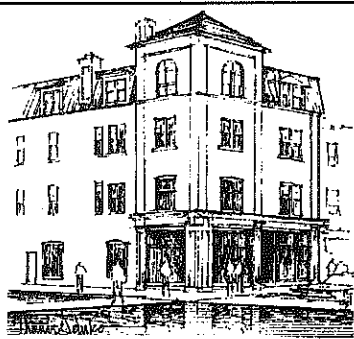
GOLDEN TRIANGLE

American Youth Hostels, Pittsburgh Council

Hostelling International, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping all people, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and its people through hostelling.

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 1

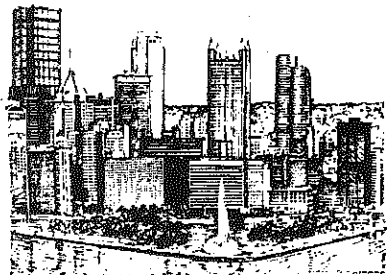
FEBRUARY / MARCH 1998



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- Historic Point State Park
- Three Rivers Stadium

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<http://trfn.clpgh.org/ayh/> for the latest on activities, slide shows & local hostelling or you can email us at ayh@trfn.clpgh.org

INSIDE

Activity Chairs; Page 2
Slide Shows; Page 2
Mid-week Rambles; Page 3
Sailing; Page 3
Hostel Happenings; Page 4
Story by Glenn Oster; Page 5
Trail News; Page 6
Hiking / Backpacking; Page 6
Canoeing / Classified; Page 7
Council Travel and Book Store;
Back Cover

.....And MORE!!!

Happy Anniversary... Pittsburgh Council...

REMEMBERING 50 YEARS

The following are excerpts from a letter Tony Prances sent in recognition of the 50th Celebration.

HORACE BAKER AND RACCOON STATE PARK

Mr. Baker, in the two years of life left for him, did much more for the Pittsburgh Council than just host an organizational dinner. Because of his prominence in the community, he had considerable influence in high places and secured people from both the city and county governments to serve on our Board of Directors. He also provided free legal services and advice when that was needed. One instance comes to mind — humorous now, but certainly far from humorous when it happened. We did a stupid thing, and Mr. Baker bailed us out. It was during the winter of 1948-49 that we scheduled a weekend hiking trip to Raccoon Creek State Park. We had reserved the lodge there for the two nights. Participants were "on their own" to get there with their own transportation. Most of us reached there by mid-evening Friday, however, around 10:00PM there of our members straggled in — ON FOOT! They explained that they had taken a wrong turn once in the park, had traveled, first, down a gravel road then, next, down a dirt road and had eventually gotten mired "up to their car's hub caps" in the mud. Unable to extricate the vehicle, they had walked to the lodge to seek help. Immediately about 6 of the assembled males volunteered and left in two cars. I got the full story about a week later. When they reached the mired car, despite about 9 people pushing and pulling, they still could not move it. However, it happened that the site was near an earth dam which was being built for the park by some construction company. The construction people were home for the weekend, but all their heavy equipment was parked here and there to await their return to the project on Monday. One of our members who was part of the "rescue party" had some experience with heavy equipment because he had done road construction during the summer vacations away from Pitt, which he was then attending. He walked over to a large crane, started it, walked it over to where the mired car was located, then cables were wrapped around the car, the crane lifted it out of the mud and deposited on more solid ground. Unfortunately, as he tried to walk the crane back to where it had been parked, it too, got stuck in the mud. Oh well — no problem — when the construction people got there Monday, they would take care of it.

About a week later, I received a telephone call from a man who identified himself as the attorney for the company that was doing the dam building at Raccoon Creek. He asked if I was the President of the Local AYH. I said that I was. He then said that we were responsible for costly damage to various items of heavy equipment belonging to the company. Furthermore, we had damaged work already done on the dam which would cost oodles to repair. The company was planning to sue us unless we paid all damages. Furthermore, the State was thinking of filing criminal

Continued on Page 3

Save Saturday,
May 9th for the
Pittsburgh Council 50th Reunion
Banquet! 6:30
pm Gather at the
Castle Shannon
Fireman's Hall.
Folkdancing and
dinner, all for
only \$15. Watch
the next Triangle
for more information or call
Billie Woodland
at
412-563-5419.

or

WOODLANDE@genesis.cc.duq.edu



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PITTSBURGH, PA 15210

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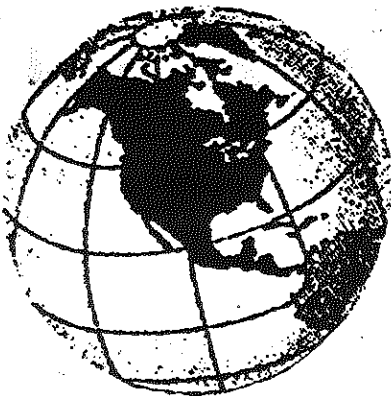
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HOSTELLING


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Since 1948, Incorporated 1953

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Oops...

If you find an error, please notify the editor. See the address for the *Golden Triangle* below.

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American Youth Hostels
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Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Office: (412) 431-4910
or

HI-Pgh on the information super highway,
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(412-329-4476)

NOTICE

Please note the deadlines for
future issues of the
GOLDEN TRIANGLE

APRIL

All copy, Mar 5
Binding/Mailing, Mar 26

MAY

All copy, APRIL 2
Binding/Mailing, APRIL 23

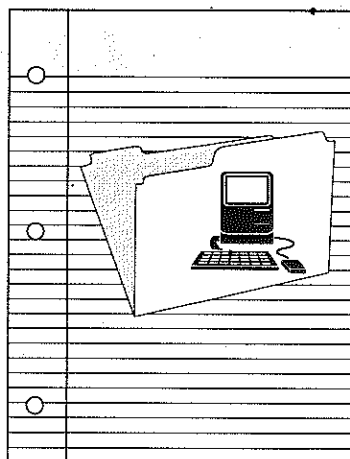
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Please contact Bill Eberle
on the "NET" at,
76202.3051@Compuserve.com

Moving?

If you move, or have any subscription problems, please notify us right away. Returned mail costs 52 cents for each piece, so we can save money if you let us know about any changes in your address. You can also phone in changes to the office at (412) 431-1267.

About AYH

American Youth Hostels is a non-profit organization which promotes international understanding, educational and recreational travel, good citizenship and an appreciation of America. AYH does this by bringing travelers of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities together in hostels and by providing low-cost travel programs. AYH is the US affiliate of Hostelling International (HI), (Formerly named International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF)), which coordinates more than 5,400 hostels worldwide-the largest network of accommodations in the world.



Submissions Policy: Golden Triangle

Classified Adds:

- Classified adds are free to Current members of HI-International
- All requests for classifieds must be made in writing via the Council Office. Request Must include full Name, address, phone number and Membership number of member. Members are not permitted to place adds for non-members.
- Free adds may not be for commercial gain.
- Above rules apply in addition to general rules for submission

Trips

- All trips must be approved by authorized co-chair
- Trip leader must be a council approved leader
- Trips must be submitted through co-chair, for that activity. Trip leaders, are not to submit trips directly to editor or office, any trips improperly submitted will not be listed.
- Above rules apply in addition to general rules for submission

Articles

- Members are encouraged to write articles, about travel abroad and in the states, and about activities and outdoor sports in which the council has a program
- All Articles are to be, non-political and non-secular
- Above rules apply in addition to general rules for submission

General rules for submission

- No handwritten submissions
- Submissions Can be;
 - On computer disk (IBM / MAC), E-mail (Internet/compuserve), Direct Modem, Type written material double spaced, faxed. NO EXCEPTIONS. Call if you have questions.
- Submitted before the deadline of the issue that submission needs to be run in. (See Editors Golden Rule)
- All Submissions are on a first come first serve basis, The GT makes no promises to print material received and all material received becomes the property of the GT.
- Standing Deadline; Deadline for the GT, has always been, and will continue to be the First Thursday of the month, prior to the month of the issue. (See Editors Golden Rule)
- Please always check in advance with office, to confirm schedule.

Editors Golden Rule

- "Lack of planning on your part, does not constitute an emergency on my part"

Please note, the Golden Triangle frequency of publication.

Number 1 issue ->February / March: Number 2 issue ->April: Number 3 issue ->May:
Number 4 issue ->June: Number 5 issue ->July: Number 6 issue ->Aug.
Number 7 issue ->Sept: Number 8 issue ->Oct: Number 9 issue ->Nov:
and Number 10 issue ->Dec. / January

Editor...

Upcoming Slide Shows

- Feb 12:** Walter Vaux, "Ascent Of Fujiyama". Walter and Diane climb this sacred japanese mountain in september to see the sunrise from the summit.
- Feb 19:** Glenn Oster, "The Majesty Of Alaska, Part II". See Denali National Park and the Kenai Peninsula.
- Feb 26:** Doug Van Le, "A Journey To Vietnam". Includes Old Saigon and the battlefield of Dien Bien Phu.
- Mar 5:** Holly Ridenour, "Planning A Summer Hostelling Trip". Basic advice from an experienced hostel manager. This show features both US and european hostels.
- Mar 12:** Walter Vaux, "Climb Of A Himalayan Peak". Walter and Diane climb Goyko Ri, 18000 ft. peak next to Everest. See this remote and beautiful area of Himalayas.

MORE 1998 SLIDE SHOWS CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Slide shows start at 8:30 PM, at AYH Headquarters, Shady Avenue at Fifth Avenue. Doors open at 8:00 PM. If you want to give a show, call Luc Berger at 683 3131.

Pittsburgh Council Hostels

Ohiopyle AYH Hostel
Ohiopyle State Park
PO Box 99
Ohiopyle, PA 15470
(724) 329-4476

HI-Pittsburgh Hostel
830 E. Warrington Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15210
(412) 431-1267

Living Waters AYH Hostel
RD #1(1 mile west on Route 30)
Schellsburgh, PA 15559
(814) 733-4212



SAILING

The AYH fleet includes Flying Juniors, Sunfish, and an International 470. Several members also use their own sailboats. We schedule day sails and classes on Lake Arthur in Moraine State Park near Butler, Pa. We often participate in activities and races with the Moraine Sailing Club. Additional weekend trips and extended cruises are also planned.

Most trips require previous sailing experience. This generally means a minimum of a Red Cross certified Basic Sailing Class or equivalent. Participants for all sailing activities must be in good physical condition and able to pass minimum Red Cross recommendations for swimming competency. Personal Floatation Devices are required on all trips.

1998 Sailing Activity Planning Meeting -Sun. March 7, at 5PM

All previous students, participants, instructors and anyone interested in sailing are invited to a potluck dinner at the home of Bob and Sara Zavos. We may show slides and pictures, and discuss plans for the upcoming sailing season. We would like to plan several extended weekend trips and a weeklong charter in a large cruising sailboat. We will also schedule our introductory sailing classes. Bring your calendars and ideas for sailing activities. Please call Bob or Sara Zavos at 241-0659 for directions and to coordinate the dinner dishes.

Day Sails at Lake Arthur

Sailing at Lake Arthur will resume in May 1998

Racing Days at Lake Arthur

We will be racing our International 470 with the Moraine Sailing Club (MSC). The 470 is one of eight sailboat classes used in the Olympic Sailing events. If you are interested in Sailboat Racing please check our schedule early next year.

Sailboat Classes

We offer introductory sailing classes with Red Cross Certification. If you are interested please put in your name and availability early to help us in planning. We have limited classes and spaces and most sessions fill up early.

Sailboat Maintenance

We will take our sailboats out of Winter storage in April and can use help in patching, touchup painting, rigging repairs, and installation of new lines. This will be an excellent chance to learn new skills and help out the sailing program at the same time. Call Bob Zavos at 241-0659.

Sailboat Rentals

AYH Sailboats may also be rented on a daily basis to AYH members who assist in the sailing program. These individuals must have demonstrated sailing ability plus be completely familiar with rigging and de-rigging our boats as well as caring for sails and hardware.

MID-WEEK RAMBLES

"Rambles" are casual Wednesday outings sponsored by the Pittsburgh Council of Hostelling International - American Youth Hostels. Most take place in and around the city of Pittsburgh.

The group meets at 10 a.m. (9:30 am during the summer) in the upper parking lot of Mellon Park in Shadyside, off Shady Avenue near the intersection with Fifth Avenue. Remember to bring quarters for the parking meters.

Trips are normally three to four miles in length, at a leisurely pace. Trips are always subject to change because of weather, conflicts of schedule, and the choice of the group. We do plan to walk in all kinds of weather, so please dress appropriately.

From time to time, we will schedule lunch at a restaurant or a brown bag lunch. These are optional.

We also try to carpool to save energy and to enjoy each other's company. For trips over 10 miles, please pay the driver \$2 per passenger.

Call the leaders listed below for information about a trip or to inform the leader that you plan to walk with the group (especially when reservations are requested or you plan to meet us at the trail head), but please call before 10 o'clock at night.

February 18	Dick Fischer, 421-9215. Regent Square.
February 25	Joan Roof, 795-8345. Oakmont. Lunch in a restaurant.
March 4	Barry Tunick, 653-6584. Cedar Creek Park Trail. Bag lunch.
March 11	Earl McCabe, 761-1844. Northside Heritage Trail from Washington's Landing to Heinz Plant. Lunch in Heinz cafeteria.
March 18	Don Hoecker, 243-8298. Allegheny Cemetery
March 25	Dick Fischer, 421-9215. Braeburn to Freeport Rails Trail. Bag Lunch.
April 1	Dave & Cathy Sadler, 361-3707. Kite flying in Schenley Park. Bring your own kite and bag lunch.
April 8	Fred Mauk, 361-6299. Fine View.
April 15	Dick Fischer, 421-9215. Duck Hollow and the Slag Heap.
April 22	Luc Berger, 683-3131. Trillium Trail and Partridge Ridge
April 29	Earl McCabe, 761-1844. North Park. Bag Lunch.
May 6	Jim Hurst, 276-0447. Raccoon Creek Park. Bag Lunch.
May 13	Marilyn Ham, 687-4520. Coraopolis and the Montour Trail. Bag lunch.
May 20	Don Hoecker, 243-8298. Deer Lakes Park. Bag lunch.
May 27	Joan Roof, 795-8345. Connemaugh Dam Area. Bag Lunch.
June 3	John Hartman, 241-5031. Mexican War Streets and the Mattress Factory.
June 10	Alex Federowicz & Margaret Laske, 421-5219. Yough Trail from Boston. Lunch at Farkas Country Club Restaurant.
June 17	Bruce Sundquist, 327-8737. Boyce Park. Bag lunch.
June 24	Billie Woodland, 563-5419. Round Hill Farm. Bag lunch.

CONTINUED FROM COVER

charges against us for all kinds of offenses. I was alarmed and amazed. I contacted several of the people who had been on the "rescue mission" to get the whole story, then I went to see Mr. Baker and laid it all out for him. Of course — and rightfully so — he chastised me and the local AYH members for acting so irresponsibly — then he said that he would do what he could do. The first thing he did was to contact someone in the State Parks Department where he learned that they did not know anything about the matter. Then he contacted the attorney for the construction company. At this point, you can be certain that that attorney was absolutely flabbergasted that an attorney of such high stature was representing AYH. Baker then chastised the contractor attorney for lying about the State's role in the matter, then pointed out that — just because AYH happened to be in the park when the alleged offenses took place — was no proof that AYH had anything to do with them. The park is never closed. Anyone could have come in and done improper things. Furthermore, if the contractor did indeed sue AYH, Baker would represent us in court, and he was certain that the case would be dismissed. If this happened then, he Horace Forbes Baker, would countersue for defamation of AYH's good name. Two days later, the contractor's attorney contacted Baker and advised that no further action would be taken by his client. Baker called me with the good news — then he added that he had not had so much fun in years.

Horace Forbes Baker died in late 1949. We thought that, because of what he had done for us, it would be a fitting tribute to the man if we named our fledgling trail the "Horace Forbes Baker Memorial Trail." I contacted his widow for permission to do so. She replied that that would be a great honor, but she was certain that Mr. Baker would not have wanted the work "Memorial" to be in the name. And that is why it became just plain "The Baker Trail".

A Winter Weekend

Back in the 1970's we went to Cook Forest for our winter weekends. Our Council rented cabins, packed in loads of food, and even chartered a Greyhound bus (with driver) for transportation. There was a cabin for families, one for singles, and a cabin for couples which contained a kitchen and dining space.

My first Cook Forest outing was in 1973, a few years into my AYH membership. I recall with pleasure the Saturday night party. We gathered in the large "living room" of the Singles cabin. Spread out on couches and the floor around a roaring fire we sang old songs, played games and snacked. Some of us played musical pieces on recorders and guitar. It was an evening of fun and fellowship.

A memorable event occurred in the winter of 1974. After breakfast the hostlers broke up into several hiking groups. There were a few cross-country skiers. I joined a group led by Cliff Ham, who planned an 8 mile hike on the North Country Trail in the Allegheny National Forest. The bus would transport each group to their starting point and pick up the hikers at the finish to return them to camp in time for dinner. When we were dropped off, we found about ten inches of snow on the trail which made walking more difficult. Before long, John Hayes and I (both in our 60's) fell behind as the other hikers — being younger and stronger — forged ahead. After a while, Marilyn Ham joined John and me to boost our morale and urge us on. We took a lunch break and eventually reached the road where we were to meet the bus — but no bus! We were about an hour late and tired. I was almost exhausted, and we still had another two miles to go on the road. We learned later that the bus couldn't make it in the deep snow and waited for us on a plowed road. A group of snowmobiles stopped to inquire if there was a problem. The bus driver told them he was waiting for a group of hikers who were late. So the snowmobilers decided to find us and render help — if needed. They arrived as we were starting down the road and offered rides to the bus. Only Hon and I accepted with gratitude, the rest opted to walk the last two miles. After a brief but exhilarating ride, we arrived at the bus. We got back to the cabins after 6pm. Fortunately, enough food was left over for our dinner.

As far as I know, this was the only occasion in the history of the Pittsburgh Council that hikers were rescued by snowmobilers!

*by Joe Levine, a former Trip Leader and Chairman
for Hiking, Programs, Membership and Trip Coordinator.*

Continued from Page 2

- Mar 19:** Bruce Sundquist, "AYH Trips Of The Sixties And Seventies". From hiking and canoeing to rafting, inner-tubing, etc.. Part of Pittsburgh AYH 50-year celebration.
- Mar 26:** We show the 16 mm film "Ballad Of The Irish Horse". Connemara ponies. See the notorious Irish National Stud.
- April 2:** Mary Pitzer, "Touring Alaska". See Dawson City, Valdez, and Prince William Sound.
- April 9:** Bring your 10 best slides of sports, travel, or nature. This kind of session has been very popular at other outdoor clubs. Also apple cider and cheese party.

HOSTEL HAPPENINGS

Happy New Year to everyone from the Pittsburgh International Hostel. First of all I'd like to thank all of you who came to the first annual Deck the Hostel Party on December 18. The turnout was so large we had standing room only for much of the evening! Next year we'll have to work on the caroling, perhaps with a practice session or two beforehand. It was great to see so many local members drop by, see the hostel (some for the first time), and help us celebrate the holidays.

OVERNIGHT REPORT

From our June 5, 1997 Grand Opening through the end of the year, the Pittsburgh Hostel had paid 1405 overnight stays. With help from three groups from West Virginia Wesleyan College which stayed at the hostel in January, in less than the first month of 1998 we've already had over 330 overnights in 1998, for a total of more than 1700 to-date. See below for how to make a reservation at the hostel.

THE WORD IS GETTING OUT ABOUT THE HOSTEL

The 1998 edition of Let's Go: USA, THE commercial guidebook hostellers use most when touring the United States has listed our hostel and called us "sparkling", "modern", and "more a hotel than a hostel." Pittsburgh is also the featured hostel on the HI/AYH National web site for the month of January 1998. Check us out at HIAYH.ORG! We're also in the just-published 1998 HI/AYH North American Hostel Handbook (with our CORRECT ADDRESS and ZIP CODE). Toss your 1997 edition and pickup your FREE 1998 edition at the hostel, the council office, or the Thursday meeting at the Activities Center in Shadyside. If you want a copy mailed to you for a small charge call the Council Office/Travel Center at 431-4910. New and colorful Pittsburgh International Hostel brochures should be printed by early February.

NATIONAL BUDGET TRAVEL DAY:

SATURDAY, FEB. 28, 1998 - WORLD TRAVEL 101

In conjunction with the HI/AYH National Office and HI/AYH councils around the country, Saturday, February 28, 1998 has been declared National Budget Travel Day. On that day most councils of HI/AYH around the country will be hosting World Travel 101 seminars or International Travel Days in preparation for spring and summer travel. This is a national event with nationwide publicity and is free. Planning a trip this year using hostels? Come learn how.

HI/AYH NATIONAL BUDGET TRAVEL DAY in Pittsburgh events include: 11 a.m. - 12 noon OPEN HOUSE. The Council Office/Travel Center will also be open. Information tables and travel advice. Tours of the hostel will be offered.

12 noon- 2 p.m. WORLD TRAVEL 101: A BUDGET TRAVEL WORKSHOP. General information on how to plan a trip using hostels along with guest speaker, John Murray on the subject of "Disabled Travel." I will also be talking about "Women Travelling Solo."

There are several other Budget Travel Seminars planned at the hostel in 1998 (see sidebar). I am interested in training a few key volunteers who can make the time commitment to host or present these seminars at the hostel and "on the road" to Pittsburgh organizations (schools, travel clubs, etc.) who would benefit from learning more about hostels. These seminars are a "Signature Program" for HI/AYH - a way for us to be known out in the community as the leaders in budget travel.

Volunteers are also needed for the following for ALL 1998 Budget Travel Seminars: Guest speakers who could add actual experience and answer questions in addition to the main purpose of these seminars: providing general "how-to" information about planning hostel trips.

Giving hostel tours.

Helping with set-up and clean-up for these events.

Sending out mailings to promote these and other events.

Interested volunteers should plan on attending the events on February 28. Call me at the hostel for more information.

SNOW PLOW and FLOOR BUFFER NEEDED

Anyone in the snow removal business? Have a floor buffer we could borrow occasionally? We need someone to plow our parking lot at a reasonable rate. Our staff takes care of the sidewalks in front of the building when it snows, but the parking lot is too much to shovel by hand. The floors in the hostel are starting to show some wear and will need to be buffed a few times a year. Please call me if you can help us out with this needed equipment.

HOSTEL ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT

We are currently accepting applications for two positions: Full-time Assistant Manager and part-time Desk Assistant. Hostel and/or independent travel experience is required for both positions. Assistant Manager supervises all day-to-day operations of the hostel. Both positions are responsible for checking-in guests, making reservations, cleaning, answering questions about the hostel, hostelling in general, Pittsburgh and the local neighborhood. Job descriptions and applications are available at both the hostel and council office/travel center during open hours.

1998 HI/AYH MEMBER DISCOUNTS

HI/AYH members with valid membership cards are eligible for following discounts. Full details can be found in the FREE and just-published 1998 HI/AYH North American Hostel Handbook.

ALAMO CAR RENTAL: Various discounts. Request plan BY 1998 American Youth Hostels.

ANDY WARHOL MUSEUM: Buy one admission, get a second (of equal or lesser value) free.

MATTRESS FACTORY ART MUSEUM: \$1.00 off admission and 10% off merchandise in museum shop.

PITTSBURGH ZOO: \$1.00 off admission.

CITY BOOKS (Southside): 15% off all used books; 10% off most new books (some exceptions); 10% off all espresso bar items.

ALLEGHENY VALLEYS BICYCLE TOURS: 20% off the regularly advertised price of any bicycle tour granted to current HI members.

DANNY K'S DINER (3 blocks from hostel): 10% off final bill to all HI members.

PGH INTERNATIONAL HOSTEL: \$17.00/night for dormitory accommodation.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AT THE PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL HOSTEL TODAY!

The Pittsburgh Hostel has 50 beds available. If you or someone you know would like to stay, we'd be happy to make a reservation for you.

Individual HI/AYH members pay \$17.00/person/night for dormitory beds. Non-members may stay for an additional \$3.00/night.

Individuals can make a reservation for dormitory bed(s) by providing the following information:

Pittsburgh International Hostel Reservation Request Form

Reservation Name: _____

Date of Arrival: _____

Morning of Departure: _____ # Nights: _____

Female Beds: _____ # Male Beds: _____

Include a check -OR-

VISA/MC/Discover # _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

We have a 24-hour cancellation policy. You must cancel no later than 10 p.m. the night before your intended arrival date or your credit card will be billed for the first night's deposit. Government-issued photo ID required to check-in. Don't forget to bring your membership card!

Call the hostel directly for Family Rooms requests (limited availability). A surcharge and key deposit apply to these rooms.

Special Group Rate for 10 or more people. Please request a Group Inquiry Packet.

Need more information? We can send a copy of "Everything You Need to Know About Visiting Us" to you by email, fax or "snail" mail. Please call the hostel at 431-1267. You can send the reservation form above or request a copy of "Everything You Need to Know..." by fax or email. Our fax number is 431-2625. Email to ayh@trfn.clpgh.org

It doesn't get any bigger than 1998 for the Pittsburgh International Hostel. Lots and lots of Hostel Happenings. We plan on putting Pittsburgh and the Allentown area on the map with visitors from all over the world in the first full year of business. We look forward to seeing you here, especially if you can help us out in this exciting endeavor.

Holly Ridenour,
Hostel Manager, Pittsburgh International Hostel

Pittsburgh AYH is accepting pledges and donations for the Pittsburgh Hostel.

Our Fundraising efforts are escalating to foundations and will include corporations as well. If any member is involved or knows of someone involved with these groups we would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to let us know. Having a contact person really helps to get some attention. We need to raise a ton of money for this building and we need all the help that we can get.

Thanks for your interest and help.

Clip out the coupon below and make your donation today.

Yes, I would like to make a Tax - Deductible
donation of support for the
Hostel in Pittsburgh in the amount of:

— \$2500

— \$1000

— \$500

— \$250

— \$100

— \$50

— Other: \$ _____



Donations of goods, furnishings or services are
also needed! Please drop us a note describing what
you have available.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Mail your Donation to:

AYH

Pittsburgh Hostel Fund

830 E Warrington AVE; Pittsburgh, PA 15210
412-431-4910

1998 EVENTS AT PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL HOSTEL

The following events have been planned at the Pittsburgh International Hostel for 1998 to give HI\AYH members, hostel guests, and the public a chance to see the hostel, meet each other, participate in hostel activities, and learn more about hostelling.

Please remember that during our normal hostel hours of 8 - 10 a.m. and 5 - 10 p.m. (we are closed during the day) the hostel is in the business of providing accommodation to its guests. For that reason only the first floor lobby is accessible to non-guests during our normal open hours and tours are not available unless prior arrangements are made.

Tours of the hostel will be available at all events listed below.

WORLD TRAVEL 101: SATURDAY BUDGET TRAVEL WORKSHOPS

OPEN HOUSE from 11 a.m. - 12 noon.

BUDGET TRAVEL WORKSHOPS 12 noon - 2 p.m.

February 28:

NATIONAL BUDGET TRAVEL DAY. Information tables with hostel information, country information, trip planning advice and more. General workshop starts at noon. Then guest speakers John Murray III will speak on "Disabled Travel" and Holly Ridenour, manager of the Pittsburgh Hostel, will speak on "Women Travelling Solo".
March 14: Europe on a Budget
March 28: Making the Most of European Rail
April 25: Europe on a Budget

"CLEAN TEAM" WORK PARTIES

Volunteers are needed to get the hostel in good shape for the busy summer travel season and keep it that way. Our staff does a lot, but we can't do it all. We need your help! Refreshments will be served on all "Clean Team" Work Party Days. A work party volunteer coordinator for the season is needed! Please call Holly at the Pittsburgh Hostel if you can lead the "Clean Team" or need more information.

SPRING-CLEANING:

May 2, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Winter is over! Time for some Spring-Cleaning! Drop by and help us out with whatever free time you can spare on this all-day event. Bring a broom and gloves if you have them.

WORK PARTIES:

On each of the following Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. the "Clean Team" will help maintain the hostel on: June 20, July 25, August 22, September 26. Bring a broom and gloves if you have them.

SECOND SUNDAE SIDEWALK SOCIALS:

What would summer be without ice cream? Beginning on the second "Sundae" of May and each month through September, bring the family by the hostel in the afternoon for some summer fun.

Watch this space in 1998 or call the hostel at 431-1267 for more details on Hostel Events.

ALASKA... THE ETERNAL MAGNET

This is the third installment of an article by Glenn Oster concerning an HI\AYH trip that he led to Alaska this past summer. He shares with us the experiences that he and two of the trippers had in backpacking the historic Chilkoot Trail from Dyea, (Skagway area) Alaska to Lake Bennett, British Columbia and the excitement of the water shuttle to Carcross, Yukon Territory.

*The Chilkoot Trail
my camera batteries died before I did*

Tom, Wayne and I were about to face the moment of truth. This was to be the day we tackled the infamous Chilkoot Trail. The trail is so popular that the Canadian authorities limit the number of hikers each day to fifty, i.e., forty-two reservations and eight walkons. The reservation fee is \$10, and the fee to hike the trail is an additional \$35. I had a reservation, but by the time Tom and Wayne told me they wanted to do the trail, it was already too late for a reservation on the only day that was practical. Accordingly, we arrived a half hour before opening time and were first in line at the trail's office. We got our trail permits. Arriving early was a good idea because by the time we left the office, there was a line out to the door.

Phylis and Geri drove us to the trailhead in Dyea, took our pictures and wished us well. The first day's hike to Pleasant Camp was mostly along Taiya River and not difficult except for a 1/10 mile stretch that was mucky because of a recently constructed beaver dam. The river was full of glacial silt and surely moved in many locations. Tom and Wayne hiked faster than I, and I suggested to them that we regroup when they came upon a scenic spot for lunch. Did they ever find a spot; they came across a bonanza at Finnegan's Point. The site looked across the river to Irene Glacier, sparkling in the sunlight, high atop the facing mountain. "Guys, it doesn't get any better than this!"

There were a lot of people on the trail, and fifty was more than I am used to in a day on a trail. I could see why the limit was imposed. There was one group of scouts from California who were never going to be able to complete the trail, if their performance to that point was an indication of what was to follow. Also, a couple times we came upon a mother, father and two teenagers. The mother, who used to backpack extensively, was obviously out of condition and would most likely have to return to Dyea. While I'm describing other hikers, when we reached Pleasant Camp, a young Chinese man arrived and set up camp near us. We soon came to realize that he was in trouble. He couldn't speak English, but his trouble was easy to spot. He had just bought all the equipment he was using and had never used his cook stove. I tried to help him and discovered that he bought the wrong fuel canister for the stove. I let him use mine. Then, it turned out that he never thought about utensils, not even chop sticks. He asked to use my spoon, but I had no idea of what he was saying until he saw mine and pointed to it while saying an indecipherable word. It became obvious that he had never camped before, and we were concerned about whether he was going to suspend his food in a tree during the night. This was grizzly bear territory, and we were not especially anxious to invite them into our camping area. He seemed to understand our concern, but had brought nothing along by which to hang up his food. Wayne took him under his wing at that point and worked out a way to attach his food bag to a tree that he was able to bend down low enough. He felt that our Chinese friend would be able to retrieve it when he arose in the morning. This was a factor to consider, because we were planning on rising at 3:00 A. M. for our big climb, (Remember, it was daylight that early.) and we doubted that he would be out and about at that time. He wasn't.

For readers not familiar with the Chilkoot Trail, it is the route followed by most of the gold seekers in the Klondike gold rush of 1897 - 98. While the trail is only thirty-three miles long, it includes the notorious golden staircase, a segment of the final 2700' of a 3700' climb, and at a steep 45° angle at that. The climb up the golden staircase was not on an established trail but from rock to rock, making it especially tough for people with knee trouble or having balance problems. I was slow making the climb but had no special problems. When you get high enough, not sure at what altitude, the rocks give way to snow. It was easier for me to climb in the snow than over the rocks. Predictably, the higher I climbed, the colder it became and the harder the wind blew. The fact that Tom and Wayne were far ahead of me is why I refer to "I" instead of "we." The battery in my camera chose the beginning of the steep part of the climb to die, and I got no pictures of the most notable part of the trail. I had taken spare batteries along but managed to lose them the evening before on the ferry. There was no way to buy replacements at 6:30 a.m. in Skagway before embarking on our hike. That was a blow to me; I thrive on taking pictures. I may not have had any special trouble with the climb, but I was glad to get on the other side of the mountain ridge and out of the cold wind. I found a sheltered spot and had lunch; what a reward!

At the crest of the mountain, hikers enter into British Columbia. During the gold rush, one hundred years ago, the Canadian Government required the gold seekers to take with them at least a ton of materials and provisions to sustain themselves for twelve months. Moreover, the Mounties were on hand to enforce the requirement. For the erstwhile miners, it meant thirty trips up the golden staircase for most of them, to say nothing about transporting the load down the other side of the mountain and across the hundreds of miles beyond to the goldfields in Whitehorse, Yukon Territories, a mind-blowing contemplation.

Fate is the mother of strange coincidences. I had hiked down from the ridge and was working my way past Crater Lake when I encountered a young couple to the right of the trail. They had found shelter behind some large rocks and were keeping warm out of the wind. I stopped for a moment to talk; would you believe, the man had spare batteries that would fit my camera. Not only did he let me have them, but I virtually had to force money on him. The world does have some princes who've never been crowned. My first picture was of them. Back in business - what a relief!

Time was getting away from me, but I only had three more miles to go. Along this stretch, the trail threads its way through many areas of large rocks and snowfields. I couldn't make much time, but that didn't concern me much. What did concern me was keeping my footing in the snowfields. They sloped from right to left and looked quite safe to cross, but they were foolers. I would be hiking along just fine, but, in a split second I'd be on my backside - sliding - fortunately not far. I learned to watch for a pale blue cast under the snow cover. That meant hard ice to be avoided. I did when I could, but more often than not, my boots wouldn't cooperate and down I'd go. I made it to Happy Camp without breaking anything and found the site that Wayne and Tom picked out for our tents. The campground has a small building where the hikers are expected to cook their meals away from the tenting area so as not to attract bears there. We saw none on the trail. The cook shed was a great place to meet other hikers and learn of their experiences. An Anchorage newspaper reporter and his photographer were walking the trail looking for a story. When they discovered a sixty-year age spread, between a girl hiker and myself, they took seven or eight pictures and had a lengthy interview, but who knows if anything will ever come of it.

In the morning, I got off to a slow start, but soon had passed Deep Lake and its campground. Then came a most interesting section of the trail. It hung on the side of a deep gorge and descended gradually. Every now and then you could see the bottom of the gorge with its water madly coursing over waterfalls and cascades. It was a chilly, dull morning, and my pictures give moot testimony. Still, it was an exciting area that extended for a full mile. By lunch time, I had reached Lindeman City, a ghost town that for a year of so flourished with 10,000 tents. There were artifacts left from that fascinating period, but no trace of the tents. It had been a convenient staging area alongside Lindeman Lake, where they could build rafts and resume their epic journeys toward the hope of riches untold. A ranger cabin is there along with a tiny museum that depicts the history of Lindeman City. I absorbed as much as I could and moved on. We had agreed to camp at Bare Loon Lake that evening, which I reached by mid-afternoon. The campground was teeming. There had to be far more than the fifty hikers per day limit. I could understand why. The campground overlooks the lake below, offering a remarkable view. The sun was shining on the water, a deep blue, reflecting the

Continued on Page 7

PAYING BACK... A Thank You to All Trail Maintainers

by Jim Ritchie

Over the past several years, many AYHers have taken on a special mission: the rehabilitation, maintenance, and preservation of the Baker Trail and the Rachel Carson Trail. Much has been accomplished: the trails are open and they are being used. The number of people who have helped for a day, a weekend, a summer, a year or for several years is now in the hundreds. These are people, not only from Pittsburgh and its environs, but also from Butler, Kittanning, Brookville, Sheffield, Summerville, Johnsonburg, Clarion, East Brady, Heritage, Ford City, Brockway, Leechburg, Vandergrift, Indiana, Hershey, State College, and many other locales in and beyond Western Pennsylvania.

Our maintainers have blazed, chainsawed, brushed, cut grass, built water bars, laid new trail, and picked up litter in the rain, in 100° heat, in all four seasons. They work on weekend camp-out crews, on day trips to strategic locations, and they work as adopt-a-trail volunteers, taking care of their personal sections of trail. The experiences they've shared include fall evenings at the Girl Scout Campground at Cook Forest, sitting out the thunder and lightning at the Crooked Creek group campground; the time we watched warily as the waters of Mahoning Creek inched their way to the Milton Loop Campground, dinners at the Vowinckle Hotel in Cook Forest, Stockdale's Restaurant in Dayton, and Pitzer's at Crooked Creek, the December maintenance trip when it rained all day long in the 35° air and we had to keep working frantically just to keep warm; sawing through a 2 foot diameter fall hemlock with a bow saw in North Park; and jumping along the Rachel Carson putting up blazes at the "transitions", among many others.

As we head into 1998, I want to take this brief moment to say "thank you" to all who have lent a hand (and a foot or two and a muscle or three) in our efforts to maintain and preserve a part of our Western Pennsylvania heritage and our common experience. Five years, ten years from now, hikers will still be enjoying the experience of "walkin' the trail" that we helped be there for others. Thanks.

BAKER TRAIL/RACHEL CARSON TRAIL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR '98 Adopt-A-Trail Especially

Each year, some of our adopt-a-trail volunteers on the Baker Trail and the Rachel Carson Trail retire, moving on to the 'rest' of their lives, making it necessary to constantly be recruiting replacements. Adopters are asked mainly to paint new blazes for us; for one year, or two years, or whatever they can give us. AYH pays for the paint and brushes, I send you a map and give you a tour, and you supply a day's labor (or two) each year. If you want to do an extra day or two, you can move debris (downed trees and branches) off the trail, or if you like to do chain saw work, we certainly won't say no. But mainly, we need painters.

On the Baker, we need volunteers to put new blazes on everything from Mahoning Reservoir north to Bethlehem Chapel, and a couple of other locations. On the Rachel Carson, we need volunteers to work on several sections in Harrison Township, and others in Indiana Township.

If you would like to take a try at taking care of a wonderful trail, getting yourself into the outdoors, give me a call and let me know your interest: Jim Ritchie (412) 828-0210-leave a message if I'm out. You can also send email to jlr@budget.ba.pitt.edu.

RACHEL HAS A NEW GUIDE

A new guidebook to the Rachel Carson Trail, the December, 1997 Edition, is now available from the AYH store on Warrington Avenue. The cost is \$5.35, cash and carry, or enclose another \$1.50 for mailing and handling costs. You can telephone your order on Monday or Friday, 10 AM to 4 PM or Wednesday from 11 AM to 6 PM at (412) 431-4910. Credit Card orders may be faxed to (412) 431-2625. You may also mail your order to AYH, 830 East Warrington Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15210.

THE 1998 RACHEL CARSON TRAIL CHALLENGE (?)

As you've probably suspected, the logistics of running each year the Rachel Carson Trail Challenge are overwhelming. Many, many, many, many tasks need to be done. Our volunteer base, especially in the 3 months preceding the event, is dangerously slim and those involved are approaching a burnout status. Consequently, a decision has not been made at this time as to whether or not there will be a 1998 Challenge.

The tasks that need to be done include mailings (printing labels, stuffing envelopes, having copies of letters made, trips to Kinko's), telephone calls or letters to County Parks, insurance underwriters, and prospective Challengers, approaching sponsors, ordering and picking up t-shirts, mugs, or whatever, making up lists, lists, and more lists, and especially providing computing support—maintaining registration records.

If you are interested in supporting the Challenge by volunteering some of your time in April, May and June, please call Jim Ritchie at 828-0210. Watch the April issue of the AYH Golden Triangle for the final word on the Rachel Carson Trail Challenge.

HIKER ALERT UPDATES FOR 1998

Baker Trail

Cook Forest to the Allegheny National Forest: This section is now spic 'n' span, thanks to the efforts of Bob Roth and Jim Ritchie. Jim put new paint on the blazes north of PA Route 66, through the marsh, and Bob put up new paint and cleared up all the debris laying on the trail from Route 66 south through the northeastern quadrant of Cook Forest State Park. All green lights, all the way.

Gravel Lick Bridge, Cook Forest: The brand-new Gravel Lick Bridge is up and carries the BT across the Clarion River. The detour posted for the past year is down. Thanks be to PennDOT.

Shelters: Be advised that some shelters are currently nonexistent or not usable: Corsica, Fisher, New Freedom, and Schenley. Schenley is off limits. Corsica, Fisher, and New Freedom allow camping on the shelter site. The shelters will be rebuilt at some point in the future. Sounds like a good Eagle Scout project to me. Any takers? (AYH will pay for materials).

Bethlehem Chapel to Red Bank Creek, Near Heathville: This area has been strip mined heavily for the last couple of years. I went out there in October to paint up some fresh blazing and fix any holes in the trail. Unfortunately, there was an all-day 35° rain that particular day and the paint just ran down the trunks of any tree I tried to blaze. We will tackle this in April, 1998. Use your topo map and compass (going north) to get yourself to Tarkiln Run; the trail runs parallel to the Run for about half a mile, on its south side, before crossing. If you've been on this since last August, give me a call (412) 828-0210.

Heathville Bridge: The bridge is out, a victim of the July 1996 flood that hit this area. From the south, when you get to the bridge, continue along the road to Summerville; get to PA Route 28, turn left, and then turn right on the outskirts of town on the road that parallels the abandoned railroad grade.

Cherry Run, near Crooked Creek. Still a wet crossing in spite of the fact that we did meet with Bob Plumskey of Johnsonburg at the site to talk about rebuilding the cable bridge. Vince Roof, Bob and I made up a list of materials needed to do the job. All we need is a (volunteer) project leader (someone to take charge). Call me if you know a good candidate.

Cornfield, between Kerr Road and Pine Run, Crooked Creek. Last year, a detour, placing the trail securely on Army Corps of Engineer land, was built around the field that was plowed for seed (and then not seeded due to excessively rocky soil). That detour should be in excellent condition. If you've been there, call me with a first-person report of current trail conditions.

Strip Mine @ Horney Camp Run, Crooked Creek: The stripped out area adjacent to Horney Camp Run, on the former farm of Ira Swank, had been planted with tall grass. A makeshift detour around the stripped area was fashioned. This area has not been observed in over a year. If you've been there, call me (412) 828-0210 and let me know what it's like.

Kiski Bridge, Schenley: At this time, the railroad bridge over the Kiski River is still off limits to hikers and others. Friends of the Trail are currently in negotiations with the owner. Stay tuned.

Rachel Carson Trail

Long Run, bottom of Rich Hill: Don Erdeljac reports that extensive logging has taken place along Long Run at the bottom of Rich Hill. From the gas pipeline, follow Long Run to the first drainage coming down the hillside; follow the drainage about 100 yards uphill and you will re-connect with the Trail.

Wagner Road: The landowner problems that occurred in this area over the past two years have been resolved. Keep on the trail when hiking through this area.

Donnellsville Road to Burtner Road: The new power line has cut the trail in 4 places; each time you come out to the power line clearing, proceed directly across to the other side to pick up the trail.

HIKING/BACKPACKING

March 21 Saturday Jim Ritchie 828-0210
Trail Maintenance, Rachel Carson Trail, Long's Run. This is a day trip to clear out the logging debris left along Long's Run in Indiana Township and restore the footpath before the vegetation sets in. Call to sign up and make arrangements to meet.

April 18 Saturday Leo Stember 681-1385
Trail Maintenance, Rachel Carson Trail, Hampton Woods. Clearing the trail and putting up new blazes will be the order of the day. Call Leo to sign up for this day's work and to make arrangements to meet.

April 25 Saturday Jim Ritchie 828-0210
Trail Maintenance, Baker Trail, Bethlehem Chapel. B.C. is about 50 miles north of Pittsburgh. Heavy strip mining in this area has compromised the trace of the trail from the Chapel area to Tarkiln Run. We will establish a viable route and then blaze and clear it as necessary. Call Jim to sign up and make arrangements to meet.

April 26 Sunday Jim Ritchie 828-0210
Hiking, Rachel Carson Trail, North Park to Dorseyville. Take a day to enjoy the fruits of our labor and hike the RCT. This weekend should be a peak day to observe the ephemeral wildflowers in North Park, along Crouse Run Hollow, in Hampton Woods, and along Shafer Run. 8 miles, intermediate level hike, moderate pace. Bring a lunch. Call Jim for information and reservations.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5...

nearly cloudless sky. Tiny tree-covered rock islands "floated" in the lake - gulls and other large birds soared around the islands. The backdrop was a brightly sunlit mountain range - all of this beauty and a warm, gentle breeze to make us even more enamored of the campsite. No wonder some were risking the rangers' wrath by staying longer than their permits allowed. In the evening, a group from Anchorage who hike the Chilkoot each summer gathered to do several readings of Robert Service's poems about the frozen north in the Klondike Gold Rush days. One man made an especially good reading of "The Cremation of Sam Mc Gee." Such talent!

Now for a 4:30 A.M. wake up and a four-mile hike to Lake Bennett before breakfast. That was the end of this most historic trail. We were there long before the 10:00 A. M. arrival of the boat that was to take us to Carcross, Yukon Territory, where Phyllis and Geri were to meet us. I had made reservations a month earlier with the Chilkoot Water Charter to take us across Lake Bennett. The operator arrived at 9:45 a.m., and we were underway twenty-five minutes later, allowing time for others to arrive who might have been trusting to luck that they could get on the boat. Most of the others at Bare Loon Lake did not know about or were planning to ignore the new restriction that it is illegal to hike out to a location known as "Log Cabin," where they could get transportation back to Skagway. That boat ride was memorable indeed! Once we got up to speed, we traveled so fast that I would have thought we were in a hydrofoil were it not for the fact that we hit many of the waves with such force that I thought the boat would disintegrate. Not aware of what was to come, I made the mistake of having my camera in hand. At that point in time, I couldn't possibly put my camera away. That meant that I only had one hand with which to hold on as I was being lifted from my seat. I was too busy surviving to even think about sea sickness. Precisely on time, though, we arrived at the dock in Carcross, and, reliably, the women were there to meet us. Also there was a man, Sam Lamastro, who arrived at that time by chance. He had reserved the boat for four days later after he completed his hike of the Chilkoot Trail. I looked up at him standing there and was astonished. "Sam, what are you doing here?" He lives north of Pittsburgh and would have joined us on our hike, except that he didn't want to attempt it on the same day as we planned without a reservation. This meeting was unplanned - a true coincidence.

In the next installment, Glenn will cover their experiences in Fairbanks and in Denali National Park, including hikes, wildlife, mountain ranges, braided rivers and Denali's crown jewel, magnificent Mount Mc Kinley.

CANOEING

March 7 Sat Jon Maiman 412-441-2306
Class II+ Icebreaker trip. Experienced paddlers. Please try on your wetsuits before you call for details.

Weekends in March & April Brian McBane 724-443-8972
When the temperature is above 60 degrees, and clear skies are in the forecast, call for details on day trips to cure your cabin fever.

March 12 Thur. Eve. 6 PM
Meet in the headquarters building before the weekly open house to take inventory of the canoe program equipment.

Weekends in April Brian McBane 724-433-8972
When the temperature is above 60 degrees, and clear skies are forecast, call for details on day trips to cure your cabin fever.

April 7 Tues. evening Paul Henry 724-347-3282
Brian McBane 724-433-8972

Canoe inspection and repair night. Meet at the AYH headquarters building in Shadyside at 6:00 P.M. to help make the fleet ready for a new season. Bring any or none of the following: buckets, sponge, tools, gloves, vacuum cleaner, etc... Everyone is welcome, and any help would be truly appreciated.

April 24-26 Fri. eve - Sun. Paul Henry 724-347-3282
Class II canoe camping. Join us as we make our annual float through Pine Creek Gorge (also known as the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania). We will take our time and search for porcupines and bald eagles. Optional side hikes will bring us to waterfalls and scenic overlooks. Those wary of Class II rapids will have the opportunity to portage or line the canoe, but moving water skills are a must. Call for details and reservations.

April 25 Sat. Frank Bruns 412-561-8579
Whitewater II school. A refresher to review strokes, eddy turns, river reading, and rescue. Tandem and solo boaters are welcome. See if your wetsuit still fits, then phone early for reservations.

May 2 sat. Becky Heimberger 412-242-7179
Class II trip. Call for details.

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For Sale: Two Recumbent Easy Racer Bicycles. #1 6,000mi, \$800.00, good condition. #2 500mi, \$1,350.00, new condition. Many extras. Also Burley Deluxe Trailer, nearly new, \$325.00 Call 814-734-1358 eve, for info or to ride!

For Sale: North Face Back Magic, external frame backpack; flexhip joints, heavy duty, large capacity. Will deliver. \$75.00 obo. Call 304-233-5960.

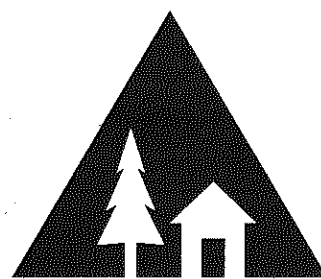
For Sale: Schwinn 12-speed road bikes (2), his and hers; \$40 ea. One Marin Bear Valley mtn. bike, \$100 (\$650 new). 828-0210, leave message.

Editor, The Golden Triangle
830 Warrington AVE.
Pittsburgh, PA 15210

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**HOSTELLING
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**REMINDER TO
TRIP LEADERS**

All trips and equipment usage must be approved by the appropriate activity chair or co-chair. Trip reports and fees should be turned in by the end of each month at either the AYH Activities Building or AYH Office or mailed to Pittsburgh Council, 830 Warrington AVE., Pittsburgh PA 15210

