



Golden

Volume 43, Number 3

Triangle

April 1992

Annual Banquet April 10th

by Linda Smithyman

The AYH Annual Banquet will be held on Friday, April 10th. It will be a buffet dinner with seafood Newburg, sliced roast beef, and vegetable lasagna available. There will be a few side dishes as well: fresh vegetables, salad, rolls, and chocolate mousse for dessert! Note that a vegetarian meal is available.

The guest speaker will be Hank Parke of the Somerset County Rail-Trail program. We will also have some entertainment. There will also be door prizes, but you have to attend to be eligible to win.

We would like everyone to recall one of your memorable AYH trips and share it with the rest of us that evening. This can be a funny story, a suspenseful adventure, or one trip that stands out in your mind. This is strictly voluntary, of course.

The banquet will be held at L. C. Simpson's restaurant in Dormont, the same place as last year. It is at 3220 West Liberty Avenue next to McMinn Oldsmobile. Parking is available behind the building, as is the trolley stop. It is a 2.3-mile drive from the Liberty tunnels. The rush hour traffic should not stop you from getting there by 6:00 pm.

There will be a cash bar available beginning at 6:00 pm. and dinner will be served at 7:00 pm.

The cost of the dinner is \$15.00/person. Please fill out the registration form on page 7 and mail it by April 3rd to reserve your space. Please make your check out to **Pittsburgh Council—AYH**. Bring a friend if you like.

If you need additional information please contact Linda Smithyman at 531-1868.

Remember, the date is Friday, April 10th. You will not receive any tickets or information in the mail. We'll just expect to see you there!

In Memory of Lloyd M. Geertz

by Don Hoecker

On February 14th, Pittsburgh AYH lost a special friend. Lloyd Geertz died in Monroeville at the age of 64, succumbing to a heart attack following ten years of heart trouble.

Probably most current AYH members will not recognize his name, but many are indebted to him without knowing it. Lloyd served the council in many capacities for many years. He joined the group in the late 1950's, and soon became known as an enthusiast for canoeing, which was then not the important AYH activity it is today. In 1959, he married another active AYHer, Agnes ("Abbie") Mudie. Married life did not lessen his interest in AYH, and he soon began serving the council in many posts, a contribution of time and effort which continued for twenty years.

In 1960, Lloyd served as Trips & Trails Chairman. At that time this included canoeing and every other outdoor activity except bicycling. He also was named council Vice-president for that year. The following year, he was elected President of the Pittsburgh Council. He sat on the Board of Directors from 1962 to 1979. During this period he also filled the posts of Service Chairman (1963) and Canoe Chairman (1964). In 1966, he was elected Chairman of the Board, and continued as Chairman until stepping down in 1974. Those of us who were fortunate to serve with him during those years valued Lloyd for many qualities, but perhaps most for the trustworthy judgment he brought to running the Council's affairs.

Lloyd was one of the founders of whitewater boating in the Pittsburgh area. In 1959 he helped start the Western Pennsylvania Whitewater School, which for twenty-five years offered an intensive weekend of training on the Connoquenessing and Slippery Rock Creeks. Lloyd worked hard as an instructor and organizer of the school, until reluctantly withdrawing in the early 80's due to his heart problems. He gave hundreds of ignorant canoeists (including this writer) the skills to enjoy—safely—the outstanding river paddling we have in this area. Many of his students went on to be dedicated whitewater teachers themselves. If you learned canoeing in the AYH program, you probably owe your training, ultimately, to Lloyd.

Another inheritance we have from Lloyd's enthusiasm for canoeing is the AYH river guidebook: the Canoeing Guide to Western Pennsylvania. In 1961, he put together an eleven-page mimeographed pamphlet titled "Canoeing in the Pittsburgh Area," describing trips on twenty local rivers. This proved so popular that it has never gone out of print; now in its eighth edition, it has grown into a bound book of 480 pages, covering 270 trips on 137 rivers.

As his heart trouble forced Lloyd to turn from canoeing to sailboat cruising, he and Abbie have not been seen on AYH trips in recent years; but they have always maintained their membership, and often came to the annual banquet. Many long-time AYHers have enjoyed rewarding friendships with them, and will miss Lloyd's always-cheerful company. The Pittsburgh Council as an organization, and many of us personally, extend condolences to Abbie and the rest of Lloyd's family for their—and our—sad loss.

Much of our loss is summed up in the comments of one former AYHer on hearing of Lloyd's death: "You know, that guy taught me canoeing, and he was so good at it, so careful, so patient....He was a real gentleman."

Amen.

Pittsburgh's VRC Hostel Is Closing

In a completely unexpected development, Pittsburgh Council has just learned that the Pittsburgh Vocational Rehabilitation Center may be closing its doors to hostellers as early as April 1st, 1992. The VRC is expected to sign a contract to provide housing for other uses incompatible with a hostel. We are working hard to find new accommodations for hostellers, either by referral to other housing or, preferably, by opening or chartering a new hostel. Hostellers should contact the Pittsburgh Council office at 412-422-2282 for the latest information.



*The Lock Ness Youth Hostel
(See story on back cover)*

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American Youth Hostels

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Pat Tieman	561-3286	
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John Gaylor	366-4062	
Ray Yutzy	341-5682	
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Cliff Ham	687-4520	
Rafting		
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Sailing		
Bob Zavos	241-0659	
Sea Kayaking		
Mark Mistrik	441-8293	
Volleyball		
Jeff Marsh	384-7827	
Trips Coordinator		
Janet Supowitz		

Volunteer News and Opportunities

Hostel Management Course

The AYH Hostel Management Course will be offered April 27-30, 1992 at the Ironmasters Mansion AYH Hostel in Gardners, PA. The course fee is \$175 and it includes all materials, meals, and lodging. For an application and more information, contact: AYH Hostel Services, Dept. 300, American Youth Hostels, Inc., PO Box 37613, Washington, DC 20013-37613. Telephone: (202) 783-6161. FAX: (202) 783-6171.

Trail CleanUp Day

With all the talk and wonderful news about the Montour Trail rails-to-trails project, you may have missed news about another local trail. The Butler-Freeport Community Trail has been purchased by Buffalo, Jefferson and Winfield townships in Butler County and is being promoted by the Butler-Freeport Community Trail Council. This 23-mile trail runs from Freeport to Butler on the former Butler Branch Rail Line of Conrail. The trail passes through wooded areas, open farmland, small villages, deep valleys and along scenic Little Buffalo and Buffalo Creeks.

The Trail Council now needs volunteers and donations in order to open the trail. For starters, there will be a trail clean-up on Saturday April 25 from 9 am to 12 noon. For more information on the big clean-up day or on the trail itself, contact Ron Bennett at 352-4783 or write to the Butler-Freeport Community Trail Council at PO Box 533, Saxonburg PA 16056.

Ohiopyle Hostel Work Parties

We are about to begin spring cleaning at the Ohiopyle Hostel which includes painting and repair work. Our potential April date is Friday, April 17th which is Good Friday (we hope you'll have the day off). Call Linda at 531-1868 if you would like to join in the work/fun. We provide the lunch! Stay tuned for future work party dates. The tentative schedule is:

Sunday, May 17th
Sunday, June 14th
Saturday, July 18th

Sunday, August 9th
Sunday, September 6th
Sunday, October 11th

WQED Thanks

WQED would like to thank the AYH members who volunteered one evening or more to help answer phones at their studios. Thanks to the three-timers Linda Smithyman and Tom Rogers; the two-timers (!) A.J. Stones and Angela Youngblood; and the one-timers Jan Devereaux, Tom and Mary Bates, Joe Hoechner, Kim Methany, Steve Poprocky, Greg Mikula, Maiken Sloth and Grace Piske. Congratulations to Jan and Linda on winning the volunteer-of-the-day awards.

Squirrel Problems?

Pittsburgh AYH has a "Hav-a-Heart" live trap available that's just the right size for catching squirrels that might be living in your attic.

Joe Hoechner reports that the HQ squirrels are alive and well, and living in upscale Fox Chapel.

If you would like to rent the trap (it's \$5 per week), Joe can provide tips on trapping and baiting. You must pick up and return to HQ on a Thursday night. Rental proceeds benefit Hostel Development. Call Joe at 242-0781.

PS: If you catch a skunk, you buy the trap!

Typing Help Needed

We need help getting the newsletter contents typed each month. If you can type and have access to a computer, please call the editor, Ron Wodaski, at 833-7765.

Thanks!

Oops...

Corrections and Amplifications

The editor apologizes to Bob Buck for getting his first name wrong on—of all possible places—the front cover of last month's issue. To the curious, the editor points out that he worked for one **Jack** Buck for several years.

We Get Letters...

Dear Editor:

I stayed at the Blue Ridge Hostel, hosted by Alec and Lois Koji three times last year. They are located at an access right off the Blue Ridge Parkway between mileposts 214-215 near the Virginia/North Carolina border. Cumberland Knob, a Parkway recreational area with picnic sites and fine hiking trails is located nearby. Alec and Lois are planning some outdoor activities for spring and summer, including guided nature trips featuring wild flowers and bird migration. The Blue Ridge mountains are alive with many birds

of passage, particularly the colorful and lyrical wood warblers.

The Blue Ridge Hostel can be reached in 8 hours from Pittsburgh. Travel South on I-79 to US 19 and reenter 79 to Beckley. South of Beckley, 79 ends and you continue south on I-77 to the Hillsville-Galax exit in Virginia. Turn right on US 52 into Galax and leave heading south on route 89 to the Blue Ridge Parkway at about mile 217. Turn left and watch closely on the right after you pass mile 215. There is no sign, but you will

recognize a grey iron pipe gate.

For further information, contact Blue Ridge Country AYH-Hostel, RR2 Box 449, Galax, VA, 24333. The phone is (703) 236-4962

William Lord
Pittsburgh

[Letters to the editor are welcome. Letters will be edited to conserve space when necessary. Letters are published at the discretion of the editor.]

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) 422-2282.

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 the International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF) which coordinates more than 5,400 hostels worldwide—the largest network of accommodations in the world.

Pittsburgh Council Hostels

Ohiopyle AYH Hostel

Ohiopyle State Park
PO Box 99
Ohiopyle, PA 15470
(412) 329-4476

Living Waters AYH Hostel

RD #1 (1 mile west on Route 30)
Schellsburg, PA 15559
(814) 733-4212

Charleroi Youth Hostel (SA)

Rego's Hotel and Restaurant
601 McKean Avenue
Charleroi, PA 15022
(412) 483-6200

Little Hickory Home Hostel

East Hickory, PA
(814) 755-4908



Plum Run Festival

The Plum Run Festival is a folk art marketplace featuring juried crafts of Eighteenth Century Colonial America. Crafts such as Pottery, Furniture, Blacksmithing, Tole Painting, Woodcarving, Basketweaving and many more are featured. The artisans represent the best of Colonial American folk art.

Food and refreshments will be available, as well as demonstrations of many crafts. In addition, there will be a prize awarded each day, such as a step-back cupboard valued at \$500.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children under 12. Senior citizen admission is \$3. Parking is free.

The Festival is open from 10 am to 6 pm on Saturday and Sunday, May 23-24 and 30-31. For additional information, call the festival at 412-769-5939.

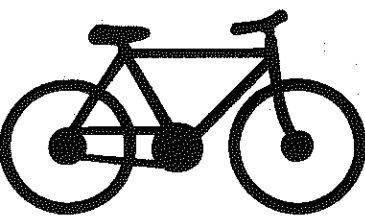
National Bike Ride

The National Bike Ride, sponsored by the Bicycle Institute of America, is an annual ride-anywhere, ride-any-distance event designed to get as many people as possible riding bikes at the same time.

Everyone is eligible to participate. All you need to do is ride any distance, for any purpose, on any of three days in 1992: May 15, 16, and/or 17. You are encouraged to wear a helmet, and to ride at your own pace. You can start wherever you like, at home or while on vacation. If you are riding in another organized bike event, you still qualify for participation. You can even ride to and from work, since May 15th is a Friday.

To receive an "I rode the National Bike Ride" pin, send \$3.00 with your name and address to: "I rode the National Bike Ride," PO Box 588, Middlebury, VT 05753. Allow 8 weeks for delivery.

Great Ride June 28



The 1992 Great Ride is set for Sunday, June 28th. The Great Ride was moved from last year's Memorial Day date in order to spread out the cycling calendar a bit. The Ride will be in the same format as last year's Great Ride: 15, 25, and 50 mile rides starting near Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh's Schenley Park and touring through the East End, the North Side and the South Side. Join

2000+ cyclists for one of the biggest cycling events in the Tri-State area. Watch the newsletter for applications.

Pittsburgh Council has been one of the main supporters of the Great Ride. We will again provide volunteer support for this event. An organizational meeting for Great Ride staff and volunteers will be held soon. It will be announced in the newsletter.

With the help of our volunteers, over \$6,000 was raised from last year's Ride. Most of that amount was donated to the Pittsburgh Hostel Fund.

If you would like to get a Great Ride application form as soon as they are available (and maybe one for a friend), please fill in the form below, enclose a first-class stamp and mail to: Pittsburgh AYH/Great Ride Info, 6300 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15232.

Dear Friends of AYH,



Our Hostel Development Committee is getting ready for a little "Spring cleaning" at our Ohiopyle AYH Hostel and they could use a little help.

Their shopping list includes:

- 6 new bunkbeds—\$150 per bed
- 3 new picnic tables—\$100 each
- 12 rolls of insulation—\$20 per roll
- 20 gallons of interior paint—\$15 per gallon

Now, the committee could use your help physically to transport and install these items, but they can also use your help financially to offset the cost with a tax-deductible contribution in one (or more) of the amounts noted above. For those of you who "buy a bed" for \$150.00 we will engrave your name or any name you choose on a small plaque which will be mounted on the headboard.

Please use the form below to indicate your level of involvement.

Thanks a bunch!

Cordially,
Joe Hoechner,
Member of the Board

Great Ride Information Request

Name: _____ Address: _____
Name: _____ Address: _____
Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Do you have a non-riding spouse, friend or relative that will be "hanging around" Schenley Park waiting for your return? Pittsburgh AYH can use help at check-in or rest stops on the day of the ride, Sunday, June 28th. Let us know who they are (and tell them, too!) and we'll do the rest.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Circle best time: 7am to 11am 11am to 2pm 2pm to 4pm

Ohiopyle Hostel Contribution

- ☐ Yes, I want to help physically. Let me know when I am needed.
☐ Yes, I want to help financially. Here is my contribution of:
\$ _____ for _____ or _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Please clip and mail to: Pittsburgh AYH, 6300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232. Please make all checks payable to : Pittsburgh AYH.

Thank you for your contribution. A copy of the official registration and financial information regarding AYH, Pittsburgh Council, may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Clip and send the address above. Thank you!

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National Trails Day

The first National Trails Day has been announced. It will be held on Saturday, June 5th, 1993. It is scheduled to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the National Trails System Act, which was signed into law in 1968. Although the actual anniversary is October 3rd, the summer date is designed to allow more people to participate.

The day will be set aside for activities on and around trails of all kinds, from urban greenways to the Appalachian Trail. You can participate in many ways, including hiking, walking, trail maintenance, and monetary contributions. The ultimate goal is to have an interconnected series of trails across the country.

If you would like more information about participating, or on leading activities in your area, contact: National Trails Day, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., Room 212, Washington, DC 20036. Phone: 202-833-8229 Fax: 703-754-9008

Hiking/Backpacking

Date	Leader	Phone	Trip Description
April 3-5	Bill Lindgren	244-9788 (Clare Bunker)	Old Rag Mountain/Appalachian Trail On Saturday, the Old Rag Mountain hike. Old Rag is the most spectacular mountain in the northern Virginia Blue Ridge. Views from the rocky ridge trail extend in all directions. 7 miles. On Sunday, we'll hike the Appalachian Trail, Thornton Gap to Pollock Knob (10 miles). Camping at Big Meadows campground.
April 4	Steve/Jeanan Tubbs	279-4866	INT The Somewhere Hike Bushwack hike in the hills or mountains southeast of Pittsburgh. 12 miles. Meets 8:30 am Saturday at HQ
April 11	Tom Kaveny	276-8044	EASY INT Roaring Run If it's dry, we'll go to Roaring Run. If not, we'll do an alternate. The big attraction on Roaring Run is you get to cross it 25 times. Eight miles. Meets 8:30 am Saturday at HQ.
April 12	Joan Roof	795-8345	EASY Todd Sanctuary Brisk walk of 4 to 5 miles and lunch. Slower walk after lunch. We'll see birds and wildflowers. Bring binoculars, ID books, lunch and water. Meets at 9:00 am Sunday at HQ.
April 18	Jim Ritchie	828-0210 624-1220	Rachel Carson Trail, Harrison Township. This is a maintenance hike. They've built a corral for horses right on the trail. We need to clear and blaze a new route around it. This is your chance to pitch in and help AYH to keep those trails goin'. Meets 10:00 am Saturday at HQ.
April 18	Linda Smithyman	531-1868	EASY INT Duff Park Three miles or so at Duff Park in Murrys ville. Check out the early spring flowers. Meets 10:00 am on Saturday at HQ.
April 24-26	Jim Ritchie	828-0210 624-1220	Kooser Tower/Wolf Rocks A weekend of intermediate-level hiking in the Laurel Highlands. Saturday: hike the 11-mile loop trail to the Kooser Fire Tower. Sunday: a 5-mile hike to Wolf Rocks. Overnight accomodations are at the Linn Run State Park rustic cabins. Approximate cost is \$20.00 including cabin rental, transportation and AYH activity fees. Meet at HQ at 6:00 pm on Friday.
April 24-26	Mark Mistrik	441-8293	2nd Annual AYH Cranberry Backcountry Fog Fest and West Virginia Ramp Romp We're still telling stories about last year's trip. Some parts of the Cranberry backcountry are the closest thing to a rain forest in West Virginia. The bog itself is a remnant of the last ice age. Two moderately easy hikes, two overnights in a condo at Snowshoe, West Virginia. Meets 6:30 pm Friday at HQ.
April 24-26	Glenn Oster	364-2864	North Country Trail Hike the North Country Trail in the Allegheny Reservoir area - 16 miles. Phone for information and reservations.
May 1-3	Bill Lindgren	244-9788 (Clare Bunker)	Cedar Run/Lewis Spring Falls On Saturday, Cedar Run - Whiteoak Canyon, two of the deepest and steepest ravines in the SNP. Whiteoak Canyon is one of the scenic gems of the SNP; both canyons have high falls, sheer cliffs, and deep pools; 10miles. On Sunday, it's Lewis Spring falls - Hawksbill, the highest mountain in SNP with excellent views; 9 miles. Camping at Big Meadows campground.

Mid-Week Rambles

All mid-week rambles are on Wednesdays. They meet in the upper parking lot at HQ, Fifth and Shady Avenues, at 10:00 am. Trips are subject to change because of weather, conflicts of schedule, and choice of group. We will plan a walk in all kinds of weather; be prepared. Please share expenses of transportation when trips exceed ten miles. Suggested: one dollar per passenger.

Date	Leader	Phone	Trip Description
April 1	John and Alberta Hartman	241-5031	To be announced.
April 8	Dave Sadler	361-3707	Shadyside area; more authors?
April 15	Dick and Ruth Fischer	421-9215	Trillium Trail in Fox Chapel
April 22	George Westcott	279-5375	Montour railroad/trail area
April 29	Marilyn and Cliff Ham	687-4520	Wildflower Reserve, near Racoon Creek.

Sea Kayaking

Sea Kayaks are the direct descendents of the Huntsman's boats or Eskimo kayaks and are now gaining popularity as versatile recreational craft. Structurally, they are longer than whitewater kayaks and they incorporate more stable hull designs with keels for straighter tracking. Sea kayaks are touring craft. You paddle them rather than relying on a river current for motion, and proper paddling technique is a good form of low-impact aerobic exercise. The AYH sea kayaks have been used in local flatwater rivers and lakes, swamps rich in wildlife, exploring coastlines on the Great Lakes, and ocean touring in the Atlantic from the Outer Banks of North Carolina to the seacoast of Down East Maine. Spring is the best time to begin sea kayaking. The boat and sprayskirt provide insulation to keep you warm even in cold weather and protect against the wind, water and waves. In cooler weather you will need layered clothing that can be adjusted for comfort, an old pair of shoes that might get wet or muddy, a hat, sun lotion and sunglasses, raingear, a water bottle and lunch. A complete change of clothes and a towel should be double wrapped in water-proof bags and brought along. Contact the trip leader about local conditions and details about a trip. The AYH Program: If you are interested in learning sea kayaking, remember: easier trips are planned earlier in the season, then longer and more technical trips for later in the summer and autumn. Introductory trips are scheduled weekday evenings to small, local lakes where there is no destination, or a group to keep up with. You can learn to paddle straight and efficiently, carve turns, brace or roll the kayaks at your own pace.

Date	Leader	Phone	Trip Description
April 7	Ted and Judy Self Mark Mistrik	836-4126 441-8293	Annual Sea Kayaking Dinner Dinner, probably pizza, conversation, reminiscing, slides, stories, and debauchery. Will also have a planning meeting, if anyone wants to plan anything. Everyone welcome, whether you want to lead a trip or just find out about them. Possible trip destinations for 1992 include the St. Lawrence Seaway, Nova Scotia and Maine, Assateague National Seashore, Cheasapeake Bay, Great Lakes paddling, the New Jersey Pine Barrens, Sea kayaking camping, and lots of local river and lake trips, and what to bring for lunch. 6:15 pm at HQ or 7:00 pm at the Self residence (call for directions).
April 11-12	Mark Mistrik	441-8293	West Branch, Susquehanna River A sea-kayaking camping trip down the West Branch of the Susquehanna River in Central Pennsylvania. Easy, scenic, flatwater trip is among the most popular for canoe-camping in our region. About 20 miles. AYH can provide camping equipment, kayaks, and all necessary paddling gear. Canoes also welcome; call to reserve. Meets 7:00 am Saturday at HQ.
April 18	Mark Mistrik	441-8293 647-7609	Lake Arthur Easy half-day sea-kayaking and kite-flying trip at Lake Arthur, Moraine State Park. No prior kayaking experience required. Meets 9:00 am at HQ.
May 2	Mark Mistrik	441-8293 647-7609	City Paddle Easy sea-kayaking urban paddling trip from the South Side to the Point. Many good views of the city. Meets 9:30 am at HQ.
May 5 May 19	Mark Mistrik	441-8293	Introductory Trip, North Park Lake Introductory level sea-kayaking trips to North Park Lake. Beginner instruction provided on a calm, flatwater lake, intermediate rescue instruction, sea-kayak rolling, or come out and spend an evening on the water. This is a good way to become acquainted with sea kayaking if you are interested in one of the longer trips. Call to reserve. Meets 6:30 pm at HQ.

Climbing

Date	Leader	Phone	Trip Description
April 17-19	Eric Bauer	687-0766	INT Easter Rock Climbing Trip, Washington DC We will stay at a motel and climb in nearby Great Falls and Carder Rock. If it rains, we will go museum shopping (Smithsonian, etc.) Experienced climbers only (no beginners). Space may be tight so sign up early. Friday through Sunday.
May 2	Eric Bauer	687-0766	Beginner Trip at Coopers Rocks, WV Beginner trips are geared toward teaching basic rock climbing skills to people who have never climbed before. All you need to bring are tennis shoes and lunch. AYH supplies all climbing equipment. Space is limited so please call trip leader for reservation. Saturday.

Tuesday Hikes

Hikers are welcome to join us on Tuesday evenings as we walk a 5-mile course up over Ridge Drive in North Park. We meet at the North Park Boat House at 7:00 pm. Good opportunity for backpackers to get a workout wearing their backpacks. For more information, call Helen Coyne at 776-0678.

April Activities Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Mid-week Ramble John & Alberta Hartman 241-5031 HQ at 10:00 am	2 HQ Slide Show Our Environment Duquesne Light	3 Hiking/Camping Old Rag Mountain; Appalachian Trail Shenandoah National Park Clare Bunker 244-9788	4 Hiking (INTER) The Somewhere Hike, 12 miles. Steve & Jeanan Tubbs 279-4866
5 Hiking (INT) Bear Run Nature Conservancy 10-12 miles. Meets 8am HQ Pete Sini 921-1238	6	7 Annual Sea Kayaking Dinner Self Residence 836-4126 Hiking North Park Helen Coyne 776-0678	8 Mid-week Ramble Shadyside area Dave Sadler 361-3707 HQ at 10:00 am	9 HQ Slide Show AYH Discovery Tours Joe Hoechner	10 AYH Annual Banquet LC Simpson's Restaurant Dormont Cash bar: 6:00 pm Dinner: 7:00 pm	11 Hiking (EASY/INT) Roaring Run, 8 miles Tom Kaveny 276-8044 Sailing Equipment insp. & repair Bob Zavos 241-0659 Sea Kayaking West Branch Susquehanna Mark Mistrik 441-8293
12 Hiking (EASY) Todd Sanctuary, 4-5 miles Joan Root, 795-8345 Sea Kayaking West Branch Susquehanna	13	14 Hiking North Park Helen Coyne 776-0678	15 Mid-week Ramble Trillium Trail, Fox Chapel Dick & Ruth Fischer 421-9215 HQ at 10:00 am	16 HQ Slide Show Exploring the Cuyahoga Valley Barbara Manner	17 Climbing (Beginner) Easter Climbing Trip Eric Bauer 687-0766	18 Hiking (Maintenance) Rachel Carson Trail Jim Ritchie 828-0210 Hiking (EASY/INT) Duff Park Linda Smithyman 531-1868 Climbing (Beginner) Easter Climbing Trip Sea Kayaking Lake Arthur 441-8293
19 Climbing (Beginner) Easter Climbing Trip	20	21 Hiking North Park Helen Coyne 776-0678	22 Mid-week Ramble Montour railroad/trail George Westcott 279-5375 HQ at 10:00 am	23 HQ Slide Show AYH Climbing Committee: Rock Climbing in the USA Eric Bauer	24 Hiking (INT) Laurel Highlands Jim Ritchie 828-0210 Cranberry Fog Fest Mark Mistrik 441-8293 North Country Trail Glenn Oster 364-2864	25 Hiking (INT) Laurel Highlands Cranberry Fog Fest North Country Trail Sailing Watts Bay, Lake Arthur Bob Zavos 241-0659
26 Hiking (INT) Laurel Highlands Cranberry Fog Fest North Country Trail	27	28 Hiking North Park Helen Coyne 776-0678	29 Mid-week Ramble Wildflower reserve near Raccoon Creek Marilyn & Cliff Ham 687-4520 HQ at 10:00 am	30 HQ Slide Show Backpacking and Canoeing in Minnesota	May 1 Hiking (ADV) Cedar Run/Lewis Spring Falls Clare bunker 244-9788	May 2 Climbing (Beginner) Coopers Rocks, WV Eric Bauer 687-0766 Sea Kayaking City Paddle Mark Mistrik 441-8293 Hiking (ADV) Cedar Run/Lewis Spring Falls

Sailing

Date	Leader	Phone	Trip Description
April 11	Bob Zavos	241-0659	ALL Equipment Inspection and Repair Individuals who can help us inspect and repair the sailboats and trailer will receive a free cookout dinner and much gratitude. Saturday at 10:00 am.
April 25	Bob Zavos	241-0659	INT Watts Bay, Lake Arthur Even the Moraine Sailing Club waits until May for their first official sailing day, but we will have our inaugural sail in April, weather permitting. The fee is \$11.00. Saturday 10:00 am.

Trip Leaders...

Volunteer Now to Lead a Hike or Backpack Trip in May

If you would like to lead a hiking or backpacking trip during the month of May, call Jim Ritchie at 828-0210 (h) or 624-1220 (w). We need hikes and backpacks to list at all levels: easy; intermediate and advanced. We especially need trip leaders for all the "runs:"

Quebec Run
Bear Run
Roaring Run
Linn Run

If you know the trails in these areas, call to volunteer as a trip leader now. The submission deadline is April 9th, 1992.

April Shows

April 2 Our Environment: The Impact of Power Generation Duquesne Light	April 23 AYH Climbing Committee Presents: Rockclimbing in the USA Eric Bauer
April 9 AYH Discovery Tours Joe Hoechner	April 30 Backpacking and Canoeing in Minnesota David Adams
April 16 Exploring the Cuyahoga Valley, Ohio Barbara Manner	To volunteer to do a show, call Tom Rodgers at 621-6310

Travel News

Czechoslovakia

A new American Hospitality Center at Male Namesti 14, (Little Square), Prague has opened. The center is an information and gathering place for U.S. tourists.

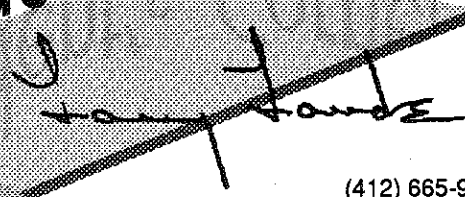
Poland

President Lech Walesa announced that visa requirements have been lifted for U.S. citizens.

United Kingdom and France

The new BritFrance Railpass allows unlimited train travel in Britain and France and a round-trip hovercraft ticket for the trip across the English Channel. The passes are available through Pittsburgh Council.

President's Corner



by Larry Laude

(412) 665-9554
Compuserve: 73467,3201

The Season for Outdoor Activities

It's April and it's springtime! Yes, it's the end of our "slow season", with only cross-country skiing and hiking to get us out of the house, and the beginning of the full range of AYH activities. Actually Spring got a jump start this year around the end of February, and the daffodils and the cyclists were already out by mid-March. So come on out and join the Council's trip leaders as they explore the best western Pennsylvania has to offer in the out-of-doors. We've returned to a calendar format so you can easily see what's going on; detailed information is provided under each activity listing. If you don't see a trip to suit you, let us know. Better yet, how about taking a turn as a trip leader? It's fun, it's rewarding and you get to go where you want to go.

Board of Directors Minutes

I've gotten a number of positive comments about including the minutes of the board meetings in the newsletter. While we can't always print the entire text due to space limitations, we will be sure to include a summary of the actions taken by your board. If you'd like to see a complete copy, give me a call. The following is a summary of the January 20th board meeting; minutes from the March 23 Board Meeting will be reported in the next issue of the newsletter.

- 1) Guidelines were approved for compensating trail scouts for the next edition of the Hiking Guide to Western Pennsylvania.
- 2) As a result of increased fees from the National organization for liability insurance, trip fees were increased to \$1 per day for members and \$3 per day for non-members, effective March 1, 1992. There will continue to be no fee charged for half-day trips.
- 3) Renewal of Pittsburgh Council membership in the Montour Trail Council was approved. The Activities Committee was asked to prepare a recommendation with regard to renewing memberships in other organizations.
- 4) The lease for the Council office in the Wightman School Community Building was approved through August 1992.
- 5) The Hostel Committee reported that they are investigating a possible hostel in the Ursuline Center in the Friendship area of Pittsburgh.
- 6) A draft financial policy manual submitted by the Finance Committee was approved for interim use by the Treasurer.
- 7) The Treasurer was authorized to transfer \$40,000 in funds to another institution in accordance with the policy of not having more than 1/3 of the Council funds in a single institution.
- 8) The Treasurer was authorized to change the Council's fiscal year from a October - September fiscal year to a April - March fiscal year; the change would occur either in April 1992 or April 1993 depending on when the necessary work could be completed.
- 9) The audit presented by the Audit Committee was approved.
- 10) Jon Maiman and Linda Smithyman were elected as Council vice presidents.
- 11) The Board authorized the Council officers to sign the Annual Council Agreement for submittal to the National organization.

Hostel Spain this Summer!

Now that the Winter Olympics are behind us it's time to plan to see the Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain.

Start with a general information inquiry to the Spanish Hostelling Association. Write to:

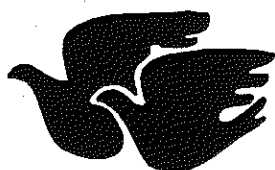
Red Española de Albergues Juveniles
José Ortega y Gasset 71
Madrid 28006 Spain

They seem to be ready for Hostellers in Barcelona with 4 hostels noted in the new volume I handbook (pages 292-3). These four facilities as listed provide a total of 390 beds!

Don't forget that Spain is included within the Eurail Pass system. You can buy your passes through Pittsburgh Council AYH now to avoid the summer rush. Call our office at 412-422-2282 for more details.

FORUM TRAVEL

Convenient Location:
4608 Winthrop St.
(Off South Craig St. in Oakland)



681-4099

Lowest Student and Faculty Fares to International Destinations!
Discount Rates on Domestic Fares!

AYH Passes • Eurail Passes

Experienced and Friendly Service

Hours: 9-5 Mon.-Fri. 10am-Noon Sat.

Bicycling the USA (Part 3)

by Glenn Oster

[AYH member and trip leader Glenn Oster took a 5,400-mile bike tour in 1991. This is the second article in a series describing his adventures on the trip. At the end of Part 2, Glenn visited the Rogue River in Oregon and was headed for California.]

Finally, this story gets to California. Have you ever seen the climb on US 101 south of Crescent City? Took us two hours to climb it. But there was to be at least one worse hill in store for us, and lots that came close to it. As one of the real pleasures, the routing took us to Redwoods National Park and to the Avenue of the Giants. What a wonderful place to drink our fill of the grandeur of the coastal redwoods! In the latter case, the highway is narrow and snakes in and out around these redwood beauties—the ultimate in forest cathedrals. We had sunshine when we rode the Avenue, but the trees are so thick and so high that it was actually quite dark as we rode along. Shafts of sunlight that broke through the trees at times seemed intensely bright.....

Not long after leaving the Avenue we reached the town of Leggett where we picked up what I call the infamous route US 1. It is a narrow two-lane road with no shoulders. It is heavily used (fortunately not as much so as our former US 101) and has hills to climb that make you sit up and take notice. Almost immediately we encountered a four-mile hill with a 7% grade, and before we reached the coast, some 17 miles later, we had climbed another nearly as difficult. Riding down the other sides, though,

was real fun going into the myriad switchbacks leaning the bikes to the right on one turn and quickly leaning to the left on the next. On hills like these we often travelled down six miles or more without a pedal stroke.

Because the winds off the ocean are more favorable going south, we saw very few bicyclists heading north, and those who did so generally regretted it. Several told us they were abandoning their rides because they just weren't fun. One the other hand, there were dozens riding south, and the hiker/biker sites in the state park campgrounds were well filled—especially in California. However, there were instances where we had to use commercial campgrounds along the way, and there were times oddly enough when we were the only campers in the entire campground. We're not sure how the others bikers missed them.

When we reached Fort Bragg, California, we took time out, stored our bicycles, rented a car and drove to the High Sierra for some backpack hiking with AYH friends from Pittsburgh who flew out. We were only on the trail for eleven days (Sequoia National Park to Kings Canyon National Park) plus visiting and hiking for a few days in Yosemite National Park, but three weeks elapsed in all, and we had to talk our legs into bicycle riding again. Our feet didn't want to push the pedals. Hiking just isn't the same, and we had to again endure sore muscles just as we had at the start of our bike trip.

(continued on next page)

Take The High Road Off-Road.



For your convenience,
TRM has 2 locations:

703 Washington Road
2 miles north of South Hills
Village on Route 19
Mt. Lebanon

343-6885

Bill Green Shopping
Center
Across from Pool City
Pleasant Hills

653-6022

TREK USA
American Bicycle Technology

Bicycling the USA (cont.)

(continued from previous page)

Approaching San Francisco was a treat. The weather was clear and unusually warm. We rode through Sausalito, and stopped at an overlook. What a great view of San Francisco and the Bay! I've been there numerous times but have never had such ideal conditions. Going across Golden Gate Bridge required a lot of bicycle "tip toeing." There were crowds of pedestrians of all ages, sexes, shapes, sizes, colors and nationalities, and we had to ride slowly and carefully—often having to dismount. After crossing, we kept to the right, following the coastline when possible, and took advantage of AYH lighthouse hostels at Montara and Pigeon Points. How luxurious not to be sleeping on the ground in a tent.

I had a major mishap in Santa Cruz. Tore up my bicycle and laid myself up for eight days—no broken bones, but nasty dents in my calves and severe back muscle pain. It happened as I was making a blind left turn into New Brighton State Campground at too

great a speed. An automobile reached the intersection at that moment, surprising me and forcing me to broaden the swing I was already into, requiring me to turn more sharply to stay on the road. The bicycle skidded and both bike and trailer flipped over an embankment while I became airborne for some distance. I had hardly stopped rolling when three police cars were on the scene. I was sure I did not have a concussion or any broken bones and declined to be taken to the hospital, but I went for a checkup the next day—I was "hurtin'." The park rangers allowed us to stay at the hiker/biker site until I was well enough to ride again, even though the limit is usually one or two days. They also let me rent a car to get around in and still stay in the hiker/biker site. They certainly were compassionate people. One of the local bike shops had my bike repaired before I was. The other bikers did local sight-seeing or used the time for a quick trip east. Finally, I was able to ride again with the help of ibuprofen, but I tired very quickly.

Annual Banquet Reservations

The Annual Banquet will be held on Friday, April 10th at L. C. Simpson's restaurant, 3220 West Liberty Avenue in Dormont. For complete details, see the article on the front page or call Linda Smithyman at 531-1868.

Reservations must be received by April 3rd to guarantee your seats. Cash bar opens at 6:00 pm; dinner served at 7:00 pm.

The cost for the banquet is \$15.00 per person. Make checks payable to Pittsburgh Council—AYH.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number of people attending: _____ x \$15 = _____

Please mail this registration form to:
Linda Smithyman, 756 Eathan Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15226
Make your check payable to Pittsburgh Council—AYH

When we reached the Los Angeles area, I left the group in Santa Monica and visited with friends while the others went on to the Point Fermin AYH Hostel at San Pedro.

Next month: A visit with Marta and Mike Hurwitz, followed by the ride across the Southwestern deserts to the Grand Canyon.



1992 Membership Application
American Youth Hostels
Membership Department
Pittsburgh Council
6300 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15232



Membership Categories

- ☐ [] \$25 Adult (18 to 54)
- ☐ [] \$20 Adult renewal, pass # _____
- ☐ [] \$10 Youth (17 and under)
- ☐ [] \$15 Senior Citizen (55 and over)
- ☐ [] \$35 Family (2 adults, children under 18, 16 in Europe)
- ☐ [] \$25 Family renewal, pass # _____
- ☐ [] \$250 Life (all ages)
- ☐ [] \$15 Student ID card (includes \$1 postage)
- ☐ [] Free membership for non-profit; send info.

International hostel directories, misc. merchandise:

- ☐ [] \$11 Volume 1: Europe, Mediterranean
- ☐ [] \$11 Volume 2: Africa, Americas, Asia, Australia
- ☐ [] \$14 Cotton sleep sack (required at most hostels)
- ☐ [] \$6 Each for _____ advance booking vouchers
- ☐ [] \$1 Set of 10 hostel reservation postcards
- ☐ [] \$1.50 Postage/handling for each book/sleep sack
- ☐ [] Donation for local hostel development
- ☐ [] Total Make checks payable to: Pittsburgh AYH

- I am joining primarily for:
- ☐ [] Local activities
 - ☐ [] Hostelling in the US
 - ☐ [] Hostelling abroad
- Send information on volunteering for:
- ☐ [] Activities/Special Events
 - ☐ [] Office help
 - ☐ [] Hostel development

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Birthdate: _____ M _____ F _____

I need my hostel pass by: _____

Order your Eurail pass now!

- Eurail Passes:
- ☐ [] Youth pass: 1 month unlimited \$470
 - ☐ [] Saver pass: 15 days with a friend \$340
- Eurail Flexipasses:
- ☐ [] 5 days travel in 15 days \$280
 - ☐ [] 9 days travel in 21 days \$450
 - ☐ [] Youth pass: 15 days travel in two months \$420

Eurail passes are issued while you wait, and a portion of the proceeds helps support AYH hostel development.

Other passes, single country passes, and optional insurance are also available. Call the AYH office at 412-422-2282 for a brochure.

For student ID cards only:

School name: _____

Citizenship: _____

Insurance beneficiary name, address, phone: _____

See additional requirements to the right.

NOTE: Student ID cards require a 1-1/8" x 1-3/8" photo and proof of student status, such as a copy of a grade transcript, student ID card or tuition receipt for the current academic year.

All new memberships except for life memberships are valid for 12 months from the month of issue. All renewals are valid for 12 months from the expiration date of the current membership.

All memberships include:

- A 12-month subscription to *The Golden Triangle*, Pittsburgh Council's monthly newsletter for hostel news and local activities
- The international hostel pass valid at over 5,000 hostels around the world
- The North American Hostel Directory, listing over 250 hostels in the US and Canada

Please allow two weeks for delivery of mail orders. All items are also available at the Pittsburgh Council office and activities headquarters. Call (412) 422-2282 for more information.

Headquarters: open Thursdays from 8 to 10 pm 6300 Fifth Avenue (at Shady Avenue) Pittsburgh, PA (412) 362-8181	Office: open Mon., Wed., Fri. 9 am to 2 pm Room 204 Wightman School 5604 Solway St. Pittsburgh, PA 15217 (412) 422-2282
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Sailing Activities Resume

The Pittsburgh Council Sailing Activity begins its third season this month. Our equipment consists of three 14' Flying Juniors and a 3 tier trailer. Most of our sailing will be on Lake Arthur in Moraine State Park. Additional trips are planned to Pymatuning Lake; Lake Chautauqua, New York; La Due Reservoir, Ohio and the Chesapeake Bay or Lake Erie. We may rent larger boats at some of the more distant locations. Individuals with prior sailing experience and vehicles with trailer hitches who wish to assist with our program should contact Bob Zavos (241-0659) or Joel Hough (371-4986).

Introductory Sailing Classes

We will again offer introductory classes for those who have never sailed before or anyone who desires to brush up on their skills. Classes are open to AYH members, at least 16 years old, in good physical condition, and who know how to swim. Non AYH members will also be accepted if space permits. Additional classes on Racing and/or Sailing Instruction may be offered later in the season.

Tentative Schedule (see the Golden Triangle for firm dates/times/locations)

	Introduction	Shore School	On-Water Class
Location:	AYH HQ	AYH HQ	Lake Arthur
Class #1	Wed., June 3	Fri., June 5	Sat., June 6
		Wed., June 10	Sat., June 13
Class #2	Wed., June 3	Fri., June 5	Sun., June 7
		Wed., June 10	Sun., June 14
Class #3	Wed., July 8	Fri., July 10	Sat., July 11
		Wed., July 15	Sat., July 18
Class #4	Wed., July 8	Fri., July 10	Sun., July 12
		Wed., July 15	Sun., July 19

Course fee will be \$75 AYH members, \$85 non AYH members includes 3 evening classroom sessions and two full days at Lake Arthur and textbook; discount of \$10 each for additional people from same family sharing textbook.

1992 Weekend Trips

May 23-25 plan for a 3 day trip with Joel Hough
July 3-5 3 day trip to Pymatuning or La Due reservoir
Aug 8-9 2 day trip
Sep 4-7 Lake Chautauqua, New York

Additional activities may be added. Individuals with their own sailboats are also welcome to join us.

Free AYH Discovery Tours Catalog

American Youth Hostels' exciting new travel program, *AYH Discovery Tours*, offers 30 low-cost hiking and cycling tours to explore the USA, Canada, and Europe in 1992.

Hiking and Cycling tours are rated for all levels of skill, from beginners to the experienced. Discovery Tours features small, friendly groups and an AYH-trained tour leader.

Cycling tours range from 12 days in California's Sierra Mountains for \$325, to a 43-day tour of six European countries for \$3,450 (land cost).

Hiking tours are the "day hike" variety, using a base camp to leave heavier packs and gear. Explore New Mexico's ancient and present-day pueblos for nine days for just \$600. Or, spend three weeks on a wilderness tour of Alaska for only \$1,350.

A number of backpacking tours are offered in Europe, including an eight-day tour of James Harriot's Yorkshire, England, for just \$500 (land costs), and a seven-day hike on Mount Blanc through France, Switzerland, and Italy for only \$650 (land cost).

All prices include overnights in hostels or campgrounds, group-prepared meals, an entertainment fund, and an AYH-trained leader. Hostels provide dorm-style accommodations with separate quarters for males and females and come in an infinite variety, from a lighthouse on the California coast to a castle in Germany.

The 24-page 1992 Discovery Tours catalog is available free of charge by writing:

AYH Discovery Tours
Pittsburgh Council AYH
6300 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Classified

BIKERS/CLIMBERS: I'm hoping to bike to the west coast this summer and do some climbing along the way. If you have any of the following that you could part with at a reasonable \$\$\$, call Mike Varlotta at 362-2614: rear rack, paniers, one-man tent, climbing shoes (8-1/2), or other essentials (?). Also, if you have "must" information and/or tips I'd be glad to hear from you.

FOR SALE: North Face VE-24 Four Season Tent. Used 25 days. \$325. Greg 378-7103. 1736 Tyler St #2, Aliquippa PA 15001.

WANTED: Photos, illustrations, slides, pictures, videos—anything visual that pertains to AYH-related topics. Send your best shots to: Editor, Golden Triangle, 6300 5th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232. All submissions will be returned unharmed.

FAMILY VACATION CAMP June 21 - Aug 30. Deer Valley YMCA near Mt. Davis - camp, in cabins, supervised kids program age 3+, and Teen Program. Complete waterfront, horses, trails, fitness center. Call (814) 662-4005, or (412) 227-3830 for brochure.

WANTED: a 1-2 person backpack, canoe, or bicycle waterproof tent in good to excellent condition. We will buy it or trade for a Eureka cabin tent with canvas walls and ceiling and waterproof floor (7'X7") in excellent condition. We also need some child's size 9-10 (small) downhill ski boots. Barbara Hanusa 441-7205

LOOKING for travel partner(s) for an adventurous trip to Europe this summer. Call Jackie at 412-761-5623.

ADVERTISE! If you are an AYH member, there is no charge for your ad. Send your ad and AYH pass number to:

Editor, The Golden Triangle
6300 5th Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Loch Ness Hostel

"Have you seen the monster?"

is the question most often asked by hostellers coming through the doors of Loch Ness Hostel. The answer has, alas, so far been no, although it was sighted from what is now the hostel common room some years ago. *Loch Ness* usually brings to mind its famous occupant, but there is far more to the Loch than just the monster and Loch Ness Youth Hostel is well situated to take advantage of this.

Located about 42 miles north of Fort William and 24 miles south of Inverness, the hostel (formerly known as Alltisiagh Hostel) is a large white building on the edge of the Loch. (See photo on the front cover.)

Little is known of the building's history although it is believed to have been both a hotel and a tearoom. The current warden, Colin Jolly, who took over the hostel earlier this year, is keen to learn more about its history and would welcome hearing from

anyone who has any recollections or photographs of hostelling at Loch Ness in the past.

The Loch seems to have a personality all its own—it changes from hour to hour, day to day and season to season. Its many faces can be seen at their best from the hostel, its grounds and the surrounding hills.

The Forestry Commission land behind the hostel offers several miles of good trails with excellent views of the Loch. The trails are suitable for hikers and bikers, and are home to an abundance of wildlife including birds of prey, butterflies, pine martins, and wild goats.

Mealluarvonie (2284 feet), the largest hill above the Loch, gives superb views of the Highland mountain ranges. On a clear day Ben Nevis and the Nevis range can be seen from the top. The surrounding area is rich in scenery and history, making the hostel an ideal base for touring by either car or public transport.

At the small village of Inversoriston (3.5 miles south), an original Thomas Telford

Bridge spans the Invermoriston Falls, a local beauty and picnic spot.

Beyond Invermoriston is the thriving highland village of Fort Augustus. The village lies at the junction of the Caledonian Canal and Loch Ness. Fort Augustus offers activity and occupation for walkers and water lovers alike with a selection of shops, places to visit and boats for hire. Two military roads wind from Fort Augustus and they offer excellent walking tours.

To the north of the hostel lies the extensive ruins of Urquhart Castle. There have been fortifications here since earliest times. The present castle's glorious career ended in the 1690's when it was blown up by the King's forces in the Jacobite rebellion. Urquhart Castle has absorbed much of the atmosphere and mystery of the Loch and it comes as no surprise to learn that the majority of the "monster" sightings have been made from within its ancient walls.

Further on, at Drumnadrochit, there are several exhibitions and visitor's centers telling the Loch Ness story. There is also a

"life size" model of the monster housed in its own mini-loch for the children.

Loch Ness Hostel is also ideally situated for cyclists. It is within easy cycling distance of several other hostels, including Cannich, Carbisdale, and Loch Lochy. It is also a popular stopping-off point for cyclists doing the Land's End to John O'Groats run.

The Hostel is a pleasant place to visit at any time of the year. It is, however, particularly attractive in the early and late season when the changing colors are at their best. It is also perhaps the time when the Loch is at its most magical and the unique atmosphere can be enjoyed in peace and tranquility. The coming year will see further excitement at Loch Ness with the commencement of a million-pound investigation into the Loch Ness Monster Mystery, which will attempt to answer once and for all the age-old question: Is there a Loch Ness Monster?

Reprinted from the Scottish Hosteller, Winter 1991.