



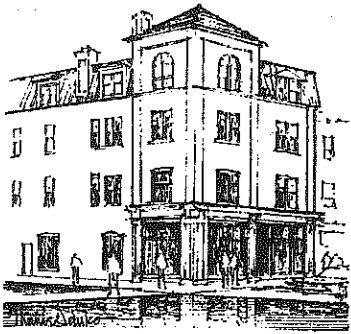
GOLDEN TRIANGLE

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 3&4

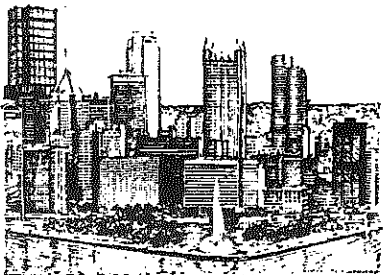
SPRING (MAY/JUNE) 1998



Hostelling - International Pittsburgh PA

NOW OPEN

A 60 bed full service hostel in a converted bank building. Free parking, travel store, handicapped accessible!



Be Sure To Visit:

- Andy Warhol Museum
- Station Square
- Nearby Southside
- The Downtown Cultural District
- Riverfront Bike Trails
- Nearby Universities
- The Carnegie Science Center
- The Zoo & National Aviary
- Phipps Conservatory
- Historic Point State Park
- Three Rivers Stadium

HI-Pgh on the information super highway, point your browser to;
<http://trfn.clpgh.org/ayh/> for the latest on activities, slide shows & local hostelling or you can email us at ayh@trfn.clpgh.org

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.....And MORE!!!

THE BANQUET IS A SUCCESS!

We had a blast, from the past that is! The banquet succeeded thanks to a great team effort! Hugh Gilmour entertained us as the master of ceremony, while Marianne and Holly gave quick summaries of the state of the union and hostelling. Glen Oster told us about the many accomplishments over the past 50 years, of which the Pittsburgh Council should be proud. He made comments about the Council's formation in 1948, the building and maintaining of trails, all the great bike events as well as the Rachel Carson Challenge, the new hostel and the many publications about flora and fauna, hiking and canoeing. He gave thanks and praise to many of those who have helped to make it a great organization and admitted that there were far too many to mention, but none-the-less just as important. He singled out many people who received rounds of applause such as Tony Prances and Betty Bier, for their foresight; Bruce Sundquist, publications; Gary Ludwig, building caretaker; Don Hoecker and Bill Eberle for the newspaper; Joe Hoechner, Public Relations; Cliff Ham, Don Woodland and Jim Ritchie, Trail Systems; Fred Hull and Roy Weil, Treasurer; Luc Berger and his predecessor for providing programs at the Thursday meetings; Steve Poprocky, storekeeper; Billie Woodland, Patty Brunner and their helpers for this wonderful banquet; all the trip leaders and activities chairs; board members for all the thankless time spent. "We have to stop somewhere with recognitions, where better than to acknowledge with sincere thanks the daily efforts of Larry Laude and Marianne Kasica in keeping the council's wheels turning. Our thanks to them and to all you regular volunteers!" We really should be quite proud of our council and its participants!

Several Tables were set up with pictures, paraphernalia, plaques and more pictures. The air was filled with laughter, wonderful music and dancing (thanks to Bruce Merritt) and a tremendous sense of camaraderie! Let's do it again soon! And don't forget the cookies!

THE 1998 GREAT RIDE

The 1998 Citiparks Great Ride will take place on July 26 this year. There will be some interesting changes, especially in the starting point, which be at the Technology Center on Second Avenue, just east of the 10th Street Bridge. The new starting point will feature lots of grass areas for relaxing before and after the ride, access to the new rail trail along the river, space for a family ride, and Free Parking!

The applications should be going out in the mail in early May. If you've ridden on the Great Ride, the Mon Valley Century, or SABRE in recent years you'll be getting an application in the mail. If you don't get one by mid-May, call Citiparks or pick one up at the AYH Activities Headquarters or the Pittsburgh Hostel.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 1998 GREAT RIDE

The Great Ride is a major fundraiser for the council and specifically the Pittsburgh Hostel. If you are available on Sunday July 26th, please help. If you are busy on Sunday (or riding!), please consider helping with preregistration on Thursday evening. We need about 40 volunteers for Sunday and about 5 for Thursday evening. We've committed to Citiparks to provide volunteers primarily for course marshals, but will also accept volunteers for other positions. Call Larry Laude at 412-665-9554 to volunteer or for questions.



UNITED WAY

*Pittsburgh Council,
AYH is a United Way
Donor Option. Our
number id #436.*

HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL

PITTSBURGH COUNCIL-AYH
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PITTSBURGH, PA 15210

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PITTSBURGH PA 15217-1458

HOSTELLING



Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels, Inc.
Serving Western Pennsylvania & West Virginia Panhandle
Since 1948, Incorporated 1955

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Brian McBane 443-8972

Cross Country Skiing
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Cycling
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Chuck Ejzak 466-6196

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Rafting
John Orndorff 741-2021

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Vernon Miller 935-3434

Sailing
Bob Zavos 241-0659

Sea Kayaking
TO BE ANNOUNCED ###-###-###

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Headquarters Programs
Luc Berger 683-3131

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Steve Poprocky 721-2429



**HOSTELLING
INTERNATIONAL**

Pittsburgh Hostel Manager
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(412-431-1267)

OhioPyle Hostel Manager
Marjorie Paqualle
(412-329-4476)

NOTICE

Please note the deadlines for future issues of the **GOLDEN TRIANGLE**

JULY
All copy, June 11
Binding/Mailing, June 25

AUGUST
All copy, July 2
Binding/Mailing, July 23

If your work is on computer,
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.

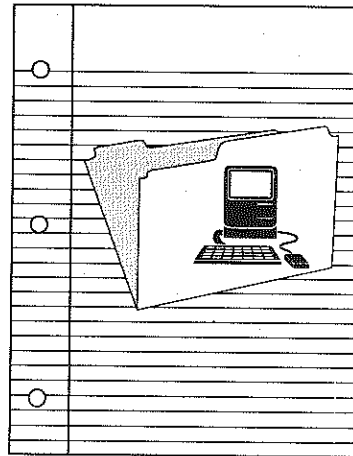
About AYH

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

- June 4:** Blanche and Jack Asherman, "A Glimpse Of Slovenia And Austria". Visit Ljubljana and Vienna. Climb Mount Triglav.
- June 11:** Fred Mauk, "AYH In The Fifties And Sixties". Twelve-hour bicycle race, Adirondacks hiking, Goodyear blimp. Part of Pittsburgh AYH 50-Year celebration.
- June 18:** Phyllis Monk, "A Pilgrimage To Israel". Bus trip from Amman, Jordan, through the border. Cave of the Dead Sea scrolls. Jericho, Haifa, Nazareth and Jerusalem.
- June 25:** We show the 16 mm film "Bear Country". Hibernation, food gathering, rearing of cubs, in the Rocky Mountains.
- July 2:** We celebrate Independence Day with a pizza party.
- July 9:** Sally Martin, "World Wander By Bicycle: Asia". She works in Mother Theresa's convent in Calcutta. Trekking from Pokara to the Annapurna range of Nepal. Trekking by elephant in Thailand.

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 412-683-3131.

Oops...

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

Mail regarding this Newsletter should be addressed to:

American Youth Hostels
The Golden Triangle
830 Warrington Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Office: (412) 431-4910
or

HI-Pgh on the information super highway,
point your browser to;
<http://trfn.clpgh.org/ayh/>
or you can email us at
ayh@trfn.clpgh.org



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)
Schellsburg, PA 15559
(814) 733-4212



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 a.m. 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.

- 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.

BICYCLING

Sat, June 13 The Allegheny Highlands Trail and It's wildflowers

Enjoy a ride on the entire length of the Allegheny Highlands Trail and back, about 32 miles. This trail follows the Casselman River. Rail trails are excellent areas for finding unusual wildflowers, so bring your identification book. Our well spaced rest stops will be wildflower stops. If the weather permits we may swim at one of the nearby state parks, after the ride. Call Joan Roof at (412)795-8345 for the time and meeting place.

Sat, July 11 The Ghost Town Trail & Local History on the Side

Follow the Blacklick Creek from coal mining town to coal mining town (some now ghost towns), and learn a little local history as we go. Swim after the ride at Yellow Creek State Park. The ride is about 32 miles long. Call Joan Roof at (412)795-8345 for the time and meeting place.

Sun, Aug 9 A Ride Around "The 'Burg"

Learn the delights of a Sunday morning ride around the most interesting Pittsburgh neighborhoods, at a laid back pace. We will look at the city from an environmentalists point of view. The cities must be made more livable, to save the countryside. How livable is Pittsburgh??? Come and judge for yourself. The bicycle gives us a perfect way to find out.)The exact route is not yet set, but it will include places like Shadyside, Squirrel Hill, The Strip, Downtown and The Southside. The Distance? Oh, maybe 25 or 30 miles. Lunch will be in a local cafe. Call Joan Roof at (412)795-8345 for the time and meeting place.)

Elizabeth Saffer died March 11, 1998

On Wednesday evening, March 11, Elizabeth Saffer, a remarkable but unsung woman, died peacefully in her sleep at Canterbury Place. She was 82 years old and a lifelong resident of Pittsburgh.

Born in Highland Park to Bertha and Maximillian Saffer, German immigrants, Liz, as she was known to her friends, went on to academic distinction at Peabody High School and PCW (now Chatham College) majoring in Chemistry.

After working in the labs of several area hospitals, destiny took hold one day in 1954. It was the day she asked Dr. Bernard Fisher for a job in his lab, with her simple description of her skills. "I like to work," she said.

From that day in 1954 until 1992, Liz Saffer embarked on an extraordinary career of service and dedication to Dr. Fisher and his history-making research on breast cancer in the United States. Dr. Fisher describes Ms. Saffer as a major contributor both in clinical studies and laboratory research on breast cancer, helping to change the way we understand and treat that disease. "I attribute much of my success to a few people, and one of them, certainly was Elizabeth Saffer," said Dr. Fisher. "She thought nothing of twelve hour days. Those were our norm." She also assisted Dr. Fisher in setting up a cancer research lab in Lima, Peru.

Somehow, Elizabeth Saffer also found time to have a rich and absorbing private life. She was one of the early founding members of the American Youth Hostel (AYH) in Pittsburgh. An avid outdoorswoman, she took great delight in long hikes both here and abroad. She was an extensive traveler and from the time she was a young woman spent a part of every summer traveling.

Her scores of slides of these journeys to Europe, to Russia, to Asia and to Africa, even to as remote a spot as Addis Ababa, spanned five decades and reveal the eye of a true artist.

However, despite having been virtually everywhere, the single Ms. Saffer had never been to Paris, because, as she told friends, she was saving it for something special.

Ms. Saffer was a truly voracious reader, fluent in Latin, Greek, and German. She was the one everyone turned to for help with the New York Times crosswords, but she herself much preferred the complexities of the double crostics. She had a deep appreciation for ethnographic art and the people who made it.

Elizabeth Saffer was renowned among her friends and colleagues for her candor, her simplicity, her wit and her sense of humor.

Once, when a friend visited her in a personal care home, Liz complained of being bored. Her friend observed that a bingo game was in progress. "I'm not that bored," Liz said.

When Ms. Saffer left Dr. Fisher's service, she literally left her shoes behind, in his office. And when Dr. Fisher in turn bid adieu to those quarters, he took everything but those shoes. "I just left them there," Dr. Fisher said. "That's where they belonged. No one is ever going to fill them. She was one of a kind."

SAILING

The AYH owns Flying Juniors, Sunfish, and an International 470. Several members also use their own sailboats. Most day sails and classes will be on Lake Arthur in Moraine State Park near Butler, Pa. Additional weekend trips and extended trips are also planned.

All trips require previous sailing experience unless otherwise stated. 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. Individuals with their own sailboats are encouraged to join our program.

June 13-14 Sat-Sun Lake Arthur Bob Zavos 241-0659

Intro. 1 hour sails to acquaint individuals with sailing.

July 17-19 Fri-Sun Toronto, Canada Bob Zavos. 241-0659

TORONTO EXCURSION-We will stay at the AYH Hostel or a Bed & Breakfast and take in great sites, culture, and restaurants. Riverdance is playing at the Hummingbird Center this weekend. Day Sailing in rented boats is available at Toronto harbor. Stop off in Niagara Falls on the way. Exact itinerary is still flexible so call early with your suggestions. Reservations and deposits will be required by July 10th.

Aug 15 Sat. Lake Arthur Sara Zavos 241-0659

WOMEN'S SUNFISH REGATTA. The Moraine Sailing Club women will race Sunfish..

Day sailing in Flying Juniors is open to everyone. Call for list of activities planned..

Aug 28/29 Sat-Sun Cleveland, Ohio Bob Zavos 241-0659

RED CROSS BASIC SAILING INSTRUCTOR This is not an ATH trip but we will coordinate a trip to Cleveland to take the Red Cross Basic Sailing Instructor course. A prerequisite is the Instructor Candidate Training course (available at the Pittsburgh Red Cross). Course fee is \$70. Upon successful completion you may meet your annual teaching requirement in our Introductory Sailing Courses.

August 1998 MAINE COAST Rick Tomlinson 814-445-3398

SAIL CRUISING - For those who may be interested in a 10-day cruise in late

August, there is still space for one or two persons, but experienced sailors only

Oct 2 8, 1998 CHESAPEAKE BAY Rick Tomlinson 814-445-3398

SAIL CRUISING - We will charter a live-aboard auxiliary sailboat and cruise the Eastern shore of Maryland. Overnight visits at Oxford and St. Michaels, MD and four nights at pristine anchorages in secluded coves on the Choptank, Little Choptank and Tred Avon rivers. This trip will be organized and skippered by Rick Tomlinson. Pointers on sail trim, departure and arrival techniques, anchoring, helmsmanship, piloting and navigation will be offered during the cruise. Cruising experience is preferred, but one or two beginners will be considered. Late boarding available.

Fees: Day sail fee at Lake Arthur is \$14 plus the AYH activity fee of \$1 for members and \$3 non-members.

Introductory Sailing Classes

PROGRAM: The course is designed to provide the student with the knowledge and skill necessary for safe participation in recreational sailing. All courses are taught by qualified instructors using lectures and discussions with strong emphasis on on-the-water experience. Upon successful completion of all requirements students may obtain a Red Cross Sailing Course certificate. **COST:** \$85 for AYH members, \$95 for non-members. The course fee includes a textbook. There is a \$10 DISCOUNT per person for two or more people who register together so bring your spouse, child or a friend. **PREREQUISITES:** All students must be able to tread water for 10 minutes, swim at least 50 yards, and be in good physical condition. Individuals with any health problem that could effect their performance or safety should inquire before enrolling. **REGISTRATION:** Participants must be at least 16 years old. Class size is limited so register early. Preference will be given to AYH members. Classes may be canceled or rescheduled due to extreme weather or low enrollment. In this case full refunds will be issued. If students cancel at least one week prior to the first classroom session they will get a full refund minus a \$5 fee. All students will be required to sign a liability waiver at the first classroom session.

CLASS SCHEDULE

	Shore School	Shore School	Water Classes
Class 1	Tue. June 16 7-9:30PM	Thur. June 18 7-9:30PM	Sat. & Sun. June 20&21 9:30-5PM
Class 2	Tue. June 16 7-9:30PM	Thur. June 18 7-9:30PM	Sun. & Sun. June 21&28 9:30-5PM
Class 3	Tue. July 7 7-9:30PM	Thur. July 9 7-9:30PM	Sat. & Sun. July 11&12 10-5:30PM

Please use the following form to enroll in classes. If you are not an AYH member you may fill in the application form that appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

1998 SAILING CLASS REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. (H) _____ (W) _____

Class desired: Class 1 _____ Class 2 _____ Class 3 _____

Fee Enclosed \$ _____ (Payable to Pittsburgh Council AYH)

Class Fee \$85 AYH members, \$95 non-members;
\$10 discount for two or more registering together.

Mail this form along with your check to:

Pittsburgh Council AYH; 830 E Warrington Ave.

Pittsburgh PA 15210; ATTN: Sailing Classes

HOSTEL HAPPENINGS MAY/JUNE 1998

by Holly Ridenour

SECOND "SUNDAE" SIDEWALK SOCIALS

Come on by for some ice cream and take a tour of the hostel. Come to the hostel the Second Sunday of every month this summer. Details in Events list.

NEW STAFF PERSON JOINS THE HOSTEL

A big welcome to Anne Armitage, newest staff person at the Pittsburgh International Hostel. Anne speaks fluent French (in fact she's also in the translating business) and some Italian. Her other interests include: thrift shopping, independent foreign travel, cooking, wine, books and cinema. As well as helping out at the front desk, Anne will be helping behind the scenes during this busy summer.

SOME COMMENTS FROM OUR GUEST BOOKS

"Thank you for providing a home during my stay in Pittsburgh:

By the way: This is the cleanest hostel I have ever stayed in!" (Yuri, Amsterdam)

"Nice place - better than a hotel that costs several times as much." (C.M.)

"Awesome - one of the nicest hostels I've stayed in anywhere in the world." (Kate, NYC)

"I've been here so many times this place is like my 2nd home. See you again. (John, OH)

"This hostel was great! Nice people, everything clean and friendly. Two thumbs up. (Anonymous)

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED!

Have some free time this summer? Learn some new skills or use your favorites! The hostel has an ongoing need for volunteers. Examples include:

*Lead walking tours or other explorations of Pittsburgh - a great chance to explain American culture and what a great city "The 'Burgh" is to international visitors.

*Learn how to present Budget Travel Workshops - this is a great chance to talk about your travel experiences and practicing public speaking. Volunteers are also needed to plan and promote these workshops.

*Expand on a history of the building we've begun - basic library skills will do the trick to find old photos, deeds, and bank robbery stories.

*We also need to put together a database of organizations to regularly receive hostel brochure mailings - it's about marketing.

*Have an idea about volunteering? We'd love to hear it! Students or others with summer time off are encouraged to contact the hostel.

HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL OHIO PYLE

With all the talk about our new Pittsburgh Hostel, sometimes we forget about our first hostel down at Ohiopyle. Marjorie Pasquale is doing a great job with running the hostel, and we've had a lot of overnights, especially this March. It's time to get back to work on maintenance on the hostel though. Simple things, such as replacing cracked glass in the windows or weeding the garden to more involved tasks such as leveling the sidewalk or repairing the fire escape. It would also be great to have some volunteer hostel managers that we can train to give Marjorie a break from the daily hostel business. Can you help? Call Marjorie at the hostel at 724-329-4476 or Larry Laude at 412-665-9554. We were down at the hostel last weekend, by the way, and Springtime on the Yough is just beautiful. Why not stay at the hostel for a day or two, do some hiking, maybe some fishing, or rafting? The rail trail is open and Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob are close by. Call Marjorie for reservations.

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

Meet other HI/AYH members, hostel guests, and the public, see the hostel, and learn more about hostelling at the following events, either as a volunteer or participant in the activities.

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 lobby is accessible to non-guests during open hours and tours are not available without prior arrangement.

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

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED THIS SUMMER

In addition to the volunteering ideas listed in the Hostel Happenings column, volunteers are needed for all the following events. Please call the Pittsburgh International Hostel to let us know how you can help make the 50th year of the Pittsburgh Council a great one here at our new hostel.

WORK PARTIES: SATURDAYS - 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. JUNE 20, JULY 25, AUG. 22, SEPT. 26

"Clean Team" will help maintain the hostel. Bring a broom and gloves if you have them.

SECOND SUNDAY SIDEWALK SOCIALS BEGIN ON MAY 10 (Mother's Day) FROM 3-5 P.M.

What would summer be without ice cream? Bring Mom and the kids by the hostel on Mother's Day, May 10, for some summer fun and the first ever Second "Sundae" Sidewalk Social. There is a small charge for refreshments. Hostel tours are free. Volunteers are needed. Second "Sundae" Sidewalk Socials will continue on the second "Sundae" of each summer month through September (June 14, July 12, August 9, and September 13).

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

UPCOMING BIKE RIDES

June 28, Heart Ride 98

Sponsored by the American Heart Association, the Heart Ride weaves through the scenic northern communities of Pittsburgh on a course designed by our friends at the Western Pennsylvania Wheelmen. Rain or Shine at the the North Park Boat House. There will be a 25 mile and 50 mile ride. For more information, contact Kathy Buzzard or Leigh Pochan at 412-243-5393 extension 113 or 117.

NOT AN AYH RIDE

July 26, The Great Ride

August 30, The Mon Valley Century

October 4, SABRE

ALASKA... THE ETERNAL MAGNET

This is the fifth and final installment of an article by Glenn Oster dealing with an HI/AYH trip that he led to Alaska this past summer. He covers the sights and adventures that they experienced in the Kenai Peninsula and gives a brief account of the trip back to Pittsburgh.

Apres Denali - the Kenai Peninsula
not sure what "apres" means, but it sounds impressive

Considering the bus trip to Wonder Lake and the marvelous sunlit view of Mount Mc Kinley, almost anything further in Denali National Park, would have been a major anticlimax. Moreover, we had gained a day by taking the boat from the Chilkoot Trail to Carcross, instead of hiking to Log Cabin, as initially planned. We reasoned that if we cut short our visit to Denali by one day, it would enable us to go to the Kenai Peninsula before Geri, Tom and Greg had to return home. That became, as Doctor Seuss would say, a "go dog go," and go we did the next morning. On the way to Anchorage, there were several spots where we could see Mount Mc Kinley from the highway. Although Mc Kinley was off in the distance, the morning was sunny, and you could see it clearly. The views were unexpected bonuses. By afternoon, we had our first look at Anchorage. We liked what we saw. It's a modern city, small by our standards, but clean and upbeat in appearance. In 1964, much of the city was destroyed in a monstrous earthquake in excess of nine on the Richter Scale. All of that damage meant new construction, and Anchorage's growth has meant new construction. No wonder it looks so new and shiny.

This was not the time to explore all the nooks and crannies of Anchorage; our destination was the city of Seward, down the Kenai Peninsula. There continued to be good mountain and lake scenery as we drove, although it became overcast once we left Anchorage. The overcast took on a more severe stage - hard rain and high wind - just as we reached Portage Glacier; we retreated quickly to the warm and dry visitor center. It has great sight and sound videos of glaciers calving, lots of them. Also, it commands a good view of the massive glacier and its spawned icebergs. But the wind was furious and the rain intense; so, this one we saw mostly from indoors. When we left, the worst of the rain was over, and we drove around a bit looking at its waterfalls and other attractions.

We were more interested in reaching another glacier near Seward, Exit Glacier. You can walk right to this one and touch it if you want, involving only a quarter mile stroll, mostly on asphalt paving. Not only that, but part of our group walked a trail that takes you up higher, to an overlook that offers a still better view of the glacier. Minerals in the ice gave the crevasses a light blue color, even though there was no sunlight to draw it out. Fortunately for those who will view my slides of the trip, I ran out of film here and had to go back to the van for more. The rain resumed while I was reloading; so, I chickened out and awaited the return of the others, disgustingly dry.

Shortly after leaving Exit Glacier, we were in Greater Seward. That's like saying Greater Zelenople, Pa. With the exception of Anchorage, all these Alaskan cities were postage-stamp sized. We found a city campground and set up our tents. Soon afterwards, we had dinner in a restaurant that was a bit posh for us. We had followed a recommendation of a local that this was a "moderately" priced, but nice, place. We did have good meals, though, and were ready for that after Denali's slim pickens. I can still see that attractive plate of sauteed prawns inviting me to fulfill their destiny. I was happy to comply. Last task for the evening was to buy our tour boat tickets for the planned morning trip.

Now was to come another of the highlights of the trip, a tour into Kenai Fjords National Park. Morning. Dull, overcast, and lightly sprinkling - some called it "spritzing." We boarded the good ship Northland and soon trolled out into Resurrection Bay. The most exciting event in the bay was seeing a sea otter about thirty feet off the port side of our boat. This little guy was about four feet long and looked content and happy with his station in life. I swear he had a smile on his face under his big mustache. He, I assume, was floating on his back with his front paws crossed over his chest and his feet straight up. What a ham! He wasn't the least intimidated by the boat and all those people looking at him. I think he especially liked Geri - which most likely accounted for his smile. As we sailed farther out toward the Gulf of Alaska, we again saw the steep mountains rising sharply from the water. The captain took us close to these huge rock faces to show us the caves that had been created by the ceaseless attacks of the waves. He also showed us hundreds of white birds that took refuge on, and essentially covered, nearby rocks. He also knew where we could find some puffins. They are so unusual, with colorful heads almost like a parrot. I was surprised that they are smaller birds than I would have guessed, about six to eight inches tall. We were told that puffins are more comfortable on the water than in the air. They weren't the only critters to seek out rocks - sea lions - big ones, and many of them - were plastered all over every available square inch of rock. We got up close and had good looks at them, lazy rascals that they were. They showed no fear - just ignored us and continued being busy at - doing nothing.

We put in at Fox Island for lunch, and what a lunch it was! This was the salmon bake that we thought we were getting in Juneau. It was good and as much as you could eat. Then, back onto the Northland and out into the water again. We wanted to see orca (killer) whales - you know, like Shamu at Sea World. We had seen a few tails surfacing before lunch, but now we were seeing them in pods as large as seven. When the whales surfaced, the passengers went berserk. Several times I came close to having my camera knocked out of my hand - I learned to hold it with a viselike grip. I took a number of marginal shots, but my guess as to where they were going to surface was always wrong. Phyllis took a great shot of one surfacing close to the boat. My action shot skills need overhauling.

While we were oohing and ahing over the whales, Bear Glacier was in full view. It is a picture perfect, quintessential glacier that flows right to the sea. If we hadn't already seen a dozen of so good ones, this one would have gotten serious attention. For that matter, I don't recall anyone commenting about or even looking at it, although I notice a picture of it in Phyllis's disks. From my standpoint, I thought it was one of the natural wonders of the world.

Our fortunes began to change for the worse. By early afternoon, the waves became higher, and the boat pitched quite a bit. As one looked around the boat, especially inside, there were green faces, and pretty soon that included me. The captain decided that it was becoming too rough to go all the way into Kenai Fjords National Park, turned the boat around and returned to Seward. No one complained. We were surprised to get a \$35 rebate. That was more than enough to pay for our dinner that evening.

Moods were becoming melancholy now. It was time to begin the long trek home. On our way back to Anchorage, we stopped at Bear Creek to see salmon swimming upstream and jumping over a small waterfall. It's amazing the power that they have in their tails to thrust themselves through the air, both upward and forward. Surely glad we didn't miss that experience. We went on to the Russian River where salmon reportedly run wall to wall. However, our timing wasn't right for that. On the other hand, fisher persons (Is that politically correct?) were pulling out trout two feet long - using only flies. Wow! Alaska is fisher person heaven.

Time to go Home; all good things must come to an end - On to Anchorage we traveled, and, after a good luncheon at Humpy's, we took Geri, Tom and Greg to the airport - a sad goodbye. Wonderful people to be with, no grouching, even though often crowded in the van. Wayne, Phyllis and I went back to the HI/AYH Hostel to spend the night. Wayne was ahead of schedule and, later that day, tried to get an early flight for Seattle. No way, not a seat for two days and then, only the one that was reserved for him. As I said earlier, everyone is going to Alaska. To add insult, when Wayne came back from the airport rather late that night, someone was sleeping in his bunk - he slept outside. What a bummer!

By this time Phyllis was in sensory overload and didn't really want to hit all the national parks that I had advertised as stops on the return trip. It didn't affect me adversely - I've seen them all many times. However, driving the Icefields Parkway from Jasper to Banff, Alberta was along the way. The scenery there never fails to get my attention, with its snow-covered mountains, spectacular waterfalls, glaciers, wildlife, turquoise lakes and bicycle tourists all along its 140-mile span.

Waterton National Park; wondered if I'd ever see it in this lifetime -- The one place on the way home that I hadn't visited before is Waterton National Park in Alberta. This park is an extension of USA's Glacier National Park. We spent all morning there and enjoyed it, even if it was modest in comparison with some of the other places we had been on the trip. It was a warm, sunny day and the scenery was alive. There were mountain ranges climbing high, sharply pointed red rock peaks, a multiplicity of wildflower types and colors, blue lakes, black bears and a very unusual hotel building. It was a morning well spent.

We made good time driving home. Montana has no daytime speed limit and some of the other states have 75 mile limits; so, the miles went whizzing by. We had rented a 97-Plymouth Grand Voyager, and it turned out to be an excellent vehicle for the trip throughout the 12,000 miles that we drove it.

Finis; eh eh, that's all there is folks - there ain't no more -- We're all back home now, and life has returned to normal - well sort of. On the heels of a trip like that, I wonder if one ever gets totally back to normal. I've talked with several people who found that Alaska's magnetism reasserted itself after their return. Will I be able to resist the force if that magnetism again works its wiles on me? I'm willing to find out. After all, I've become really good at scratching that itch.

ADOPT THE BAKER TRAIL

There are a few sections of the Baker Trail available for an outdoors-minded, responsible individual who isn't afraid to get their hands dirty and who wants to make a contribution to the world of hiking. These sections require a 1 to 2 hour drive from Pittsburgh, probably up PA Route 28 through Kittanning. It's possible to do all your work in one day each year. If you are interested, call me, Jim Ritchie, 828-0210, and I will send you a map; you can check out the trail on your own; if you are still interested, call me again, and I will arrange to meet you on the trail to give you some supplies and provide about one hour of on-the-job training. Take a look at these:

- 1. Clarion/Jefferson Counties, Corsica to Mill Creek. This section is mostly rural dirt and paved roads; the last 4 miles are along a gas line, over hill and dale, ending at Mill Creek. Easy maintenance.
- 2. Clarion County, Mill Creek to Sigel Road. Up the wild Pendleton/Spangler Run drainage. Big trees, wild water, isolation, then a couple miles of easy dirt road maintenance (blaze telephone poles); back in the woods by Updike Run and then along a private dirt road to Sigel Road.
- 3. Clarion County, Sigel Road to Gravel Lick. Mostly wooded trail, down the beautiful hollow of Cathers Run to the Clarion River. A small piece on the south end of Cook Forest State Park, along the River.

Call Jim Ritchie, 828-0210.

ROCK-CLIMBING

Rock Out With AYH!

The AYH Rock Climbing program is a great way to experience the thrill of rock climbing. Our Beginner trips are focused on teaching "never evers" the basics of rock climbing. AYH supplies the climbing gear plus a group of experienced climbers to set up the climbs and teach the course. All you need to bring is a bag lunch, water, and a sunny disposition. Wear loose-fitting, comfortable clothes (shorts and T-shirts in the summer) and tennis shoes. It's not a bad idea to pack raingear in the event of a late-afternoon thunderstorm.

Beginner trips are held at Coopers Rocks State Forest, Exit 15 on Rt 68, east of Morgantown, WV. Trips leave from AYH headquarters at 7:30 am. We arrive at Coopers Rocks around 9:30 am and take a short walk to the climbing area. We are back at the cars by 4:30 or so. Many climbers stop at a local restaurant for dinner before driving back to Pittsburgh. We arrive back at AYH headquarters before 8 pm.

Cost is \$10 for AYH members (\$12 for non-members). Gas money (\$5, if you car pool from AYH Headquarters) and dinner are NOT included in the trip fees. Beginner trip fees break down as follows:

- \$3 activity fee, for first-timers only
- \$3 harness/helmet rental, if you don't own your own
- \$3 rope fee for periodic rope replacements
- \$1 AYH registration fee (\$3 for non members)

Experienced climbers are welcome on our "Beginner" trips since we top-rope climbs of varying difficulty (through 5.10). Seneca Prep trips teach seconding skills in preparation for a multi-pitch climbing trip to Seneca Rocks. The AYH climbers also make frequent "unofficial" trips to Seneca Rocks, New River Gorge, the Gunks, and local climbing areas. Several AYH climbers can be found hanging out (pun intended) at The Climbing Wall (in The Factory on Penn Avenue) on Thursday nights from 7 to 9:30 pm before retiring to the Evergreen pub (also on Penn Avenue) for a few cold ones and to make plans for the coming weekend.

To find out more about the AYH climbing program, call Jim "Woj" Wojciechowski @ 412-322-4524 or Vern Miller @ 724-935-3434. To sign up for a specific trip, call the Trip Leader listed in the table below. Trip size is limited. Call the Trip Leader (not the climbing chairmen) to sign up.

1998 AYH ROCK CLIMBING TRIPS

DATE/DAY	LEVEL	TRIP LEADERPHONE
June 14 Sun	Beginner	Barb Homistek (412) 687-7328
June 28 Sun	Seneca Prep	Pat Holtzinger (412) 343-8379
July 10-12	Seneca Rocks	Jim "Woj" Wojciechowski (412) 322-4524
July 26 Sun	Beginner	Dave Hartman (412) 821-3796
August 8 Sat	Beginner	Tom Kaveney (412) 276-8044
August 29 Sat	Seneca Prep	Pat Holtzinger (412) 343-8379
Sept 11-13	Seneca Rocks	Jim "Woj" Wojciechowski (412) 322-4524
Sept 26 Sat	Beginner	Dave Hartman (412) 821-3796

NOTE: Saturday, June 27th and Sunday, August 30th are make-up dates in the event a Beginner trip is rained out

HIKING/BACKPACKING/TRAILS

June 6 Saturday You are the Leader!
National Trails Day, USA. Today is National Trails Day. Plan to "Take a Hike" on your favorite trail today. You can hike in the city or county parks, the state parks or forests, or even the AYH Rachel Carson or Baker Trails. If you'd like some suggestions, call Jim at 828-0210.

June 13 Saturday Leo Stember 681-1385
Trail Maintenance, Rachel Carson Trail. Work sites will be selected from the most needy areas along the trail. Lite maintenance: blazing, trimming with loppers and bowsaws, picking up trash-last chance to get the trail ready before the quasi-Challenge on June 20. Call Leo for the meeting time and place and for additional instructions.

June 14 Sunday Jim Ritchie 828-0210
Trail Maintenance, Baker Trail, Cochran's Mill to Idaho. We will hike and work for the two miles from Cochran's Mill past Cherry Run (wet crossing). Then we will blaze and trim along the road from Cherry Run to the Idaho shelter spur. Some interesting "front" country, as opposed to "back" country. Call Jim to sign up and make arrangements to meet.

June 20 Saturday Jim Ritchie 828-0210
Leo Stember 681-1385
Rachel Carson Trail Challenge, North Park to Harrison Hills. Even though there is no formally organized 1998 Rachel Carson Trail Challenge, some of the gang from the past two years will be getting together to do it on their own. Car pools may be formed and water and food may be stashed along the route. If you are interested, call Jim or Leo and get your name on the list; all names will be shared with others. There will also be two question-and-answer sessions with time to make arrangements with others (where/when to meet, transportation/shuttles), at 7:30 PM on Thursday night, June 11th and June 18th. Past Challengers will be available for questions. No formal support will be provided, however.

July 18 Saturday Jim Ritchie 828-0210
Trail Maintenance, Baker Trail, Bethel Twp. Maintenance Bldg. to Crooked Creek Dam. Mostly, we need to put up fresh blazing, trim away the vegetation, pick up trash, cut the overgrowth back a little. See Cook's Summit, the Llama farm, and Walter's latest bridge. If we're there late enough, we may stop and eat dinner at Pitzer's.

August 15 Saturday Patti Brunner 325-3224
Trail Maintenance, Baker Trail, Crooked Creek @ Kerr Road

August 29 Saturday Jim Ritchie 828-0210
Trail Maintenance, Baker Trail, Heathville or Ford City

August 30 Sunday Leo Stember 681-1385
Trail Maintenance, Rachel Carson Trail, LaFever Hill or ??? as needed.

SEA-KAYAKING

June 6-7 Lake Erie Vickie Gotaskie 344-4929
Experienced beginners

June 9 North Park Lake Russ Tague 331-2073
Jill Sameth 531-9062
Beginners intro.

June 16 Paddlers Dinner Fran Fleming 363-1221
City Grill; 6:45 P.M. 2019 E. Carson St. S.Side or fxfx@ibm.net

June 27 Kiski River; Saltsburg to Appollo Barb Peterson 371-2506
Paddle & optional bike ride

July 11-12 Crooked Creek Lake Dave Engel 363-3367
Beginners welcome

July 18 Allegheny River Pam Snyder 724-545-2333
Parker to East Brady

July 18-19 Summerville Lake; West Virginia Vickie Gotaskie 344-4929
River & lake paddle; Experienced beginners

July 25 Ed & Vickie's Nicholson Island Ed Divers & Vickie Gotaskie 344-4929
Allegheny River beginner trip

Sept 18-20 Pymatuning Lake & Conneaut Marsh Barb Peterson 371-2506

Sept 24-Oct 5 Lake Powell, Utah Gary McCormick 885-0712
Sea kayaking, canoeing, hiking, backpacking

Oct 9-11 Eddie's Kinzua Fall Foliage Trip Fran Fleming 363-1221
Barb Peterson 371-2506
Allegheny Reservoir; Kayak camping Experienced beginners or fxfx@ibm.net

NOTE: Canoes are welcome on most sea kayak trips. Check with trip leader.

FOOT NOTES TRAIL - MAINTENANCE NEWS

by jim ritchie

1998 holds the promise of being a very good year for AYH hiking trails; it's mid-May as I write this and I've already logged more than 100 phone calls, letters, and emails from volunteers and other friends of the trails. Not only that, but guess what??? Trail maintenance has become high chic!!! Not only is AYH going about taking care of its hiking trails, not only is KTA (the Keystone Trails Association), jumping up and down to Keep Trails Alive in western Pennsylvania, but now the North Country Trail Association (NCTA), the loose-knit organization spearheading the building of the NCT (it is not done) and its long-term maintenance, has literally exploded into furious activity with two new chapters, Butler County (Bryan Koehler is the Prez), and Clarion County (Carol Atwood, Prez), a new State Coordinator (Bob Tait of Butler) and the possibility of two more chapters before this page is in your hands (Beaver/Lawrence Counties-Richard Lutz/Denny Shepard-and the Allegheny National Forest-Don Dorn country).

The AYH connection is, of course, the Baker Trail, which shares approximately 20 miles of treadway with the North Country Trail, from the Allegheny National Forest through Cook Forest to the Clarion River. In fact, AYH volunteers Jim Ritchie and Bob Roth, with help from friend-of-the-Baker Trail Greg Burkett (Cook Forest Ranger), are the official NCT maintainers on those miles.

Closer to home, 1998 should be the year we start converting some of our blazing to plastic; the Rachel Carson Homestead Association (Mark Tomlinson), as you know, obtained a grant last year from Eastern Mountain Sports (Kim Davis-Monroeville) for improvements to be made to the Rachel Carson Trail. We have been field-testing plastic blazes over the winter, and are now ready to go on the trail with them. Mark should have the 1st batch done before you read this newsletter.

Gerry Vaerewyck, of Tarentum, and friends (Mary V., Coleman and Sean Griffin, Gene Pochapsky, Bruce Taylor, P.J. and small persons Richard, Joseph, and Robert Vaerewyck) have rehabilitated the Milo Weaver Shelter on the Baker Trail, much to the delight of the Weavers. Gerry and crew went up to MWS in January and early February, in the cold, and removed the old roof, disposed of it, put up the new roof, with new sheathing and shingles, treated the wood with interior insect/fungicide, dug the foundation out of the hillside, put the whole shelter on a new foundation, and cleared out all the brush in which it had become entangled. The whole package was then given a redwood stain coating. Show your enthusiasm by USING the shelter this summer; the Weavers are anxious to have guests at the shelter.

Gerry has been providing outstanding service to the Baker Trail and has always been helpful and enterprising. Next, Gerry plans to tackle the Idaho Shelter, sometime soon, clear out all the brush overgrowing it, and perform the necessary repairs to the roof, the foundation, the floors and the walls.

Dave Galbraith, from Brookville, called to tell us he has a couple of scouts who will be going out for their Eagle badge this year and that at least one of them may choose to rebuild one of our missing shelters as their Eagle project. In particular, Dave and one of the boys, have been scouting out the shelter site near North Freedom. However, instead of using the very public and high-traffic site used before, the shelter might be placed across Sandy Lick Creek and downstream a little ways in a grove of hemlock trees.

Everyone wants to do trail work!!!! New volunteers for the new season include: Dennis and Lynn Radovich and son (Tarentum), for work on the RCT, Bill Dimitroff (Carnegie) on the RCT, Don Erdeljac has adopted a section of the RCT and it is already spiffed up better than ever, Monique Nagel and her group of 19 looking for a group project on the RCT and to help with the 1999-RCT Challenge, John Huffman joined friend Mike Franusich at Long Run on the RCT in March, and Don Liebel (New Kensington) has adopted a section of the RCT. Vince Roelf, not a new volunteer but returning from some time out west, has been out removing winter blowdowns on both the RCT, in Harrison Twp., and the BT near Cherry Run.

Old friends who have already filed trail reports for 1998 or who have called to renew their allegiance for 1998 include Mike Blackwell, a two-time Challenge finisher who now would like to Aput-back@ and adopt a section of the trail, Mike Franusich, who worked with adopters Barbara Peterson and Dana Overmyer as their chain-saw sidekick worked on the Long Run cleanup in March, Vince Roelf was at Long Run, Mike Krempaski of Pennsylvania DCNR called to get the info needed to put the Baker Trail into a series of new tourism guidebooks for western PA counties, and Brien Palmer (Apollo) called to give me the skinny on the condition of the Baker near Horney Camp Run. We had a slew of Challenge volunteers including adopt-a-trail volunteers Mary Pitzer and Patti & Steve Brunner. Pat Thompson called to report the logging at Long Run on the RCT-that's her section; other new volunteer contacts: Benjamin Venator, Keith Walkowiak of Slippery Rock, Marjie Marmozette and Vaughn Busch, veteran Challengers, emailed their interest in doing some weekend trail maintenance.

Other bits and pieces of trail news: Dave Galbraith says the Heathville Bridge may be reconstructed this year, re-establishing the Baker on its original route. Glenn Oster, long time AYH trail builder, trail hiker and all-around world adventurer, is stepping down from the NCTA board position he has held for numerous years, as the Association phases out its AAffiliate@ representation on its National Board; Jill Parnham of Hampton Township has indicated that the Township may hold a special trail event on the Rachel Carson Trail on June 6 in celebration of National Trails Day.

The trail maintenance trip on April 25th, to Bethlehem Chapel on the Baker Trail was a great success. The objective was to "fix" the trail where a huge strip mining operation had dug it up, lost forever. Fortunately, with the help of Jim Hummel, who lives nearby in Heathville, and who knows every inch of the backcountry around there, we were able to locate and establish a new route giving wide berth to the stripped out area. New blazes on the old parts of the trail should provide several more years of use between Fry Road and Red Bank Creek. Also helping were Karl Gundlach, Matt Feters, and Paul Hodor, and the indomitable Denise Wessels.

The Rachel Carson Trail hike on April 26 was nearly a washout with an all-day steady rain. Nine out of 10 trippers called to cancel; fortunately Becky Lacour saved the day. She and I hiked the 8 _ miles from the North Park terminus to Route 910 in Dorseyville, in the rain ("rain is not a reason to not hike"-Jim Ritchie, 1998). Sometimes the best hikes come from the worst circumstances: Crouse Run was a raging torrent and, as we approached the first of two crossings, I had my doubts. I said I didn't especially feel like crossing it: 15 feet wide, running at least over our knees, up over its banks, muddy and crashing through the valley. So, we scaled a wash 50 yards up the steep hillside above a cliff on Crouse Run, traversed laterally near the top for about 100 yards, and then came down the very next wash, putting us exactly where the trail re-crossed the Run to our side of the stream. A tough move, physically, but satisfying in its success.

Leo Stember and his crew of maintainers went out on April 18th to fix up the Rachel Carson Trail between Crouse Run and Middle Road. Joining Leo were Don Erdeljac, Lyn & Mike Walters, Dennis Radovich, Brian DiPietro, and the indomitable Laura Butler. I had a chance to inspect their work on my hike, April 26th, and, let me say, if you want to see how a trail should look, go out there and look for yourself—a great job!!

CANOEING

Saturday June 6th, Moving Water School. Call for details. Ellie Stanton, 412-661-5585

Saturday June 13th & Sunday June 14th, Brian McBane, 724-443-8972.

Saturday June 20th, Class I - II trip. call for details. Brian McBane, 724-443-8972

Saturday June 27th, Class II canoe school. Call for details. Jon Maiman, 412-441-2306

Thursday evening July 2nd to Sunday July 5th (July 4th weekend), Class I - II canoe camping. Call early for details and reservations. Jon Maiman, 412-441-2306.

Saturday July 11th, Moving water school. Call for details. Rich Gemeinhart, 412-462-1876

Friday July 17th to Sun July 19th, Class I canoe camping. Call for details. George Schnakenberg, 412-731-3046

CLASSIFIED

All trips and products listed here are private and are not sponsored or endorsed by American Youth Hostels. Non-commercial ads are free for members. Contact the Editor for more info on Ads for Members and Non-members.

For sale: International 470 Sailboat. One of eight Olympics class sailboats. 1971 Vintage, good condition, newer sails, original trailer, cover. \$850. Call Bob at 412-241-0659 or email to ZavosRJ@ch.etn.com

For sale: Sailboat. American classic O'Day Widgeon 15 ft daysailer w/ trailer and 2 sails. Blue/white in good condition. Will deliver. \$975 or best offer. Call 800-813-6336.

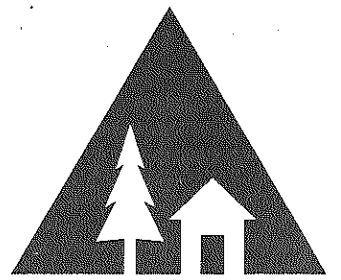
For Sale: North Face Back Magic, external frame backpack; flexhip joints, heavy duty, large capacity. Will deliver. \$75.00 obo. Call 304-233-5960.

For Sale: Schwinn World Sport 12-speed road bike, woman's model; blow those mountain bikes off the road, \$25, 828-0210.

For Sale: Tent - Sierra Designs "Clip-Flashlight", 2 person, superlightweight, footprint, extra pole, excellent condition, \$125. Sleeping Bag - North Face Littlefoot, Polyester, child/small adult, 20 degrees, excellent condition, \$60. Call 724-337-1366.

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

Editors Note: Due to Circumstances beyond the control of The Pittsburgh Council of American Youth Hostels, There was not a Volume 3, May 1998 issue Published. The Volume 4, June 1998 Issue was combined with May to form this Volume 3&4, Spring Issue. Thank you...



**HOSTELLING
INTERNATIONAL**

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

