

# The Golden Triangle

Pittsburgh Council

American Youth Hostels

Volume 40 Number 10

October, 1989

## COUNCIL ELECTIONS ARE THIS MONTH!

BE SURE TO VOTE!  
BALLOT INCLUDED

### Slide Programs for October

October 5  
Tour Israel  
with Joe Levine

October 12  
Bicycling the  
C&O Canal towpath  
with Glenn Oster

October 19  
An outdoor spectacular  
by Joe Korona  
Professional Photographer

October 26  
Join Joe & Cheryl  
Honeymooning in Colorado

"We need shows for November"  
say Rodney Horner (339-0944)  
& Bob Goff (761-2837)



## CHACO CANYON REVISITED

by Bob Rebholz

### Part II

We were up with the sun the following morning for a hike to Penasco Blanco, in the Canyon's northwest corner.

The trail to Penasco Blanco follows and crosses Chaco Wash, then ascends the West Mesa. On the way, Jack and I took a short side trip to see an Anasazi pictograph depicting what is believed to be the explosion, in 1054 AD, of a supernova associated with the Crab Nebula. If true, it is the only representation of the event in the Western Hemisphere – indeed, the only reference to the event outside of China and Japan.

Penasco Blanco's location atop the West Mesa provides a sweeping view of Chaco Canyon to the southeast. Only partly excavated, a huge earthen mound just outside the ruin is littered with thousands of potsherds.

As on our hike to Pueblo Alto the day before, we were alone. It occurred to me – as I strolled the perimeter of Penasco Blanco – that Chaco, being more isolated, more primitive and much less crowded than the better known Anasazi ruins at Mesa Verde (148 miles north, in southern Colorado), is thus more leisurely and thoroughly explored (those of you who've seen the macadam rolled right up to the edge of Grand Canyon or who've spent a week-end in Yosemite Valley know exactly what I mean).

Our third hike in as many days took us to the ruin of Tsin Kletsin, on the South Mesa. The trail to Tsin Kletsin is, to my mind, the most difficult of Chaco's

backcountry trails, featuring an elevation gain of 500 feet in short order over fairly rugged terrain.

From Tsin Kletsin it is possible to view other Chacoan communities in and around the Canyon, including Pueblo Alto, Penasco Blanco and Kin Kletso, suggesting that this particular site may have served to link Chaco visually with the world beyond the Canyon.

As I searched the horizon for other ruins with my field glasses, I began to appreciate the insight of these allegedly "primitive" people. The Chacoan Anasazi. The Chacoan Anasazi must have realized that the only practical means of survival in such a forbidding place was a system of widely dispersed communities – each supporting an optimum population relative to available water and carrying capacity of the land – thereby ensuring that no one settlement was pivotal to survival of the community as a whole.

Despite initial impressions to the contrary, Chaco Canyon is far from barren: a surprising variety of wildlife inhabits the Canyon, including small mammals, predators, birds, lizards and snakes. It just takes a little time to see the life around you; a little time for your eyes to adjust to flickering movement at vision's periphery.

It's important to appreciate Chaco's mammalian wildlife at a distance; Bubonic plague (that's right, folks – the Black Death!) is endemic to New Mexico and is borne by

(continued on page 4)



## COUNCIL NEWS

### ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

OCTOBER 20, 1989

#### LASAGNA DINNER AT VINTAGE

401 N. Highland Avenue (across from Sears in E. Liberty)

Price for dinner is \$5.00\*

Socialize 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Dinner 8:00 pm

You must reserve for dinner by October 13 with Marianne Kosica at 921-5272 (H) or 648-7778 (W). Elections will be held afterwards with cake & coffee. \*Admission is free without dinner.

### CHICAGO TO WELCOME AYH AT 1989

#### NATIONAL MEETING

Tall skyscrapers, world class museums and the city's fabulous lake front are only a few of the attractions awaiting AYHers who attend the 1989 National Council Meeting at the Bismark Hotel in Chicago November 17 - 19.

Every National Meeting is packed with informative seminars and workshops as well as lively debate and voting on important AYH issues. But most active hostellers will also want to take advantage of the cultural highlights and other attractions the host city has to offer.

You can take a few extra days at the Bismark, or enjoy the hospitality of Tom Arnold's Chicago International Youth Hostel. Even if you can't take the extra time, there's plenty to do near the hotel during the weekend.

Registration forms have already been sent to councils and hostels. For more information, telephone the Chicago Council at (312) 327-8114. ☞

### HEADQUARTERS MAINTENANCE

The second monthly headquarters work party is scheduled for 6 pm Thursday October 12. Depending on how much we get done on September's work party and depending on the daylight and weather, I hope to finish up some painting. Otherwise, we'll do some quick cleanup outside. If you'd like to help (or maybe just watch), come to Headquarters anytime after 6 pm. We'll supply the equipment and supplies if you'll supply the labor. Call Larry Laude at 665-9554 if you have any questions or any suggestions for work that needs to be done. ☞

### Deadlines for November Issue

All Copy  
October 5

Binding and Mailing  
October 19

### ACTIVITIES BOARD

The Activities Board Meeting will be October 4 at 8:00 pm at Cliff & Marilyn Ham's home. It will be the BUDGET MEETING so activity chairpersons and others should have already submitted their budgets and inventories. If you have not, call Fred Hull immediately. ☞

### HELP WANTED

Person to take messages from AYH answering machine for months of October and November and forward to others for action. Estimated time 1 hour per week. Touch tone phone required. Call Larry Laude at 665-9554. ☞

Person to process mail orders for membership on a weekly basis. The time required varies with the time of year, but should average 2 to 3 hours per week. Need to come to Headquarters each Thursday or arrange to get the mail. Call Joe Levine at 421-9706. ☞



Happy Halloween

# THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



## We're here to have fun... and yet there's more...

At a recent board meeting, we were discussing the directions the Council should take. One of the members said that "we're here to have fun", speaking of taking part in the activities Pittsburgh Council has to offer. I have no reason to disagree with that—I was looking for people to cycle with when a friend introduced me to AYH. But I also think that there's a side to AYH that goes beyond participating in activities, and that's the larger role of service to our community. I believe in offering the idea of hosteling to as many people as possible and to offer facilities and activities based on that idea. Hosteling—getting to know our world, its people and, yes, ourselves

through inexpensive outdoor recreation and travel—has a great deal to offer to people of all ages. I think we all recognize that and perhaps that's why many of us have come to think of AYH as family. That's also why it's been my personal goal to challenge Pittsburgh Council to continue to grow beyond being an outings club and into the broader role of community service. In more specific terms, I see that as bringing a hostel to Pittsburgh and to other areas in Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia so that others can come to visit us; to offer more interpretive programming so that we and our neighbors can learn more about the world around us; and to offer more in the way of hosteling services so that individuals can learn how to go

out and do it on their own. To me this is such a great idea that it always surprises me that more members and the public in general aren't coming knocking on the door wanting to know what needs to be done next: trails, education of the public, marketing, hostel development, slide shows for your local high school, home hostels and so much more. And even if sometimes it's not always fun, it is always rewarding.

So how about it? If you or someone you know would be interested in helping to make this all happen, give me a call. Or just let me know whether you agree or disagree. You might also like to come to the Annual Meeting and express your opinions there. *Larry Laude*

## WHY HOSTEL?

by Steve Poprocky

Travel is in everyone's plans, whether it's a day trip, short weekend away or an out of the country adventure. Hostels offer clean safe overnight accommodations at a reasonable price. What else can one ask for? American Youth Hostels are part of a worldwide International Youth Hostel Organization. Hostels have a common room which is the perfect place to meet people, to strike up exciting conversations of one's travels and destinations and to learn about other cultures, ways of life and geographical features. Most accommodations are dormitory type but vary in the number of persons that can be put in a room. They provide a fully equipped

kitchen or some serve meals. Location and details about U.S. Hostels can be found in the AYH Handbook which comes free with your AYH membership.

Don't let the word "youth" keep you away because most of our Pittsburgh Council members are between 25 years and 65 years old. This council has meetings every Thursday evening starting at 8:00 pm. The members are a wonderful source of information. If you're planning a trip, especially outside the U.S.,



there is a good chance one of our members has already been there and can supply helpful hints on preparation. It's a good chance to get to know more about the local Western Pennsylvania area where AYH runs most of its activities. Pittsburgh Council has a wide range of outdoor activities for you to participate in and enjoy. Lastly we are entertained every week with a slide show and informative talk on someone's trip.

You do not have to be a member to attend the meetings or go on activity trips. Please stop by and say hello. For more information contact the Pittsburgh Council AYH at 362-8181.



## (CHACO CANYON...)

*continued from page 1*

fla infested Jackrabbits, ground squirrels, etc.

A word or two on snakes: avoid them. Actually, rattlesnakes are probably less of a problem during the intense heat of day than you might imagine; just tread carefully and don't walk around camp barefoot after sunset.

After returning from our hike to Penasco Blanco, Jack and I decided on some serious bird watching, so we found ourselves a nice cool spot near a stand of cottonwoods along Chaco Wash. As we approached the Wash, we encountered a badger moving about in the scrub. The badger stopped and turned to face us—as if to demand an explanation of our intrusion... and, I think, to warn us. We gave the badger plenty of room.

Inside of ninety minutes we'd identified a dozen or so birds, including mead-

owlarks, towhees, phoebes, horned larks, swallows, wrens, mockingbirds, shrikes, grosbeaks and sparrows.

Pueblo Bonito is the largest, most elaborate and thoroughly excavated of the ruins in Chaco Canyon. At its peak, Pueblo Bonito contained 600 rooms and 40 kivas, stood up to four stories high and housed perhaps 1,000 people.

What amazes me most about Chaco in general and Pueblo Bonito in particular is that its ruins contain hundreds of stones, each cut and carried from the surrounding cliffs, hand dressed and fit into place one atop the other by ancient human hands. This architectural masterpiece was built while Europeans were, for the most part, still living in mud huts. The Chacoan Anasazi accomplished their miracles with out aid of wheeled vehicles, metal tools or draft animals.

Standing in a meticulously constructed doorway late one afternoon I

began to imagine the sounds, sights, and smells of 1,000 years ago: a group of women grind corn with stone metates; across the plaza, several men enter a kiva in some ritual to the setting sun (or, as Jack put it, to enjoy an Anasazi bachelor smoker); above me, the sound of sandaled feet shuffling from room to room; the pungent aroma of dozens of mesquite fires burning throughout the pueblo.

It is not clear why the Chacoan system collapsed. It is known that a prolonged drought of fifty years duration—involving the entire San Juan River Basin—began around 1130 AD. By 1132 AD, construction in the Canyon ceased and by 1180 AD Chaco was virtually abandoned.

The Chacoan Anasazi are gone now, but their essence remains—in their superb architecture, in their rock art, in their exquisite pottery and in the memory of every visitor who takes time to become intimate with this remarkable Canyon. ☐

## WIND & WATER BOATWORKS

412-586-2030



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## Pittsburgh Council Activity Chairs

### Bicycling

Chuck Ejzak 466-6196  
Judy Menosky 242-1573

### Canoeing

Rick Tomlinson 963-8910

### Climbing

Eric Bauer 687-0766  
Rich Rosenberger 372-2806

### Family Activities

Barbara Hanusa 441-7205

### Hiking & Backpacking

Ben Brugmans 736-2751

### Kayaking

John Gayler 421-1307  
Ray Yutzy 341-5682

### Rafting

Jon Maiman 441-2306  
Linda Smithyman 531-1868

### Sea Kayaking

Mark Mistrik 521-7688  
Ted Self 795-6286

### Volleyball

Joel Platt 521-5244

### X-C Skiing

Fred Parker 856-4713  
Rick Ulaky 422-0849



## Trips in October

### BICYCLING

**General Information:** In general, it is best to call the trip leader before the ride to tell him or her that you are coming and to see if there are any changes. Make sure that your bike works properly and bring a spare inner tub, at least one water bottle and, if the weather looks threatening, a rain jacket or rainsuit. AYH bicycle rentals must be arranged with the trip leader one week in advance. Bicycle helmets (ANSI or Snell approved) are required on all AYH cycling trips.

10/1 Sun B/C Jeff Weiss 661-2507

35 miles. Call Jeff for information about this ride.

10/6-9 Fri-Mon B Glenn Oster 364-2864 (before 9:00pm)  
234-3967 (w)

**6:30 pm at HQ.** Northern PA Tour, 50/day miles. This is a bike camping trip starting from Pymatuning Lake. The tour goes to Lake Erie, around the peninsula (Presque Isle), head on to Titusville and its bike trail and return to Pymatuning. Enjoy the fall foliage and the fun of bike camping. **Note:** Please call Glenn before 9:00 pm for information and to reserve a place.

10/14 Sat C Chris Kline 441-1152

**9:30 am at HQ.** In Town, 20 miles. A leisurely ride in the city. Note the reasonable start ing time.

10/15 Sun B John LeBlanc 233-0588

**10:00 am at Clairton Park.** Mon River Valley, 60 miles. Enjoy the fall foliage on a ride that starts reasonably close to town. This is a new ride which will include some riding along the river and some gentle climbs up a hollow near Floreffe into Finleyville.

10/21 Sat C Pat Rossi 335-5067

**9:30 am at Arby's New Kensington.** Westmoreland County, a 15 miles leisurely ride.

10/22 Sun C/B Lynn & Chuck Ejzak 466-6196

**9:00 am at HQ.** Western Washington County, 30/60 miles. Tour a not-too-hilly region in Washington County. Ride past orchards, at least one covered bridge and lots of rural countryside. This ride may feature some tandems. There is a great way to get from HQ to Oakdale, so if you want to make this into a 60 mile day show up at HQ at 8:00. If you prefer, you may show up in Oakdale at 10:00 near the Union National Bank. Please call to confirm the starting time and location.

10/28-29 To be announced

Trick or Treat... Listen to announcements on Thursday October 26 to find out what bike trips are going this weekend or call Chuck Ejzak (466-6196).

## ***Trips in October***

### MOUNTAIN BIKING

10/15      Sun                      Terry Gossard      321-2382

Call Terry for details.

10/21      Sat                      B/C      Norm Snyder      351-4068

Explore the old Montour Railroad right of way.

10/28      Sat                      Sam Duff      731-5485

Ohiopyle area, easy or hard - group picks it.

### CAVING

**Caving is fun!** Forget the mud. Forget the dark, cramped spaces. Finding yourself in a passage 300 feet high by 75 feet wide or one which formations form like little ivory or china pieces is like another world! Join the cavers October 12 at 7:30 pm at HQ and talk to Dan Martt about a caving program. They will be the guys wearing the helmets and lamps standing at the front entrance.

10/15      Sun                      Begin      Dan Martt      921-4638

8:00 am at HQ. Join Dan for a trip to Coon Cave, one or many on Chestnut Ridge. Helmets and lamps can be rented cheap. Call for more information.

### HIKING/BACKPACKING

10/6-8      Fri-Sun      Int                      Blanche Asherman 828-8158  
Pat Tieman      561-3286

6:00 pm at HQ. Backpack North Fork Mountain and enjoy beautiful autumn leaves in wild, wonderful West Virginia.

10/8      Sun                      All                      Pete Srini      921-1238

8:00 am at HQ. Baker Trail maintenance

10/14      Sat                      Int                      Glenn Oster      354-2864(H)(before 9:00 pm)  
234-3967(W)

8:00 am at HQ. Hike Pennsylvania's highest, the Mt. Davis area. Enjoy the fall foliage. Call before 9 pm for information and reservations.

10/14      Sun                      7 miles      Ben Brugmans      736-2751(H)  
736-0103(W)

8:00 am at HQ. Ohiopyle State Park Foliage Special.

11/4      Sat                      4 miles      Linda Smithyman 531-1868

9:30 am at HQ. Location to be announced.

## ***Mid-Week Activities***

Every Wednesday. Meet at 10 am Wednesdays at AYH Headquarters, 5th & Shady. We generally take a 3-4 mile hike, but may swim, picnic, etc. Call Marilyn or Cliff Ham (687-4520) for information on current activities or to make arrangements to meet the group. ☺

### ***Canoeing***

Because of unpredictable weather and erratic water levels, there are no scheduled canoe trips in October. However that doesn't mean there won't be folks heading for the river most weekends. Trips will be put together on the spur-of-the-moment, most likely on Thursday evening at the AYH meeting. If you are interested, inquire of any known canoeing fanatic present - they'll be outside 'til frost on the grass makes sitting there uncomfortable - or contact Clare Bunker (244-9788). ☺

### ***Pittsburgh Council Hostels***

Dale Boyer Home Hostel  
RD 1, Box 273  
Rural Valley, PA 16249  
412-783-6188

Living Waters AYH-Hostel  
RD# 1 (1 mile west on Route 30)  
Schellsburg, PA 15559  
814-733-7607

Ohiopyle-AYH-Hostel  
Ohiopyle State Park  
P.O. Box 99  
Ohiopyle, PA 15470  
412-329-4476

Point Park College Youth Hostel (SA)  
201 Wood Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
412-392-3824  
(after 4 pm: 412-391-4100)





## Triangle Staff

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*The Golden Triangle is published monthly by the Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels. Contents are at the discretion of the editor. Mail regarding this newsletter should be addressed to: The Golden Triangle, Pittsburgh AYH, 6300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232, phone (412)362-8181.*

## Trips in October

### RAFTING

**General Information:** Call the trip leader in advance to reserve a space. Beginners are welcome on raft trips to Ohiopyle. Items to bring include old sneakers, towel and lots of enthusiasm. You will be expected to load and unload equipment and paddle on the river. Cost is usually around \$15 for members – and bring ice cream money, too.

10/7 Sat All Linda Smithyman 531-1868

7:30 am at HQ. Raft the Youghiogheny at Ohiopyle with members of the Moon Adventure Club. Experienced paddlers are especially welcome.

10/13-14 Fri-Sat All Linda Smithyman 531-1868

6:30 pm at HQ. Raft the New River in West Virginia. Leave Pittsburgh on Friday evening and raft on Saturday, returning late Saturday evening. If enough people would like to go rafting twice, we will also offer a trip on Sunday as well. Call Gus Hughes (241-1593), our fearless leader for this fantastic trip, for more information.

**NOTE: To secure yourself a space, a \$10.00 non-refundable deposit MUST be paid to Linda Smithyman by October 7.** Bring food, camping gear and lots of enthusiasm. We'll try to keep the cost below \$35.00 per day, not including food.

These trips wrap up the rafting season for 1989. Thanks to all of you for your participation, we're sure you enjoyed it. For those of you who didn't get to raft this year, plans are in our heads for 1990 with more trips and a wider variety of events to be offered. Hopefully Mother Nature will cooperate. *Linda and Jan*

## CLASSIFIEDS

**FOR SALE:** Thule rack system for Honda Civic, 58" bar, locking brackets, adjustable load stops, 3-pr ski rack and bicycle rack. For sale as set or components sold separately. Contact Karen Lukas, 661-4835, for details.

*Submit Classified Ads to the Editor by the deadline. Members may place ads for free! Nonmember and commercial ads rates are available on request. Place ads in Editor's mailbox at HQ or mail to: Editor, The Golden Triangle, 6300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15232.*

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 through its councils and National Office. Ayh is the U.S. affiliate of the International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF) which coordinates more than 5,400 hostels worldwide—the largest network of accommodations in the world.

## Trips in October

### SEA-KAYAKING

**General Information:** 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. Autumn is an excellent time to try 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 the trip.

**10/7 Sat Begin/Int Mark Mistrik 441-8293(H) 647-7609(W)**

**8:00 am at HQ.** Clarion River day trip. Enjoy some of Northern Pennsylvania's finest autumn scenery in a Sea-Kayak. Paddle down a flatwater section of the Clarion River, preferably between Ridgeway and Cooksburg, Pa. This area is noted for both scenery and wildlife. Call for more information or to reserve.

**10/21 Sat Begin Mark Mistrik 441-8293(H) 647-7609(W)**

**8:00 am at HQ.** Allegheny National Forest Sea-Kayaking day trip. Indian Summer (?) day trip planned on the Allegheny Reservoir and Kinzua Dam in Northern Pennsylvania. Call for more information or to reserve.

### VOLLEYBALL

#### ATTENTION ALL VOLLEYBALLERS!

CCAC has taken over the Allderdice gym, so now is the time to try a new location and day. We will be playing on **MONDAY** nights starting at 6:30 at **PEABODY H. S.** It is located at Highland and E. Liberty Avenues. Go in the main entrance, turn right, through double doors, and turn right into gym. For more information and better directions contact a city map and call Joel Platt at 521-5244(H), 421-4446(W)

**10/2 Mon 6:30 pm at Peabody School**

**10/9 Holiday**

**10/16 Mon 6:30 pm at Peabody School**

**10/23 Mon 6:30 pm at Peabody School**

**10/30 Mon 6:30 pm at Peabody School**



### Pittsburgh Council I Membership Sales Agencies Pennsylvania

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317 South Richard St.  
Bedford, PA 15522  
814-623-5196

**Atlas Travel Service**  
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Kaufmann's (9th floor)  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
412-261-0248

**Campbell Travel**  
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814-238-4987

**Centre for Travel**  
114 South Hiester St.  
State College, PA 16801  
814-238-4987

**Edinboro Travel Service**  
122 Erie St.  
Edinboro, PA 16412  
814-734-1639

**Lentz Travel Service**  
173 South Main St.  
Slippery Rock, PA 16057  
412-794-4833

**Living Waters AYH-Hostel**  
RD#1 (1 mi west on Rt. 30)  
Schellsburg, PA 15559  
814-733-4607

**McMullen Travel & Tours**  
Clarion Mall  
Rt 68 & I-80  
Clarion, PA 16214  
814-226-1040

**Ohlpyle AYH-Hostel**  
Ohlpyle State Park  
P. O. Box 99  
Ohlpyle, PA 15470  
412-329-4476

**South West Travel Inc.**  
134 South Main St.  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
412-836-2929

**Travel Agents International**  
1746 Washington Road  
Upper St Clair, PA 15241  
412-835-8070

#### West Virginia

**WV Outdoor Recreation Ctr**  
Mountain Lair Student Union  
Morgantown, WV 26506  
304-293-2203

**Morgantown Travel Service**  
127 High Street  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
304-292-8471





## THE EDITOR'S FANCY

With a little luck we could have Indian Summer and pleasant weather right into November. Most of the flowers have curled up and turned brown, and some seed pods have burst and sent off wisps and puffs of white fluff. I once had someone tell me they gave a bouquet of dried up milkweed pods to an unsuspecting co-worker. Left in the office over the weekend, the pods opened and deposited a great quantity of fluff about the office equipment!

Now the trees will do their thing. Seeing whole mountainsides ablaze with fourteen shades of red, yellow and burnt orange is awesome.

Autumn smells and sights along the river are truly special. The smell of decay-

ing leaves and wood can only be described as rich, heavy...in the same category as the smell of an old abandoned haybarn. Another great smell is that of an old scraggly apple tree loaded with over-ripened fruit - the last remnants of what must have been a farm way back when. Those are g-o-o-o-d tasting apples. We will have to stop at a road-side stand to buy some apple cider on the way home.

While floating lazily down the river, if you look up, you might see two or three hawks spiraling their way south.

I am already pushing for a late autumn trip to W. Va. The blazing fall foliage is well worth the trip. The Otter Creek/Dry Fork area is about my most favorite place in the world this time of year. If I ever decide to run away from home, I could probably be found in West Virginia. ☞

### Reservation Form for Blackwater Falls - 1990

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ AYH #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

List persons sharing room (if applicable):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ a twin bed & roommate @\$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ room(s) w/2 single beds @\$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ room(s) w/1 double bed @\$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ room(s) w/1 dbl & 1 sgl bed @\$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ room(s) w/2 double beds @\$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ DISCOUNT(S) for AYH mbrs @-\$3.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL FOR LODGING:

\_\_\_\_\_ Bus reservations @\$25.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

You are entitled to a discount of \$3.00 for each person in the room who is an AYH member.

PAYMENT MUST BE MADE IN FULL. NO CASH OR TELEPHONE RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. A SEPARATE CHECK IS REQUIRED FOR THE BUS.

Please check, as appropriate:

\_\_\_\_\_ can supply \_\_\_\_\_ rides  
\_\_\_\_\_ will need a ride  
\_\_\_\_\_ will supply my own ride  
\_\_\_\_\_ riding the bus

Make check(s) payable to: Pittsburgh Council, AYH.

Send reservation form, check, and a self-addressed, stamped, subbusiness-size envelope to:

Elaine Mormor  
1522 Denniston Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217-1450

Will it snow? Find out at the ...

## Blackwater Falls Getaway Weekend

January 26 - 27 - 28, 1990

Enjoy a relaxing weekend in West Virginia at the beautiful Blackwater Falls lodge overlooking the Blackwater River Gorge.

- \*\* Cross country skiing - from the front door!!
- \*\* Downhill skiing - is available at Canaan Valley (20 minutes from the lodge by car)
- \*\* Tobogganing - with rope tow, near the lodge
- \*\* Hiking
- \*\* Birding
- \*\* Horseback riding (varies year to year)
- \*\* Loafing, or just "catching up"
- \*\* Free movies, Saturday evening
- \*\* Square dancing
- \*\* Ice skating (outdoor, weather permitting)
- \*\* Reading

Blackwater Falls lodge has: a restaurant (serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner); a large common room with a fireplace; a game room; a meeting room; and a gift shop with VCR and tape rentals.

Cross country ski trips and hiking trips are informally arranged and led by AYH members. There are usually several small groups covering various ability levels and distances, going out both Saturday and Sunday. Additionally, there is a limited amount of AYH cross country ski equipment available for rent (you must reserve equipment with the cross country chairperson, at least two weeks in advance of the trip).

### Reservation Information

Pay in FULL for either:

- (1) One twin bed in a two (2) person room. A roommate will be assigned.  
-- OR --
- (2) The WHOLE room. You select your own roommates. Please list them on the reservation form.

Prices listed below include AYH's special weekend registration and lodging costs for Friday and Saturday nights. All meals are your own responsibility.

# Rooms	# People	Type of room	Pay before Nov. 15	after Nov. 15
22	1	1 of two twin beds	46.00	66.00
	2	2 Twin beds	92.00	112.00
10	2	1 Double bed	92.00	112.00
9	3	1 Twin, 1 double bed	108.00	138.00
11	4	2 Double beds	124.00	164.00

**Lower Prices  
this Year!!**

No refunds will be given after December 14, 1989 unless the room or single can be sold to someone else. A \$5.00 processing fee will be charged for each refund.

We will be trying to provide a chartered bus from Pittsburgh to Black Water Falls. We must, however, get enough passengers to qualify for a bus. Therefore, if you are interested in reserving a place on the bus, the cost will be \$25.00. Please, enclose a SEPARATE CHECK to cover the cost of all bus reservations (this is so we may send the check back to you if we do not get the minimum number of passengers).

For additional information, please call:

Elaine or Karl Mormer, (412) 521-6404

## THE OIL CREEK HIKING TRAIL

by Glenn Oster

You've got to see it to believe it. Sure, you've heard of it, but have you tried it? I'm referring to the Oil Creek Hiking Trail, Ray Gerard's nearly single-handed success.

Let me refresh your memory. It's a great hiking trail in the area of Drake Well and Oil Creek State Parks in Northwestern Pennsylvania, stretching from Titusville South to Route 8 near Rouseville following the hills on both sides of Oil Creek.

You may recall that Ray loved and hiked these hills as a younger man (as well as hiking almost everything else in Pennsylvania), and when he retired some years ago he vowed to establish a network of trails and connecting trails throughout this valley and its paralleling hills. Despite two episodes of heart surgery he did it — and in spades! He convinced the State Parks to let him undertake the project and once in a while to get a little help or tools from them. But by and large, along with his dog, "Satch", (now deceased), he scouted the trail, blazed it, developed walking surfaces (much of it

dug out of the sides of hills) and built bridges and stairs. He even persuaded the State, with the assistance of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, to install a bridge across Oil Creek to enable hikers to elect shorter loops and vary the lengths of their hikes. Ray says you can do four distinct loops — and we surely need loop trails we can do without car shuttling. Ray's latest coup, and he's the first to admit that the results far exceeded his initial request, is two clusters of shelters to house backpackers on each of the hills that tower over Oil Creek. Not just shelters, but nice ones, like those on the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail — Adirondak types with a floor, three walls, a roof and a big stone fireplace and chimney with swing out grates for holding cooking pots. There are hand pumps for water, a privy and a group fire ring. The trail is not officially open yet to backpacking, but if you contact Ray he can work things out so that you can. He made these arrangements for me and my fellow AYH hikers recently. Worked out

great!

We chose to hike from Titusville, near the Drake Well to Route 8 along the Eastern side and really enjoyed it. For those interested in history, there are some marvelously well preserved bits of oil industry equipment still visible remaining from the days when America began its unquenchable thirst for oil.

However, the trail needs more hikers to keep the walking surface beaten down. I'm planning to do every inch of it!

In addition to this 38 mile trail that can be walked in shorter loops, there is also a fine 10 mile cross country ski trail and a paved 9 mile bicycle trail along Oil Creek between Titusville and Petroleum Center.

I heartily recommend hiking or backpacking all or at least part of the Oil Creek Hiking Trail. For information contact: Drake Well State Park, (814) 827-2797, Oil Creek State Park (814) 676-5915 or Ray Gerard (backpacking permission) (814) 827-3233. Happy hiking. >>

## COMING SOON!

The United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania Donor Option Form This is not a Pledge Card (Please Print)		
I WANT MY GIFT TO THE UNITED WAY TO BE DIRECTED TO A OR B		DESIGNATE \$ _____ OF MY TOTAL GIFT OF \$ _____
<b>A. Allocated by the volunteers to solve community problems:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment <input type="checkbox"/> Hunger & Homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> First Elderly & Handicapped <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Literacy <input type="checkbox"/> Troubled Adolescents <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		<b>Method of payment (make all checks payable to the United Way)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> cash or check <input type="checkbox"/> bill me at home <input type="checkbox"/> payroll deduction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct my gift to the following Agency/other United Way Name <u>AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS</u> <u>PITTSBURGH COUNCIL</u> Address <u>6300 FIFTH AVE</u> City, State, Zip <u>Pgh. Pa. 15232</u>		Name (Last, First, Initial) _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip _____ Name of Employer _____ Work Location _____ Badge or ID # _____ Signature — MUST BE SIGNED _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Please inform agency of my designation.

## TO YOUR OFFICE OR SCHOOL

You can help change the world with a DONOR OPTION contribution. Just note "American Youth Hostels, Pittsburgh Council" (see above) to direct your United Way tax-deductible contribution. Please ask for a DONOR OPTION card this fall and help our Pittsburgh Council to grow!

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH**



## 1989 MON VALLEY CENTURY BICYCLE TOUR WRAP-UP

by Chuck Ejzak

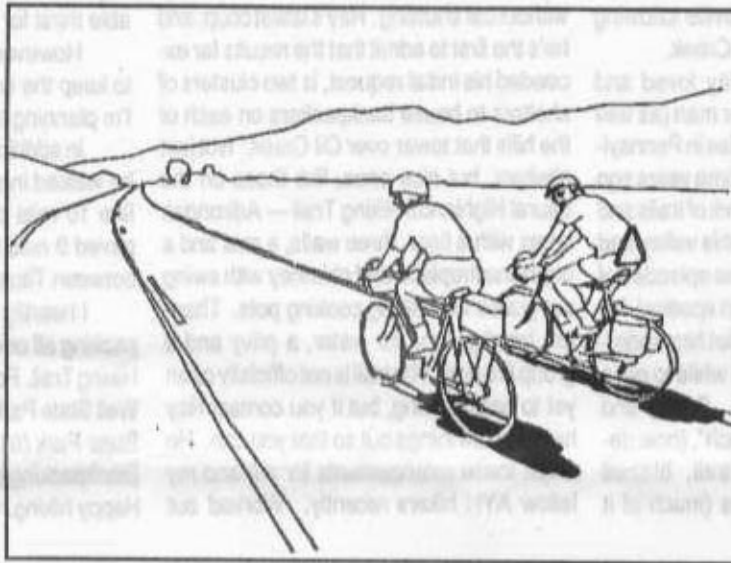
In spite of a threatening weather forecast, the turnout for this year's tour was the largest ever. 335 riders registered for this year's tour, versus 209 for 1988. Thankfully, all of the rain occurred northwest of Pittsburgh and was not much of a problem for the riders. As in previous years, most of the riders appeared to very pleased with the ride including: the route, the food, the encouragement they got from the volunteers, the roadside assistance, and the apparent efficiency with which the ride was run. A very popular item this year is the T-shirt which was designed by Greg Clarke. I am sure that you will see them around, not only at AYH, but at many other places where people wear T-shirts. On the 100 and 65 mile rides we added a rest stop in Fayette City at the community center. We are very grateful to the folks at the Mon Valley TOUR who helped us locate the stop and especially to the Fayette City Women's Club for allowing us to use the center. As for the riders, about 100 rode the 100

miler, 150 did the 65, and the rest did the 35 mile ride. Several riders drove a considerable distance (e.g. Washington DC, Cleveland, Columbus) to participate although most of the riders live in South-

the volunteers. It seemed that the sag drivers were always out picking up or assisting riders who had problems, the food stop volunteers had a tough job keeping enough food out for the riders, and it seems that there were more scrapes from people who unintentionally made contact with the road (i.e. crashed). Although none of the problems was serious, they were enough to get us thinking about the 1990 Mon Valley Century and a Tour Committee is being formed. If you are interested in helping, please talk to Chuck or Lynn Ejzak (466-6196). Although it seems early, there are some things which should be started soon.

Overall, the ride was a big success. With the

help of everyone involved, we: gave over 300 people a very good day of cycling, introduced many of them to AYH, and helped to improve the image of the Monongahela Valley. Proceeds from the MVC go to the Pittsburgh Council Hostel Development Fund. This year, the total was over \$900. ☞



western Pennsylvania. From what I could tell, the riders appeared to be very well behaved (while riding, I mean). This can be a problem with large group rides as anyone associated with the Great Ride can attest.

We did find that the increased number of riders made for a much bigger job for

### RAILS-TO-TRAILS NEWS

The first rails-to-trails group in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area has been organized. The immediate goal of the new Montour Trail Council is the conversion of the 45 mile Montour Railroad right-of-way into a recreational trail.

The group will meet again Monday, October 29 at AYH Headquarters. They need you and your support to make Rails-to-Trails a reality. To offer your assistance and learn more about their extensive plans, contact Stan Sattinger (561-5056), Larry Laude (665-9554) or Dino Angelici (931-6651). ☞

**Don't Forget  
To Vote!**

## BALLOT FOR 1990 ELECTIONS

The following slate of candidates for the elected positions in Pittsburgh Council has been recommended for your approval by the Nominating Committee.

**HOW TO VOTE:** Bring this ballot with you to the Annual Meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> or pick up a ballot at the meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, mail this ballot to AYH or put it in the Trip Report Box at Headquarters. All ballots will be held and not opened or counted until everyone at the Meeting has voted. Staple or tape the ballot shut, write your name and pass number on the back and sign it, and return it to AYH. If you wish to vote in confidence, use an envelope and write your name and pass number on the envelope and mark it "BALLOT". Please note, mail ballots without a pass number on them or on the outside envelope cannot be counted.

- Check the appropriate boxes below if you choose to vote for the candidates individually.
- If you wish to vote for persons not on the ballot, write in their name and the position at the bottom of the ballot. Be sure to get their concurrence first.

☐ **Mark this box if you accept the recommendations of the Nominating committee.**

### OFFICERS

<input type="checkbox"/> President	Larry Laude	<input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer	Fred Hull
<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary	Marianne Kasica	<input type="checkbox"/> Ass't Treasurer	Gay Friedman

Note: In accordance with the ByLaws, two Vice Presidents will be elected at the first Activities Board meeting following the election.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<input type="checkbox"/> Jack Peth	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Johnston
------------------------------------	----------------------------------------

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	Joe Levine	<input type="checkbox"/> Extended Trips	Bill Johnston & Craig Hennemuth
<input type="checkbox"/> Hostel Development	open	<input type="checkbox"/> Trips Coordinator	Janet Supowitz
<input type="checkbox"/> Pittsburgh Hostel	Fred Galvez	<input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing	Clare Bunker
<input type="checkbox"/> Hostel Operations	open	<input type="checkbox"/> Caving	Dan Martt
<input type="checkbox"/> Headquarters	Gary Ludwig	<input type="checkbox"/> Climbing	Eric Bauer & Rich Rosenberger
<input type="checkbox"/> Program	Rodney Horner & Bob Goff	<input type="checkbox"/> Cross-Country Skiing	Fred Parker & Rick Ulacky
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Editor	Jan Bugby	<input type="checkbox"/> Cycling	Chuck Ejzak & Dino Angelici
<input type="checkbox"/> Marketing	Joe Hoechner	<input type="checkbox"/> Kayaking	Ray Yutzy & John Gayler
<input type="checkbox"/> Council Storekeeper	open	<input type="checkbox"/> Sea-Kayaking	Ted Self & Mark Mistrick
<input type="checkbox"/> Publications	Bruce Sundquist	<input type="checkbox"/> Rafting	Jon Maiman & Linda Smithyman
<input type="checkbox"/> Trails Coordinator	open	<input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball	Joel Platt
<input type="checkbox"/> Service	open	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Activities	Barbara Hanusa
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Service	Cliff Ham		
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Events	open		

<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
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<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

# 1990 BALLOT

15232-2998

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

6300 Fifth Avenue

PITTSBURGH COUNCIL, AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS

place  
stamp  
here

fold

## 1990 BALLOT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pass No: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

fold





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS**  
PITTSBURGH COUNCIL  
6300 FIFTH AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15232



Membership types available:

- ☐ \$25.00 Adult (age 18 to 54, with renewals available at only \$15.)
- ☐ \$10.00 Youth (age 17 and under)
- ☐ \$15.00 Senior Citizen (age 55 and over)
- ☐ \$35.00 Family (includes children under 18, with renewals at only \$25.)
- ☐ \$250.00 Life (individual lifetime membership)
- ☐ \$18.00 Foreign nationals, including Canadians
- ☐ \$10.00 Vol. I, International Hostel Handbook (Europe & Mediterranean)
- ☐ \$10.00 Vol. II, International Hostel Handbook (Africa, Americas, Asia & Australia)
- ☐ \$14.00 Cotton sleep sack, required at all international hostels
- ☐ Donation for Hostel Development Fund (tax deductible to extent permitted by law)
- ☐ Total – make all checks payable to: PITTSBURGH AYH

MEMBERSHIPS VALID FOR 12 MONTHS FROM MONTH OF ISSUE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
(last) (first) (middle)

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish membership card sent to *temporary address*, (i.e. a campus dorm) give same below:

In care of \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Were you a member of AYH this past year? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

When do you need your membership card? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the name and address of a friend who might like to receive information about AYH,

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer, please contact me: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about AYH?

**AYH MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

- International Hostel membership card plus Pittsburgh Council I.D. card good for discounts at local bike shops and outfitters.
- USA Hostel Handbook, listing over 250 Hostels in the United States.
- "The Knapsack," National AYH travel newsletter.
- "The Golden Triangle," Pittsburgh Council's newsletter of trips and activities.
- Open house Thursday nights at Council headquarters.
- Access to National travel programs and Leadership Training courses.

# The Golden Triangle

Pittsburgh Council

American Youth Hostels

Volume 40 Number 10

October, 1989



American Youth Hostels, Inc.  
Pittsburgh Council  
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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15232  
(412) 362-8181

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