



**golden  
triangle**

**ayh**

**pittsburgh council, american youth hostel, inc.**

**Volume 26, Number 2**

**FEBRUARY 1975**



**PORTRAIT OF A BACKPACKER**

## T.O.S.R.V. IS COMING !

For those who don't know, the Tour of the Sciota River Valley, is coming up on May 10-11, 1975.

This is the 210 mile, 2 day bicycle tour from Columbus, Ohio to Portsmouth and return. This is the largest cycling weekend in America and attracts about 3,000 cyclists. This is not a ride for beginners or even experienced riders who are not in shape. The tour organizers (Columbus Council, AYH) insist that you should have done at least 300 miles this spring before the tour weekend. Hopefully, Pittsburgh Council will schedule enough rides in April to whip your's people into shape.

The tour route follows a north-south direction over flat mid-Ohio terrain. The most interesting sights are the thousands of other cyclists and the massive arrangements made for their safety and comfort.

In the past Pittsburgh Council has attempted to rent a bus to transport bikes and riders to Columbus. This idea failed due to lack of people and high cost of rental. Car pools seem to be the cheapest and most convenient. From past experience round trip cost to Columbus ran about \$8 per person, with the additional cost of the weekend ranging from \$15 to \$18.

If you would like to receive an application and an information sheet write to:

T.O.S.R.V. Communications  
P.O. Box 23111  
Columbus, Ohio, 43223

If you plan to ride the tour with a few of your bicycling buddies, send in your applications together. Otherwise for the overnight at Portsmouth your group may be split up to about 10 different locations.

## T.O.S.R.V. CONTINUED

One final hint - send along your own self-addressed, stamped envelope. Speed in replying is needed. The applications go out early in February and by early March the trip is full. So don't just stand there, mail out your request and start getting in shape!!!  
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## HOSTEL DEVELOPMENT NEWS

The Laurelville Mennonite Church Center Youth Hostel has now officially been dedicated and is open for business.

On Saturday December 21 Pittsburgh Council President Larry Giventer and Vice-President Joe Hoechner presented House Parent Terry Burkhalter with the charter. Also presented were three "hostel" signs carved by Don Woodland.

There is still some additional equipment needed to supply the two hostel cabins, namely fire extinguishers, pots, pans, knives, plates, forks, spoons, glasses, cups, etc. There are already enough blankets, pillows, mattresses and bunks there.

If you would like to see the new hostel's location on a topo map, please see the 7½" Mammoth, Pa., or the 15" Donegal, Pa. map.

Joe Hoechner is thinking of leading a over nighter there in early March for cross-country skiing or winter hiking - anybody interested? Members only of course!  
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BE KIND TO HUNGRY SNOW FLEAS -  
GO ON AN A.Y.H. WINTER HIKE

## HOSTEL OF THE MONTH

The Weisel Youth Hostel was the first county-operated youth hostel in the United States. It began operation in 1962 and is located at Weisel, near Quakertown, Pa., in a most picturesque setting near the meandering Tohickon Creek. The area is unexcelled for both hiking and biking.

The hostel has double deck bunk beds for 12 girls, 12 boys. There are also modern baths, a small, modern kitchen with an electric 4-burner, 1-oven stove, refrigerator, and ample cooking utensils. Hostellers should bring their own dish towels as well as sleeping sacks or sheets. Blankets are provided.

Hiking and fishing are available in the new Nockamixon State Park which adjoins the Youth Hostel grounds. Lake Towhee is located at Applebachsville, four miles north of the hostel. There you will find fishing and boating as well as nature and hiking trails.

Three covered bridges are found within several miles of the hostel. They can be located with the help of a free brochure "Covered Bridges and County Parks" published by the Bucks County Department of Parks and Recreation.

For history buffs, Quakertown offers interesting 18th century buildings including the Richland Library, established in 1795, and the Friends Meeting House, originally built in 1730. A walking tour brochure of historically interesting places is available at Liberty Bell Bakery, 1313 W. Broad Street.

For reservations write Houseparents, Weisel Youth Hostel, R.D.#3, Quakertown, PA 18951. Phone: 215-536-8749. Reservations should be made with deposit at least two weeks in advance.

# WEISEL YOUTH HOSTEL



East Rockhill Township, 1 mile north of Weisel on Richlandtown Road.

**GO!**

**PEUGEOT  
RALEIGH  
SCHWINN**



**SALES & SERVICE  
FLOYD NEWINGHAM**

**SCHWINN CYCLE CENTER  
740 FIFTH AVE.  
NEW KENSINGTON PA. 15068  
335-6464**



## THE LAW AND YOU

The Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-236) recognizes the recreational potential of abandoned railroad rights-of-way. As required by the law, the final railroad systems plan will designate those properties of the railroads in reorganization which are not required by the new Consolidated Rail Corporation, but which are suitable for other public uses. Such properties may not be disposed of without having first been offered "upon reasonable terms", for acquisition for public purposes. Here is where the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation's interest comes in.

BOR is very aware of the great need for a viable mass transit system throughout the United States - a fact that is especially apparent here in the Northeast Region. Consequently, while they are not advocating the abandonment of any line, they are looking at those lines which, should they be abandoned have recreation potential.

The Act requires that the Department of Interior be consulted regarding railroad right-of-way with recreation potential, and it allows for State, regional and local input into decisions regarding maintenance or abandonment of various rail services.

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### BOR DEVELOPS NEW TRAILS PROGRAM

In response to a Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Goal for the 1975 fiscal year, the Northeast Regional Office has developed a new trails program. This New Trails Thrust, as it is called, will be directed toward establishing more trails accessible to people.

A Federal Trails Work Group has been formed as the first step. This group brings together the managers of Federal lands and programs relating to trails. They are charged with identifying potential trails for the national trails system and evolving a

## New Trails Program continued

policy and process for working with various trails interests to establish trails in the Northeast. The first meeting was held in Philadelphia in December.

Other facets of the program include identifying trail interests in the Northeast and determining trails opportunities... identifying prototypes with national trail potential to demonstrate innovative relationships between trail uses and physical resources and working with bicycle trail interests to plan a northeast extension of the Bikecentennial cross-country bicycle trail concept, with a potential connection to Montreal.

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### LEARN TO SAIL - FLORIDA - 75

Learn to Sail while vacationing in Florida. A five day course is being offered each week in St. Petersburg during January, February, and March by AYH instructor Jerry Barron. This is a chance to combine sailing, sun, swimming, and beach-combing in these popular tropical waters. The classes will start every Monday January through March. Each class is limited to six persons per week. Students must be at least 16 years of age and in good physical condition. Class is moderate to strenuous. The course is designed for new or beginning sailors, includes on-boat instruction, food, and overnights at a cost of \$149.00.

For further information or application write to:  
American Youth Hostels Attn:  
Jerry Barron; 14335 W. McNichols;  
Detroit, Michigan, 48235.  
Phone: (313) 273-8560.

## TIPS AND TALES

The State of Pennsylvania has just issued a free 27 page "Consumer Protection Handbook". According to the State Bureau of Consumer Protection this booklet gives advice on "everything". If you'd like a free copy stop in at the Bureau's downtown office, or write to: Bureau of Consumer Protection  
23A South Third Street  
Harrisburg, Pa., 17101.

Also recently issued is the 20th edition of the National Wildlife Federation's "Conservation Directory" at \$2.50 per copy. This directory lists 14,000 groups and 8,000 individuals active in the conservation field, along with Federal, State and provincial agencies and also colleges offering training in environment and conservation. Contact them at

1412 16th St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C., 20036

Say, do you think hunting is a dangerous sport? Well try again. A major insurance company recently undertook a survey to list categories of dangerous activities. Here's how some common sports rated: #1 Football, #2 Winter Sports, #6 Skating, #8 Bicycling, #12 Canoeing and Boating, and Hunting doesn't come in until #16.

Trip leaders are reminded that there is a 50¢ "non-member" fee which should be collected on all trips. As a leader you should inquire as to membership status as the trippers call to reserve a place on your trip.

Do you become an "armchair" outdoors person during winter months? Maybe you need something to read? Try sending for this free catalog of books available on subjects such as backpacking, climbing, ski touring, boating, survival and caving.

Write to: Speleobooks  
P.O. Box 12334  
Albuquerque, N.M., 87105

Have any of the bicyclists out there seen the ads for the new bicycle helmet made by Bell Helmets, Inc.? It looks real spiffy with its air scoops and reflective stripes. Before you send off the list price of \$29.95 stop and think. Why not write to Bell and ask for a copy of the testing and research information on the development of the helmet.

Do you hard core winter cyclists have problems with cold feet? Do your toes freeze up even through two pairs of socks? Try some aluminum foil! Just wrap some foil around your feet between your layers of socks. If they get too warm add butter and salt lightly, hmm?

Hostel storekeeper Joe Hoechner may still have a few Bikecentennial '76 calendars (1975) left. If you've missed the first month there are still eleven left. Maybe he's cut the price by now too?

This message was received from Jim Roberts just before press time: Field Report on Snow Flea Repellant - the snow flea repellant seems to work but lasts for only a short period of time. If you don't reapply before it runs out...Oh, no! My watch stoppe.....  
AAAAAAAARRRGH!!!!  
itch           itch       scratch itch @#%&¢

The cycling co-chairpeople Dave Barbour and Ray Rossi have been secretly working on a revolutionary new bicycle heater. Powered by the shift of muscles on the seat as the cyclist pedals, the heater, when perfected, will allow cycling through the worst winter days. Unfortunately early market study reports were disappointing. Dave, just back from Florida, reported no success in finding backers or markets in Miami or Tampa. Keep trying guys.

BY POPULAR DEMAND — MORE  
TIPS AND TALES (Of the authors)

Some trails in Western Pennsylvania are clogged with downed timber from the heavy November snow storm. A few of the trails are now a good bush-wack instead of a nice stroll. If possible check the trail out first. Report trail conditions to the hiking co-chairpeople so they can disseminate the information.

Gordon Bugby, proud supervisor of two new Grumman canoes, reports a long list is forming for use of these new beauties. Seems some AYH people want to try a favorite stream without scratching the boat. A new sport?

All winter trip leaders should know the symptoms of, treatment of, and most importantly the means for prevention of hypothermia. Read up on hypothermia before going out.

The rumor mill has it that fish is the bill of fare for the AYH banquet at the Aqua Zoo. Be sure to bring your pole and favorite lure.

Snow Condition Reports for Ski touring: During December a well known "world famous" ski resort was asked about conditions for ski touring. "Conditions are great - come on out". Conditions were solid ice and bare spots. Ligonier Mountain Outfitters in Laughlontown, on the other hand, have been very accurate on snow conditions. One report was simply "Forget it". They also have obtained permission for ski trips in some nice areas, especially for beginners. They give directions to these areas and advice on waxes. Their number is 238-6246.

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WANTED: ARTICLES, PICTURES, ART WORK FOR THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE. This is your publication - put together entirely from contributions of members. You need not be a "professional", just share an idea, describe a trip, submit a favorite photo or drawing. See Mary Giventer with your contribution.

SPECIAL FOOD ORDER

Our Hostel Storekeeper, Joe Hoechner has the opportunity for AYH members to place a quantity discount order with "Chuck Wagon Foods".

For example: a beef stroganoff dinner (for 2) would cost about \$2.31, get it for \$1.80. A rice and chicken dinner (for 2) normally about \$2.15 now only \$1.60. Food is available in servings for 2, 4 or 6 persons.

Choice? Well, the offer covers breakfast items, fruit, vegetables, main dishes, desserts, snacks and even emergency food kits. Prices listed will include tax and shipping costs. Savings to you will average about 20%.

What is the fine print? We have to place an order totalling at least \$25.00. Also Chuck Wagon Foods accepts no returns. The list is too large to be printed in the Triangle so see Joe at headquarters for your copy. Fill it out as to number of packs and total cost, etc.; fill in your name and address and submit your order with a check or money order for the total in advance and return it to Joe.

Similar to our bulk map orders, it will take some time to place, but we hope to place the order in early March. Please keep a copy of your order for your personal record.

Take this chance to stock up for backpack trips!!

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INTRODUCE A FRIEND TO AYH - IT'S A FRIENDLY THING TO DO



## BOATBUILDING

If you are spending these long winter nights contemplating melting snows and next spring's rapids, perhaps you are also contemplating building a boat. This book review by Jim Sidelar from "American Whitewater" may be of use to you.

**BOATBUILDER'S MANUAL: How to Build Fiberglass Canoes & Kayaks for Whitewater**, by Charles Walbridge. Publ. by Wildwater Designs, 1973. \$3. 64pp. Available from Wildwater Designs, Inc., Penlllyn Pike & Morris Rd., Penlllyn, PA 19422. An excellent book on the technology, materials and techniques involved in building whitewater canoes and kayaks. The author is a seasoned river rat and obviously an experienced craftsman and boatbuilder. He lives in Pennsylvania, which is perhaps the area with the largest concentration of whitewater boaters in the country. This is where the first fiberglass slalom canoes in America were designed and built in the early fifties, and boaters there have been developing boatbuilding technology ever since and testing the boats by smashing them up on the super rivers of West Virginia.

The author has done a remarkable job of distilling the techniques developed and tested by the area's most active boatbuilders into a comprehensive, easy to read booklet. It actually has enough information to set up a small commercial boatbuilding operation. If you are only going to build a kayak or two, or even a kayak a year, you probably won't want to set up the shop facility recommended or get all the suggested tools and supplies, but it is nice to know how it should be done, and you should be able to decide yourself which corners to cut.

The booklet really covers just about everything you would want to know about building a whitewater

comments on boat design and hull shape, discussion and evaluation of available materials (including the more exotic and newer materials such as epoxy, nylon, polypropylene, diolen, S-glass, PRD, etc.), shop equipment, safety precautions, layup procedure, outfitting and bracing, and Sources of Supply for various materials mentioned, including trade names and mailing addresses. Includes also suggestions on mold-making, paddle making and boat patching. Physically similar to a fat AWA Journal (64pp), it is well worth the price if you are going to build boats.

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SKI TOURING COUNCIL WINTER PROGRAM

The Ski Touring Council, a non-commercial organization has available two publications of possible interest to ski tourers. The Ski Touring Guide lists more than 300 ski touring areas in the New England states, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina. There is also brief mention of areas in Eastern Canada and the Rocky Mountains. Beginners will find practical hints on what to buy and how to save. All facets of touring are covered by experts, including how to cut, mark and maintain trails, safety measures, ski orienteering with emphasis on map and compass work, survival and a bibliography of books and films. The Annual Schedule lists nearly 300 events sponsored by leading outdoor organizations, workshops for beginners, guided tours for all skill levels, citizen races and races sponsored by the Eastern Ski Association. Both publications can be obtained from Rudi Mattesich, President Ski Touring Council, Troy, Vermont 05868. To cover mailing and printing the cost of the Guide is \$2.00 and the Schedule is \$2.75.

# A.Y.H.B. Banquet

At  
The...

## AQUA Zoo

FOKK DANCING  
SINGING Buffet  
Dinner

Adults \$7.25  
Under 20 \$5.75

Just fill in the application blank, send it and  
your check to: Peggy Buckley 5700 Ellsworth Ave.  
Pgh. 15232. All checks must be made payable to  
Pittsburgh council A.Y.H. inc. Deadline is  
March 10. For further information call  
Peggy Buckley at 662-0607 (after 9:00) or call  
Eileen Hull at 242-5379.

MAIL Peggy Buckley  
5700 Ellsworth Ave Pgh. Pa. 15232

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NO. ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT \$ \$ \$

Make Checks Payable  
To: Pittsburgh  
Council  
A.Y.H. INC.



## OPEN HOUSE

## POTENTIAL HOSTEL SITES UNDER STUDY

Open House is held every Thursday evening. Everyone is welcome, member or non-member. Doors open about 7:45 P.M. with the program starting around 8:45 P.M. Come and find out about us.

February 6 - Pennsylvania Naturely - A Program of the Natural Areas of Pennsylvania. Paul Wierman of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy will show slides of what the Conservancy is doing, places to visit, and the Conservancy's plans for the future.

February 13 - Get in the proper frame of mind for fun and frolic at Cook's Forest this weekend by reviewing the good times had last year on this famous (or is it infamous?) weekend.

February 20 - Snowed in and skiing in the Austrian Alps at St. Anton with Joe Hoechner.

February 27 - Start getting in shape for serious cycling. Joe Hoechner (Bicycle Joe) presents a T.O.S.R.V. movie, watch 3000 cyclists partake in the biggest touring event in the United States.

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So you want to have a show, but don't have enough slides? Don't despair you're not alone. Your 10 or 15 slides will fit in nicely with other AYHers with too few slides for a program.

Call John Hayes (325-2345), tell him what you have, and he will see that you become a showman (or show woman).

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Remember your first Open House when you didn't know anyone and noone rushed up to speak with you? Don't put another new comer through that - seek out new faces, introduce yourself and Pittsburgh Council - help everyone feel welcome.

The Northeast Regional Office of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation is studying potential hostel sites in scenic, historic, cultural, and recreational areas of Virginia and Delaware. The studies are being done in conjunction with the Virginia Commission of Outdoor Recreation and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, in cooperation with American Youth Hostels, Inc.

With the help of the participating organizations, the Bureau will seek first to identify and plot on maps the principal recreation corridors in Virginia and Delaware. Maps will be distributed to public land managing agencies, key groups, individuals, and organizations, as well as the general public, with invitations to supplement the information BOR has been able to gather. The study is expected to be published next spring, after BOR has analyzed the information and reached preliminary conclusions on the feasibility of establishing hostel sites in the two states. Neither state presently has hostels.

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Slides! Slides! Slides! We need your slides on AYH activities to show at the Banquet on March 15. Richard Nugent is collecting them. Be sure to put your name on those that you give him. He will be at the Open House on Thursdays. If you have questions his phone is 828-6890.

## TRIPS AND TRAILS

The trips listed below are open to the public with the exception that AYH members are given priority when the trip is of limited size. Trip costs include 40¢ for registration and insurance (\$500 medical) plus transportation costs and equipment rental. Call the trip leader to reserve or cancel or just for more information about the trip.

Please call during normal hours (6:30 - 9:30 P.M.) unless otherwise noted. Make reservations early but in no case should they be made later than the Thursday before the trip.

- Sat Feb 1 Larry and Mary Giventer lead a cross country ski or hike for beginner/intermediates. Trip will go Somewhere, depending on weather and snow conditions. For all details call the Giventers at 422-9282. Will leave headquarters at 8:30 A.M.
- Sun Feb 2 Our new caving chairman Barry Walker is leading a beginning cross country ski trip to the Laurel Ridge. Any questions? Call Barry at 521-4708.
- Fri Feb 7 Join Norm Snyder on a cave trip to West Virginia
- Sat Feb 8 to explore a 40 mile cave, the fifth largest in the world. Call Norm between 6 and 7 P.M. at 371-2371.
- Fri Feb 7 Jim Roberts and Barry Walker co-lead a cross country ski/
- Sat Feb 8 car camp trip to Otter Creek in West Virginia. However,
- Sun Feb 9 if the weather is not accomodating, the trip will become a backpack to the same area. Either way leave Council headquarters at 7:00 P.M. Friday night. For more data, call Jim Roberts at 362-5792.
- Sat Feb 8 Join your faithful dedicated hiking chairman as he treks his way along the Laurel Ridge. This will be a slow pace so that we can enjoy the fantastic scenery, not set speed records. We'll hike about 5 miles in 7 hours. Call John Bohrer (what, you didn't know who your hiking chairman was?) at 561-6563.
- Sun Feb 9 Join Gary Ludwig on a trip to the believe it or not wilds of Frick Park. A leisurely, beginners trip leaving at noon, returning a 5:00 P.M. For more information call Gary at 521-4964.
- Fri Feb 14 COOK FOREST WEEKEND. Chartered bus leaves Headquarters
- Sat Feb 15 at 6:00 P.M. Friday. With 5 weeks left at publication
- Sun Feb 16 deadline time, there were but 15 spaces left. It's unlikely that there is room by publication time, but you may check during the day with Dave Porterfield, 471-1733 (Pittsburgh telephone). Telephone number of the Laurel Oaks Cabins, in case you need to notify your baby sitter of an emergency number is 814-752-2685. As usual, the weekend will feature a wide variety of hikes, hopefully skiing, and general frolic.

## MORE TRIPS AND TRAILS

- Fri Feb 21 See more of the underground world of West Virginia in  
Sat Feb 22 a cave of Norm Snyder's choice. Leave Friday evening  
and return very late Saturday. Call Norm between  
6:00 and 7:00 P.M. for more information at 371-2371.
- Sat Feb 22 Join Bob Schatz as he leads another one of his  
Sun Feb 23 fantastic intermediate backpack/cross country ski trips,  
this time on the Allegheny Ridge in Somerset County.  
Cover about 11 km. Saturday and 10 km Sunday. Cost  
will be about \$4.50. Call Bob at 653-1613 or 242-1898.
- Sat Feb 22 Join Jolly Jovial Joel Plattoon a hike to the Laurel  
Ridge. For additional details call Joel at 521-5244.
- Sun Feb 23 Join John Orndorff on a hike within Allegheny County.  
Save gas and explore an area close to home. To find  
out where, when, how much, etc. call John at 362-5401.
- \*\*\*\*\*

Downhill skiers interested in what is going on in that sport, see  
Jack Kowalski at Headquarters on Thursday evening. He may still have  
some discount lift tickets available for the Blue Knob Ski Resort.  
Tickets are \$6 and will be good for two years.

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Editor: Mary Giventer

Production: Aileen Pastorik

Printing: Alan Levenson

Cover Cartoon: Mike LaMark

Contributors: Jim Roberts, Joe Hoechner, Jim Sindelar ("American Whitewater")



MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
FEBRUARY					1 Cross-country ski on bike	2 Cross-country ski
3	4	5	6 Open House Po Naturally	7	8 Cross country ski / car camp Cave Trip Hike	9 Hike
10	11 Activities Board	12	13 Open House Cook's Forest Reserve	14	15	16 Cook's Forest Weekend
17	18	19	20 Open House Skiing in the Alps	21	22 Backpack Hike	23 Cave Trip Hike
24	25	26	27 Open House TASRY movie	28	MAR 1	MAR 2

Pittsburgh Council  
AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS, INC.  
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Pittsburgh, PA 15232

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T.O.S.R.V. IS COMING !