



Golden Triangle

Hostelling International-USA, 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 54, NUMBER 3

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2004

Obituary -- American Youth Hostels - Pittsburgh Council

The end of an era - and a long era at that! The last weekly meeting of AYH was held on June 3 to a packed house, including members dating back to the 1950s. The first weekly meeting was held in the 1930s and, except for a several-year lapse during WWII, had been held weekly ever since.

The cause of death was bankruptcy caused, in turn, by its Pittsburgh hostel on the south side. It was a Black Hole for money as it turns out, pretty much like its Ohiopyle hostel. Below is a bit of history and a biopsy.

AYH's main (and sizeable) contribution to the quality of life in this area has always been its outings program - a lively mix of hiking, bicycling, flatwater canoeing, white-water canoeing, kayaking, caving, climbing, ski-touring, backpacking and a few others (kite-flying??), plus countless schools in many of these activities. AYH built the Baker Trail and the Rachel Carson Trail that could take one from Pittsburgh to Allegheny National Forest. AYH published numerous editions of numerous guides to hiking and canoeing in the region. Its extended trips in the summer took many of us on unforgettable trips such as backpacking on Mt. Rainier, the Olympic Rainforest, the Olympic Seashore, the North Cascades and Rocky Mtn. National Park, cycling hostel-to-hostel in New England, hut-hopping in the White Mountains, white-water canoeing and sail-canoeing on the streams and lakes of Wisconsin and countless others. No one will ever know how many multi-decade-long friendships came out of the delights, camaraderie, trials and tribulations of all those thousands of trips. Calamity Rock in the Cheat Narrows was named for a terrifying rafting episode on an AYH trip. White water canoe trips have been known to arrive, still cold and wet, back in Pittsburgh around 4 AM. There was a broken back on a bicycle descent off of Pittsburgh's Mt. Washington, and a nasty altercation between a bicycle and a pickup truck.

AYH always had its ups and downs. At times its weekly Thursday evening meetings saw people packed shoulder-to-shoulder watching slide shows of past adventures and listening to 8-10 trip leaders advertising the adventures they had planned for the weekend. At other times the organization was held together by 3-4 people struggling to get the club back on its feet. A lot was learned about the dynamics of "volunteer associations" (as such organizations are called). One example of many: A preoccupation with social aspects and beginner-oriented trips foretells an impending collapse. A focus on substantive outdoor-oriented adventures and pleasures means another growth spurt toward a membership size that tends to attract the purely socially oriented.

AYH was always a down-to-earth, low-budget operation that attracted people of like mind. Its headquarters/ meeting room was a former Mellon estate chicken coop built on the property line with the Marshal mansion (now Arts Center), apparently as a result of some sort of feud. Outings had always been profitable, even with trip fees of \$0.25 to \$1/day, canoe- and bicycle rentals of a few dollars per day, and sales of modestly-priced trail guides. This combination of profitability and frugality might well have been AYH's undoing. The several hundred thousand dollars in savings generated over the decades was perhaps too much of a temptation to the hostel-oriented faction of the club. (AYH always had an uneasy split personality.) They grabbed control of the club, abolished the Activities Board (that had always handled the day-to-day operations of the club) and sunk everything into a highly leveraged hostel. The rest is history.

Bruce E Sundquist



Hostelling - International Pittsburgh PA



A 50 bed full service hostel in a commercial 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
- Heinz Field
- PNC Park

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....And MORE!!!



Pittsburgh Council, Hostelling International-USA
Serving Western Pennsylvania & West Virginia Panhandle
Since 1948, Incorporated 1955

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Oops...

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

Mail regarding the Newsletter should be addressed to:

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Pittsburgh, PA 15217

HI-Pgh on the information super Highway. Point your browser to :
<http://www.hipittsburgh.org/>
or you can email us at
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NOTICE

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

Dec-Jan-Feb ISSUE
All copy, Nov 3

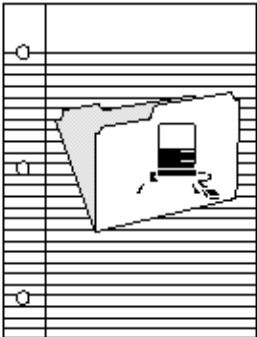
If your work is on computer,
Please contact Joel Platt at
golden_triangle@bigfoot.com

Moving?

If you move, or have any subscription problems, please notify us right away. Returned mail costs 42 cents for each piece, so we can save money if you let us know about any changes in your address.

About HI

Hostelling International is a non-profit organization which promotes international understanding, educational and recreational travel, good citizenship and an appreciation of America. HI does this by bringing travelers of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities together in hostels and by providing low-cost travel programs. HI-USA is the US affiliate of Hostelling International (HI), (formerly named International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF), which coordinates more than 4,500 hostels worldwide- the largest network of accommodations in the world.



**Submissions Policy:
Golden Triangle**

Classified Ads:

- Classified ads 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 ads for non-members.

- Free ads 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-religious
- Above rules apply in addition to general rules for submission

General rules for submission

- No handwritten submissions
- Submissions Can be;
On computer disk (IBM), E-mail (Internet/compuserve), 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 for 2004

Number 1 issue ->March/April/May Number 2 issue ->June/July/August

Number 3 issue ->September/October/November

Number 4 issue ->December/January/February

Editor...



Pittsburgh Council, HI-USA is a United Way Donor Option organization. Our Donor Option number is: 436 .

2000 North American Hostel Handbooks can be picked up at the Activities Headquarters. Copies are free when picked up in person.

Sheet Sleeping Sack

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT ONE!

Required in all hostels, the sleeping sack serves as your top & bottom sheets, with a built-in pillowcase. Regular sleeping bags are not allowed at hostels due to public health regulations. Our nylon sleep sack is especially light, compact, and dries extremely quickly (handy on trips). The cotton/polyester sleep sack is a little heavier and bulkier, but feels just like your bedsheets. Order one today! See the order form on the back page for prices.



SEA-KAYAKING

Kelleys Island, Cape Henlopen and Presque Isle are just a few of the interesting and exciting places we visited last summer. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced paddler, we have a trip for you. So grab your paddle and sunscreen and we will see you on the water.

ActivityCo-Chairs Vickie 412-344-4929
 Russ 412-331-2073

See
Sierra Clubs Hikes, at end.

Questions about membership?

Use the link below to get them answered!
<http://www.hiusa.org/membership/index.cfm>



BICYCLING

IMPROMPTU BICYCLE RIDES EMAIL LIST

Our bicycle email list is up and running. We have been enjoying some good rides. The biggest need now is for people to announce rides.

If you would like to get on our bike email list our address is:
letsbikenow-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

HELMETS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL. YOU RIDE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Glenn Oster continues to ride and report on various trails across the USA. Visit his website at <http://www.intellweb.com/trails/oster.htm>

UPCOMING SLIDE SHOWS



ROCK CLIMBING

Important Notice / Rock Climbing

We regret to inform our members that the Pittsburgh Council is no longer able to sponsor any rock climbing activities for insurance reasons. Our liability insurance is provided through the National AYH organization. After lengthy discussions with National’s insurance carrier, we have been notified that a number of activities classified as “high risk” have been excluded from our coverage effective 1 April. While National was successful in negotiating the removal of several activities (such as ice-skating and cross country skiing) from the initial list of exclusions, they were ultimately unsuccessful in being able to have rock climbing covered. While we are disappointed with this exclusion, we have no choice but to stop sponsoring all rock climbing activities. Thank you to all of the volunteers who assisted in the organization and operation of the rock climbing activity over the years. It would not have been possible without you. Discussions are underway with other activities organizations that may be able to sponsor rock climbing activities. For more information, please contact Chuck Jones at charljonz@excite.com or (412)766-4036 or Annie Jones at (412) 303-1793. Please call before 10 o'clock at night. <http://www.wpfi.org/>

While it is unfortunate that we will no longer be able to sponsor rock climbing, we would like to remind both members and non-members of the great activities that we sponsor, and encourage everyone's continued participation.

Rambles For Summer 2004

SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| September 1. | Salamander Trail in Fox Chapel. Bag lunch. Teresa Honert. 412-683-0253. |
| September 8 | Falls Run Park. Bag lunch. Connie Black. 412-371-1062. |
| September 15 | Seldom Seen. (Tropical Ave. entrance). Bag Lunch. Bill Lawrence 412-922-3951. |
| September 22 | Townsend Park in Murrysville. Bag lunch. Marian Fast. 412-241-2109. |
| September 29 | Bear Run State Park. Bag Lunch. Earl McCabe. 412-762-1844. |

OCTOBER

- | | |
|------------|--|
| October 6 | Freeport to Sarver. Bag lunch. Bill Phoennik 412-279-5411. |
| October 13 | Schenley Park. Bag lunch. Ruth Fischer. 412-421-9215. |
| October 20 | Boyce Mayview Park. Bag lunch. Marilyn Ham 412-687-4520. |
| October 27 | Mingo Creek Park. Bag lunch. Jim Hurst. 412-276-0447. |

NOVEMBER

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| November 3 | White Oak Regional Park. Bag lunch. Albert Farhy 412-521-8226. |
| November 10 | Wilmerding and Westinghouse Museum. Lunch at a restaurant (optional). Joan Roolf 412-351-2061. |
| November 17 | Crooked Creek National Recreational Area. Bag lunch. Maureen Kelly 412-821-5709. |
| November 24 | Walk the famous steps of Pittsburgh. Lunch? Bob Tait 724-290-4141. |

DECEMBER

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| December 1 | Harrison Hills Regional Park. Bag lunch. Blanche and Jack Asherman. 412-828-8158. |
| December 8 | Riverside walk, flat and easy, 3-4 miles near Oakmont. Restaurant lunch optional. Ed Divers 412-828-5154. |
| December 15 | Downtown Ramble and lunch.. We’ll go by bus, so be prompt! Jean Canfield. 412-661-3998. |
| December 22 | Whitehall area walk followed by a Holiday Celebration at Billie Woodland’s home. Let’s chip in and purchase prepared food! Reserve by Dec. 15. 412-886-1603. |

Rambles begin at 10 A.M. Meet in Mellon Park upper parking lot at Fifth and Shady Avenues. Carpooling is encouraged. Please pay driver \$1 to \$4.00,(plus share tolls), depending on the length of trip.
Rambles are subject to change due to weather or other circumstances. Call trip leader for more information if you plan to meet at trail head or to inquire about the difficulty of the hike. Alternate phone number or for general information call Billie Woodland 412-886-1603.



HIKING/BACKPACKING/TRAILS

AMBLE HIKES ARE 4-6 MILES IN INTERESTING LOCATIONS AROUND PITTSBURGH. CONNIE BLACK HAS AGREED TO TAKE CALLS FROM THOSE WISHING TO LEAD AN AMBLE AS WELL AS THOSE WISHING TO GO ON AN AMBLE. CONNIE'S PHONE NUMBER IS 412-371-1062 AND HER EMAIL IS ceblack@libcom.com

ALLEGHENY GROUP - SIERRA CLUB - OUTINGS - AUG. 28 - DEC. 19, 2004

- * Suggested carpool fee: 6 cents/ passenger-mile + a share of any tolls.
- * (Unless stated, car-miles are one-way from Monroeville.)
- * For up-to-date listings, visit <http://www.alleghenysc.org/>
- * Hardcopy subscriptions to this list are \$2.50/ year (4 issues). Make check payable to Allegheny Group, Sierra Club and mail to Bruce Sundquist, 210 College Park Dr., Monroeville PA 15146-1532
- * E-mail subscriptions are free. Contact bsundquist1@juno.com
- * All participants on Sierra Club outings must sign a standard liability waiver. To read it before you participate in an outing, go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a hardcopy.

EVENING CONDITIONING WALKS

South Park (year-around). Thurs. evenings, 6:15 PM. Locations vary. Call Bonnie Thomas, 412-833-1068, for meeting place.

East End (during EDST): co-sponsored by the Sierra Club and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy on Wednesday evenings in Schenley Park. Meet at 6 PM in front of the Visitors' Center. Call Don Stone, 412-441-2027

East Suburbs (during EDST): Tuesday and Thursday evenings in Duff Park near Murysville. Call Nick Broskovich, 724-863-6707

DAY- AND WEEKEND TRIPS

Sat. Aug. 28 - Canoe/ Kayak Get-Together on Nicholson Island above Freeport, including hiking nearby. Meet at Harmarville Ames at 10 AM. \$2.00 carpool - 17 miles from Harmarville. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154.

Sat. Aug. 28 - Bicycle, easy intermediate, on the Yough River Trail from Boston to West Newton and back (28 miles round trip). Possible dinner at Riverfront Restaurant (trailside near Boston). \$2.00 carpool - 15 miles from Monroeville. Call Nick Broskovich 724-863-6707.

Sun. Aug. 29 -- Hike a strenuous and exploratory loop in the valley of Roaring Run Natural Area of Forbes State Forest. Countless stream crossings (maybe wet, maybe dry), along Painter (Panther) Rock Ridge (viewpoint), past the historic 1896 monument memorializing a sleighing accident. \$7.00 carpool - 53 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

Sat.-Mon. Sept. 4-6 -- Backpacking - base-camping - hiking trip to the backside of Spruce Knob (el.4860) in Monongahela National Forest. 7 total miles of backpacking, all along upper Seneca Creek. Base-camp at Judy Springs. Spend the rest of the free time visiting the surrounding scenic ridge tops, stream sides and high mountain meadows -- or just enjoy the immediate surroundings of Judy Springs. Possible visit to the Sinks of Gandy on Monday. Prior backpacking experience is required due to remoteness of the area. \$25 carpool - 175 miles. Limit: 10. Call Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737.

Sun. Sept. 5 -- Hike an easy 8.5 miles on the Baker Trail from Crooked Creek Dam to Cochran's Mills. \$6.00 carpool -- 50 miles. Call John Dern, 412-856-4642

Sun. Sept. 5 - Hike from the warming hut on Laurel Mountain to Wolf Rocks via Spruce Run. Retrace the most scenic cross-country ski trail around in the summer. Total distance is 12-14 miles. \$7.00 carpool - 57 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

Sat. Sept. 11 - Hike a moderate 7-mile loop near Freeport, including part of the Baker Trail. Meet at Harmarville Ames at 10 AM. \$1.75 carpool-15 miles. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154

Sat.-Sun. Sept. 11-12 -- Easy overnight backpacking trip to Oil Creek State Park. In on Saturday, out on Sunday. Four miles in to the campsite. We will stay in Appalachian-style backpacker shelters - no tent needed. Limit 10. \$10 carpool-84 miles. Call Jim Ritchie. 412-828-0210.

Sat. Sept. 18 - Hike a moderate 7-mile loop in the popular and scenic Minister Creek Valley near the southern end of Allegheny National Forest. \$11.75 carpool - 98 miles from Richland Mall. Call Mike Robertson, 412-678-4039

Sun. Sept. 19 -- Hike a strenuous and exploratory loop from Wharton Furnace (a historic 1839 iron furnace) to Quebec Run Wild Area, along the remote valleys of Laurel Run and Mill Run. \$9.00 carpool - 73 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

Sun. Sept. 19 -- Bike the Montour Trail from Coraopolis until we turn around. We'll go at least 50 miles. Meet at the trailhead. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

Sun. Sept. 25 - A hike with llamas in Blue Spruce Park (just north of Indiana, PA). The hike will be about 5 miles long. Bring lunch. We will meet at the McDonalds on Rt. 22 near Blairsville. Call Diane Neely, 724-459-3012

Sun. Sept. 26 - Bicycle an intermediate 30 miles on the Youghiogheny River Trail from Connellsville to Ohiopyle and return. This scenic section of the trail cuts through Chestnut Ridge. Three high bridges. \$5.50 carpool - 40 miles. Call John Dern, 412-856-4642

Sun. Oct. 3 - Visit a seldom-seen rock formation above Linn Run State Park (the easy way) \$8.00 carpool - 59 miles. Call Don Stone, 412-441-2027

Sun. Oct. 3 - First of a series of 4 hikes to cover the entire Rachel Carson Trail, roughly 8 miles, fast-paced, somewhat strenuous. This trip begins in Harrison Hills Co. Park. \$1.25 carpool - 10 miles from Harmarville. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519

Sun. Oct. 10 - Hike a moderate 8-mile loop in the Connellsville area near Casparis Cave. Meet at Gateway Middle School at 9 AM. \$5.50 carpool-40 miles. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154

Sun. Oct. 10 - Second of a series of 4 hikes to cover the entire Rachel Carson Trail, roughly 8 miles, fast-paced, somewhat strenuous. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519

Sat. Oct. 16 - Visit Harlansburg Cave for about 3 hours. \$3.00 carpool - 25 miles from Cranberry Mall. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068

Sun. Oct. 17 -- Hike about 10 miles on the White Tail Trail high up on Chestnut Ridge,

from Lick Hollow to Quebec Run Wild Area. Intermediate difficulty. \$8.50 carpool-65 miles. Call Jim Ritchie, 412-828-0210.

Sun. Oct. 17 -- Easy 1.5-mile hike (2 hours) in Seldom Seen Greenway (Beechview Area). Meet at the far end of Brashear High School's parking lot at 590 Crane Ave. in Beechview at 1:30 PM. Call John or Kathy Murphy, 412-341-9367, or Bill Lawrence, 412-922-3951

Sun. Oct. 17 - Third of a series of 4 hikes to cover the entire Rachel Carson Trail, roughly 8 miles, fast-paced, somewhat strenuous. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519

Sun. Oct. 17 -- A hike with llamas in Blacklick Valley Natural Area (near Dilltown & the Ghost Town Trail). This is a little known area of over 700 acres operated by the Indiana County Parks. It has trails along the Black Lick Creek, through a Christmas Tree planting area, wetlands, a charcoal flat, and up a forested hillside for a great view. Bring lunch. We will meet at the McDonalds on Rt. 22 near Blairsville. Call Diane Neely, 724-459-3012

Sat. Oct. 23 -- Tour Oakland, Panther Hollow and a bit of Schenley Park, starting at 10AM, and probably cover 5 miles. See wonderful cultural and historical sights and climb a lot of steps, up and down. It will take 3-4 hours. Bring lunch, water and comfortable shoes! Call Don Gibbon (412-362-8451) for details on starting points and routes. See the book "The Steps of Pittsburgh," by Bob Regan.

Sun. Oct. 24 - Canoe from Connellsville to Layton on the Youghiogheny River -- a perfect trip for enjoying the last of the fall colors. \$5.25 carpool - 40 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

Sun. Oct 24 -- Hike -- strenuous and exploratory -- a loop hike along Camp Run, with its Chinese monument, and above Roaring Run, with the Painter Rock viewpoint, perhaps utilizing parts of Pike Run Trail and the LHT. \$7.00 carpool - 50 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

Sun. Oct. 24 - Last of a series of 4 hikes to cover the entire Rachel Carson Trail, roughly 8 miles, fast-paced, somewhat strenuous. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519

Sun. Oct. 24 - Hike an easy 7 miles in Laurel Hill State Park on the east slope of Laurel Ridge. Lake view trail and a grove of huge hemlocks along Laurel Hill Creek. \$8.00 carpool - 55 miles. Call Mike Robertson, 412-678-4039

Sat. Oct. 30 -- Tour the Southside, covering less horizontal distance, but climbing more steps than our Oct. 23 trip. Incredible views. Start at 10AM and last about 3 hours. Call Don Gibbon (412-362-8451) for details on starting points and routes. See the book "The Steps of Pittsburgh," by Bob Regan.

Sat. Oct. 30 - Hike an intermediate 11.2 miles on the Laurel Highlands Trail from Maple Summit Road to Ohiopyle - last of the fall colors plus great views. \$9.00 carpool - 65 miles. Call Donna Allen, 412-372-2993

Sun. Oct. 31 - Hike an easy 4 miles in Hartwood Acres Park near Dorseyville. Enjoy the last of the fall colors. Call Luc Berger, 412-683-3131

Sat. Nov 6 -- Tour the Southside, covering less horizontal distance, but climbing more steps than our Oct. 30 trip. Incredible views. Start at 10AM and last about 3 hours. Call Don Gibbon (412-362-8451) for details of starting points and routes. See the book "The Steps of Pittsburgh," by Bob Regan.

Sun. Nov. 7 -- Hike an intermediate 8.5 miles in McConnell's Mill State Park, mostly along Slippery Rock Creek, from Hell's Hollow to Alpha Pass. Fast-paced. \$3.75 carpool -31 miles from Cranberry Mall. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519

Sat. Nov. 13 - Hike a moderate 8-mile semi-loop above Ohiopyle (near Bidwell Station) to search for two Civil War cemeteries. Meet at Gateway Middle School at 9 AM. \$9.00 carpool - 65 miles. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154

Sun. Nov. 14 -- Hike, about 10 miles, on the Rachel Carson Trail, from Murray Hill to Donnellsville ("the 8 hills of hell"). Strenuous. \$2.25 carpool - 18 miles from Shadyside. Call Jim Ritchie, 412-828-0210.

Sat. Nov. 20 - Visit Lower Beaverhole Cave in Cheat Canyon (WV) for about 3 hours. \$10.50 carpool -80 miles. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068

Sun. Nov. 21 - Hike an easy intermediate 12 miles on the Laurel Highlands Trail from Rt. 653 to Rt. 31. Enjoy some nice stream valleys and great views. \$9.00 carpool - 70 miles. Call John Dern, 412-856-4642

Sun. Nov. 21 -- Hike - strenuous and exploratory -- from Burgettstown Game Lands to Raccoon Creek State Park via the Hillman Game Lands, across the unusual and disorienting re-graded terrain of little visited lands, with planted pines, lakes and the unique model airplane field. \$3.50 carpool - 30 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

Sun. Nov. 28 -- Hike on the Lost Turkey Trail beginning in Blue Knob State Park and going as far as we can. The goal will be a 20-mile-total hike. Maybe we'll find that Lost Turkey. The terrain is very steep and probably rocky in spots. \$10.50 carpool - 86 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582.

Sun. Dec. 5 - Hike a moderate 7-mile loop in the West Winfield - Buffalo Creek area. This is one of the best local hikes, with great views. Meet at Harmar Ames at 10 AM. \$3.00 carpool - 24 miles. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154

Sun. Dec 19 -- Hike exploring some of the new trails in Raccoon Creek State Park, also including a visit to the Mineral Springs. A shorter and less ambitious hike in view of limited daylight. \$3.50 - 30 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

NOTES: Ask the leader for names and phone numbers of trippers for you to arrange a car pool. Reserve at least 36 hours in advance. If you leave your phone number on the leader's answering machine, give it slowly and clearly. Notify leader to cancel your reservation. Bring lunch, rain gear, water, first-aid kit, small flashlight and extra clothes for changes in weather. If you have a cell phone, bring it along. Cell phones have saved the day on several trips when accidents have required evacuation of trippers. Sierra Clubbers planning to lead outings during 12/01/04 -3/15/05 should contact Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737, bsundquist1@juno.com by 11/05/04.

HELP WANTED:

Allegheny Group's Outings Chair (Bruce Sundquist) has held that post since 1976 -- much too long. Running the outings program involves 32 well-defined tasks. Most are done quarterly; some monthly. About 12 could be done without any experience, and could be divided among several people. If you are willing to share some of these

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)
tasks, please contact Bruce at 724-327-8737 or bsundquist1@juno.com

SIERRA CLUB MEMBERSHIP INDUCEMENT

If you join the Sierra Club on one of our outings, your \$25 introductory membership will get you a free hip pack. Call 724-327-8737 for application form and pack.

NON-SIERRA CLUB TRIPS

Trips listed below are in no way connected with the Sierra Club. Sierra Club takes no responsibility, and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of these trips. They are published here purely as a service to our members.

Sat. Sept. 25 - Grape Harvest Festival Weekend: Lake Country Bike shop is sponsoring a bike ride of 12, 25, and 50 recreational miles through Wine Country in North East PA. There is a fee for the tour. You will receive a t-shirt, lunch and wine tasting along the way. The trip begins at 9 AM. Arrangements have been made by Bob Tait to have 25 people stay at Wilderness Lodge Friday and Saturday evenings. The price of \$55.00 includes lodging and one Saturday evening dinner. Bikes may be rented, if necessary. Hiking and biking etc. may be enjoyed on Sunday, as well. To reserve a place for the tour, go to www.lakecountrybike.com or email them at lakecountrybike@velocity.net. An application form will be on the web site. For reservations at Wilderness Lodge send checks to: Bob Tait, 380 West Park Road, Portersville, PA 16051 or email him at wander@zoominternet.net

WEDNESDAY RAMBLES

Rambles begin at 10 AM Rambles are leisurely 2-3-mile walks. Meet in Mellon Park upper parking lot on Shady Avenue just south of Fifth Ave. ** means bring bag lunch. If a bag lunch is not indicated it means that it is possible time-wise to return to the meeting place and go your own way. Often spontaneous plans to eat out are made by the group. Carpooling is encouraged. Please pay driver \$1-\$4., depending on length of trip. Rambles are subject to change due to weather or other circumstances. Call trip leader for more information if you plan to meet at trailhead or to inquire about difficulty of the hike. Alternate phone number or for general information call Billie Woodland 412-886-1603.

Sept. 1 -- Salamander Trail in Fox Chapel. Bag lunch. Teresa Honert. 412-683-0253.
Sept. 8 -- Falls Run Park. Bag lunch. Connie Black. 412-371-1062.
Sept. 15 -- Seldom Seen. (Tropical Ave. entrance). Bag Lunch. Bill Lawrence 412-922-3951.
Sept. 22 -- Townsend Park in Murrysville. Bag lunch. Marian Fast. 412-241-2109.
Sept. 29 -- Bear Run State Park. Bag Lunch. Earl McCabe. 412-762-1844.

Oct. 6 -- Freeport to Sarver. Bag lunch. Bill Phoennik 412-279-5411.
Oct. 13 -- Schenley Park. Bag lunch. Ruth Fischer. 412-421-9215.
Oct. 20 -- Boyce Mayview Park. Bag lunch. Marilyn Ham 412-687-4520.
Oct. 27 -- Mingo Creek Park. Bag lunch. Jim Hurst. 412-276-0447.

Nov. 3 -- White Oak Regional Park. Bag lunch. Albert Farhy 412-521-8226.
Nov. 10 -- Wilmerding and Westinghouse Museum. Lunch at a restaurant (optional). Joan Roolf 412-351-2061.
Nov. 17 -- Crooked Creek National Recreational Area. Bag lunch. Maureen Kelly 412-821-5709.
Nov. 24 -- Walk the famous steps of Pittsburgh. Lunch? Bob Tait 724-290-4141.

Dec. 1-- Harrison Hills Regional Park. Bag lunch. Blanche and Jack Asherman. 412-828-8158.
Dec. 8 -- Riverside walk, flat and easy, 3-4 miles near Oakmont. Restaurant lunch optional. Ed Divers 412-828-5154.
Dec. 15 -- Downtown Ramble and lunch.. We'll go by bus, so be prompt! Jean Canfield. 412-661-3998.
Dec. 22 -- Whitehall area walk followed by a Holiday Celebration at Billie Woodland's home. Let's chip in and purchase prepared food! Reserve by Dec. 15. 412-886-1603.

Outside Adventure Learning of Western Pennsylvania - 2004 Schedule
Call 724-230-0237 or 412-968-0310 for information or to sign up for any event. Also visit www.outsideadventures.org or email outsideadventures@yahoo.com
Fri.-Tues. Sept. 3-7 -- OCRACoke Island & Outer Banks paddle.
Sat and/or Sun Oct. 9-10 -- Autumn Paddlers' Weekend.
Sat.-Sun. Oct. 22-24 -- West Virginia Autumn Cabin Weekend paddle.
Fri. eve. Nov. 19 - Light-Up Night 2004 paddle.

BUTLER OUTDOOR CLUB:

The Butler Outdoor Club provides year-round outdoor activities for members in Western Penna. and surrounding areas. These activities are geared for all levels and are designed to provide recreation and foster a better understanding of the outdoors. The BOC regularly conducts sessions on outdoor equipment, safety, skills, and techniques. Recent outings include: cross-country skiing at Cook Forest, Moraine St. Park, and Wilderness Lodge; weekend backpack trips on the Hickory Creek, Quehanna, Morrison-Rimrock, Chuck Keiper, Laurel Ridge, Oil Creek and North Country trails; bike rides at Moraine St. Park, Oil Creek, Stavich Trail, and Rails-to-Trails rides on the Butler-Freeport, Samuel Justice, Ghost Town and Ohio pyle trails; canoe day trips on Pine Creek and the Clarion River; overnight paddles on the Allegheny River; sea-kayaking at Moraine, Lake Erie, Oil Creek, and the Allegheny River; day hikes at Moraine State Park, Schollard's Wetlands, McConnell's Mill, Slippery Rock Gorge, and Wolfe Creek. We are completing the North Country Scenic Trail through Butler County and maintain sections of trails in Moraine and McConnells Mill State Parks. BOC meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM at the YMCA, 339 N. Washington St., Butler. Each meeting includes a featured speaker & slide show.

BOC is a growing club of over 200 friendly people all interested in spending time outdoors and helping maintain our resources. Its membership is open to the public. visit http://www.butleroutdoorclub.com

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA FIELD INSTITUTE -- TRIPS

For information on WPFI events, contact Sean Brady sbrady@wpfi.org 412-255-0564 or visit http://www.wpfi.org/ All events open to the public.

WISSAHICKON NATURE CLUB

If you enjoy nature lore, look into the meetings and field trips of Wissahickon Nature Club. They meet every other Saturday at 6 PM (except June-August) at Community Presbyterian Church, 7501 Church Av., Ben Avon. Contact Chuck Tague, 412-488-8760 or 432 Olympia Rd, Pgh. 15219

OUTSIDE ADVENTURES SEA-KAYAKING PROGRAM

"Sea-Kayaking Taught From Scratch"
Outside Adventure Learning of Western Pa. is a non-profit educational organization committed to introducing individuals to safe and enjoyable recreational outdoor pursuits. The sea-kayaking program specializes in teaching all levels of sea-kayaking skills and organizing trips from our evening introductory classes for new paddlers up to advanced expedition tours. Outside Adventures welcomes participation from individuals, families, youth organizations and outings clubs. Sea-kayaks, or touring kayaks are versatile, fun, human-powered watercraft that enables us to do all these things and more. They are sleek and fast, more efficient than canoes, more comfortable and stable than whitewater kayaks, have hatches to swallow loads of gear, and steerable rudders that enable even beginners to control the boat with ease.
2004 Schedule Call 724-230-0237 or 412-968-0310 for information or to sign up for any event. Also visit www.outsideadventures.org or email outsideadventures@yahoo.com

NEED MAPS AND TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE FOOT TRAILS OF SOUTHWESTERN PA.?

The ridges of southwestern Pennsylvania--Chestnut Ridge, Laurel Ridge and Allegheny Front--contain the bulk of the scenic public lands in the region. Nowhere else in southwestern Pennsylvania can you find large expanses of nature-oriented and outdoor-recreation-oriented public lands for public enjoyment. The best way to gain access to the scenery and natural values of the region is by way of the roughly 550 miles of foot trails that blanket the 218 sq. miles of state forests, state parks and state game lands of the "Laurel Highlands".
The Sierra Club's guide "The Laurel Highlands: A Hiking Guide" gives you all the information you need to enjoy this major recreational and natural resource. This 288-page Guide describes opportunities for hiking, backpacking and ski-touring on 446 miles of foot trails on the public lands of these Laurel Highlands. It omits the 70-mile Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail because that is described in a separate guide devoted exclusively to that trail. It also omits some trails in the Mt. Davis area of Forbes State Forest, the 26-mile Lost Turkey Trail on Gallitzin State Forest (which offers a map and brief guide), and some trails on State Game Lands #51 adjacent to Ohio pyle State Park. Covered in this guide are the foot trails of the following public lands in the Laurel Highlands:
State Parks: (sq. miles)
Ohio pyle Park 30
Laurel Ridge 24
Coopers Rock 20
Blue Knob 9
Laurel Hill 6
Linn Run 1
Kooser 0.4
State Forests
Forbes 86
Gallitzin 30
Other Public Lands:
Bear Run Nature Res. 8
Lower ICV Trail 4

Total Public Lands: 218 sq. miles
Peaks on ridges in the Laurel Highlands are at altitudes between 2500 and 3000 ft. Allegheny Front is the "backbone" of the Appalachian Mountains in this part of the country. It is the highest, the most rugged, and the most remote from major centers of population. Laurel Ridge is closer to population centers and contains an amazing wealth of public lands--state forests, state parks, and state game lands. It is probably the most popular region for outdoor recreation in western Pennsylvania. Chestnut Ridge is closest to major population centers but contains less public land so it is not as popular among outdoor recreationists as Laurel Ridge. All of these ridges are heavily forested, largely because the steepness of the ridge slopes makes them poor sites for urban developments. Besides trail descriptions, this 6x9" soft-cover Guide provides 26 pages of USGS topographic maps showing trail routes. Trail routes on the maps are keyed to the descriptive text to make using this guide as easy as possible. This Guide gives other information as well:
* How to get to the trailheads
* Ski-touring and backpacking in the Laurel Highlands
* 32 photographs of some of the scenery along the trails
* Ratings of scenery/ condition/ difficulty (hiking and skiing)
* Altitude changes, stream crossing and other maps
* Information on public organizations that use foot trails
* foot-trail maintenance, water purification, and hiking ethics
To get your copy of "The Laurel Highlands: A Hiking Guide" send \$11.95 plus \$1.50 for book-rate postage and handling, plus any applicable sales tax, to Bob Roth, 80 Roseleaf Road, Pittsburgh PA 15220. Please make checks payable to Allegheny Group, Sierra Club. Allegheny Group also published "Hiker's Guide to Laurel Highlands Trail" (Edition 5, 128 pages, 24 pages of maps, \$6.00) and "Allegheny National

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Forest Hiking Guide" (Edition 4, 192 pages, 49 pages of maps, \$9.95).

** Authors: Monika Dalrymple, Mark Christy, Jan Frissora, Kim and Tom Metzgar,
Tom Beebee, Palvina & Chavaya Beebee-Galvao, Judy Rodd, Bruce Sundquist

Other Outdoors Clubs

Butler Outdoors Club

BOC runs the same sorts of trips as Allegheny Group. Contact Dave Adams, 724-453-1685 DaveEAdams@aol.com or Bob Tait, 724-287-3382 BobTait@zbzoom.net or visit http://www.butleroutdoorclub.com Some trips by BOC and North Country Trails Assn. (NCTA) are listed below.

Wissahickon Nature Club

If you enjoy nature lore, look into the meetings and field trips of Wissahickon Nature Club. They meet every other Saturday at 6 PM (except June-August) at Community Presbyterian Church, 7501 Church Av., Ben Avon. Contact Chuck Tague, 412-488-8760 or 432 Olympia Rd, Pgh. 15219

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania

BSWP offers field trips in spring, summer and fall to look at and learn about the enormous variety of plant life that western Pa. offers. Everyone is welcome on field trips; amateurs, professionals, non-members, and anyone who is curious about the natural world. Trips are often at a leisurely pace, but may require hiking and traveling through wet/muddy areas. For information, e-mail your address for sample newsletter and membership information to yoree@sgi.net, or call Loree at 724-872-5232.

WPW (Western Pennsylvania Wheelmen) Bicycle Club

Home Page: http://wpwbikeclub.org Ride Hotline: 412-422-2234 Various length and difficulty rides scheduled each weekend and some during the week. Monthly meeting usually the 2nd Monday at 8pm at the Frick Environmental center on Beechwood Blvd in Squirrel Hill. See home page for details.

Moraine Sailing Club

MSC offers sailing opportunities for new and experienced sailors at Lake Arthur in Moraine State Park. They have an active education program for all ages, numerous sailing related social events, Day Sailing at Lake Arthur, and a very active sailboat racing program. For more information see the MSC Web Page at www.morainesailingclub.org or contact Chris Neuwirth 412-441-5590, email to: cmn@andrew.cmu.edu

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA FIELD INSTITUTE -- TRIPS

For information on WPFI events, contact Sean Brady sbrady@wpfi.org 412-255-0564 or visit http://www.wpfi.org/ All events open to the public. Fridays, Noon-12:50 PM Nature Walks starting in Market Square, Downtown Pittsburgh, Cost: Free

Outside Adventure Learning of Western Pennsylvania

Outside Adventures 2002 Paddling Schedule Call 724-230-0237 or 412-968-0310 for information or to sign up for any event. www.outsideadventures.org or www.outsideadventures@Yahoo.com More outings continuously offered. Call for Updates: 724-230-0237 or 412-968-0310. Outside Adventures Sea-Kayaking Program "Sea-Kayaking Taught From Scratch" Outside Adventure Learning of Western Pa. is a non-profit educational organization committed to introducing individuals to safe and enjoyable recreational outdoor pursuits. The sea-kayaking program specializes in teaching all levels of sea-kayaking skills and organizing trips from our evening introductory classes for new paddlers up to advanced expedition tours. Outside Adventures welcomes participation from individuals, families, youth organizations and outings clubs. Sea-kayaks, or touring kayaks are versatile, fun, human-powered watercraft that enables us to do all these things and more. They are sleek and fast, more efficient than canoes, more comfortable and stable than whitewater kayaks, have hatches to swallow loads of gear, and steerable rudders that enable even beginners to control the boat with ease.



Activity Co-chairs:

Paul Henry (724) 347-3282
Brian McBane (724) 443-8972

CANOEING



SAILING

The AYH no longer owns its own sailboats or runs trips but Bob Zavos will help coordinate sailing interests with other area organizations. The Moraine Sailing Club (MSC) is the largest local sailing group. Most activities are on Lake Arthur in Moraine State Park which is about 35 miles North of Pittsburgh. They offer education, social events and run a youth summer sail camp. They also have a large racing program and sponsor a Community Sailing Program for people without their own sailboats. They help organize/publicize Cruising Trips, but do not officially sponsor them. More information is on their website at **www.morainesailingclub.org**. Big boat sailors may want to check out the Erie Yacht Club: **www.erieyachtclub.org** or the Erie Bayfront Center for Marine studies: **www.goerie.com/bcms**

Moraine Preservations Fund (MPF), is looking for volunteers to help with the 50 passenger pontoon boat which they run on Lake Arthur in the Summer. It is used for scientific hands-on field trips for students and summer and fall tours for the public. They are looking for people interested in becoming volunteer mates and captains. You will need to have a boater's safety class, which you may already have taken or is easily available locally. To be a mate you must be 16 and 18 to be a captain. The boat training is given by experienced MPF captains, and you will be tested and licensed by the Fish and Boat Commission. The times and amount of time you would volunteer is completely by your choice. Even limited help is appreciated. If you have questions or would like to sign up, please contact Ruth Roperti at 724 843 7046, or email: missionmorain@zoominternet.net

The 6th annual **Lake Arthur Regatta is scheduled for August 14 &15**. This is one of the largest water and boating related activities in the area. Mark your calendars and look for more information later in the season on the MSC Website or the Butler County site: **www.visit-butler-county-pennsylvania-pa.com/**

Baker Trail/Rachel Carson Trail Resources

Right now the trail needs AYH members who would like to participate in trail crew maintenance activities. Please contact Steve Mentzer
SGMentzer@TrueCommerce.com

"Baker Trail Guide Book"; a trail guide with topographic maps, and interpretive information about the 141-mile long Baker Trail. Available from HI-Pittsburgh for under \$10, including postage and handling. Call 412-431-4910 to order.

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The Pittsburgh Council Office and Travel Store is currently closed. but all passes, ID cards, rail passes, and books are available at the weekly Thursday Open House meetings. For more information or directions email to pittcouncil@hotmail.com