

The Golden Triangle

The Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels

Volume 43, number 2

February 1992

1000th Hosteler

VRC

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INSIDE

Bicycling the USA

Last Chance: Wilderness Lodge Trip

Photos and Writers Wanted

Annual Banquet Update

Hostel Programming Planned

March Deadlines

All Copy

February 6

Binding and Mailing

February 20

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Stories and pictures relating to our trips and activities, the environment, the outdoors, etc. are welcome. To submit an article, put it in the Editor's box at AYH headquarters, or mail it to the Golden Triangle at the address below.

Articles may also be submitted on 3.5" diskettes (PC preferred but Mac is OK), or by modem. The Editor's Compuserve address is 75530,3711.

The *Golden Triangle* is published monthly by the Pittsburgh Council of American Youth Hostels. Contents are at the discretion of the editor.

Mail regarding this newsletter should be addressed to:

The Golden Triangle
6300 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
(412) 362-8181
Office: (412) 422-2282

Moving? Subscrip- tion Problems?

To continue receiving the Golden Triangle, you must notify us by mail or phone of any change in your address. To notify us, write to the Golden Triangle, 6300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232. You can call the AYH office at (412) 362-8181.

The Triangle is mailed Third Class to save on postage costs. The Post Office, however, does not forward Third Class mail. It is returned to us with 52 cents postage due. To help us keep postage costs down, please notify us of any address changes as soon as possible.

About AYH

American Youth Hostels is a non-profit organization which promotes international understanding, educational and recreational travel, good citizenship and an appreciation of America. AYH does this by bringing travelers of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities together in hostels and by providing low-cost travel programs. AYH is the US affiliate of the International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF) which coordinates more than 5,400 hostels worldwide—the largest network of accommodations in the world.

Writers, Photos Wanted!

The *Golden Triangle* is growing. We are upgrading the newsletter to include more information and pictures. If you have an interesting story, or pictures of hosteling or recreational activities, we need to hear from you! Pictures can be in almost any form, including slides, photos, and even videos. Originals will be returned.

We would like you to make the *Golden Triangle* a newsletter that really speaks for the Pittsburgh Chapter of AYH. Send your submissions to:

The Golden Triangle
6300 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Stories, articles, opinion columns, editorials—all are appropriate. You can also send submissions on disk, IBM or Macintosh.

Pittsburgh Council Hostels

Ohiopyle AYH Hostel

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

The Pittsburgh VRC Hostel

1323 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Charleroi Youth Hostel (SA)

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

Little Hickory Home Hostel

East Hickory, PA
(814) 755-4908

Living Waters AYH Hostel

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



Volunteer News and Opportunities

Bicycling Invitation: 1992 Planning Session

Hear ye, hear ye: The Cycling Department of AYH is currently "gearing up" for 1992. We are in search of all like-minded individuals — we need volunteers for many jobs, both on and off bicycle. There's a lot of work to be done, and a lot of fun as well.

Everyone interested is invited over to Bill Eberly's place on Monday, February 24 at 7 pm. for a "get acquainted" meeting. Bill invites you to take your first step toward becoming a contributing member, as well as to make friends and generally become enlightened.

Refreshments will be served. All are welcome, Bill says, even the strictly curious -- there is no obligation.

Be sure to call Bill with your reservation or to get more detailed information. Bill's phone number is 833-9732, or you can also call Chuck Ejzak at 466-6196.

Directions to Bill's house:

From town go through the Liberty tubes and head south on West Liberty. It becomes Washington Road/Route 19 South. Bill's address is 1690 Washington Road #BB-5. When you pass Chi-Chi's on the right (just past the Galleria), look for the Washington Apartments on the right. Bill is in the building marked "1690;" park in any convenient spot. If you go too far, you'll see South Hills Village Mall at the top of the hill. It's about a 7- or 8-mile drive from the tubes.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

Hostel Programming

As the VRC Hostel steps into high gear for 1992, efforts are underway to provide interesting activities for our foreign visitors. Be sure to check out the article on page 9 for information about this excellent volunteer activity.

Or, you can call Linda Smithyman at 531-1868 for more information.

Trip Leaders

Many AYH activities will be resuming this spring, and this is a good time to get in touch with the various activity chairs to get involved. In particular, Hiking/Backpacking will be gearing up soon. Check out the article on page 5 regarding an upcoming meeting for prospective leaders.

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COVER PHOTO: The 1000th hosteller is welcomed to the VRC Hostel. Left to right: Hostel Manager Clyde Humbertson; Hosteler Sylvain Dupire of Dijon, France; Pittsburgh AYH member Linda Smithyman. See story on page 8.

Congratulations!

by Bill Eberle Jr.

Belated congratulations are in order to the Pittsburgh Council's only unofficial entrant in the New York City Marathon of last November. William Eberle, Sr. was seen running the streets of the five boroughs that make up New York City in an original Pittsburgh Council AYH T-shirt. He made all of us proud with a competitive time of 3:40.

This was Bill's second New York City Marathon, and his eighth marathon overall. He has been a competitive runner for over 10 years, and has over 25 trophies on the mantle. Now, at the young age of 50, he set his sights on the Boston Marathon. The Boston Marathon is the oldest marathon run in the US and is very exclusive. Bill will have to run a 3:30 marathon just to qualify to run. That's a time that most men half his age will never achieve.

The Boston Marathon is a victory that Bill wants more than any other. So from all of us in the Pittsburgh Council we wish Bill a happy new year as he trains for a 3:29 at the Cleveland Revco Marathon this spring—his first step to Boston.

Good luck, Bill, and don't forget to wear that T-shirt again!

Trail News

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Extended into Pennsylvania

This past summer, trail workers extended the Potomac Heritage Trail from Cumberland, Maryland, to Confluence in southwestern Pennsylvania, where it now links with the Laurel Highlands Trail. The new 65-mile segment runs from the western terminus of the C&O Canal towpath, administered by the National Park Service, past Mt. Davis, Pennsylvania's high point. The segment is identified by discrete plastic arrows at turns and key junctions in an effort to avoid attracting attention from motorized users. Maps can be obtained from the Potomac Heritage Trail Association c/o PATC, 118 Park St., Vienna, VA 22180.

New Official Handbook for C&O Canal

The Chesapeake and Ohio National Historical Park, which stretches 185 miles from Washington, DC, and includes parts of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, has a new official handbook just published by the National Park Service. The 111-page book describes the canal's colorful history and contains a travel guide with detailed maps. Access points and facilities are covered, along with illustrations of such historic towns as Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, where the Appalachian Trail intersects the towpath. The handbook can be ordered for \$4.50 by calling the Parks and History Association of Washington DC at 202-472-3083.

Pittsburgh Council Activity Chairs

Bicycling

Chuck Ejzak 466-6196
Bill Eberle 833-9732

Canoeing

Royanne Mac 335-7326

Climbing

Eric Bauer 687-0766

Cross-County Skiing

Fred Parker 856-4713

Family Activities

Barbara Hanusa 441-7205

Hiking & Backpacking

Jim Ritchie 828-0210
Pat Tieman 561-3286

Kayaking

John Gaylor 366-4062
Ray Yutzy 341-5682

Mid-Week Rambles

Cliff Ham 697-4520

Rafting

Jon Maiman 441-2306
Linda Smithyman 531-1668

Sailing

Bob Zavos 241-0659

Sea Kayaking

Mark Mistrik 441-8293

Volleyball

Jeff Marsh 384-7827

Trips Coordinator

Janet Supowitz

Summer Olympics?

If your plans for this summer include Spain, why not plan to be there for the 1992 Summer Olympics?

Start your plans with some information from:

National Tourist Office of Spain
665 Fifth Avenue,
New York, NY 10022

Keep reading future issues of the Golden Triangle for information about Hostel accommodations in and around Barcelona, Spain.

Mardi Gras time!

If you are heading to New Orleans at the end of this month for Mardi Gras, don't forget to check out the accommodations at the Marquette House International AYH Hostel there!

With 162 beds at about \$13 per night, this superior grade hotel could be your best bet for overnights there—if they're not booked up.

Play it safe. Call the hostel in advance at 504-523-3014 and check out the handbook listing on page 189 for their location and other details.

Jobs in the Outdoors

The National Parks Trade Journal, a 377-page soft-back published by Taverly Churchill, lists seasonal and career opportunities in more than 500 locations.

Listings include national and state parks, wilderness areas, ski resorts, worldwide volunteer organizations, outdoor schools, and wildlife theme parks. You'll find the numbers and kinds of jobs, seasonal job listings, and whether employees are housed in private lodgings or in dorms and cabins.

Besides tips on applying for jobs, the book is peppered with advertisements—from Greenpeace to Birkenstock—and with articles on everything from tropical forest plants to *The ABC's of Red Cross Volunteerism*.

The book is \$14.50, postpaid, to National Parks Trade Journal, Wawona Station, Yosemite National Park, California 95389.

Wilderness Lodge XC Ski Trip A Success

Yes, despite the barren hills in the Pittsburgh area, Helen Coyne reports that there was skiing both days for the first Wilderness Lodge trip on January 10-12. A light skiff of snow Friday night turned into 5 to 6 inches of snow by Saturday morning, enough for the AYHers to join day-trippers on the groomed trails. Saturday dinner was followed by a quiet evening by the fire and another day of skiing on Sunday.

There is **one remaining trip** to Wilderness Lodge—February 7-9. See page 12 for information about registration, costs, etc.

Annual Banquet

The date for the annual AYH banquet is tentatively set for Friday, April 10, 1992. It will be held at the same restaurant as last year, with great food and plenty of it. We are working on lining up a guest speaker, as well as door prizes and entertainment.

If anyone would like to help out, please call Linda Smithyman at 531-1868. Watch for the March issue of the newsletter for the registration form, and other information (including where to send your check).

The cost will be approximately \$15.00. This is our chance to get dressed up for a change!

Don't forget - you can get your Eurail passes and student ID cards through Pittsburgh Council. Call 422-2282.

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"Everything that can
be said, can be said
clearly."

Ludwig Wittgenstein

Hiking/Backpacking

February

Trip leaders: Get Involved Now!

Volunteer now to lead a hike or backpack trip in March! Anyone who would like to lead a hiking or backpacking trip during the month of March should call Jim Ritchie at 828-0210 (H) or 624-1220 (W). We need hikes and backpacks to list at all levels: easy, intermediate, and advanced. We encourage hike listings for Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, the Laurel Highlands, and other Western Pennsylvania locations. The submission deadline is **February 6, 1992**.

7-9 Fri-Sun INT Appalachian Trail Hike 5:45 pm
 Clare Bunker
 244-9788
 Hike the Appalachian Trail from Snicker's Gap to Sky Meadows State Park, Virginia, 18 miles in two days. Staying at the Bear's Den Hostel near Bluemont, Va. Intermediate. Leader, Bill Lindgren; Contact: Clare Bunker, 244-9788. Meeting at HQ at 5:45 p.m. sharp on Friday.

14-16 Fri-Sun INT North Country Trail
 Clare Bunker
 244-9788
 Hike the re-routed North Country Trail between Funham Siding and Kelletville in Allegheny National Forest. This is a 14-mile hike. Phone for more information and reservations. Trip leader is Glenn Oster, 364-2864

22 Sat EASY George's Birthday Hike 8:30 am
 Joan Roolf
 795-8345
 An easy hike in the Boyce Park Undeveloped Area, about 5-6 miles long. Bring a lunch. We'll visit Historic Graveyard and the site of a prehistoric Native American village. The hike is along Forbes Road. Meet at Headquarters at 8:30 am
 [From Larry Laude: The Pittsburgh Council's first trip was a hike on Washington's birthday over 45 years ago!]

Coming in March:

6-8 Fri-Sun INT Appalachian Trail Hike 5:45 pm
 Clare Bunker
 244-9788
 Hike the Appalachian Trail from Thornton Gap to Milam Gap in Shenandoah National Park, 20 miles in two days. Camping at Big Meadows Campground. Intermediate. Leader, Bill Lindgren; contact Clare Bunker, 244-9788.



Rafting

February

Rafting planning meeting at the Elbow Room.

We will be formulating the 1992 rafting schedule, looking at pictures from the 1991 season, and telling paddling stories. Come one, come all for a good time! Please call Jon Maiman 441-2306 (H) or 642-6900 (W) to reserve a spot. We need to know how big a table to get at the Elbow Room.

Cross-Country Skiing

February

Please note that all cross-country ski trips are dependent on the weather. Call ahead to make reservations, and check with the trip leader if there is no snow. Some trips may be in areas that often have snow even if there is no snow in Pittsburgh. Unless otherwise noted, ski trips depart from headquarters at 8:30 am.

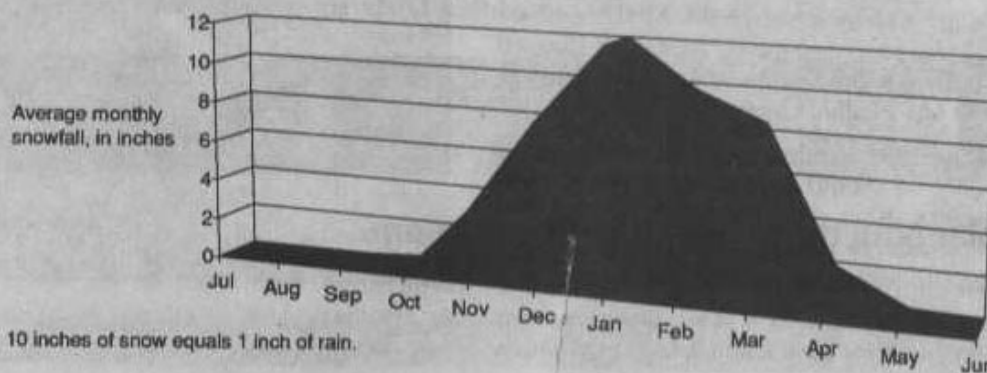
Date	Day	Trip Leader	Phone	Level	Time
1	Sat	Fred Parker	856-4713	All	8:30 am
2	Sun	Joe Hoechner (Groundhogs welcome, of course!)	242-0781	All	8:30 am
8	Sat	Steve & Jenann Tubbs	279-4866	Intermediate	8:30 am
9	Sun	Linda Smithyman	531-1868	Beginner	8:30 am
15	Sat	Jim Ritchie	828-0210	Intermediate	8:30 am
16	Sun	Ron Boone	222-0210	Beginner	8:30 am
22	Sat	Fred Parker	856-4713	All	8:30 am
23	Sun	Rick & Shirley Ulaky	422-0849	All	9:30 am
29	Sat	Jeff Marsh (Special "Leap Trip")	384-7827	All	8:30 am

Pittsburgh Snowfall Statistics

by Fred Parker

Historical records show the Pittsburgh area is overdue for a big snowstorm and/or a snowy winter. Snowstorms of over 12 inches occur once every five years. The last one was on Jan 18, 1978. Eight to twelve inch snows happen once every two years with the most recent on April 4, 1987. The last winter to have anywhere near or above average snow was 1985-1986 with 46 inches.

Most big storms happen when the wind direction is from the East through South bringing moisture from the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico.



Milestone for VRC-Hostel

1,000th Hosteler for Pittsburgh VRC-Hostel!

by Joe Hoechner

Pittsburgh Council's newly licensed Supplemental Accommodation Hostel recently hosted its 1,000th overnight hosteler, Mr. Sylvain Dupire, age 23, from Dijon, France.

"Considering that 1991 was a bad year for travel, the handbooks were late and these 1,000 overnights were reached in only 9 months says a lot for the hosteling potential here in Pittsburgh," said Linda Smithyman, Hostel Development Chairperson. Linda presented Sylvain with two Council T-shirts and Hostel Manager Clyde Humbertson gave him coupons for a free overnight and cafeteria style breakfast the next day.

The hostel facility is part of the Vocational Rehabilitation Center of Allegheny County, located at the edge of Downtown near Duquesne University. The center had ceased their overnight programs and as a result had a 32-bed dorm space available. The rooms are two beds to a room, no bunks!

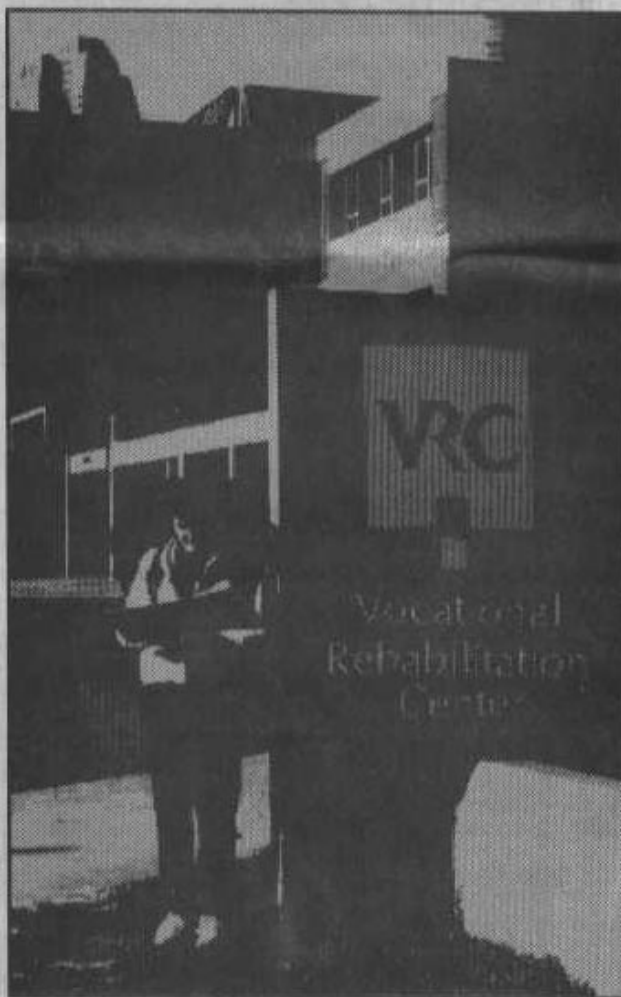
As an "S.A." hostel, it does lack a user's kitchen and a few other hostel features but its location near Downtown, convenient to the bus and Amtrak stations, helped it along.

Coincidentally, the Pittsburgh Council of AYH was scheduled to host the AYH Eastern Regional Meeting in 1991. Marianne Kasica took this opportunity to utilize the VRC Hostel's available dorm space, cafeteria and conference rooms to impress delegates from other AYH Councils and the National AYH Office. This "hands on" use by other active AYH members helps spread the word and gave Pittsburgh Council Publicity Chairman Joe Hoechner an opportunity to get brochures out to all of those who attended.

"Looking at the 1991 numbers," Joe says, "my guess is that for 1992 we should expect between 2,000 and 2,500 overnights. Keep in mind that since there are only 32 beds available we need to find a 75-100 bed hostel to keep up with demand."

The Pittsburgh Council's Hostel Development Committee's search for a good site is ongoing. There

was a "hot" location last fall but it fell through. Please keep reading your Golden Triangle for more articles about Pittsburgh's Hostel Development efforts. If you know of a potential site (about 10,000 square feet), drop us a line, or call Joe Hoechner at 242-0781.



Potential hosteler Linda Smithyman checks her map in front of the Pittsburgh VRC-Hostel.

Hostel Programming Opportunity

by Linda Smithyman

Volunteer opportunities abound! Do you have a few extra hours one day a month, or even every other month? Would you like to make some new friends and find out what hostellers from other countries are all about? Would you be interested in helping them find out more about Pittsburgh and what we're all about as well?

I would like to get some programming started at the VRC Hostel and at OhioPyle, too, if possible. If you have ever stayed at a hostel you may have joined up with a group touring the city, a museum or attended a special event. These are the types of programming we can do here.

The VRC Hostel is located on Forbes Avenue just across from Duquesne University, making Downtown, Oakland and the South Side readily accessible by bus. Hostellers can bus it to the Nationality Rooms in the Cathedral of Learning in Oakland, or take a quick hike in Schenley Park.

There are other attractions as well, such as the many historic buildings in downtown Pittsburgh. These include the first Nickelodeon, historic churches and the Fort Pitt Blockhouse and Museum.

Outside of town, there are plenty of interesting attractions, such as Fallingwater, Laurel Caverns and a lot more!

Don't forget that we have a great zoo, cruises on the rivers and inclines. Would you like to help share these treasures with foreign visitors?

I'd like to get potential volunteers together on Monday, February 10th at the AYH office on Solway St. in Squirrel Hill at 7:30 pm. We can discuss the opportunities available and develop a strategy for programming.

Basically we want someone (or several people together) to meet people at the hostel and lead them to someplace special in our city. You decide where you would like to take them, how long it will take and the cost—just like the other trips that AYH offers. Anyone else can join in, too! This is your chance to meet people from Australia, Japan, Germany and all over the world without leaving Pittsburgh.

We may also sponsor pizza parties or ethnic food nights at the hostel, and we would need people to help make dinner and come down and socialize with the hostellers. I really can't get this off the ground without your help. Please give me a call at 531-1868 if you would like to help out.

This newsletter is designed and produced by Ron Wodaski at Triangle Computer Publishing. It is produced on a PC compatible using Corel Draw, Pagemaker, Photostyler and an HP Scanjet IIc.

Triangle

Computer Publishing

GRAPHIC DESIGN 

TECHNICAL WRITING 

PRODUCTION 



3301 PONOKA ROAD, PITTSBURGH, PA 15241

(412) 833-7765

Mid-Week Rambles

February

- 5 Wed RAMBLE **Spring Hill Area**
Marilyn Ham We might end up at the Allegheny Brewery once again.
687-4520

Note: during the winter, all trips are subject to change—especially if the weather makes driving difficult. We do meet at least once a week, even in very cold weather, for at least a vigorous walk. Call Cliff or Marilyn Ham at 687-4520 for Rambles on Wednesdays not listed above.

Volleyball

February

Tuesday
Nights
Jeff Marsh
384-7827

Volleyball at Schenley High School

6:30 pm

AYH plays volleyball every Tuesday evening at Schenley High School from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Call Jeff for more information.

National River Cleanup Week

An army of volunteers will take to America's rivers in canoes, kayaks, rafts, and on foot May 2-10, 1992 as part of National River Cleanup Week. America Outdoors, the American Canoe Association, the American White-water Affiliation, American Rivers, the National Association of Canoe Liveries and Outfitters, and the National Paddlesports Association will

be organizing river cleanups within their memberships.

Canoe Magazine is cosponsoring the cleanup week and will build support for the effort through ads and editorials. Other groups and sponsors are invited to participate.

Goals of the effort include removing tons of trash and debris from over 3,000 miles of waterways, encouraging public involvement in the stewardship of river resources, and fostering better working relationships between river interest groups.

Pittsburgh AYH hopes to participate in this effort. Contact Joe Hoechner, Publicity Chairman if you would like to get a group of kayakers, sailors, rafters or canoeists organized. Call Joe at 242-0781.

FORUM TRAVEL

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Bicycling the USA—a Dream Fulfilled

by Glenn Oster

[AYH member and trip leader Glenn Oster took a 5,400-mile bike tour in 1991. This is one article in a series describing his adventures on the trip.]

Remember early in 1991 when I advertised for companions to join me on a cross-country bicycle tour? Of course you don't, but I did. In a nutshell, the tour started out in Vancouver, British Columbia and essentially followed Bikecentennial routing down to Tijuana, Mexico and back to Oceanside, California. There we picked up the Southwest American Bicycle Route to Grand Canyon, Arizona, and continued east to the coast at Yorktown, Virginia, alternately following Bikecentennial routing and our own when the back roads selected by Bikecentennial wore us down.

With me for all or major parts of the trip were Helen Coyne, Christine Davies, Tony Estevez and three more who rode with us for weeks. They were never known by anything other than Fred, Bill and Tom. I said "with me" at the start of this paragraph—that should read "ahead of me." I had decided to pull a Burley trailer. It only weighs 15½ pounds and has very little drag on its own. But all that extra cargo room just cried out to be filled, and when that occurred, my bicycle and trailer together weighed at least 150 pounds. (I had them weighed together at 140 pounds in Eureka, California, on a guaranteed accurate scale—and then added about 15 pounds more that I'll describe later.) It handled

great and was a real convenience. In rolling hill conditions, you could come downhill at any speed you liked, but as soon as you started up the other side of the dip your momentum died—right now—like you threw out a drag parachute. This is my excuse for not making as good time as the others, but if I hadn't had this excuse I'd have thought up another.

We flew out to Vancouver, and because of a special good deal, we shipped our bikes. The good deal didn't seem so good when we got to Vancouver, but our bikes had not. No one told us we needed to give the shipping company Power of Attorney to use on our behalf with Canadian customs. This cost us nearly two days to track down the cause, go in person to customs to get our bikes and re-assemble them.

We finally got on our way on May 22, 1991. Vancouver is beautiful, and the rhododendrons and azaleas brought lots of oohs and ahhs. But, it is very hilly and the traffic was unbelievable. As an example, we needed to go over Padillo Bridge, but hadn't been able to break from a side street into a steady line of traffic for a good twenty minutes or more. But then two attractive young ladies came by and showed us how. They just stepped into the street, put both hands up in a stop motion such as police do, and, believe it or not, the traffic stopped. We seized the opportunity. I'm not so sure they'd stop for a senior citizen bike rider as they did for those "sweet young things."

With evening came a commercial campground, but it didn't come cheap. With my senior discount, it cost over \$17 (US) for the night—at least it had a hot tub. Although the day had been sunny and warm, the evening became very chilly and the hot tub felt sooooo good.

We should have savored the sunny weather that day, because for the next five weeks or so, we only saw the sun on rare occasions, and then only for part of the afternoon. The weather was cold and the constant wind brought damp air from the Pacific Ocean. We only experienced five days of significant rain on the entire trip, but riding through cold mist came very close to it. At times I could only see by looking over the top of my glasses, and, with my nearsightedness, that wasn't an overwhelmingly successful way to solve the problem.

Our routing tended to take us inland for much of our travels in Washington. There was little of note, but we did get a good look at Mt. Rainier when the overcast cleared for a bit. We spent a weekend on Whidby Island with friends in a sumptuous home on the edge of a 250-foot cliff overlooking "Useless Bay" on the Admiralty Inlet. We also took a day off, ferried across Puget Sound from Bremerton, rented a car and toured Seattle and Snoqualmie Falls in a nearly constant rain. Too bad I didn't know my MSR cook stove was about to break down—I could have dropped it off for overhaul in Seattle where it was manufactured.

To be continued next month...

Last Chance! **Cross-Country** **Weekends at** **Wilderness Lodge**

Only one weekend remains!
February 7-9

Additional double rooms may be available—call for information

You may still be able to reserve a spot at one of the four weekend trips to Wilderness Lodge. These weekends in the Erie snow belt feature rustic, intimate lodging and ski trails that are tracked and groomed. The lodge has been a perennial favorite of AYH skiers, so you are warned to reserve early.

The cost of the weekend includes lodging Friday and Saturday nights, a delicious candlelight dinner Saturday evening, and cross-country trail fees for two days. A vegetarian meal is available on request. Ski rentals, breakfasts and lunches are available at extra cost. Call Susan at 412-422-2282 to reserve a spot.

Space is limited to 34 persons per weekend. AYH members' cost for the weekend is \$60, and non-members pay \$70. A private room (two only; the rest are dorm style) are an extra \$10 per person.

The trips are on with or without snow. We will issue refunds (less a \$10 reservation fee) **only** if we or you can find a replacement. Pittsburgh AYH and Wilderness Lodge reserve the right to cancel any trip, in which case we will return the entire amount.

Cross-Country Ski Equipment for Kids Available

by Fred Parker

AYH had acquired cross-country skis equipment in children's sizes. Available for rental are:

Skis	4 pairs of no wax skis which are 150cm long (these will fit children about 4 feet tall). Two pair can strap on to any boot; two pair have 75mm nordic norm bindings.		
Boots			
	European size	American child size	
	30	12	
	32	1	
	34	3-3 1/2	
	35	4	
	37	Men's 5 or Women's 6	
	38	Men's 5 1/2-6 or Women's 6 1/2	
Poles			
	Length in cm	No. of pairs	Childs height
	85	1	3'9"
	90	1	4'
	95	1	4'2"
	105	3	4'7"
	115	1	5'1"
The set of skis, shoes, and poles may be rented at a rate of \$3.00 per week. If you are interested in renting any of them, please contact Fred Parker at 856-4713.			

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

AYH pass number for members: _____

☐ I will drive and can take _____ passengers.

☐ I need help finding a ride.

☐ I will drive and meet the group at Wilderness Lodge.

I have enclosed a check for: _____

(\$70 for shared room, or \$80 for private room, less \$10 for each member.) Make checks payable to Pittsburgh AYH



Wilderness Weekend order form

President's Corner

Larry Laude

(412) 665-9554
(CompuServe: 73467,3201)

Who's Been to Europe?

Perhaps you're going to France or Spain for the Olympics? We've been getting a lot of calls lately from travelers going to London or to the continent, either on a short vacation or for a semester at college. And with airfares to London at about \$300 to \$400, a trip is looking better and better. If you've been there already, perhaps you'd like to share your experiences with the folks back home. If you take slides, a slide show at a Thursday open house would be great. But even a question and answer session would be interesting. It would also be helpful if we could refer people with questions to you. Questions like Where do you stay? Is it safe? How much does it cost? Is it crowded? What are the hostels like? Do you need to speak French? When should I buy a Eurail pass? That sort of thing. Call me if you'd like to share your experiences. By the way, we were in London and northern England last September and would be glad to answer questions. (And if you do need a Eurail pass, hostel pass, or student ID card, we do have them available at the Council store.)

Larry Laude

Free AYH Discovery Tours Catalog Available

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

AYH Discovery Tours bring travelers face to face with new people, cultures and environments.

The hiking, cycling and bus tours cover every interest level, from beginners to experienced. Discovery tours feature small, friendly groups and an AYH-trained tour leader, in locations from the Rockies to Cape Cod, from France's Loire Valley to western Ireland. Tours are available for all age groups, from teens to 50+. Several tours are in the "open" age category, and are perfect for families, single parents, grandparents, etc.

Cycling tours range from 12 days in California's

Sierra Mountains for \$325, to a 43-day tour of six European countries for \$3,450 (land cost).

Hiking tours are of the "day hike" variety, using a base camp for heavier packs and gear.



Tour prices include overnight accommodations, group-prepared meals, and an AYH-trained leader. Hostels provide dorm-style accommodations with separate quarters for men and women. They come in an infinite variety, from a lighthouse on the California Coast to a castle in Germany.

The 24-page 1992 Discovery Tours catalog is free. To get yours, call (412) 362-8181 or write to:

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

Eurail Passes Sold by AYH

Pittsburgh Council now has available all Eurail Passes and Eurail Flexipasses available for over-the-counter sales at our office. Almost all other rail passes in Europe, including eastern Europe, are also available but require 3 days for delivery. Please note that all over-the-counter sales must be cash or certified check; passes paid for by credit card will require 3 days for delivery. Sample prices are:

Standard Eurail Pass

15 day unlimited first class	\$430
21 day unlimited first class	\$550
1 month unlimited first class	\$680

Eurail Flexipass

5 days travel in 15 days	\$280
9 days travel in 21 days	\$450
14 days travel in 1 month	\$610

These are the 1992 prices and reflect a 10 to 20% increase over the 1991 prices. Call the office at 412-422-2282 for a brochure.

Remember, all sales benefit Pittsburgh Council.

Where's the Snow?

Want to know the snow conditions in your favorite ski or snowmobile area? Both the Bureau of State Parks and Bureau of Forestry have telephone numbers to call for weekly snow updates. For information on snow conditions and ice thickness in state parks, call 1-800-63-PARKS. Reports updated each Thursday.

For information on snow conditions on State Forest lands, the Bureau of Forestry operates a snowmobile hotline from December 14 to March 17 with a message that is updated by 10 am every Tuesday and Friday. The number is 717-787-5651.

Classified

G'DAY, SKIERS: Skis running slow, turning choppy? Edges dull and rusty? Does the base look like the surface of the moon? Worry no longer: a certified ski mechanic will sharpen, wax, re-contour, and generally put the pizzazz packing kick your skis need at this mid-season point. All ski are welcome—downhill, Nordic (cross-country), or telemark. **No job too big or too small;** give a call: The man-o'-many-hats, Bill Eberle. 833-9732.

HOCKEY SKATES, Tour CDN, size 9, \$25. **Cross-country skis:** Karhu—boots \$35, Skis \$140, Poles \$90; Trak Oslo—boots \$41, Skis \$195, Poles \$125. From LL Bean. Any reasonable offer accepted. John McDonald 793-5817.

STILL GOT all of those used thingamabobs laying around the basement? Find someone who could use them, and raise a little cash for your next endeavor. Advertise in the AYH classified section. Free for AYH members.

BIKES: 21" Schwinn Voyager, 22" Trek, 21" Ross Gran Tour (steel) all accessories included. Clothing/shoes (9) for 5'10", 160 lb. man. Call for details. John McDonald 793-5817

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

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

ADVERTISE in the AYH classified. If you are an AYH member, there is no charge for your ad. What better place could you find to advertise your used recreational equipment, or find others with similar interests? Send your ad and AYH pass number to:

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

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703 Washington Road (2 miles north of South Hills Village)



1992 Membership Application

American Youth Hostels

Pittsburgh Council
6300 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15232



Membership Categories

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Birthdate: _____ (day) _____ (eve) M ____ F

For student ID cards only:

School name: _____

Citizenship: _____

Insurance beneficiary name, address, phone: _____

International hostel directories, misc. merchandise:

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

See additional requirements below.

For hostellers:

I need my hostel pass by: _____

☐ Please send Eurailpass information

Please send me information on volunteering for:

- ☐ Activities
☐ Office help
☐ Hostel development

I am joining primarily for:

- ☐ Local activities
☐ Hostelling in the US
☐ Hostelling abroad

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

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

All memberships include:

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

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

Headquarters: open Thursdays from 8 to 10 pm
6300 Fifth Avenue (at Shady Avenue)
Pittsburgh, PA (412) 362-8181

Office: open Mon., Wed., Fri. 9 am to 2 pm
Room 204 Wightman School
5604 Solway St. (Squirrel Hill) (412) 422-2282

February Shows

February 6
Montour Trail Council
Rails to Trails
 Tim Kilmire

February 27
 To be announced

February 13
BOG & J.E.E.C.
 Linda Smithyman



Do you have slides from a trip,
 or a topic you would like to
 share information about?

February 20
 To be announced

To volunteer to do a show, call
Tom Rodgers at 621-6310.

American Youth Hostels

Pittsburgh Council
6300 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

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The Oregon Coast, seen on one of the AYH Discovery Tours
 (see page 13)

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