

The Golden Triangle

Pittsburgh Council

Volume 41 Number 11

American Youth Hostels

November 1990

COMING ATTRACTION!!

A new serial titled, "THE BEARTOOTH WILDERNESS, WHO WOULD BELIEVE IT!", by Glenn Oster beginning in the December issue. So get those memberships renewed, you don't want to miss a single part of this exciting adventure.

Slide Programs for November

November 1

Recent Travels of The Kayak
Gypsies
Cathy Lynch & Dave Sadler

November 8

The Beauty of Beartooth
Glenn Oster

November 15

Cross Country Skiing and Sight
Seeing in Norway
Terry Gossard

November 29

Rain and The Clean Air Act
Brian Hill of the PA Environmental
Council

December 6

Cross Country Skiing
Equipment, Waxing, Clothing
Fred Parker

Slide shows begin at 8:15 pm
Headquarters opens at 8:00 pm

THE BATISCAN RIVER - QUEBEC

by Bob Buck

The annual Canadian Canoe trip began by meeting at Brown's restaurant in Portersville at 8:00 am for breakfast. We were paired up, two to a van, with all our equipment and canoes.

Frank Bruns, the leader, and Millard Underwood led the convoy. Dave Marschik and I, Wymard and Virginia McQuon, Oscar Meyer and Kathy Lynch followed. Frank set a pretty fast pace. When we went through Montreal we nearly lost him. We were headed for a camp ground we had used before. We got there after dark, 10:00 pm, only to find that it was closed permanently. We found a motel for the night.

MONDAY: We don't cook meals when we are on the road. we had breakfast in a restaurant and drove on to TROIS RIVIERES, the second oldest city in Canada. As we had a lot of time we strolled around town and enjoyed the old buildings. They have very good ice cream there, I had chocolate.

That afternoon we drove the 75 miles north to Hervey-Junction, where we were scheduled to be picked up at 5:25 pm by the Canadian National Railway. We all did some reshuffling and packing for canoe travel while we waited. Of our eight canoes, no two were alike. Frank had a Blue Hole, Sunburst; Oscar, a Blue Hole, Sunburst 2; Kathy, a Mohawk, XL13; Dave, a Mad River, ME; Virginia, a Perception, HD; Wymard, a Mohawk, Rogue; Millard, a heavy tandem, Shenandoah; I used an Old Town, Otter. All were ABS white water canoes and except for Millard's were very maneuverable and easy to handle in the rapids and on the portages.

We purchased tickets for the train ride, \$11.00 per person and \$18.00 per canoe

with baggage for a total of \$29.00 Canadian. (\$25. U.S). The train was on time. We loaded the canoes and our baggage in about five minutes in the baggage car, grabbed our lunch bags and got in the passenger car for a leisurely 70-mile shuttle. This shuttle is one of the nicest I have been on. You can sit back in comfortable seats and eat your lunch. Don't forget the shuttle wine. The wine is a must. We enjoyed the three hour ride. For a good part of the trip, the tracks paralleled the Batiscan River which we would paddle. We could see many of the rapids from the train and made plans how we would run them.

There was a troop of young scouts in the car who were very noisy, but in 15 minutes Wymard had a group of them chatting and they quieted down. Never found out how Wymard talked to them because they seemed to speak only French.

We arrived at our destination, Pearl Lake and in a few minutes all our equipment was sitting beside the tracks. As this is the black fly and mosquito season we had given ourselves the Muskol treatment, spray and liquid, before we got off the train. You learn fast how to handle the insect problem in Canada. The Muskol, spray can or bottle, is always within arm's reach. When you crawl out of your sleeping bag each morning you reach for the Muskol spray before you reach for your socks.

As the train pulled out we carried our gear and canoes to the River's edge, packed and paddled 1/2 mile up stream to a regular campsite. It was primitive, just a big sand bar and I hate to camp on a sand bar. Sand gets into everything. Soon the tents were up and we were ready for bed and dreaming of what the river gods had in store for us and would we be able to meet the challenges.

continued on page 12



COUNCIL NEWS



OHIOPYLE STATE PARK AYH-HOSTEL
PO BOX 99
OHIOPYLE PA 15470
(412) 329-4476

Ohiopyle Hostel

Looking for inexpensive overnight accommodations while skiing or hiking in Pennsylvania's Laurel mountains this winter?

The Ohiopyle Youth Hostel sleeps 24 in dorm-style bunk rooms for only \$6.00 a night for American Youth Hostel members and \$9.00 for non-members.

the Hostel is located in scenic Ohiopyle State Park with its miles of cross-country ski trails. It is within a short drive of downhill ski areas and other State Parks.

For a free brochure describing the Ohiopyle Hostel and giving AYH membership information write: Hostel Information, Pittsburgh Council AYH, 6300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

OHIOPYLE AYH-HOSTEL FALL PICNIC AND WORK PARTY

The Council is sending a work party down to the Ohiopyle Hostel to do yard work, some outside painting and some miscellaneous indoor work on Saturday November 3rd. If you like to paint or work outside, we've got a job for you. Combine this with an overnight at the Hostel and a hike on Sunday for a work and play weekend. The Council will provide a late afternoon picnic (or an indoor dinner, depending on the weather) and a free overnight at the hostel. For more information, contact Larry Laude at 412-665-9554.

THE PITTSBURGH HOSTEL STORY

by Linda Smithyman

There will be a meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 12 at 7:00 pm at Linda's house. Call 531-1868 for more details. We will discuss the future planning efforts of the Hostel Development Committee.

**AYH HOT LINE
(412) 362-8181**

\$\$\$ PART-TIME OFFICE HELP WANTED \$\$\$:

The Council is considering paying a person to handle sale of memberships by mail and to handle phone and mail requests for information. Familiarity with AYH, both nationally and locally, would be helpful but is not essential, since training will be provided as needed. More important is reliability, the willingness to answer questions and the ability to keep accurate accounts.

Access to Shadyside to pick up the mail at Headquarters and/or the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts at least twice a week will also be necessary. Compensation will initially be \$500 to \$1000 per year. Actual compensation will depend on the final job description. If you are interested in supplementing your income while helping Pittsburgh Council grow, call Larry Laude at 412-665-9554.

Activities Board Meeting

The largest part of October's Activities Board meeting was dedicated to preparing the fiscal year 1991 budget for recommendation to the Board of Directors for final approval. The budget is very close to the current year's budget.

The November Activities Board meeting will be at Fran and John Gayler's new home at 9842 Woodland Rd in the North Hills at 8 pm on Wednesday November 7th. As usual, a map will be provided with the call to the meeting. Remember that Pittsburgh Council's vice presidents are elected at the November Activities Board meeting. All members of the Activities Board, and especially new members, are requested to attend.

FOR ALL OUTDOORS PEOPLE

For a FREE list of Our Publications on Trail Foods, Menus; also Canoe and Hiking Guides in Western Pa. & W.Va., write: Pittsburgh AYH - Books 6300 Fifth Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Deadlines for the December Issue

Copy
November 1

Binding and Mailing
November 22

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



In November, I write the President's Corner not really knowing what the results of the Annual Meeting will have been. In most years, it's usually a pretty safe bet the recommendations of the nominating committee will have been accepted by the membership. This year, for the first time that I'm aware of, we will be voting on issues as well. While I anticipate that the changes to the Bylaws and Constitution will be accepted, I can't be absolutely sure of how the meeting will turn out. We'll have to wait until the December newsletter to publish the results.

Whatever the decision of the membership turns out to be, I hope that we can continue with renewed effort on the three major tasks ahead of us: the Activities Program, renovating (some would say resurrecting) our Headquarters building, and developing the Pittsburgh Hostel.

In the meantime, I would like to thank those members who have served on the Activities Board and the Board of Directors this past year. Let me particularly take note of those who have decided to hang up their boots or paddles, so to speak, after having taken their turn at serving the membership: Cliff Ham and Fred Galvez have retired from the Board of Directors to pursue other goals; Cay Friedman, who is now in Columbus; Mike and Marta Hurwitz, now in San Diego; Rick Tomlinson, now sailing in Florida; Rich Rosenberger; Rick Ulacky; and Dino Angelici, who went from Cycling to the board of the Montour Trail Council. Larry Laude 412-665-9554 or, on Compuserve, [73467,3201]

ANNUAL AYH CAROLING PARTY: Reserve Thursday evening December 20th for the Annual AYH Caroling and Holiday Party. Watch the December newsletter for details.

DINERS' CLUB: Members are wanted to restore the old Pittsburgh AYH tradition of dining out on the town, particularly at specialty or ethnic restaurants and usually on a weekday evening. If you're interested, pick a place and either announce it at a Thursday evening open house or in the newsletter. The primary responsibility here is to choose a place and make reservations.

ELECTRICIAN: We're looking for a licensed electrician to install or supervise the installation of emergency lights, a new breaker box, several overhead lights and a few new outlets. We'll provide the parts, of course. Work on one or more of these would be appreciated. Contact Larry Laude at 665-9554.

BLACKWATER FALLS TRIP LEADER: Yes, if you're a Council trip leader and are willing to accept a paid weekend at Blackwater Falls (transportation, lodging and trip fees), you may be qualified to lead the Council's annual Blackwater Falls trip. Prior experience at Blackwater Falls weekends is necessary. Contact Larry Laude at 665-9554 for more information.

Trips in November

HIKING/BACKPACKING

11/4 Sun Int Ben Brugmans 736-0103(H)

8:00 am at headquarters. Bear Run, 8 miles

11/4 Sun Int Jon Malman 736-0103(H)

8:00 am at HQ. Destination to be announced. 10 miles. Call Jon for information and reservations.

11/4 Sun All Linda Smithyman 531-1868(H)

Meet 10:00 am at Ohiopyle Hostel. Ohiopyle, 4 miles

11/9-12 Fri-Mon Int Glenn Oster 364-2864(H) before 9 pm

Hike the West Rim trail along Pine Creek Gorge - Grand Canyon of PA. Call for more information and reservations.

11/17 Sat Int Glenn Oster 364-2864(H) before 9 pm

Hike the Buckeye trail in Cuyahoga National Recreation Area.. Call Glenn for information and reservations.

11/21-25 Wed-Sun Int Mark Mistrick 441-8293(H)

6:30 at HQ Wednesday evening. Celebrate Thanksgiving on an intermediate level backpacking trip to the Great Smokey Mountains in Tennessee. The National Park is considered the most spectacular in the Appalachians.

Weekend Trip **Mark Mistrick** **441-8293(H)**

We are planning our second weekend hiking (some) and fossil hunting (lotsa!) trip. Call for date, destination, and other details.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Nikonos 80 mm telephoto lens - fits all models, \$195.00.
Call Gordon at 371-4233

Pittsburgh Council Activity Chairs

Bicycling

Chuck Ejzak 466-6196
Dino Angelici 931-6651

Canoeing

Clare Bunker 244-9788

Caving

Dan Martt 921-4638

Climbing

Eric Bauer 687-0766
Rich Rosenberger 355-4058

Family Activities

Barbara Hanusa 441-7205

Hiking & Backpacking

Ben Brugmans 736-2751
Pat Tieman 561-3286

Kayaking

Ray Yutzy 341-5682
John Gayler 421-1307

Mid-Week Trips

Cliff Ham 687-4520

Rafting

Jon Maiman 441-2306
Linda Smithyman 531-1868

Sailing

Bob Zavos 325-2175

Sea Kayaking

Mark Mistrick 441-8293
Ted Self 795-6286

Volleyball

Joel Platt 521-5244

X-C Skiing

Fred Parker 856-4713
Rick Ulaky 422-0849

NOTICE TO HIKERS

This is another reminder that the Baker Trail no longer crosses the Allegheny Sand and Gravel property north of Schenley, PA. Trespassing may result in prosecution. The trail has been blazed to by pass this property. The Schenley shelter is no longer available for use. Please cease and desist as the AYH organization is receiving letters from their attorney.

Sing-Along

You are invited to a Sing-Along in New Kensington, Saturday, Nov. 10, 7:30 pm. If you enjoy Broadway Tunes, songs from the 60's, even Opera! R.S.V.P.; Pat Rossi, 335-5067.

VOLLEYBALL

WHERE WE WILL PLAY INDOORS AND WHEN HAS NOT BEEN RESOLVED YET. FOR INFORMATION CALL JOEL PLATT AT 521-5244(H) OR 421-4446(W); JEFF MARSH AT 381-7827(H)

AYH HOT LINE
(412) 362-8181

THE EDITOR'S FANCY

JUST SAY YES. Please say yes, I want to help create a hostel in Pittsburgh. The AYH is already the greatest organization for outdoor activities and getting acquainted with other folks (of all ages) like yourself who enjoy active outdoor participation. The word HOSTEL is definitely in our organization's title. A city the size of Pittsburgh is well over due for such an inexpensive accommodation which provides a lot of young people the chance to travel independently and safely. And for other members who don't feel the need for porters to carry their bags and/or maids to make their beds

I had to wait until I was almost 50 years old before I got to see Europe. Even then I did it with a backpack and stayed at hostels. (My family thought I was tetchd). This gave me an experience I could not have had otherwise. I was truly impressed with the hostel system there and the other travelers I chanced to meet. How do you explain to a student from Japan studying Forestry in Germany how the average American housewife could trek all over Europe for a month. He ask me, "what do you do in Pittsburgh?" I said, "I live there." He said, "no, no!, your job - work. I told him I ran a household of six people with four teenagers still in school. His comment was, "oh".

It would be quiet convenient to slip us a bit of cash when you renew your membership. Or a more forthright person could simple sent us a generous donation. But if you really want to be a hero, (and I believe you are sometimes referred to as an Angel), get in touch with our president and offer us a building or a nice fat grant to help facilitate this worthy goal. Pittsburgh Council, AYH is a non-profit organization and contributions are deductible. God knows, we could all use a few deductions on our 1990 income tax returns. Ouch!

FRICK PARK NATURE RESERVE

This year, the area surrounding Frick Nature Center in Frick Park in Pittsburgh's East End received national recognition as a wildlife sanctuary and nature reserve. New signs are visible at the reserve entrances. The 150 acre area includes land originally donated by Henry Clay Frick.

In keeping with the Frick family wishes that the land remain an undeveloped wildlife center, the City of Pittsburgh set aside acreage to enhance habitat for wildlife and encourage a wider variety of educational experiences for citizens of Pittsburgh.

Because this fragile land and the life it supports require special care in order to survive, picnicking, bicycling, and dog walking are being encouraged in other areas of Frick Park.

MONTOUR TRAIL NEWS

by Dino Angelici

Although we cannot yet call it a "done deal", the idea that a Montour Trail will exist in Pittsburgh's immediate future looks very promising. The Montour Trail Council recently celebrated its first birthday but as Representative Tom Murphy remarked, "It seems as if I've known you a lot longer". This is in large part due to a very dedicated and hardworking 13 member board of directors who have taken what could be described as a fanatical approach to making this trail happen. Some of the board members are beginning to feel the strain of this frenzied pace. The board will probably vote to expand its size in an effort to distribute the work load somewhat. What follows is a recap of developments over the past few months.

As a direct result of a legislative breakfast, held at the Airport Marriott in Coraopolis on May 9th, the Trail Council received about \$24,000 from the discretionary funds of State Senator Mike Fisher and State Representatives Ron Gamble, Alice Langtry and Tom Murphy. The sole subject of this breakfast was to brief the various political leaders and the press on the benefits of the Montour Trail.

Our first annual Trail Walk was held on Sunday, June 10th on the Arrowhead Trail in Peters Township. The Arrowhead Trail, an already completed portion of the large Montour Trail, was recently extended another one half mile to Brush Run Road, where an access area featuring a brand new 60 car parking lot was also constructed.

Through the efforts of Paul Mitsdarfer, Tom Dougherty and others, the Council has received written endorsements from some 40 corporations, businesses and special interest groups from the Pittsburgh area. These letters of endorsement are placed in a portfolio that also includes the completed Feasibility Study. These materials have been distributed to all of the municipalities that will be affected by the Trail.

The portfolio is also being used by Attorney Richard R. Wilson and the Fund-Development Committee when approaching various corporations and foundations for some of the funding that will be required. We have some very promising assurances that funds will be made available when the need arises.

Larry Ridenour, Planning Project Manager for Allegheny County and Government Liaison of the Montour Trail Council, has successfully met with all of the local governments along the Right-of-Way with largely favorable results.

An appraisal of the entire ROW, co-sponsored by Allegheny County and the MTC, was completed in August by Dan McCowan. The appraisal along with Bridge and Tunnel Inspection Reports was used to make an offer of purchase to Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad President Gordon Neunswander in September 1990. Special thanks to a team of volunteer Bridge Inspectors led by Dave Wright who completed a painstaking inspection of some 95 structures.

MTC President Stan Sattinger and Director Paul Mitsdarfer, recently appeared with Ted Sohler on Channel 53's FYI (For Your Information) Pittsburgh show. Even though the show was aired at 12:30 AM Monday Morning, the MTC's telephone was inundated with calls after the program ended. No sleepwalking on the Montour Trail will be permitted.

Representative Tom Murphy recently arranged an interview with Pittsburgh Press reporter Ralph Haurwitz. Ralph's articles often deal with environmental issues and are usually displayed prominently in the Press. Watch for it. In summary, those of us who have been working on this trail conversion are very much gratified to know that we have been getting so much positive feedback and support for a recreational trail in our area. At a recent weekend fair in Mingo Park, I was standing off to the side of our display booth just listening in on the conversations of people who were crowding around the booth. I was surprised to note that many people had already heard about the trail and were speaking of it in positive terms. That means that the MTC is doing its job, getting the word out and enlisting support. This kind of response to the Trail Project makes all of us connected with it very confident that we will indeed have this trail soon. If you would like any further information or would like to volunteer your efforts to help the Trail Council, please call Tom Fix at 831-2030.

Pittsburgh Council Hostels

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

Charleroi Youth Hostel (S.A.)
Rego's Hotel & Restaurant
601 McKean Ave.
Charleroi, PA 15022
(412) 483-6200

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

Point Park College Youth Hostel (S.A.)
201 Wood Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 392-3824

MID-WEEK RAMBLES

Every Wednesday. Meet at 10:00 am in the upper parking lot at Fifth and Shady Avenues. We generally take a 3 to 4 mile "ramble" at a slow pace. Call for more information on current activities or to make arrangements to meet the group. Cliff or Marilyn Ham 687-4520(H) MID-WEEK RAMBLES

LOST ON LAUREL HILL

by Jim Ritchie

September 22, 1990 started out with some miserable weather: foggy, misty, drizzling and cool. This was the day I was to lead a hike in Laurel Hill State Park. The weather had been on again and off again for a few days and was supposed to improve today, but so far it had a long way to go. Our hike started with nearly all participants in full rain gear. We passed by a little woodland cemetery near Group Camp #8, where in years past an old tavern had stood and close by an area where it was rumored that George Washington had camped on his way to snuff out the Whiskey Rebellion. In the graveyard we discovered the stone of a five-year old who had died in either 1818 or 1918 (it wasn't quite clear enough to make out). Another stone was the final resting place of George, an infant, who died at the age of one year, one month and one day.

Passing by Group Camp #8, Judy Flowers all of a sudden realized "Hey! I've been here before." She had been here before, some years ago staying in the camp overnight with a group. *Deja vu*, again. When we walked down the hillside behind the camp, we found Jones Mill Run running high and fast. Fortunately, the State Park people had built a bridge allowing us to keep our feet momentarily dry. Over the next half mile, we managed to keep to the east side of the Run, avoiding several crossings over and back again.

We had this constant light mist until well after 12:00 noon, with a light fog giving everything a fantasia backdrop. The sun didn't begin to break out from the clouds until nearly 1:00 pm, finally providing splashes of warmth for damp, chilly bodies.

We soon came to the Jones Mill Run Dam with its 30 foot waterfall splashing down stone blocks carved, probably out of nearby boulders, years and years ago. Paul Bronder remembered a story he had heard about Jones Mill. It seems that back around the turn of the century, in the early 1900's, there was a millwright who disliked his wife so much, for bad cooking among other reasons, that he tied her to the waterwheel. He let her go round and round until finally she drowned. We speculated as to whether or not her ghost haunted the pond behind the dam today.

We then marched onward and upward on the Pump House Trail. This was to be the beginning of our problems. At the junction with the Martz Trail, the trip leader, who was mentally about 1/2 mile ahead of his body, made a right turn instead of left and trekked happily off through the drizzle in the wrong direction. We were then looking for a right turn onto the Bobcat Trail which I had previously noted as a very obscure turn to several in our group. Well, it seemed to be so obscure (being in the wrong place doesn't help) that we had to make several passes back and forth in the general vicinity to locate any kind of trail at all. Then, deciding that what looked like either a very old and little used trail or a well-used animal trail was probably Bobcat, we marched off through the woods.

The trail, over the course of a half mile or so, became more and more obscure, until finally there was no longer any trace of use at all,

human or animal. Here we were, dead-ended in the middle of nowhere. Bob Taylor pulled out his compass. The fearless trip leader pulled out his topo maps. The other 13 hikers shuffled their feet in the trail-less brush. We considered bushwhacking our way out to the southwest, our desired direction. We fanned out in our immediate area looking for some continuation of the trail. Finally after 15 minutes of exploration and contemplation, the trip leader (me) discovered, in his enthusiasm to pursue the trail, he had turned right one junction too soon. We weren't where we thought we were! We were in the wrong spot!

We then backtracked and, seemingly in a matter of just a few minutes, were back at the fouled junction and on the right track once again. In just a couple more minutes, we found the real Bobcat Trail and forged ahead, fifteen happy hikers, saved from hours of doomed floundering in the wild.

Meanwhile, while we were back at Jones Mill Run Dam, two of our party, Bev Honchorek and John Gordon, had decided to go on ahead, preferring to move along at a faster and steadier pace than the rest of us sightseers. Guess what happened! Just a few short yards from the Dam, they made an erroneous right turn at the Pump House Trail instead of the desired left. They marched quite a distance down the trail before discovering their erroneous ways, turning around and coming back. Now, they thought, they had to catch us. So they hiked full force, behind us, they thought, even eating their lunch on their feet.

Of course, Bev and John made the correct turn at Martz, and in spite of their delay, ended up in front of the main body of hikers. In fact, we knew they were up there because we spotted their tracks on the trail when we finally got going in the right direction.

The rest of the hike was less eventful but very pleasant. After hiking down the Hemlock Trail through one of the last stands of virgin hemlock in the State, along the banks of Laurel Hill Creek, we stopped at Picnic Area Number 4 (aren't State Park names catchy?) and lay in the sun, half way dozing, eating what was left of our lunches (a lot of people were nibbling nervously during our unfortunate diversion).

After eating lunch, we took to the Lake Trail, circling Laurel Hill Lake, which was like a photographic travelogue enticing tourists to come hike in William Penn's Woods. The antique shop we anticipated browsing through at the main road near the end of our hike was closed this day but the grocery (formerly the Red & White) next to the Trent, PA Bed & Breakfast was open for Maynard Hanson's black coffee and Brian McBane's popsicle and other treats for other folks.

The hike concluded, as advertised, with the promised wading of the sandy beach at Laurel Hill Lake, although not many elected to do so, probably because their feet had already been wet most of the day. Bev and John, in their quest to catch up with us, had in fact finished the hike nearly two hours ahead of us. Even so, they still seemed glad to see us. One final stop, on our way home was for cider, fresh apples, green beans, red peppers and other assorted produce at a small country fruit stand in Donegal.. I may just do this again next year.

Blackwater Falls Getaway Weekend

January 25 - 26 - 27, 1991

All you have to do is cut a few corners to enjoy a relaxing weekend in West Virginia at the beautiful Blackwater Falls lodge overlooking the Blackwater River Gorge. It's easy, just fill out the reservation form on the facing page, clip it out, and mail it along with your check to: Pittsburgh AYH, Blackwater Falls Weekend, 6300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232. Additional information call: (412) 362-8181

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

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

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

Reservation Information - Pay in FULL for either:

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

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

No of Rooms	No of People	Type of Rooms	Pay before Nov 30	After Nov 30
22	2	1 of two twin beds in shared room	55.00	75.00
	1	1 of two twin beds	110.00	130.00
10	2	1 double bed	110.00	130.00
9	3	1 double bed and 1 twin bed	135.00	155.00
11	4	2 double beds	160.00	180.00

**\$10.00 AYH
MEMBER
DISCOUNT!!**

No refunds will be given after December 20, 1990 unless the room or single can be sold to someone else. A \$5.00 processing fee will be charged for each refund.

We expect to provide a chartered bus from Pittsburgh to Blackwater Falls. We must, however, get enough passengers to qualify for a bus. Therefore, if you are interested in reserving a place on the bus, the cost will be \$25.00. Please enclosed a SEPARATE CHECK to cover the cost of all bus reservations, (this is so we can send the check back to you if we do not get the minimum number of passengers). For more information, please call: (412) 362-8181.

NEW APPALACHIAN TRAIL MAPS AVAILABLE

A completely revised set of maps for the Appalachian Trail (AT) in Pennsylvania has just been published by Keystone Trails Association. The redesigned format consists of 12 maps, one on each side of six sheets. Each sheet measures 8" x 23" when unfolded and is reduced to 8: x 3-7/8" when folded. The single color maps are printed in black on white Polyart, a water and tear resistant material.

In addition to the route of the main AT, the topographic maps show blue-blazed and other trails, as well as parking areas, vistas, springs, campsites, shelters, and other features. Each of the 12 maps is accompanied by an elevation profile. The new maps reflect a number of relocations since the last edition, including the new route through the Cumberland Valley.

The new set of maps can be ordered by mail from: Keystone Trails Association, PO Box 251, Cogan Station, PA 17228. Cost by mail is \$6.30, which includes .94 for shipping and .36 PA sales tax.

RESERVATION FORM FOR BLACKWATER FALLS - 1991

Name: _____ AYH number _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ (home) _____ (work)

List persons sharing room (if applicable):

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please reserve the following:

_____ a twin bed/shared room	@ \$ _____ = _____
_____ room(s) w/2 single beds	@ \$ _____ = _____
_____ room(s) w/1 double bed	@ \$ _____ = _____
_____ room(s) w/1 dbl & 1 twin bed	@ \$ _____ = _____
_____ room(s) w/2 double beds	@ \$ _____ = _____
_____ DISCOUNT(S) for AYH members @ \$10.00	= _____

TOTAL FOR LODGING: _____

_____ Bus Reservations @ \$25.00 = _____

A SEPARATE CHECK IS REQUIRED FOR THE BUS.

You are entitled to a discount of \$10.00 for each AYH member in the room.

PAYMENT MUST BE MADE IN FULL. NO CASH OR TELEPHONE RESEVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Please check, as appropriate:

_____ can supply _____ rides
 _____ will need a ride
 _____ will supply my own ride
 _____ riding in bus

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

Send reservation form, check and a self-addressed, stamped, business size envelope to:
 Pittsburgh AYH
 Blackwater Falls Weekend
 6300 Fifth Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15232

QUEHANNA TRAIL IN GOOD SHAPE

Ralph Seeley of the Penn State Outing Club reports that the trails of the Quehanna area are in good condition. This includes the 75 miles of the Quehanna Hiking Trail and the 56 miles of other trails (ski trails and assorted hiking trails such as the Cross-Connectors supplied to enable extended weekends on the Quehanna Hiking Trail).

Following the tornado of May 1985, the Quehanna trail system was extensively renovated. In 1989, a new map was issued. It is available free from the Bureau of Forestry, Moshannon State Forest District Office, Box 952, Clearfield PA 16830.

western pa's canoesport center

features:

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FEBRUARY 15, 16, 17

If you like your lodging intimate and rustic, and your ski trails tracked and groomed, this is the weekend for you in the Erie snow-belt near the New York border. NO SNOW - WE STILL GO!



The cost includes lodging Friday and Saturday nights and a candlelight dinner Saturday evening (vegetarian, upon request). Trail fees are \$5.00 per day and ski rentals are available at the lodge. Three to six people in a room with assorted doubles, singles, and bunk beds available. Space is limited to 34 persons each weekend. Call Helen Coyne (776-0678) to make reservations for the weekend you want. After confirmation, send a check made payable to Pittsburgh AYH for the full amount. No refunds after December 28 unless your spot can be sold to someone else. Send checks to: Helen Coyne, 168 Woodhaven Dr., Mars, PA 16046.

WEEKEND COSTS: MEMBER-\$50.00, NON-MEMBER-\$55.00. Two private rooms with one double bed each are available for \$60.00 per member and \$65.00 for non-member.

Please indicate the weekend for which you have made a reservation:

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ ARE YOU AN AYH MEMBER _____

WEEKEND OF _____

_____ I can drive and I can take (#) _____ riders.

_____ I cannot drive

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

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ for _____ (#) members,

_____ (#) non-members.

TUESDAY: All up by 6:00 am, breakfast, tents down and canoes packed by 8:10 am. We shoved off on the 65 mile trip south on the Batiascan River. We noted that the water level was higher than on previous trips which would surely change the rapids. One-half mile down stream we ran the first two boulder strewn class II rapids which were 100 and 300 meters long; another mile and a 350 meter class III rapid. With the higher water level we were concerned about running class III rapids with our loaded canoes but we all ran it well. Hereafter we ran all class III rapids without question. My loaded canoe was a little sluggish but it handled well and did not bounce like a feather.

Most of the first day we had light rain which didn't bother us much as we were always busy paddling, reading our maps and watching for rapids. By noon we paddled four more class II rapids for 300 meters and then came our first class IV. We scouted it and decided to line it 40 meters, then run it the remaining class III - 200 meters. Two miles further and another class IV. As the water was high with brushy banks we decided to portage this one. We camped along the portage. Frank said we would camp here so we spread out looking for a spot to clear out for a tent. You can't be particular about the location of camp in the wilderness. I had no trouble, but Wymard and Virginia had a big four man tent and it is hard to find a space large enough to put it up in the woods.

On the Portages the canoes were carried solo, while the baggage is carried separately. Everyone worked equally hard. I pack my gear for convenience so I have nine smaller bags which allows me to make three trips plus the trip for the canoe. I can overload myself and make it in 3 trips but this is suppose to be fun.

WEDNESDAY was a beautiful sunny day. On the river at 8:00 am. Two miles later a couple of small class II rapids, then a class IV which we lined our canoes through. With granite boulders on shore it is a tricky operation to line a canoe by yourself. At noon we passed two cleared campsites large enough for us but we were behind schedule so we passed them up and did the wilderness trick again on a portage 8 miles down river. After 300 meters of class II in the 7 miles we came to another class IV rapid which we lined

on the right about 75 meters. Another mile and two more class IV rapids. We couldn't run them so six persons at a time carried the full canoes, one by one, 100 feet to the railroad bed, along it for 700 yards, then 100 feet back to the river. That is back breaking work. No more of that for me. I would rather carry my own canoe and gear and make my four trips. Dave carried his solo. At the water's edge it was decided to make camp. Again we scattered looking for a spot big enough for the tents. It took some work but I cleared a rough moss covered area and soon had supper started. I had been there before and have my food list pretty well perfected. Within 15 minutes of the time I light my stove, I am ready to eat. I had coffee, beef stew, mashed potatoes and apple sauce. I used to make pancakes for breakfast but as Oscar says, though they are very good it takes too much time to get ready. Now I have only coffee and 5 minute cooked cracked wheat. While that is cooking I start packing.

One evening Kathy cooked Clam Alfredo (noodles in clam sauce). It looked and smelled delicious, (just like my wife cooks) but I saw them add garlic cloves to it and knowing me they didn't offer me any. They had chocolate custard also which I did accept when it was offered. It was a happy group sitting in that rocky dinning room by the rushing river.

THURSDAY: On the river by 8:00 am. Immediately a class III rapid and two class IV. We paddled into the class IV as far as it was safe, unloaded and portaged everything about 300 yards. Then ran a class III and II and five miles later another class IV which had to be lined. A mile further another class III for 550 meters. Two miles of flat, then several more class III's — and on and on —. Dragging the loaded canoes over the boulders is hard on the canoes but once you are committed you have to go on. My new Otter now looks like I have paddled it 2000 miles. Again we had a primitive campsite.

FRIDAY: On the river by 8:00 am, Rainy day. This was a busy section of the river with continuous class II and III rapids with a few class IV's in quick succession. We had a grueling day and we welcomed the next bridge 2 miles down the river which marked the best campsite we used on the trip. Gladly we pulled off and the usual search for a tent

site. I am not very particular so soon I had the bushes cleared, camp set up and supper of B-B Beef, mashed potatoes and coffer on the stove. After supper everyone congregated under Kathy's kitchen fly for the evening. It was Oscar's turn to cook supper. He made a three quart pot of thick ox-tail soup which he and Millard ate then topped it off with a two quart pan of peach cobbler. Yep, they ate it all!

SATURDAY: We had 15 to 20 miles to go. It was mostly flat running water with several class I, II and III rapids. After scouting the last class IV we would encounter we decided to run it. Rather I decided to follow. On this one I went last. It started out as a class II, gained speed as it veered right then straight ahead through mountainous waves. WOW! My only thought was, "what am I doing here?" A big wave tipped my canoe sideways to the right and I put out the most perfect low brace I have ever done and I went through like a veteran. I had to because as I came through that maelstrom of water I looked up and there in a circle facing upstream were seven canoes poised to pull me out of the water if I needed it. I don't know if anyone took a picture of it but I accepted the congratulations of all on the picture - perfect low brace I had done. No one upset on the whole trip and I was not about to show them how it was done. That was the last rapid. The next 12 miles were flat. The pace on this section was rather fast. I could hardly keep up.

At noon we reached the falls at Notre Dame de Montauban which ended our journey. We had paddled, lined and portaged 65 miles on one of the nicest rivers in middle Quebec, in 4 1/2 days. By 1:30 pm we had headed for home 720 miles away. At last report all made it home safely. Sorry our friend Don Bowman couldn't make it this year. He is an asset on any canoe trip. I have paddled Canadian rivers 15 times and enjoyed them all. Don't know how long this can go on but I will try again next year.

(Postscript from Wymard McQuon)

When the trip was over We returned to the Hervey Junction railroad station. The station master there who sold us our tickets said, "I see you had a movie star with you on your canoe trip. I recognize that fellow with the grey hair, (Bob Buck) didn't he play 007 in the movie Gold Finger?"

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GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

All articles of interest to our members are welcomed - subjects relating to our trips and activities, the environment, the outdoors, etc. Articles to be submitted should be:

- Neatly typed and double spaced (at least a 12 point font so we can digitize the copy using a scanner. Dot matrix output does not scan well).
- On a 3.5" IBM or Macintosh disk with files formatted as text. The disk will be returned to you.

- Sent to the editor via modem when prior arrangements are made.

Sorry I cannot accept more than one or two short paragraphs of hand-written copy. The use of material will be limited to available space. Place articles in the Editor's box at AYH Headquarters or mail to The Golden Triangle, 6300 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15232. Jan Bugby, Editor

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Photo by Bruce Sundquist

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