

# Golden Triangle

VOLUME 64, NUMBER 2

APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2014

## 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, 2004 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, whitewater 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



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## 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 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 2010

**Number 1** issue ->January/February/March

**Number 2** issue ->April/May/June

**Number 3** issue ->July/August /September

**Number 4** issue ->October/November/December

Editor...

### Triangle Staff

Managing Editor ... **Joel Platt**  
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## NOTICE

Please note the deadlines for  
future issues of the  
GOLDEN TRIANGLE

**JUL-AUG-SEP ISSUE**  
All copy, June 18

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

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:

**The Golden Triangle**  
1632 Denniston St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

golden\_triangle@bigfoot.com



<div data-bbox="151 211 272 254" data-label="Image"></div> <div data-bbox="284 158 985 220" data-label="Section-Header"><h2>SEA-KAYAKING</h2></div> <div data-bbox="96 254 957 369" data-label="Text"><p>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.</p></div> <div data-bbox="96 397 598 456" data-label="Text"><p>ActivityCo-Chairs      Vickie 412-344-4929                                  Russ 412-331-2073</p></div> <div data-bbox="96 459 399 515" data-label="Text"><p>See Sierra Clubs Hikes, at end.</p></div> <div data-bbox="90 739 239 876" data-label="Image"></div> <div data-bbox="249 739 985 811" data-label="Section-Header"><h2>ROCK CLIMBING</h2></div> <div data-bbox="330 823 893 867" data-label="Section-Header"><h3>Important Notice / Rock Climbing</h3></div> <div data-bbox="96 898 969 1364" data-label="Text"><p>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 <a href="mailto:charlzjonz@excite.com">charlzjonz@excite.com</a> or (412)766-4036 or Annie Jones at (412) 303-1793. Please call before 10 o'clock at night. <a href="http://www.wpfi.org/">http://www.wpfi.org/</a></p></div> <div data-bbox="96 1395 969 1482" data-label="Text"><p>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.</p></div> <div data-bbox="274 2660 814 2707" data-label="Section-Header"><h3>UPCOMING SLIDE SHOWS</h3></div>	<div data-bbox="1020 158 1925 220" data-label="Section-Header"><h2>Rambles For Spring 2014</h2></div> <div data-bbox="1393 257 1461 295" data-label="Section-Header"><h3>April</h3></div> <div data-bbox="1024 329 1903 677" data-label="List-Group"><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>April 2</b>      TBA-Dan and Sue Sebolt-412-563-6987</li><li><b>April 9</b>      TBA-Caddy Harper-412-621-1230</li><li><b>April 16</b>      Walk on Allegheny and Indian Burial Ground-Freeport - Ed Divers- 412-828-5154</li><li><b>April 23</b>      Duff Park??-Jim and Judy Stark-412-363-0462</li><li><b>April 30</b>      Braddock Trail Park-Marian Fast-412-241-2109</li></ul></div> <div data-bbox="1393 711 1461 749" data-label="Section-Header"><h3>MAY</h3></div> <div data-bbox="1024 783 1689 1025" data-label="List-Group"><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>May 7</b>      TBA-Alan Fowler-412-421-0765</li><li><b>May 14</b>      TBA- Jim Ritchie-412-828-0210</li><li><b>May 21</b>      TBA-Nancy Crago-412-877-5745</li><li><b>May 28</b>      TBA-Shirley Dougherty-412-366-1192</li></ul></div> <div data-bbox="1393 1059 1461 1097" data-label="Section-Header"><h3>June</h3></div> <div data-bbox="1024 1131 1884 1407" data-label="List-Group"><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>June 4</b>      TBA-Martha Raak-412-802-7266</li><li><b>June 11</b>      Allegheny Cemetery-Chuck Lynn-412-408-3512</li><li><b>June 18</b>      Five Star Trail???-Ed and Pat Appleby-724-834-5077</li><li><b>June 25</b>      Hartwood Acres –Pot Luck lunch-Linda Binstock-412-244-1332</li></ul></div> <div data-bbox="1024 1510 1897 1756" data-label="Text"><p>Rambles begin at 10:00 AM . Meet at the parking lot of Phipps Garden Center on Shady Avenue at the corner of 5th Avenue. Carpooling is encouraged. Please pay driver about .07/mile. Pic-nic lunch if weather permits, otherwise go to a restaurant. Call leader if you plan to meet at trailhead. For information call Mark Le Schack at 412-271-7950 or Coordinator Billie Woodland 412-886-1603, cell phone 412-889-7048.</p></div> <div data-bbox="1024 1790 1643 1824" data-label="Text"><p>Trip changes will aslo be noted at <a href="http://hipittsburgh.org">hipittsburgh.org</a></p></div>
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HIKING/BACKPACKING/TRAILS







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 Thursday at 7 PM (except June-August) at Fern Hollow Nature Center, 1901 Glen Mitchell Road, Sewickley, PA 15143 (412)741-6136 <http://www.fernhollownaturecenter.org> Contact Chuck Tague, 412-488-8760 or 432 Olympia Road, Pittsburgh 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 [mousemapper@verizon.net](mailto:mousemapper@verizon.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](http://www.morainesailingclub.org) or contact Chris Neuwirth 412-441-5590, email to: [cmn@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:cmn@andrew.cmu.edu)

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA FIELD INSTITUTE -- TRIPS

For information on WPFI events, contact Sean Brady [sbrady@wpfi.org](mailto: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](http://www.outsideadventures.org) or [www.outsideadventures@Yahoo.com](mailto: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.



CANOEING

Activity Co-chairs: Paul Henry (724) 347-3282  
Brian McBane (724) 443-8972



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](http://www.morainesailingclub.org). Big boat sailors may want to check out the Erie Yacht Club: [www.erieyachtclub.org](http://www.erieyachtclub.org) or the Erie Bayfront Center for Marine studies: [www.goerie.com/bcms](http://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](mailto:missionmorain@zoominternet.net)

The 6<sup>th</sup> 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/](http://www.visit-butler-county-pennsylvania-pa.com/)

**Baker Trail and Rachel Carson Trail  
Trail Maintenance Opportunities for 2006**

The Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels, conceived and built the Baker Trail in the late 1940's and dedicated the Trail in 1950. It was built by returning war veterans who envisioned a network of "youth hostels" along the Trail where the youth of the world could find safe, inexpensive shelter while touring rural America on foot. Today the Trail is 141 miles long and extends from Freeport, PA to the Allegheny National Forest, and traverses Cook Forest State Park, several State Game Lands, Kittanning State Forest, the Mahoning and Crooked Creek Army Corps of Engineers projects, and several local recreation facilities. All AYH members are asked to spend one day a year helping us maintain the Trail. The Baker Trail is 100% volunteer-supported. We use no Federal, State, or Local government funding. Right now the trail needs AYH members who would like to participate in trail crew maintenance activities. Please contact Steve Mentzer SGMentzer@TrueCommerce.com

**Adopt-a-Trail Volunteers needed.** We also need volunteers to become trail stewards who are willing to adopt a 3-5 mile long section of the Baker Trail. Trail stewards will be independently responsible to work on their section of the trail on their own schedule. Responsibilities include painting yellow blazes on the trail once a year, picking up debris and trash off the treadway, and trimming vegetation away from blazes. Optional skills include chain saw work, shelter repair (we have 10 overnight shelters on the trail that require yearly maintenance—adopt a shelter as your own personal project) and/or you can build bridges, sidehill supports, benches, and other trail amenities. Regardless of the level of your effort, you would be expected to walk your trail section twice a year, preferably once in the spring (April, May) and once in the fall (September, October). All expenses for supplies-paint, brushes, etc.-are reimbursed.

Pennsylvania State Parks  
Reservations & Information

Call Toll Free  
**1-888-PA-PARKS**

Reserve up to 11 months in advance  
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**Baker Trail/Rachel Carson Trail Resources**

**Rachel Carson Trail website:** [www.rachelcarsontrail.org](http://www.rachelcarsontrail.org); **this website has information about the Rachel Carson Trail, the Baker Trail, and the Rachel Carson Trail Challenge.**  
**Baker Trail website:** [www.geocities.com/bakertrailpa](http://www.geocities.com/bakertrailpa); **this website has some abbreviated information concerning the Baker Trail.**  
**Hostelling International website:** <http://trfn.clpgh.org/ayh/>; **general information about the BT/RCT sponsor organization.**  
**Keystone Trails Association:** <http://www.kta-hike.org/>; **has information about all Pennsylvania hiking trails**  
**“Guide to the Rachel Carson Trail”;** **this is a trail guide, with topographic maps, and some interpretive information about the 34-mile long trail, available from HI-Pittsburgh for under \$10, including postage and handling. Call 412-431-4910 to order.**  
**“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.**

**\*\*\*\*\*HIKER ALERTS\*\*\*\*\*****Current hiker alerts for both the Rachel Carson Trail and the Baker Trail may be found at [www.rachelcarsontrail.com](http://www.rachelcarsontrail.com).**

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