Hostelling, Travel and Outdoor Recreation From American Youth Hostels

GOLDEN TRIANGLE



Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels, Inc. Serving Western Pennsylvania & West Virginia Pan Handle Since 1948, Incorporated 1955



VOLUME 43, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 1993

Hostelling International Offers Family Values...

Families can enjoy great values in low-cost vacations at more that 100 HI hostels in the USA which have private "family rooms".

A "typical" family of four can stay in Los Angeles, minutes from the ocean beach, for just \$32.50 in San Pedro or \$48 in Santa Monica. Mom and Dad and two kids can enjoy all the excitement of New York City for only \$66 at the New York International AYH-Hostel, conveniently located on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Enjoy one of the hostel's waling tours of famous and historic New York neighborhoods.

If visiting our national parks or enjoying the countryside is high on your family's list, stay at Brownie's Grocery and AYH-Hostel for only \$30, a comfortable, two-story log building, in East Glacier Park, Montana — the Gateway to Glacier National Park. Explore both Redwood National Park and the Pacific Ocean at the Redwood AYH-Hostel where your family room costs only \$27.50.

If your family likes to visit historic sites, stay at the Gettysburg International AYH-Hostel for just \$24. The hostel is in a Civil War era former hotel right downtown, just minutes from all the battlefields and monuments.

Families can also keep costs down by doing their own cooking in the hostel's fully-equipped self-service kitchens, where you'll met an international roster of guests whipping up their own specialties. Dining areas and common rooms are provided for relaxing and socializing. You'll meet travelers from around the world - a wonderful experience for children.

Family memberships, which include parent(s) or guardian(s) and children under 16, are available from Pittsburgh Council for just \$35. When you join AYH you'll be welcome at 6,000 hostels in 70 countries worldwide. Many Hostelling International hostels in other countries also have private family rooms.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Pittsburgh Council annual membership meeting will be held on Thursday evening, October 21st at the Council's Activity Headquarters in Mellon Park in Pittsburgh. The meeting will begin at 8:30 pm and will include elections of officers and directors for the Council. Refreshments will be served. Details and the list of candidates for the elections will be published in the October newsletter.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

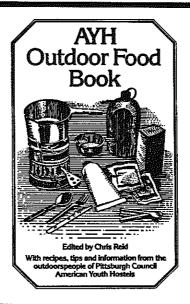
The nominating committee for the elections has been appointed and will consist of Larry Laude (chair), Linda Smithyman, Jon Maiman, Joe Hoechner, and Marianne Kasica. The four officers (president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary) and four directors will be elected at the annual meeting from candidates presented by the nominating committee or to be nominated from the floor at the meeting. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Larry Laude or any member of the nominating committee as soon as possible. We plan to publish a ballot listing the candidates, along with a short biography of each, in the October newsletter and would like to include all candidates.

OHIOPYLE HOSTEL WORK PARTIE

Sunday, October 17, 8:30 am to 4 pm or so Linda Smithyman 531-1868

Meet at HQ at 8:30 am or 10:00 am at the hostel. These are days when volunteers go to the Ohiopyle Hostel and do clean up work, maybe paint or do yard work. Lunch is provided and there is usually time to take a short hike or bike ride before returning to Pittsburgh.

Come on out to meet some other nice folks and lend a hand. See a real hostel if you have never been in one. WE REALLY COULD USE YOUR HELP.



AYH Foodbook update

Thanks to a Council volunteer our first edition outdoor "cookbook" may soon be revised. If you have any favorite campsite recipes that are up-to-date (low fat, high carbo, veggie, Tex-Mex, fast & easy, etc.) please send/call them in. You'll be listed in the credits! Send your recipes to:

AYH Books 5604 Solway St. Room 204 Pittsburgh PA 15217

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE								
SABRE	SAGA'S	CULTURE CLUB?						
October 3rd, 1993	The stories contine	Check It Out!!!						
PAGE 5 & 7	PAGE 9	PAGE 3						

INSIDE

Activity Chairs; Page 2
The Great Ride Rapup; Page 3
Hostel Bits; Page 4
Cycling; Page 5
Sea-kayaking & White water rafting; Page 6
Sailing; Page 6
Kayakimg & Rockclimbing; Page 7
Hiking & Mid week Rambles; Page 7
Trail & Park News; Page8
Classified; Page 11
Council Travel and Book Store; Back Cover

.....And MORE!!!

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PITTSBURGH PA 15217-1458

OCTOBER Deadlines

All Copy September 2

Binding and Mailing September 26





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

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OOPS...

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

Letters...

[Letters to the editor are welcome. Letters will be edited to conserve space when necessary. Letters are published at the discretion of the editor.]

Mail regarding this Newsletter should be addressed to:

> The Golden Triangle 5604 Solway ST. Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Office: (412) 422-2282

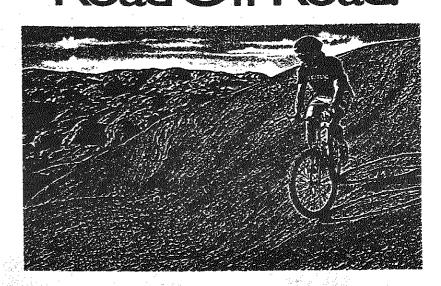
PITTSBURGH COUNCIL **ACTIVITY CHAIRS**

Chairman of the Activities Committee Jon Maiman441-2306 Canoeing Royanne Mac 335-7326 Cross Country Skiing Steve Tubbs 279-4866 Cycling Wm Eberle . Chuck Ejzak 466-6196 Family Activities Barbara Hanusa 441-7205 Hiking / Backpacking Helen Coyne......776-0678 Jim Ritchie...... 828-0210 Kayaking Dave Casassa 963-1869 Ray Yutzy...... 341-5682 Midweek Rambles Cliff Ham ... Rafting Doug Bruce561-5037 Jon Maiman 441-2306 Rock Climbing Eric Bauer 687-0766 Sailing Joel Hough 371-4986 Bob Zavos 241-0659 Sea Kayaking Mark Mistrik647-7609 Trips Coordinator Vicki Krug...... 361-4386 Trail Systems Glenn Oster 364-2864 Jim Ritchie 828-0210 Headquarters Programs Tom Rodgers 621-6310 Chris Kline 441-7335 Storekeeper Wm Eberle 833-9732 The following positions are currently open and

we are in need of responsible people to fill them. If you are interested please call Jon Maiman at 441-2306.

Caving, Volleyball coordinator, Ast. Store Keeper, HQ Volunteers

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For your convenience, TRM has 2 locations:

703 Washington Road 2 miles north of South Hills Village on Route 19 Mt. Lebanon

343-6885

Bill Green Shopping Center Across from Pool City Pleasant Hills

653-6022

NOTICE

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

NOVEMBER All copy October 7 Binding/Mailing, Oct 28

DECEMBER All copy, November 4 Binding/Mailing, Nov 25

If your work is on computer, Please contact Bill Eberle @ 833-9732

OF

Larry Laude @ 665-9554

September Slide Shows

Sept. 2nd Holiday Weekend (NO SLIDE SHOW)

Sept. 9th Rails to Trails in Western Pa: (Montour; Yough; and Allegheny Highlands). by George Schmidt

Sept. 16th Arizona: Campfires, craters and cacti.

by Joel Hough

Sept. 23rd Newsletter Prep night. Socialize as we get the word out. Join us for a beverage or light meal at a nearby Eatery afterwards.

Sept. 30th To Be Announced

> To Schedule a show or have a show idea call TOM RODGERS 621-6310

Moving?

If you move, or have any subscription problems, please notify us right away. Returned mail costs 52 cents for each piece, so we can save money if you let us know about any changes in your address. You can also phone in changes to the office at (412) 422-

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 Hostelling International (HI), (Formerly named International Youth Hostel Federation(IYHF)}, which coordinates more than 5,400 hostels worldwide-the largest network of accommodations in the world.

Pittsburgh Council Hostels

Ohiopyle AYH Hostel

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

Charleroi Youth Hostel (SA)

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

Living Waters AYH Hostel

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



SEPTEMBER 1993

HOSTELS:

GETTYSBURG HOSTEL reports that they are now serving delicious, home cooked meals under the direction of its able and gracious manager, Mary Shank. If you are planning a visit to the hostel, please consider this as a wonderful way to "eat out", especially if you have a group. Mary reports that she will be serving Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, so make plans now to visit the hostel during the holidays. The hostel will also be hosting two Elderhostels on October 10-16 and October 24-30. These will focus on the Civil War Battle of 1863 as well as the town and people of Gettysburg. Cost is \$280 per person. This would be a great way for you senior citizens to combine history with the hostelling experience.

IRONMASTER'S HOSTEL manager Tom Martin reports that the annual Pumpkin Cut will be held at 6 pm on Saturday, October 30. This has become a traditional event held at the Park Pavilion and each year the crowd gets larger. Come on out, stay at the hostel, and find out what Halloween is all about. Also, don't miss the annual Christmas Party given at the hostel from 2-4 pm on Saturday, December 4th. Bring some homemade Christmas decoration, or something for the birds. You even meet some old friends this year.

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD BOARD MEMBERS

Pittsburgh Council is looking for potential candidates to serve on the local council board of directors. Board members are elected to three-year terms and are responsible for the overall management of the council's business. Duties include participation in monthly board meetings and involvement in one or more board committees.

Board members are normally elected by the general membership of Pittsburgh Council at the annual meeting. Board candidates may be presented by the nominating committee or may be nominated from the floor. Candidates should be prepared to present brief biographies of themselves for publication in the newsletter along with the ballot.

The annual meeting will be held in October. The day and place will be chosen by the board of directors. Please see the cover story for further information.

If you would like to learn more about serving on the board, contact Larry Laude at 412-665-9554 or any of the Pittsburgh Council officers.

THE GREAT RIDE

The 1993 Great Ride was a great success this year, thanks to the Council volunteers, the folks from Pittsburgh Citiparks, Penn DOT, the Pittsburgh Police, and many others. We had exactly 1700 riders this year, who enjoyed the excellent weather and the new course starting at the Pittsburgh Zoo and once again featuring a ride down the car-pool lane of Interstate 279 into the city. There were a few confusing moments (!) with huge crowds at the starting point and at the rest stop at the Firehouse downtown, but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. We are already at work planning the 1994 Great Ride and will announce the date and location in the next month or so.

Larry Laude

CULTURE CLUB (New)

In an effort to expand our horizons and reduce the amounts in our pocketbooks by gathering together to frolic in nature and absorb cultural/classic experiences, we are avidly trying to schedule a regular monthly date to attend to such matters. This evening will include a short nature experience, dinner, and a play or special movie. Anyone may participate in one or more aspects of our culture club activities.

This event will tentatively be scheduled for the second Sunday of every month and one person will coordinate the activities. Dinner will typically consist of one group choice (i.e., Chinese, German, Italian, etc.) The play/movie may consist of something at the Pittsburgh Playhouse or at least in the Pittsburgh area, perhaps something that is recommended by one of our members.

Our first effort will take place on Sunday, September 12th. We will meet at 4:00 pm at the outdoor gardens at Phipps Conservatory for a short walk through the garden or a short hike at Schenley Park. Dinner will be at a nearby restaurant and the play/movie selected may be something at the Playhouse or something in the area.

The cost for the activities is strictly up to the choice made by the participants (what you pay for dinner is up to you). Everyone is welcome to join in. Please call Tom Rodgers at 621-6310 or Linda Smithyman at 531-1868 for additional details.

We plan to make this a regular event throughout the fall and winter months. If anyone is interested in coordinating the activities for one of the dates, please let us know. All suggestions are welcome.

Volunteer Opportunity!!

Join Pittsburgh AYH at the A. J. Palumbo Center (Duquesne University) for the Great Race warm-up. Help is needed to man a booth and distribute AYH information. Details not yet final as to hours, Call Joe or Helen at our AYH Travel office to help out. 412-422-2282 (9/23-9/25)

1ST Annual Firehouse Hostel 5K

Plans are moving to sponsor the Council's first 3.1 mile footrace to be held early this fall. The race or the "Firehouse Hostel 5k" as I have named it is to benefit the purchase and renovation of the old Number One Firehouse in Downtown Pittsburgh. Volunteers will be needed on the day of the event, look in future editions of the Golden Triangle; But for now there are more key roles to fill. I am looking for a core staff of about 3 to 4 volunteers with good communication skills to make a few phone calls or attend a few meetings. If you have been interested in helping out with the hostel but fear you do not have the time, this is the job for you! All I ask, is the volunteers to commit to about 5-6 hours a week for two weeks tops! If interested for a staff position or to volunteer for the day of the event please contact me at 833-9732. Thank you.

William Eberle.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have extra hours to donate to the Council? Current volunteer opportunities in Pittsburgh Council are listed below. Contact the person listed or leave your name and telephone number at the office (412-422-2282).

*Mon Valley Century (Chuck and Lynn Ejzak, 466-6196)

*SABRE (Bill Eberle, 833-9732)

*Typing articles for the newsletter into a computer (Bill Eberle, 833-9732)

*Hostel development and fund-raising (Marianne Kasica, 665-9554)

*Ohiopyle hostel support and work parties (Linda Smithyman, 531-1868)

*Travel and Hostel Editor for the newsletter (Larry Laude, 665-9554)

'Answering questions at the council office (Joe Hoechner, 422-2282)

Leading Pittsburgh Council trips (Jon Maiman, 441-2306)

*Scouting trails for the next Hiking Guide (Joe Hoechner, 422-2282)

*Slide shows at the Thursday Open House (office, 422-2282).

AYH Membership Agencies

Pittsburgh Council AYH has established almost 20 agency locations in Western PA and Northern WV when you can renew your membership or buy new memberships on the spot.

We are also looking to establish sales outlets in areas of our jurisdiction that don't have nearby agencies such as Wheeling WV, California PA, Downtown Erie (or an a college campus there), Altoona, Johnstown, Warren and perhaps Somerset.

Pittsburgh Area

PITTSBURGH COUNCIL 6300 Fifth Ave, Pgh, PA 15232 412-362-8181

(Thursday evenings only)

PITTSBURGH COUNCIL (office)
Room 204 Wightman School
5604 Solway St Room 204
Pittsburgh PA 15217
412-422-2282
(Mon,Wed, Fri 9am to 3pm)

FORUM TRAVEL 4608 Winthrop St, Pgh PA 15213 412-681-4099

ATLAS TRAVEL SERVICE Kaufmann's 400 Fifth Ave, Pgh PA 15219 412-261-0248

SEWICKLEY TRAVEL 519 Broad St, Sewickley PA 15143 412-741-9565

GATEWAY TRAVEL 6507 Wilkins Ave Suite 105 Pittsburgh PA 15217 412-661-2600

For a list of all 20 agencies please call our office at 412-422-2282.

HOSTELLING OVER HILL AND DALE

by Amy Pfeiffenberger

When I got off the train in Dent, I instantly knew I was seeing a part of England that attracts few college-age backpackers or tour bus groups. The fact that I was the only person to get off at this stop was my first clue. The boarded up, abandoned train station that came into sight as the train chugged away was my second.

After slightly more than a moment of panic, I realized I was standing alone on what felt like the top of the world, a lush green hill in the Yorkshire Dales. Sheep pastures bordered by stone fences surrounded me in this desolate spot. I was overwhelmed by the absence of human noise and could only hear the bleating of hundreds of sheep.

I gathered up my things and walked to the nearest farmhouse. Knock. Knock. "Excuse me, could you tell me how to get to the hostel?" They'd heard this "joke" before and soon I was walking four miles down a less-traveled road with by backpack. How had I arrived there, in the middle of nowhere in England? What adventures awaited me four miles down that road?

A few summers ago, I set out to see England and Scotland on my own. I liked travelling alone and still do. It frees you to talk to people, to stretch, to have adventures. But Britain gets busy in the summer and there is a certain pattern most American tourists follow, certain sights and cities they are told not to miss. I was tired of running into

them in those places and so I decided to get off the beaten path.

According to the British hostel map, Dent had a hostel so there must be something there worth seeing.

My trip to Britain marked my introduction to the world of hostelling. I had a limited budget, so hostels seemed like the places to stay. They were clean, safe and cheap. In a short while, hostels became far more than a place to sleep, they became part of a total travel experience. Most importantly, I met people I will never forget. People with whom I shared food and interesting conversation.

Hostels made me and others I met alter elaborate itineraries in order to stay longer at those places we liked. Ultimately, I found myself letting hostel locations (not museums and great cathedrals) help determine many of my travel destinations.

What I discovered is that hostels are often found in some of the most beautiful, unique and out-of-the-way locations in the world. I slept in castles in Scotland and farmhouses in Wales. I stayed in two of the three hostels on the Isle of Skye, a magical place where one can walk over craggy rocks to reach the ocean. I saw the sights of London and Edinburgh with newly found friends and I soon realized that my whole trip was shaped by the places I chose to stay.

So by the time I ended up at Dent, I had a fair amount of faith in where hostels would take me. After

a four mile walk down a deserted country lane, that faith was a little shaken. But then I arrived at the Dentdale Hostel, an idyllic farmhouse that had been converted for the comfort and convenience of travellers.

I was the only non-British traveller and this made for an interesting cultural exchange. Most of the hostellers were walking the Yorkshire Dales trail, a path that rambled for miles through sheep pastures and farmers' back yards. Dentdale, I learned, was one in a series of hostels established for these walkers. Walking part of the trail was an experience I'll never forget.

Hostels are convenient. In big cities they often offer the best deal around, allowing one to spend money on sight-seeing, restaurants, presents, etc. In the country, they warmly welcome hikers, bikers, and others interested in being outdoors. More than convenient, they are destinations in themselves that will create lifetime memories.

After hostelling in Britain, I came home to discover that the United States has its own thriving hostel network. So far, I have visited hostels in Arizona, New Mexico, California, Colorado and right here in Washington state. I hope you will visit them too.

(from the Washington State Council newsletter)

FUNDRAISING FOR THE FIREHOUSE HOSTEL

Pittsburgh AYH is still accepting pledges and donations for the Firehouse Hostel. Although the Building, Located at 344 Boulevard of the Allies, is not Ours yet, we anticipate signing the contract shortly and being approved by City Council.

Our Fundraising efforts are escalating to foundations and will include corporations as well. If any member is involved or knows of someone involved with these groups we would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to let us know. Having a contact person really helps to get some attention. We need to raise a ton of money for this building and we need all the help that we can get.

Thanks for your interest and help.

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For People Who Live Their Dreams...

CYCLING AND THE LAW

by Marc Reisman

The "Solution" To Cyclists' Problems?

On April 22, 1993, Congressman Joseph Kennedy (D, MA) reintroduced the Bicycle and Transportation Improvement Act of 1993 into the U.S. House of Representatives. Popularly known as "the three percent solution," the Act requires that states dedicate not less than three percent of federal transportation funds to bicycle and pedestrian projects. The bill is currently in the House Public Works and Transportation Committee.

I obtained a copy of the bill and I think that the "Findings" section contains some facts and figures worth reprinting here:

"Traffic congestion is a serious threat to our nation's economic well-being. In 1989, traffic congestion in 39 of the nation's large urban areas cost the country \$41,000,000,000 in travel delays, increased fuel consumption, and increased auto insurance premiums. Traffic congestion currently causes over 2,000,000,000 hours in delays per year. Over the next 14 years, congestion on highways will rise by 400 percent and on urban thoroughfares by 120 percent."

"The transportation needs of many parts of the country cannot be met simply by expanding the size and number of roadways. In urban areas, one-half of all urban space is devoted to roads, parking spaces, and other motor vehicle facilities. Throughout the country, it is infeasible to meet increased travel demands by expanding existing roadways. For example, Interstate Route 95 between Miami and Orlando, Florida, would have to be expanded to a 40lane highway to meet expected traffic flows by the year 2005."

"Constructing bicycle and pedestrian facilities is far less expensive than building new roadways. A one-mile stretch of bicycle and pedestrian path costs approximately \$46,000. One mile of a 4-lane highway costs approximately \$1,000,000."

The stated purposes of the bill include improving economic efficiency and ability to compete in the world marketplace, reduction of deaths and injuries to bicyclists and pedestrians, and of "traffic congestion, air pollution, dependence on foreign oil, and development of natural environments."

I discussed the three percent solution with a Kennedy spokesperson. This time around, it has only a handful of co-sponsors, most likely because there is no national bill pending, such as the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) to attach it to. As such it is not likely to see much action, and, in fact, the Congressman's spokesperson candidly admitted the bill has no

see LAW, page 11

BICYCLING (Road & Mountain)

Thursdays in Sept All Judy Menosky 242-1573 be leading evening rides in May from headquarters at 6:30 pm. Bill Eberle 833-9732 Fat-tire ride. Mountain Bikes a MUST, If not sure if your bike is right Give me a call. We will park at Cecil Park (Meet 10 am @ Park), and take a Ride on the Montour Trail, the Arrowhead trail, as well as some actual single track!! We will be stopping at the Old-time Hendersonville shops plus other Snack spots along my route. Aprox. 27 miles. Int Pace. Please call to confirm.

Sept 10-12 All Joe Hoechner 242-0781 Stanford House Hostel Weekend. Join Joe & Cheryl Hoechner for the annual fall ride at this nearby hostel. Cost approximately \$35-\$40, bikes, helmets & membership required. Call 412-242-0781 to reserve soon.

Sept 25 В Bill Eberle 833-9732 Montour trail Fat-tire ride. See my Sept 5 ride.

Bill Eberle 833-9732 Sept 26 Montour trail

Fat-tire ride. See my Sept 5 ride. Bill Eberle 833-9732 SABRE

(Southwestern Autumn BR Eeze) (see below) Southwestern Allegheny county and Washington county. 100 km (65 mile) and 50 km (35 mile) rides offered. Rides start at Settler's Cabin Park. Registration includes marked roads, map, snack stops and a picnic lunch at the end. T-shirts Extra. Registration: \$10 by Sept 4 \$13 afterward. Call for an application or information.

Ride Class: A - Adv. 60+ miles at a faster pace. (tend to be between ages 18 and 70). B -Intermediate, 30-60 miles, at a more aggressive pace. C - Easy, 15-30+ miles at an easy pace. D - Beginner. Short, easy rides for the family. AYH Members are given priority over nonmembers ,hurry limited space. Bicycle Helmets (ANSI or Snell approved) are required on all rides. NO EXCEPTIONS. Participants are responsible for their own equipment.

BICYCLE TOUR -Natchez Trace Trail October 23 - Nov 7, 1993

Bicycle the Natchez Trace Trail, a 425 mile tour following the original NATCHEZ to NASH-VILLE TRACE. Today it's a modern parkway with a story to tell of the Natchez, Chickasaw, Chocktaw Indians, French & Spanish settlers and early American settlers along the Ohio River Valley. This will be a two week camping trip, van supported, beginning in Nashville and ending in Natchez, MS. There is an opportunity to do just one week, flying in or out of Jackson, MS. Enjoy Valley overlooks, Indian Mounds, short walks to waterfalls along clear streams, Meriweather Lewis, Tennessee River, Cypress Swamp, Jackson, MS, Windsor Ruins, Vicksburg, MS, Mississippi River, Gen. Grant, Civil War, Andrew Jackson, French Creole, Antebellum homes and much more. Call Helen Coyne for information and reservations. 412-776-0678.

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SABRE Bicycle Tour '93...October 3!

SABRE starts in Settler's Cabin Park at the Cayuga Picnic Grove. SABRE is a tour of Southwestern Pennsylvania, and more specifically of the small rural and farming communities southwest of Pittsburgh. We are expecting 1,400 or more Cyclists for the '93 tour. Cycle SABRE and see Western PA's fading orchards and rolling fields filled with red, orange and fire yellow trees while the October skies are clear and a fresh breeze fills the air. We promise the route which during the Autumn period will be ablaze with colors, leaving you with memories that will easily carry you through the cold, slush-filled winter to come. SABRE consists of 3 routes for cyclists of all abilities, a challenging metric century (65 miles), as well as the 35 mile route and the 15 miler.

FOOD is abound,65 milers receive 2 snack stops and the 35 and 15 milers have 1 snack stop, and instead of finishing the Tour and simply going home like so many other rides, we will be waiting for you with the famous unsurpassable picnic feast at the Cayuga Picnic Shelter. If the Autumn breeze is chilly, we promise to warm you up!!! The cost of the event is.\$10 on or before Septmber 25, 1993 (\$13 thereafter and day of Tour registration) and will get you a ride map and cue sheets, a rider number, sag and technical support, snack stops and a SABRE tour souveneer When you finish the Tour, there will be the "SABRE Feast" picnic lunch awaiting you! Please remember The Pittsburgh Council, AYH requires you to wear an approved bicycle helmet for SABRE. A sag will pick up those who can't finish due to bike problems or fatique (you and your bike are expected to be in good condition before the ride starts). With a great picnic like ours we knew you would want to bring Gram and Gramps, Friends, and Family. So for \$3, "SABRE Feast" picnic tickets may be purchased for one and all. Unsure of the number of guests you wish to bring? Don't worry, tickets will also be available at the picnic. We also offer the official SABRE Tour commerative T-shirt for \$6 with pre-registration before September 25, and will be included in your packet on Tour Day October 3. Shirts will also be available September 26, through October 3 for \$8.00, includes postage, and will be mailed to you. Any Questions, concerns, suggestions or if you wish to volunteer, please contact the Ride Director Bill Eberle at (412) 833-9732 (phones answers 24 hrs).

For An Application please Call 412-833-9732 Phone Answers 24hrs.

Volunteers are also needed; so if you are planning to attend why not have a friend or loved one give us a hand. All volunteers recieve the Sabre Commemerative T-shirt as well as lunch.

> Don't delay Call Today!!!

ADVENTURE

and the

Pittsburgh AYH

Sea-Kayaking

September is the last chance to enjoy the summer of 1993. We'll be heading down to the southern Chesapeake Bay for some late summertime paddling on the Rappahannock River on the weekend of September 18th and 19th. Anyone who can stay over an extra day may visit Colonial Williamsburg. Our monthly dinner resume of Friday September 24th at the "Taste of India" if you've not tried much Indian food, they have several samplers available, and the coconut soup alone is worth the trip. Our last night paddling trip is Saturday evening September 25th. This will be your last chance to relax, float, swim, and paddle under the stars, until after ski season. In October, we'll be touring the most scenic part of the Lake Erie coastline, near Sandusky Ohio. You'll visit islands and see geologic signs of the past Ice Age, plus numerous attractions - tourist and otherwise. A week later, we'll be exploring the New Jersey Pine Barrens for the weekend. And next year we're already formulating plans to paddle spectacular western flatwater canyons and see whales (close up) in a fjord in Quebec.

To find out more, please call Mark Mistrik 647-7609 and leave a message.

Sept 14 Tue Mark Mistrik 647-7609 Glade Run, Intro to sea kayaking evening trips to Glade Run Lake. Easy trip is a very good way to get acquainted with the sea kayak. Basic instruction, and overview of the sport, and actual paddling on the lake will be covered. You can learn sea kayaking at your own pace and be better prepared for some of the longer day trips; intro's are a prerequisite for some of the longer trips, and highly recommended for anyone who hasn't been in a sea kayak lately. Please call to reserve. 6:15 pm in Shadyside.

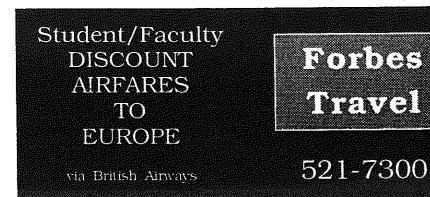
Sept 18-19 Sat-Sun Mark Mistrik 647-7609 Southern Chesapeake Bay sea kayaking weekend. Stay overnights in a hostel resort and take daytrips out. Possibly visit Colonial Williamsburg if trip extended to three days. Call for more information or to reserve.

Sept 24, Fri Jeanne Sadler 835-9614 or 882-4073 The monthly sea kayakers' dinner continues at the "Taste of India", 4320 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh PA on Friday evening at 6:30 pm or meet at the AYH at 6:15 pm and carpool. Slide will be shown of the East Coast sea kayaking Symposium that was held in Maine last July. Non sea-kayakers are welcome! Call and let us know you're coming so that we can reserve enough seating.

Sept 25-26 Sat eve-Sun Mark Mistrik 647-7609 Early autumn sea kayaking trip to Crooked Creek Lake. Night paddling is a favorite of many sea-kayakers. Wildlife is more abundant and the lake and surrounding countryside become almost surrealistic. Wake up to Sunday Brunch and a morning paddle before heading home. A bright flashlight is required for this trip. Call to reserve by Tuesday September 21st. 4:00 pm at HQ in Shadyside

Oct 1-3 Fri-Sun Mark Mistrik 647-7609 Sea kayaking weekend to Sandusky Ohio region. Spend a Friday overnight in the Stanford House Hostel then tour the best of the Lake Erie coastline and visit the offshore islands — by kayak. Saturday night carcamping is a state park. This area of Ohio is unique for its New England style lighthouses and architecture. Call to reserve by September 28th.

Oct 9-10 Sat-Sun Mark Mistrik 647-7609 New Jersey Pine Barrens. Sea-kayak touring and camping. Details in next month's newsletter.



Whitewater Rafting

Rafting is a great way to have fun in the sun. The American Youth Hostels has an extensive rafting program. We have trips for all skill levels from first timers to experts. Our 1993 trip schedule is listed below. So pickout a trip and signup today. Don't miss out on the fun! For more information or to sign up for any trip, please call the trip leader or the AYH Office at 422-2282.

River: New River George; Fayetteville, West Virginia Sept 3-6 Jon Maiman 441-2306

The New River is one of the oldest rivers in the world. We run aprox. 7 miles of class IV water. The new is a high volume river with lots of big waves. Depending on the water level, we use 4, 6, and or 8 man rafts. Anyone who has been on the Lower Yough. at least once or would like a more aggressive introduction to rafting is welcome to come on New River trips. This is a weekend trip open to Advanced Beginners and up. The cost of these trips are approx. \$70/person for 2 day trips and approx. \$87/person for 3 day trips. An optional group dinner is offered as part of the trip.

River:Gauley; Summersville, West Virginia
Sept 18-19 Jon Maiman 441-2306
Oct 1-3 Jon Maiman 441-2306
Oct 15-17 Jon Maiman 441-2306

The Gauley River is considered to be the classic run in the East. The scenery is spectacular and the water is great, The Gauley is generally only runnable in the fall when the Army Corps of Engineers drains Summersville lake in preparation for Winter. We usually run the lower section which is aprox. 9 miles of Class IV water. Runs on this section are slightly more challenging than the New River and are suitable for anyone who has run the Lower Yough. or New at least once. This is an advanced beginner and up weekend trip and cost's aprox. \$75/person. We ran the upper section which is 13 miles of class V/VI water once last year. This section is only suitable for advanced rafters and space will be very limited if we run it again. We use both 4, 6, and 8 man rafts on the Gauley. An optional group dinner is offered as part of this trip.

Sailing

Sept. 4-6 Sat - Mon Bob Zavos 241-0659 Lake Chautauqua, New York. We will stay at a guest house built in 1877 at the Chautauqua Institution and rig our sailboats at the Institute's docks. We will alternate sailing with walks and tours on the grounds of this enchanting Victorian village. Sailing on the Chautauqua Lake is usually outstanding. We will schedule visits to interesting towns around the lake for touring and dinning and will also visit several nearby wineries. The trip departs Pittsburgh early Saturday and returns Monday afternoon or evening. Cost will be \$60 per person. (\$25 additional for single occupancy) and includes 2 overnights, 2 breakfasts, sailing fees, and admin. fees. Meals out and transportation will be extra. Space is limited. Individuals who have not yet sent deposits may join the trip if space is still available.

Sept. 11 Sat Bob Zavos 241-0659 Lake Arthur Day Sailing. Sign-up for the morning session (10am to 1pm) or afternoon session (1pm to 4pm) or both. Fees are \$7 for a half day or \$12 for all day. Moraine Sailing Club holds an End of Season Regatta and we can watch their races or even enter ourselves.

Sept. 18 Sat Bob Zavos 241-0659 Lake Arthur Day Sailing. Sign-up for the morning session (10am to 1pm) or afternoon session (1pm to 4pm) or both. Fees are \$7 for a half day or \$12 for all day. We may stop for dinner at Kaufmann's restaurant in Zelienople on the way back.

Bob Zavos Oct. 9-10 Sat - Sun Annapolis Boat Show. This is our annual trek to see America's largest Sailboat Show at historic Annapolis. We depart Pittsburgh around 7AM and travel to Baltimore and check in at the Baltimore International Hostel in the downtown area. We will tour the Inner Harbor and then board an 18th Century Clipper Ship for a 2 hour sail on Baltimore Harbor. For dinner you may take your choice of dozens of nearby Baltimore restaurants or cook in at the Hostel. Sunday morning we cook breakfast at the Hostel and then depart for Annapolis where will spend the day at the boat show. Around noon we may walk over to the Naval Academy for lunch and a brief tour. Late in the afternoon we will regroup and head back to Pittsburgh. Trip cost will be \$70. This includes hostel over night fee, sailing cruise, breakfast, boat show admission AYH fees, and transportation. Drivers will be reimbursed. Meals out will be extra. Space is limited and a deposit will be required. Send a check for \$20 to Robert Zavos, 1007 Savannah Ave., Pittsburgh Pa 15221.

Sailboat Rentals

AYH RENTALS. In addition to the above trips sailboats are available for individual rentals to anyone who has completed our Basic Sailing Class. We have one Flying Junior and one Sunfish on a rack at Watts Bay on Lake Arthur and additional Flying Juniors and an International 470 on trailers at a nearby boat yard. Day rental fees are \$12 per person with a maximum of \$24 per boat. The concessionaire at Lake Arthur charges about \$20 per hour for similar sailboats! For more information contact Bob Zavos 241-0659 or Joel Hough 371-4986.

Mid-Week Rambles

Fifth Year

Sept 1 Wed Leader TBA. 687-4520 East End Ramble, walk from AYH headquarters.

Sept 8 Wed Cliff Ham 687-4520 Tour of Herron Hill, including Miners Cemetery and Civil War fort.

Wed Marilyn & Cliff Ham 687-4520 Walk in Schenley Park.

Wed Marilyn Ham 687-4520 Sept 22 Homestead, 100 years after the strike. See the new monument to the fallen workers.

Wed Cliff Ham Sept 29 Free day for seniors at the Pittsburgh Zoo. Bring Lunch.

Notes for all trips:

* Meet in upper parking lot, Fifth and Shady Avenues, by 10 a.m. * Trips are subject to change because of weather, conflicts of schedule, and choice of group. We will plan a walk in all kinds of weather; be prepared.

Please share expenses of transportation when trips exceed 10 miles.

Suggested: one dollar per passenger.

* Call the leader for further information about a trip or to inform the leader that you plan to attend. Call Cliff or Marilyn Ham at 687-4520 for information. Please do not call after 10 p.m.

Rock Climbing

SEPT 11-12 Sat-Sun Seneca Rocks Weekend

INT Eric Bauer 687-0766

BEG Eric Bauer 687-0766 SEPT 24 Coopers Rocks, WV. (Last beginner trip of the season). 8am at HQ

The Seneca Rocks trip involves multi-pitch climbing. You must have attended the Seneca Prep trip on August 28 in order to be eligible. Space is limited so please call trip leader for reservation.

Beginner trips are geared towards teaching basic rock climbing skills to people that have never climbed before. All you need to bring are tennis shoes and lunch. AYH supplies all climbing equipment. Space is limited so please call trip leader for reservation.

White Water Kayaking

The AYH kayaking program provides an opportunity for a friendly group of people to experience this exciting sport on the many scenic and sometimes challenging rivers in Western Pennsylvania.

Trips meet at the Pittsburgh AYH Counsel headquarters in Mellon Park and carpool to the river-of-the day. A small fleet of kayaks (in many different sizes and shapes) are available for trippers (of many different sizes and shapes) to use on our trips. Day trips typically end with a dinner stop on the return to headquarters.

To make your day more enjoyable, on all trips paddlers should bring: clothing and "river" shoes appropriate to the season and weather, lunch in a waterproof container, a generous supply of drinking water, sunscreen, a change of dry clothes, etc. For more information call the Kayaking Chairs: Ray Yutzy 341-5682 & Dave Casassa 963-1869

Sun Class I, II or III trip. River to be selected based on water levels and whim of trippers and trip leader. meet at 8:30am at HQ. Call Ray Yutzy (341-5682), to register and to reserve equipment.

Sept 19 Class I, II or III trip. River to be selected based on water levels and whim of trippers and trip leader. meet at 8:30am at HQ, Call Ray Yutzy (341-5682), to register and to reserve equipment.

Fall Kayak School. The Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) is offering a beginning kayaking class this fall at the Allegheny (North Side) Campus. The 12 week course held at the Ridge Ave pool, will include instruction and use of kayak equipment. Two classes 6:30 to 8:30 and 8:30 to 10:30 are scheduled to begin Sept 23. The course fee is \$92.00. Ray Yutzy - AYH Kayaking Chair will instruct; contact him at 341-5682 for information or the CCAC-Allegheny Campus - Continuing Education -Evening division for info or to register. NOT AN AYH CLASS.

TOUR DE STRONGLAND





5th annual TOUR DE STRONGLAND BIKE RACE, Sunday September 12, 1993 Kiski Valley, W.PA., Six major events/35 plus awards/prizes. Categories: race and mountain bike. 28 mile, 14 mile, 9 mile, card run, teams, and off road lap course. Fee: \$10, sponsor.. STRONGLAND CHAMBER OF COM-MERCE. brochure/ maps call 845-5429. (not an AYH event)

Hiking / Backpacking

Sept. 3 Linda Smithyman 531-1868 If I am not out of town on Labor Day Weekend I will lead a hike on this day possibly at Duff Park in Murrysville, Keystone Park or somewhere east of Pittsburgh. And then I may head for the Cambria County Fair in Ebensburg if anyone would like to join me. Definitely call first!

Sept.10-12 Fri-Sun Leader: Bill Lindgren North Country Trail, McConnell's Mill State Park. Work party with the Shenango Outing Club on the North Country Trail in McConnell's Mill State Park. Come for one day or two. Camping at Moraine State Park. Call for info/reservations. Contact: Clare Bunker, 244-9788

Sept 11 Steve Nydes Sat Laurel Highlands Trail, Route 31 to Laurel Summit. This is an intermediate hike from the parking area along Route 31, close to Kooser Tower, to the Laurel Summit Picnic Area. This route takes you over the abandoned PA Turnpike tunnel (a possible side trip?) and across the Laurel Highlands Trail Turnpike overpass. Between 9-11 miles. Meets at HQ at 7:30 am. Call for info/reservations.

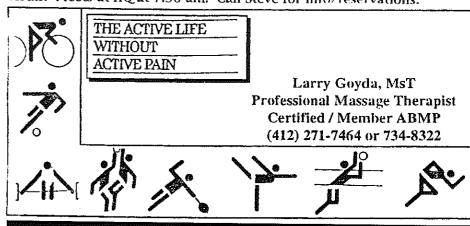
Sept 19 Sun Maynard Hansen 751-761: B.O.L.D. Hike on the Yough River Trail. This is an easy, 5-mile 751-7615 hike along the YRT from Buena Vista to Greenok being led in conjunction with B.O.L.D. (Blind Outdoor Leisure Development). Hike features a stop at the Dravo Cemetery where soldiers from the War of 1812 and the Civil War are buried. Meets at HQ at 10:00 am or under the Boston Bridge at 11:00 am. Call Maynard for more info/reservations.

Sept 19 Sun Monika Vucic 325-4758 American Cancer Society Laurel Summit Hike-A-Thon: Call for Volunteers. The ACS requests your assistance in the first ever American Cancer Society Hike-A-Thon. The Hike-A-Thon will consist of four hikes in the Laurel Summit area off Route 30 ranging from 4 miles to 12 miles in length. ACS needs volunteers to staff rest stops (water, first aid, communications), registration, provide shuttle transportation, be trail guides, trail sweep to round up stragglers, make and install markers, typing, mailing, and more. Help in the fight against cancer. Call Monika; you can make a difference.

Sept 25-26 Sat-Sun Leader: Bill Lindgren The Appalachian Trail/Hawk Mountain. Intermediate. Birdwatching at Hawk Mountain and day-hiking on the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania. Sat: PA 183 to Marshall's Pass, 12.6 miles; Sun: Marshall's Pass to Hamburg Reservoir, 10.5 miles. Car camping. Contact: Clare Bunker 244-9788

Sept 26 Sun Maynard Hansen Laurel Highlands Trail, Maple Summit to Ohiopyle. Advanced <u>hike.</u> Twelve rugged miles going the "easy way" into the Youghiogheny Gorge from atop Laurel Ridge. In October, come back and do it the "hard way". Many ups and downs, strenuous, outstanding vistas. Meets at the Southland Shopping. Center on Route 51 by Wendy's. Call Maynard for info/reservations.

Oct 2 Steve Nydes 661-9357 Laurel Highlands Trail, Laurel Mountain Village to Route 271. This 12-mile hike is the next to last section of the trail going north. In November, Steve finishes it up, going from Route 271 to Seward. Features include a crossing of the original Forbes Trail, Card Machine Run, Mystery Hill, Bearpen Hollow, Camp Hill and many impressive vistas. Meets at HQ at 7:30 am. Call Steve for info/reservations.



1993 SABRE Volunteer Opportunities

The 3rd annual SABKE Bicycle tour on October 3rd, is almost upon us. And Volunteers are needed the day of the event to fill vital positions. The profits of SABRE for the past three years have gone towards the Activities HQ which means it benefits all who take part in our activities. This is you chance to say thank-you to the more than 3,300 cyclists' who have helped support us the past three years. Please look over the list of positions available and give either myself or Jacky a call at 833-9732.

Marking the course-Help is needed the weekend before & the day before

Start / Finish Area - Oct 3rd 1993 6:30am to 3:00 pm. Assist with registration of late entrants, pass out t-shirts and help set up and run the SABRE picnic feast.

Rest Stops - Oct 3rd 1993.8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Pass out food and water to weary cyclists at the rest stops.

Course Marshal - Oct 3rd 1993 7:30 - Varies. Guide/direct ride partici

pants throughout the course. (non-riding job).

Sag Driver - Oct 3rd 1993 6:30am to 3:00 pm. Pick up tired and weary or mechanically disabled riders along the route and drive them to the finish area. You must have a van or truck or a Bike rack equipped car.(I can supply two racks if you do not own one and wish to volunteer). This is a good job for those of you who have wives and husbands riding and wish to help us out.

> Thank You For Your Support. William Eberle

TRAILS... and PARKS...

YOUGHTOBERFEST '93

The Mon Yough Trail Council is inviting everyone to their 2nd annual celebration of the conversion from rails to trails. Since our branch of the Regional Trail Corporation is near and runs along the Youghiogheny River and since the festival will be held every first Saturday of October. Naturally, no other title could fit the bill

Hence: YOUGHTOBERFEST

As with any "family fun" activity, the emphasis is on fun. be it with family or friends you can count on seeing some here as "YOUGHTOBERFEST 93" grows larger and lasts longer. We hope you'll circle Sat. Oct 2nd 1993 on your calendar right now as to not miss a great time along the "Banks of the Youghiogheny". There will be something for everyone from grandparents to grandchildren and everyone in between. Plans call for: biking, hiking, walking, running, wheeling, fishing, canoeing, games, prizes, food, exhibits, music, special events, media coverage and even a hot air balloon.

All the surrounding communities are invited to the part in this day of celebration and transformation of heritage and love that rolls as long as the water itself.

Foe more information just contact "YOUGHTOBERFEST 93' chairman, Ken Medved at 672-1824 or 373-1002 and he'll be able to guide you through whatever it is you'd like to do to help out. One way or the other plan on attending, "YOUGHTOBER 93' at the Boston Riverfront Park located under the Boston Bridge off Rt 48 on Boston PA.

STATE PARKS TRIVIA

Pennsylvania has 114 state parks encompassing approximately 275,644 acres of land.

Mont Alto State Park, Franklin County, is the oldest current state park and was established in 1903 as the first camp in Pennsylvania to help cure tuberculosis patients.

Susquehannock State Park, Lancaster County, overlooks the first bald eagle sanctuary in the world.

Thaddeus Stevens, abolitionist and father of the public school system in Pennsylvania, once operated a charcoal iron furnace at Caledonia State Park, Franklin and Adams Counties.

Caledonia State Park has a colorful Civil War history. Pastures at the park served as Confederate field hospitals during the Battle of Gettysburg. Confederate cavalrymen under the command of General J. A. Early destroyed the iron furnace during the Civil War because of the ongoing conflict with the north and because of Thaddeus Stevens' views on slavery.

Promised Land State Park, Pike County, was purchased in 1903 for an average price of \$1.25 to \$2 per acre.

President James Buchanan's niece, Harriet Lane Johnston, made the first gift of land to Pennsylvania State Parks in March 1911. Buchanan's Birthplace State Park, Franklin County, commemorates the birthplace of Pennsylvania's only president.

The iron works that once thrived at Pine Grove Furnace State Park (near the present Ironmaster's Hostel), provided supplies to the Continental Army of George Washington.

> From Pennsylvania State Parks magazine. Call 1-800-63-PARKS for a free subscription.

STATE PARKS CENTENNIAL

As part of the Pennsylvania State Parks centennial celebration, several of their publications have been revised and reprinted. Call 1-800-63-PARKS to ask for copies of any of these:

Recreational Guide — An updated version of the popular map with a chart listing every state park and available facilities.

Celebrating a Century of Service — A full-color brochure that explains the history of state parks and the scope of the bureau's program today.

Amazing Adventures: A Children's Book of Activities and Explorations — A booklet full of activities and information to help children discover state parks. Available Fall 1993.

Make it Happen! The Allegheny Highlands Trail

The secret's out! Over 5,000 people have visited the Allegheny Highlands Trail from Rockwood to Markleton. Maynard Sembower of Rockwood has been volunteering his time to track visitors and pass out membership brochures. The people he has talked with love the trail.

The rate of new members joining Somerset County Rails to Trails has doubled, since last year. Thank Maynard! If you haven't visited the trail this summer, get out your calendar and make a date with your family and

riends

Allegheny Highlands Trail T-shirts are available at the Somerset Co. Chamber of Commerce Office. The shirts are gray with a colorful design depicting the trail. All sizes are \$10. They make great gifts, too.

The bids were opened July 14th for the second phase of construction, which will begin soon. The project will extend the trail from Rockwood to Garrett. The Pinkerton Tunnel is also on the summer construction schedule. Our original thought was to go around the tunnel on an easement that follows the Pinkerton Horn. But, further engineering studies indicated that tunnel reconstruction was possible.

If you have been on the trail, you may have wondered about the mile markers, Many riders have asked what the numbers are based on, miles

are measured from the Maryland border.

The Meyersdale train station was included in the final purchase from

from Garret South tp the Maryland border. Residents of Meyersdale have been meeting to make plans fir the station. SCRTA recently pledged of 50% match up to \$5,000 (our contribution) for roof repairs to the station. If you are interested in this project, contact Hank Parke at 814-445-6431. Your assistance of time, products of services are greatly needed.

If you would like additional information on the trial or on volunteering, please call Hank at the number Hank at the number above.

Thank you for your membership support. Have a great summer!

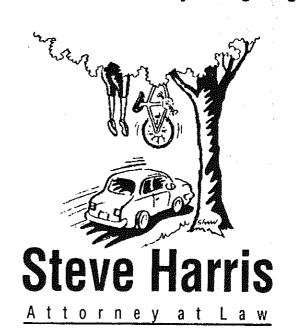
The SCRTA Board of Directors

National Pike Trail Council

The National Pike Trail Council; Washington PA, meets the last Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm. they are in need of volunteers so please help them out and plan to attend their next meeting. The NPTC hold their meetings at the Washington Court House Square, 100 West Beau ST., Washington, PA For more Information Contact Sunda Cornetti at 222-2246.

Cycling Accident?

If you have suffered injury or damage in a cycling accident, contact our law offices to discuss your legal rights.



412-456-2000

800-548-6267

There is no charge for legal services on injury claims unless benefits are obtained.

SAGAS....

THE BIG BLUE TRAIL

(is something else)

By Glenn Oster

This is part one of Glenn's two part tale of adventure on The **Big** Blue Trail!

The Big Blue Trail in the spring of 1993 is more than a trail; it's an adventure. More to this point later. First, let me tell you about the trail. It is special.

The Big Blue Trail (Big Blue) is 144 miles in length. Its southern terminus is the Appalachian Trail near Hogback Overlook at about milepost 21 on the Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park, Virginia. Its northern terminus is the C&O Canal Towpath in Hancock, Maryland, running directly onto the Tuscarora Trail. The Big Blue and Tuscarora trails were built to provide an alternate route to absorb some of the Appalachian Trail traffic and as a means to by - pass the more populous Cumberland Valley. I had hiked the Tuscarora Trail some years back, and the Big Blue has been beckoning to me ever since. A great deal of awe inspiring scenery and serious hiking is squeezed between the two ends of the Big Blue. It just had to be hiked.

AYH member, Kirk Slater, of New Castle, Pa joined me for the first nine days of this thirteen day hike which got under way in mid - April. Both of us wished that he could have had the time to complete the entire

trail; but duty called.

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, the PATC, is the organization that maintains the Big Blue. Lest anyone assumes that I'm teeing - off at the PATC about trail conditions, we have to remember that this hike took place early in the season before its trail crews had a chance to respond

to the fury of the winter of the century.

Earlier, I referred to this as an adventure, and that it was. The trip started out, just as the trail guidebook warned, dropping down, down and way down from the crest of Blue Ridge Mountain to the valley floor. However, rewards came repeatedly in the form of waterfalls of Overall Run, with falls ranging from twenty-five to seventy-five feet and plenty of flow. Those of you who know me are aware that waterfalls can cause me to come unglued. These surely did and I considered them a good omen for a super hike; and super it was. Later, I learned, though, that the waterfalls didn't set the tone for the hike; that was to take place at the end of the day. We intended to camp on public land just across the South Fork of the Shenandoah - forget it! When we arrived, the river was in flood stage, six feet over the bridge. Believe me, that set the tone for the hike. The adventure had begun.

What to do? A river travel outfitting business there might be the answer; it was. However, they couldn't help us that evening and offered to let us sleep on their porch. Great. But the wind became much stronger and the temperature dropped to 37F. That may not sound very cold, but I was psyched up for warm weather and we were just sitting. Wearing every stitch of clothing we brought, we were still chilled to the bone. I think it took me all of thirty seconds after dinner to seek refuge in my sleeping bag. As it turned out, we had a good vantage point for observing the entrance to the bridge. The evening's entertainment became watching the drivers who didn't see or chose to ignore the prominently placed "high water - bridge out" sign - no barricade. Fortunately, although driver after driver passed the sign, they all managed to stop just before becom-

ing amphibious.

Next morning, the outfitters were really on the ball - arrived at 7:00

a.m. Then, for a reasonable

charge, they shuttled us 26 miles, by way of Front Royal, Va. to the opposite side of the river - our first obstacle licked. Off we hiked, climbing mountain ridges totaling 3000 feet and descending nearly as much on our way to the U.S.Forest Service (Forest Service) Elizabeth Furnace Park. After the first descent, we came upon the Forest Service's Little Crease Shelter. It's a very well constructed and maintained, clean wooden building open to the front with a stone patio and cut stone semicircular bench from which to enjoy the fireplace. Hikers can get to this shelter following the Veach Gap Trail from a parking lot on Virginia Route 774 in Fort Valley. Would have been an excellent destination for

anyone just hiking the weekend with Kirk and me.

We had lunch at the shelter and climbed back up on top of Little Crease Mountain from which we had just descended - hmmmm. The sky was clear and the views endless thanks to the fact that none of the trees were yet in leaf. We looked down at the tortuous Shenandoah River but never were quite able to see the site of our flooded bridge crossing. One other sight appeared - a mountain biker struggling along the trail at a snail's pace being thrown one way and then another by the rocky trail surface. Nevertheless, he seemed quite content in what he was doing. We each probably thought the other a bit strange. The trail became much too rocky in time, though, and he had to turn back. Eventually, we dropped down off the mountain and the trail took us directly to Elizabeth Furnace (an old iron furnace from the 1800s). I had checked with the Forest Service before starting on the trip and knew that the campground was not

see BLUE, page 10

Serendipity in the Saddle

by Paul Weiser

(This is the part IV of a IV part series, as Paul Weiser crossed the Country on Bicycle)

By late September, I had arrived in Indianapolis and was in the East. Heading south, I rejoined the Bikecentennial Trail and was soon working myself up the Appalachians and into mists of older history. East of Berea, Kentucky, on bike made me appreciate this eastern wilderness. Heading over the misty mountains of eastern Kentucky and Virginia proved to me that the East has a large claim to Americas wilderness and pioneering spirit. I have heard from the locals about rarely seen strangers coming out of the unknown hollows for supplies. Then they disappear for months or years. Like the pioneers of old, I had to travel north and south along the valleys on order to gain a little ways east. Along with the slow progress east, the Appalachians have by far the most steepest mountains I have yet encountered. Spokes were breaking under the strain and my knees were aching. Kentucky had by far the most visible social strata which sometimes directly correlated with land elevation. At the base of a pass would be the richest mansions, followed by farm houses, trailers and then something quite less at the top. Except for some of the meanest dogs in the United States, the denizens were friendly enough to this stranger on an overstuffed bike and gave me the old Kentucky backwoods stare.

As Providence would have it, I felt something would happen on the road to Damascus, Virginia. I had spent a haunting and foggy night ride going to Breaks Interstate Park on the Virginia Border. I encountered the memorial of an unknown Confederate soldier who was killed. He was heading home just after the War and never made it. It was not a good omen. The following day"s fog finally burned off by late morning and my progress was slow. I wondered if the mountains would swallow me up Nameless with some sort of curse! I took a rest in an oddly named town of Bee. I was hailed by a most hospitable retiree who was very inquisitive about my journey. Although he was born in this smallest of towns, he moved into Dayton Ohio to work at a large auto industry and retired fairly wealthy. After 30 some years he retired and headed home to little Bee. He set up s new drugstore and helped out the poor in his own little but important way. Talk about home town loyalty! Although he claimed to be really inspired and enthusiastic about my journey, I was more inspired by his story. Refreshed, and with Erie in my mind, I quickly headed off. The Confederate Soldiers unfulfilled home longing seemed to be answered through the life story my new acquaintance and a curse was lifted on the road to Damascus.

The days of coal trucks, dogs, hairpin curves and sore knees were coming to an end. The day finally came when I was faced with my last mountain climb. Heading to a campground half way up, I heard cars

see **SADDLE**, page 11

The Adventures of Norm and Steve Hiking in the American West

by Norm Snyder ("The Rougher, the Better")

Last summer, Steve Tubbs and I flew out to Phoenix, Arizona where we rented a car, drove to the Salt River on the Apache Indian Reservation and paid for Reservation permits. That night we slept out under the stars.

The next morning we started hiking up a side canyon of the Salt River. I knew the canyon went to a waterfall that required a tricky climb to get up and around it, but didn't know where the climb was. We met two young fellows going the same way as us; one, who had been up the climb before, showed us where it was. The waterfall located at the climb was beautiful, about 40 ft. high and falling into a pool down in a narrow canyon. Steve and I could climb up, but couldn't safely climb down without somebody to brace us at the bottom. Steve decided to stay down and be my brace when I got back.

At the top of the waterfall there were a number

of tanks or large pot holes with water over my head. They were nice for swimming. My two young friends and I hiked up about two more miles to a second waterfall through a canyon that was about 800 ft. deep and filled with cactuses and willows, but easy to walk through. We tried to reach the top of the second waterfall by climbing one wall of the canyon, but ran out of trail and decided to follow the stream instead. That turned out to be the best part of the canyon. After we waded through a pool up to our chest, the canyon pinched down to 3 or 4 ft. and we were straddling it. Then the canyon went another 400 ft. to the base of a third waterfall. We managed to go to the top of this one and encountered some of the largest pot holes I have ever seen. The water

see WEST, page 10

BLUE, from 9

yet open; so we camped just outside the park's boundary and got our cooking and washing water from the swollen Passage Creek."Fisher persons"lined the banks, but as much as I could see, the fish were smarter than the fishers. By evening the temperature began dropping and we had a frosty departure next morning.

During the next two days, we climbed some 5000 feet over Three Top Mountain, Little North Mountain and Little Sluice Mountain. We saw more great vistas and had an unusual sensation walking a bridge across interstate Route I - 81; I've driven that highway dozens of times, but never noticed that cross road. The bridge will have new meaning to me now. Our only problem that day was that the trail had been rerouted, and we found ourselves astride the narrow ridge of Three Top Mountain without enough water. Our trail guide identified places where we planned to fill our water bottles, but, of course, they never appeared. We were rationing water as we stumbled along a very rocky trail for several miles under an intense sun. Kirk can underscore that comment; he burned despite sunscreen. As if to atone, the mountain did give us a large payback, a sweeping view of the North Fork of the Shenandoah; what enjoyable scenery - sensory fulfillment.

Late afternoon of the fifth day, I experienced something that to me was most frustrating, but onlookers would have thought hilarious. (Kirk was well ahead of me at the time). I was hiking in shorts and T shirt when the sky opened and rain came down hard. No big deal. I got out my rainsuit and quickly had the jacket on. The rainpants were a different matter. My boots have to be removed first. Well, the left boot was off and the rainsuit pantleg on in nothing flat - so far so good. Second boot, ugh! The shoelace became hopelessly knotted. There I was - one pantleg on, but drooping to my ankle, (got to have your feet in both pantlegs before you can pull up the pants) and one off. Rain was streaming down my hiking shorts onto my legs and into the changed boot as well as the stubborn boot. The harder I tried to untie that knot, the more beleaguered I became until I finally got the idea to squeeze the tongue area and work the shoelace over a boothook. By then I was sopping wet. What a sight that episode must have been.

The afternoon had still more in store for us. When we reached our

intended campsite near Pond

Run, it was raining so hard that we were happy enough just to get the tent set up and be out of the cold rain. We were quite willing to forego making dinner until the rain subsided and lay down for a little nap. We awoke three hours later - pitch black and still raining. Dinner was composed of

granola bars. Are we having fun yet?

Next day - more adventure. Here we were, in late April, farther south than at home and I had expected moderate weather. That's about what we had experienced so far. Accordingly, I brought my summer sleeping bag and no gloves. You know what's coming, don't you. When I sat up in the tent that morning, the air coming in seemed downright chilly. I looked out snow - coming down hard - and we had to put on that wet raingear - groan. We packed quickly and headed downstream to a stand of hemlocks that would shelter us from the snow while we made breakfast (surely were hungry - those granola bars left a lot - - -). The morning was just beginning. We had three crossings of Pond Run coming up, and the stream was ten feet wide and deeper than normal from the previous night's heavy rain. Fortunately, we found downed trees for two of the crossings. However, they did not turn out to be cake walks. They were two to five feet above the water, inclined upward and slippery - we made it. Sigh. The third crossing was near a waterfall that dropped about seven feet, truly scenic as the high water bounced its way over protruding rocks. Beautiful as it was, though, the stream had to be crossed, and the stepping stones were under water. Kirk spotted a dead tree and managed to maneuver it across the creek. I went across first and made out reasonably well. My boots couldn't have gotten much wetter than from the knotted shoelace incident of the evening before. Kirk, on the other hand, is a larger man and heavier; our tree bridge submerged for him, and he got wetter than I. At least, we had Pond

The morning had even more to test our mettle - still snowing. We started to climb Great North Mountain, another day of 3100 foot climbs and descents nearly as great. The higher we climbed, the colder it got and the harder the wind blew. Halfway up the mountain my rainsuit was virtually wrap-around ice. I had not worn my long johns assuming that I'd get much too hot climbing the mountain. Big miscalculation. I had to completely strip and put on my polypropylenes. The wind chill factor was unknown to us, but survival started to creep into our thinking - not just making the day's planned destination - and we agreed to stop at the Paul Garland Memorial Shelter for lunch and to consider our prospects. At the time the snow was 2.5 inches deep and the walking was uncertain at best. By no we reached the shelter and found it to be another well built and maintained structure for which the Forest Service and the PATC can be justifiably proud. By the time we finished lunch, the snow had abated and on we went to complete our planned 12.6 mile trek to Hawk Campground. (It's a free Forest Service campground north of Virginia Route 55 and accessible by car.) That day will forever remain indelibly inscribed in our minds. We do lots of winter backpacking under much more severe conditions, but then we are prepared with winter gear - not spring. It does make a difference.

By the time we reached the ridge north of Route 55, we encountered increasingly more trees down across the trail. The record breaking snows of the winter of '92 -' 93 had toppled large trees, broken off limbs and made it difficult to reach our planned camping destination each night.

Over the next two days, we dropped off Great North Mountain and did some road walking. I've never seen so many no trespassing signs in my entire lifetime - they're really serious about it. The roads took us up a West Virginia valley, with a fast moving creek, bright green meadows and fruit trees in blossom. Attractive? Yes, but bothersome in a way - all the farms appear to be abandoned (Yet the owners have posted no trespassing signs about every forty feet along the road). What circumstances brought this about?

see BLUE II,page 11

WEST, from 9

was over my head in most of them. Since Steve was waiting for me I went up stream only another 1/2 mile before turning back. In the meantime, while waiting, he had time to explore another side canyon and swim in the waterfall pool.

Our next notable hike was along Christopher Creek. We wanted to follow the creek downstream from the mountains. The section we attempted was full of pot holes. These were pretty, but were hard to hike along or through. One would have to rappel down waterfalls and swim through tank after tank of very cold water to do it. We didn't. We hiked along the cliffs above the creek for a while, but the going was slow. Eventually we found a trail that took us to the bottom of the canyon by the creek. We then hiked upstream hoping to see some of the pot holes and waterfalls. The creek turned and turned and turned.

After a while we decided to climb to the top of a small mesa to try to see where we were and where our creek was going. We spent a long time trying to figure this out. Steve said it looked like there were streams all around us and that each was going in the wrong direction. After a while we figured it out: the stream we had hiked upstream on wasn't Christopher Creek after all. Returning to our stream, we took a quick dip in the 50 degree water and then retraced the trail back up the mountain to the car.

The next day, at about nine o' clock in the morning, we started a hike into the Grand Canyon by going down the Hermit Creek Trail and branching off in the Boucher trail. By five o'clock P.M., we were at the junction of Boucher Creek and the Colorado River. We slept on the sand dunes above the Colorado River while a nearly full moon shone down on us. Steve said the shadowy black rock of the canyon gorge in the moon light gave him the creeps. In the morning, we stashed our backpacks and went out on the Tonto Plateau Trail to Crystal Creek. It was late by the time we made it to the bottom of Crystal Creek Canyon. A couple miles of hiking and some easy climbing took us back to the Colorado River. Our reward was some great rapids to look at, making it worth our effort. Also we were able to refill our canteens at the river. The salty water of Crystal Canyon was mostly undrinkable. On the way back we climbed up the wrong way and were barely able to make it back to our backpacks before dark. On the following day, our 5,000 ft. climb out of the canyon was the hardest thing we did on the entire trip.

After a good night's sleep, we drove a while and then rented horses and rode around in Monument Valley. Then we drove to Utah to meet an old friend, Tom, who left Pittsburgh to cross country ski 1,500

miles a year in the Rocky Mountains.

We met Tom by the Green River and then drove about 20 miles into Devil's Canyon, where we camped. In the morning we hiked down the lower part of the canyon. It started out as a sandy wash but then narrowed. Walls bordering the canyon were at least 1,000 ft. high. These canyons are usually a challenge because they have high drops that must be climbed. However, this particular one went 8 miles with only one 10 ft. climb. At places the canyon narrowed to 4 ft., making it a lot of fun.

On our second day at Devil's Canyon, we hiked the upper section and managed to reach a high plateau where the surrounding countryside could be seen. There were high mesas standing out from rough country filled with many canyons. Going back to our cars, we took a different branch canyon. We had seen no other human beings for two days, a difficult task in the 1990's.

Next, we drove to Moab, Utah where we rented a canoe and Steve, Tom and I paddled from Moab 17 miles south on the Colorado River. The river was wide and calm. Along the way we stopped to look at Indian pictographs on the canyon walls. We also did a hike up a side canyon that fed into the Colorado. The side canyon had a lot of slick rock in it and at its end was a beautiful pool with a high dry water fall.

Tom headed back to Denver. Steve and I drove to Mesa Verde, a very popular National Park where we saw some very interesting cliff

dwelling ruins.

Our last outstanding adventure was seeing the upper and lower Antelope Canyon by Lake Powell. We paid for permits and a ride to the upper canyon. A Navajo maiden rode us to the upper canyon in her Ford Bronco. We soon realized we could have walked in since it was only about a 3 mile walk. The upper and lower canyon were the narrowest passages I have ever seen, outside of caves. There were places at the top of the canyon that were only about 3 ft. wide and where the vertical drop was a zig zag 50 ft. drop.

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BLUE II, from 10

Back up Great North Mountain we climbed as we made our way north, with a marvelous view from Pinnacle Peak. Soon after, the newest shelter on the Big Blue came into sight and it overwhelmed me. The shelter, built in 1990, is modern, impressively well designed and constructed, clean, spacious, and well lit with bunks and typical floor sleeping space. Outside is a stone patio and a separate picnic shelter type building for cooking and eating - unbelievable. Supplementing all this, as if purposely placed, a thirty foot waterfall appeared on Laurel Run not far from the shelter. How much more could you ask? Surely wish we could have stayed at that shelter - so new it's not even mentioned in the trail guide.

By noon of the following day, we had reached the Dresel Wayside campsite and Kirk's truck - the end of the line for him - employment makes its demands. Bob and Jo Dresel, the owners of the campsite, had been very friendly and helpful to Kirk and me but declined our offer to take them to dinner as a little thank you. They are

wonderful people who have given of themselves and their property to make the Big Blue a positive experience for through hikers. There's no way to give them the recognition they deserve.

Next, we drove to the Panorama Steak House, three plus miles west of Berkeley Springs, W.Va. on West Virginia Route 9. The parking lot there affords an incredible view of the Potomac River as it cuts through the adjacent mountains - worth a side trip. Kirk and I each had a 24 ounce prime rib dinner. I know all the admonitions against red meat, but when I come off a long, tough hike, my appetite throws caution to the wind. After dinner, we shuttled my mini van to Hancock, parked it near the police station for safety and Kirk drove me back to where we ceased hiking. We slept overnight in his truck, and he headed home.

Be sure to read next month's issue, as we will run the conclusion to Glenn Oster's "The BIG Blue Trail"

SADDLE, from 9

backfiring and smelled brakes burning. My knees ached and I dismounted at once! I would spend more time walking this one than Loveland Pass. It was early October and I had my first frosty night here since the Rockies. Despite some cool and windy riding on the Blue Ridge Parkway, I spent the whole day riding with a warm and friendly tour group cycling to Afton to visit June Curry, also known as the Cookie Lady. Her world renowned residence is a home of hospitality to cyclists and is filled with stories of people who biked from coast to coast. After a the little pilgrimage, I headed east with the mountains to my back. From Afton to the Atlantic, it was flat and downhill.

Coincidences and camaraderie predominated on my last but climatic day in the saddle. A former local Erieite and coast to coast cyclist herself, wanted to meet me at Yorktown. Along the way I found myself in a bike rally of hundreds of local cyclists, with which we shared the same route. This brought back memories of my first week on the Pacific coast. It was a short ride through Williamsburg, even though I managed to get lost in the rain. I finally smelled the Atlantic as the land flattened out to sand, swamps and pine trees. I do not feel that any of my experiences with bike races, 10k's, marathons or triathlons could match the feeling of joy in finishing this bike ride to Yorktown! After 82 days 4660 miles, 3 tires, 5 spokes, 4 flats, 1 chain and 1 freewheel, I ended up with a rusty, worn out new bike and \$3.00 in my pocket. I had recklessly eaten carbohydrates and lost 12 pounds. On my pilgrimage through the United States I had experienced more closeness to the land than I could have ever imagined by car. I prepared for the worst and hoped for the best. I took one day at a time. Being alone I was at the mercy of what ever nature desired. Being alone and a stranger, I was at the mercy of the good virtues of American locals and friends at home. Being alone I was at the mercy of myself as well, and on knowing how much challenge I could take. On October fourth at 1:00 p.m. I finished my American tour at the towering Yorktown Victory monument, where the Revolutionary War ended and many other veteran cyclists expired. Impressive as some of these monuments were, I felt my tour on bike enlightened me to even more mightier monuments and events found hidden and buried in United States heartland waiting to be rediscovered and felt with experience.

George Romovacek

George Romovacek longtime member of AYH Ramblers died on August 2 at his home in Oakland. A native of Praque, Czechoslovakia, Dr. Romovacek came to the United States after Soviet invasion of his country. Employed by Koppers for many years, he became a leader in the field of coal tar research. The family suggests memorial contributions be sent to the American Czech & Slovak Education Fund, 189 Nassau St, Princeton, NJ. 08540.

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LAW, from 5

chance of being addressed by itself. Kennedy views it as part of a long-term process which includes education of the public and Congress in the virtues of bicycling. The spokesperson indicated Kennedy's feeling that the bill had contributed to the inclusion of bicycle-friendly provisions in ISTEA.

(For all you Kennedy watchers out there, I tried to find out the extent of Kennedy's participation in cycling. The spokesman could only say that he rides a stationary bicycle every day he's in the office.)

The bill itself has received a mixed reaction from various groups interested in promoting bicycling. According to the Bicyclist Advocacy. Bulletin, published by the League of American Wheelmen (L.A.W.), the Bicycle Institute of America (BIA), an industry group, is in favor of it. A BIA press release states that the bill "would help insure at least a minimum level of support for [bicycling and walking]."

The Bulletin, in discussing the debate within the cycling community over the bill, notes several objections, including its separation of bicycle issues from other transportation issues. It also notes objections to the idea that spending "x" amount of dollars on bicycling will improve conditions no matter what it is spent on, and the danger that a minimum cap will become the maximum spent. Supporters of the bill point out that it would provide the funds for many projects that have gone begging for lack of money, that it does not have to replace integrated solutions such as ISTEA, and that no state is spending anywhere near the minimum proposed in the bill. The Bulletin article contains a comment from the Oregon, bicycle program manager, who feels that it was not the state's dedication of 1% of its highway funds to bicycle, and pedestrian improvements that makes the state so bicycle friendly, but the enactment of legislation that, requires new road construction and existing road reconstruction and relocation to provide for bikeways and walkways.

L.A.W. itself has taken a hands-off approach. Instead, it is concentrating on garnering support for improvements such as "bicycle access on airplanes, buses, and trains, station parking, and policies to ensure bicycle accommodations on Scenic Byways and other roadway projects." L.A.W. believes these goals can and should be reached through the provisions of ISTEA.

I believe that, on balance, while the three percent solution has a useful educational function (and a catchy name), the arguments against active support of the bill outweigh those in favor of it. Legislation such as ISTEA and the Oregon provisions contain the best opportunities for bicycling to become integrated into the total transportation structure. And, as a strategic matter, such legislation may have more of a chance to be enacted in the near future than Kennedy's bill because a specific spending level is not dictated.

(Readers can obtain a complete copy of the Bicycle and Transportation Improvement Act by writing or telephoning me at the address below.)

(Mr. Reisman is an attorney in Pittsburgh. If you have questions you'd like to see addressed in this column, write to him c/o Riley & DeFalice, P.C., Liberty Center, Suite 1200, 1001 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, or call 1-800-883-1LAW.)

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AYH Weekly Open House

Pittsburgh Council has a weekly Open House every Thursday evening from 8 pm to 10 pm at Fifth and Shady Avenues in Shadyside. Look for us next to Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. A slide show at 8:30 pm is followed by announcements of the weekend's trips. Hostel Passes, guide books and more available.

Council Office and Travel Store

The Pittsburgh Council office is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, and Tuesdays from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. We're in Room 204 of the Wightman School Building at 5604 Solway St. in Squirrel Hill, near the intersection of Wilkins and South Negley. All passes, ID cards, Eurail Passes, and books are available. Call 422-2282.