

# Golden Triangle

## American Youth Hostels, Pittsburgh Council

*Hostelling International, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping all people, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and its people through hostelling.*



VOLUME 50, NUMBER 8

OCTOBER 2000



### Hostelling - International Pittsburgh PA



#### *Now Open*

A 50 bed full service hostel in a commercial bank building. Free parking, travel store, handicapped accessible!



Be Sure To Visit:

- Andy Warhol Museum
- Station Square
- Nearby Southside
- The Downtown Cultural District
- Riverfront Bike Trails
- Nearby Universities
- The Carnegie Science Center
- The Zoo & National Aviary
- Phipps Conservatory
- Historic Point State Park
- Three Rivers Stadium

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....And MORE!!!

## ANNUAL MEETING and ELECTIONS

The 2000 Annual Meeting of Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels, Inc. will be held 8:30 pm on October 12, 2000 in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania at 6300 Fifth Avenue in the Pittsburgh Council activities headquarters. The purpose of the meeting will be to hear reports of the officers, to elect officers and directors, and to conduct other such business as may come before the Council.

George Schmidt, Secretary

#### Nominating Committee Report

The candidates for the Board this year represent an exceptional cross section of City leadership. The Nominating committee worked throughout the summer to identify and contact candidates that could help raise the profile

*(Continued on page 10)*

## WHAT IS HOSTELLING?

**HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WITH MILLIONS OF MEMBERS WORLDWIDE. OUR MISSION: *TO HELP ALL, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNG, GAIN A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD AND ITS PEOPLE THROUGH HOSTELLING.* MEMBERS PAY A SMALL ANNUAL FEE (SEE THE LAST PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER FOR PRICES) AND RECEIVE A CARD WHICH OFFERS A VARIETY OF BENEFITS.**

MANY JOIN *HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL* FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT THEY ARE READY TO TRAVEL. THEY KNOW THAT BEING A MEMBER MEANS GETTING THE CHEAPEST RATES IN **4500+ HOSTELS IN 70+ COUNTRIES** AROUND THE GLOBE. (CHECK OUT [WWW.HIAYH.ORG](http://WWW.HIAYH.ORG) FOR A LISTING OF ALL US HOSTELS, OR [WWW.IYHF.ORG](http://WWW.IYHF.ORG) FOR A LISTING OF HOSTELS WORLDWIDE.) THESE TRAVELERS HAVE CHOSEN HOSTELS AS THEIR NUMBER ONE CHOICE OF ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THEIR UPCOMING JOURNIES.

THESE SAME PEOPLE MAY KNOW THAT, *IN HOSTELS*, THEY WILL BE MEETING OTHER INDEPENDENT TRAVELERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. NOT ONLY WILL THEY BE SHARING TIPS ON TRAVEL, THEY WILL BE EXPANDING THEIR OWN KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD AND THE HUMAN RACE SIMPLY THROUGH INTERACTING, ASKING QUESTIONS, AND HAVING AN OPEN MIND. THEY WILL BE GAINING NEW INSIGHTS ON HISTORY, CULTURE AND CUSTOMS, POLITICS, ART, LANGUAGES, GEOGRAPHY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, *THEMSELVES.*

*(Continued on page 11)*

### NEW 2000 MEMBER DISCOUNTS

HI members with valid membership cards are eligible for the following discounts. Full details can be found in the FREE 2000 North American Hostel Handbook.

Ace Athletic- 10% off any non-sale item, 1214 East Carson Street; phone: (412)381-2520

Alamo Car Rental- Various Discounts. Contact your travel agent or Alamo and request Rate Code BY and I.D. Number 19998.

Andy Warhol Museum- \$1.00 off admission; 117 Sandusky Street, phone: (412)237-8300

Big Bamboo- Free pack of 15 gram bag of Champa Incense with any purchase. 116 Meyran Ave. , phone: (412) 802-8338

*(Continued on page 3)*

### HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL

**PITTSBURGH COUNCIL-AYH  
830 E. WARRINGTON AVE.  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15210**

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**Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels, Inc.**

Serving Western Pennsylvania & West Virginia Panhandle  
Since 1948, Incorporated 1955

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

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(412-521-3641)

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Secretary ... **George Schmidt**  
Treasurer ... **Larry Laude**

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**Roy Weil**  
**Ray Yutzy**

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(431-4910)

**PITTSBURGH COUNCIL  
ACTIVITY CHAIRS**

Chairman of the  
Activities Committee  
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Canoeing  
Paul Henry ..... 724-347-3282  
Brian McBane..... 724-443-8972  
Cross Country Skiing  
Vacant

Cycling  
Joan Roolf ..... 351-2061  
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Ann Minard.....381-1309  
Chuck Jones.....242-6172  
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Fran Fleming ..... 363-1221  
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Steve Poprocky ..... 731-2429



**HOSTELLING  
INTERNATIONAL**

Pittsburgh Hostel Manager  
**Jessica Carpenter**  
(412-431-1267)

Ohiopyle Hostel Manager  
**Marjorie Paqualle**  
(724-329-4476)

**NOTICE**

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

**November ISSUE**  
**All copy, October 5**  
**Binding/Mailing, October 19**

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

**Moving?**

If you move, or have any subscription problems, please notify us right away. Returned mail costs 42 cents for each piece, so we can save money if you let us know about any changes in your address. You can also phone in changes to the office at (412) 431-1267.

**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.



## 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-secular
- Above rules apply in addition to general rules for submission

**General rules for submission**

- No handwritten submissions
- Submissions Can be;  
On computer disk (IBM), E-mail (Internet/compuserve), Type written material double spaced, faxed. NO EXCEPTIONS. Call if you have questions.
- Submitted before the deadline of the issue that submission needs to be run in. (See Editors Golden Rule)
- All Submissions are on a first come first serve basis, The GT makes no promises to print material received and all material received becomes the property of the GT.
- Standing Deadline; Deadline for the GT, has always been, and will continue to be the First Thursday of the month, prior to the month of the issue.(See Editors Golden Rule)
- Please always check in advance with office, to confirm schedule.

**Editors Golden Rule**

- "Lack of planning on your part, does not constitute an emergency on my part"

**Please note**, the Golden Triangle frequency of publication for 2000.

**Number 1** issue ->February / March: **Number 2** issue ->April: **Number 3** issue ->May:

**Number 4** issue ->June: **Number 5** issue ->July: **Number 6** issue ->Aug.

**Number 7** issue ->Sept: **Number 8** issue ->Oct: **Number 9** issue ->Nov:

and **Number 10** issue ->December

Editor...

**UPCOMING SLIDE SHOWS**

**September 28:** We show the 16 mm film "Fantasy in Rock". Exploration of Kapadokia in Turkey. Volcanic rocks and lava towers become chapels and living quarters for early inhabitants. Miles of subterranean catacombs leave a rich heritage of Byzantine art.

**October 5:** Annual Astro-festival: Moon craters through a telescope. The colorful double star Albireo. The Andromeda Galaxy. If cloudy, a slide show on constellations of fall and winter, and the nebulas and star clusters they contain.

**October 12:** Annual meeting and elections. Also pizza and juice party.

**October 19:** Ice cream and cake party.

**October 26:** We show the 16 mm film "The Flight Of The Gos-samer Condor". Development of first human-powered aircraft by Paul MacCready. Landmark in the history of flight. Academy Award winner for best short documentary.

**November 2:** Ben Brugmans, "Santa Fe And Travels West". Includes the Tetons and Zion National Park.

Slide shows start at 8:30 PM, at AYH Headquarters, Shady Avenue at Fifth Avenue. Doors open at 8:00 PM. If you want to give a show, call Luc Berger at 412-683-3131.

## Pittsburgh Council Hostels

**Ohiopyle AYH Hostel**  
Ohiopyle State Park  
PO Box 99  
Ohiopyle, PA 15470  
(724) 329-4476

**HI-Pittsburgh Hostel**  
830 E. Warrington Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15210  
(412) 431-1267

**Living Waters AYH Hostel**  
RD #1 (1 mile west on Rte 30)  
Schellsburgh, PA 15559  
(814) 733-4212



## 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:

**American Youth Hostels**  
**The Golden Triangle**  
830 Warrington Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Office: (412) 431-4910  
or

HI-Pgh on the information super Highway. Point your browser to :  
<http://trfn.clpgh.org/ayh/>  
or you can email us at  
[ayh@trfn.clpgh.org](mailto:ayh@trfn.clpgh.org)



# HOSTEL HAPPENINGS

**October/November 2000**  
As the busy, fun filled days of summer are coming to a close, and the first thoughts of cold and winter are upon us, remember that your friends at the hostel are striving to keep that summer energy alive throughout the rest of the year. June, July and August were busier than ever before, so we want to share our success with all of those who have helped to make it happen, especially our members! Thank you to all of those who continually support HI-AYH!  
We have many events scheduled for the next few months! Before I begin, don't forget about the rest of September!

- **Wednesday, September 27 6:30pm: Potluck Dinner *Bring a Dish***
- **Saturday, September 30 2pm: World Travel 101 “Solo Travel” *RSVP by 9/28***

Last Thursday, we held our first Cultural Dinner! We served a Chicken and Rice Paella, Chicken with Almonds and Honey, Sautéed Chickpeas, and Mallorca generously donated Bread, cheese and prosciutto. The theme was Spain. The turn out was more than expected, so hopefully all had enough to eat! After dinner, we all gave a whirl at the piñata, a huge paper mache dog, who is now mutilated and hanging out in the office! Thank you to Robert Johnson who graciously donated 20 bags of candy! We had a great crowd from England to Colorado, and Pittsburghers got to mingle with hostel guests, overall a success! Next month's theme is “Oktoberfest” where we will serve a variety of Eastern European foods! If you are interested in taking part in the planning of this event, please contact Nicole Mannino at 412 431 4910. “Oktoberfest” will be held on Thursday, October 5 from 6-9 PM. Please RSVP by Tuesday October 3. Unfortunately, we will be unable to serve guests who do not RSVP! The cost is \$4, and will be accepted in the form of CASH only! Be prepared to sing traditional German songs! If you speak German, we'd love to hear from you! To RSVP call (412) 431 1267 by 10/3/00

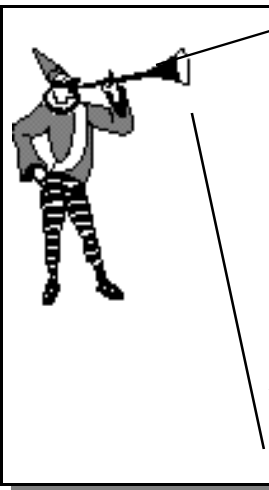
**World Travel 101** is a series of workshops aimed toward the budget traveler who needs some tips and encouragement to get started on their journey! Each month we host a “Basics” workshop, which covers topics such as accommodations, transportation, budgeting, packing, safety, and planning. A slide show accompanies the presentation, where a glimpse at hostels around the world can be seen. In addition to “Basics” we provide a variety of other World Travel 101 themes. These workshops are practical in nature, and are always free of charge. If you are going on a trip, and cannot make a workshop just stop by our travel store Tuesdays – Saturdays from 12pm-5pm and we can help you plan your voyage!

- World Travel 101 October/ November schedule**
- **Tuesday, October 10 7pm “Women Traveling Solo” *RSVP by 10/8***
  - **Thursday, October 19 7pm “Basics” *RSVP by 10/ 17***
  - **Tuesday, November 7 7pm “Canada on a Budget” *RSVP by 11/5***
  - **Thursday, November 16 7pm “ Basics” *RSVP by 11/14***
  - **Saturday, November 18 2pm “Western Europe” *RSVP by 11/16***

**Travel Adventures** is a NEW Monthly Event to be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Each Month at 6pm. “Travel Adventures” is an opportunity for experienced travelers to casually present a destination that they have visited. Anyone can volunteer, and I encourage you to do so! The first topic will be “Madagascar” and will be held on Monday, November 13 at 6pm. Sample traditional Malagasy foods, listen to Malagasy music, and look at photographs of the magnificent Red Island! For more details call 431 1267 and ask for Nicole.

- Other Events:**
- Fri-Sun, Oct 20-22 and Oct 27-29 6pm-10pm Come see the hostel booth at the Pittsburgh Zoo's annual event “ZOO BOO”
  - Wednesday, October 25 6:30pm Potluck Dinner *Bring a Dish*
  - Friday, October 27 11am-3pm The Pittsburgh hostel will visit Carnegie Mellon University for its annual Education and Opportunities Abroad Fair.
  - Wednesday, November 29 6:30pm Potluck Dinner *Bring a Dish*

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming programs! Unless otherwise indicated, all programs will be held at the hostel, 830 E Warrington Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15210. Call (412) 431 1267 to RSVP or for directions.



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

*2000 North American Hostel Handbooks can be picked up at the Travel Center, the Pittsburgh International Hostel, and the Activities Headquarters. Copies are free when picked up in person.*

## OHIOPYLE HOSTEL NEEDS HELP

By George Schmidt, HI-P Facilities Committee

The Ohiopyle Hostel needs some help. While we have been obsessing with getting the Pittsburgh Hostel up and running, the Ohiopyle Hostel has been neglected. Manager Jessica Carpenter and the staff have made Pittsburgh one of the best hostels in the U.S.A. We are determined to bring the Ohiopyle Hostel up to the same standards. The Ohiopyle Hostel is a large house that sleeps 23 people in two dorms and two private rooms. It is located in Ohiopyle State Park next to the Ferncliff National Natural Area. It is an ideal setting for whitewater rafting, bicyclist, hikers, backpackers and tourists.  
A number of years ago we had a crew of volunteers who regularly visited the hostel to help with cleaning and maintenance. We would like to gather a new team to support Ohiopyle again. If you are interested in helping, phone George Schmidt at 412-521-1538.  
One of the most important things we need is tools. Tools for yard and building maintenance. Everything from tree saws to hacksaws, from hammers to sledges. It's kind of silly to invite people to work at the hostel and not have any tools for them. If you have some extra tools lying around you don't need and would like to donate them to the Ohiopyle Hostel contact George Schmidt again at 412-521-1538.

(Continued from page 1)

- Bike Tek- 10% discount. 5102 Liberty Ave. Phone: (412)682-1410

Casbah- 10% off bill. Not valid with any other specials,discounts, or promotions. 229 Highland Street; phone: (412)661-5656; email:casbah1@bigburrito.com; website:www.bigburrito.com

City Books- 15% off all used books and 10% off on most new books. 111E. Carson Street; phone:(412)481-7555; email:citybooks@sprintmail.com

Climb North- 50% off climb time rates, rentals not included; 2468 Wildwood Road, phone: (412) 487-2145

Dairy Mart- Free 44oz. Fountain drink with \$5.00 purchase; 1125 Arlington Ave., phone: (412) 4122

Danny K's Diner- 10% discount to hostelling members; 637 Warrington Ave., phone: (412) 381-7742

The Deli Express- 10% off total check amount. 1107 East Carson St., phone: (412) 381-4247

E-House- 10% off any purchase with valid membership card; 1511 E. Carson St., phone: (412) 488-7455

Eljays's Used Books- 10% discount on all books. 1309 E. Carson St., phone:(412)381-7444; email: eljaysbs@aol.com, website: www.abebbooks.com

Eye of Horus- 10% off all merchandise, books, and tarot readings. 1305 E. Carson St., phone (412) 481-7887; email: eyehorus2LM.COM

Golden Triangle Bike Rentals- 10% discount on bike rentals. 416 Woodrift Lane; phone: (416)655-0835; email: goldentrianglebikes@yahoo.com, website: www.bikepittsburgh.com

Gray Line Trolley Tours of Pittsburgh- \$2.00 off admission on price on day schedule of Pittsburgh tours, April through October; 110 Lenzner Court, Sewickley, PA, phone: (412)741- 2720

Karakesh- 10% off final bill: 320 Atwood St., phone:(412)687-0533

Kaya- 10% off your bill. Not valid with any order specials, discounts, or promotions. 2000 Smallman Street; phone:(412)261-6565; email: kayal@bigburrito.com; website:www.bigburrito.com

La Prima Espresso- \$0.50 off any coffee drink. 811 Liberty Ave., phone: (412) 471-4590; website: www.laprima.com

Mad Mex (NORTH HILLS)- 10% off your bill, not valid with any other specials, discounts, or promotions; 7905 McKnight Road / phone: (412) 366-5656; email: madmex-nh@madmex.com; website: www.bigburrito.com

Mad Mex (OAKLAND)- 10 % OFF your bill, not valid with any other specials, discounts, or promotions; 370 Atwood Street / phone: (412) 681-6565; email: madmex-oak@madmex.com; website: www.bigburrito.com

Mad Mex (PHILADELPHIA)- 10% OFF your bill, not valid with any other specials, discounts, or promotions; 3401 Walnut Street (The Shops at Penn). Phone: (215) 382-2221; email: madmex-philly@madmex.com; website: www.bigburrito.com

Mattress Factory Museum of Art- \$1.00 OFF admission, and 10% OFF merchandise in museum. 500 Sampsonia Way / phone: (412) 231-3169; email: info@mattress.org website: www.mattress.org

Monti's Studio- 10% discount store-wide; 844 E. Warrington Ave. / phone: (412) 381-3240

Paisano's Pizza- 10% OFF final bill. We have pizza, hoagies, appetizers, chicken wings, salads, calzones, wedgies, gyros and more. 823 E. Warrington Ave. / phone: (412) 381-5530

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens- 10% OFF admission to conservatory and gardens throughout the year. Something's always blooming at Phipps - so visit today! ; One Schenley Park / phone: (412) 622-6914; email: phipps@phipps.pgh.pa.us website: www.phipps.conservatory.org

Pittsburgh Zoo- \$1.00 OFF admission with membership card, not valid for evening events. One discount per person. Phone: (412) 665-3639; email: connie@zoo.pgh.pa.us Website: www.zoo.pgh.pa.us

Pizza Outlet- 20% OFF regular price, or any current coupon discount. 1502 E. Carson Street; phone: (412) 488-7200

Premiere CD's- 10% OFF any purchase. 2336 E. Carson Street; phone: (412) 481-3641

Rachel Carson Homestead- Buy one admission, get one FREE! Take the 1A New Kensington or 20-minute drive from Pittsburgh. 613 Marion Ave. Phone: (724) 274-5459

Saint Elmo's Bookstore-20% discount on ALL novels. 2208 E. Carson Street, phone: (412) 431-9100; email: stelmoport@earthlink.com Website: www.saintelmo.com

Slacker- 20% OFF, except magazines. 1321 E. Carson Street / phone: (412) 381-3911; email: randall@slackernet.com website: www.slackernet.com

Soba Lounge- 10% OFF your bill. Not valid with any other specials, discounts, or promotions. 5847 Ellsworth Ave., Shadyside / phone: (412) 362-5656; email: soba1@bigburrito.com website: www.bigburrito.com

Southside Card & Gift- 10% OFF any purchase. 1717 E. Carson Street; phone: (412) 481-2500

Spice Island- 10% OFF final bill. 235 Atwood Street; phone: (412) 687-8821

Thoreau NM, a Production Company- \$1 OFF ticket prices. Please call ahead; 209 Moye Place Cottage, phone: (412) 431-8289; email: thoreaunm@juno.com website: www.trfn.clpgh.org/thoreaunm

Wind & Water Boatworks -10% discount; 455 Pittsburgh Rd, Butler, PA 16002, 724-586-2030

Zenith Antiques & Tea Room- 15% discount. 86 S. 26th Street / phone: (412) 481-4833, website: www.concentric.net/~mamarama/zenith.htm

Zythos, Inc.- NO cover charge...except for headliner, National DJ's. 2108 E. Carson Street phone: (412) 481-2234
- OCTOBER 2000
- 3

AYH ACTIVITIES WITH BEN

Sometimes, when I am deep in projects, trying to meet a rental deadline on a new kitchen, or redoing a bathroom, I wonder if there is more to life than fixing an old house. Well, just as I was taking a break from putting in kitchen cabinets, the mail brought me a postcard from Sally, who is bicycling in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton. These are the reminders of the wonderful people I have met and friends I have made over the years, who also go traveling. Not just to the standard tourist stops of the travel trade, but really travel.

The Thursday meetings frequently have slide shows of an unusual or exotic destination. These are real trips, not just scenic highlights of well worn famous destinations such as Paris or Rome, but back streets, small villages and slices of real life as you meet it on the go.

I find the trips both fascinating and encouraging. If they can do it, then so can I.And if not right now, then when time and finances allow in the future. The AYH slide shows have kept my hopes up through many years of summer construction seasons, excessive overtime, and compromised vacations. I was both gratified by the exposure to, and envious of Glen’s fabulous National Park tours and wilderness treks.

The second part of the AYH which I always look forward to is the company of some very nice people. Both the steady work crew who keep the Thursday evenings and the newsletter publication going, make for good and interesting friends. And although I an frequently tied up, the chance to go canoeing for a day or a week has brought adventures which I would never have gone on alone.

Also my hiking friends, present and past, have been a pleasure to to amble along with. Many decades ago, someone else introduced me to Quebec Run, Dolly Sods or the Otter Creek Wilderness Area for my first time. I am grateful. I would also like to be able pass it on to the next generation. Our Appalachian Mountains are a special gift, which I hope future hikers and campers will be able to enjoy and treasure as much as I have.

Last of all, the building in Shadyside, humble as it may be, is special to me and I hope others as well; a very generous loan from the City of Pittsburgh. The old building has enabled many to be introduced to low budget travel, wilderness trips, and equipment use to get going in the great outdoors. Many outdoor schools have originated in Mellon Park, my son took his outdoor experience to Korea as a medic for the U.S. Marine Corps.

May we continue to instruct, encourage, and introduce beginners to the outdoors and welcome newcomers to Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. It has been an outstanding 50 years. I hope to see many more.

Finally, come to the AYH election; October 12. There will be pizza by Luc (baked from an ancient Swiss family pizza recipe), and other food to cheer the soul. Come and vote. I would like to be reelected to represent activities on the board. Vote for me. Ben

**Rambles For Winter 2000**

**September**

Sep 27 Frick Park. Bag lunch. Margaret Laske 421-5219

**October**

Oct 4 Mingo Creek Park. Bag lunch. \$3.00 trip. Billie Woodland 886-1603

Oct 11 Connemaugh Dam Area - a five-mile ramble. Bag lunch. \$3.00 trip. Joan Roolf. 351-2061

Oct 18 Mr. Washington. Bag lunch. Armand Panson. 488-7612

Oct 25 Riverside ramble from Sharpsburg to Millvale. Ed Divers. 828-5154

**November**

Nov 1 Linn Run State Park. Bag lunch. \$3.00 trip. Earl McCabe. 761-1844

Nov 8 Ramble along the Allegheny River from Barking to Lock#3. Ed Divers 828-5154

Nov 15 Coke oven walk from Adelaide (near Connelsville) to Dawson. Lunch at Connelsville restaurant. \$3.00 trip. Alex Federowicz. 421-0922

Nov 22 Thanksgiving time. No ramble.

Nov 29 Seldom Seen. Don Hoecker. 243-8298

**December**

Dec 6 Homestead ramble. Dick Fisher. 421-9215

Dec 13 Downtown Pittsburgh ramble. Enjoy the holiday decorations. Joan Roolf. 351-2061

\*\*\*\* Make RESERVATIONS with Alex and Margaret if you plan to attend their holiday gathering at the end of next week’s ramble. 421-5219

Dec 20 Walk from Atrs Center to home of Alex Federowicz and Margaret Laske. Bring bag lunch, but save tummy room for holiday goodies and drinks. Please give advance notice if you are coming. 421-5219

Dec 27 No ramble. Enjoy holidays.

Fall rambles begin at 10:00 AM. Meet in Mellon Park, upper parking lot at Fifth and Shady Avenues. Carpooling is encouraged. For trips over 10 miles, please pay driver \$2.00.

Call trip leader for more information, especially if you plan to meet us at the trail head.



CANOEING

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

Many thank-you's to all who have made the 2000 canoeing program a successful one, including Mother Nature who provided plenty of water! We hope this year's new paddlers will be joining us again next spring. Until then, keep in mind that when there is no snow for skiing, Brian can usually be talked into a paddle, if it is warm enough, and dining out is included. If you are interested in pick-up trips, give him a call (724) 443-8972. A planning meeting for the 2001 canoeing program will be held sometime in February, and will be posted in the Golden Triangle. Best wishes to all paddlers for a fun-filled fall and a happy holiday season!

**September 30, October 1**  
This is the 2nd Annual Over the Falls Race at Ohiopyle, and the only time you can watch, and/or make legal descents of the famous, frothy falls. Saturday is practice, Sunday is the race. Come and cheer on some of the bravest and best kayakers, open boaters around!

**October 13-15** Jon&Becky Maiman (412) 242-7179  
A very pleasant canoe camp to admire the fall foliage (usually on the Allegheny) is a favorite fall activity for AYH boaters. Crisp days, cool nights and cozy campfires are on order. Due to uncertain work schedules, the date may be changed by the leaders--call for confirmation and reservations.

**October 14 or 21** Joyce Appel (724) 526-5407  
Get into the "spirit" of Hallowe'en by attending Joyce's party. Costumes, games, and lots of prizes make this a fun social gathering. Bring a covered dish or dessert and call Joyce for confirmation of date and directions. This is a warm-up for her annual Hallowe'en canoe masquerade!!! (see below) Party begins 7 p.m., no matter the date.

**October 15** Don Hoecker (412) 243-8298  
If you can only spare a day to boat, this is the leaf-peeper trip for you! Water levels will determine Don's river pick.

**October 27-29** Joyce Appel (724) 526-5407  
It's that time of year again--the annual Allegheny Hallowe'en Masquerade Float. Costumes are required for paddlers, optional for water craft. Joyce has plenty of extras, should you "accidentally" forget to bring one along. Day trips from a base camp along the river allow for one day or all weekend attendance. Saturday night is dinner out at Five Forks Restaurant, followed by a haunted house or hay ride, pump-kin carving. If you crave more, Joyce always has games and prizes lurking in the shadows. Call for directions and reservations.

For Sale: Mohawk tandem canoe with repairable structural damage \$150. Brian McBane(724) 443-8972.

Shelley C. Nilson shelleycn@yahoo.com



SAILING

The Sailing Activity is looking for a new chairperson. If you have experience and interest please contact Bob Zavos at 412-241-0659. We will still offer daily rentals on the two AYH Sunfish at \$20 per boat. You must have prior Sunfish experience and be able to rig the boats yourself. Other activities:

I want to buy- a new or used [in very good condition] 'Super Snark' or 'Snark Sun-flower' sailboat. Contact Irene Povlish at 412-422-2313 or at ipovlish@hotmail.com.



SEA-KAYAKING

Activity Co-Chairs: Vickie Gotaski 412-344-4929

No trips planned for September as Chairs away to Alaska!

Don’t have a boat? We have kayaks available for all club events.



ROCK CLIMBING

**Rock Out with AYH!**

The Pittsburgh AYH Rock Climbing program is a great way to experience the thrill of rock climbing. Our Beginner trips are focused on teaching "never evers" the basics of rock climbing. AYH supplies the climbing gear plus a group of experienced climbers to set up the climbs and teach the course. All you need to bring is a bag lunch, water, and a sunny disposition. Wear loose-fitting, comfortable clothes (shorts and T-shirts in the summer) and tennis shoes. It's not a bad idea to pack raingear in the event of a late-afternoon thunderstorm.

To find out more about the AYH climbing program, call Chuck Jones at (412) 242-6172. Please call before 10 o'clock at night.



BICYCLING

Everyone who likes to bicycle are welcome. We are trying to build a group of like minded cyclists who enjoy sharing the experience. So come join us. I know you are out there!

Oct 1, Sun SABRE.CANCELLED FOR 2000  
Pittsburgh Council regrets to announce that SABRE has been cancelled for this year.

Oct 6th,7th&8th Wilderness Lodge Biking Weekend. See application below!

As you can see there are other times when we need rides to be led, especially August, and October. There are many other great places to bicycle. Maybe you know of some yourself. Call Joan Roolf at (412)351-2061 to share your ideas.

HELMETS ARE REQUIRED!

Events and news courtesy of George Schmidt

October 7 Youghtoberfest Family Fun Ride, Boston, PA. Casual ride on the Yough River Trail, with 5, 15 and 30 mile options. Food and drink support provided. Fees: \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children under 12 years of age, or \$15.00 for families (up to three children). Proceeds benefit the Yough River Trail. Ride starts at 10am. Registration opens 9am day of the event. Contact: Karl 412.767.5021; subscriptions@dirtragemag.com; Mon-Yough Trail Council, PO Box 14, McKeesport, PA 15135.

FREE NORTH CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA RAIL TRAIL MAPS

A new map and brochure for Rail Trails of North Central West Virginia is now available.

This map includes the following trails in Monongalia, Preston and Marion counties:  
Mon River Trail - North and South / Caperton Trail  
Deckers Creek Trail  
Cheat Haven Trail  
MCTrail  
West Fork River Trail

This full color map is available at no charge from:

The Greater Morgantown Convention and Visitors Bureau  
709 Beechurst Ave.  
Morgantown WV 26505

TOUR DE GRAPE HARVEST

WILDERNESS LODGE

OCTOBER 6TH, 7TH, AND 8TH

HAVE A PERFECT FALL WEEKEND AT THE PEAK OF THE FALL COLORS.

THIS YEAR DON HUTCHINSON, OUR LOCAL GUIDE WILL LEAD US ON RIDES BOTH SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. WE RIDE AMONG THE VINEYARDS, STOP AT THE WINERIES AND RIDE THE COUNTRY ROADS. ENJOY A HOMECOOKED MEAL SATURDAY AT WILDERNESS LODGE (IF WE HAVE AT LEAST 10 PEOPLE.)

THE COST IS: \$38. PER PERSON (\$48.NON-MEMBERS) FOR A DORM STYLE ROOM(3-6)  
\$90. PER ROOM(\$100 NON-MEMBERS)FOR A PRIVATE DOUBLE ROOM

SATURDAY'S DINNER IS \$11. (IT WILL BE COLLECTED THAT WEEKEND) BREAKFASTS ARE EXTRA. LUNCH WILL BE AT A RESTURANT ALONG THE ROUTE. WE WILL RESERVE THE SPACE.

RESERVE EARLY. SPACE IS LIMITED TO 23. PRIVATE ROOMS ARE LIMITED ALSO. SEND A CHECK AND THE APPLICATION BELOW TO :

HI-PITTSBURGH HOSTEL  
830 E. WARRINGTON AVE.  
PITTSBURGH, PA. 15210  
ATTENTION: TOUR DE HARVEST

TOUR DE GRAPE HARVEST BICYCLE TOUR  
WILDERNESS LODGE  
OCTOBER 6-7-8

NAME:\_\_\_\_\_ AYH PASS # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE:\_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I AM DRIVING AND CAN TAKE \_\_\_\_\_ PASSENGERS.  
\_\_\_\_ I NEED HELP FINDING A RIDE.(WE WILL TRY)  
\_\_\_\_ I WILL DRIVE AND MEET THE GROUP AT WILDERNESS LODGE.

LIABILITY WAIVER

In consideration of your acceptance of my application for participation in the cycling weekend at Wilderness Lodge, I, the undersigned, for myself and my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, waive and release any and all claims for damages for death, personal injury or loss of property I may have or which may accrue to me as a result of my participation. I the undersigned, discharge and release the Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels, Inc., Wilderness Lodge, their activity leaders, and their respective agents, boards, commissions and any other involved employees, representatives, and volunteers from all liability arising out of, or connected in any way with my participation, whether or not caused by the negligence of any of the above parties.

I acknowledge that there are inherent risks and dangers which may arise at any time during the weekend. My participation is voluntary and is done at my own risk. I voluntarily assume all risks of loss, damage, or injury that may be sustained while participating. I attest that I am physically fit and sufficiently trained for participation in this event. I understand and agree that medical or other services rendered to me by or at the insistence of any of the above parties is not an admission of liability to provide or to continue to provide any such services and is not a waiver of any of the said parties of any right hereunder.

SIGNATURE:\_\_\_\_\_ DATE:\_\_\_\_\_





## HIKING/BACKPACKING/TRAILS

**Sept 29-Oct 9** **Norm Snyder** **412-351-4068**  
Join Norm on a private backpack trip to the Grand Canyon. We will join Herb Tailor & others who lead many trips, will see Deer Creek Falls, Kanab Creek, Indian Hollow & Colorado River. Call for more information

**October 1 Sunday Lorraine Johnson 412-856-4770**  
Cooks forest. Lorraine will lead a 5 to 6 mile hike through virgin hemlock and white pine groves. This remarkable stand is 300 years old, it survived loggers and a tornado in more recent times. Meet at 10:00 A.M. in Mellon Park. Carpooling 200 miles r.t. @\$12. Bring a lunch,dinner and pie afterwards at Marionville.

**October 8 Sunday Ben Brugmans 412-361-3623 or 687-2588**  
Jennings Nature Reserve. We will enjoy the fall colors at the only prairy habitat in our area, and see the edge of the forest in fall foliage.A leasurely 4 miles, 80 miles carpooling @ \$4.75 for your driver.Stop for lunch on the way back at a restaurant.

**October 14-15 Saturday-Sunday Jim Ritchie 828-0210**  
**Backpacking Trip to Oil Creek State Park.** This is an easy backpack trip, only 12 miles total, in and out. The purpose of the trip is to field-check and update the activity brochure published by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. **If you're interested, call Jim for more information and a reservation. Also, email to jimritch@aol.com.**

**October 15 Sunday Joan Roolf 412-351-2061**  
Conomaugh Dam. 5 to 6 miles. Peak of the leaves, and it is an interesting historical area, with the canal and the railroad converging and crossing near Saltzberg. Give Joan a call, as she has to make reservations for lunch at a quaint restaurant in Saltzberg.Meet 10:00 A.M. at Mellon Park. Carpooling 100 miles r.t.\$6.

**October 22 Sunday Judy Woodring 412-828-9002**  
A 6 mile hike to stretch your legs on the hike-bike trail along the Yough river. From West Newton to Cedar Creek couty park and return. Luch afterwards in a restaurant of Judy choosing on the way back home. Meet at Mellon Park at 10:00 A.M. Carpooling 50 miles rt \$ 3.

more —————>>

### ALLEGHENY GROUP--SIERRA CLUB--OUTINGS THRU DECEBER 10, 2000, Courtesy Bruce Sundquist

For a more up-to-date listing, visit their Internet web site. Address: <http://www.enviroweb.org/alleggheny-sc/>  
**EVENING CONDITIONING WALKS** (Call for meeting time and place):  
**South Park** (year-around). Times/locations may vary. Call Bonnie Thomas, 412-833-1068  
**Duff Park** (Murrysville) Tuesdays and Thursdays until October. Call Nick Broskovich 724-863-6707  
**East End** Wednesday Evenings, 7 PM. To Frick, Schenley, or Highland Park. Call Don Stone, 412-441-2027

**Sat.Sept.30** Caving in Harlansburg Cave near McConnells Mill. \$2.00 carpool-21 miles from Cranberry Mall. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068  
**Sat.-Sun.Sept.30-Oct.1** Backpacking on Laurel Highlands Trail from Rt.653 to Grindle Ridge Shelter and back (6 miles/day). \$6.75 carpool-60 miles. Call Harold Kotchig, 412-341-1196  
**Sun.Oct. 1** Fall colors hike in Oil Creek State Park (Fall colors come a few weeks earlier up there than around Pittsburgh.) \$8.50 carpool--84 miles from Richland Mall on US8. Call Stacey Jones, 814-677-8076.  
(Note: Stacey, our newest trip leader, is also Park Naturalist at Oil Creek S.P..)  
**Sun.Oct. 1** Cycle scenic Ghost Town Trail bicycle path along Blacklick Creek in Indiana County from Dilltown to Vintondale to Nanty Glo and back (32 miles round trip). Rentals available. \$5.00 carpool-50 miles. Call Donna Allen, 412-372-2993  
**Fri.-Sun. Oct.6-8** Bicycle among the grape vineyards around Lake Erie. Stay at Wilderness Lodge. This is usually a peak fall colors weekend. Helmets required. Call Joan Roolf, 412-351-2061 joanroolf@dellnet.com  
**Sat.Oct. 7** Hike an intermediate 12-mile loop in Mill Creek Park near Youngstown OH. \$5.25 carpool-52 miles from Cranberry Mall. Call Alan Aliskovitz, 412-781-3482  
**Sat.Oct. 7** Canoe/Bicycling trip somewhere along Allegheny River. Call Steve Tubbs, 412-279-4866  
**Sun.Oct. 8** Enjoy a leisurely 3-mile nature walk in Hampton Community Park and on Rachel Carson Trail. See the fall foliage and the last of the wildflowers. Call Luc Berger, 412-683-3131  
**Sat.Oct.14** Fall colors hike in Laurel Hill State Park. Intermediate, about 8 miles. \$6.25 carpool-55 miles. Meet at 9 AM at Monroeville Park & Ride. Call Tom Wolper, 412-521-8378  
**Sun.Oct.15** Easy 1.5-mile hike (2 hours) in Seldom Seen Greenway (Beechview Area). Meet at the far end of Brashear High School's parking lot at 590 Crane Ave. in Beechview at 1:30 PM. Call John or Kathy Murphy, 412-341-9367, or Bill Lawrence, 412-922-3951  
**Sun.Oct.15** Hike a moderate 7 miles in Cook Forest State Park and enjoy the last of the fall colors. (The park is well north of Pittsburgh.) \$7.50 carpool fee--75 miles from Richland Mall. Call Mike Robertson, 412-678-4039  
**Sat.Oct.21** Hike, strenuous and exploratory, in Laurel Hill State Park, loop from Jimtown downstream along Laurel Hill Creek in a complete north/south traverse of the park, back along the highlands. \$6.75 carpool-60 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567  
**Sat.Oct.21** Bicycle a strenuous 70 miles on Yough River Trail from Boston to Confluence. \$8.25 carpool-76 miles. Call Bob Dalrympel, 412-829-2311

Backpack with detachable daypack -- 4500 cubic inches capacity, dark green. Used once - gently. \$150 firm. Cash only.  
Eleanor Hohman, Phone # - 531-4648, ehohman@sgi.net

**Sept. 29, 30/Oct. 1 Fri., Sat., Sun.:** **Jim Ritchie 828-0210**  
**Keystone Trails Fall Meeting (KTA):** The Keystone Trails Association meets twice a year to hike, discuss trail issues, and hike some more. KTA is the epicenter of the Pennsylvania hiking and trails community. The Fall 2000 meeting will be held at Camp Allegheny in Stoystown, PA, near Johnstown. You can come for the weekend (inexpensive food and lodging packages are available) or for the day. Accommodations include bunkbeds in modern cabins or tent camping. Meals available include Saturday breakfast, box lunch, and dinner and Sunday breakfast, and hot lunch. You can buy the package or a la carte. **Advance registration is highly recommended.**

A program of 8 hikes is available on Saturday with 4 half-day hikes on Sunday. Hike leaders include Dick Pratt (Sierra Club), Bob Tait (North Country Trail), Mark Eckler (mastermind of the Slippery Rock Gorge Trail), Joyce Appel and Paul Henry (Butler Outdoor Club), Dave Adams (Butler Outdoor Club), Bruce Sundquist (Sierra Club, author of *Laurel Highlands: A Hiking Guide*), Steve and Patty Brunner (AYH), Mary Pitzer (AYH), Hugh Downing (President, KTA), Ed & Bernie Beck (former President & current KTA Council member, respectively), and Leo Stember (AYH). Tom Thwaites (author, *50 Hikes in Western Pennsylvania*) and Mort Kurman (AYH) will give a demonstration of the use of a “skyline” for moving large rocks on Sunday.

The program on Saturday evening will be a slide presentation by Steve Howe, the Rocky Mountain Field Editor and senior writer for *Backpacker* magazine. Steve, in addition to being an adventurous backcountry backpacker, is a distinguished photographer, having written several articles for the magazine on outdoor photography. Steve will present slide accounts of the canoe trail in the Mackenzie Range of Canada, a crossing of the Tordrillo Mountains in Alaska, and a 24-day through-hike of the Absaroka Range from near Livingston, MT to Togwotee Pass E. of Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Last but not least, there will be a Saturday option for a bus tour of the historic Johnstown area, with visits to Johnstown Flood Museum, the Johnstown Flood National, the Grandview Cemetery Plot of the Unknown Flood Victims, and a ride on the Johnstown Inclined Plane, with views to the City.

For more information, call Jim at (412) 828-0210 or send him email at jimritch@aol.com. To request registration information, call Mildred Forrester at (570)322-0293 or send email to keyhike@sunlink.net.

#### Trips led by A.J. Stones:

**Oct. 1st** Baughman's Rock, Ohiopyle 3-6 Miles  
**Oct. 8th.** Quebec Run Wild Area 8.1 Miles  
**Oct. 15th** Lurel Highland Trail Rt. 653 to Seven Springs 8 Miles  
**Oct. 22nd** Day Canoe trip Youghioghenny River 14 Miles  
**Oct. 27th** Leave Pittsburgh Stay at Va. Youth Hostel.  
**Oct. 28th & 29th.** Overnight Backpacking on Appliation Trail 20 miles Garvery Ferry Youth Hostel to Bears Rock Youth Hostel

Questions:call 412-241-6042 e-mail ecoaj@nb.net  
Hiking trips will leave from Jaden's Restaurant Rt. 22 East Monroeville at 8:30 AM  
Please, if you are going to leave a car at the restaurant, park closest to Elliott Rd.

### New Hiking Guide for the Laurel Highlands Available

The ridges of southwestern Pennsylvania – Chestnut Ridge, Laurel Ridge and Allegheny Front – contain the bulk of the scenic public lands in the region. Nowhere else in southwestern Pennsylvania can one find large expanses of nature-oriented and outdoor-recreation-oriented public lands for public enjoyment. The best way to gain access to the scenery and natural values of the region is by way of the roughly 550 miles of foot trails that blanket the 218 sq. miles of state forests, state parks and state gamelands of the “Laurel Highlands”.

The Sierra Club's new guide “The Laurel Highlands: A Hiking Guide”, gives you all the information you need to enjoy this major recreational and natural resource. This 288-page Guide describes opportunities for hiking, backpacking and ski-touring on 446 miles of foot trails on the public lands of these Laurel Highlands. Note: It omits the 70-mile Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail because that is described in a separate guide devoted exclusively to that trail. It also omits some trails in the Mt. Davis area of Forbes State Forest, the 26-mile Lost Turkey Trail on Gallitzin State Forest (which offers a map and brief guide), and some trails on State Gamelands #51 adjacent to Ohiopyle State Park. Covered in this guide are the foot trails of the following public lands in the Laurel Highlands:

State Parks, Area (square Miles): Ohiopyle,30; Laurel Ridge,24; Cooper's Rock,20; Blue Knob,9; Laurel Hill,6; Linn Run,1; Kooser,0.4

Forests: Forbes,86; Gallitzin,30

Public Lands: Bear Run Nature Reserve,8; Lower ICV Trail,4

Total Public Lands: 218 square miles

Peaks on ridges in the Laurel Highlands are at altitudes between 2500 and 3000 ft. Allegheny Front is the “backbone” of the Appalachian Mountains in this part of the country. It is the highest, the most rugged, and the most remote from major centers of population. Laurel Ridge is closer to population centers and contains an amazing wealth of public lands—state forests, state parks, and state gamelands. It is probably the most popular region for outdoor recreation in western Pennsylvania. Chestnut Ridge is closest to major population centers but contains less public land so it is not as popular among outdoor recreationists as Laurel Ridge. All of these ridges are heavily forested, largely because the steepness of the ridge slopes makes them poor sites for urban developments.Besides trail descriptions, this 6x9” soft-cover Guide provides 26 pages of USGS topographic maps showing trail routes. Trail routes on the maps are keyed to the descriptive text to make using this guide as easy as possible. This Guide gives other information as well:How to get to the trailheads Information on ski-touring and backpacking in the Laurel Highlands 32 photographs of some of the scenery to be seen along the trailsRatings of trail scenery, condition and difficulty (hiking and skiing),Altitude changes, stream crossing and other mapsInformation on organizations open to the public that use foot trailsfoot-trail maintenance, water purification, and hiking ethics“The Laurel Highlands: A Hiking Guide” costs \$11.95 and is available at the Activities Headquarters on Thursday nights, at the Pittsburgh Hostel and Travel Center, or by calling 412-431-4910. For mail orders, send \$11.95 plus 84 cents tax and \$1.50 postage (\$14.29 total) to Pittsburgh AYH / 830 East Warrington Ave / Pittsburgh PA 15210-1560.

# Giant toxic hogweed invading the region

Monday, June 26, 2000  
By Don Hopey, Post-Gazette Staff Writer

The invasion of the giant hogweed sounds like a B-grade Hollywood chiller-thriller that went straight to late-night cable television, but the alien flora is real, in Pennsylvania and spreading fast.



Scared yet?  
If you come into contact with the hogweed's phytophoto toxic sap on a sunny day, you run the risk of painful, blistering, second-degree chemical burns that can turn into purplish or brown skin blotches and scars.

Scared now?  
Gary Braun knows the dangers. Two years ago, while wearing a T-shirt and running his weed cutter along the road near his home in Fombell, Beaver County, he experienced a close encounter of the painful kind.

"I had skin outbreaks that were like burns and they left white scars all over my forearms," he said. "I must have got into it. At first I thought it was sun poisoning, but they lasted two or three months, and even later that winter seemed to come back. It was like poison ivy running all over me."

And giant hogweed is growing all along the road outside Braun's home, despite his best efforts to kill it.

"I cut the flowers off and burn them so they don't go to seed and spread," said Braun, who now wears long sleeves and gloves when doing that weeding.

"But there's still a lot around here. It keeps coming back."  
Native to Eurasia and a member of the carrot and parsley family, the noxious weed stands from 8 to 14 feet tall when mature. It has a hollow ridged central stem, 2- to 4-inches in diameter, with purple or red blotches and coarse hairs. Its leaves are broad, unevenly lobed, and can grow up to 5 feet across.

When its umbrella-like white flower is in bloom, as it is now through the end of next month, it resembles Queen Anne's lace on steroids.

And it is marching into Pennsylvania despite efforts by the state and federal agriculture departments to eradicate it. Usually growing in rich, moist soils along roadsides, stream banks and weedy lots, hogweed also has been found in New York and Maine.

Michael Zeller, a state Agriculture Department biocontrol expert based in Meadville, Crawford County, said hogweed first was reported in the northwestern corner of Pennsylvania around Erie, and in McKean, Warren and Crawford counties. It has been expanding southward, he said.

In 1998, he said, it was found on six sites in Pennsylvania. A year later, it had sprouted at 116 locations, and this summer it has been confirmed at more than 300 sites, including several in Westmoreland and Beaver counties. One unconfirmed report places it along Interstate 79 in Washington County, he said.

Zeller is spending the summer spraying the hogweed with a combination of pesticides to kill it and also planting grasses to crowd it out. The weed killer Roundup, sold in hardware stores, doesn't work.

"Roundup kills most everything, but it doesn't work on this," Zeller said. "This plant grows so fast it outgrows the effects."

He was able to destroy small patches of hogweed last year through spraying. Larger patches are tougher to kill, however.

Part of the problem is that each plant creates 8,000 seeds that are carried off by the wind or blown around by cars and trucks speeding along roadways.

And the seeds can remain dormant in the ground for several decades. "The seed banking is phenomenal," Zeller said.

Although giant hogweed is on the federal and state noxious weed list, making it illegal to propagate, sell or transport the plant, it once was cultivated in Europe and brought to North America around 1917 for use in landscape settings. Gardeners have contributed to the problem by planting hogweed in their gardens. In Warren County, one site has thousands of plants up to 8 feet tall that have escaped from a nearby garden plot.

Zeller advised people not to try to remove hogweed themselves but rather call the state Agriculture Department, which will attempt to spray known sites three to five times a year for the next 10 to 15 years.

Despite those efforts, he predicted that there would be 15 percent to 20 percent more hogweed in the state next summer.

Pam Nelson, who owns Camp Silver Lake, on Route 588 in Beaver County, isn't surprised. She said Zeller, who sprayed hogweed growing in front of her property and along the road earlier this year, is overmatched.

"He's just one guy with a little hand sprayer doing one plant at a time," she said. "There's no way he can keep up. If we can get other people to recognize it and report it, maybe we can get him some help."

She said giant hogweed is easy to identify but can be mistaken for cow parsnip. Though similar in size and configuration, cow parsnips have green stems, while the hogweed stems are purplish and have coarser hair.

Nelson, who lives about a mile from Braun, said another neighbor told her about hogweed growing along Route 588 last summer.

"It was just about 5 feet tall last year, not full-grown," she said. "But this year it's been flowering. The problem is killing off the roots and the seeds."

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation sprayed the hogweed along Route 588 a week ago, but Nelson isn't sure the herbicide used is strong enough.

It's a concern that puts her in an awkward position.

"I consider myself an eco-freak," she said. "I'm against spraying herbicides because I'm concerned about the effect of the chemicals, but when it comes to something this dangerous, what choice do you have?"

"It should scare the heck out of you."

For more information, call the state Department of Agriculture at 717-787-4737. Also, see <http://post-gazette.com/healthscience/20000626hogweed1.asp>  
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## Trip Report - 27 Aug 2000 - Rachel Carson Trail, Part II

-by Axelis Rzewski

Two months ago, Ried, Annemarie and myself hiked about 20 miles on the Rachel Carson Trail. For me, that was a way of "earning the stripes" for that T-shirt I got after missing the Challenge in June 24th. Now, it was time for the remaining 14 miles.

After the great success of the last hike, Annemarie and Ried both agreed that an effort should be made to return to the trail and complete it. Two months elapsed before Annemarie could carve out a free Sunday from her busy schedule, and as usual, she didn't blink when told that we were going to pick her up at 5:30 AM. My brother Ico would also join us on this trip. For many other invitees, it was just too early in the morning.

We left one car at 6:10 in North Park in a location that we later discovered was not the parking lot next to the Beaver Shelter, but the Oakmont shelter and skating rink. In the rush of things and darkness or early dawn, we just didn't pay attention to the signage. We then used the second vehicle to reach Harwick. From North Park, the yellow belt is the perfect route to follow, and we very quickly reach Harwick. We park in a street facing the municipal building and start hiking at 6:50.

I am wearing the green Rachel Carson Trail Challenge 2000 shirt, so that by the end of day, that shirt will be soaked in the sweat of having covered the entire trail. By the way, about that shirt: I've debated myself on whether it would have been a better shirt if it were 100% cotton. Being 50/50 polyester and cotton, it is not as comfortable as a pure cotton garment, but today I will discover the advantages of a mixed fabric material rather than all cotton. Thunderstorms were forecasted, and the trail also offered some thorny bushes to slap through, and an all-cotton garment would have been detrimental.

From the start, Annemarie's concerns were the "rollercoaster hills" of which the RCT is famous for. Being more psychologically prepared, now knowing what to expect, she trooped forward with commanding leadership. Ried too, was more prepared. He recently purchased Asolo boots, and tailgating behind him on those steep ascents and descents on the gas pipeline trail, I could see how those brand new, unworn Vibram soles were effective and cutting nicely the hardened soil.

The early morning mist and fog gave many opportunities for suggestive photographic backdrops, specially from the summits of the rollercoaster hills. In one spot, going through some tall grass and bushes, we were soon covered with triangular-shaped seeds that \*really\* stick on your hair and shirt. These seeds come in rows, and my RCT Challenge T-Shirt really had "stripes" of them. I guess Mother Nature was responding in its style on my call to earn those "stripes".

On top of one hill, tall grass and 9-foot high wildflowers suggest some scene out of a safari. After negotiating some thorny bushes, the trail abandons the pipeline and goes into the woods in a hard-to-find turn. At about 9 AM, we reach a municipal park (Old Mill Run) and stop for a break. There are picnic shelters, a playground, sport fields. Only one other person is there, a birdwatcher. He told us that he spotted some cranes earlier.

The trail then continues on mostly wooded area. Just before the Casey crane plant, some spectacular tall flowers. The crane plant ground is fun to watch too. Large steel structures lay to rest. One cemetery of crane hooks all grouped together. North of the Saxonburg Road, another patch of spectacular flowering fields. This time, they are Black Eyed Mary. Hundreds of them. Some sundried logs remind more of a Wyoming landscape.

And then, the last pipeline hill, a very important psychological landmark for Annemarie. On top of the hill, an Agrarian scenery, with meadows, barns, and hilltop water tanks. The trail soon Crosses the Pennsylvania Turnpike, walking on top of a local road bridge, and stays on a back road for a good two miles. We are getting closer and closer to Hartwood Acres. Leaving the dirt backroad, the trail then meanders up on a hill with some sporadic meadows and fruit trees.

With the sudden appearance of a hidden pond, that given the embankment on one of its side it must have been artificially created, it suddenly dawns on people's minds the image of the perfect spot for lunch. "It's eleven o'clock", says Annemarie, as trying to justify the stop, as to say that it is \*almost\* lunchtime. Ried has fun feeding the fish. It's a feeding frenzy and the word "Piranha" comes to mind. Annemarie has her customary nap on the grass, another opportunity for photographs, just as in the hike two months ago.

So far, the day has been slightly sunny, with cool air. An hour later, finally, the darkening clouds delivered its light rain. Continuing on the trail, we cross Middle Road, into the Hampton municipal park, then the school grounds, and encounter the four-lane Route 8. As we approached it, we would see cars and trucks zipping by constantly. The moment we reached the edge of the road, not a car in sight on both directions and without having to stop, we kept the same hiking pace and crossed with no delay. What timing! Divine intervention.

Under the light rain, crossing of Glade Run was the only wet crossing so far in which we got our feet wet. Walking in the darkness under thick hemlock trees, and the sound of babbling creek, this portion of the trail had definitely the most backcountry quality. Half a mile later, we're walking on gravel next to railroad tracks for a short time, to then walk along another babbling creek with hemlock trees.

Soon the trail reaches the open play fields of North Park, and the large rectangular yellow blazes are replaced by smaller yellow dots - a park-mandated administrative directive? It's 2 PM. There are picnic events, such as one of the Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Church, and with the light rain, every square inch under the shelters are covered with people. A station wagon parked next to it with license plate "BBQ 1".

After walking across the south portion of North Park and reaching the lake (nice condos right next to Pine Creek - never noticed them before - almost like Vail, Colorado), we keep on following the yellow dots into the woods to then find a wooden sign: "Rachel Carson Trail", and three yellow blazes on it. Having seen single and paired blazes along the trail, Annemarie asks what does it mean when there are three. I tell her that it is convention among trail blazers to put three blazes in the ends Of a trail, but we were puzzled: we were in the middle of the woods, and planting that post there just made no sense. Not having our RCT map with us, we were playing guessing game, and having made the erroneous assumption earlier in the pre-dawn hours of believing that the Beaver shelter was near the skating rink, we kept continuing on a trail with white blazes.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

After a while, we soon realize that the yellow dots have disappeared, and we decide to bushwhack towards the main lake, into the pine forest next to the tennis courts, and into the exercise trail behind the park headquarters. The team is now tired, and the feeling of having "lost" the trail doesn't boost morale for that last sprint. I volunteer to run to the car and return quickly to pick them up at park HQ.

Fifteen minutes later, I pick the passengers, and glance at the posted park map in the parking lot. Some 30 shelters are listed alphabetically by name. Looking for "Beaver", its on square D-3 on the map, and once found it on the map, I see it located over a creek of where the post with the three blazes was. "Hey fellas, great news: that post WAS the end of the trail". Annemarie exulted: "I am so glad we did the entire trail". So was I. My veggie stripes still attached on the shirt.

To see photos taken on Alexis' hike, go to:  
<http://www.zing.com/album/?id=4293681999&code=456160&mode=invite>

### Sherlock Holmes was a Backpacker

Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson went on a backpacking trip. After a good meal and a bottle of wine Sherlock carried in his pack, they lay down for the night, and went to sleep.

Several hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend: "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

Watson replied: "I see millions and millions of stars." "What does that tell you?"

Watson pondered for a moment. "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that tomorrow will be a beautiful day. What does it tell you?"

Holmes paused for moment. "Watson, you idiot. Someone's stolen our bloody tent."

From a hike Jim Ritchie led on the Glacier Ridge Trail on 8/12. The photos were taken by Dave Mottorn. A good caption for the 1st would be "Crossing the Hidden River Bridge on the Glacier Ridge Trail".



I have attached one more photo from my trip to Axel Heiberg Island. A good caption might be "Arctic Light on the Polar Desert-AYH member Jim Ritchie took a 12-day backpacking trip in late July 2000 on this remote island in the Canadian High Arctic. Watch for his article, soon, in the *Golden Triangle*".



## Rachel Carson Trail Challenge 2000-More (and More) Letters

July 17, 2000  
Dear Jim,

I would like to give you my thoughts about this unique endurance challenge. First of all my congratulations to all the finishers .The volunteer stuff at the check-point stations was nice, friendly and very helpful. I also talked to many interesting pain-seekers-overachievers...like myself.

This challenge was the toughest thing I had to do both physically and mentally. To call the creators of this challenging course masochists is not enough.

At the end I was glad it was all over. I contemplated thoughts, cursed and meditated for hours.....I guess it was quality time spent with myself . I had pain for several days but it was well distributed all over the body.

I discovered a whole new world of calves, upper legs, buttocks, arms and other muscles I never knew I had . It felt like I had survived a rocks' avalanche. I never experienced that type of pain before....not after a very hard marathon or my first ultra.

Now I have memories .. .....of scorching heat on the high grass of never ending up hills... a taste of hell. Was anyone hallucinating? Memories of the thrill of being a roller coaster car without breaks. By the way I would like to know how some colleagues-runners have managed to run the down-hills. Did you guys and gals had any knees left after the event? Were you wearing special spike's shoes?

It is amazing how humans become humble after 34 miles of exposure to nature.

Diana Marongiu-Lutz  
++++  
August 31, 2000Jim  
The RCTC was really fun (fun in a brutal, painful, why did I do this voluntarily? sort of way) and was so much better marked and cleared than the first time. Your trail crew did a really good job.  
Gerry Vaerewyck  
++++  
August 24, 2000  
Steve

Listen, I was reading the newsletter that the youth hostling group puts out. You know, where they write about the trail. In there someone said that they had lost their very special hiking hat on the trail and that it had been a big blow for them. I think I picked up that hat and set it back down again (I didn't feel like I was littering, I kind of felt like it was an archeological remnant of the 2000 trail and should be left there).

That hat was on the trail on that hill just after Sheetz's. You know how you climb a minor grade asphalt road for maybe 100 yrds and then turn off to the left and climb. Remember how we went up the steep, gas line clearing (or powerline clearing) instead of up the trail and how you said it was a short cut even though it was very steep? Well, somewhere on that hill, between the road and the top, sort of halfway up was this sort of white, cotton (maybe) baseball cap / french foreign legion hat. I bet that is the hat the guy lost.

Do you think you could transfer a copy of this e-mail off to the powers that be? Maybe they can tell the guy that lost the hat and he can find it after all. The search area wouldn't be all that large. An hour's looking would find it if it is still there.

Rick  
++++  
July 8, 2000  
Dear Jim,

I am wondering if Hogweed was ever seen on the RCT. I suspect that it may be there, based on my experience this year.

This was my second time on the Challenge, and I was pleased to make it to Emmerling before a turned ankle and sore toenails convinced me to stop. Unfortunately, I removed my T-shirt while walking on Ridge Road, and never thought to replace it ... which means that I did most of my distance wearing a runner's tank top.

About 2 days later, I developed a large (6x4 inch), itchy, swollen plaque in my right armpit. Despite steroids, antibiotics, and a good dermatologist, this doubled in size and launched a secondary allergic reaction called erythema multiforme. I am now recovering, and hopefully the wiser for the experience.

I mention this because the original plaque really did not look like typical poison ivy. Apparently Hogweed can cause this sort of burn-like lesion, but my dermatologist doesn't think that anyone has seen it in Allegheny County (yet). I thought I would report my experience, just in case.

Hope to resume hiking again sometime (... in long sleeves!) Thanks.  
Rita McGill



# RIDING RAIL TRAILS

(the safe - almost - alternative to riding highways)

by Glenn Oster

*This is the first of two installments of an article by Glenn about bicycling rail-trails in the Midwest and western states. In this installment, he explains why he wanted to make the trip despite apprehensions and tells of his experiences bicycling trails in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.*

Rail-trails are the answer for bicyclists who are intimidated by motorists on highways. By rail-trails, I mean trails that were originally constructed for railroads but have since been abandoned and converted into trails for people to bicycle, hike and, where paved, in-line skate. While my first love for bicycling is riding roads, I do like to ride rail-trails at times. This summer “at times” meant 630 miles of bicycling on ten rail-trails in eight Midwest and western states throughout a four week period in June and July, 2000.

Probably for me, riding alone, a most pleasant aspect was the social side of riding. I met many people on the trail and enjoyed hearing about their bicycling interests. I was amazed at how many of them had bicycled all the trails within hundreds of miles of where they lived. They had great suggestions of trails for me to ride on another trip. Compared to many highway bicyclists, rail-trail riders are not as intense at training or maintaining a high pedal cadence or average speed. They are more relaxed about their trail usage and don’t seem to be quite as serious about bicycling as road riders, or mountain bikers; for example, too many of them do not wear helmets.

The impetus for my making this tour, believe it or not, was a picture on the cover of the Fall/Winter issue of *Rail to Trails*, the magazine published by the Rails to Trails Conservancy. It showed a family walking across a high trestle on the Route of the Hiawatha. That led me to read the story of this trail that works its way through the Bitterroot Mountains of northern Idaho. I was hooked - just had to do it. Why not, then, ride rail-trails on the way out. Made sense. My thinking extended east as well even though I had already ridden those trails. I thought that starting at Mount Vernon in Virginia might be appealing to others, but that turned out to be wrong. So, I skipped the eastern trails, i.e., the C&O Canal Trail (not a rail-trail), the Allegheny Highlands Trail and the Youghiogheny River Trail. I originally selected more Midwest trails than I actually rode because further research suggested that some of them would not be especially desirable.

I had some reservations about making the tour, i.e., I was concerned that I might become bored with the sameness of rail-trail scenery. Also, when riding rail-trails, you are constantly peddling. There usually are minor climbs and descents, but they are easy gradients, and bicyclists rarely get a chance to rest their legs on down hill coasts. When you’ve done a long rail-trail, your legs, your hands, your wrists and your butt are well aware that you went for a ride. Notwithstanding these reservations, I took the plunge.

As I drove west, the first thing that I became aware of was gasoline prices. They became progressively higher than my last fill up in Wexford, Pa. In Michigan, the highest, motorists were lined up to get into a service station that offered unleaded for the bargain price of \$2.02 per gallon. Most stations there charged \$2.14. I had expected higher gasoline prices on the trip, but over the 7,300 miles that I drove, I underestimated my fuel cost by \$200.

The purportedly 26 mile Wabash Cannonball Trail was the first I planned to do, starting near Maumee and ending near Montpelier in northwestern Ohio. I intended to ride it both directions and elected to start at the trail’s crossing of Ohio Route 295, a few miles west of Maumee. I started to ride east to the Maumee trail head but immediately encountered weeds two feet high across the trail. I changed directions and rode west. The trail there was in need of mowing, but it was passable. In time, I came to a local park through which the trail surface for the next six or so miles was crushed limestone and in great shape. I was most encouraged, but my elation was short lived. The trail reverted to gravel beyond the park limits. After struggling with that for a few miles and discussing my passage with a couple of dogs who were defending their turf, I bailed out and rode highways back to the park area and its better riding surface. While I was on the trail, I saw deer and numerous birds, including yellow finches and electric blue indigo buntings. However, the wildlife was not enough of a plus to alter my opinion that this trail was not an encouraging start to my tour. I had expected something special to live up to the old song “----she’s a regular combination of the Wabash Cannonball.”

That afternoon I drove to Midland, Michigan and stayed at the excellent River Ridge Campground. It made up for the marginal campground that I stayed at the night before. Next morning I started on the great Pere-Marquette Trail. Better stated, it will be great when completed; it certainly has an impressive beginning. It boasts attractive, new rest room buildings (some with electric eye plumbing fixtures) surrounded by flower gardens, picnic tables and bike stands. One even has an air standard where you can pump bicycle tires to 110# pressure. At intersections with roads, the gates have attractive maps with “You are here”arrows. The trail is paved with smooth asphalt and starts from the “Tridge”(bridges over the Pine and Chippewa Rivers just ahead of their confluence and a third bridge connecting the other two ) in a beautiful park area in the town of Midland. Currently, it is rideable for 20 miles to the town of Coleman. Another 8 ½ miles of trail is scheduled to be paved this summer to the town of Clare. Literature had led me to believe that I could bicycle the trail to the town of Evart, somewhat farther, and I was disappointed to have to turn back. Two disappointments in two days - was this to be the story for the remainder of my tour?

Happily, that was not to be the story. I next drove to Elroy, Wisconsin, to ride the Elroy-Sparta Trail. It had been the route of the Chicago - Northwestern Railroad in its day. You may remember having read that this is the first railroad corridor in the nation to be converted into a trail. Accordingly, it was a must on my trip. Its crushed limestone riding surface is smooth and well maintained. The trail is big business in the area; the economy seems to revolve around it. It is well used, especially on weekends. The

villages through which the trail passes have city park campgrounds, and there are walk in campgrounds (no showers) at both ends of the trail; so, there’s no shortage of places for touring bicyclists to set up their tents for the night. Placards along the trail are placed at strategic locations telling of the railroad’s history or dealing with some feature of the trail. As an example, one such placard explains why there were huge doors at the ends of the tunnels. Recognizing that the internal temperature of the tunnels remains higher in winter than outside, freezing is prevented by having the doors closed when trains are not in the tunnels. Another placard discusses devices called “tell tales.” These are knotted ropes hanging down from cross members supported by upright poles. If a brakeman had been walking on the roof of a car that was approaching a tunnel, he would encounter the tell tale ropes which would warn him to get down or be swept off when the train entered the tunnel. Another placard deals with the “W” that shows on posts along the way. I always thought that meant that a water source for the train had been imminent. Not so. That notified the engineer that a crossing was near and he had to begin his series of warning whistle blasts. So, the W stood for whistle, not water.

In Wisconsin, one must buy a pass to ride the state rail trails. I expected to do another trail in Wisconsin and bought a full season pass for \$10 - money well spent. Rangers patrol the trail and check on passes. The money is used to maintain Wisconsin trails.

Here, again, I planned to ride the trail both ways. On the afternoon on which I arrived, I rode the trail 16 miles to the town of Wilton, including a quarter mile tunnel walk (no tunnel riding permitted) and retraced my steps to the campground at Schultz City Park on the south edge of town. The following morning, I drove to Wilton and rode 17 miles to the trail’s terminus at Sparta, pushing my bike through tunnels a quarter mile and three quarters of a mile in length along the way. All was going well - and then it happened. On the return ride, the sky opened up and showered me with the cold water faucet turned fully on. The only shelter to be had was in the tunnels. Riders were in no hurry to leave them; however, the rain was also in no hurry to abate. Fortunately, I carried my rain suit in a pannier and lost no time in donning it. Condensation inside the jacket made me feel damp despite its protection from the downpour. Fortune also smiled on me in that I have fenders on both my touring and mountain bicycles that I took on the tour. I was damp, as I mentioned, when I reached my mini van, but others, without fenders, were returning to their vehicles looking like drowned you know whats. They had splatter lines up the front and back of their jerseys, on their faces and in their hair. They weren’t in especially good moods. I returned to my campsite by early afternoon, made a poor attempt at cleaning the limestone residue off my bicycle, made trip notes, listened to music on my van’s stereo system and simply rested as I waited out the rain.

I had been aware of another trail in the area but paid little attention to it until I realized that it is, in effect, an extension of the Elroy-Sparta Trail. It’s called the “Old 400 Trail”, named for the 400 Railroad that boasted doing its 400 mile run in 400 minutes. The sector that has been converted to a rail trail is 22 miles long and also has a hard packed crushed limestone surface,. It follows the Baraboo River and, unlike the Elroy-Sparta Trail, is totally flat. It passes many lilly ponds - giving rise to many mosquitoes. One doesn’t spend much time in relieving himself or taking pictures. Apparently, the lure of the tunnels attracts more riders to the Elroy-Sparta Trail. It was heavily used, whereas the Old 400 Trail had few riders. Could the mosquitoes have influenced those decisions?

Made it to the Saint Croix Falls, Wisconsin area by the following morning and set out on the Gandy Dancer Trail, another with a crushed limestone surface. You don’t realize how much more effort it takes to move a bicycle on crushed limestone than on asphalt until you cross a paved road and discover how much easier that surface is to ride. My backside and legs were sore and a bit weary; so, I cut the day’s ride to 23 miles each way to take pity on them. After all, they had served me faithfully for six days in a row and didn’t deserve the 62 mile day that I had planned. I’ve done a lot of bicycling this year and the time is overdue for my butt to toughen up. My legs are doing as well as I could expect, but there’s no buts ‘abut’ it, my butt needs to get the message. I have a lot more serious riding to do this year, and it has to do its part.

The next day was one on which to regroup at Baxter/Brainerd, Minnesota - travel, car service, laundry, E-mail time at the library and checking up on access to the Paul Bunyan Trail. All my parts got a rest that day. One such part got more than a rest. I sat on a picnic bench at the trail head and learned when I went to leave that pine sap had oozed out under the paint on the bench seat. My new trousers were plastered over an eight by three inch area with thick goo that also made them stick tightly to my buttocks, which was gooey in turn, a most unpleasant situation. Moreover, I couldn’t sit on the seat of my van in that condition. Thus enters another aspect of regrouping - how to get my trousers and my briefs off and something else on. Obviously, I needed to change clothes so that I could drive to the cleaners in the hope that their magic could rescue my trousers. Fortunately, there was an outhouse there. I discarded my briefs and used Coleman stove fuel to unstick my derriere. Matters improved from that juncture.

Doing the 50 mile, asphalt paved, Paul Bunyan Trail out and back was planned as a two day trip and would require using my panniers to carry my bicycling and camping needs. With a day’s rest, I expected this to be a piece of cake. Actually, it wasn’t too difficult. Along the way I learned about a campground not far off the trail that wasn’t listed in my campground directory. It was too close to stop at on my way to the trail’s terminus at Hackensack; so, I decided to ride to Hackensack and return to the campground, about a 65 mile ride.

Rest of installment one to appear in next newsletter!

ANNUAL MEETING and ELECTIONS

(Continued from page 1)  
of the organization, improve membership, enhance our fundraising capacity and improve the profitability of the organization – especially the Hostels. The ability to connect with and uphold the mission of our organization was a prominent factor identifying new leadership for the council.

This Board season sees the retirement of three long time board members – Maribeth Hook, Marianne Kasica and Roy Weil. Please join us at the annual meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup> to meet the new board candidates and say goodbye to old friends that have worked tirelessly promoting and supporting our organization over many, many years!

Candidates for Officers and the Board of Directors are listed below. Note that the officers are separately elected in addition to being elected to the board.

Officers

Kyra Straussman  
*President*

Kyra works as Manager of Business Development for the South Side Local Development Company. She has been a member of the Board since April 1999 and Board President since November 1999.

Tom Hardy  
*Vice President*

Tom works as Manager of Real Estate Development for the South Side Local Development Company. He has been a member of the Board since January of 2000. He is a member of the Personnel and Facilities committee.

Jeff Krainess  
*Treasurer*

Jeff works in Senior Management in the head office at Kauffman’s Department Store. He was appointed to the board in July 2000.

George Schmidt  
*Secretary*

George is a millwright with USX Corp. He has been on the board for three years. He has been the Chair of the Facilities Committee and a member of the Personnel Committee. This will be his second term as Board Secretary.

Nominated Directors

George Schmidt (incumbent)

Kevin Swenson (incumbent)  
Kevin works for USAirways. He has been on the board for 3 years. He has served as a member of the Personnel and Facilities committees.

Tom Hardy (incumbent appointed to fill a vacancy)

Jeff Krainess (incumbent appointed to fill a vacancy)

Harold Behar  
Principal Designer  
Behar – Fingal Design

Harold is a graphic designer who has his own business on the South Side. He is interested in serving on the marketing committee and is particularly interested in working on raising the profile of the organization locally; working to developing a comprehensive media plan. He has served in leadership position on other local boards and is eager to get more involved in community service.

Anne-Marie Lubenau, AIA  
Associate Director  
Community Design Center of Pittsburgh

Anne-Marie is an avid outdoorsman. She is a CMU trained architect who preceded her tenure at the non-profit CDCP working as a project manager for Perkins Eastman Architects PC. She is particularly interested in working on the facilities committee.

M. Rosalind Eannarino  
Director of Educational Public Services  
Center for Latin American Studies  
University of Pittsburgh

Ros has a diverse background in curriculum development, particularly as it relates to International Studies. She has extensive board experience. She is interested in helping us raise our organization’s profile in the student community locally, nationally and internationally.

Daniel J. McNulty, Esq.  
Feldstein, Grinberg, Stein & McKee

Dan is an attorney with extensive experience in board development issues. He is a recent adoptive father.

Continuing Directors

Ben Brugmans (2002)  
Ben has been on the board since 1998. He served as Vice President for 1999/2000. He is active with the Activities component of the organization.

Bernie Colligan (2002)  
Bernie works for Freemarkets online. He has been on the board since April of 1999. He has served on the Marketing Committee and Nominating Committee.

Maureen Hogan (2001)  
Maureen is the Assistant Director of Planning and Analysis for the Department of City Planning. She has been on the board since September of 1999. She has served as the Chair of the Marketing Committee and on the Nominating Committee.

Larry Laude (2001)  
Larry works as a Principal Engineer for Bechtel Bettis Inc. and has been on the Board since the early 80's. He is also Vice President of National Board of Directors of American Youth Hostels. He is currently treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee as well as a member of the Nominating committee.

Kyra Straussman (2002)

Ray Yutzy (2002)  
Ray has been on the Board for three years. He is active with the activities component of the organization. He is on the facilities committee.

Advisory Board

In addition to new board members, we will be adding an Advisory Board in 2000/2001. This body will advise us on projects, help us network to solutions to our problems and assist with fundraising. The Advisory Board will not have voting capacity but instead will serve to guide the Board and help to increase our organization’s visibility locally. Advisory Board members will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

Kyra Straussman, Chair  
Nominating Committee

The HISTORY of HOSTELLING

The founder of the youth hostel movement was Richard Schirrmann, a German school teacher. While assigned to a coal mining area, he became conscious of the impact of the industrial revolution on his students' health and welfare. Concerned about their environment, he began taking his students on weekend field trips into the countryside for the fresh air and interaction with nature - in effect a "wandering school." School buildings, empty on weekends, were used for overnight accommodations. The concept of a network of student "youth hostels" was developed from this experience.

In 1932 the first international meeting was held in Amsterdam and the International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF) was formed.

Isabel and Monroe Smith of the United States attended the 1933 conference and opened the first youth hostel a year later in Northfield, Massachusetts. Within a year, a network of more than 30 hostels was operating throughout New England.

Today, there are 4.5 million active members, an "alumni" of hundreds of millions, and an operating network of 5,000 hostels recording 31 million overnights annually in more than 70 countries.

After decades of expansion with thousands of hostels around the world, the need for a unified name and image was identified - a name and sign that any traveler in any country can readily recognize. Hostelling International and the Blue Triangle with the hut and tree are the new trademark and seal of approval of the IYHF assuring the traveler of quality budget accommodations and travel programs at all HI facilities.

ways to give

Would you like to be a part of our efforts to "help all, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and its people through hostelling"?

HI-AYH offers a variety of ways for individuals and organizations to lend a hand. These range from volunteering to help establish a new hostel in your community, offering to share your hostelling experience with others, and arranging for a group community service project with the hostel; to making a financial contribution towards a particular hostel or program, including HI-AYH in your bequest planning, or making a gift of property.

Whatever your interest, HI-AYH needs your support to build a strong network of hostels and programs throughout the country.

Get involved in HI-AYH in your local community.

# WHAT IS HOSTELLING?

(Continued from page 1)

THIS INTERACTION NORMALLY TAKES PLACE IN THE *COMMON AREAS* OF THE HOSTEL. *COMMON AREAS* ARE PARTS OF THE FACILITY THAT ARE *SHARED* BY GUESTS.

DORMITORY ROOMS (MEN AND WOMEN SEPARATE) ARE WHERE THE GUESTS SLEEP. TYPICALLY, DORMS CONTAIN A SMALL NUMBER OF BUNKBEDS. BATHROOMS AND SHOWERS ARE SHARED. THE NUMBER OF BEDS PER ROOM DEPENDS ON THE LAYOUT OF THE BUILDING. MOST HOSTELS HAVE BETWEEN 4-20 BEDS PER ROOM. HOSTELS PROVIDE THE BLANKETS AND PILLOWS. GUESTS EITHER BRING THEIR OWN SHEETS AND TOWELS OR RENT THEM FOR A SMALL FEE. SLEEPING AREAS IN HOSTELS GENERALLY ARE ONLY USED FOR SLEEPING AT NIGHT. GUESTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO GO OUT AND EXPLORE THE LOCAL AREA DURING THE DAY.

A NUMBER OF HOSTELS WILL OFFER A LIMITED NUMBER OF PRIVATE ROOMS OR FAMILY ROOMS AT A SLIGHTLY HIGHER RATE. CHECK WITH EACH HOSTEL FOR AVAILABILITY OF THESE ROOMS IN ADVANCE.

ANOTHER COMMON AREA IN THE HOSTEL IS THE KITCHEN AND DINING AREA. ALL HOSTELS HAVE FULLY EQUIPPED KITCHENS SO THAT GUESTS HAVE THE OPTION OF COOKING, RATHER THAN EATING OUT FOR EACH MEAL. REFRIGERATORS AND STORAGE AREAS ARE PROVIDED. GUESTS LABEL FOOD WITH NAME AND CHECK-OUT DATE SO THAT OTHERS KNOW WHO IT BELONGS TO, AND STAFF CAN DISPOSE OF ANY UNUSED ITEMS UPON DEPARTURE.

THERE ARE BENEFITS TO USING THE HOSTEL KITCHEN. FOR BUDGET-MINDED INDIVIDUALS, IT IS CHEAPER THAN EATING OUT. SECONDLY, FOR GUESTS WHO NEED TO ADHERE TO A SPECIAL DIET, THEY HAVE MORE CONTROL OVER THE FOODS THEY ARE PUTTING INTO THEIR BODIES. AND LASTLY, GUESTS WILL BE DINING WITH AN INTERNATIONAL CROWD. SHARE A MEAL WITH FOLKS FROM OTHER CONTINENTS. DINNER CONVERSATIONS IN HOSTELS ARE EXTRAORDINARY.

HOSTELS ALSO PROVIDE COUCHES AND COMFORTABLE SITTING AREAS WHERE GUESTS CAN RELAX, READ, TALK AND SHARE INFORMATION WITH OTHERS. SOME HOSTELS HAVE MEETING/CONFERENCE ROOMS FOR GROUP USE.

EACH HOSTEL IS SET UP A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY, BUT ALL HAVE THE SAME BASIC ACCOMMODATIONS. THERE ARE HOSTELS IN LIGHTHOUSES, BOATS, OLD CHURCHES, BANKS, FARMHOUSES, CITY BUILDINGS, AND MORE. IT IS FUN TO GO INTO A NEW HOSTEL AND SEE WHAT IT HAS TO OFFER. STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE A COMFORTABLE AND WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE IN THE HOSTEL. THEY WORK DILIGENTLY TO CLEAN THE BUILDING DAILY AND PROVIDE CURRENT INFORMATION ON THE LOCAL AREA. STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND CAN OFFER SUGGESTIONS ON THINGS TO SEE, AND CAN OFFER TIPS ON TRAVEL IN GENERAL. WHEN A GUEST WALKS INTO A HOSTEL, THEY KNOW THEY CAN EXPECT A WARM SMILING WELCOME AND A COZY ATMOSPHERE. THEY KNOW THAT ALL OF THEIR QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITH RESPECT AND SINCERITY. HOSTEL STAFF ENJOY HELPING TRAVELERS ADJUST TO THEIR NEW ENVIRONMENTS. BEING TRAVELERS THEMSELVES, THEY UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO GO AN EXTRA STEP TO MAKE GUESTS FEEL COMFORTABLE.

SINCE THE HOSTEL IS A SHARED FACILITY, GUESTS ARE EXPECTED TO CLEAN UP AFTER THEMSELVES IN THE DORMITO-

RIES, KITCHEN, AND BATHROOMS. SOME HOSTELS ASK GUESTS TO DO A SMALL CHORE IN THE MORNING; SUCH AS SWEEP THE DINING ROOM OR TAKE OUT THE RECYCLING. WITH EVERYONE HELPING TO KEEP THE HOSTEL CLEAN, COSTS ARE KEPT TO A MINIMUM, WHICH IS ULTIMATELY REFLECTED IN THE LOW RATES AT CHECK-IN.

RATES IN HOSTELS TYPICALLY VARY BETWEEN \$10-\$20 PER NIGHT/PERSON. FOR TRAVELERS ON A STRICT BUDGET, THE MONEY SAVED ON ACCOMMODATIONS CAN BE SPENT ON SIGHTSEEING, SHOPPING, OR EXTENDED STAYS. HOSTELLING MAKES TRAVELLING POSSIBLE FOR THOSE WHO MAY OTHERWISE NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD IT.

GUESTS WILL FIND LOCKERS, PAYPHONES, INTERNET SERVICE, LOCAL DISCOUNTS, MAPS, VENDING MACHINES, AND A VARIETY OF OTHER SERVICES INCLUDING NIGHTLY PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES. WALKING TOURS LED BY LOCALS, CULTURAL DINNERS, PERFORMANCES BY LOCAL MUSICIANS, AND TRIPS TO LOCAL SPORTING EVENTS ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES OFFERED AT HOSTELS.

MAKE YOUR JOURNEY AN ADVENTURE! GO HOSTELLING!

MORE INFORMATION ON HOSTELS WORLDWIDE CAN BE FOUND AT THE PITTSBURGH COUNCIL OF AYH'S **TRAVEL STORE! CALL (412)431-4910 OR STOP IN TUESDAYS-SATURDAYS BETWEEN 12NOON - 5PM.**

**SEE IT FOR YOURSELF!**  
**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SCHEDULE A FREE TOUR OF THE PITTSBURGH HOSTEL, PLEASE CALL (412) 431-1267.**



**Hostelling International - Pittsburgh**  
830 E. Warrington Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15210  
(412) 431-1267 Fax (412) 431 2625  
Travel Store (412)431-4910  
Email [hipgh@sgi.net](mailto:hipgh@sgi.net)

## ATTENTION STUDENTS:

WILL FRIENDS AND/OR FAMILY BE VISITING YOU THIS SEMESTER?

DO YOU NEED TO FIND A PLACE FOR THEM TO STAY THAT IS REASONABLY PRICED, EASY TO GET TO BY CAR AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, FRIENDLY AND CLEAN?

HAVE THEM STAY AT THE PITTSBURGH HOSTEL!

RATES STARTING AT \$17/PERSON/NIGHT!  
CALL 431-1267 FOR RESERVATIONS

FAMILIES AND GROUPS WELCOME!

# HI-AYH Membership & Travel Store Application

## HI-AYH Memberships (No Tax on Memberships)

Valid for 12 months from date of purchase. Renewals valid for 12 months from expiration of current pass. Provides access to 6,000 Hostelling International hostels around the world. Includes **free** handbook of North American hostels upon request (see below) and 12 month subscription to Pittsburgh Council newsletter.

<b>Adult</b> (18-54) .....	\$25.00
<b>Adult Renewal</b> .....	\$25.00
<b>Youth</b> (17 and under).....	FREE
<b>Senior</b> (over 54).....	\$15.00
<b>Life</b> (all ages) .....	\$250.00
<b>Application for Complimentary Group Membership (not-for-profit organizations).....call for application</b> .....	FREE

## Student/Teacher ID Cards

<b>Student ID Card (2000)</b> .....	\$20.00
<b>Teacher ID Card (2000)</b> .....	\$20.00

Universal student ID issued by CIBE. Good for worldwide student discounts. Send 1-1/8x 1-3/8 photo, name of your country of citizenship and proof that you are a student. Or ask for free brochure.

## Travel Books ( 10% discount for members )

**International Hostel Handbooks** A complete listing of the Hostelling International Youth Hostels with descriptions, prices, addresses and phone numbers.

<b>Volume I</b> Europe and the Mediterranean.....	\$10.95
<b>Volume II</b> Asia, Africa, Americas, Pacific .....	\$10.95

<b>Let's Go</b> (The famous series of books for the budget traveler-published by Harvard Student Agencies)	
<b>Let's Go Europe</b> .....	\$21.99 (members ... \$19.79)
<b>Let's Go USA</b> .....	\$22.99 (members ... \$20.69)

<b>Lonely Planet</b> (An alternative to the Let's Go Books. Highly Recommended.)	
<b>Western Europe on a Shoestring</b> .....	\$25.95 (members ... \$23.35)
<b>Mediterranean Europe on a Shoestring</b> .....	\$25.95 (members ... \$23.35)
<b>Central Europe on a Shoestring</b> .....	\$24.95 (members ... \$22.45)
<b>Eastern Europe on a Shoestring</b> .....	\$24.95 (members ... \$22.45)
<b>Australia Travel Survival Kit</b> .....	\$24.95 (members ... \$22.45)
<b>France Travel Survival Kit</b> .....	\$24.95 (members ... \$22.45)
<b>Ireland Travel Survival Kit</b> .....	\$24.95 (members ... \$22.45)
<b>Germany Travel Survival Kit</b> .....	\$21.95 (members ... \$19.75)

## Travel Accessories

<b>Sheets Sacks</b> Used in place of sheets at youth hostels	
<b>Cotton Sheet Sack</b> Comfortable cotton blend.....	\$14.99 (members ... \$13.50)
<b>Passport/Security Belt</b> .....	\$12.00

## Eurail Passes / Europass / Britrail Passes

The economic solution to rail travel in Europe. Eurail passes are valid throughout all Europe except Britain. For Britain, buy Britrail or BritFrance passes. Available only in the U.S. The more popular passes are described below. Ask for a free brochure on other Eurail and Single Country passes.  
**Credit Cards accepted.** Youth is defined as under 26 years of age.

<b>Eurail Pass</b> 1 month unlimited (youth) .....	\$623.00
<b>Eurail Flexipass</b> 10 days first class travel in 2 months .....	\$654.00
<b>Eurail Flexipass</b> 10 days travel in 2 months (youth).....	\$458.00
<b>Eurail Flexipass</b> 15 days travel in 2 months (youth).....	\$599.00
<b>Eurail Flexipass</b> 15 days first class travel in 2 months .....	\$862.00
<b>Eurail Saverpass</b> 15 days travel with 2 or 3 friends (per person) .....	\$732.00
<b>BritRail Flexipass</b> 8 travel days in 2 months (youth).....	\$240.00
<b>BritRail Flexipass</b> 8 travel days in 2 months (adult 1st class) .....	\$510.00
<b>Eurostar</b> one way between London & Paris (youth) .....	\$79.00
<b>All Other Passes available</b> .....	CALL

## Outdoor Recreation Books

<b>Allegheny National Forest Hiking Guide</b> describes more than 240 miles of trails for hiking, backpacking and ski touring in the 800-square mile Allegheny National Forest. It also describes ski touring opportunities and points of scenic interest. Published by the Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club. 186 pages, 25 maps. Fourth Edition (1999) .....	\$9.95
<b>Baker Trail Guide</b> describes the 141 miles of the Baker Trail from Allegheny National Forest to Freeport PA. 38 pages with complete topographic maps. Published by AYH. (updated 1994) .....	\$7.00
<b>Canoeing Guide to Western Pennsylvania and Northern West Virginia</b> contains information on 270 canoe trips on 3,040 miles of streams in western Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia. 480 pages, illustrated. Published by AYH. 8th Edition (1991) .....	\$13.95
<b>Fifty Hikes in Western Pennsylvania</b> by Tom Thwaites describes 50 of his favorite hiking trails in western Pennsylvania. Fifty Hikes contains lots of interesting background material on the history and geology of each area. 206 pages , 60 pages of maps, 48 photos. 3rd Edition (1999).....	\$15.95
<b>Hikers Guide to Laurel Highlands Trail</b> describes the 70 miles of the trail from Ohiopyle park to Conemaugh Gorge atop Laurel Ridge. Published by the Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. 128 pages , 24 pages of maps. New 5th Edition ( 1997 ).....	\$6.00
<b>The Laurel Highlands: A Hiking Guide</b> by The Sierra Club gives you all the information you need to enjoy this major recreational and natural resource. This 288-page Guide describes opportunities for hiking, backpacking and ski-touring on 446 miles of foot trails on the public lands of these Laurel Highlands.....	\$11.95
<b>Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide</b> describes more than 160 Forest Service trails in 1,350 square miles of the Mon National Forest - one of the best areas for hiking, backpacking and ski touring in this part of the country. Published by the West Virginia Conservancy. 320 pages , 60 maps , 39 photos. 6th Edition ( 1993 ) .....	\$12.95
<b>Pennsylvania Hiking Trails</b> describes more than 290 trails and hiking areas throughout Pennsylvania. Published by Keystone Trails Association. 224 - pages , 94 maps. 12th edition ( 1998 ).....	\$14.95
<b>Rachel Carson Trail Guide</b> describes the Rachel Carson trail from North Park to Freeport in Allegheny County. Published by AYH. ( 1998) .....	\$7.00
<b>Fifty Hikes in Central Pennsylvania</b> by Tom Thwaites. Another excellent book in the Fifty Hikes series covering day hikes and backpacking in the heart of Pennsylvania. Includes the Tuscarora Ridge, Alan Seeger, and John P. Saylor Trails as well as other favorites. Third Edition.....	\$14.95
<b>Canoeing and Kayaking Ohio's Streams</b> - An access guide for paddlers and anglers. Maps, hazards, portages, shuttles, history and game fish information for 45 Ohio Rivers. 194 pages. (1994) .....	\$17.00
<b>Canoe Streams Map of the Upper Ohio Basin</b> .....	\$3.00
<b>Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania</b> , Tenth Edition (1999). A revised edition of the official guide to the 232 miles of the AT in Pennsylvania. 200 pages, pack size (4.5 x 6.5 inches) .....	\$9.00
<b>Appalachian Trail Maps (PA)</b> . Set of 12 monochrome topo maps covering the AT in Pennsylvania. Published by the KTA. Maps and elevations on six sheets of Polyart. (1994) ...	\$7.00

**NEW: Pennsylvania's Rail-Trails Guide** New bike-bag sized guide to the state's rail-trails by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. Two page introduction to each section of trail with maps and descriptions 4th edition..... \$13.95  
**Free Wheeling Easy (2nd Edition) guide to rail-trails and other bicycling**, walking, and jogging paths in western Pennsylvania and nearby Maryland. 100 pages of text and maps .....\$9.95  
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**For Fastest Service! Visit The AYH Travel Store!**  
Pittsburgh Council, AYH  
830 E Warrington Ave, Pittsburgh 15210  
Or Call (412) 431-4910 For an Agency Near You!

## Ordering / HI-AYH Hostel Membership Application

Include 10% for postage (\$1.50 minimum). Pennsylvania residents must also **include 7% sales tax**. Postage and taxes not required for AYH memberships and Eurail Passes. Memberships and merchandise also available at AYH Headquarters and the AYH office. **Discover, MasterCard, and Visa accepted.** Please allow **two weeks** for delivery of mail orders. Priority or Overnight shipping is available; call for information

**Mail to:** AYH  
830 E Warrington Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15210



<b>Name:</b> _____	
<b>Address:</b> _____	
_____	
<b>Phone:</b> _____	(day) (eve)
<b>Birthdate:</b> _____	<b>Sex (M/F):</b> _____
<b>For hostellers: I need my hostel pass by:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> I need a free copy of the North American Hostel Directory	
<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Credit Card Number</b> _____	<b>Expiration Date</b> _____
<b>Signature</b> _____	<b>Date</b> _____

Credit Card Orders may be faxed to 412-431-2625 for faster service

Qty	Merchandise	Unit Price	Total Price
	Merchandise	Subtotal	
	Merchandise	Postage	
	Merchandise	Tax	
	Donation to	AYH	
Qty	AYH Membership	Unit Price	
	(Type: )		
	Eurail Passes		
		Total	

## 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 Travel Store is open Tuesday through Saturday 12 to 5 pm effective Dec 10th. Hours are subject to change, so it's a good idea to call the office at 412-431-4910 before coming in. We're in the Pittsburgh Hostel at 830 E Warrington Avenue in Allentown. All passes, ID cards, rail passes, and books are available.