

The Golden Triangle

PITTSBURGH COUNCIL • AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS

Volume 40 • Number 5

May, 1989

Ohioan Receives American Youth Hostel's Highest Award

Charles Pace of Columbus, Ohio, has been named the recipient of American Youth Hostel's highest honor, the Isabel and Monroe Smith Award.

Pace, Assistant Vice President of Investments at the Huntington Bank in Columbus, received the award for more than 25 years of service to the Columbus Council of AYH and the AYH National Organization.

The Isabel and Monroe Smith Award is named for AYH's founders who started hostels in the U.S. in 1934, inspired by the hostel network of inexpensive accommodations for travelers in Europe.

Pace, who has served on both the AYH National and Columbus Council boards, has been instrumental in developing a solid core of long-term volunteers. He has also contributed to the development of some of Ohio's finest hostels, including the Malabar Farm AYH Hostel (the

first Ohio hostel in a state park), the Caesar Creek AYH Hostel and the Heart of Ohio Hostel in Columbus.

But, Charlie Pace, 57, is probably best known for his work as the Tour Director of TOSRV



— Tour of the Scioto River Valley. TOSRV, coordinated by AYH's Columbus Council and the Huntington Bank, is a 210 mile, two day round-trip bike ride between Columbus and Portsmouth, Ohio.

Pace has been Tour Director and ridden in TOSRV since 1966. (The first TOSRV was in 1962). He has seen TOSRV riders grow in number from a few dozen to nearly 6,500.

Under Pace's direction, TOSRV has become a model for other bicycle tours in the world. The 1989 TOSRV, scheduled for May 13-14, is already filled. Over 2,000 applicants had to be turned down for lack of space.

Slide Programs for May

May 4
Windows to Discovery
A story of hosting in America.

May 11
Egypt by Day and Night
with Jenann Tubbs.

May 18
West Africa -
Journey to Three Cities
by Steve Tubbs.

May 25
From Auckland to Dune
Din - New Zealand
by Gary Rick

Please phone Bob Goff at
761-2837 to show
us your trip in June.

"Charlie's enthusiasm and dedication to AYH is remarkable," commented E.J. Honton, Columbus resident and Secretary of AYH's National Board. "He has inspired scores of volunteers, and exemplified the spirit of hosting in all his many areas of involvement with AYH."

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American Youth Hostels is a nonprofit 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 through its councils and National Office.

AYH is the U.S. affiliate of the International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF) which coordinates more than 5,400 hostels worldwide — the largest network of accommodations in the world.

Bike/Fed Seeks Coordinator

The Bicycling Federation of Pennsylvania (otherwise known as Bike/Fed) is currently working on two major projects: the reactivation of the State Bicycle Advisory Committee and the appointment of a full-time Bicycle Coordinator in PennDOT.

The Committee went out of existence in the 70's after the completion of the Statewide Bicycle Framework Study commissioned by PennDOT.

One of the 28 members of the Committee was Howard Yerusalem, now Secretary of Transportation. The function of the Advisory Committee would be to represent the cycling community before PennDOT and other state agencies. One means of accomplishing this would be the appointment of a full-time Bicycle Coordinator.

The Federation has contacted the 20 states which have such an office and is presently analyzing the material received to ascertain the types of functions performed, the costs involved, and how to proceed in creating such an office. Bike/Fed promises to continue to report progress toward these ends.

Cycling News

Bicycle Trips Brochure

This season's trips include many favorites like Gettysburg, Pine Grove Furnace and Presque Isle. In addition, there is a new trip on the Skyline Drive for advanced cyclists. The cycling committee has a brochure listing many of the big weekend trips. Pick up a copy at HQ, or if you prefer, send a self addressed stamped envelope to: Chuck Ejzak, 6858 Wilson St., West Mifflin PA 15122.

Evening Rides

With May comes the return of evening rides. This month, we

have a scheduled ride each Tuesday evening starting with May 9. Rides start from HQ at 6:30 p.m. and finish before dark (usually). Check the ride classification before you go since some are intermediate (class B) and some are easy (Class C). Rental bikes are available if you reserve one ahead of time.

Beginner Rides

If it has been many years since you have ridden a bicycle and you need a refresher or if you want to learn how to ride a bike with gears, come to the beginners clinic and ride on Thursday May 18 and

Saturday May 20. These sessions will cover proper bike fit, proper shifting, safety, and riding in traffic. The Thursday session is more talk and the Saturday session is more ride. Come to one or both. See trips listing.

WAG '89

WAG stands for the Wheelman's Annual Gathering. It is a Western PA Wheelmen event held at Slippery Rock State University and will be June 2-4. It is an annual favorite of many local cyclists. The rides range from 18 to 104 miles and start and end at the campus. You have your choice of staying in dorms, camping, or just coming for the day. Application

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The Golden Triangle

Pittsburgh AYH, 6300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

AYH trips for May, 1989

Trip categories: A = Advanced, B = Intermediate,
C = Easy, D = Beginners

Date	Day	Level	Leader	Phone	Time
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Mountain Biking

5/7/89	Sun.		Terry Gossard	321-2382	8:30atHQ
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Laurel Ridge; Rentals available.

5/20/89	Sat.	A	Norm Snyder	351-4068	
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Join Norm in an exploratory trip along the abandoned Montour Railroad right-of-way.

5/26-29	Fri.	C	Judy Menosky	242-1573	
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Bike pack on the C&O Canal, 50 miles, sign up by May 11.

Backpacking

5/26-29	Fri.	B	Todd Henkelmann	371-7315	
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Assateague Seashore in conjunction with Sea Kayaking Trip; walk the beach!

5/26-29	Fri.	B	Glenn Oster	364-2864	6:30atHQ
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Join in an exploration hike of little known trails in Allegheny National Forest in the Ridgeway area. Phone for information and reservations.

Bicycle trips

5/6/89	Sat.	B/C	Dino Angelici	931-6651	9:00 at West View
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Ingomar to Sewickley, 30 miles. Join Dino on a classic Western PA ride. The ride cuts through the Northwest quadrant of Allegheny County. It has several climbs but it also has its share of flat stretches as the road follows Little and Big Sewickley creeks.

5/7/89	Sun.	A	John LeBlanc	233-0588	8:30 at McDonalds
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80 miles; Meet at the McDonalds near Kennywood Park. Get there early if you want to join us for breakfast. Take advantage of the last Sunday before TOSRV by coming on this ride. The route was carefully selected to match the terrain of TOSRV. We are not able, however, to provide 5999 cycling companions so you will just have to wait until next week. P.S. You do not have to be going on TOSRV to come on this.

5/13/89	Sat.	C/D	Joe Hoechner	242-0781	8:30atHQ
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Easy ride on the Oil Creek Bikeway, 18 miles. The trail is paved and follows a scenic wooded route to the Drake Well Museum.

5/14/89	Sun.	C	Mike Hurwitz	422-9204	8:30atHQ
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Ligonier, 25 miles; what better way is there to spend a Sunday in May than cycling in Ligonier? Join Mike on this beautiful ride. The cost including transportation will be about \$5.50. Bring a lunch.

5/18/89	Thurs.	All	Chuck Ejzak	466-6196	7:00pm at HQ
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Beginners Clinic; if you haven't bicycled since you were a kid and are interested in getting back into it, this clinic may be for you. This session will last about an hour and will cover many of the basics, including: fitting the bike, starting and stopping, and riding in traffic. Cost is \$2.00. Some passout materials are included.

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Cycling News

(Continued from Page 2)
forms are available at HQ.

The Great Ride

This year's Great Ride is on Sunday June 11. It will start and end at Flagstaff Hill in Schenley Park which will help to ease some of the parking problem. The 50 mile ride will follow a hillier course than last year's and will not have a mass start. The other rides will be similar to last year. New feature's include a parade of classic bikes and possibly some celebrity "slow" bike races. Look for application forms at HQ.

Mon Valley Century Bike Tour

Reserve Sunday August 20 for the Mon Valley Century. This year ride is still in the planning stage, but will include an additional food stop for 100 mile and 65 mile riders. Application forms are available. Stop at HQ for an application form or send a self addressed stamped envelope to Chuck Ejzak, 6858 Wilson St. West Mifflin PA 15122. If you would like to help with the MVC, talk to Chuck Ejzak (466-6196).

MS-150

This year's MS 150 will be during the weekend of August 26 to 27. The ride is a fund raiser held by the Allegheny Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Registration is about \$25; in addition, each rider must raise a minimum of \$150 donation. This covers everything except your bar tab. Leave North Park on Saturday morning and enjoy a 55 mile ride over rural rolling terrain. Stay overnight at the Holiday Inn Holidome or at Conley's in Beaver Falls. Return to North Park on Sunday by a shorter and flatter route. The total trip length is about 95 miles (150 km). Application forms are or will be available at HQ or contact the National MS Society.

Cycling Safety

May is National Bicycle Month. All across the country, bike clubs are pushing community cycling

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AYH trips for May, 1989

(Continued from Page 3)

Date	Day	Level	Leader	Phone	Time
5/20/89	Sat.	C	Judy Menosky	242-1573	9:00atHQ

Beginners Ride, 10 miles; if you are looking for an encouraging word to help you get on a bicycle, then this may be the ride for you. This is a predominantly a learn-to-ride class and is intended for those who have not been riding for many years. The clinic will cover basic bike handling skills and will include some "on bike" training. Cost is \$2 if you bring your own bike and \$5 if you need to rent. The trip size is limited.

5/21/89	Sun.	C	Chuck & Lynn Ejzak	466-6196	10:00 at Elizabeth Mon River Valley, 35 miles; join Chuck and Lynn on an easy ride from Elizabeth to Mingo Park. The route is fairly flat. Bring money to buy lunch or bring your own food for a picnic lunch in Mingo Park. There is an ice cream stop on the return trip. Expect to see several tandems on this ride!
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5/26-28	F-S	All	Chuck Ejzak	466-6196	Laurel Hill Weekend, 10-80 miles; sign up for the Laurel Hill Weekend. There will be bicycle trips ranging from the Ohiopyle bike path to more challenging stuff. Great opportunities for mountain biking as well. Chuck is leading a ride from HQ up to Laurel Hill (approx. 70 miles) on Saturday and a return on Sunday.
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5/26-29	F-M	B/C	Judy Menosky	242-1573	C&O Canal, 50 miles; a ride for sturdy 10-speeds or mountain bikes on one of the longest continuous bike paths in the country. The route follows the Potomac River much of way. The trip will include at least one overnight of camping. See the writeup in the April Newsletter. Deadline for sign-up is May 11. It is limited to about 10 trippers.
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Canoeing

5/3/89	Wed.	D	Kathy Lynch	327-0529	6 pm at HQ
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Basic flat water canoeing school. Spend 3 hours with Kathy and Frank Bruno learning the techniques of paddling a canoe. Training fee including equipment is \$3.50 for AYH members.

5/6/89	Sat.	C	Mary Shaw	681-5131	8:30am at HQ
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Dust off the cobwebs on an easygoing Class I/II paddling refresher. The diehards who've been paddling since March will help you brush up paddling skills.

5/7/89	Sun.	D	Gordon Bugby	371-4233	8:30am at HQ
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Paddle the little Buffalo and play in a great hydraulic

5/10/89	Wed.	D	Kathy Lynch	327-0529	6 pm at HQ
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Basic flat water canoeing school. Spend 3 hours with Kathy and Frank learning the techniques of paddling a canoe. Training fee including equipment is \$3.50 for AYH members.

5/13/89	Sat.	D	Frank Bruno	561-8579	8:30am at HQ
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White water 1 canoeing school. Frank will help you learn the basic techniques of paddling on moving water with rocks and other obstructions. Training fee is \$3 for AYH members.

5/13/89	Sat.	A	Kathy Lynch	327-0529	8:30am at HQ
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Paddle a challenging Class II/III river and refine your boat skills.

(Continued on Page 5)

Cycling News

(Continued from Page 3)

events. For instance, May 17 is bike-to-work day and May 21 is designated as Cycle Sunday. With this in mind, a quick review of some safe cycling tips seems appropriate.

Obey all traffic Laws. Cyclists are required by law to: ride in the direction of traffic on the right hand side of the street, stop at red lights and stop signs, and to obey all traffic signs.

Ride near the right of the traffic lane. By law, cyclists are required to ride as far to the right as practicable. Common sense dictates that this usually should be about one to three feet in from the right edge of the road; however, if conditions permit, ride farther to the right and if the shoulder is wide and in good condition, use it. More often (at least around here), the edge of the road is full of debris and often is broken up. In these cases you are much safer in riding far enough to the left to get the good road surface.

Ride predictably. Ride in a straight line. Quite often, I have seen inexperienced riders zig-zag down the street past a row of widely spaced parked cars. In their attempt to ride near the right hand side of the lane, they put themselves in greater danger since automobile drivers will not know what to expect. It is usually safer to ride to the left of the parked cars, and move to the right periodically to let cars caught behind you pass.

Wear a bicycling helmet. The helmet does two important jobs: it cushions some of the impact if you hit your head in a crash, and even if you don't crash, it helps to make you more conspicuous to motorists. Make sure your helmet is ANSI or Snell Approved as a bicycle helmet.

Make sure your bike is in good condition. Pay close attention to tires since a deep cut or other severe tire damage may lead to a blowout. This could be disastrous

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AYH trips for May, 1989

(Continued from Page 4)

Date	Day	Level	Leader	Phone	Time
5/14/89	Sun.	C	Don Hoecker	234-8298	8:30 am at HQ
Paddle an easy class I river with Don. Practice what you learned in whitewater I school.					
5/14/89	Sun.	C	Oscar Mayer	422-8216	8:30 am at HQ
Paddle a lake or flat water river with Oscar. Refine the skills you learned in basic canoeing school.					
5/17/89	Wed.	D	Kathy Lynch	327-0529	6 pm at HQ
Basic flat water canoeing school. Spend 3 hours with Kathy and Frank Bruno learning the techniques of paddling a canoe. Training fee including equipment is \$3.50 for AYH members.					
5/20/89	Sat.	C	Millard Underwood	561-0871	8:30 am at HQ
Paddle a Class I/II river with Millard. Run sluices and perfect your eddie turns.					
5/20/89	Sat.	B	Bill Whitehead	363-0365	8:30 am at HQ
White water II canoeing school. Learn more advanced techniques of paddling on moving water. For those who have completed WWI training. Training fee is \$3 for AYH members.					
5/24/89	Wed.	D	Kathy Lynch	327-0529	6 pm at HQ
Basic flat water canoeing school. Spend 3 hours with Kathy and Frank learning the techniques of paddling a canoe. Training fee including equipment is \$3.50 for AYH members.					
5/27/89	Sat.	D	Rick Tomlinson	963-8910	8:30 am at HQ
Whitewater I canoeing school. Rick will help you learn the basic techniques of paddling on moving water with rocks and other obstructions. Training fee is \$3 for AYH members.					
5/31/89	Wed.	D	Kathy Lynch	327-0529	6 pm at HQ
Basic flat water canoeing school. Spend 3 hours with Kathy and Frank learning the techniques of paddling a canoe. Training fee including equipment is \$3.50 for AYH members.					

Rafting/Canoeing

5/6-7/89	S.- S.	All	Linda Smithyman	531-1868	2 pm
Raft the New River in West Virginia. Leave Sat. afternoon and return Sun. night. \$50 deposit needed ASAP to secure your reservation.					
5/7/89	Sun.	C	Jan Bugby	371-4233	
Buffalo Creek; W. Winfield to Freeport, 11 miles. Grad. 10/10/Class C/Scene B/ Poll. B. Class I and lake paddlers welcome. Ideal for poling and soloing. We will stalk the gorgeous but elusive Wakerrobin (Liliaceae; Trillium Erectum) as we undulate down the beautiful Buffalo Creek. Bring your flower book for identifying. There will be a quiz afterward over ice cream floats at the nearest Dairy Queen. Reserve with Jan Bugby, 371-4233.					
5/27/89	Sat.	All	Linda Smithyman	531-1868	9:30 am
Raft the Yough at Ohlpyple, beginners welcome. You must call to reserve a space.					

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Cycling News

(Continued from Page 4)

on a long descent. Check the rest of the bike as well to make sure that everything is working properly.

Be alert. Avoid using Walk-Man's or similar devices while riding. Your hearing is an important safety feature. This advice is especially appropriate on bicycle paths where you are likely to encounter everything from little kids on big-wheels to dog walkers.

Be visible. Many of those flashy looking cycling clothes can make you safer. (What better reason do you need to get that wild looking outfit?) It stands to reason that bright colored clothing will stand out better than darker colors. Keep this in mind when you buy helmets or clothing. Although you may like black cycling shorts for practical reasons, make sure that you get a white or bright colored helmet. Try to get bright colored jerseys as well.

— Chuck Ejzak

It's Not Too Late!!

To sign up for an AYH World Adventure trip. Sixty (60) one-week to multi-week trips in the U.S. and abroad. Biking, hiking, van trips, backpacking — for all ages, all ability levels. Check us out!!!

All trips are described in the 1989 World Adventure Catalog. Pick one up at headquarters free, or send us four 25 cent stamps and we'll send you one.

Attention!! Please note — National AYH is providing each council one free leadership training spot for their leadership training course which is also described in the 1989 World Adventure catalog. Let your favorite activity chairperson know of your interest. The Activities Board will be selecting someone by the first of June.

AYH trips for May, 1989

(Continued from Page 5)

Date	Day	Level	Leader	Phone	Time
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Sea Kayaking

5/13/89 Sat. All Mark Mistrik 441-6330

Presque Isle day trip on Lake Erie.

5/26-29/89 All Mark Mistrik 441-6330

Kayak camping at Assateague Island National Seashore. Three overnights. Experience saltwater and wild ponies.

Hiking

5/20/89 B Pete Srinl 921-1238 8 am at HQ

Quebec Run day hike.

5/21/89 All Pete Srinl 921-1238 8 am at HQ

Maintenance hike, Baker Trail.

5/29/89 All Linda Smithyman 531-1868 8 am at HQ

Surprise hike, 4 miles.

Family Trips

5/26-28/89 All Barbara Hanusa 441-7205

Sleep in cabins, shared cooking of meals. Hike, swim, canoe at family speed. Leave Sunday to have Memorial Day festivals in Pittsburgh. Join with other AYH'ers in fun and fellowship. Note: the families group of AYH plans a variety

Climbing Trips

Skill levels listed for a trip are the lowest level recommended for that trip. Consult trip leader if you are not sure about the skills required for a particular trip.

Beginner trips are open to everyone. All you need to bring is lunch, water, rain gear and a sunny disposition (we avoid climbing in the rain). We will leave at HQ at 7am, stop for breakfast on the way, and return around 8pm. Remember to wear comfortable clothes that give you freedom of movement and bring along a pair of tennis shoes.

If you are a beginner, please call one of the climbing chairs ahead of time since spaces are limited:

— Climbing Chairs

Eric Bauer — 687-0766

Rich Rosenberger — 372-2806

Trips and Tales — Washington and Beyond

by Cathy Szymanski

Yellowstone National Park: On Saturday, February 18, Steve Martin led a trip to Yellowstone National Park. Jack Peth, Eric Bower, Joel Platt, Chuck Ejzak, John Pop, Paul Herra, and Buck Rodgers flew to Bozeman and arrived at 11 p.m. They took a three to four hour bus ride to Yellowstone. It was "kind of slow in parts because there were elk on the trail," John Pop informed me.

"Because the fire burned up a lot of grass, there were elk all over the place," Chuck Ejzak had told me. Some people saw moose. Jack Peth had a coyote follow him. Chuck saw a trumpeter swan. Because the animals move slower in the winter, a lot of people in the park were photographing them. Everyone stayed at the Mammoth Hot Springs. On the first day, the group went to the Terraces,

which are formations on limestone that overlook Mammoth Hot Springs Lodge. Some of the group took a SnowCab ride (a bus with rubber wheels) four hours one way to various geysers and basins. After the trip was over, the group had a party.

Weekend D.C.

Trip: Joel Platt told me that Easter Weekend was



was lead Hurwitz, the first trip he had been on. It was by Mike who drove the van with the bikes loaded up. They left 6:30 Tuesday evening and stayed at the Rock Creek Hostel. All had reported that it rained on

Friday. Joel said this gave him a chance to go to the museum.

Fran gave me the details of Saturday's bike trip. She and John Gaylor bike Rock Creek Park way across Memorial Bridge to the Potomac to Mount Vernon 20 miles away. At Georgetown there was canoeing on the Potomac River. They rode 40 miles on altogether on the flat trail, which was beautiful and scenic.

There is a boardwalk section on the Potomac that goes through marshes. On Sunday morning, John LeBlanc rode to Capital Hill and saw all the sights in D.C., ending up at the National Cathedral in cycling clothes, where everyone was coming out in Easter bonnets.

Although the cherry blossoms were not yet in bloom, Daffodils could be seen around Georgetown.



Sailing Meeting

On Thursday, May 11 at 7:30, there will be a meeting for anyone interested in starting a sailing program. For more information, call Captain Kulbacki at 741-4018. Possible destinations may include area lakes or Chesapeake Bay.

Gettysburg Bicycle Trip

June 23-25, 1989 - Reservation Deadline is June 9

Stay at Gettysburg College in dorm rooms. Cycling includes a leisurely tour of the battlefield on Saturday and a wonderful early morning pre-breakfast tour on Sunday morning. Alternate rides could be taken if you wish. Breakfasts and dinners are in reasonably priced restaurants. Bring at least one lunch.

Gettysburg Bicycle Trip

Name _____ Phone-wk _____

Address _____ Phone-hm _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Need Ride ☐ Can Drive ☐ and carry People ☐ and bikes ☐

Mail a check for \$10 made out to: Pittsburgh AYH. Mail check to: Mike Hurwitz, 6492 Monitor St., Pittsburgh, 15217

Upcoming Trips

— Reserve space early!!

Rafting

Sunday, June 4: Raft the Yough at Ohtopyle, beginners welcome. You must call to reserve a space. All levels; Call Jon Maiman at 441-2306; Starts at 8 am.

Saturday and Sunday, June 3 & 4: Yough Lake Sea-Kayaking weekend. Fun and instruction. Paddling and rescue techniques, navigation, equipment, AYH trips and adventures. Cooperative meals and hostel overnight; total cost about \$30. All levels; Call Kathy Lynch at 616-345-3130 or write: 211 Paisley, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Sailing

June Weekends — Beginning in Mid-June, we will offer one day introductory sailing trips on Lake Arthur in a 17 foot O'Day center-board sloop. Each trip is limited to two persons, plus your Captain, Rick Tomlinson. You must swim well and want to learn basic sailing techniques to go on these trips. Call Rick Tomlinson at 963-8910 after May 26 for more information and to sign up for a trip.

August 10-16: Sail the beautiful waters of the Maine coast on a 7 day live-aboard cruise. We will charter a 40 to 45 sailing yacht and cruise about 300 miles of the rocky coast.

Dine aboard 5 nights and at marina restaurants 2 nights. Take short swims in the invigorating water. Experienced sailors and those interested in learning are welcome. Limit is 5 persons plus Rick. We must reserve a boat by June 15.

Call Rick Tomlinson at 963-8910 after May 26 for more information.

P.S.: For those of you who think the Chesapeake is fun, this trip will open up new vistas.

Rails to Trails News

Folks in the Altoona area have formed Rails-to-Trails of Blair County with the objective of converting the abandoned New Portage RR (Conrail) into a 13-mile recreational trail.

The route starts at Duncansville, south of Altoona, passes near the famous Pennsylvania RR Horseshoe Curve, and proceeds up Cresson Mountain to the Lemon House, an old tavern built on the Blair-Cambria County line (the bar was in the "wet" county), now the property of the National Park Service.

The area was the site of the old Portage Railroad which was used to pull canal boats on 10 "planes" over the mountain on the Philadelphia to Pittsburgh route. Members in the Altoona and Johnstown area can contact Rails-to-Trails of Blair County at Suite 346, 301 Union Avenue, Altoona PA 16602.

Pennsylvania Forms 4th State Chapter

With the formation of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy last November, Pennsylvania showed it was serious about joining the national resurgence of interest in converting abandoned rail lines to recreational trails.

Ranking 5th among the 32 states that have rail-trails, both in number of trails (16) and rail-trail mileage (167 miles), Pennsylvania is only the fourth state to have a state chapter. In the short time it has been in existence, it has attracted 900 members.

Susan Wood of Paoli is Chairperson. Members of the Board of Directors are Eric Bugaile, York County Rails-to-Trails Project; Joseph Kupec, New Kensington; George Ely, New Cumberland; and Hank Parke, Somerset County Chamber of Commerce.

When one joins the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, he or she automatically becomes a member of the Pennsylvania Chapter. Individual membership is \$18 a year. The Conservancy's address is 1400 16th St NW, Washington DC 20036.

Spring 1989 Bike/Fed Update

Donors to AYH Pittsburgh Council

Pittsburgh Council gratefully acknowledges the recent contributions of these members. Your donations are helping AYH to provide valuable services to its members and to the hosteling public.

Cheryl Arnold
Bernard Bench
Lavina Betty Blerer
Jeffrey Campbell
Patricia Cinowalt
Louis Conley
George Day
Robert Dodson
Stephen Downing
Joe Hoechner
Marianne Kasica
Andrew Malkewicz
Don McCarty
Judy Menosky
Glenn Oster

Charles Punzell
Eugene Ralston
Norman Ravnborg
Theodore Ruscitti
Elizabeth Saffer
George Schmidt III
Ted Self
Jerry Sherman
Terry Sickeler
Linda Smithyman
Carla Steele
D. Jay Yoder
Barbara Zirngibl
One Anonymous
Donor

Pittsburgh Council Hostels

Ohlotype State Park Hostel
P.O. Box 99
Ohlotype, PA 15470
412-329-4476

**Point Park College Youth
Hostel (SA)**
201 Wood Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-392-3824

After 4 PM: 412-391-4100

Dale Boyer Home Hostel
RD 1, Box 273
Rural Valley, PA 16249
412-783-6188

Living Waters Hostel
RD 1 (1 mile west on Rt. 30)
Schellsburg, PA 15559
814-733-4607

Bicycling Safety

- Bicycle Helmet (ANSI or Snell approved) is required on all rides. AYH has some to rent. Call leader before trip to reserve a helmet.

- Make sure that your bike is in good working order. Have a bike shop check it over if needed.

- Look at the difficulty level of the trip as well as the miles. If you are in doubt check with the leader.

- Bring water bottle, spare innertube, frame tire pump, emergency 25¢, rain wear, tools.

Call the trip leader before the trip to let him know that you are coming. Check the meeting place and time; foodstops, riding pace; additional clothing or equipment needed. Give the leader your phone number so you can be reached if plans change. If you need to rent a helmet or bicycle, tell the leader before the trip to ensure that the item will be available. All bicycle rentals require a reservation at least three days before the trip!

— Chuck Ejzak (466-6196)
Judy Menosky (242-1573)

Creating a 45-Mile Long Linear Park in the Wilds of Pittsburgh

by Dino Angelici

We were literally living along side of it for a month before I even knew it existed. It wasn't until I had to find my five year old son, who was forever wandering off to parts unknown, in search of new playmates, that I stumbled upon this woodland trail bisecting our apartment complex. Upon retrieving my son, we began to explore the trail, with which he was already familiar. In summer, the trail was lined on both sides with impenetrable growth consisting of thorny underbrush, head high weeds and grass, small saplings and large trees. Our first encounter was with about 50 yards of wild blackberry bushes laden with ripe fruit. These kept us returning for a time to explore a little further down the path as we ate the berries within reach. There were still plenty left for the birds singing overhead, the small animals chattering in the

brush and the many deer whose tracks were visible in the trail dirt.

The trail provided several modes of escape and relaxation. We were able to ride our bikes on the hard-packed surface. I would often job along for miles to keep in shape. We observed the birds and many forms of wildlife; took photographs, walked the dog, cross-country skied in Winter, or just simply walked along in silence listening to the sounds of nature and observing the changes in the seasons.

We had several encounters with wildlife during those times. Once we were startled by a doe which leaped out of the adjacent brush, legs fully extended, not more than ten feet in front of us. She then galloped full tilt down the trail and darted off into the woods on the other side.

On another occasion, we came upon a huge snake sunning itself in the middle of the trail. As we approached, it instantly coiled and repeatedly thrust its forked tongue in our direction, all the while the tip of his tail quivering in the dry leaves making a rattle. After several seconds went by, our initial fright subsided and we observed that this was not a rattler but a large Black Snake. Sensing his cover was now blown, he slithered off into the weeds allowing us to pass.

There were other encounters with deer, snakes, owls hooting in the twilight and there were always berries or apples to munch on during our travels.

All of this exists along a narrow ecosystem, only a few yards wide in places, right here in Pittsburgh. It is a small part of a 45 mile long, recently abandoned railroad line known as the Montour Railroad. Formerly a coal handling operation begun in the 19th century, it runs from Jefferson Borough near the Monongahela River to the Ohio River near Coraopolis, and passes through much of the South Hills, part of Washington County, and close to the airport along its tortuous path. The trail is still largely intact and quite scenic. As is true with railroads in general, it is also very flat making it ideal for all kinds of recreation and for all age groups.

In many places, the only part that was cleared was a thin band for the railroad track to be laid. Some of the trees and growth lining rail lines like this one are hundreds of years old and represent the original growth that was here prior to settlement.

As I walked along this trail, which passes very close to many residential areas yet remains worlds apart from them, I thought how tremendous it would be to create a 45 mile long linear park to be enjoyed for many years to come.

(Continued on Page 10)

Laurel Hill Weekend

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 26, 27 and 28

How about something different Memorial Day Weekend? Break out of winter into cycling, mountain biking, hiking, or arrange your own canoeing, seakayaking, or kayaking trips. Maybe just lay on the beach and begin your summer tan! Stay in cabins and enjoy home cooked meals (and desserts!) Laurel Hill is close to Ohiopyle and Coopers Rock; a wonderful place to start your season!

Bring a sleeping bag or rent one at AYH; a pad as there are no mattresses on the bunks; boots; towels and toiletries; and flashlights. Call for directions to Camp #9.

For more information, call Carla Steele at 921-2069 or Lynn Ejzak at 466-6196. Call Linda Smithyman at 531-1868 about the raft trip planned during the weekend.

Laurel Hill Weekend

Name: _____ No. of People: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

\$20 per person. Send check to:
Carla Steele, 175 Grasmere St., Pgh. PA 15205

Need Ride ☐
Can Drive ☐

Creating a 45 Mile-Long Park

(Continued from Page 9)

It now seems that some other people have the same idea.

As many of you know, the AYH, the WPW and some interested communities and private citizens are working with the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy, a national organization promoting the development of these rails trails across the country.

Debra Bennett, who helped coordinate trail development in Somerset County, was in Pittsburgh on April 13, 1989 at which time I spoke with her and learned that the feasibility study will officially begin on April 17, 1989. She is expecting a series of public meetings to begin in May once the study is completed. She also stated that there will be a clean up day along the Allegheny Highlands Trail, which runs from Confluence to Cumberland, tentatively on 5/13/89, subject to approval by the railroad. A large scale ride, to

draw attention and support for the Rails-To-Trails movement is also being planned.

On our own, we have contacted Joanne Nelson, Recreation Director for Peters Township, who was instrumental in the development of a 26 mile paved portion of the Montour Railroad. We have written a letter to Cecil Township encouraging their interest in development a portion of the trail within their boundaries and offering our assistance. As of this writing, we will also be attending a Parks Department meeting in Robinson Township (Allegheny County) to suggest they begin developing the trail in their area.

We would like to publicly thank Stan Sattinger and Doug Mahrer for their help and we would also like to encourage others with information, assistance or knowledge of other communities interested in developing abandoned rail lines in our area to contact either Larry Laude, 665-9554, Stan Sattinger, 256-1327, or myself, 931-6651. A lot of work remains to be done as more is learned and as the ongoing feasibility study is completed. I will continue to keep you informed of developments in an effort to maintain your interest and support. With your help we can make this happen.

For Sale

Wet Pack, heavy-duty (military) 10x21x16, great for rafting, canoeing/camping. Never used, \$30, 327-8737.

Go Mountain Biking this Spring

Is this the year you try mountain biking? If so, boy do we have the deals for you to get your feet wet! The following mountain bike rental centers will be offering discounts on their rental rates to AYH members who have their membership cards with them. All are along the Laurel Ridge.

Wilderness Voyagers — at the south end of the Laurel Ridge in Ohio pyle — 25% discount for AYH members — some restrictions may apply — call 329-8336 for information, if no answer try the office at 329-5517.

Hidden Valley — in the middle of the Laurel Ridge off Route 31 east of Donegal — their rates are \$4/hr to \$12 for 1/2 day — 25% discount for AYH members — they will be renting from the ski lodge this year — call (814)443-6454 ext. 493 for information.

Shadyside Ski — at the Northern end of the Laurel Ridge at Laurel Mountain off Route 30 outside of Ligonier.

Their rates are \$4/hr. to \$16/day — 10% discount to AYH members — call 238-2050 for information.

The North Country Trail

The State of Ohio is readying an abandoned railroad right of way to become a multi-use portion of the North Country Trail, in the area between Springfield and Xenia, Ohio. The trail will have a paved surface for bicyclists with a parallel grass surface for hikers. It is being funded by a \$1 million grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation highway funds for nonmotorized projects. The projects will add 28 miles to the 44 miles of trail the state has already built in the area. The prospect of an asphalt surface is controversial among hikers, but it is unlikely that such a costly project, which includes rebuilding several bridges, could receive funding without the bikeway.

— Fall 1988 Pathways Across America

If a new Rails to Trails Conservancy project is successful, the North Country Trail would be a big step closer to completion. A former New York Central rail line through New York's Adirondack Mountains used to carry freight and passengers — and even some Olympic competitors — to Lake Placid until economics and the area's harsh winters drove the line under. Now tied up in bankruptcy proceedings, the 118 mile route could serve as a wilderness bikeway through the heart of the nation's largest park.

— Trailblazer, Oct-Dec 1988
Compiled by Larry Laude

The President's Corner

by Larry Laude

The Spring Banquet

I was pleased at the turnout at the Spring Banquet. Over 60 people came to the Sewickley Country Inn for a great dinner and to talk about Pittsburgh Council and the Pittsburgh Hostel. Those attending the banquet also contributed over \$300 toward the Pittsburgh Hostel fund. It was good to see so many of our long time members and also to see a lot of new people attending. Thanks to Carla Steele and Linda Smithyman for their work in putting it together.

The Regional Meetings

In April, Marianne Kasica and I attended the Midwest Regional meeting, she as Eastern Region

Vice President and I as a guest. I met Tony Pranses there who said to say hello to all his friends in Pittsburgh. As I write this, the Eastern Regional meeting is yet to happen, so I'll have to give a report on what's happening in the Eastern Region next month.

Rails-to-Trails

I've appointed Dino Angelici as the AYH coordinator for the various rails-to-trails projects in our area. He and Stan Sattinger have been busy reviewing existing trails and plans for future trails. Dino will be working with Debra Bennet, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy person doing the feasibility study for rail trails in the Pittsburgh area. If you have

questions or can offer suggestions or help, call Dino at 931-6651.

Thanks and a tip of the hat to ...Joe Hoechner for coordinating the Spring Cleanup at Headquarters in April and to all those who helped out. Carla Steele and Linda Smithyman for organizing the 1989 Spring Banquet.

Volunteer Opportunities

The AYH Answering Machine: We need you to help us with getting messages off the AYH answering machine and then passing them on to the right person to answer inquiries. All it takes is a touch tone phone and about 15 minutes three times a week. Each person would help for one month. Call Larry Laude (665-9554) or leave a message at 362-8181.

Board and Volunteer News

At their April meeting, the Activities Board approved a donation of \$250 to the Austin Texas AYH-Hostel project, a weeklong climbing trip to New England in the fall was approved, and a new co-chair was appointed for the rafting committee. The May Activities Board meeting will be at 8 pm on May 3 at Chuck and Lynn Ejzak's home at 6858 Wilson Street in West Mifflin. Call Chuck or Lynn at 466-6196 for directions if you'd like to attend. (Board members will be getting an agenda and a map in the mail.)

A Board of Directors meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on May 17 at a location to be announced. The agenda will include discussions on the Pittsburgh International AYH-Hostel, planning for the next edition of the canoeing and hiking guides, and draft proposed changes to the Council Bylaws. Call Larry Laude for more information.

— Larry Laude 412-665-9554

IT'S SPRING AND A GREAT TIME TO STAY AT THE OHIOPYLE AYH-HOSTEL



Rafting, Kayaking, Canoeing, Hiking,
Backpacking, Cycling.
Call 412-329-4476.

Know Your Parks

by Rose Sainne

This month's feature is Ohioopyle State Park located less than 2 hours from Pittsburgh in Fayette County. The focal point of this 18,000 acre park is the Youghiogheny River Gorge which passes through the heart of the area and provides some of the best whitewater rafting, canoeing and kayaking in the East.

Visitors to the park will want to be sure to see Cucumber Falls and the Cucumber Run Ravine which are surrounded by and blanketed with beautiful wildflowers and blooming rhododendrons in addition to Baughman Rock, Tharp Knob and the Kentucky Scenic overlooks all offering spectacular views of the River Gorge. A must see is Ferncliff Peninsula which is formed by a horseshoe bend in the Youghiogheny

River, providing a unique natural habitat for botanical delights such as a variety of wildflowers.

Ferncliff, now a registered National Natural Landmark, has within its boundaries 4 miles of easy hiking trails and several overlook areas.

May is the perfect time of the year to partake in the numerous activities this park has to offer, which include but are not limited to: whitewater boating for all levels (with rentals, instruction and guides available), picnicking, hiking, camping, fishing and hunting. For AYH members, a mid week or weekend stay at the Ohioopyle Hostel can be a nature lover's dream. Advanced reservations are suggested and fees are reasonable. Interested persons

can stop by Headquarters on Thursday evenings or call 412-362-8181 for specific information on the hostel.

Another very popular feature of Ohioopyle State Park is the scenic 9 mile long biking trail along an abandoned railroad right-of-way that parallels the Youghiogheny River. The trail is suitable for all ages and is composed of fine, loose gravel. Bicycle rentals are available.

Don't let another year pass without setting aside a day to explore the natural wonder of Ohioopyle. For more information, contact:

Ohioopyle State Park
Department of
Environmental Resources
P.O. Box 105
Ohioopyle, PA 15470
412-329-8591

Taken from the *Recreational Guide to Ohioopyle State Parks, PA Dpt. of Environmental Resources*

AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS HANDBOOK 1989

OPENINGS NEW

HAMPSHIRE

KEENE — Doyle House, Keene State College, Keene, NH 03431. Open June 20 - July 31; 23 beds; \$7.25 per night. Call (603) 352-9602 or (603) 352-1909, ext. 230.

TEXAS

AUSTIN — The Austin International AYH-Hostel, 2200 S. Lakeshore Blvd., Austin, TX 78741; Opening May 28, 1989; 40 beds; \$8 per night. Call (512) 444-2294. DIRECTIONS: From Greyhound/Trailways station, walk to Highland Mall. Take bus #8 (Govalle-Oltorf) to Pleasant Valley & S. Lakeshore Blvd.

STONEWALL — Hill Country Home Hostel at Stonewall, Peach & Loring, Stonewall, TX, 78671. Hostel Managers: Harvey & Betty Eckert; 4 beds; \$7.25 per night. Call: (512) 644-2419.

CLOSINGS MICHIGAN

HART — The Hart Home Hostel, effective Feb. 27, 1989. (page 112)

NEW YORK

ALBANY — The Mansion Home Hostel, effective Jan. 1, 1989. (page 133)

OREGON

NEWPORT — The Newport AYH-Hostel, effective Feb. 15, 1989. (page 156)

UPDATES FROM ACROSS THE USA

ARIZONA

MESA — The telephone number for the Three Palms Home Hostel: (602) 898-7239. (page 37)

IOWA

The Northeast Iowa Council phone number: (319) 864-3923. (pages 91 & 210)

MAINE

GREENVILLE JUNCTION — Guesthouse at Moosehead Lake and Squaw Mountain's maximum overnight rate: \$8.75 per person. (page 95)

MISSOURI

ST. LOUIS — The Huckleberry Finn Youth Hostel, an AYH-Hostel will have

41 beds during the summer. (page 120)

NEW MEXICO

OJO CALIENTE — The name of the hostel: Hot Springs AYH-Hostel. (page 130)

NEW YORK

NEW YORK — The New York International AYH-Hostel is scheduled to open this summer. In the meantime, hostellers should contact: Sloane House YMCA, 356 W. 34 St., New York, NY 10001, (212) 760-5860. Special NYHF rates available. (page 138)

OHIO

To the list of Ohio coun-

cils add: Lima Council of AYH, P.O. Box 173, Lima, OH 45802 (419) 339-4751. (page 147)

TEXAS

HOUSTON — The Houston International AYH-Hostel has a superior hostel rating. (page 178)

VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA BEACH — Angie's Guest Cottage Bed and Breakfast and AYH-Hostel has a kitchen. Arriving by train: Take the bus from Newport News Train Station — 1 mile. Call ahead for possible pick up. (page 190)

Effective Feb. 1, 1989

For more information call: AYH National Office (202) 783-6161

Remember to renew

your membership!!!



MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT
AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS INC.
PITTSBURGH COUNCIL
6300 FIFTH AVE.
PITTSBURGH, PA 15232



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership types available:

- ☐ \$ 20.00* Adult (age 18 to 54)
- ☐ \$ 30.00 2 yr. Adult (age 18 to 54)
- ☐ \$ 10.00* Youth (age 17 and under)
- ☐ \$ 10.00* Senior citizen (age 55 and over)
- ☐ \$ 30.00* Family (includes children under 18)
- ☐ \$200.00 Life (individual lifetime membership)
- ☐ \$ 18.00* Foreign nationals, including Canadians
- ☐ \$ 10.00 Vol I, International Hostel Handbook (Europe & Mediterranean)
- ☐ \$ 10.00 Vol II, International Hostel Handbook (Africa, Americas, Asia & Australia)
- ☐ \$ 14.00 Cotton sleep sack, required at all international hostels
- ☐ \$ 1.00 Postage & handling for each membership ordered
- ☐ Donation for Hostel Development Fund (tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law)
- ☐ Grand total—make all checks payable to Pittsburgh AYH

Name _____ (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Middle)

Street _____ (Permanent address only) _____ Zip code _____

City _____ State _____

Birthdate: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ Phone _____

If you wish membership card sent to a temporary address, give same below:

In care of _____ Street _____ Zip code _____

City _____ State _____

Were you a member of AYH this past year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

When do you need card? _____ (Signature of applicant)

AYH MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- International Hostel membership card plus Pittsburgh Council ID card good for discounts at local bike shops and outfitters.
- USA Hostel Handbook.
- "The Knapstock," National AYH travel newsletter.
- "The Golden Triangle," Pittsburgh Council's newsletter of trips and activities.
- Open house Thursday nights at Council headquarters.
- Access to National travel programs and Leadership Training courses.

*Memberships valid from September 1 to December 31 of the following year.



AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS, INC.
Pittsburgh Council
6300 Fifth Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

ACTIVITIES MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Types Available: (does not provide access to AYH hostels)

- ☐ \$ 5.00 Youth (17 years and under)
- ☐ \$ 5.00 Senior Citizen (55 years and over)
- ☐ \$ 10.00 Adult (18 years to 54)
- ☐ \$ 15.00 Family (includes children under 18 years)
- ☐ \$ 1.00 Postage and handling (for each membership ordered)

Note: A full AYH membership or a hostel guest membership is required for access to AYH and international hostels. An AYH membership also includes the current U.S. Hostel Handbook.

Make all checks payable to "Pittsburgh AYH" (include \$1.00 postage). Thank you!

NAME: _____ (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Middle)

STREET: _____

CT: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

BIRTHDATE: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ PHONE: _____

Were you a full member of AYH this past year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

SIGNATURE: _____

Pittsburgh AYH Activities Membership Benefits

Council Membership Card good for discounts at local bike shops and outfitters. Ability to upgrade to full hostel membership at any time for difference in fee. Access to local Pittsburgh AYH trips without paying non-member fees. The Knapstock, National AYH Travel Newsletter, available at council headquarters. Ability to qualify to lead Pittsburgh Council trips. The Golden Triangle, Pittsburgh's monthly newsletter of trips and activities. Open House Thursday nights 8:00 p.m. at Council Headquarters. Access to National travel programs and Leadership Training Courses.

(Note: Memberships valid from Sept. 1st to Dec 31st of the following year. All candidates for the Pittsburgh Council Activities Board or Board of Directors must hold full AYH memberships to qualify for these positions.)



The Golden Triangle

PITTSBURGH COUNCIL • AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS

Volume 40 • Number 5

May, 1989

EXTRA!! EXTRA!!

Everyone's Going to the AYH Flea Market

Find all types of outdoor gear,
equipment and clothing.

**Thursday, May 4th
from 6:30 to 9pm.**

Sales space is free, so bring all your unused
equipment and sell or trade for more equipment!

It's at the Civic Garden Center,
Mellon Park in Shadyside, Corner of
Fifth and Shady Avenues.

Questions? Call Bill Johnston
at 243-1945.

EXTRA!! EXTRA!!

AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS INC
PITTSBURGH COUNCIL
6300 FIFTH AVE.
PITTSBURGH, PA. 15232
(412) 362-8181

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