

golden triangle ayh

pittsburgh council, american youth hostels, inc.

JAN. 1974



This sign marks a road crossing of Western Penn's newest hiking trail: This trail is 50 kilometers long and travels the Laurel Ridge from the summit on Route 31 south to Ohiopyle. The trail passes through woods for most of its distance occasionally crossing meadows, following the edge of a bluff or passing by a fire tower to give a panoramic view of mountain side and farmland.

The trail was laid out by the hiking clubs of the area, including AYH, and built and maintained by the State of Pennsylvania. It is a joy to hike: switchbacks and steps make for easy going but the construction is unobtrusive. Only the pathway of the trail has been disturbed from its natural state. Many times the trail weaves around obstacles instead of moving them. The State has built steps from natural rock to climb or descend steep slopes. Where the trail parallels a road, it has been placed 12-15 meters away so that a hiker has to look hard to see the road. During recent fall hikes, no trash was observed along the trail itself, and we hope that you will help to keep it that way.

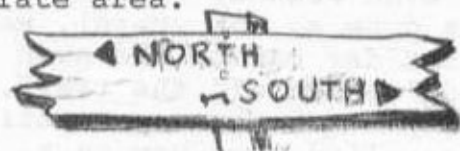
Even though the trail travels much of the time thru woodland with no underbrush, the trail is very easy to follow. In addition it is blazed every 100 meters with a ten centimeter by 40centimeter yellow paint stripe. With thirty centimeters of snow covering the trail, the blazes may prove to be too far apart, but you would probably find that one or two earlier hikers have left footprints in the snow. Further more, the entire area is a nice to place to hike even without a trail (AYH has done so for years), so a pleasant day can be had even if you do wander off the trail, assuming you take some precautions so you can find your way back.

Although the trail is completed, it is not officially opened because of the lack of funds in the State budget. I have spent half a dozen Saturdays or Sundays on the trail without seeing anyone else except at road crossings. Overnight camping along the trail is not permitted, a serious drawback for such a nice trail. The State has set aside some areas for camping and has built shelters but they are not available due to the funds situation.

I have described below the convenient road access points that I know about. They are spaced 8-11 kilometers apart on the trail, which makes a reasonable one day hike to walk from one to the next and back. The trail is not marked exceptionally well at these points and you must look for the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail sign about 5 to 6 meters back from the edge of the forest. The sign is brown with white lettering, about one meter square. All these access points involve taking the turnpike to the Donegal exit and turning left. The closest (#1) is about 75 kilometers from downtown Pittsburgh; the farthest about 100 kilometers.

1) Follow 31 east until you see the Laurel Mountain Summit sign yellow letters on a blue background. The trail starts here, just 5 meters from the sign, a convenient place to park is about 2 kilometers down the fire tower lookout road (100 meters west to the turnoff, next to Mt Hope Church) where the state has built a parking area complete with water pump.

2) Follow 711 south until you come to the turn off for Seven Springs ski area. Follow the signs toward Seven Springs until you pass Alpine Lodge. About 1/2 kilometers later you will start to descend a hill. The trail crosses about half way down this hill. I did not see any convenient parking in the immediate area.



3) Follow 711 south to the village of Indian Head. Turn left towards the main town. Travel one kilometer and turn right at the cross roads. Travel another kilometer and turn left at the cross roads at the top of the hill. Travel straight ahead for 10 kilometers. There is an intersection about halfway where the wide gravel road that you are travelling bears right and goes down into the valley, a narrow dirt road goes straight ahead, and another wide gravel road comes in from the left. Go straight ahead onto the narrow dirt road. When you see a pair of wood State Forest Lands signs, park in the pull off under the sign. The trail crosses about 30 meters down the road. This trail head is not for the timid driver.

4) Follow 381, 711 south until just after the left turn in Normalville. Turn left onto 653 and drive east for about kilometers. The trail crossing is marked with a trail crossing sign (arrows and a hiker with backpack) and is 175 meters before the snowmobile unloading area.

5) Cranberry Glade Lake

6) Ohioypyple

HAPPY HIKING !!!

P.S. The editor would like to publish descriptions of hiking on the Laurel Highlands Trail. If you have hiked a portion of the trail, please write a paragraph and send it to the editor. Also send pictures. (black and white negatives preferred).

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The GOLDEN TRIANGLE is a monthly publication of the Pittsburgh Council American Youth Hostel, INC., 6300 Fifth Ave, Pgh, Pa 15232.
editor: Roy R. Weil
production Joel Platt
362-8181 Thursday Evening only

HOSTEL OF THE MONTH

Martha's Vineyard,
Manter Memorial Youth Hostel

The Manter Memorial Youth Hostel is centrally located on the island of Martha's Vineyard in West Tisbury. Martha's Vineyard can be reached by ferry from Wood's Hole year round or from Nantucket, Hannis, and Falmouth in the summer months. The ferries accomodate bicycles and it is much cheaper and pleasanter to park your car on the Cape and take only your bicycle to the island. Rental bicycles are available at the dock if you prefer.

The hostel, which can accomodate 85, has an extremely well equipped kitchen with six gas stoves and ovens, electric refrigerators and all the cooking utensils. The large common room with fireplace featuring various games and a "contributed" library is an excellant gathering place for old and new friends.

Mather's Vineyard is small enough and has generally level, well surfaced roads, making bicycling an excellent means of traveling to any point on the island. A lobster hatchery, uniquely colored clay cliffs at Gay Head, the isolated Menemsha fishing village, as well as the sea captains homes, museums, art galleries, and shops of Ealgartown can all be incorporated in a circuit tour of the island. Several exclusive bike paths are being constructed one, through a state forest, begins directly behind the hostel. Tired of cycling?? Excellent swimming beaches and sailing are within nine miles of the hostel.

The hostel is open year round. The summer months are usually booked full so plan to reserve well in advance. Personally I would recomend a spring or fall vist for the fullest enjoyment of the hostel and the island.

for more information and reservations contact: Mr. and Mrs. Richard Cohen
West Tisbury, Mass. 02575,
617-693-2665

OPEN HOUSE

Open house is held Thursday evening. Everyone is welcome to come, member or not. Doors open about 7:45 with the program starting about 8:30. Come find out about us.

Jan 3 Joe Hoechner takes us skinning in the French Alps via slides. More exciting downhill thrills!

Jan 10 Robert Huffman, superintendent of Laurel Ridge State Park will give a slide show and talk on the Laurel Highland Trail. This program should be of interest to all hikers in the area. Due to the distance our speaker has to travel we will start promptly at 8:30

Jan 17 Owen Ceail shares cross country skiing and backing experiences in Scandinavia, - heartland of cross country skiing. Program will concentrate on the pleasures and moods of the sport rather than the technical points.

Jan 24 Tired of being out in the cold?? It is warmer in a cave. Barry and Peggy Walker will show slides of the Hillside cave region.

Jan 31 Tonight Mike and Marta Hurwitz show slides of their recent trip to Yosemite and the California Coast.

WANT ADS

Four H78x15 blackwall belted tires for sale. two are like new. contact Jack Batchelar at 362-0989.

try winter mountaineering with a north face Tuolumme tent, like new condition \$75. Call John Iacouvino at 373- 4235 from 8 to 4.

One C-1 Hugo, and one K-1 Vector for sale with floatation bags and skirts. \$100 and \$125. Also some paddles, helmets, life jackets, etc. Call George Robertson at 823-5517

for sale- used, unsafe life jackets. may be used as kneeling pads. only \$1.00. Contact Gordon Bugby at AYH.

ANNUAL COOK FOREST WEEKEND

In only a month we will be enjoying the week end at Cook Forest.

Have you reserved with Nan and Dave Porterfield, R. D. 1, Box 173, Zelienople, Pa. 163063, for the week end of February 1-3??

Talks with the Snow god and the Moon god should be fruitful. The four different farmers's type almanacs in Hart's Newsstand in Zelienople all predict cold weather for that week end. The squirrels are nesting lower in the trees this year, a sure sign of a cold winter. The only damper has been the Gasoline god.

The Gasoline god said that too many automobiles were at Laurel Oaks Cabins last year. To please the god we checked with school bus operators and commercial charter bus lines to get the best deal on a bus and discovered that if we have at least 40 people sign up we can transport everybody for a fairly low cost. We will charter the bus. The gasoline saved by our group is enough to take 4 cars to the Connoquenessing for white water school, 4 cars to the Yough for a rafting trip, 2 cars to Casparis 3 cars to Dolly Sods for a backpacking trip, 10 cars to Boyce park for kite flying and all yes all of the Thursday evening cycle rides.

Just as good as the savings in gasoline is the camaraderie; riding the bus gives a head start with the fun.

Equipment and attributes needed: Blanket or sleeping bag (sheets and one blanket are provided); towel soap, toothbrush, and similar items if you use them; flashlight if you expect to be hiking after 3:00 AM; musical instruments of your choice; voice, harmonious or otherwise; songs or words to songs, on paper or in your head; warm clothes for outdoor activities; your own sport equipment, such as skis; hiking boots; snowball throwing arm; change of clothing if you prefer; enough money to pay the balance of the costs.

Cost of the weekend will be about \$15.00 per person, including bus transportation. Deposit of \$5.00 will reserve a space for you. Toboganing at the commercial area just outside the park is an optional extra.

For additional information call Dave during the day at 471-1733 or either Nan or Dave in the evening evening at 452-7071 (toll call).

T.O.S.R.V. '74 IS COMING

The tour of the Scioto River Valley bike ride is usually held about mid-May of every year.

This 330 kilometer in two days bike ride is sponsored by the AYH Council of Columbus, Ohio. The new bicycle chairman, Joe Hoechner, would like to see the Pittsburgh council get together an organized trip to participate in this ride. The current "gasless Sundays" combined with possible future rationing and/or increased costs may hamper the plans.

Joe would like to here from any cyclists who have done or are planning to do this ride for ideas on the transportation problem. If you think you might be interested in going contact him at 343-2465 or see him at the Hostel meetings on Thursday nights.

A Y H ANNUAL BANQUET

The Annual Banquet will be held this year on March 30, at the Holiday House in Greentree. Save the date on your calender, or better yet reserve now with Jan Bugby (371-4233). Cost has not been set as of yet but it should be in the \$5 to \$7 range including dinner, folk dancing and an entire evening of fellowship. An event that must not be missed. Come see what your fellow hosteller looks like all dressed up rather than with a backpack on or a canoe paddle in hand.

THE LAW AND YOU

"This bill ... authorizing the use of abandoned canals and railroad rights of way for bicycle trails or paths."

This line is the key phrase of a proposed Penn House Bill #1113. It is currently before the Transportation Committee of the House of Representatives for review. The bill permits the State to buy any unused canal, railway, or railroad right of way for the purpose of building any projected State highway, bicycle path or trail. If the property can not be bought outright, the State may use its power of "Eminent Domain" to secure this land.

This bill needs public support in order to become law. It faces a stiff fight by the "Highways Only" groups who will not give up one cent of tax money to build bikeways or trails. Write directly to the Transportation Committee chairman, Representative Westerbrook or to the Vice Chairman, Representative Joseph F. Bonetto (of nearby Plum Boro) urging them to release the bill from committee.

MORE THE LAW AND YOU

Last month we wrote about a Senate bill that would ban bicycle racks. The following letter was received by a member from the author of the bill.

"Thank you very much for your letter concerning Senate Bill 1105.

Please be advised that this bill has been poorly drafted and is being completely misunderstood, and I have requested that it be withdrawn.

Thanking you for your interest, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,
Thomas P. McCreesh"

We thank all who wrote and hope that others will take the time to contact their public officials on issues that concern them.

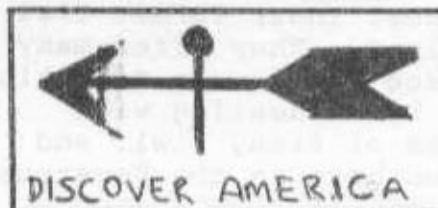
EPA SUPPORTS BIKEWAYS

On Nov 19, 1973, Daniel Snyder, Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency announced a series of "Transportation Control Regulations" for the Pittsburgh area, designed to reduce air pollution and conserve energy.

One of these regulations is a requirement that the Commonwealth conduct a study "... to design a system of bike ways which will provide for safe bicycle commuting into and out of the Central Business District. The study is to be completed by March 1, 1975 and will also include provisions for the secure storage of bicycles in the city." A minimum 10 mile system is called for, with the construction to start in June 1975.

This regulation was included in the EPA report in direct response to comments made by members of AYH, the Western Pennsylvania Wheelman, and various bike clubs in Philadelphia at EPA public hearings. As Mr. Snyder noted, "...it is clear that an infinitely greater number of commuters can be moved by bicycle on the same amount of crude oil as one can be moved by auto!"

This promulgation doesn't automatically mean that we will be seeing commuter bikeways. No state agency is presently into bikeways for transportation. Both planning and construction needs to be a cooperative effort between city, county, state, and the public. AYH will continue our work in providing voluntary consulting services on bicycling to all governmental agencies. If you would like to help contact either Larry Giventer or Joe Hoechner.



BEST BY BICYCLE

AYH TO ACCELERATE DOMESTIC HOSTELING

The 39th Annual National Meeting of AYH was held Dec 8 and 9 in Minneapolis, Minnesota and was hosted by the Minnesota Council, AYH.

Larry Giventer, President of Pittsburgh Council was our official delegate. Larry reports that about 90 percent of AYH's 72,000 passholders are one-time only members headed to Europe. Due to the dollar devaluations and the increased air fares it is expected that the number of people going to Europe will decrease and therefore the number of members of AYH will decrease along with the membership fees. Therefore National AYH has decided to greatly expand hosteling activities in the U.S. over the next three years. In order to do this the national meeting authorized AYH to initiate a major fund raising campaign to increase to number of U.S. hostels. This effort has a goal of raising 2.5 to 3 million dollars. Hosteling customs were also changed so as not to prohibit hostellers from hitch hiking from hostel to hostel.

In April of 1974, the Pittsburgh Council will host an Eastern Regional Meeting of AYH. This meeting will be for about 40-50 people and will include delegates from Boston, Potomac, Delaware Valley, New Haven, Hartford, Syracuse, Fairfield County, and Metropolitan New York Councils.

FREE LITURATURE AND INFORMATION

Want something for your tax dollars from the State of Pennsylvania??

Write to the "Penna Game Commission, P.O. Box 1567, Harrisburgh, Pa, 17120. Request their latest list of publications. They offer many phamplets free and have a selection of low cost books dealing with the varieties of fish, fowl, and animals found here in the Keystone state.



ARE YOU PLANNING TO BUY A BIKE???

Are you planning to purchase a ten speed bike this summer?? ORDER IT NOW!!! Last summer, due to the boom in recreational cycling, bike shops were 2 to 3 months behind in thier deliveries.

That was before the crisis hit. The American public will slowly become aware of the bicycle as an alternate means of transportation during the coming year. Then watch the rush to buy. Invest now and avoid the price increases and the long delays. Also at this time of year you may be able to get a "bargain" at some of the better department stores or bike shops having their post Christmas sales.

For sale "North American Bike Atlas" includes 175 rides in the U.S., Canada, Mexico. plus section with tips on cycling abroad. Reserve your copy with Joe Hoechner. Price is \$2. Delivery in late January.

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THE SPORTSMEN SHOW - CIVIC ARENA
Feb 20 thru Feb 24

BEST BARGAINS OF THE YEAR!!!!

Sawyer/Old Town/Michi-Craft/Hipp K-1
Hans Klepper Kayaks and Fold boats
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Funiyak/Sunflower/Mayflower/Wildflower
and Butterfly Sailboats
Canoe Sail rigs/ Sailing dinghies
Fiberglass, resin supplies/molds/kits

TRIPS AND TRAILS

- Jan 6 INTERMEDIATE HIKE. A 10 mile exploratory hike of section 2 of the Baker trail. Wear boots and cold weather clothing. Bring lunch, \$2.00. Reserve with Dave Porterfield 452-7071 (toll call).
- Jan 5 BEGINNERS BACKPACK. An overnight trip to somewhere on the high sp
Jan 6 spot of the Baker Trail to watch a comet. Some camping and hiking experience necessary. Limit 12. Reserve with Jim Roberts at 362-5792 between 10-11 PM. leave Sat 8:00 AM. Cost \$5.00
- Jan 12 SKI TOURING/HIKING. Depending on the weather Mary Leathen will lead either a ski touring trip or a beginner's hike in the Laurel Ridge area. Leave AYH 8:00 AM. Cost \$2.50. Call 683-7494
- Jan 13 SKI TOURING. Mike and Marta Hurwitz will lead a ski-touring trip to the Laurel Ridge. If no snow it will be a hike in the same
are area. some experience required. Leave AYH 8:00 AM. Cost \$2.50.
- Jan 18 CAVING. Norm Snyder will lead a caving trip to Indiana. Call
Jan 19 Norm at 371-2371 for reservations. Leaving AYH Friday night
Jan 20 at 7:00 PM.
- Jan 19 BEGINNERS HIKE. an 8 mile baker trail extension hike in the Dorseyville area. Wear boots, old clothes, and cold weather gear bring lunch, and \$1.00 for fees and transportation. Reserve with Cliff Ham at 687-4960.
- Jan 19 BEGINNER'S BACKPACK. Comet watch #2 for the month. Again some-
Jan 20 where on the Baker trail. Limit 12. Call Bob Schatz at 683-1613 for reservations. Leave AYH Sat 8:00 AM. Cost \$5.00
- Jan 26 INTERMEDIATE HIKE. John Hayes and Helen Brinka will take an hike on the Laurel Ridge. Call John at 325-2345 or Helen at 431-6491 for reservations. Leave AYH 8:00 AM, Bring lunch, \$2.00
- Jan 27 SKI TOURING/HIKING. Larry Giventer will lead a beginners ski touring trip to Laurel Mountain. If there is no snow the trip will turn into a hike in the same area. reserve at 422-9382 or 624-4752. Cost \$2.50
- Feb 1-3 ANNUAL COOK FOREST WEEKEND. reservation required. see article
- May 3-5 ANNUAL YMCA, AYH WHITE WATER LEADERSHIP SCHOOL. reservations required. Gordon Bugby has applications. learn how to lead trips.

PEUGEOT

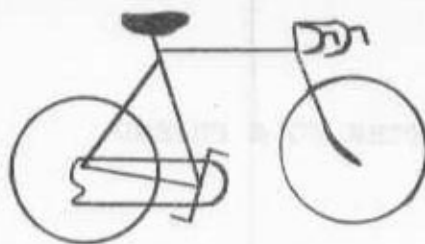
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			Δ ARTICLES		BACKPACK	
7	8 ACTIVITIES BOARD	9 BOARD OF DIRECTORS	10	11	12 SKI TOUR	13 SKI TOUR
			Δ TRIPS OUT			
14	15	16	17	18	19 HIKE	20
					BACKPACK	
					CAMPING	
21	22	23	24	25	26 HIKE	27 SKI TOUR
28	29	30	31	JAN 74		
				COOK FIREST WEEKEND		

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