

Golden Triangle

VOLUME 58, NUMBER 1

MAR-APR-MAY 2008

Obituary -- American Youth Hostels - Pittsburgh Council

The end of an era - and a long era at that! The last weekly meeting of AYH was held on June 3, 2004 to a packed house, including members dating back to the 1950s. The first weekly meeting was held in the 1930s and, except for a several-year lapse during WWII, had been held weekly ever since.

The cause of death was bankruptcy caused, in turn, by its Pittsburgh hostel on the south side. It was a Black Hole for money as it turns out, pretty much like its Ohiopyle hostel. Below is a bit of history and a biopsy.

AYH's main (and sizeable) contribution to the quality of life in this area has always been its outings program - a lively mix of hiking, bicycling, flatwater canoeing, whitewater canoeing, kayaking, caving, climbing, ski-touring, backpacking and a few others (kite-flying??), plus countless schools in many of these activities. AYH built the Baker Trail and the Rachel Carson Trail that could take one from Pittsburgh to Allegheny National Forest. AYH published numerous editions of numerous guides to hiking and canoeing in the region. Its extended trips in the summer took many of us on unforgettable trips such as backpacking on Mt. Rainier, the Olympic Rainforest, the Olympic Seashore, the North Cascades and Rocky Mtn. National Park, cycling hostel-to-hostel in New England, hut-hopping in the White Mountains, white-water canoeing and sail-canoeing on the streams and lakes of Wisconsin and countless others. No one will ever know how many multi-decade-long friendships came out of the delights, camaraderie, trials and tribulations of all those thousands of trips. Calamity Rock in the Cheat Narrows was named for a terrifying rafting episode on an AYH trip. White water canoe trips have been known to arrive, still cold and wet, back in Pittsburgh around 4 AM. There was a broken back on a bicycle descent off of Pittsburgh's Mt. Washington, and a nasty altercation between a bicycle and a pickup truck.

AYH always had its ups and downs. At times its weekly Thursday evening meetings saw people packed shoulder-to-shoulder watching slide shows of past adventures and listening to 8-10 trip leaders advertising the adventures they had planned for the weekend. At other times the organization was held together by 3-4 people struggling to get the club back on its feet. A lot was learned about the dynamics of "volunteer associations" (as such organizations are called). One example of many: A preoccupation with social aspects and beginner-oriented trips foretells an impending collapse. A focus on substantive outdoor-oriented adventures and pleasures means another growth spurt toward a membership size that tends to attract the purely socially oriented.

AYH was always a down-to-earth, low-budget operation that attracted people of like mind. Its headquarters/ meeting room was a former Mellon estate chicken coop built on the property line with the Marshal mansion (now Arts Center), apparently as a result of some sort of feud. Outings had always been profitable, even with trip fees of \$0.25 to \$1/day, canoe- and bicycle rentals of a few dollars per day, and sales of modestly-priced trail guides. This combination of profitability and frugality might well have been AYH's undoing. The several hundred thousand dollars in savings generated over the decades was perhaps too much of a temptation to the hostel-oriented faction of the club. (AYH always had an uneasy split personality.) They grabbed control of the club, abolished the Activities Board (that had always handled the day-to-day operations of the club) and sunk everything into a highly leveraged hostel. The rest is history.

Bruce E Sundquist



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Submissions Policy: Golden Triangle

Classified Ads:

- ? Classified ads are free to Current members of HI-International
- ? All requests for classifieds must be made in writing via the Council Office. Request must include full name, address, phone number and membership number of member. Members are not permitted to place ads for non-members.
- ? Free ads may not be for commercial gain.
- ? Above rules apply in addition to general rules for submission

Trips

- ? All trips must be approved by authorized co-chair
- ? Trip leader must be a council approved leader
- ? Trips must be submitted through co-chair, for that activity. Trip leaders, are not to submit trips directly to editor or office, any trips improperly submitted will not be listed.
- ? Above rules apply in addition to general rules for submission

Articles

- ? Members are encouraged to write articles, about travel abroad and in the states, and about activities and outdoor sports in which the council has a program
- ? All Articles are to be, non-political and non-religious
- ? Above rules apply in addition to general rules for submission

General rules for submission

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

Editors Golden Rule

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

Please note, the Golden Triangle frequency of publication for 2008

Number 1 issue ->December/January/February

Number 2 issue ->March/April/May

Number 3 issue ->June/July/August

Number 4 issue ->September/October/November

Editor...

Triangle Staff

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NOTICE

Please note the deadlines for
future issues of the
GOLDEN TRIANGLE

MAR-APR-MAY ISSUE
All copy, May 7

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

Oops...

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

Mail regarding the Newsletter
should be addressed to:

The Golden Triangle
1632 Denniston St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

golden_triangle@bigfoot.com





SEA-KAYAKING

Kelleys Island, Cape Henlopen and Presque Isle are just a few of the interesting and exciting places we visited last summer. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced paddler, we have a trip for you. So grab your paddle and sunscreen and we will see you on the water.

ActivityCo-Chairs Vickie 412-344-4929
Russ 412-331-2073

See
Sierra Clubs Hikes, at end.



ROCK CLIMBING

Important Notice / Rock Climbing

We regret to inform our members that the Pittsburgh Council is no longer able to sponsor any rock climbing activities for insurance reasons. Our liability insurance is provided through the National AYH organization. After lengthy discussions with National’s insurance carrier, we have been notified that a number of activities classified as “high risk” have been excluded from our coverage effective 1 April. While National was successful in negotiating the removal of several activities (such as ice-skating and cross country skiing) from the initial list of exclusions, they were ultimately unsuccessful in being able to have rock climbing covered. While we are disappointed with this exclusion, we have no choice but to stop sponsoring all rock climbing activities. Thank you to all of the volunteers who assisted in the organization and operation of the rock climbing activity over the years. It would not have been possible without you. Discussions are underway with other activities organizations that may be able to sponsor rock climbing activities. For more information, please contact Chuck Jones at charlzjonz@excite.com or (412)766-4036 or Annie Jones at (412) 303-1793. Please call before 10 o'clock at night. http://www.wpfi.org/

While it is unfortunate that we will no longer be able to sponsor rock climbing, we would like to remind both members and non-members of the great activities that we sponsor, and encourage everyone's continued participation.



BICYCLING

IMPROMPTU BICYCLE RIDES EMAIL LIST

Our bicycle email list is up and running. We have been enjoying some good rides. The biggest need now is for people to announce rides.

If you would like to get on our bike email list our address is:
letsbikenow-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

HELMETS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL. YOU RIDE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Glenn Oster continues to ride and report on various trails across the USA. Visit his website at http://www.intellweb.com/trails/oster.htm

UPCOMING SLIDE SHOWS

Rambles For Spring 2008

MARCH (Start at 10:00 A.M.)

- 5 See St. Nicholas Catholic Church murals (and poltergeist?), then walk through Millvale to Grants Restaurant for lunch. Mary Ruth Aull: 412-795-7078.
- 12 Tour East Allegheny from Federal St. with North Side native, Earl McCabe: 412-761-1844. Lunch at a restaurant.
- 19 Hike Plum Creek Park in Oakmont with our resident naturalist, Ed Divers: 412-828-5154. Bag lunch or restaurant.
- 26 Hike Scott Conservancy's Kane Woods with Jane Sorcan: 412-276-5820. Lunch at a restaurant.

APRIL (Start at 10:00 A.M.)

- 2 Tour Hartwood Mansion and Stable (\$3) and/ or walk a trail with Judy and Jim Stark: 412-363-0462. Bag lunch or restaurant.
- 9 Hike some of the new trails in South Park (some hills) with Sue Sebolt: 412-563-6987. Bag lunch.
- 16 Revisit Guyasuta Boy Scout Camp for spring wildflowers with Barbara Campsie: 412-681-8387. Bag lunch or restaurant.
- 23 Take a walk or ride on Panhandle Trail from Walker's Mills (hike or bike) with Mary Pitzer: 412-279-7154. Bag Lunch.
- 30 Visit Braddock's Trail Park and learn about the Park's huge array of spring wildflower on a walk with Bill Lawrence: 412-922-3951. Bag lunch.

MAY (Start at 10:00 A.M.)

- 7 Hike the Harmony trail connector; join the Braille Trail and visit Latodami Nature Center. Naturalist Meg Scanlon will explain the displays at the Center. Lunch at Loafers Bread Co. Marian Crossman: 412-366-3339.
- 14 Visit the Underground RR sites in Downtown. Learn the history of these sites and about Dr. Martin, The Monongahela House and Peck's Oyster House. Mary Ruth Aull: 412-795-7078. Lunch at a restaurant.
- 21 Visit Boyce Park with Joanne Winwood: 412-371-3167. Bag lunch.
- 28 Walk around beautiful Twin Lakes near Greensburg with Martha Raak: 412-802-7266. Bag lunch.

Rambles begin at 10 A.M. (9:30 in summer months) from the parking lot of Phipps Garden Center (Mellon Park) on Shady Ave. Carpooling is encouraged. Please pay driver depending on distance. Bring bag lunch and binoculars! Call trip leader for details, especially if you plan to meet at the trailhead. Or call Connie Black (412-371-1062) or Billie at 412-886-1603(H)- cell 412-889-7048. Trip changes will aslo be noted at hipittsburgh.org



HIKING/BACKPACKING/TRAILS

AMBLE HIKES ARE 4-6 MILES IN INTERESTING LOCATIONS AROUND PITTSBURGH. CONNIE BLACK HAS AGREED TO TAKE CALLS FROM THOSE WISHING TO LEAD AN AMBLE AS WELL AS THOSE WISHING TO GO ON AN AMBLE. CONNIE'S PHONE NUMBER IS 412-371-1062 AND HER EMAIL IS ceblack@libcom.com

ALLEGHENY GROUP - SIERRA CLUB - OUTINGS - March 1 - June 22, 2008

- * Suggested carpool fee: 6 cents/ passenger-mile + a share of tolls.
- * All trips begin and end at the trailhead.
- * (Unless stated, car-miles are one-way from Monroeville.)
- * For more up-to-date listings, visit <http://www.alleghenysc.org/>
- * Hardcopy subscriptions to this list are \$2.50/ year (4 issues). Make check payable to Allegheny Group, Sierra Club and mail to Jason Maruccio, 2421 High Oak Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15220
- * E-mail subscriptions are free. Contact Dianne Ciccarelli at Dianne.ciccarelli@hotmail.com
- * All participants on Sierra Club outings must sign a standard liability waiver form at the trailhead. If you wish to read it well before you are asked to sign the form at the trailhead, go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a hardcopy.

Sat. or Sun. March 1 or 2 - Ski-touring (easy) on Lower Indian Creek Valley Trail. About 8 miles round trip. If snow conditions are not adequate we will hike in the same vicinity. \$8.25 carpool - 56 miles. Call Don Stone, 412-441-2027.

Sun. March 2 - Hike an intermediate-to-difficult 3 hours in McConnell's Mill State Park. Meet in Mellon Park in the lower lot near the Arts Center at 10AM. \$5.00 carpool - 42 miles. Call Ben Brugmans, 412-361-3623.

Sun. March 9 - Hike about 8 miles in Harrison Hills Regional Park. Fast-paced. \$1.50 carpool - 10 miles from Harmarville. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519.

Sun. March 9 - Ski-touring or hiking (7 easy miles) on Indian Creek Trail starting at Champion. \$6.50 carpool - 41 miles. Call John Dern, 412-856-4642.

Sat. March 15 - Bike ride on Montour Trail. Plan on 60 miles for a spring-get-in-shape for non-skiers. We'll meet at 8:AM at Duff Park in Murrysville or 9:15 at the trailhead and be done by mid-afternoon. I don't know where the trailhead will be yet. \$3.00 carpool - 25 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582.

Sun. March 30 -- Hike a moderately strenuous and somewhat exploratory loop hike in Beaver Creek State Park along scenic Little Beaver Creek near Fredericktown. The hike includes sections of the national North Country Trail and a visit to well-preserved canal locks of an historic old canal. \$6.00 carpool - 50 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567.

Sun. March 30 - Do an 8-mile shuttle-hike on Glacier Ridge Trail in Moraine State Park from Rt. 528 near the causeway to the bicycle rental. We will hike down and then up each of the four ridgelines that resulted from erosion and glacial action during the ice age of 10,000 years ago. No leaves on the trees, chilly, maybe muddy. Call Jim at 412.576.0849 for more information and reservations.

Sat. April 5 - Do an easy 4 or 7-mile loop hike near Sarver (Buffalo Creek). We'll do some identification of early spring wildflowers, so bring a wildflower book. Meet at Bob Evans Restaurant in Harmarville on old Rt. 28 at 10 AM. \$2.50 carpool - 20 miles. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154.

Sun. April 6 - Do the first quarter (8.8 miles) of Rachel Carson Trail starting at Harrison Hills Regional Park. This will be a fast-paced, strenuous hike for experienced hikers only. \$1.25 carpool - 25 miles from Harmarville. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519.

Sat. April 12 - Hike an easy 5 miles in the Linn Run area on Laurel Ridge. Meet at the New Stanton Interchange Park-and-Ride Lot at 10: AM or inquire about a Monroeville carpool. Bring lunch, water and shoes for many stream-crossings. Call Dianne Ciccarelli, 724-834-5787 or Bill Kozorra, 412-531-6236.

Sat. April 12 - Visit Casparis Cave and spend about 3 hours in the cave. \$5.75 carpool - 40 miles. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068

Sat.- Sun. April 12-13 - Backpack about 12 miles through varied terrain in Quebec Run Wild Area. Learn about prevention of watershed contamination at the individual level. Depart from Murrysville Park N Ride at 9:AM Saturday; return by 5:PM Sunday. \$11 carpool - 65 miles. Call Patrick Roberts at 412-596-3566.

Sun. April 13 - Hike an intermediate 8.5 miles on the north end of Laurel Highlands Trail from Seward up to the radio tower and return. Most of this route runs along the south rim of Conemaugh Gorge where the Conemaugh River cuts through Laurel Ridge. Views should be great this time of year. The earliest wildflowers should be appearing and we should see remnants of the historic quarrying operations that were once active there. \$6.00 carpool - 51 miles. Call Donna Allen, 412-372-2993.

Sun. April 13 - Do the second quarter of the Rachel Carson Trail. This is a very rugged portion of the trail. This will be a fast-paced, strenuous, conditioning hike for experienced hikers only. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519.

Sun. April 13 - Hike at Moraine State Park - 13-17 miles of tough hiking depending on what people want to do. Meet at Duff Park in Murrysville at 8:AM or the trailhead about 9:30. Plan on being out of the woods by 3:30PM. \$9.25 carpool - 60 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582.

Sun. April 20 - Enjoy an instructive wildflower walk in the Raccoon Creek Wildflower Preserve. Meet at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts at 10 AM or at the Preserve at 11 AM. \$3.50 carpool - 30 miles. Call Ben Brugmans, 412-361-3623.

Sun. April 20 - Do the third quarter of the Rachel Carson Trail. This is a very rugged portion of the trail. This will be a fast-paced, strenuous hike for experienced hikers only. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519.

Sun. April 20 - Hike an intermediate 8 miles on Laurel Highlands Trail from Maple Summit Road to Rt. 653. We'll cross the headwaters of a number of streams, study the early spring flora and fauna of the Cranberry Lake shoreline and learn about the early spring wildflowers on the top of Laurel Ridge. \$9.75 carpool - 68 miles. Meet at Monroeville Middle School. Call John Dern, 412-856-4642.

Sat. April 26 - Long riverside cookout (grill provided) with hiking or canoeing nearby. Some canoes will be provided. All this will be along the Allegheny River near Lock 6 near Clinton. A brief history of the Allegheny River will be provided. Meet at Bob Evans Restaurant in Harmarville on old Rt. 28 at 10 AM. \$1.75 carpool - 15 miles. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154.

Sun. April 27 - Do the fourth quarter (8 miles) of Rachel Carson Trail starting at North Park. This will be a fast-paced, strenuous, conditioning hike for experienced hikers only. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519.

Sun. April 27 - Hike a moderately strenuous and somewhat exploratory loop hike in and above the gorge of the Conemaugh River from Robinson, over Chestnut Ridge and along Packsaddle Gap North, with a fine overlook of the Conemaugh River, crossing (yet another) Roaring Run. \$5.25 carpool—43 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

Sun. April 27 - Visit Laurel Summit of Laurel Ridge for an 8-mile loop hike near the summit area of Laurel Mountain, near US 30 in Forbes State Forest. See beautiful Spruce Run Trail, the Laurel Highlands Trail, the Beam Rocks overlook and Silvermine Trail. Also see the warming hut for cross-country skiers. We will be hiking perhaps the best primitive cross-country ski area in western Pennsylvania. Compare the trails you skied on only a few months ago with their new springtime look. A few leaf buds, cool, maybe muddy. Call Jim at 412.576.0849 for more information and reservations.

Sun. April 27 - Easy 1.5-mile educational 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.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Call John or Kathy Murphy, 412-341-9367, or Bill Lawrence, 412-922-3951.

Sat. or Sun. May 3 or 4 - (depending on weather) Hike an intermediate and exploratory 10 miles in Lower Indian Creek Valley from Rt.381-Mill Run Reservoir to the Youghiogheny River during a good time for wildflowers. Find a 60 ft. rock face above Lower Indian Creek Valley near the Yough River. See what's left of the 1850 ghost town of Hamp-ton. We may see the Hawkins Hollow Big Blue Holes. \$8.25 Carpool - 56 miles. Call Don Stone, 412-441-2027.

Sun. May 4 - Take an easy 4-mile walk in Harrison Hills County Park near Freeport. Enjoy scenic views overlooking the Allegheny River from a high vantage point. Visit the pond in the park and learn about woodland wildflowers near the end of the season. \$1.25 carpool - 10 miles from Harmarville. Call Luc Berger, 412-362-5792.

Sat. May 10 - Hike a moderate 7 miles in Quebec Run Wild Area of Forbes State Forest on Chestnut Ridge. Meet at the New Stanton Inter-change Park-and-Ride Lot at 10:AM or inquire about a Monroeville car-pool. Bring lunch, water and money for a stop at Christian Clay Winery. Call Dianne Ciccarelli, 724-834-5787 or Bill Kozorra, 412-531-6236.

Sat. May 10 - Bike from Meyersdale to Frostburg (32 miles round-trip). Spectacular views if you haven't done it. Meet at Duff Park at 8:AM. Can't predict when we'll be back because of the driving distance. \$11 carpool - 72 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582.

Sat. May 17 - Flat 10-mile loop hike from Connellsville to Dawson. Return via Yough River (bike) Trail. There will be some remnants of old beehive coke ovens along the trail so we'll learn about the early days of iron making in this region. Meet at 10 AM at Monroeville Middle School at 10 AM. \$5.75 carpool - 40 miles. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154.

Sat. May 17 - Visit Bear Cave on Chestnut Ridge near Blairsville. Spend about 3 hours in the cave. \$4.25 carpool - 35 miles. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068.

Sat.-Sun. May 17-18 - Backpacking in the Quebec Run Wild Area of Forbes State Forest on Chestnut Ridge. Open to first-time backpackers. Learn the basics of primitive camping and how to navigate through the forest. Participants will become eligible to attend future trips requiring prior backpacking experience. Meet at Gateway Middle School (Monroeville) at 7:45 AM and depart by 8AM. Return by around 7:PM Sunday. \$8.75 carpool—65 miles. Call Adam Crandell, 412-867-0813.

Sun. May 18 - Hike an intermediate 9 miles on Laurel Highlands Trail from Rt. 653 north past Lake Tahoe to Seven Springs. This is the high-est section of the 70-mile trail so we will see how this affects the late spring flora and fauna. Meet at Gateway Middle School. \$8.75 carpool - 60 miles. Call John Dern, 412-856-4642.

Sun. May 18 - Hike a moderately strenuous and somewhat exploratory loop hike in the scenic Coopers Rock area. We'll be passing Ravens Rock on a promontory with view both up and down Cheat River Can-yon, Coopers Rock with its views of the gorge that Cheat River cuts through Chestnut Ridge and ponder the possible geological factors that might explain how a river could cut across a ridgeline. Then we will walk the narrow, deep crevices of Rock City. We'll also visit historic Henry Clay Iron Furnace and figure out the chemistry of this ancient form of iron-making. \$10.75 carpool - 83 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567.

Sat.- Mon. May 24-26 - Three-day intermediate backpacking trip in Monongahela National Forest in northern Dolly Sods, the higher, more open, more scenic, less visited part of Dolly Sods - Raven Ridge, Cabin Mountain, and the Forks - 15 total miles of backpacking starting from Bear Rocks. Plenty of time for exploring. Prior backpacking experience required. You will find the area's geology, plant life and history fascinating. Limit: 10. \$23 carpool - 150 miles. Call Fred Kissell, 412-487-1155.

Sun. May 25 - Hike an intermediate 9 miles on Laurel Highlands Trail from Rt. 653 north past Lake Tahoe to Seven Springs. This is the high-est section of the 70-mile trail so we will see how this affects the late spring flora and fauna. Meet at Gateway Middle School. \$8.75 carpool - 60 miles. Call John Dern, 412-856-4642.

Sat. May 31 - Visit Roaring Run for an 8-mile loop hike starting on Fire Tower Road on the east side of Roaring Run Natural Area. See the memorial to the children killed in a sleigh accident on the way home from church at Christmas 111 years ago. Visit historic old Nedrow Cemetery and possibly the remains of a homestead of one of the early settlers of the area. Leaves are out but, at this altitude near the top of Laurel Ridge, they won't yet be full. Weather is typically comfortable. Call Jim at 412.576.0849 for more information and reservations.

Sat. June 7 - Hike an easy 7-mile loop in the Schenley-Freeport Area near Lock 5 on the Allegheny River. Meet at 10 AM at Bob Evans Res-taurant in Harmarville on old Rt. 28. \$3 carpool - 25 miles. Call Ed Di-vers, 412-828-5154.

Sun. June 8 - Hike an intermediate but very hilly 11.5 miles of Laurel Highlands Trail from Maple Summit Road to Ohiopyle State Park. Lots of views of the canyon of Youghiogheny River as it cuts through Laurel Ridge. We'll try to figure out how a river can cut across a ridge. Meet at Monroeville Middle School. \$9.25 carpool - 65 miles. Call John Dern, 412-856-4642.

Fri. - Sun. June 13-15 - Backpacking in the Flatrock- and Roaring Plains area of Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia. Contin-ued instruction on techniques for navigating through mountain forests. Intermediate/ strenuous. Prior backpacking experience required. Meet at Gateway Middle School (Monroeville) on Friday at 7:45 AM. Depart by 8:AM. Return on Sunday by about 7:PM. \$22 carpool - 150 miles. Call Adam Crandell, 412-867-0813.

Sun. June 15 - Hike on the inner loop of John P. Saylor Trail. Those who feel friskier can hike both loops for a distance of 18 miles. The in-ner loop is about 12 miles of fairly flat trail. Meet at Duff Park at 8:AM. We should be back to the cars by 3:30PM. \$10 carpool - 83 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582.

Sun. June 15 - Hike a moderately strenuous and somewhat exploratory shuttle hike on Chestnut Ridge, from South Connellsville south to Mill Run Reservoir, passing over Chestnut Ridge, past Casparis Cave and the extensive underground limestone quarries nearby (both gated and locked to protect the bat habitats). Then we drop down to Indian Creek that drains the west slopes of Laurel Ridge. \$6.75 carpool - 50 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567.

Sat.-Sun. June 21-22 - Moderate two-day 11-mile backpack trip in Ot-ter Creek Wilderness in northern Monongahela National Forest -- water-falls, springs, rapids. \$21 carpool - 140 miles. Call Fred Kissell, 412-487-1155.

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NOTES: Ask the leader for names and phone numbers of trippers for you to arrange a car pool. Reserve at least 36 hours in advance. If you leave your phone number on the leader's answering machine, give it slowly and clearly. Notify leader to cancel your reservation. Bring lunch, rain gear, water, first-aid kit, small flashlight and extra clothes for changes in weather. If you have a cell phone, bring it along. Cell phones have saved the day on several trips when accidents have required evacuation of trippers. Sierra Clubbers planning to lead outings during 6/1/08 - 9/15/08 should contact Bruce Sundquist at 724-327-8737 or bsundquist1@alltel.net by 5/1/08.

Other Outdoors Clubs

Butler Outdoors Club

BOC runs the same sorts of trips as Allegheny Group. Contact Dave Adams, 724-453-1685 DaveEAdams@aol.com or Bob Tait, 724-287-3382 BobTait@zbzoom.net or visit <http://www.butleroutdoorclub.com> Some trips by BOC and North Country Trails Assn. (NCTA) are listed below.

WISSAHICKON NATURE CLUB: If you enjoy nature lore, look into the meetings and field trips of Wissahickon Nature Club. They meet every other Thursday at 7 PM (except June-August) at Fern Hollow Nature Center, 1901 Glen Mitchell Road, Sewickley, PA 15143 (412)741-6136 <http://www.fernhollownaturecenter.org> Contact Chuck Tague, 412-488-8760 or 432 Olympia Road, Pittsburgh 15219

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania

BSWP offers field trips in spring, summer and fall to look at and learn about the enormous variety of plant life that western Pa. offers. Everyone is welcome on field trips; amateurs, professionals, non-members, and anyone who is curious about the natural world. Trips are often at a leisurely pace, but may require hiking and traveling through wet/muddy areas. For information, e-mail your address for sample newsletter and membership information to mousemapper@verizon.net, or call Loree at 724-872-5232.

WPW (Western Pennsylvania Wheelmen) Bicycle Club

Home Page: <http://wpwbikeclub.org> Ride Hotline: 412-422-2234 Various length and difficulty rides scheduled each weekend and some during the week. Monthly meeting usually the 2nd Monday at 8pm at the Frick Environmental center on Beechwood Blvd in Squirrel Hill. See home page for details.

Moraine Sailing Club

MSC offers sailing opportunities for new and experienced sailors at Lake Arthur in Moraine State Park. They have an active education program for all ages, numerous sailing related social events, Day Sailing at Lake Arthur, and a very active sailboat racing program. For more information see the MSC Web Page at www.morainesailingclub.org or contact Chris Neuwirth 412-441-5590, email to: cmn@andrew.cmu.edu

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA FIELD INSTITUTE -- TRIPS

For information on WPFI events, contact Sean Brady sbrady@wpfi.org 412-255-0564 or visit <http://www.wpfi.org/> All events open to the public. Fridays, Noon-12:50 PM Nature Walks starting in Market Square, Downtown Pittsburgh, Cost: Free

Outside Adventure Learning of Western Pennsylvania

Outside Adventures 2002 Paddling Schedule
Call 724-230-0237 or 412-968-0310 for information or to sign up for any event.
www.outsideadventures.org or www.outsideadventures@Yahoo.com
More outings continuously offered. Call for Updates: 724-230-0237 or 412-968-0310.
Outside Adventures Sea-Kayaking Program "Sea-Kayaking Taught From Scratch"
Outside Adventure Learning of Western Pa. is a non-profit educational organization committed to introducing individuals to safe and enjoyable recreational outdoor pursuits. The sea-kayaking program specializes in teaching all levels of sea-kayaking skills and organizing trips from our evening introductory classes for new paddlers up to advanced expedition tours. Outside Adventures welcomes participation from individuals, families, youth organizations and outings clubs. Sea-kayaks, or touring kayaks are versatile, fun, human-powered watercraft that enables us to do all these things and more. They are sleek and fast, more efficient than canoes, more comfortable and stable than whitewater kayaks, have hatches to swallow loads of gear, and steerable rudders that enable even beginners to control the boat with ease.



CANOEING

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



SAILING

The AYH no longer owns its own sailboats or runs trips but Bob Zavos will help coordinate sailing interests with other area organizations. The Moraine Sailing Club (MSC) is the largest local sailing group. Most activities are on Lake Arthur in Moraine State Park which is about 35 miles North of Pittsburgh. They offer education, social events and run a youth summer sail camp. They also have a large racing program and sponsor a Community Sailing Program for people without their own sailboats. They help organize/publicize Cruising Trips, but do not officially sponsor them. More information is on their website at www.morainesailingclub.org. Big boat sailors may want to check out the Erie Yacht Club: www.erieyachtclub.org or the Erie Bayfront Center for Marine studies: www.goerie.com/bcms

Moraine Preservations Fund (MPF), is looking for volunteers to help with the 50 passenger pontoon boat which they run on Lake Arthur in the Summer. It is used for scientific hands-on field trips for students and summer and fall tours for the public. They are looking for people interested in becoming volunteer mates and captains. You will need to have a boater's safety class, which you may already have taken or is easily available locally. To be a mate you must be 16 and 18 to be a captain. The boat training is given by experienced MPF captains, and you will be tested and licensed by the Fish and Boat Commission. The times and amount of time you would volunteer is completely by your choice. Even limited help is appreciated. If you have questions or would like to sign up, please contact Ruth Roperti at 724 843 7046, or email: missionmorain@zoominternet.net

The 6th annual **Lake Arthur Regatta is scheduled for August 14 & 15**. This is one of the largest water and boating related activities in the area. Mark your calendars and look for more information later in the season on the MSC Website or the Butler County site: www.visit-butler-county-pennsylvania-pa.com/

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

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

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

Pennsylvania State Parks
Reservations & Information

Call Toll Free
1-888-PA-PARKS

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

Rachel Carson Trail website: www.rachelcarsontrail.org; **this website has information about the Rachel Carson Trail, the Baker Trail, and the Rachel Carson Trail Challenge.**
Baker Trail website: www.geocities.com/bakertrailpa; **this website has some abbreviated information concerning the Baker Trail.**
Hostelling International website: <http://trfn.clpgh.org/ayh/>; **general information about the BT/RCT sponsor organization.**
Keystone Trails Association: <http://www.kta-hike.org/>; **has information about all Pennsylvania hiking trails**
“Guide to the Rachel Carson Trail”; this is a trail guide, with topographic maps, and some interpretive information about the 34-mile long trail, available from HI-Pittsburgh for under \$10, including postage and handling. Call 412-431-4910 to order.
“Baker Trail Guide Book”; a trail guide with topographic maps, and interpretive information about the 141-mile long Baker Trail. Available from HI-Pittsburgh for under \$10, including postage and handling. Call 412-431-4910 to order.

*******HIKER ALERTS*******Current hiker alerts for both the Rachel Carson Trail and the Baker Trail may be found at www.rachelcarsontrail.com.

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