



Golden Triangle

American Youth Hostels, Pittsburgh Council

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

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 9

NOVEMBER 2000



Hostelling - International Pittsburgh PA



Now Open

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



Be Sure To Visit:

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

ANNUAL MEETING and ELECTIONS

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

George Schmidt, Secretary

Election Results

(Continued on page 10)

WHAT IS HOSTELLING?

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

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

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

(Continued on page 11)

INSIDE

Election Results: Page 1
What is Hostelling?: Page 1
Activity Chairs: Page 2
Slide Shows: Page 2
Hostel Happenings: Page 3
AYH Activities with Ben: Page 4
Rambles: Page 4
Canoeing: Page 4
Sea-Kayaking: Page 4
Rock Climbing: Page 4
Sailing: Page 4
Bicycling: Page 4
Holiday Dinner: Page 4
Trip Report by Alex Rzewski: Page 5
Hiking/Backpacking/Trails: Page 6
Riding Rail Trails by Glenn Oster: Page 7
Marketing Specialist Wanted: Page 9
History of Hostelling: Page 10
Council Travel and Book Store: Back Cover

....And MORE!!!

NEW 2000 MEMBER DISCOUNTS

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

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

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

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

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

HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL

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

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(Continued on page 3)



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

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Oops...

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

Mail regarding the Newsletter should be addressed to:

American Youth Hostels
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830 Warrington Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Office: (412) 431-4910
or

HI-Pgh on the information super Highway. Point your browser to :
http://trfn.clpgh.org/ayh/
or you can email us at
ayh@trfn.clpgh.org



PITTSBURGH COUNCIL
ACTIVITY CHAIRS

Chairman of the Activities Committee
Ben Brugmans.....361-3623
Canoeing
Paul Henry 724-347-3282
Brian McBane..... 724-443-8972
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Vacant
Cycling
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Family Activities
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Hiking/Backpacking
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Kayaking
Ray Yutzy 341-5682
Midweek Rambles
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Rafting
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Chuck Jones.....242-6172
Sailing
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Jim Richie 828-0210
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Steve Poprocky 731-2429



HOSTELLING
INTERNATIONAL

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

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

NOTICE

Please note the deadlines for future issues of the GOLDEN TRIANGLE

December/January ISSUE
All copy, November 2
Binding/Mailing, November 16

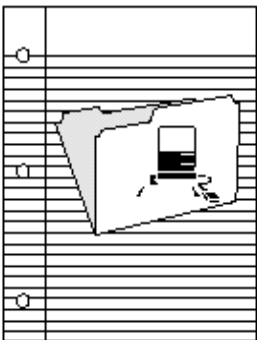
If your work is on computer,
Please contact Joel Platt at
golden_triangle@bigfoot.com

Moving?

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

About AYH

American Youth Hostels is a non-profit organization which promotes international understanding, educational and recreational travel, good citizenship and an appreciation of America. AYH does this by bringing travelers of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities together in hostels and by providing low-cost travel programs. AYH is the US affiliate of Hostelling International (HI), (formerly named International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF), which coordinates more than 5,400 hostels worldwide- the largest network of accommodations in the world.



Submissions Policy:
Golden Triangle

Classified Ads:

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

Trips

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

Articles

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

General rules for submission

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

Editors Golden Rule

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

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

Number 1 issue ->February / March: **Number 2** issue ->April: **Number 3** issue ->May:
Number 4 issue ->June: **Number 5** issue ->July: **Number 6** issue ->Aug.
Number 7 issue ->Sept: **Number 8** issue ->Oct: **Number 9** issue ->Nov:
and **Number 10** issue ->December

Editor...

UPCOMING SLIDE SHOWS

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

November 9: Vickie Gotaskie, "Sea Kayaking At Mignon Island". They paddle at the mouth of the Saint Lawrence Seaway in northern Quebec, camp on beautiful sand stone islands.

November 16: Cake and apple pie party.

November 23: Closed for Thanksgiving Day.

November 30: We show the 16 mm film "Free Climb: The Northwest Face Of Half Dome". Attempt by Ericson and Higbee to free-climb the 2000-foot face in Yosemite Valley. Their wives present their side of the story. Narrated by Robert Redford.

December 7: Mary Pitzer, "Hiking In Canadian Rockies". See Jasper, Banff, Lake Louise, Yaho National Park.

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

Pittsburgh Council Hostels

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Ohiopyle, PA 15470
(724) 329-4476

HIOhiopyle@stargate.net

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Pittsburgh, PA 15210

(412) 431-1267
hipgh@sgi.net



HOSTEL HAPPENINGS

Welcome to the November issue of Hostel Happenings! We have lots going on at the hostel these days! First of all, I'd like to introduce to you our new Volunteer Coordinator, Emily McMahon. She had filled a much needed position at the hostel, and is already doing a wonderful job! She has given the managers of the hostel a breath of fresh air. If you are interested in Volunteer Opportunities, please fill out the form at the end of this email.

Last night we celebrated Oktoberfest in our kitchen! The food was excellent! We had Weiner Schnitzel (Breaded Veal), a Wurst Platter (Sausages) Potato Dumplings, Red Cabbage and Apples, Sauerkraut, Hot Apple Cider, and a sausage and sauerkraut casserole. Thank You to all who attended this event, we feel it was one of our more successful events so far!

Our cultural dinner next month is Japan! It will be held on Thursday, November 2 at 6pm. The cost is \$4, and is due on October 31st. Call (412) 431 1267 for more information.

On Thursday, December 5th at 6pm a Mexico dinner will be held. Reserve your spot by sending \$4 to 830 E Warrington Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15210. Payment must be received by December 3rd.

Thinking of Planning a Trip? Why not come to a World Travel 101 workshop! We have plenty coming up, so be sure to mark them on your calendar! World Travel 101 is a series of budget travel workshops designed to offer practical advice to the budget, independent traveler. We cover topics like planning an itinerary, transportation, accommodations, Money, important documents, packing for travel, and safety. Typically a slide show accompanies the presentation. All World Travel 101 workshops are offered free of charge.

Tuesday, October 10 7pm "Women Traveling Solo"
Thursday, October 19 7pm "Basics"
Tuesday, November 7th 7pm "Canada on a Budget"
Thursday, November 16th 7pm "Basics"
Saturday, November 18th 2pm "Western Europe"

Please RSVP for these workshops 2 days prior to the event by calling (412) 431-1267. All workshops will be held at 830 E Warrington Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15210 in the Hostel Conference Room.

Looking for Interesting Food and Conversation? Come to our POTLUCK DINNERS! Just bring a dish and friend with a dish! No need to RSVP!

Wednesday, October 25th 6:30 pm
Wednesday, November 29th 6:30 pm

Need some inspiration to Travel?
Travel Adventures will surely motivate you to get started on planning your trip! On the 2nd Monday of each month a volunteer will present highlights of a place they have visited.

Monday, November 13th 6pm "Madagascar"
Experience the sights, sounds, and tastes of Madagascar, the Red Island!

Want to Volunteer? Just fill out the following and return it to us!

YES, I'M INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING WITH
THE PITTSBURGH COUNCIL OF HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL

NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____

CITY/STATE/ZIP_____

PHONE: () _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS_____

I AM INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR:

- _ CULTURAL/POTLUCK DINNERS
- _ SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES (TRAVEL ADVENTURES, WORLD TRAVEL 101, HOSTEL AMBASSADOR, ETC.)
- _ SPECIAL EVENTS
- _ CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING
- _ DISTRIBUTING LITERATURE AND NEWSLETTERS
- _ ANYTHING - I'D JUST LOVE TO HELP OUT!

I have the following skills that might be useful:_____

I can make a time commitment of
:_____

Please return this form to: Hostelling International – Pittsburgh
830 East Warrington Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15210
Phone: (412) 431-4910
Fax: (412) 431-2625
Email: hipgh@sgi.net

OHIOPYLE HOSTEL NEEDS HELP

By George Schmidt, HI-P Facilities Committee

The Ohiopyle Hostel needs some help. While we have been obsessing with getting the Pittsburgh Hostel up and running, the Ohiopyle Hostel has been neglected. Manager Jessica Carpenter and the staff have made Pittsburgh one of the best hostels in the U.S.A. We are determined to bring the Ohiopyle Hostel up to the same standards. The Ohiopyle Hostel is a large house that sleeps 23 people in two dorms and two private rooms. It is located in Ohiopyle State Park next to the Ferncliff National Natural Area. It is an ideal setting for whitewater rafting, bicyclist, hikers, backpackers and tourists.

A number of years ago we had a crew of volunteers who regularly visited the hostel to help with cleaning and maintenance. We would like to gather a new team to support Ohiopyle again. If you are interested in helping, phone George Schmidt at 412-521-1538.

One of the most important things we need is tools. Tools for yard and building maintenance. Everything from tree saws to hacksaws, from hammers to sledges. It's kind of silly to invite people to work at the hostel and not have any tools for them. If you have some extra tools lying around you don't need and would like to donate them to the Ohiopyle Hostel contact George Schmidt again at 412-521-1538.

(Continued from page 1)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kaya- 10% off your bill. Not valid with any order specials, discounts, or promotions. 2000 Smallman Street; phone:(412)261-6565; email: kaya1@bigburrito.com; website:www.bigburrito.com

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

Mad Mex (NORTH HILLS)- 10% off your bill, not valid with any other specials, discounts, or promotions; 7905 McKnight Road / phone: (412) 366-5656; email: madmex-nh@madmex.com; website: www.bigburrito.com
Mad Mex (OAKLAND)- 10 % OFF your bill, not valid with any other specials, discounts, or promotions; 370 Atwood Street / phone: (412) 681-5656; email: madmex-oak@madmex.com; website: www.bigburrito.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AYH ACTIVITIES WITH BEN

A few weeks ago, I went to a Keystone Trails Association weekend. The KTA hosts two weekend meetings a year, as well as, of course, many trail maintenance sessions and some new trail construction in Pennsylvania.

I must say, the turnout was statewide and most impressive. Held at Camp Allegheny, a little north of Somerset, the dayhikes were planned by members of our Pittsburgh AYH. The evening program was excellent, the turnout large, enthusiastic and well planned. Thanks to Jim Ritchie's efforts, a slide show of some daring treks and adventures was presented by a writer of Backpacker Magazine. Slides of the Canadian Arctic, Alaska and Montana were awesome, speaking of daring adventure and stamina.

The KTA has provided more than 45000 hours of volunteer time to maintain trails in Pennsylvania last year. They lobby Harrisburg on issues relating to trails.

The most amazing part of Saturday evening was the roll call of member clubs. The number of hiking, spelunking, outdoor clubs in Pennsylvania numbers in the dozens. Most Pa cities, colleges, major trails were represented by a few to a half dozen members, who had come from Philadelphia to Erie, from The Appalachian Trail Conference to small college out-ing clubs. In all a most moving expression of solidarity to celebrate hiking and the enjoyment of the outdoors.

Ben

Dec 14 AYH Holiday Party

A holiday dinner at the Allentown Hostel prepared by Ben and Jessica.

Homemade manicotti, salad, apple cider and apple pie. Open house at 6:00, dinner starting at 6:30. No reservations necessary. A donation for the Ohiopyle Hostel is optional.

Rambles For Winter 2000

- October
- Oct 25

Riverside ramble from Sharpsburg to Millvale. Ed Divers. 828-5154
- November
- Nov 1

Linn Run State Park. Bag lunch. \$3.00 trip. Earl McCabe. 761-1844
- Nov 8

Ramble along the Allegheny River from Barking to Lock#3. Ed Divers 828-5154
- Nov 15

Coke oven walk from Adelaide (near Connelsville) to Dawson. Lunch at Connelsville restaurant. \$3.00 trip. Alex Federowicz. 421-0922
- Nov 22

Thanksgiving time. No ramble.
- Nov 29

Seldom Seen. Don Hoecker. 243-8298
- December
- Dec 6

Homestead ramble. Dick Fisher. 421-9215
- Dec 13

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

Make RESERVATIONS with Alex and Margaret if you plan to attend their holiday gathering at the end of next week’s ramble. 421-5219
- Dec 20

Walk from Atrs Center to home of Alex Federowicz and Margaret Laske. Bring bag lunch, but save tummy room for holiday goodies and drinks. Please give advance notice if you are coming. 421-5219
- Dec 27

No ramble. Enjoy holidays.

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

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



Activity Co-chairs:

Paul Henry (724) 347-3282
Brian McBane (724) 443-8972

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

October 27-29

Joyce Appel (724) 526-5407

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

Shelley C. Nilson shelleycn@yahoo.com



BICYCLING

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

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

HELMETS ARE REQUIRED!



SAILING

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

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



SEA-KAYAKING

Activity Co-Chairs:

Vickie Gotaski 412-344-4929

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



ROCK CLIMBING

Rock Out with AYH!

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

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

Trip report Sept 30 and Oct 1, by Alexis Rzewski

There was a caving trip scheduled for Saturday Sept 30, but the trip leader, Norm Snyder, did not receive any phone calls, and thus decided to cancel it.

The trip was listed in two popular weekly papers in the "Outdoors" column, and it was unusual that it did not grab the people's attention. Instead, Norm proposed a mountain biking trip, and as usual, we met at 10 AM on Saturday. Participating were myself and Steve, who provided two bicycles and his Ford truck vehicle. The location targeted for exploration is a Norm Snyder favorite: the Chestnut Ridge. An area rich in caves, with Bear Cave, Lemon Hole, Coon Cave, Norm seems to gravitate towards that spot on the planet's surface more than any other place. We parked the truck next to a used book store just one mile south of Hillside, and about 5 miles north of Derry. I was wearing shorts and a T-shirt. Norm advised me to wear long pants and long sleeve shirts. A small forest road can be found that leads into the woods that slowly climbs up the ridge. While Steve seemed intended on riding clearly marked roads, Norm instead would override him by selecting instead the lesser worn path. If it had overgrowth, side branches protruding, and and air of mysteriousness, it would grab Norm's curiosity. One of these path, after climbing quite some ways, abruptly ended in the middle of the woods. Convinced that other roads would exist not too far behind the curtain of woodland surrounding us, Norm and Steve proceeded to drag, pull, push, and carry the bicycles through the sometimes thick underbrush of rhododendrons, thorny plants, and rocky outcroppings. After about 1000 feet of jungle warfare, I proposed leaving the bicycles in one location, and scouting ahead and sideways for several thousand feet to actually verify that indeed a forest road or trail existed. Both Norm and Steve resisted such idea and instead pressed to push ahead. "In Pennsylvania, it is very likely to end up finding a road", one said. My answer to that was "The same can be said in Siberia, but is it worth the trouble?". After leaving a brightly colored garment high above on a tree branch (useful to reference the bicycle stash), we set off on a perimeter to scout the area. We then returned to the spot where we left the bicycles without having found a forest road. The mountain bicycle trip now became a bushwhacking hiking trip. I said to return to the dead-end road we left behind by a 1000 feet, a distance we were guaranteed before traveling on a road again. Steve again resisted and instead really wanted to progress forward in the thick underbrush with the bicycles. My argument was that if the intention was hiking in the woods, don't do it with a Huffy bicycle.

"Do you take your bicycle when caving? Do you take your bicycle when swimming?" The argument was successful, and we returned the way we came from, and sure enough, found again the forest road we left. Riding back to the fork, we rode again on the well marked and wide road that Steve initially wanted to take before being overridden by Norm, and Steve seemed somewhat vindicated. We took that wide road. Large chunks of crushed rock seemed to have been trucked in to provide pavement. After about half a mile, that road too ended nowhere. The Explorers of The Chestnut Ridge were at a loss. We walked back the half a mile (we couldn't ride because of the large gravel rocky chunks). The bicycle trip now accounted for 25% bicycle ridership and 75% walking. We took a side forest road. The cushy topsoil, sometimes covered with autumnal colorful leaves, was finally an inviting rideable path. We progressed several miles, sometimes negotiating creeks, and rocky outcroppings. We finally crested a ridge with a wide forest road that had several trucks parked on its side, and ATV tire marks. Norm wanted to locate a road that lead to Bear Cave. He thought he found it, but it dead-ended. He then abandoned his bicycle and skidded into he bushes.

After ten minutes we heard his voice behind us, opposite the direction where he went initially. He couldn't find it. We traveled back to the wide forest road, and then took a side road with the intention of returning to our vehicle. That road also dead-ended. Steve was upset because, with only one hour left of daylight, he was lulled in the belief that Norm guaranteed that *that* side road was the sure path back to the truck. At this point, Norm calibrated his choices to a sure-shot return trail, and traveling back again on the wide forest road, we road on a steep trail that lead to a creek bed. Carrying the bicycles and walking the creek bed for 200 feet, we located the trail again, which finally lead to the Hillside reservoir, and Bear Cave parking lot. With no lights and little daylight left, we rode on paved road for two miles back to the truck. At the end of the trip, I understood why the advice on wearing long pants and long sleeve shirts. It was an exploratory trip in sometimes thick underbrush, hiking on creek beds, using multiple tools such as a bicycle (25% of the time) and feet (75% of the time), all camouflaged under the advertised billing of a standard mountain biking trip. Actually, I should have worn by hiking boots instead of bicycle sneakers. Too bad we ran out of time, otherwise I am convinced Norm would have led us into a side trip into Bear Cave (bicycles optional - ehi! that's an idea: "Speleo-Biking" - yeah, lets do it!). And lets add a canoe trip to it too, with a bicycle rack in the middle between the paddlers.

The next day at Moraine State Park, there was a commercial sports event called Hi-Tec Adventure Series (www.mesp.com) in which teams of three cover kayaking, mountain biking, and trail running events starting at 8 AM and ending between 11 and 1 PM. The kayak event was 2 miles, bicycle 12 miles, and trail running two miles once at the beginning and then again at the end.

Between different stages of the event, there were a series of obstacle trials,

such as rolling a tractor tire, constructing a human ladder, wire balance, and climbing over tree logs. The participants paid \$260, and came from all locations in the nation. Several trailer trucks were parked to carry all the equipment, staff members had microphones and walkie talkies, and a non-stop host was reporting on the different moments of the race. The equipment used was top-of-the-line. Bicycles had front shocks (unlike the one we rode the day before). Clothing was of famous sportswear with occasional corporate sponsorship logo (unlike the raggedy and semi-thorn bushman clothing we were wearing yesterday). The trail run was in a clearly marked path with flags, arrows and signs (unlike the trails we walked the day before). The participants had all those cool sunglass frames, dot-commer hairdo, miscellaneously gadgetry wrapped around their wrists, and hydration CamelBak (unlike our raggedy look the day before).

The biking event was on a clean, obstacle-free, wide road on which the dot-commers were zipping by at mega-speed. (Unlike us dragging those heavy Huffy bikes through the woods). Cost per participant: \$260 (Unlike us, \$4.50 gas pool money the day before). In the Masters category, the combined ages of the three participants must be greater than 120 (With Norm at 61, Steve at 52, and myself at 37, we made 150). I think we should seek sponsorship for winning the Masters, and add an event to the Adventure series: bushwhacking in the thick thorny woods with a mountain bike.

In a way, the events in those two days were diametrically opposite to each other. While the Adventure Series was carefully planned and scripted, providing no surprises, the Norm Snyder trip provided enough of uncertainty to allow some unpredictability to seepage in. "That's the way the explorers did it", Norm once said in an earlier trip.

FREE NORTH CENTRAL WEST VIRGINA RAIL TRAIL MAPS

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

This map includes the following trails in Monongalia, Preston and Marion counties:

- Mon River Trail - North and South / Caperton Trail
- Deckers Creek Trail
- Cheat Haven Trail
- MCTrail
- West Fork River Trail

This full color map is available at no charge from:

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

REMINDER TO TRIP LEADERS

All trips and equipment usage must be approved by the appropriate activity chair or co-chair. Trip reports and fees should be turned in by the end of each month at either the AYH Activities Building or AYH Office or mailed to Pittsburgh Council, 830 Warrington Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15210

AYH Sheet Sleeping Sack
DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT ONE!

Required in all youth hostels, the sleeping sack serves as your top & bottom sheets, with a built-in pillowcase. Regular sleeping bags are not allowed at hostels due to public health regulations. Our nylon sleep sack is especially light, compact, and dries extremely quickly (handy on trips). The cotton/polyester sleep sack is a little heavier and bulkier, but feels just like your bedsheets. Order one today! See the order form on the back page for prices.



HIKING/BACKPACKING/TRAILS

November 5 Sunday Ben Brugmans 412-361-362
Ryerson Station State Park. An easy 5 mile hike overlooking the lake and seeing a magnificent 300 year old oak tree, a meadow flood plain and the north fork of the Dunkard fork of the Wheeling Creek. Bring a lunch. 80 mileseach way; \$8.00 for your driver if carpooling. Meet at Mellon Park;10;00 A.M.

November 12 Sunday Lorraine Johnson 724-325-8403
Deer Lakes Park -A 4 mile hike on old road tops and thick wooded trails. You will marvel at the rolling hills and scenery. Bring a lunch to enjoy at one of the lakes. 50 miles rt, \$3 for your driver if you carpool. Meet 10:00 A.M. at Mellon Park.

November 26 Sunday Lorraine Johnson 724-325-8403
North Park Lake- A nice walk off the turkey dinner hike.5 miles; bring a lunch. 40 miles rt \$2.50 for your driver if you carpool.Meet at 10:00 A.M. at Mellon Park

Trips led by A.J. Stones:
Oct. 27th Leave Pittsburgh Stay at Va. Youth Hostel.
Oct. 28th & 29th. Overnight Backpacking on Appliation Trail 20 miles Garvery Ferry Youth Hostel to Bears Rock Youth Hostel

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

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

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

Sat.Oct.28 Caving, intermediate, in Coon Cave on Chestnut Ridge. \$3.50 carpool-35 miles. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068
Sun.Oct.29 Hike 11+ miles in the Linn Run Area and Laurel Ridge south of US30. Exploratory--look for a seldom-seen rock formation. \$6.25 carpool-59 miles. Call Don Stone, 412-441-2027
Sun.Oct.29 Leisurely 5-mile walk in Duff Park near Murrysville. Call Nick Broskovich 724-863-6707
Sat.-Sun.Nov.4-5 Backpacking on Laurel Highlands Trail--one of a series of trips to cover the entire 70 miles of the LHHT. Call Harold Kotchig, 412-341-1196
Sun.Nov.5 Hike 8-9 miles on Little Run Trail in the Mountain Streams area on Laurel Ridge. Expect numerous stream crossings. \$5.25 carpool-45 miles. Call Barbara Tillman, 724-265-5818
Sat.Nov.11 Bagdad loop hike--an easy 7 miles near Freeport. Leave Harmarville Ames lot at 10AM. \$1.50 carpool-15 miles. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154
Sat.Nov.11 Hike, exploratory, off-trail, somewhere on Chestnut Ridge. Call Steve Tubbs, 412-279-4866
Sat.Nov.18 Hike, exploratory, along Raccoon Creek west of Pittsburgh. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068
Sun.Nov.19 Hike, strenuous and exploratory, in Ohiopyle gamelands on north rim of Youghiogheny Valley. Includes rock formations and overlooks on Laurel Ridge and the scenic valley of Drake Run. \$7.25 carpool-65 miles. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567
Sat.Nov.25 Hike a moderate 8.5 miles on Lake Arthur Loop Trail in eastern Moraine State Park. \$3.00 carpool-30 miles from Cranberry Mall. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519
Sat.-Sun.Dec.2-3 Backpacking on Laurel Highlands Trail (weather permitting)--one of a series of trips to cover the entire 70 miles of the LHHT. Call Harold Kotchig, 412-341-1196
Sun.Dec. 3 Schenley loop hike--an easy 7 miles near Freeport. Leave Harmarville Ames lot at 10AM. \$1.50 carpool-15 miles. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154
Sat.Dec. 9 Hike, exploratory and off-trail, somewhere on Laurel Ridge. Call Steve Tubbs, 412-279-4866
Sun.Dec.10 Hike, strenuous and exploratory, in Hillman Gamelands 432 near Florence. On exotic and disorienting terrain. Visit Valley of Brush Creek, model airplane facility, Five Points. \$2.00 carpool-19 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

NOTES: Ask leader for names & phone numbers of trippers for you to arrange a car pool. Reserve at least 36 hours in advance. 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; they have saved the day on several trips when accidents have required evacuation of injured trippers.

Official Rachel Carson/Baker Trail Website
is now live; the URL is
<http://members.xoom.com/rachelbaker>.

Also, I discovered the following website, by accident; you may (or may not) enjoy it. I thought it was quite interesting.

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

PRESERVING NATURE’S HERITAGE 33RD BIENNIAL APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONFERENCE JULY 13-20, 2001 AT SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY

The 33rd Biennial Meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference will be held at Shippensburg University, Pennsylvania from July 13 to 20, 2001. This is the fifth time that Pennsylvania has been host to a biennial A.T. conference and the second time at Shippensburg University.

Shippensburg University is located in the Cumberland Valley of south-central Pennsylvania, overlooking the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. The campus is situated on 200 acres of rolling land and is accessible to hiking on the Appalachian Trail. The area is rich with history, with Gettysburg, and the state capitol close by. You get a sense of history just traveling through town and noting the many historical markers and the horse and buggies that carry local Amish farmers to town.

Hiking and Backpacking trips of various challenges will be led on the A.T. in southern and central Pa and Maryland, and popular local area trails will also be included. Some of the Excursions we have planned for participants are the Johnstown Flood Museum and National Memorial, Altoona Railroad Museum and Horseshoe Curve, Gettysburg Battlefield, Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, Historic Hershey, Lancaster Amish areas, Pioneer Mining Tunnel , Broad Top Railroad Historic Area, bicycling in historic areas and canoeing on the Susquehanna River, horseback riding and visits to cultural areas in our riverside capitol city, Harrisburg.

Workshops will be held on Trail Maintenance and activities, Conservation, Crafts, Astronomy, Civil War, Food, Hiking, Flora and Fauna, Map and Compass, Photography, Survival, Geology, Orienteering, First Aid and Club Issues

Some of the featured entertainment will be an Irish Singer and comedian, Sheamus Kennedy and Elke Baker, 1995 U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion. Contra and folk dancing, musical events and slide shows will take place every evening.

Registration information will be available in the March issue of the ATN, the A.T. and KTA Web Sites and on A.T. club Web Sites.

Chairing the all volunteer conference is , Thyra Sperry, ATC Vice Chair, representing the lead club Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club ,Committee chairs are Katie Jones, Sue Peck, Bill Mayer,Kris Kyler, (SATC),Barb & Al Wiemann(AHC), Sara Dean(Batona), Lennie & Bill Steinmetz and Mac White (AMC-DV),Janice Slaybaugh (CVATC),Thurston Griggs (MCM) and Ron Gray (YHC).

New Hiking Guide for the Laurel Highlands Available

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

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

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

Forests: Forbes,86; Gallitzin,30

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

Total Public Lands: 218 square miles

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

RIDING RAIL TRAILS

(the safe - almost - alternative to riding highways)

by Glenn Oster

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When I reached the Eagle Wing Campground (three quarters of a mile from the trail on a dirt road), I was in doubt that it actually was my destination, even though there was a sign alongside the access road. I could see no picnic tables, no other tents or RVs and there was no sign indicating the office. Furthermore, no one answered the house door when I knocked. Harboring considerable doubt, I hailed a passing motorist who assured me that I was at the right place. Well, might as well make myself at home. I set up my tent in a nice meadow with a view of a small lake, made dinner with the ceaseless help of an overly friendly large black dog and two cats that were most inquisitive about what I was cooking. I performed my culinary tasks on the concrete porch floor of an out-

(Continued on page 8)

RIDING RAIL TRAILS

by Glenn Oster

(Continued from page 7)

building, which turned out to be a very nice shower house under construction. After dinner, I washed and removed the insect repellent in which I first bathed when I arrived. In the northern Midwest, mosquitoes are a fact of life. I hadn't yet come to accept that fact. To escape them, I crawled into my tent and quickly fell asleep. In an hour or so, I heard a call from a man approaching my tent - the owner - a super nice guy. He hunkered down outside my tent amid dozens of mosquitoes that were swarming around and all over him. We had a great conversation despite the mosquitoes. He was not going to charge me anything, but we negotiated the matter and settled on a budget busting fee of \$5.

The next day offered an easy 35 mile ride back to the trailhead and into the city of Brainerd, where I was having my van serviced. Everything went well (even the cleaning of my trousers), and I was on my way to South Dakota by mid afternoon with a comfortable feeling that life there had been pretty good - if you can overlook a seat full of pine sap.

This is the second and last installment of an article written by Glenn Oster covering his recent tour in the Midwest and western states to bicycle rail-trails. In the previous installment, Glenn described his experiences in the states of Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. In this installment, he tells of bicycling trails in South Dakota, the famed Route of the Hiawatha in Idaho and trails in Iowa and Missouri.

By the following evening, I was well established at the Fish & Fry Campground outside of Deadwood, South Dakota. The campground has a pond full of trout, for which guests are supposed to fish. In turn, the chef would clean, filet and saute their trophy catches. I was short on time and in no mood to go fishing. The owner was able to deal with the situation. Conveniently, he had some preteen children who got the job of fishing for my trout. They did, and one of the girls caught a beauty. Needless to say, I made her glad she caught the fish. It was well prepared and inexpensive, even considering my payoff to the fisher person.

The George S. Mickelson Trail (formerly a section of the Burlington Northern Rail Line) was next on my list of trails to tackle. It extends 114 miles from Deadwood in the north to its southern terminus at Edgemont and was named for the deceased governor of South Dakota who championed the building of this trail. The campground owner also had a business downtown across from the Mickelson Trailhead. Considering that parking in Deadwood is at a premium, he was afraid I'd be ticketed for staying three days even though it is removed from the center of town and a sign there says it's free. He's seen tickets being issued and offered to let me park in the limited parking space of his antique shop. That was too good to pass up. My panniers were already loaded, and shortly after parking I was on the trail. Its surface is crushed limestone, only more coarse than most. It is more difficult to ride than other limestone trails, especially on a bicycle loaded with food, clothing, tools and camping gear. The gradients on the trail are generally not steep, but some places demand more energy to climb. I found that I had an immediate climb of 1600 feet over 14 miles which took me three hours to ride, including rest stops, water stops and stops to talk with other riders. My legs didn't complain at all about the stops.

After lunch at the Dumont Trailhead I had a downhill run and stopped at the Rochford Trailhead where I visited the local saloon --- for Gatorade, that is. This is a miniscule 1800s era village with only a few houses and a sense of humor. On an old one room building, someone had nailed a sign saying "Rochford University." The Moonshine Gulch Saloon seemed to be the business center of the town, perhaps its only business. A seven year old girl outside the saloon was bent on showing me how she could get the owner's Labrador retriever to do all manner of unusual things, like riding a child's swing - only the dog was too hot to be interested, and the little blondie was upset that it wouldn't perform for me.

On I pressed to make the next climb of 700 feet over eight miles followed by a downhill run past dude ranches and another couple miles of climbing through Hill City to the Crooked Creek Campground. The day's ride covered a total of 49 miles, 24 of which were climbs. The day had been a scorcher, and I was glad to get a tent site. I would have paid any price my VISA credit card could handle to have a place to lay my head that night.

There had been a clear sky during the night, and on the succeeding morning my tent fly was soaked with dew. After breakfast, I shook the water off as well as I could, packed my wet tent and all the rest of my gear into my panniers and continued the previous evening's climb. This one was about a 1,000 foot elevation gain over a distance of 10 1/2 miles. After a modest descent, I was in the city of Custer, where I filled my water bottles and headed south once again. The only other community that I passed was a whistle stop called Pringle. You see places like this in movies but can't believe that any place in the USA could really be so dusty and outdated. But the store I visited had what I needed, AllSport. I consumed it in short order as I ate my lunch on its porch (dirt floor). I watched its numerous customers come and go; the store does a surprisingly good business.

Rather than to take the planned three days, I decided to complete the final 63 miles of the Mickelson Trail this day, relying on the trail's profile that showed it essentially descending the remainder of its distance. It may have had a general descent, but there surely were a number of places where I had trouble convincing my legs that this was the downhill sector. I'd have a few hundred yards of descent or level riding, only to climb again. It wasn't until late in the day that I really felt that the trail was descending. Annoyingly, over the final twenty miles, the trail went through private property, and there were gates to open and close seemingly every half mile. These gates would be about twenty feet apart to permit a farm road to intersect without letting the livestock out. Other than for two trail patrolmen whom I met earlier, I only saw two other bicy-

clists in the final fifty miles and they were going north. Presumably, it was they who didn't put the chains back on the gates properly. Throughout the final sixteen miles I spent nearly five minutes each on most of the gates. I could have been removed the chains so easily if they had been replaced properly. I had no choice but to fight these chains over and over again, because I was by then committed to the trail with no obvious way to abort and ride roads. Close to the end of the trail, it passes along the edge of a very deep, vertical sided canyon that really looked like a frame from an old wild west movie. Wonderful!

The final run to Edgemont was indeed a downhill stretch that my weary legs appreciated greatly. The trail patrolmen (who ride the trail and check to see if you've paid your \$2 for the day) told me of a campground at the west end of town, to which I went in record time. On the way through town I could feel that shower washing away all my sweat, dust and weariness. Oh groan! When I got there, the only facilities available were porta potties and water faucets at campsites. The best I could do was to find a semi-secluded place to do a sponge bath - not very satisfactory. I should have taken a room in one of the little old hotels the town had to offer, but just as I arrived at the campground, a storm arose. I wanted to be inside the tent and not on the streets looking for a hotel. Fortunately, the storm didn't last long, and I rode across town to its only restaurant for dinner. The campground didn't even have picnic tables on which to make my dinner; besides that, the wind was blowing hard. I could have thought of a few more rationalizations for going to the restaurant if I really tried, but I figured that those reasons were adequate..

I wasn't in the mood to fight those gates again on the way back unless I could have been sure that no one had gone through them after I did. No guarantee of that. My closures would have been easy to undo in opening the gates. With my aversion to those gates in mind, I hunted for a person to shuttle me back to Deadwood in the morning. Luckily, the first person I contacted was willing to do it for \$50 plus gasoline. It worked out to be the best \$80 I spent on the trip.

Scotty, my young shuttle man, was right on time to pick me up and drive me back to Deadwood. Thank you, Scotty. From there I continued west and north into Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. By late afternoon the ensuing day, I reached the Roland Trailhead for the Route of the Hiawatha, the rail-trail that inspired me to make this trip. Realizing that to reach the trail requires driving up and over a mountain for seven miles on a dirt road (which I didn't want to repeat), I decided to ride the trail at that time, even though it was late in the day. This trail also requires a user fee - \$6 per day, but that was a small matter in light of the expense I had incurred in driving over 700 miles each way to and from South Dakota. just to ride it.

When I arrived at the trailhead, there were bicyclists everywhere. This really is one popular trail. Before I started to ride, a shuttle bus arrived and disgorged another 30 people, bicyclists who didn't want to ride back from the Pearson Trailhead, 13 miles away. I wondered why they were such wimps as to only ride 13 miles and pay to be shuttled back. I learned why. From the Roland Trailhead, the trail is all downhill. They didn't cherish the idea of climbing those 13 miles back to their vehicles. The first mile and a half from the Roland Trailhead is open to vehicle use, and the trail has a rough gravel surface. When I registered a complaint about the gravel, the trail monitor told me that the US Forest Service was to have improved this section with crushed limestone during the previous week but hadn't accomplished it yet.

I soon came to the first of eight tunnels and tried to ride through it. I made out okay for a short distance, but my flashlight was inadequate, and when I couldn't see the walls I became disoriented and crashed - the left shin scraped. I walked the remainder of its 790 feet. Then came another tunnel - same result - the right shin was scraped and bleeding. And again I walked the remainder of its 1516 feet. Considering that I was fresh out of shins to scrape, I decided to walk all the rest of the tunnels except those I could see through. The tunnels ranged in length from 178 feet to 1516 feet.

What I really enjoyed were the high trestles - all seven of them. The heights are measured from the point at which they span deep side canyons and range from 97 feet to 230 feet, which is high enough, but when you peer over the downhill side of the trestle you look into a steep walled valley as much as 1,000 feet below. That provides a real sense of elevation. The late day sun was shining into the valley - radiating, incredible scenery. The trestles were fun, indeed, and ranged in length from 281 to 780 feet. Hope my pictures do them justice. I stopped so often that it took me two hours to reach the Pearson Trailhead at the bottom.

I didn't tarry long at Pearson, knowing that it was already 7:30 p.m., I had the 13 mile climb ahead of me, and I wanted to finish in daylight. Going back was much faster in spite of the climb - no picture stops. I wasn't even tempted to take more pictures - not enough light. This climb was much easier for me than the comparable climb on the Mickelson Trail, because this trail has a smoother riding surface and I wasn't carrying the heavy camping gear. I noticed the temperature dropping and put on a long sleeve bicycling jersey and my rain jacket. I was concerned that I'd become overheated wearing the extra clothing, but that never happened, irrespective of the energy outlay on the climb. When I reached my van and turned on its thermometer, I could hardly believe my eyes. The temperature had slipped to 37 F. No wonder the tips of my fingers were so cold. I drove the seven miles back to I - 90 in the dark and was the last guest at the first restaurant I found on my way east.

Arrangements had been made with a friend from Gillette, Wyoming to do some backpacking in the Big Horn Mountains, but a work emergency prevented it, and I made a short solo overnight hike into that great wilderness. The snow covered mountain scenery tempted me, but I resisted. If my spring doesn't run down first, I'll return to do a serious backpack trip one day. What really captured my attention while driving to the trailhead were the bicyclists that I saw. There were dozens of men and women pumping up seven steep, unbelievably long hills, just in the thirty mile distance that I drove. How many more hills had these super athletes climbed before I saw them. Coincidentally, I came across them at a rest stop a couple days later and learned that they are a BikeAmerica group doing a van supported trip across northern USA. I congratulated

(Continued on page 9)

RIDING RAIL TRAILS

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(Continued from page 8)

them on a super human effort. They deserved it.

More rail trails were calling me eastward, but I got an urge to see where the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) terminates in North Dakota and set my compass north in the direction of Lake Sakakawea. This represented a several hundred mile detour to satisfy a whim, but --- what the heck, go for it. When I got to Lake Sakakawea State Park, I located Dave Lyle, the man whose baby the NCNST is in that park. He is proud that the trail terminates there and was eager to tell me how to find the trailhead. Have to admit, I was a bit emotional seeing this point that will be the western end of the 4200 mile trail when it is finished. It was raining hard at the time, and I was afraid I'd melt; so, I didn't hike the portion of the trail that is finished there - sissy. I've been a member of the North Country Trail Association for twenty years and was on its board for eight years. Over those two decades, I saw this trail grow from not much more than concept to the marvelous trail that it is becoming. Hence, my interest.

Back I drove south and east to southern Minnesota and the town of Preston. The Root River Trail can be accessed easily there. Presumably, it can now be done, but when I arrived, I found the Root River well over the trail. Southern Minnesota had an 8 - 9 inch rainfall in a matter of a few hours two days before, and that fact was most evident. I had read about the heavy rainfall and was apprehensive that the trail might be a bit wet or muddy. It surely was! Nothing to do but abandon that trail. When I was bicycling the Paul Bunyan Trail in northern Minnesota, I met a number of bicyclists who recommended it. Their praise was so great that I skipped the Cowboy Line Trail in Nebraska that I had originally planned to ride. Going back from Preston to do it was impractical.

Next on the list was the Cedar Valley Nature Trail that starts near Waterloo, Iowa, more specifically, Evansdale, Iowa. It's a nice trail that is paved for 15 miles and covered with crushed limestone for the remainder of its 52 mile course to Hiawatha, Iowa. I planned to ride it both ways in one day but found time on my hands the evening before and rode 12 miles to LaPorte City and back. The following morning I started at La Porte City and headed southeast on the trail. The trail crosses, and at times is close to, the Cedar River, which also was in flood stage, but below the trail's elevation. It was raging, as were all the tributaries that the trail bridges. Lowlands were all under water. This provided ideal conditions for certain wildlife to propagate, mosquitos, that is. There was no stopping without liberal applications of repellent. I rode about 14 miles and began to encounter tree limbs on the trail. I dodged them for a while and then came the coup de grace - a 75 foot tree with four trunks, each at least a foot in diameter. It stretched totally across and beyond both sides of the trail. No way around. I gave thought to skirting this section by resorting to highways, but a local biker told me that I'd have trouble riding the trail for the remaining 24 miles. Scratch another trail thanks to Mother Nature.

The last trail on my list was the new section of the Katy Trail in Missouri. I had ridden the Katy 185 miles from Sedalia to Saint Charles last year and wanted to ride this sector, just completed earlier this year. It is a good, hard packed crushed limestone trail that starts in Clinton and extends 35 miles to Sedalia. You are supposed to take street routes for about six miles through Sedalia to reach the Griessen Road Trailhead from which we started last year. On the way up, I stayed on the trail (not yet officially open beyond the Missouri State Fair Grounds) through Sedalia to the depot and moved onto roads for the remaining distance to the Griessen Road Trailhead. On my return, I followed roads to the State Fair Grounds. I did this Clinton to Griessen Road section in two bites, both of which were on hot days - 92 F in the shade. No telling what the temperature reached on the trail in the bright sunlight. I drank lots of Gatorade and made out well. It felt good to once again have the Katy mastered.

In the title of this article, I bracketed the words " the safe - almost- alternative to riding highways." Here's where the "almost" enters the narrative. The repetition of similar scenery and gates can result in complacency that lulls rail-trail riders into thinking that they have no concerns about traffic. However, trails cross roads. Additionally, on the trail your view of the road being crossed is often obscured. This is especially true when gates are used and you have to negotiate your way between two sets of arms separated just wide enough for a bicycle . Technically, bicyclists are supposed to stop, dismount and walk across intersecting roads, but few riders have that much self discipline. I was very careful to watch both ways as I crossed intersecting roads every time, every time, that is, except once. I started across a road in a very remote section and fortunately heard an engine just in time to swerve right and follow the road. A motorcycle went zooming by. Had I not heard it in time, you wouldn't be reading these words.

As to my apprehension about boredom while riding rail trails, that never occurred. Although my body often was fatigued, I found the trails sufficiently different (each with a unique destination and a new challenge) that I never became tired of them. . All that was left of my tour now was to drive home. With the exception of the Cowboy Line Trail in Nebraska, I had ridden at least some of all the trails I had planned to do, plus the Old 400 Trail as a bonus. I had to feel good about the trip.

Getting back to my lead sentence, I talked with a sizeable number of bicyclists on the trails during this tour. Our conversations over and again pointed up their sense of safety on rail-trails in contrast to road riding. This applies especially to children, families and the aged. As I mentioned before, my first love is road riding, but it is clear that there is an important role that rail-trails play in American recreation and health. Let's continue to promote them.

Internship Title:

Marketing Specialist

Background

Hostelling International- American Youth Hostels (HI-AYH) is a National Organization affiliated with the International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF). Our mission is "To help all, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and its people through hostelling." The Pittsburgh Council of HI-AYH is the local connection to the worldwide chain of over 4500 hostels. The Pittsburgh Council has been in existence since the 1950's, however it was not until 1997 that a youth hostel was constructed in Pittsburgh. The board of directors is interested in broadening it's marketing efforts to increase overnights at the hostel and promoting our mission through programming.

Purpose

To develop, organize, and implement a general marketing strategy that will identify and reach target audiences in order to increase individual and group overnights.

Responsibilities:

- **Gain Understanding of our Local, National, and International Organizations**
- **Improve website to better attract target audience**
- **Create packages with local attractions**
- **Review and Revise Group Trip Planner**
- **Organize and Expand Current Mailing List**
- **Contact local organizations with group traffic such as the Carnegie Museum and other local attractions**
- **Finish Power Point Presentation and Schedule 3 presentations with local groups**
- **Create a marketing piece targeting convention attendees**
- **Develop and Implement Direct Mail Strategy**
- **Develop and implement brochure distribution strategy**
- **Become familiar with outreach events, travel store, and hostel programming by working with Program Director and Management**
- **Develop and Implement Media Strategy**
- **Track marketing results**
- **Regular meetings with management**

Reports To:

Hostel Managers

Education:

Undergraduate upperclassmen in Marketing or Graduate Student in Marketing Experience working in a hostel and enthusiasm for hostelling may be considered in lieu of education.

Computer Skills:

Web Design, Office 97, WinFax, Internet

Other Skills:

Excellent communication skills including writing, public speaking, and telephone usage. Self motivated, problem solver, detail oriented. Knowledge of hostelling and independent travel experience helpful.

Time Commitment:

20-25 hours per week

Compensation:

Hourly wage: \$6/hour, free membership upon completion of internship. This internship may be available for credit.

Submission:

Resume and letter of Interest to Nicole Mannino at 830 E Warrington Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15210. Fax(412) 431 2625

ANNUAL MEETING and ELECTIONS

(Continued from page 1)

Officers

Kyra Straussman
President

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

Tom Hardy
Vice President

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

Jeff Krainess
Treasurer

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

George Schmidt
Secretary

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

Nominated Directors

George Schmidt (incumbent)

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

Tom Hardy (incumbent appointed to fill a vacancy)

Jeff Krainess (incumbent appointed to fill a vacancy)

Harold Behar
Principal Designer
Behar – Fingal Design

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continuing Directors

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

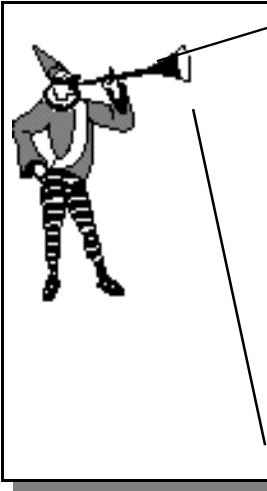
Bernie Colligan (2002)
Bernie works for Freemarkets online. He has been on the board since April of 1999. He has served on the Marketing Committee and Nominating Committee.

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

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

Kyra Straussman (2002)

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



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

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

The HISTORY of HOSTELLING

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

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

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

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

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

ways to give

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

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

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

Get involved in HI-AYH in your local community.

WHAT IS HOSTELLING?

(Continued from page 1)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MAKE YOUR JOURNEY AN ADVENTURE! GO HOSTELLING!

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

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



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

ATTENTION STUDENTS:

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

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

HAVE THEM STAY AT THE PITTSBURGH HOSTEL!

RATES STARTING AT \$17/PERSON/NIGHT!
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FAMILIES AND GROUPS WELCOME!

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HI-AYH Memberships (No Tax on Memberships)

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

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Volume I Europe and the Mediterranean	\$10.95
Volume II Asia, Africa, Americas, Pacific	\$10.95

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

Lonely Planet (An alternative to the Let's Go Books. Highly Recommended.)

Western Europe on a Shoestring	\$25.95
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France Travel Survival Kit	\$24.95
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and many more...	

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Sheets Sacks Used in place of sheets at youth hostels	
Cotton Sheet Sack Comfortable cotton blend	\$14.99 (members ... \$13.50)
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The economic solution to rail travel in Europe. Eurail passes are valid throughout all Europe except Britain. For Britain, buy Britrail or BritFrance passes. Available only in the U.S. The more popular passes are described below. Ask for a free brochure on other Eurail and Single Country passes.
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Eurail Flexipass 10 days travel in 2 months (youth).....	\$458.00
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Eurail Flexipass 15 days first class travel in 2 months	\$862.00
Eurail Saverpass 15 days travel with 2 or 3 friends (per person)	\$732.00
BritRail Flexipass 8 travel days in 2 months (youth).....	\$240.00
BritRail Flexipass 8 travel days in 2 months (adult 1st class)	\$510.00
Eurostar one way between London & Paris (youth)	\$79.00
All Other Passes available	CALL

Outdoor Recreation Books

Allegheny National Forest Hiking Guide describes more than 240 miles of trails for hiking, backpacking and ski touring in the 800-square mile Allegheny National Forest. It also describes ski touring opportunities and points of scenic interest. Published by the Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club. 186 pages, 25 maps. Fourth Edition (1999) \$9.95
Baker Trail Guide describes the 141 miles of the Baker Trail from Allegheny National Forest to Freeport PA. 38 pages with complete topographic maps. Published by AYH. (updated 1994)

.....	\$7.00
Canoeing Guide to Western Pennsylvania and Northern West Virginia contains information on 270 canoe trips on 3,040 miles of streams in western Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia. 480 pages, illustrated. Published by AYH. 8th Edition (1991)	\$13.95
Fifty Hikes in Western Pennsylvania by Tom Thwaites describes 50 of his favorite hiking trails in western Pennsylvania. Fifty Hikes contains lots of interesting background material on the history and geology of each area. 206 pages , 60 pages of maps, 48 photos. 3rd Edition (1999).....	\$15.95
Hikers Guide to Laurel Highlands Trail describes the 70 miles of the trail from Ohiopyle park to Conemaugh Gorge atop Laurel Ridge. Published by the Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. 128 pages , 24 pages of maps. New 5th Edition (1997).....	\$6.00

The Laurel Highlands: A Hiking Guide by The Sierra Club gives you all the information you need to enjoy this major recreational and natural resource. This 288-page Guide describes opportunities for hiking, backpacking and ski-touring on 446 miles of foot trails on the public lands of these Laurel Highlands.....	\$11.95
Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide describes more than 160 Forest Service trails in 1,350 square miles of the Mon National Forest - one of the best areas for hiking, backpacking and ski touring in this part of the country. Published by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. 320 pages , 60 maps , 39 photos. 7th Edition (1999)	\$12.95
Pennsylvania Hiking Trails describes more than 290 trails and hiking areas throughout Pennsylvania. Published by Keystone Trails Association. 224 - pages , 94 maps. 12th edition (1998).....	\$14.95

Rachel Carson Trail Guide describes the Rachel Carson trail from North Park to Freeport in Allegheny County. Published by AYH. (1998)	\$7.00
Fifty Hikes in Central Pennsylvania by Tom Thwaites. Another excellent book in the Fifty Hikes series covering day hikes and backpacking in the heart of Pennsylvania. Includes the Tuscarora Ridge, Alan Seeger, and John P. Saylor Trails as well as other favorites. Third Edition.....	\$14.00
Canoeing and Kayaking Ohio's Streams - An access guide for paddlers and anglers. Maps, hazards, portages, shuttles, history and game fish information for 45 Ohio Rivers. 194 pages. (1994)	\$17.00
Canoe Streams Map of the Upper Ohio Basin	\$3.00
Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania , Tenth Edition (1999). A revised edition of the official guide to the 232 miles of the AT in Pennsylvania. 200 pages, pack size (4.5 x 6.5 inches)	\$9.00

NEW: Pennsylvania's Rail-Trails Guide New bike-bag sized guide to the state's rail-trails by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. Two page introduction to each section of trail with maps and descriptions 4th edition.....	\$13.95
Free Wheeling Easy (3rd Edition) guide to rail-trails and other bicycling , walking, and jogging paths in western Pennsylvania and nearby Maryland. 100 pages of text and maps	\$12.95

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700 Great Rail-Trails A national directory of many of the best rail-trails in the U.S. A great resource for enjoying these ideal pathways to adventure, whether you're a walker, cyclist, in-line skater, runner, hiker, horseback-rider, person with a disability, or a cross-country skier..... \$12.95

For Fastest Service! Visit The AYH Travel Store!
Pittsburgh Council, AYH
830 E Warrington Ave, Pittsburgh 15210
Or Call (412) 431-4910 For an Agency Near You!

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

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Qty	AYH Membership	Unit Price	
	(Type:)		
	Eurail Passes		
		Total	

AYH Weekly Open House

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

Council Office and Travel Store

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