

HOSTELLING  
INTERNATIONAL

# 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 44, NUMBER 3

MARCH 1994

## Happy ST. Patricks Day



### COMPUTER BOOKING EXTENDED TO MORE HOSTELS

Fourteen more hostels have been added to the International Booking Network, where a credit card and a phone call to Hostelling International at 202-783-6161 can get you a guaranteed reservation at major hostels around the world. The new hostels are in Indonesia (Bali), Canada (Calgary, Edmonton, Whistler Mountain), Portugal (Lisbon), Italy (Genoa, Florence, Turin), Hong Kong (Mai Wui Hall), Spain (Barcelona), France (Strasbourg Parc du Rhin), and New Zealand (Auckland - Parnell, Wellington - Port Nicholson, Christchurch - Rolleston House).

### MEETINGS

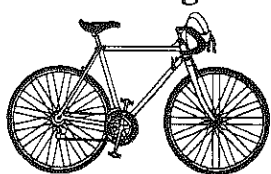
#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The March meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday March 15th at the Council Office in the Wightman School Building. Activity chairs, members and other interested persons are welcome to attend. The primary topic will be approval of the budget for the new fiscal year.

#### ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

A special meeting of the Activities Committee will be held on Monday February 28th at the Council Office to discuss implementation of the new Risk Management Manual for council activities. All activities should be represented for this important issue. Trip leaders all also invited to attend to see how these changes will affect them. The budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1st will also be discussed.

### Pittsburgh AYH's "BIG WHEEL RIDES"



See **BICYCLING**, page 4

The Pittsburgh AYH announces the 1994 dates for its 3 largest annual bicycling events. "The great Ride", "The Mon Valley Century" and "SABRE" are PGH's Premier touring events and draw a combined 5,000 cyclists each year.

### 1994 LET'S GO BOOKS ARE HERE

The 1994 Let's Go Books for Europe, Britain, and the USA are now available at the office and at the activities headquarters. See the order form on the back page for special discounted prices for members.

### Pittsburgh AYH Has 1994 Eurail Passes!

The Pittsburgh Council of the American Youth Hostels now has 1994 Eurail Passes, Student ID cards and International Youth Hostel Cards for those planning their summer travels.

The Eurail pass is a deal at 15 days of travel for \$498, one month at \$798 or two months at \$1,098. The Eurail "Flexipass" allows those travelers who want to spend extra time sight-seeing to enjoy extra savings. For example, 5 days of travel within two months costs only \$348 or 15 days of travel within two months costs only \$740.

The Eurail "Youthpass" is a great deal for young travelers under 26; one month of travel at \$ 578 or two months at only \$768!

Pittsburgh AYH can also provide the International Student ID card at only \$16 and, of course, the International Youth Hostel card at \$25 for adults or just \$10 for those under 17.

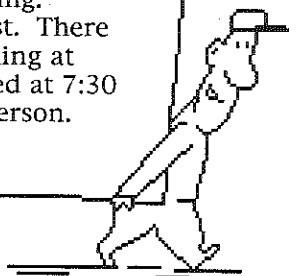
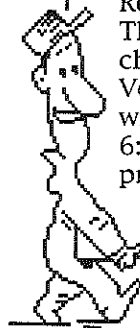
For information on these travel items call AYH at 412-422-2282.

## ANNUAL BANQUET

The Annual Banquet of Pittsburgh Council will be held on Saturday, April 16th.

The annual banquet will be held at Jaden's Family Restaurant 4727 Wm Penn Highway in Monroeville. The Buffet Dinner will consist of two entrees: stuffed chicken & roast beef and plenty of everything. Vegetarian meals are available upon request. There will be soft drinks (BYOB) available beginning at 6:30 pm and the buffet dinner will be served at 7:30 pm. The cost of the dinner is \$15.00 per person.

see BANQUET, page 4



### FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

OHIOPYLE	FIREHOUSE HOSTEL	YOSEMITE
Help is needed	Fundraising	Part IV
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.....And MORE!!!

### AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS

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# HOSTELLING



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

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Advertising ... Wm. Eberle

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(412-665-9554)

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Secretary ... Larry Laude  
Treasurer ... Roy Weil

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Wm. Eberle (94)  
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Ray Yutzy (96)

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Helen Coyne  
Office Volunteers  
Joe Hoechner

## Oops...

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

## Letters...

[Letters to the editor are welcome. Letters will be edited to conserve space when necessary. Letters are published at the discretion of the editor.]

Mail regarding this Newsletter should be addressed to:

**American Youth Hostels  
The Golden Triangle**  
5604 Solway ST.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217  
Office: (412) 422-2282

## PITTSBURGH COUNCIL ACTIVITY CHAIRS

Chairman of the Activities Committee  
VACANT ..... ### ####  
Canoeing  
Karen Lucas ..... 661-4835  
VACANT ..... ### ####  
Cross Country Skiing  
Steve Tubbs ..... 279-4866  
Cycling  
Wm Eberle ..... 833-9732  
Chuck Ejzak ..... 466-6196  
Family Activities  
Barbara Hanusa ..... 441-7205  
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Helen Coyne ..... 776-0678  
Jim Ritchie ..... 828-0210  
Kayaking  
VACANT ..... ### ####  
Ray Yutzy ..... 341-5682  
Midweek Rambles  
Cliff Ham ..... 687-4520  
Rafting  
Doug Bruce ..... 561-5037  
Jon Maiman ..... 441-2306  
Rock Climbing  
Eric Bauer ..... 687-0766  
Sailing  
Joel Hough ..... 371-4986  
Bob Zavos ..... 241-0659  
Sea Kayaking  
Mark Mistrik ..... 647-7609

Trips Coordinator  
Vicki Krug ..... 361-4386  
Trail Systems  
Glenn Oster ..... 364-2864  
Jim Ritchie ..... 828-0210  
Headquarters Programs  
Tom Rodgers ..... 621-6310  
Chris Kline ..... 441-7352  
Storekeeper  
Wm Eberle ..... 833-9732

The following positions are currently open and we are in need of responsible people to fill them. If you are interested please call Larry Laude at 665-9554.

Caving, Volleyball coordinator,  
Ast. Store Keeper, HQ Volunteers

## NOTICE

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

### APRIL

All copy, March 3  
Binding/Mailing, Mar 24

### MAY

All copy, April 7  
Binding/Mailing, Apr 21

If your work is on computer,  
Please contact Bill Eberle  
@ 833-9732  
or

Larry Laude @ 665-9554

## Moving?

If you move, or have any subscription problems, please notify us right away. Returned mail costs 52 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) 422-2282.

## 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.

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For People Who Live Their Dreams...

## March Slide Shows

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Mar 3rd  | Picturesque Puerto Rico; by Nancy Crago-Alcorn   |
| Mar 10th | Industrial Pittsburgh - from grime to gleam<br>by Duquesne Light   |
| Mar 17th | Natural Gas Vehicles and new technology<br>by Columbia Gas   |
| Mar 24th | Newsletter Prep night. Socialize as we get the word out. Join us for a beverage or light meal at a nearby Eatery afterwards. |
| Mar 31st | Venezuela - trekking tropical mountains; dug-out canoe trip through the jungle to Angel Falls<br>by Carl Katz                |

To Schedule a show or have a show idea call  
**TOM RODGERS 621-6310**

## Pittsburgh Council Hostels

**Ohiopyle AYH Hostel**  
Ohiopyle State Park  
PO Box 99  
Ohiopyle, PA 151470  
(412) 329-4476

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

**Charleroi Youth Hostel (SA)**  
Rego's Hotel and Restaurant  
601 McKean Avenue  
Charleroi, PA 15022  
(412) 483-6200





## YOSEMITE AND OTHER POINTS WEST

By Glenn Oster

*(This is the last of four installments Glenn has written to give us the flavor of the sixteen day van tour which he and seven other Pittsburgh Council AYHers took in June, 1993, travelling as far west as Yosemite National Park in California. In this installment, he describes more incredible scenery and the long drive home.)*

Next in line was Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell which it impounds - a gigantic engineering marvel. It backs up the Colorado River for 186 miles to a depth of up to 500 feet. It was so soothing to look over that expanse of water reflecting the rich blue of the cloudless sky. Seems like only yesterday when battles raged over building the dam and consequent flooding of rock formations farther upstream. I'm not up to evaluating the net loss or gain from building the dam; I only know that the resulting Lake Powell is magnificent. Someday, I've got to take a boat trip up the lake to see the largest natural bridge in the world, Rainbow Bridge, with a span of 275 feet and a height of 290 feet. That to me constitutes a significant scenic attraction.

Our travels were in severely hot weather. Fortunately, the dry air made it reasonably bearable outside, and the van had a very good air conditioner with front and back controls and vents. Can't say we ever reached consensus as to how cold to make it, but

it surely was better than our previous van trips when the air conditioner froze those in the front seats and forgot all about the folks in back.

On our way to Zion National Park in Utah, later that day, we came upon a three car accident - two people lying on the ground receiving attention and one with a sheet over his/her face. The medics and police had not yet arrived, but more than enough others had; so we decided not to stop and add to the confusion. Shortly thereafter, we met the Park Police and medics with their light bars flashing and their sirens screaming. Three vacations and at least one life were surely cut short. Reminds me of how fortunate I've been to have led ten western AYH trips with no more damage than one blownout tire in 1985 and the stone chipped windshield and outside mirror broken on this trip.

The valley at Zion could not be seen at its best at the time of day when we arrived, but on our way in the sunlight was perfect for seeing many of its other wondrous stone monoliths. Especially outstanding was Checkerboard Mesa (a massive rock hundreds of feet high with horizontal striations evidencing layer after layer of pre - historic desert sand deposits and regularly spaced vertical cracks caused by eroding rains coursing down its steep sides) which we could see from the van, but traffic and construction prevented us from getting a better look outside the van. Farther along the way, we peered out the occasional window vents in a mile long tunnel and stopped at a pull-off as the roadway switchbacked down to the valley floor. Zion, in my

opinion, is the most underrated of all the national parks. It is so great and it gets so little attention. We chose to delay our departure next morning until the sun was high enough in the sky to show the trippers more of what made it an important stop in our sightseeing tour. The enormity and color of the rock formations and the valley carved by the Virgin River make it a super place to visit. As you gaze up the sheer rock walls of the valley, you can see trees, seemingly growing right out of the rock. Logic tells us that such can not be true, but it's hard to convince your eyes. The valley road took us up the canyon until we finally reached the road's end and a trail leading to an area known as The Narrows. However, to go any farther required considerable walking, a luxury we didn't have if we wanted to sample the other scenic goodies on our schedule. I ached to take the group up a trail I've hiked before to the rim of the canyon so that they could look down into the valley to trace the route of the Virgin River and get a clear, unobstructed view of a 2500 foot stone massive known as The Great White Throne, but that had to be saved for a future trip focused on this area. We had to leave.

Cedar Breaks was our next destination - a place where I had never been, and it had its own special beauty. It's an amphitheater 10,300 feet in elevation formed by erosion of the mountainside and displaying all manner of intriguing rock configurations in colors of maroon, white and beige in endless variation. Surely was an exceedingly beautiful place that some of the trippers singled out later as one of their favorite sights.

As pleased as I was with Cedar Breaks, I was much more antsy to have the group see Bryce Canyon. To me, it's the crown jewel of all scenic wonders in the west. My description of Cedar Breaks applies to Bryce Canyon as well, but in spades. The stone configurations, called "hoodoos", are unbelievable - some resembling a line of carved wooden soldiers one behind the other, side by side and row after row. There were formations which remind me of church cathedrals, while others appear to be biblical figures on beasts of burden. You need days to adequately see this place - someday I'll take the time.

The day had more in store, Capital Reef National Monument - high red rock mountain and valley scenery which we enjoyed as we drove through. This surpassed my mental image from a former trip and escalated in my ranking of super scenery. As we traveled through the eastern end, we passed by locations resembling those in The Badlands of South Dakota - large clay-like mounds with well defined maroon and beige strata. That sort of scenery also turns me on - - - You're probably wondering what doesn't.

Next day - another morning of clear skies and sunshine. We were blessed with great weather for sightseeing on this trip. The big sky view from Dead Horse Point out over Canyonlands National Park was nearly perfect. It's humbling to sense your smallness as you gaze out over this broad expanse of sky and red rock interrupted in all directions by deep

See OSTER, page 7

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have extra hours to donate to the Council? Current volunteer opportunities in Pittsburgh Council are listed below. Contact the person listed or leave your name and telephone number at the office (412-422-2282).

\*Mon Valley Century (Chuck and Lynn Ejzak, 466-6196)

\*SABRE (Bill Eberle, 833-9732)

\*Typing articles for the newsletter into a computer (Bill Eberle, 833-9732)

\*Hostel development and fund-raising (Marianne Kasica, 665-9554)

\*Ohiopyle hostel support and work parties (Linda Smithyman, 531-1868)

\*Travel and Hostel Editor for the newsletter (Larry Laude, 665-9554)

\*Answering questions at the council office (Joe Hoechner, 422-2282)

\*Leading Pittsburgh Council trips (Jon Maiman, 441-2306)

\*Scouting trails for the next Hiking Guide (Joe Hoechner, 422-2282)

\*Slide shows at the Thursday Open House (office, 422-2282)

\*Trail Maintenance, Baker Trail and Rachel Carson Trail (Jim Ritchie, 828-0210)

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**with over 20 years experience serving Western Pa. cyclists**

**\* 10% off all non-sale items to A.Y.H. membership \***

**■ It's worth the drive to the Ambridge Bike Shop ■**

## OHIOPYLE WORK PARTIES

Sunday, March 6th and

Saturday, April 2nd

Call Linda Smithyman at 531-1868

We are starting early this year to get some painting and things done at the hostel in Ohiopyle. FREE LUNCH!! Meet at HQ at 9:00 am and be back by 5:00 pm. Sneak in a hike too. If you can volunteer a few hours of your time to help paint, move furniture, clean, wash windows, do yard work or whatever talent you may have, it will be welcome. Meet Bob Utz our new hostel manager.

The volunteers that help out usually have a fun time even though they are working. Here is a chance for you to help out and give something back to AYH for the fun times that you have had.

Donations are needed for Ohiopyle. If you have any of the following items to donate please let me know as soon as possible and we will be willing to take them off of your hands:

6 foot stepladder	endtables
crib	microwave
rugs/area rugs	chairs
wall hangings/photos	coffee table
TV	desk
computer/printer	modem
fax machine	

We are always accepting monetary donations for Ohiopyle Hostel. For \$150 you can purchase a set of bunk beds for the men's bunk room and have your name engraved on a nameplate as a thank you for all the world to see. I'll be happy to discuss any type of donation that you might want to give.

**AYH Membership Agencies**

Pittsburgh Council AYH has established almost 20 agency locations in Western PA and Northern WV when you can renew your membership or buy new memberships on the spot.

We are also looking to establish sales outlets in areas of our jurisdiction that don't have nearby agencies such as Wheeling WV, California PA, Altoona, Johnstown, Warren and perhaps Somerset.

**Pittsburgh Area**

**PITTSBURGH COUNCIL**  
6300 Fifth Ave, Pgh, PA 15232  
412-362-8181

(Thursday evenings only)

**PITTSBURGH COUNCIL (office)**  
Room 204 Wightman School  
5604 Solway St Room 204  
Pittsburgh PA 15217  
412-422-2282  
(Mon, Wed, Fri 9am to 3pm)

**FORUM TRAVEL**  
4608 Winthrop St, Pgh PA 15213  
412-681-4099

**ATLAS TRAVEL SERVICE**  
Kaufmann's  
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412-261-0248

**SEWICKLEY TRAVEL**  
519 Broad St, Sewickley PA 15143  
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**State College PA**  
**CENTER FOR TRAVEL**  
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State College, PA 16801  
(814) 238-4987

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CONT. next Column

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412-458-6170

**AAA WORLD TRAVEL**  
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412-349-4193

**OHIOPLYE AYH-HOSTEL**  
Ferncliff Road  
PO Box 99  
Ohiopyle, PA 15470  
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**REGO'S HOTEL (hostel)**  
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Charleroi, PA 15022  
412-483-6200

**EDINBORO TRAVEL SERVICE**  
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Edinboro, PA 16412  
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Schellsburg, PA 15559  
814-733-4607

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(814-453-4994)

**West Virginia**

**MORGANTOWN Travel SERVICE**  
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304-292-8471

**BICYCLING (Road & Mountain)**

All Sundays Int Bill Eberle 833-9732  
The Montour trail Fat-tire rides for March are suspended until April.

March 22, 1994 Tue Bill Eberle 833-9732  
1994 Bicycle Planning Meeting. Come swap stories and make plans for our trip roster for 94. Special plans in the works. Call for location and more information; **also if you are interested in leading rides**

The Great Ride, July 17th; Sponsored by Pittsburgh Citiparks, rides are planned of 25 and 35 miles with food stops and T-shirts available. A 5 mile downhill on the I-279 H.O.V. lane may be included. Almost 2,000 cyclists are expected!

The Mon Valley Century, August 21st; The MVC starts south of Pittsburgh at Elizabeth PA. There are rides of 35, 65, and 100 miles! A map, food stops, and a sag wagon will be provided, and you will be able to purchase commemorative T-shirts. About 1,200 riders participate.

SABRE, October 2nd; When autumn breezes blow in southwestern Pennsylvania join us at Settlers Cabin County Park. SABRE has cool fall cycling with rides of 15, 35 and 65 miles. We expect 1,500 cyclists this year.

**CULTURE CLUB**

Our next effort will take place on Sunday, March 13th. We will meet at 3:00 pm at AYH HQ. We will walk somewhere first and decide on somewhere interesting to go. Dinner will be at a nearby restaurant. Please call ahead for details or any changes!

The trip to Clayton (Henry Clay Frick Mansion) and Frick Art Museum in January was quite interesting and one tour guide (Digby) spent plenty of extra time telling us fascinating stories about the Frick's and life in the mansion and in Pittsburgh in the early 1900's. The December walking tour of part of downtown led us to various hotels, the Pennsylvanian and major downtown buildings where we now know where the controls are for the Gulf Building's light (it flashes red or blue) not that we can do anything with this knowledge but we had an enjoyable day even though it was cold out.

The cost for the Culture Club activities is strictly up to the choice made by the participants (what you pay for dinner is up to you). Everyone is welcome to join in for one or all activities. Please call Tom Rodgers at 621-6310 or Linda Smithyman at 531-1868 for additional details.

**ROCK CLIMBING**

MAR 19 Sat 1994 Planning Meeting  
@ Bob and Bev Dodson's 7pm(approx.)  
This is the "official" AYH rock climbing planning meeting for the 1994 season. Please contact Eric Bauer for further information (687-0766).

**BANQUET, from cover**

Since this is Saturday evening be sure to plan your time accordingly.

This is only one of the rare occasions where most AYH members do not wear casual clothes or jeans! Our chance to 'dress up' a little bit. And the council officers will be there to bring the participants up to date on the latest developments within the council.

The evening's entertainment and our guest speaker will be confirmed next month.

You will not receive any tickets to the banquet, we will just expect to see you that evening. Bring a friend too if you wish.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE**

Please cut out the form below and send your payment made out to Pittsburgh Council-AYH in with it by Friday, April 8th. Call Helen at 422-2282 with any questions.

**AYH ANNUAL BANQUET - SATURDAY, APRIL 16th**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

# of dinners \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00/person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

Please mail your payment to:  
American Youth Hostels  
Room 202  
5604 Solway Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

**Pittsburgh AYH is accepting pledges and donations for the Firehouse Hostel.**

Although the Building, Located at 344 Boulevard of the Allies, is not Ours yet, we hope that the sale will be approved by City Council.

Our Fundraising efforts are escalating to foundations and will include corporations as well. If any member is involved or knows of someone involved with these groups we would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to let us know. Having a contact person really helps to get some attention. We need to raise a ton of money for this building and we need all the help that we can get

Thanks for your interest and help.

Clip out the coupon below and make your pledge today.

Yes, I would like to make a pledge of support for a Hostel in Pittsburgh in the amount of:

- \_\_\_ \$2500
- \_\_\_ \$1000
- \_\_\_ \$500
- \_\_\_ \$250
- \_\_\_ \$100
- \_\_\_ \$50
- \_\_\_ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Yes, I can also volunteer my time for:

- \_\_\_ Fundraising
- \_\_\_ Architecture or Design
- \_\_\_ Construction
- \_\_\_ Public Relations
- \_\_\_ Clerical help
- \_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your Pledge to:  
AYH  
Pittsburgh Hostel Fund  
5604 Solway St.; Pittsburgh, PA 15217  
412-422-2282



## ADOPT THE RACHEL CARSON TRAIL ONLY 5 MORE PIECES LEFT

Many thanks to our new TrailWorkers who have adopted parts of the Rachel Carson Trail during the past two months. John Shea of Beaver, PA has reserved Section M7 along the Allegheny River bluffs; Mary Ellen McShea will be taking care of M8, the loop around Springdale from Freeport Road going past Peterson's Nursery to Tawney Run Road; and Mary Ann DeJulio has volunteered to care for the 3 mile M10 section leading into Emmerling Park in Indiana Township (that's where you find some of the steepest hills on the Trail). We now have covered more than 22 of the 34 mile total. Only 12 miles to go!!

If you would like to join the AYH TrailWorkers and adopt a piece of the Rachel Carson Trail, those listed below or any other, or the Baker Trail, please call Jim Ritchie at (412) 828-0210 or see him at any Thursday night Open House, 8 pm-10 pm every Thursday night at the AYH Headquarters in Mellon Park.

AYH TrailWorkers agree to hike their 2-3 mile section of the Trail twice a year, taking a large plastic garbage bag so that trash left along the trail can be picked up and carried out. TrailWorkers will also put a new coat of paint on the blazes each year or two as necessary and replace blazes where trees have fallen or have been cut. Lastly, if your section has a "bad spot" where brush overgrows the trail, often brambles or knotweed, take a weed cutter and whack it down as necessary to keep the trail open. Usually, once in June will do the job. For anything larger than that, you will call the TrailMaster to arrange for a volunteer work party to come out and assist you.

**Section:** M11. Emmerling Park to Route 910 in Dorseyville, Indiana Township

**Length:** 2.5 miles

**Notes:** This section of the trail follows Eisele Road past several patches of European Columbine. The trail jumps into the woods, crosses Cunningham Run, a small tributary of Deer Creek, and comes out on Saxonburg Boulevard near the Casey Equipment Company. The trail then follows Deer Creek to a gas line, climbs a steep hill and exits onto Route 910 near Cedar Run Road.

**Section:** M12. Route 910 in Dorseyville to Middle Road, Indiana and Hampton Townships

**Length:** 2.5 miles

**Notes:** The Trail follows first Cedar Run Road and then Wagner Road before turning into a wooded area just before you reach Hartwood Acres; Then the trail ascends past a hidden pond and through a pine woods to a high grassy vista, and then descends to a small gentleman's farm just off Middle Road by McCully Road. This section will include a spur trail into Hartwood.

**Section:** M13. Middle Road by McCully to Route 8 by the Hampton Junior High School, Hampton Township

**Length:** 2.5 miles

**Notes:** The trail skirts McCully Road for a quarter mile and then plunges into the wooded Hampton Nature Preserve; downhill and then uphill, close to a new housing development next to a power line, across some grassy fields owned by the school district and finally up to the junior high.

**Section:** M14. Route 8 to Sample Station, Hampton Township

**Length:** 2 miles

**Notes:** After crossing Route 8, the trail skirts behind a residential area, past two hidden ponds and down into the very special valley of Crouse Run. Here, deep in the unpopulated valley are the remains of the Pittsburgh-Butler interurban. Here, in the spring, is arguably one of the finest stands of wildflowers in the county. The trail emerges from the woods onto Sample Road and continues to the old Sample Station.

**Section:** M15. Sample Station to North Park, Hampton and McCandless Townships

**Length:** 2.5 miles

**Notes:** The trail enters North Park in an isolated corner of the park area and finds its way along an unnamed stream to the site of the old Rocky Dell Shelter, next to some spectacular rock outcroppings. Then it goes into the Park, through the trees, past several picnic areas and playing fields, coming out on Wildwood Road. Crossing the road, it follows Pine Creek to Babcock Boulevard, crosses the Road and goes behind a small pond to the Western Terminus, directly behind the Beaver Shelter.

When you volunteer to adopt a section of the Rachel Carson or Baker Trail, a time will be arranged with you for a trail maintenance orientation. The orientation consists of a guided walk along your trail section and instructions on blazing and clearing and other maintenance expectations. If you want to volunteer call JIM RITCHIE at 828-0210.

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## HIKING / BACKPACKING

**March 4-5-6 Fri-Sun Glenn Oster 364-2864**  
**Backpack, Oil Creek Hiking Trail.** Backpack the Oil Creek Hiking Trail in historic oil discovery country, Oil Creek State Park, starting at Petroleum Center. Hike ten miles on Saturday and sleep in Wolfkill Shelter. Complete the loop with a six-mile hike back to Saturday's starting point. Call for info/reservations.

**March 12 Sat Steve Nydes 661-9357**  
**Butler Freeport Trail.** Approximately 8-10 miles. This is the Butler County rail-trail. This will be an in-and-out hike, walking parallel to Little Buffalo Creek and Buffalo Creek, near the towns of Sarver and Cabot. Flat, no hills; intermediate level. Meet at 8:30 am at HQ in Mellon Park. Call Steve for info/reservations.

**March 19 Sat Jim Ritchie 828-0210**  
**Rachel Carson Trail, Section B: Springdale to Tarentum (Allegheny Vistas).** Approximately 8 miles. Strenuous roller coaster hills: there are at least 8 major hill climbs. This is a beautiful section of the trail, running high atop the bluffs parallel to the Allegheny River. This is the first of four hikes in four months covering the trail from end to end. See it all. Meet at 8:00 am at HQ in Mellon Park. Call Jim for info/reservations.

**March 20 Sun Maynard Hansen 751-7615**  
**Bear Run.** Approximately 8-10 miles, intermediate. Bear Run is the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy property near Fallingwater on the west slope of Laurel Ridge. Call Maynard for meeting place; meeting time will be 8:30 am.

**March 20 Sun Linda Smithyman 531-1868**  
**Possibly 4 fun miles** including a few hills in two areas of South Park. Meet at the Police Station in South Park at 10:00 am. Please note this location and meeting time!

**March 26 Sat Jim Ritchie 828-0210**  
**Baker Trail, Near Idaho: Trail Maintenance.** Maintenance is badly needed on the Baker Trail near the Idaho Shelter; trail must be rebuilt around an electric fence; involves loppers, bowsaws, whackers, blazing, etc. I need a crew of 8 to spend the day. Dinner or pie and coffee in Shelocta afterwards. Meets at HQ in Mellon Park at 8:00 am. Call Jim for info/reservations.

**March 31 to Apr 4 Thur eve to Mon eve**  
**Mark Mistrik 647-7609 (w)**  
**Intermediate-level backpacking trip to the Smoky Mountains National Park.** Three days of rugged and beautiful backpacking on the Hazel Creek Trail system - we'll start right at the top of everything at Clingmon's Dome and follow the trails down to Lake Fontana (an elevation drop 4700 feet). \*OR\* if winter hasn't departed the mountains, we'll backpack on the Neusiok Trail along the Atlantic coast in the Croatan National Forest of North Carolina. Call for more information.

**April 8-9-10 Fri-Sun Keystone Trails Association**  
**Annual Meeting, Wellsboro, PA.** KTA is the premier hiking trail organization in the state, coordinating maintenance, construction, planning, and legislation relating to hiking trails in PA. The annual meeting allows you to meet legends in PA hiking such as Tom Thwaites, Mark Eckler, Glenn Oster, and other representatives from nearly every hiking organization in the state. Be there to stand up for AYH when the roll call of organizations is taken. Good food, a full program of hiking activities on both days in which you may participate; accommodations are available at the Penn-Wel Hotel (a landmark!) or at a nearby campground. Request registration information from Jim Ritchie at 828-0210. Let Jim know if you are interested in carpooling as a driver or a rider to Wellsboro.

**April 22 -24 Fri eve-Sun Blanch Asherman 828-8158(h)**  
**Cranberry Backcountry hiking, caving, ramp-eating sightseeing** condo weekend (!). Two days of hiking in the Cranberry Backcountry of southern West Virginia, sightseeing trip to Cass (a neat little town with antique steam locomotives), and an optional trip into Sharp's Cave for those so inclined. Bring a pack of "Certs". Mark Mistrik 647-7609 day-time or leave a message.

## FOOT NOTES

hiking and backpacking news

by jim ritchie

AYH needs hike leaders. If you have an interest in leading hikes for AYH in the Pittsburgh area, call me at 828-0210 (Jim Ritchie). The season is upon us. I am especially looking for individuals who may know any of the following trails and trail areas:

Linn Run State Park  
North Park  
Keystone State Park  
Kooser State Park  
Montour Trail  
Northmoreland Park  
Crooked Creek-Laurel Point Trail  
Laurel Summit Area (Beams Rocks, etc)  
Ohiopyle-Meadow Run, Baughmans Rocks, Great Gorge, etc

Settler's Cabin Park  
Wolf Rocks Trail  
Raccoon Creek State Park.  
Mill Creek, Youngstown  
Shenango Trail  
Moraine State Park

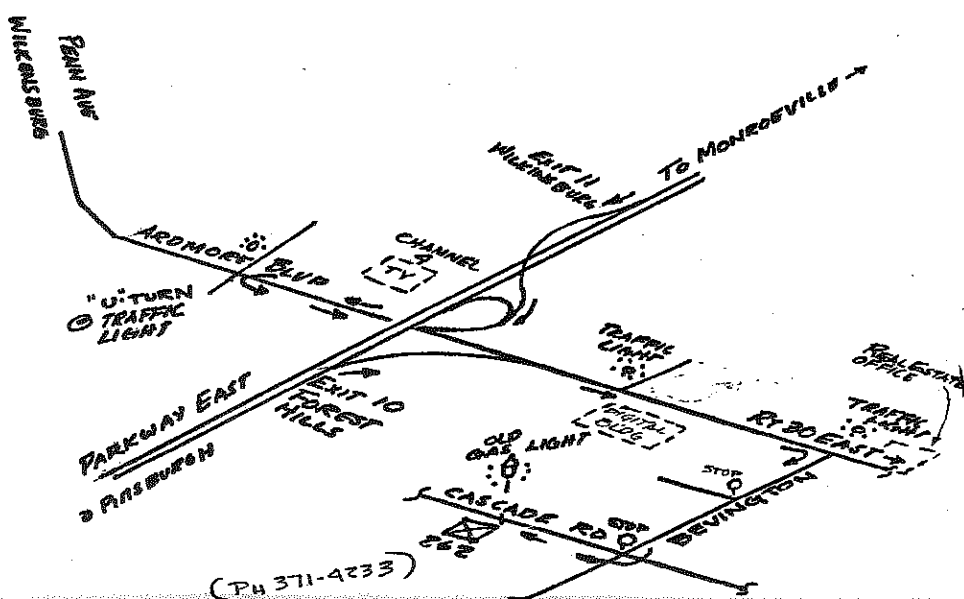
## CANOEING

The AYH Canoeing Program offers a variety of paddling for a wide range of skill levels and interests. Western Pennsylvania offers canoeing on whitewaters of the mountains, to flowing rivers of the valleys, to lakes nestled in the rolling hills. The region abounds with canoeing opportunities suited to almost every taste. Most recreational canoeing in Western Pennsylvania is on moving-water rivers ranging from narrow creeks that are canoeable only after heavy rains to major rivers with year-round flow. They cover the complete spectrum from still through swift, from pristine through industrial, and from easy through difficult.

This program emphasizes open-canoeing paddling. Trips start in May. We use solo and tandem canoes having different designs and characteristics so paddlers can gain experience using equipment rented at a reasonable fee. Basic instruction on Wednesday evenings, weekend day trips on flat and whitewater, whitewater I & II schools, solo school, camping, river trips and exploring marshes are scheduled with the leader who qualifies you for their trip. Basic instruction is a pre requisite for whitewater paddling so be sure and take the class.

**March 8 Canoe Program Planning Meeting**  
**Tues 7:30 PM Jan/Gordon Bugby 371-4233**

Anyone Interested in Canoeing activities is invited to Bugby's home for this planning meeting. We will discuss issues effecting canoeing, equipment maintenance and develop the SCHEDULE of classes and trips for the 1994 paddling season. We do allow enough time to enjoy Jan's food. Canoeists do need to keep up their strength.



## MID-WEEK RAMBLES

**March 2 Wed John Hartman 241-5031**  
 Walk in Frick Park, lower Playfield to Braddock Avenue, through Regent Square to bowling green then return to cars.

**March 9 Wed George Westcott 279-5375**  
 Highland Park residential area, starting at the park.

**March 16 Wed Margaret Krest 421-5976**  
 St Patricks Day ramble through the Strip District, including St Patricks Church. Possible lunch at the Strip District.

**March 23 Wed Joel Platt (Cliff Ham 687-4520)**  
 Walk in the Squirrel Hill area.

**March 30 Wed Dick/Ruth Fischer 421-9215**  
 Duck Hollow via Frick Park; the slag pile and Monongahela waterfront, with Ilse Conley.

Notes for all Rambles: Meet in the upper parking lot near Headquarters at Fifth and Shady Avenues by 10 am.

\* Trips are subject to change because of weather, conflicts of schedule, and choice of group. We will plan a walk in all kinds of weather; be prepared.

\* Please share expenses of transportation when trips exceed ten miles. One dollar per passenger is suggested.

\* Call the leader for further information about a trip or to inform the leader that you plan to attend. Call Cliff or Marilyn Ham, at 687-4520, for information. Do not call after 10 pm.

## SAILING

**March 5 SAILING ACTIVITY DINNER and 94 PLANNING MEETING**

Sat 6:00 PM Anyone interested in the AYH Sailing Program is invited to a mid-Winter get-together, potluck dinner and planning meeting at the home of Bob and Sara Zavos, 1007 Savannah Ave, Pittsburgh (Regent Square). We will discuss last years activities, share stories on recent trips, and discuss plans for the up coming season. We may show a VCR tape on sailing and will have plenty of pictures. We will set up Sailing Program operating procedures and plan Summer Classes, sailboat maintenance and weekend trips. In addition to sailing Lake Arthur in our Flying Juniors, Sunfish, and 470 we hope to offer weekend trips to Lake Chautauqua and Pymatuning Reservoir and charters to Lake Erie and the Chesapeake Bay.

Contact Bob or Sara Zavos (241-0659) for further details.

## SEA-KAYAKING

## In Case You Were Wondering...

A sea-kayak is a small versatile human-powered watercraft. Their hull designs allow for a balance of maneuverability and straight tracking. They are faster, more efficient and more stable than canoes. Sea-kayaking is quiet. There is no effect of your passing and you can move freely in two dimensions. Properly paddled, sea-kayaking is an excellent low-impact aerobic exercise for the entire upper body. The double-bladed kayak paddle balances your power without the need for corrective paddling strokes, and you sit comfortably in a seat at water level, instead of kneeling on your knees (Ouch!) or destabilizing yourself sitting a few inches above water level. Most sea-kayaks have ample cargo space to allow for extended camping trips, are comfortable, and will take you almost anywhere, whether it's across a flatwater pond or through six foot ocean waves. It depends on your level of ability.

The AYH program is organized on an annual basis, with easier trips planned for early in the season, instruction in the warmer summer months and more challenging trips run in the late summer and autumn. Trips are planned around three basic components; scenic, technical and instructional trips. Sea-kayak touring trips range from short paddles around downtown Pittsburgh to week long kayak camping trips, taking everything in the boat. The technical trips provide greater challenge both physically and in paddling technique. Instructional trips are the most common, where you can learn to basic paddling on up to kayak safety, rescue, navigation and the kayak roll.

The AYH owns a fleet of 8 sea kayaks, expressly to teach and equip members, and the rental rates are one-quarter of the industry prices. Trip leaders are volunteers who plan each trip's destination, degree of strenuousness, and ability level. Beginner level trips are suitable for almost anyone-you don't even have to know how to swim. Each trip is unique, so you must talk to the trip leader about what to bring, how long the trip will last, and its cost. And finally, sea-kayaking is an exciting sport, still in its infancy. The people who pioneered the sport and literally "invented it" are still active paddlers, and accessible to many sea-kayakers today. How sea-kayaking finally develops will depend on those to learn about the sport now.

Call us if you're interested...we'll teach you how.

Call Mark at 647-7609 (W) if you have any questions.

**March 26 Sat afternoon Keith Jackson 831-7034 (h)**  
 Sea-kayakers (and everybody else) monthly moot to discuss upcoming trips. This afternoon we'll chow on Chinese cuisine at Chinese On Carson's "Dim-Sum" luncheon-sample the whole menu (if you want) in bite-sized pieces. We'll discuss upcoming trips to the Smoky Mountains or Neusiok trail for backpacking over Easter weekend, the Allegheny River sea-kayaking and canoe weekend (April 16 and 17), the Cranberry Backcountry trip (April 23 and 24), and the Chesapeake Bay Sea-kayaking Symposium (May 13-15), plus anything else that might come up. Call Keith for meeting time and place.

**April 20 Wed eve Mark Mistrik 647-7609 (w).**  
 1994 Sea-kayak planning meeting. Traditional yearly assemblage to discuss trips planned for the 1994 paddling season over dinner at the Elbow Room restaurant in Shadyside. Anyone with an interest in sea-kayaking is welcome. Each year we organize daytrips on local lakes and rivers, take advantage of special events such as kayaking to downtown Pittsburgh to watch fireworks or see the three Rivers Arts Festival, play in the waves of Lake Erie, go out on weekend tours and camping trips, and combinations trips including hiking, backpacking, and fossil hunting. Informal instruction is provided on evening paddling trips and sea kayaks may be rented inexpensively from the AYH, if you need one. This year, we're preparing trips to Maine and Nova Scotia. Boston and Cape Cod, and Lake Powell in Utah and Arizona. Call for more information or if you're interested in the Program, but can't make the meeting. 7:00 pm at the restaurant.

**April 16-17 Sat-Sun Mark Mistrik 647-7609 (w)**  
 Annual Early Spring sea-kayaking camping trip on the Allegheny River. Easy weekend of paddling, camping, hiking and eating at Donnelly Island on the Allegheny River north of Pittsburgh. Join Ed Diver's for a guided hike of the local area's places of interest. Ed always brings some "preserved" ginseng along, so if you come on this trip, you'll practically live forever. 7:00 am Saturday morning at HQ.

**May 13-15 Fri-Sun Mark Mistrik 647-7609 (d)**  
 Second Annual Chesapeake Bay Sea-Kayaking Symposium. One of the premier sea-kayaking events on the East Coast. The Symposium includes three days of paddling clinics, lectures and boat demonstrations provided by some of the most knowledgeable people in the sport. A mile long boat beach provides opportunities to test paddle sea-kayaks from most of the major manufacturers, whether you're interested in actually buying a new boat or simply seeing what's new. We'll be going up to the Symposium plus staying a few extra days to paddle in the area. There is a boat beach option on Sunday if you wish to forgo the lectures and clinics, and just try out the kayaks. Event has a limited attendance and early registration is essential. Call for more information.

**Sometime in March or Apr, 1994 Mark Mistrik 647-7609 (w)**  
 Interested in a flexible, vaguely planned weeklong (9 day) trip to Georgia? The basic idea is fossil hunting in coastal Georgia, sea-kayak the barrier islands offshore and some sightseeing. Accommodations will include camping, youth hostels, and cheap hotels.

## OSTER from 3

canyons. Your attention is drawn first to the tortuous canyon that the Colorado has cut over aeons of time. There it is 2000 feet below, winding in all directions with rock walls many hundreds of feet high. Not as many travelers visit Dead Horse Point as other western locations - there is so much to be seen. But I can't imagine a much better view. It takes its name from early days when feral horses were rounded up, culled, and those considered inferior driven out onto this point from which there was no escaping. They then were either driven over the cliff or left to perish. One reason for fewer visitors is the long, forty - two mile round trip to get there. However, the scenery for the first five miles or so makes the trip worthwhile if only to see nearby hulking buttes and distant views from atop this mesa. I've been to Dead Horse Point many times before and, God willing, I'll get there again.

Dead Horse Point is near Moab, Utah. Another reason why it is often overlooked is its proximity to Arches National Park. Arches is a unique place, a must on anyone's tour through the west. It's a desert setting featuring miles of red rock, much of it standing on edge like fins on a fish; they take on an incredible number of forms and shapes. Most impressive of these are the arches formed by the eroding effect of wind, sand and rain over untold centuries. They appear as natural bridges which will one day wear away and collapse, but who knows how many more centuries that will take. Moreover, by then we should have some new ones. Our descendants should be able to see these natural wonders for generation after generation. Here, as with much of the desert high country, the predominant color is red with beige to white layers in between. There have been participants in previous such trips who tired of seeing so much red rock as the west offers, but I never do. I mentioned that the rocks take on various forms and shapes; one reminds me of a group of school boys with their hands clasped behind them standing in a semi - circle talking. Another resembles an enormous elephant coming toward you. Two others appear as gunmen standing back to back with dueling pistols lowered awaiting the call to take twenty paces, turn and shoot. Overshadowing everything else, however, the highlight of Arches has to be Delicate Arch. It is depicted on the "Welcome to Utah" signs as you enter the state and on AAA's road maps as well. We hiked up to it and stood in awe. A plus there for the group was seeing a big footed, long eared jackrabbit. It was a mite shy, and I'll be interested in whether any of their pictures really showed the differences from our cottontails. Again, all good things must come to an end and off we went.

We next set our course northward driving Utah Route 128 which parallels the Colorado River past high cliffs towering above left of the river and impressive buttes from time to time on the opposite side. However, to me the most memorable point of interest on that road is an historic one lane wooden suspension bridge. Unfortunately, it can no longer be driven across; they've built a new concrete structure and changed the route of the highway. So much for that fond memory. The first three times I traveled this way the bridge was still in use. In 1979, I drove across it in my big Chrysler station wagon pulling a tent trailer. The trailer had ample room, but the clearance for my car's outside mirrors gave me only inches to squeeze between ( and I'm referring to the car's regular mirrors, not the wide ones which people attach when towing a trailer ). The bridge can still be walked, and I've done it before for old times' sake, but it isn't the same. The new bridge whisks you across the Colorado in a heart beat, and I'm all for progress, but - - -. When I first drove Route 128 it was a dirt road with depressions, called washes that you didn't dare cross during rainstorms for fear of being carried away for a swim in the Colorado River. Nostalgia.

Our scenic pleasures were coming to an end, but we still had a couple beauties in store. Just east of Montrose, Colorado we turned north from US Route 50 to Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument. This is seen from roadways on both cliffs of an extremely deep and sharply vertical sided gorge. The monument traces the most impressive segment of the Canyon, and impressive it really is. The Gunnison River far below cut this river ever so gradually as the western uplift was taking place throughout the ages. The road takes you to a number of overlooks where you can get the sense of how deep this Canyon is. It reaches depths of 1800 to 2300 feet straight down! The area was largely influenced by thermal action with many cinder cones visible. It was most obvious here in the form of large fissures (molten magma forced up into the earth's crust as pinkish stone filling cracks and voids). This National Monument is truly worth seeing, and it's conveniently within a few miles of the main road.

Soon after leaving the Canyon we passed Blue Mesa, a large lake fed by the Gunnison River before it drops into the Canyon. Here, again, we were lucky - the sun was right for pictures, and the water was ever so blue. The lake has been expanded greatly subsequent to my last visit; it goes on and on mile after scenic mile. You think you've finally gone beyond it, but when you cross the next mountain ridge you find it once again at the bottom. No one was complaining, though - it was so satisfying.

After too short a night's rest, we stopped at Buena Vista for breakfast and turned east toward Colorado Springs. Along the way we could see Pike's Peak. However, we were already in high country, and it didn't rise much above us - no time or group inclination to drive up it. Then came the dessert of the trip, our final taste of the west, The Garden of the Gods, a little west and north of Colorado Springs. Ponderous red rock formations dominate the Garden with smaller red and white ones sprinkled around to add interest. You need to see this place in morning or late afternoon light to sense its full effect, and we saw it in the morning - what a wonderful sight to remember as the end of our visual tour.

By now, the realities of life were upon us. Most of the trippers had to be at work Monday morning, and this was Saturday. With all those sensory wonders, we had fallen six hours behind schedule and would have reached Pittsburgh much too late if we were to camp overnight on the way home. It became necessary to drive straight through the same as we did traveling west. Fortunately, we now knew where the most comfortable spots were in the van, and we seemed to bear up throughout the long drive back even better than when we were fresh and excited on our way west. We pulled into our end point at the Mount Nebo Park & Ride at 4:00 P.M., one hour ahead of schedule. It was a great trip with a super group of trippers; we'll savor it for as long as we live.

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At the Vashon Island AYH-Hostel located off the coast of Washington, spend the night in a hand-hewn log cabin, a Sioux tipi, or a covered wagon by a campfire. In the morning enjoy a free pancake breakfast made with the hostel manager's old family recipe.

In Brunswick, Georgia, really get back to nature by staying at the Hostel in the Forest AYH-Hostel. This one-of-kind facility features treehouse and geodesic dome accommodations set in acres of forest near the coast.

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Pittsburgh AYH is always looking for new outlets for our small collection of outdoor guidebooks.

If you live in areas such as Warren, St. Mary's, Altoona, Erie, Kane, Indiana, Bradford, Brockway, Punxsutawney, PA or maybe Wheeling or Morgantown, W.V. you can help us find new stores.

If your town has a local bookstore that has a section with "Outdoors" please let us know. Don't forget local outfitters also that sell guidebooks. Send in your "lead" to: AYH Publications, 5604 Solway Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

The office staff will then send out the appropriate sales information to the shop. Don't forget to include the complete address including zip code. Thanks.

## Your Dream Vacation

North Cascades National Park  
Olympic National Park  
Mount Rainier National Park  
Mount Saint Helens

July 2 - 16, 1994

Can you see yourself watching the Rocky Mountains from the air and then descending to Seattle as you gaze, awe inspired, at the chain of snow covered mountain peaks visible to the south - majestic Mount Rainier, Mount Adams, Mount St. Helens and Mount Hood - incredible. Then travel by van to backpack for six days in the rugged, scenic and unbelievable spiny mountains of North Cascades National Park. (If you are not up to backpacking, you can use the van to car camp and sightsee or day hike while others are in the wilderness.)

For the next seven days, tour and day hike. We'll visit Olympic National Park - snowy Hurricane Ridge, the lush Hoh Rain Forest, and impressive sea-stacks and arches offshore in the Pacific Ocean. Next we'll head for Mount Rainier and climb up to Frying Pan Gap for absolutely overwhelming views. Lastly, we'll drive through Mount St. Helens and see the devastating effect of a big-time volcanic eruption.

It's pretty hard to imagine more scenic beauty packed into a two week vacation. You can elect not to backpack, as mentioned, but if you do join the backpackers, you'll need to be able to hike at an advanced level.

Assuming all openings are filled, the cost is estimated to be about \$500 plus transportation to and from Seattle, hostel beds and meals.

The trip will be limited to eight, and three hikers have already signed up; so, if you are interested, better let me know soon. These western trips usually fill quickly.

Phone Glenn Oster at (412) 364-2864 for more info/reservations.

## CLASSIFIED

All trips and products listed here are private and are not sponsored or endorsed by American Youth Hostels. Non-commercial ads are free for members. Contact the Editor for more info on Ads for Members and Non-members.

**For Sale:** Cross-country skis, boots (size 44) and poles. "Trak" waxless skis. As new - used once. \$85 for all. Peggy 361-4781.

A group of local AYH bicyclists ride the GOBA bicycle tour each year. For a change of scenery and a different experience, I am considering one of the "Bed & Breakfast" type bike tours for this summer. My requirements are, the tour can be completed in one week and that airfare is not required. I would like to hold a meeting in late March to select a tour. Anyone interested should call me, Rodney, 412-339-0944.

**For Sale:** Women's Tanner all leather Gortex hiking boots. Size 7 1/2 m, like new. Asking \$95. Judy 443-6795.

**WANTED** Artists to draw the designs for the 1994 Great Ride, MVC and SABRE T-Shirts. Call Larry Laude (665-9554).

**Wanted:** 26" wheels, with quick release hubs, contact Bill at 833-9732

**For Sale:** Slick Tires for Road use of Mountain bikes. 26x1.5". Hardly used \$19 for two. Kathleen 341-1564

**Editor, The Golden Triangle**  
6300 5th Ave  
Pittsburgh, PA 15232



