



# 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 52, NUMBER 5

DECEMBER-JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2002/2003



## Hostelling - International Pittsburgh PA



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
- Heinz Field
- PNC Park

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....And MORE!!!

## PITTSBURGH COUNCIL HOLIDAY PARTY SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 12, 2002, 7:00pm AT PITTSBURGH HOSTEL

Holiday party starting 7:00 PM on Thursday, December 12, 2002, at the hostel, Warrington Avenue at Arlington Avenue in Allentown, prepared by Luc and Bob. No reservations necessary.

Delicious egg-nog - teas from around the world and coffee from Hawaii.  
Extensive food. Bring a covered dish or snacks.

## PITTSBURGH COUNCIL ANNUAL ELECTIONS RESCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 12, 2002, 8:00pm AT PITTSBURGH HOSTEL HOLIDAY PARTY

There were not enough Pittsburgh Council members present at the October Annual Meeting to conduct the election of officers. The elections will be held during the Holiday Party at the Pittsburgh Hostel. Bring all the hostel people you know to vote early and often so we can get on with the party.

George Schmidt  
twoschmidts@peoplepc.com  
412-521-1538

HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL

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

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HOSTELLING



**Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels, Inc.**

Serving Western Pennsylvania & West Virginia Panhandle  
Since 1948, Incorporated 1955

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Vice-President ... **OPEN**  
Secretary ... **George Schmidt**  
Treasurer ... **VACANT**

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**PITTSBURGH COUNCIL  
ACTIVITY CHAIRS**

Chairman of the  
Activities Committee  
Ben Brugmans.....361-3623  
Canoeing  
Paul Henry ..... 724-347-3282  
Brian McBane..... 724-443-8972  
Cross Country Skiing  
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**Cycling**

**OPEN**

Family Activities  
Barbara Hanusa ..... 441-7205  
Hiking/Backpacking  
Joan Roolf ..... 351-2061  
Kayaking  
Ray Yutzy .....724-926-4646  
Midweek Rambles  
Billie Woodland ..... 886-1603  
Rafting  
John Orndorff ..... 741-2021  
Rock Climbing  
Ann Minard.....766-4036  
Chuck Jones.....766-4036  
Sailing  
Bob Zavos ..... 241-0659  
Sea Kayaking  
Vickie Gotaskie ..... 344-4929  
Russ Tague .....331-2073  
Trail Systems  
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Luc Berger ..... 683-3131  
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Steve Poprocky ..... 731-2429



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INTERNATIONAL**

Pittsburgh Hostel Manager  
**Marc Virostek**  
(412-431-1267)

Ohiopyle Hostel Manager  
**Kelly and Steve Miller**  
(724-329-4476)

**NOTICE**

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

**Mar-Apr-May ISSUE**  
**All copy, February 6**  
**Binding/Mailing, February 20**

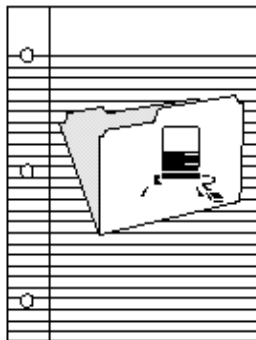
If your work is on computer,  
Please contact Joel Platt at  
golden\_triangle@bigfoot.com

**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-religious
- Above rules apply in addition to general rules for submission

**General rules for submission**

- No handwritten submissions
- Submissions Can be;  
On computer disk (IBM), E-mail (Internet/compuserve), Type written material double spaced, faxed. NO EXCEPTIONS. Call if you have questions.
- Submitted before the deadline of the issue that submission needs to be 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 2002

Number 1 issue ->January/February / March; Number 2 issue ->April/May: Number 3 issue ->June/July/August: Number 4 issue ->September/October/November: Number 5 issue ->December/Janusry/February  
Editor...

**Xmas Party!!!!**

Dec. 28, 7:00 PM - Xmas Party!!!!!!!  
Joyce Appel's house. Come and join the fun on this joyous occasion. Guaranteed fun!  
Bring a gag gift. (Guy brings for a guy and girl brings for a girl)  
Bring snacks or covered dish. (Drinks are provided)  
There will be food, socializing, games, gifts and fun for all!  
Call Joyce for details or directions to her house.  
724-526-5407

**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**  
**The Golden Triangle**  
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 Hostels**

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HIOhiopyle@stargate.net


**HI-Pittsburgh Hostel**

830 E. Warrington Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15210

(412) 431-1267

hipgh@sgi.net






## SEA-KAYAKING

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

November 22	Light Up Night	Russ 412-331-2073
December 12	Sea Kayaker's Christmas Dinner	Vickie 412-344-4929
January 1	Annual New Year's Day Paddle	Vickie or Russ



## SAILING

Experienced sailors or novices who would like to go for a sail at Lake Arthur can contact Bob Zavos at 412-241-0659. Bob usually sails with the Moraine Sailing Club on weekends. There are sailboat races on most Saturdays and Open Sailing on Sundays.

Sailing season is now over in Western Pennsylvania until next April or May. The Moraine Sailing Club will sponsor several classroom sessions on Sailing over the Winter. This usually occurs in February and March. Look for announcements here or check their Website at [www.morainesailing.org](http://www.morainesailing.org).


There is also ice sailing at Lake Arthur over the Winter if the ice gets thick enough. This is a very fast and exciting sport. There is no schedule. You would have to drive to Moraine State Park on a very cold weekend and look for the ice sail boats near the South shore. Last Winter they only had one or two weekends. Look hard because they move very fast. Perhaps you can check with the Moraine State Park Office.

Pennsylvania State Web Sites  
Moraine State Park [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/morain.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/morain.htm)  
PA DCNR Contacts [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/keycont.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/keycont.htm)  
PA DCNR Press Releases <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/polycomm/pressrel>  
PA Fish & Boat Commission: [www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us)  
Commonwealth of PA: <http://www.state.pa.us/PAPower/>  
PA Governor: [sites.state.pa.us/PA\\_Exec/Governor/organization](http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Governor/organization).

## UPCOMING SLIDE SHOWS

**November 28:** Closed for Thanksgiving Day.  
**December 5:** Mary Joy Haywood, "Antarctica, The Frozen Continent". First, a tour of Buenos Aires. From Ushuaia at the tip of South America, a 10-day crossing by ship. Eight landings by zodiac. Visit of Palmer Experimental Station.  
**December 12:** Christmas party starting 7:30 PM at the hostel, Warrington Avenue at Arlington Avenue in Allentown. Extensive food. Also, annual elections of officers have been rescheduled to this date. Please, help us obtain a quorum!  
**December 19:** We show the 16 mm film "Land Above The Trees". Special plants and animals inhabit the alpine regions of North America. The movie shows how they survive the extreme cold, heavy snowfall and short growing season. Produced by the National Film Board of Canada.  
**December 26:** Closed for Christmas Holidays.  
**January 2:** Closed for New Year Holidays.  
**January 9:** Cookies, crackers and Juicy Juice party.  
**January 16:** We show the 16 mm film "John Denver's Rocky Mountain Reunion". He ventures deep into the mountains to release breeding pairs of endangered species such as river otter, greenback trout and golden eagle, all believed extinct in the Rockies.  
**January 23:** Ron Boone, "Alaska". See Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula. He reaches the Arctic Circle, 200 miles north of Fairbanks. Also, he visits Denali National Park.  
**January 30:** Cheese, bread and soft drinks party.  
**February 6:** We show the 16 mm film "Kifaru: The Black Rhinoceros". In Africa, biologist John Goddard and his family conduct the first scientific study of the black rhinoceros, a "prehistoric relic" facing extinction.  
**February 13:** Jim Wallace, "Vietnam Discovery". Jim takes you to the capital Hanoi, to islands in notorious Halong Bay, to cave formations, and to the imperial capital of Hue. Also Danang, China Beach and Marble Mountain. See the port town of Hoi Han and its fish markets, and the delta area of Saigon.  
**February 20:** Pineapple Upside-Down cake and soft drinks party.  
**Febuary 27:** We show the 16 mm film "Korea: Reflections On the Morning Calm". Includes visits to historic and archeological sites in Korea. The movie also shows a collection of art objects which trace 5000 years of a distinctive culture, emerged despite repeated wars and invasions by powerful neighbors.  
**March 6:** Norm Snyder, "Wild Canyons Of Utah". They were among the first to make a through trip from Wildcat Canyon to West Canyon. They explore the Black Hole of Calcutta, rappeling three times.


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.



## 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)766-4036. Please call before 10 o'clock at night.



## CANOEING

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

The only thing I can think of would be the canoe planning session that takes place sometime in Feb., but that is up to the canoe chairs to set the date.

## Rambles For Winter 2002/2003

- ### November 2002

27. No ramble. Happy Thanksgiving.

### December 2002

4. South Park. Mary Ann Brincka. 412-884-0383

11. South Side with someone who knows the area well! We will start at 12<sup>th</sup> Street and E.Carson Street at the Birmingham Mural. Ann Jurgovsky. 412-381-9005.

18. CELEBRATE THE SEASON! Walk to North Craig Street and join AYH hikers from years past for a buffet lunch (cost around \$10.00) at Duranti's Park Plaza Restaurant. Please reserve by Dec.16. Billie Woodland. 412-886-1603.

25. No ramble. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

### January 2003

1. No ramble. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

8. Frick Park. Teresa Honert. 412-683-0253.

15. Carnegie Mellon University Computer Center and an Art Show. Luc Berger. 412-683-3131.

22. Duck Hollow to Glenwood Bridge. Joel Platt. 412-521-5244.

29. Old Allegheny. Earl McCabe 412-761-1844.

### February 2003

5. Monroeville. Saunders Station Road. Hike along abandoned rail line toward Trafford. Joanne Winwood. 412-371-3167.

12. Squirrel Hill. Marty Brigham. 412-521-1913.

19. Yough Trail from Boston toward McKeesport Deadman's Hollow Trail. Marion Fast. 412-241-2109.

26. Riverview Park. Jim Hurst 412-276-0447.

**Fall rambles will begin at 10:00 AM. Meet in Mellon Park, upper parking lot at Fifth and Shady Avenues. Carpooling is encouraged. Transportation fees for passengers will range from \$1 to \$4 depending on length of trip.**

Call trip leader for more information, (especially with regard to strenuous walks), or if you plan to meet us at the trail head. Rambles are subject to change due to weather or other circumstances.



## HIKING/BACKPACKING/TRAILS

### (AMBLES) SHORTER HIKES FOR FALL, 2002

Rather than call these hikes "Ambles" the name is changing to "Shorter Hikes", for want of a better name. These are easy 4-6 mile walks. We often stop for lunch in a local restaurant, but you may also bring a lunch if that is your preference. There will be a car pool fee if you ride with someone else. We will usually meet on Sunday at 10am at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, at 5th and Shady. Please note some hikes meet at other locations. BE SURE TO CALL THE LEADER A DAY OR TWO AHEAD TO CONFIRM THE HIKE AND MEETING LOCATION.

I am attempting to co-ordinate with both AYH and Sierra Club members who like to lead these shorter hikes to find more leaders and avoid duplication. Participants in these hikes will be required to sign a liability form for one or both organizations. If you would like to list your shorter hike here please call Joan Roolf at (412) 351-2061

**Saturday, November 30th** Hike an easy 6 miles from Connellsville to Pechins. Flat half is on the Yough River Trail. \$5.75 carpool 44 miles. Meet at Monroeville Gateway at 11 am. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154

**Sunday, December 8th** Hike an easy 5 mile loop near Freeport, partly along the Allegheny River. \$1.75 Carpool/15 miles. Meet at Harmarville at 11 AM. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154

**Sunday, December 15th** Walk the Butler/Freeport Trail for 5 miles from Cabot. Lunch in a local restaurant. Call Lorraine Johnson at 412-561-2786

**Sunday, December 22nd** Wind your way throught the city starting at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. We will find interesting places in Shadyside, Bloomfield, and the Strip or Lawrenceville.. Possibly lunch in Bloomfield or the Strip. Call Theresa Honert at 412-683-0253

**Sunday, December 29th Happy Holidays!**

**Sunday, January 5th** Walk from Washington's Landing along the North Shore Heritage Trail, past the stadiums, and wind our way back to a good German Restaurant for lunch. If you haven't already, come see how the North Side is changing. Call Theresa Honert at 412-683-0253.

**Sunday, January 12th** Enjoy a casual visit to Casparis Cave near Connellsville including a cookout outside the Cave. Meet at Gateway Middle School in Monroeville at 10 am. \$5.25 carpool/40 miles. Call Ed Divers at 412-828-5154

**Sunday, January 19th** 4-5 miles in Bird Park in Mt. Lebanon followed by a covered dish lunch at Lorraine's apartment. Call Lorraine at 412-561-2786

**Sunday, January 26th** Walk 6 miles in Moraine State Park through a bird sanctuary and following some bridle paths. Eric knows the park well. Bring a lunch. Lead by Eric Hoffman 724-772-4316

**Sunday, February 2nd** Walk the Southside Slopes and Flats. History, architecture and views abound. Then lunch at Southside diner. Lorraine Johnson. 412-561-2786

**Sunday, February 9th** Another beautiful view of Pittsburgh! Walk from Mt. Washington down into the city and Point State Park. Then across the Smithfield St. Bridge to Station Square where we will have lunch. After that we go up the incline and walk through Grandview Park. About 5 miles. Call Joan Roolf at 412-351-2061

**Sunday, February 16th** Explore Homestead. Then have lunch in a restaurant on the main street (not the Waterfront). This time we stay in the historic section and enjoy some of the ethnic churches. Call Joan Roolf at 412-351-2061

**Sunday, February 23rd.** Hike an easy 3 miles in the Lipp Run/Cascades Natural area in Ross Twp. A beautiful stream environment close to the city. We will discuss ecological succession and the impact of stormwater/sewage issues along urban/suburban streams. (Meet at Verizon/Nardozzi's parking lot: 279Nfrom downtown-go 5 miles. Exit at Perrysville Ave. exit. At end of exit ramp go righton Center Ave. Go 100 yards and turn right into parking lot.) Those coming from Pittsburgh can meet at Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, if you need a ride. Call Robert Silber for the time, etc. 412-931-3723 or silber828@cs.com

## ALLEGHENY GROUP -- SIERRA CLUB -- OUTINGS THRU MARCH 15, 2003

Recommended carpool fee: 6 cents/passenger-mile + share tolls. (Unless stated, car-miles are one-way from Monroeville.) For more up-to-date listings, visit <http://www.alleghenysc.org/> Hardcopy subscriptions to this list are \$2.50/year (4 issues). Make check payable to Allegheny Group, Sierra Club; mail to Bruce Sundquist, 210 College Park Dr., Monroeville PA 15146-1532 E-mail subscriptions are free. bsundquist1@juno.com

**SKI-TOURING** (January through Mid-March): Decisions on where and when to go ski-touring depend so much on snow conditions that advance trip planning earlier than a day or two before the trip is impractical. Therefore the list below gives only the name of the leader who has agreed to lead any ski-touring trip on the weekend indicated. Call that leader around mid-week if you want to be notified of any trip going out on the coming weekend. State your experience level and whether you need to rent gear. For all weekends for which no ski-touring leader is listed, call Bruce Sundquist at 724-327-8737. If you are interested in intermediate-level mid-week trips, call the same number. Nick Broskovich 724-863-6707 will be leading beginner trips on every weekend when snow conditions are good during January through mid-March. Note: Rentals no

longer available at Laurel Mountain. Allegheny Group offers a 25-page (8.5x11") booklet Ski-Touring in Western Pennsylvania that discusses equipment, clothing, places to go, technique, etc. It is available for \$2.00 + \$1.50 for book-rate postage from Bob Roth, 80 Roseleaf Road, Pittsburgh PA 15220. Make checks payable to Allegheny Group, Sierra Club.

**EVENING CONDITIONING WALKS** South Park (year-around). Thurs. evenings, 6:15 PM. Locations vary, call Bonnie Thomas, 412-833-1068, for meeting time and place.

**DAY- AND WEEKEND TRIPS**  
**Sun. Nov.24** Hike (fast-paced) on a hilly 7.5-8 miles in Deer Lakes County Park, about 4 miles from Harmarville. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519  
**Sun. Nov.24** Hike in Maxwell Run near Portland Mills in Elk County; 10 miles; visit logging ghost town of Raintown, the "Bear Caves", Maxwell Run Cemetery, and Empire Ridge Tunnel; partly off trail; strenuous. \$11.50 carpool-95 miles. Jim Ritchie, 412-828-0210

**Sat. Nov.30** Hike an easy 6 miles from Connellsville to Pechins. Flat--half is on the Yough River Trail. \$5.75 carpool-44 miles. Meet at Monroeville Gateway at 11 AM. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154  
**Sun. Dec 1** Hike at McConnell's Mill, on both banks of Slippery Rock Creek, including section on North Country Trail and Cleland Overlook. Strenuous and exploratory, full day. \$5.00 carpool-40 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

**Sat.-Sun. Dec.7-8** Backpacking on Laurel Highlands Trail. Stay in trail shelters. This is another in a series of trips to cover the entire 70 miles of the LHHT. Call Harold Kotchig, 412-341-1196  
**Sun. Dec. 8** Hike an easy 5-mile loop near Freeport, partly along Allegheny River. \$1.75 carpool-15 miles. Meet at Harmarville at 11 AM. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154  
**Sun. Dec. 8** Hike, strenuous, on Laurel Highlands Trail starting at US 30 and walking south for 3 hours and return. \$7.00 carpool-57 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

**Sun. Dec.15** Hike an easy 4-6 miles in the Laurel Highlands. If there is too much snow, we will go ski touring in the same area. Call Diane Neely, 724-459-3012

**Sat. Dec. 21** Hike or ski touring around Conemaugh Lake near Blairsville. \$4.00 carpool-33 miles. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068

**Sat.-Sun. Jan.4-5** Backpacking on Laurel Highlands Trail. Stay in shelters. This is one of a series of trips to cover all 70 miles of the LHT. Call Harold Kotchig, 412-341-1196  
**Sun. Jan. 5** Hike an easy 4-6 miles in the Laurel Highlands. If there is too much snow, we will go ski touring in the same area. Call Diane Neely, 724-459-3012

**Sat. or Sun. Jan.11 or 12** Ski touring wherever snow conditions are best. Date depends on weather forecast. Call Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737  
**Sun. Jan. 12** Enjoy a casual visit to Casparis Cave near Connellsville, including cookout outside cave. Meet at Gateway Middle School in Monroeville at 10 AM. \$5.25 carpool-40 miles. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154  
**Sun. Jan. 12** Hike a strenuous 15 miles or so on the Laurel Highlands Trail starting at Rt.653 and going south. If the snow is too deep we will go ski touring in the same general area (rentals available). \$8.00 carpool-60 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

**Sat. Jan.18** Hike or ski touring around Conemaugh Lake near Blairsville. \$4.00 carpool-33 miles. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068  
**Sun. Jan.19** Hike a fast-paced, intermediate, 7-8 miles in Harrison Hills County Park in northeastern Allegheny County. \$1.25 carpool-10 miles from Harmarville. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519

**Sat. or Sun. Jan.25 or 26** Ski touring wherever snow conditions are best. Beginners are welcome. Date depends on weather forecast. Call Nick Broskovick 724-863-6707  
**Sun. Jan.26** Hike a strenuous and exploratory full day in Raccoon Creek State Park west side, including Frankfort Mineral Springs, the far north end and Little Service Run. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567  
**Sun. Jan.26** Hike an easy 3 miles in the Lipp Run/Cascades Natural area in Ross Township and see a beautiful stream environment close to the city. Hike along Lipp Run to Girty's Run. See emergent wetlands, wooded hillsides, lots of birds and native vegetation. We will discuss ecological succession in the hike area and the impact of stormwater/ sewage issues along urban/suburban streams. Meet at Verizon/Nardozzi's Parking Lot (accessible to Public Transportation). See directions to this lot at the bottom of this schedule. Contact Robert Silber 412-931-3723; silber828@cs.com

**Fri. Jan.31-Sun.Feb.2** Ski-touring, intermediate, in Canaan Valley, Blackwater Falls State Park, Canaan Mountain and Cabin Mountain. The elevation (3200-4100') produces more snow than Laurel Ridge. Scenery in West Virginia's Highlands insures great hiking if snow conditions aren't favorable. Rental units must be reserved in advance, so reserve early. Depart Friday night. Limit: 20. \$21.00 carpool-150 miles. Call Monika Dalrymple, 724-863-4163  
**Sat.-Sun. Feb.1-2** Backpacking somewhere in Allegheny National Forest (weather permitting). \$20 carpool. Call Harold Kotchig, 412-341-1196  
**Sun. Feb.2** Hike an easy, scenic 8 miles in Bear Run Nature Reserve on the lower slopes of Laurel Ridge (shorter walk if the weather is bad) \$8.00 carpool-60 miles. Call Mike Robertson, 412-678-4039

**Sat. or Sun. Feb.8 or 9** Ski touring wherever snow conditions are best. Date depends on weather forecast. If snow conditions are bad we will hike instead. Call Don Stone,

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)  
412-441-2027

**Sun. Feb. 9** Hike a strenuous 15 miles or so on the Laurel Highlands Trail starting at Rt.653 and going north to Grindle Ridge and return. If the snow is too deep we will go ski touring in the Rt.653 area (rentals available). \$8.00 carpool-60 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

**Sat. Feb.15** Hike or ski touring in the area of Blacklick Creek. \$6.00 carpool-51 miles. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068

**Sun. Feb.16** Hike a fast-paced, intermediate, 8.5 miles in McConnell's Mill State Park, in the Slippery Rock Creek Gorge from Alpha Pass to Hell's Hollow. \$3.25 carpool-27 miles from Cranberry Mall. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519

**Sat. or Sun. Feb.22 or 23** Ski touring wherever snow conditions are best. Beginners are welcome. Date depends on weather forecast. Call Nick Broskovick 724-863-6707  
**Sun. Feb.23** Hike a strenuous and exploratory full day in Meadow Run/Cucumber Run loop from the falls at Ohioptyle. \$9.25 carpool-73 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567  
**Sun. Feb.23** Hike an easy 3 miles in the Lipp Run/Cascades Natural area in Ross Township. For more details see the description for the same trip on Jan.26. Contact Robert Silber 412-931-3723; silber828@cs.com

**Sat. or Sun. March 1 or 2** Ski touring wherever snow conditions are best. Date depends on weather forecast. Call Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737  
**Sat.-Sun. March 1-2** Backpacking on the Laurel Highlands Trail. Stay in trail shelters. This is one of a series of trips to cover the entire 70 miles of the LHT. Call Harold Kotchig, 412-341-1196  
**Sun. March 2** Hike an easy 5 miles in Beechwood Park-Monroeville's secret, largely undeveloped park. Trails follow several streams with the feel of Laurel Ridge, but closer to home. The trip could be extended to follow an undeveloped part of Turtle Creek. Call Donna Allen, 412-372-2993  
**Sun. March 2** Hike a strenuous 15 miles or so on the Laurel Highlands Trail starting at Rt.30 and going north and returning. If the snow is too deep we will go ski touring in the Rt.30 area (rentals not available). \$7.00 carpool-57 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

**Sat. or Sun. March 8 or 9** Ski touring wherever snow conditions are best. Beginners are welcome. Date depends on weather forecast. Call Nick Broskovick 724-863-6707  
**Sun. March 9** Hike an easy 3 miles in the Lipp Run/Cascades Natural area in Ross Township. For more details see the description for the same trip on Jan.26. Contact Robert Silber 412-931-3723; silber828@cs.com

**Sat. March 15** Hike or ski touring in the Conemaugh River area. \$4.00 carpool-33 miles. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068  
**Sun. March 15** Hike a strenuous 15 miles or so on the Laurel Highlands Trail starting at Rt.30 and going south and returning. If the snow is too deep we will go ski touring in the Rt.30 area (rentals not available). \$7.00 carpool-57 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

Directions to staging area for Lipp Run/Cascades Natural area hike (7minutes from Downtown Pittsburgh): 279 north from downtown - go 5 miles. Exit at Perrysville Ave. exit. At end of exit ramp go right. At stoplight go left on Rt.19 north. At bottom of hill turn right on Center Ave. Go 100 yards and turn right into parking lot for Nar-dozzi's and Verizon.

NOTES: Ask leader for names & phone numbers of trippers for you to arrange a car pool. Reserve at least 36 hours in advance. If you leave your phone number on the leader's answering machine, give it slowly and clearly. Notify leader to cancel your reservation. Bring lunch, rain gear, water, first-aid kit, small flashlight and extra clothes for changes in weather. If you have a cell phone, bring it along. Cell phones have saved the day on several trips when accidents have required evacuation of trippers. Sierra Clubbers planning to lead outings during 3/15/03-6/30/03 should contact Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737, bsundquist1@juno.com by 1/15/03.

**SIERRA CLUB MEMBERSHIP INDUCEMENT**  
If you join the Sierra Club on one of our outings, your \$25 introductory membership will get you a free hip pack (while supplies last). Call Bruce Sundquist (724-327-8737) for application form and pack.

**ALLEGHENY GROUP MONTHLY MEETINGS**  
Monthly meetings of Allegheny Group are now held at Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center on Shady Avenue just south of Fifth Ave. Driving south on Shady from Fifth, turn left at the second driveway into a parking lot in front of the Scaife Unit of the Arts Center. Parking there is metered (quarters only - 25 cents per hour). Follow the cobblestone driveway back to the Garden Center. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM. The first 30 minutes is a business meeting, the main program begins around 8 PM. A social hour follows. We must vacate the building by 10 PM.

**Wed. Dec.11 Xmas party.** Bring your 10 best slides of outdoor scenes and adventures, and some Xmas treats. Contact Peter Wray at 100 Royal Oak Ave., Pittsburgh 15235-5052 or pjwray@telerama.com if you plan to bring slides.  
**Wed. Jan. 8** Sue Broughton of CMU talks about the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Project.  
**Wed. Feb.12** Mike Kortyna (Army Corps of Engineers) on the state of aquatic life in Pittsburgh's rivers.  
**Wed. Mar.12** Jeff Schmidt, our lobbyist in Harrisburg, talks on legislative prospects at the state level.

## Other Outdoors Clubs

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

**Wissahickon Nature Club**  
If you enjoy nature lore, look into the meetings and field trips of Wissahickon Nature Club. They meet every other Saturday at 6 PM (except June-August) at Community Presbyterian Church, 7501 Church Av., Ben Avon. Contact Chuck Tague, 412-488-8760 or 432 Olympia Rd, Pgh. 15219

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

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

**Moraine Sailing Club**  
MSC offers sailing opportunities for new and experienced sailors at Lake Arthur in Moraine State Park. They have an active education program for all ages, numerous sailing related social events, Day Sailing at Lake Arthur, and a very active sailboat racing program. For more information see the MSC Web Page at www.morainesailingclub.org or contact Cindy Phillips, (412-741-5346, email to: wid-geons@aol.com)

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## BICYCLING ARTICLES by George Schmidt (contd)

(Continued from page 7)  
sultant for the Alle-Kiski Revitalization Corporation (AKRC) is developing this section of the greenway. In October of 1999, AKRC joined with recreation and conservation organizations led by the Allegheny Ridge Corporation to pursue the development of Pennsylvania's Millennium Legacy Trail. AKRC assumed responsibility for the portion of the greenway following the Allegheny and Kiskiminetas Rivers in the Alle-Kiski Region.

**Pittsburgh to Freeport**  
The City of Pittsburgh is working to extend the riverfront trail system from the short sections in the Strip District and Lawrenceville to the city boundary around Washington Blvd. and Allegheny River Boulevard. AKRC has reached agreements with most of the trail segments along the Allegheny River from Pittsburgh to the Kiskiminetas River and the Armstrong Trail. The sidewalk on the Freeport Bridge will be widened to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle traffic across the river.

**Freeport Trail Center**  
Construction has been funded to extend the Butler-Freeport Trail into the town of Freeport. There is also a proposal to extend the Rachel Carson Trail from its present end point in Harrison Hills Park into Freeport.

**Kiski River Trail**  
At Schenley, the Kiski River Trail will begin following the tracks of the Kiski Junction Railroad to Leechburg. From Leechburg it will follow PA Rt.66 to the right-of-way through Apollo to connect with the Roaring Run Trail, the Saltsburg Trail and other trails along the Conemaugh River to Johnstown. Trail connections are possible to Greensburg through the Five Star Trail.

**Kiski Junction**  
AKRC has reached agreement with River Forest Country Club to accept 30 acres of donated riverfront property for the establishment of a park and visitors center at Kiski Junction. From Kiski Junction, visitors can travel north on the Armstrong Trail and Baker Trail, the Kiski River to the east, south on the Allegheny River Trail, and west on the Butler-Freeport Trail and the Rachel Carson Trail.

**Water Trails and Revitalization**  
An example of what is happening with the greenway concept is taking place in Tarentum. The town's riverfront is being opened to public access for canoes and kayaks as part of the Allegheny Water Trail system to provide more public access all along the river. AKRC has also bought the Chapman Building and other historic properties near the riverfront to preserve the canal and river heritage and attract tourism and new business to the town.

**Public Support**  
The Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Greenway a fantastic development for our region. While progress is being made, your support is still needed to assure that the greenway projects are completed. Contact the Allegheny Ridge Corporation at 814-696-2900 or email info@alleghenyridge.org to find out how you can get involved.



foot notes  
news on the baker trail and the rachel carson trail  
september, october, november 2002

- The Allegheny Outdoor Club, headquartered in Sheffield, PA held a group hike on the joint Baker Trail/North Country Trail in September. Sixteen members of the AOC joined the hike and it was reported that a good time was had by all.
- The Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club hiked the Baker Trail from the Cook Forest Visitor Center to Muzette Road in the Allegheny National Forest, also in September.
- A resident of Apollo, PA backpacked about 30 miles of the Baker Trail from Crooked Creek to up past the Keystone Power Plant; trail conditions were reported as "rough and overgrown" and all the springs encountered were dry.
- Daniel Pirozzi, after an absence of about 15 years, planned a return to the Pittsburgh area in October and intended to hike the Baker Trail from its beginning in Schenley. At one time, Daniel used to help blaze the trail.
- E. Schlimmer, of Lake Placid, NY, keeps moving closer and closer to the publication of "9160 Miles: A Backpackers Guide to 24 Long Distance Hiking Trails in The US", featuring the Baker Trail as one of the 24 long distance trails.
- Maintenance marches on: In August, Bob Roth and Jim Ritchie did a day of routine maintenance on the Baker Trail n 95-degree heat from the Crooked Creek Shelter to the Crooked Creek Park Visitor Center. After several days of heavy rain, the Creek was up over its banks, making some of the way a little difficult to handle.
- September maintenance on the Baker Trail found Jim Ritchie and Mitch Mangaria up in Frozen Toe on a rain-threatening, cloudy and cool day; blazes were put in all the way from the pipeline crossing of Mill Creek to the mouth of Pendleton Run.
- In October, Jim Ritchie and Bob Roth did Baker Trail maintenance from Bethlehem Chapel all the way to Mr. Hime's house near Heathville. The day was once again rain-threatening and quite cool; no sun was seen this day!
- The award for the worst day for trail maintenance this year goes to June, when Rich Gemeinhart and Jim Ritchie blazed from the village of Milton near the Mahoning Reservoir all the way to the Mahoning Dam. It rained all day long, ranging from sprinkles to an out-and-out downpour. In spite of the weather, a lot was accomplished. Later, stopping for dinner at Silogyes on Rt 422 near Kittanning, our waitress, seeing our Baker Trail t-shirts confessed that she had grown up living on the Baker Trail (Rupert Lane off Kerr Rd near Brick Church).
- Remember that Trail Guides for under \$10 and Trail Patches, also modestly priced, are available for both the Baker Trail and the Rachel Carson Trail at the Pittsburgh Council store on Warrington Ave. You can place your credit card order by telephone by calling 412-431-1267 or 412-431-4910.

\*\*\*\*\*HIKER ALERT\*\*\*\*\*

- Baker Trail Guide Book, Page 12. Location is between Kerr Road and the Cochran's Mill Shelter area). Just past elevation 1005. Lands adjacent to the Baker Trail have been treated with *BioSolids*, a euphemism for sewage sludge. The Pennsylvania DEP indicates that the risk of infection and/or contamination from these particular biosolids is low or nearly non-existent due to post-facto treatment consisting of the addition of lime, raising the Ph of the substance to 12. In addition, random fecal coliform testing is conducted to assure consistency of treatment. The section affected is in Armstrong County, a short distance outside the village of Brick Church, between where the northbound trail turns right, off Kerr Road, and where it enters the woods at the headwaters of Pine Run.
- See [www.rachelcarsontrail.com](http://www.rachelcarsontrail.com), "Baker Trail" for previously-issued Hiker Alerts.

Trail Maintenance Volunteer Opportunities

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

Regular trail maintenance outings are suspended for the winter months of December, January, and February. The usual schedule will resume in March, 2003.

**March 29, 2003      Saturday      Baker Trail at Crooked Creek.**  
This is an all-day work project on the Baker Trail, starting at the Crooked Creek Park Visitor Center and continuing to the Covered Bridge over Horney Camp Run. If there is enough time, we will also work on the section from Cochran's Mill Road to Cherry Run. We need volunteers to help paint blazes, remove vegetation and fallen branches from the trail; collect any trash in a plastic garbage bag, and trim branches and leaves covering up our blazes. This is a good opportunity to get outside, see part of the Baker Trail, doing short hikes in and out from the road. Help us take care of one of Pennsylvania's endangered trails. Call Jim at 412-828-0210 for questions and to make arrangements. It's not too early now.

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

- Crooked Creek, from the Visitor Center to the Covered Bridge at Horney Camp Run
- Mahoning Reservoir area; from the village of Milton to the Creek Bend Campground
- Bethlehem Chapel area: from the Chapel to Mr. Himes house just past Heathville
- The Pipeline: from Corsica to Mill Creek Game Lands at Frozen Toe
- Mill Creek State Gamelands, north of Clarion
- Iron Bridge, near Cook Forest State Park
- Cook Forest State Park, within the Park boundaries

**Baker Trail/Rachel Carson Trail Resources**

Rachel Carson Trail website: [www.rachelcarsontrail.com](http://www.rachelcarsontrail.com) this website has information about the Rachel Carson Trail, the Baker Trail, and the Rachel Carson Trail Challenge.

Baker Trail website: [www.geocities.com/bakertrailpa](http://www.geocities.com/bakertrailpa) this website has some abbreviated information concerning the Baker Trail.

Hostelling International website: <http://trfn.clpgh.org/ayh/> general information about the BT/RCT sponsor organization.

Keystone Trails Association: <http://www.kta-hike.org/> has information about all Pennsylvania hiking trails

**"Guide to the Rachel Carson Trail"** this is a trail guide, with topographic maps, and some interpretive information about the 34-mile long trail, available from HI-Pittsburgh for under \$10, including postage and handling. Call 412-431-4910 to order.

**"Baker Trail Guide Book"** a trail guide with topographic maps, and interpretive information about the 141-mile long Baker Trail. Available from HI-Pittsburgh for under \$10, including postage and handling. Call 412-431-4910 to order.



## BICYCLING

### IMPROMPTU BICYCLE RIDES EMAIL LIST

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

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

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

**Alma Worthington** has put together a great bike trip from May 27th to June 7th biking down the Danube River. This is about the same trip offered by the Elderhostel but it is much cheaper. Alma has plans to ride 25-37 miles a day leaving time to enjoy the towns along the way. More miles can be done each day if desired. The trip ends with 2 days in Vienna. Round trip flight from Pittsburgh to Munich. Find out more by emailing Alma at Almaski96@hotmail.com or phone (412)782-5524. There are 10 people signed up but 24 are needed to keep the low price.

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

### BICYCLING ARTICLES by George Schmidt

#### PITTSBURGH COUNCIL AUDIT COMPLETE!!!

The full professional audit of the Pittsburgh Council has finally been completed. It wasn't easy, but we finally have our books in order. We now have a complete picture of what our operating expenses have been since opening the Pittsburgh Hostel five years ago and having paid staff at the Ohiopyle Hostel this year.

On October 31, 2002 the directors of the Pittsburgh Council held a stakeholders meeting for the public and private entities that financed the construction of the Pittsburgh Hostel. The groundwork was laid to make formal requests for funding to develop a revised business plan for hostel operations and make capital improvements at Ohiopyle. The directors also stressed how important the Pittsburgh Council has been in the development and maintenance of the regional hiking and bicycling trail system and how the Activities component of the Council has promoted outdoor recreation in the region.

The people who attended the meeting were very supportive and appear ready to help us move the Council forward with financial and political support. The directors now know that the light at the end of the tunnel isn't a train and just may be dazzling sunlight.

#### WEST END CIRCLE PROJECT

The Public Open House Plans Display Meeting for the West End Circle Improvement project was held on October 15, 2002 at the West End Senior Community Center. After reviewing the plan with a number of other bicyclists and skaters, John Stephen, Executive Director of the Friends of the Riverfront suggested that a separate asphalt multi-use trail be paved through the area instead of using the traditional sidewalks presented in the plan.

The trail would start at the existing sidewalk across from the south end of the Downtown side of the West End Bridge. It would follow the presented sidewalk plan to pass under the railroad overpass. Instead of continuing across a crosswalk under the proposed roadway we would like the trail to stay on the west side of South Main Street. Once past the underpass the trail would swing away from the road into the open area of the circle and cross under the Wheeling & Lake Erie Trestle on a separate path. From here we would like to see a bike/ped tunnel under the proposed ramp from Steuben Street to South Main Street. This trail would provide the following improvements:

1. It would completely separate bike/ped traffic from motorized traffic on the roadways and preserve off road access to proposed rail-trails and bicycle commuter routes from the South Hills, the Montour Trail and Pittsburgh International Airport.
2. The dangerous crosswalk in the Rt. 51 underpass would be eliminated.
3. The trail would provide safe access for residents to the isolated West End Circle property that could be developed into a neighborhood park and a scenic portal to Pittsburgh.
4. Skaters and bicyclists would prefer the paved asphalt surface to concrete with expansion joints. It would also be cheaper to install and cheaper to maintain in the future.

The West End Circle improvement project is the most important multi-use transportation project in Western Pennsylvania. If bicyclists and pedestrians are successfully accommodated in this difficult project it will be a showpiece in our regional trail system. It

will provide a safe alternative transportation commuter route to the heart of Pittsburgh from the south and west suburbs. It will also expand recreational opportunities for residents of the city and region as well as promote tourism on the interstate trail system.

#### NEW EXTENTION TO SOUTH SIDE TRAIL

On Friday, October 25, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy and Baldwin Mayor Alexander "Sandy" Bennett climbed aboard a Public Works paving machine to lay a smooth coat of asphalt on the new section of the South Side Trail extending two miles from the Pitt/Steelers/UPMC sports complex toward Sandcastle almost to the Glenwood Bridge. The Mayor recognized the city workers for the wonderful job they were doing on surfacing these trails. There is still a large bridge abutment and some industrial properties to get through to connect the trail to sandcastle, but we are assured that there will be agreements to complete the trail soon. The trail still requires some landscaping and fencing is to be installed along the active rail line running next to it. That didn't discourage some bicyclists and runners from checking out the trail. It is very nice with great views of the Monongahela River. In most places the tracks and East Carson Street are barely noticeable.

The South Side Trail is part of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail system, is now nearly 6 miles long. A yet uncompleted section between Ninth and First streets will link it to trail beginning at Station Square. The city is also working to connect it to the Eliza Furnace Trail- the heavily used "Jail Trail"- on the other side of the river by way of a new lane for non-motorized traffic on the Hot Metal Bridge. This brings the total length of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail system to about 16 miles.

When the Steel Heritage Trail between Homestead and McKeesport is completed, Pittsburgh will be tied into the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) trail system that will extend 152 miles from Pittsburgh to Cumberland, MD. From there the C & O Canal Towpath Trail continues into Georgetown in Washington, DC. Currently 100 continuous miles of the GAP trail system are open between McKeesport and Meyersdale, Somerset County.

The biggest question on everyone's mind at the ceremony was, "How to do we get across the tracks for ice cream?" There is a Dairy Queen at the bottom of Becks Run Road that will be calling to trail users next summer.

Parts of this article were shamelessly plagiarized from Bob Batz's article in the October 26, 2002 Post-Gazette.

#### BUTLER-FREEPORT TRAIL

There is a serious lack of information available about accessing the Butler-Freeport Trail. Here is the straight skinny. The trail is open for about 14 miles from Laneville, just outside of Freeport, to Great Belt. It is single-track trail from Great Belt to the overpass bridge in Herman. The scenic lower section from Laneville to Monroe is not finished trail but very rideable right-of-way with the heavy gravel removed.

The town of Freeport is planning to bring the Butler-Freeport into the heart of town and make itself the hub of a system of trails that originate or pass through the area. The Baker Trail is a hiking trail that starts across the river and extends north into the Allegheny National Forest. The Rachel Carson hiking trail begins in nearby Harrison Hills and arcs 34 miles through northern Allegheny County to North Park. The Pennsylvania Mainline Canal route passes through Freeport and it is being developed into a bike/ped trail across historic sites in Pennsylvania from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia. River front trail systems are also begin developed along the length of the Allegheny River from Pittsburgh past Freeport to northwestern Pennsylvania.

An excellent place to meet before or after visiting the trail is Gatto's Cycle Diner located at the end of the Tarentum Bridge in Tarentum, PA. The diner is open from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm and serves very good food. The bicycle store about a block from the diner features an indoor waterfall for its mountain bike display.

TO GET TO THE LANEVILLE TRAIL HEAD: Take PA Rt.28 north from Pittsburgh to Exit 16 Freeport/Millerstown. Turn right at the bottom of the ramp and continue one mile to Freeport Road. Turn left at the stoplight on Freeport Road and head down the big hill about one mile. Stay in the left lane and veer left at the Y toward Deveraux's car dealership. Turn left at Deveraux's to cross the Laneville Bridge. At the end of the bridge make an immediate right. Veer downhill onto Main Street. Follow Main for about ½ mile and park by the left of the old railroad bed near the access gate.

THE ICYCLE BICYCLE RIDE  
JANUARY 1, 2003  
1:00 P.M.  
PENN & 31<sup>ST</sup>, STRIP DISTRICT  
PITTSBURGH

The Icycle Bicycle Ride is the WPW bicycle club's annual ride first ride of the year and you are invited to join them. Icycle Bicycle Ride veterans know the drill. Meet on Penn Ave. at the end of the 31 St. Bridge. We will leave at 1:00 PM SHARP so plan to get there a little early to get your bike set up and sign in. Then we will proceed majestically down fifteen blocks on Penn Ave. to McDonald's for hot chocolate and coffee complements of the WPW. If the weather is nasty (rain, snow, ice, sub-zero) we will loop down to Smallman St. and beat it back to the starting point and our warm homes. Should the weather prove to be as balmy as the bicyclists (40 degrees F and dry), we will again do the rail-trail/road loop into Oakland and Shadyside and return to our starting point via Polish Hill- a total distance of about ten miles.

Be sure to dress warm and pay particular attention to your feet. Inexperienced winter riders tend to show up in heavy coats and leave their piggies in thin sneakers to freeze in the breeze. Any questions? Call George Schmidt at 412-521-1538 or e-mail: twoschmidts@peoplepc.com

#### THE PITTSBURGH-TO-HARRISBURG MAINLINE CANAL GREENWAY

Pennsylvania's "Millennium Legacy Trail", the Pittsburgh-Harrisburg Mainline Canal Greenway traces the historic path of the PA Mainline Canal System in a two-mile wide swath along the Allegheny, Kiski-Conemaugh, Juniata and Susquehanna Rivers and through many communities between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. The greenway includes not only trails, but also public river access areas, historic downtown revitalization, heritage preservation and environmental stewardship projects. For an overview of the complete greenway, check the web site at <http://www.alleghenyridge.org/projects/greenway>. The Allegheny Ridge Corporation is the non-profit organization that is organizing support for the greenway.

Alle-Kiski Segment of the Mainline Canal Greenway

The Alle-Kiski Trail Network is of particular interest to western Pennsylvanians. Brian Clark, a con-

(Continued on page 5)

## The Challenging Allegheny Trail

By Glenn Oster

Ready for a hiking challenge? Try the Allegheny Trail, admittedly not at Pittsburgh’s doorstep, but not all that far away either. The trail starts at the Pennsylvania - West Virginia border, 8+ miles north of I-68 (west of the village of Bruceton Mills, West Virginia) and ends some 330 miles southeast where it “T” intersects the Appalachian Trail in Virginia. As I hiked past that southern terminus, when doing the AT, I resolved to one day complete the Allegheny Trail. I’m well on my way to doing that, which gives rise to this article.

In July, 2002, I backpacked from Alpena at US Route 33 to Watoga State Park, a total of 96 miles, plus hiking some northern sections that I missed during earlier hikes on the trail, for a total of 135 miles. For most of this distance, I was joined by Donna Stowe, a stalwart who elected to hike with me when her AT hiking companion developed serious leg problems and had to abandon the trek. Some of you will remember Kirk Slater, who used to hike extensively with me on HI/AYH outings. Kirk now lives in Tampa, Florida, but hiked the first four days with Donna and me.

The northernmost 110 miles or so mostly uses country roads (off road along the Cheat River and through Blackwater Falls and Canaan Valley State Parks) and can easily be slackpacked – lots of places to spot vehicles. However, don’t try to drive up dirt roads that the trail often uses – unless you have a four-wheel drive vehicle with sturdy tires. The roads may have county route numbers, but ----. This segment of the trail introduces you to rural West Virginia; you know you are in a remote part of the world, but you come across country villages often and can work out short or longer hikes to suit your time availability and energy level.

South from there, the trail follows the Glady Fork River and then begins its mountainous sections. Your first introduction to the mountains is somewhat daunting. The trail follows the Shaver Mountain Trail that the Monongahela National Forest maintains, or, perhaps, should maintain. You’ll be hiking a ridge that at one point exceeds 4100 feet in elevation. In its current condition, it represents a challenge because of so many blown down trees across the trail and moss covered rocks that can be booby traps to unwary feet. However, this lasts for only a couple days of hiking – okay, one day for the real macho hikers. At age 77, I found it to be a boot buster over two days.

From the village of Durbin south, the trail tread improves greatly and was for me a genuine pleasure. The trail is a series of climbs, level sections and descents to yet other valleys. The elevation differentials were generally in the range of 2300 feet in the valleys to 3200 feet at the crest of the climbs; so, you get good opportunities to exercise your climbing muscles. Some of the mountaintops have old jeep roads that are grassy carpets to tread for miles as the trail roller coasts up and down the ridges. They are gems that revive your spirits if climbs to them have been difficult. Even in the high mountains, the trail can utilize dirt roads, but they are easier to walk than wooded trails and at times are welcome. Occasionally, the trail travels paved roads to connect wooded segments, but they don’t occur often enough to jade the overall experience.

The valleys are lined with rhododendron, and our timing was great – enormous sprays of blossoms surprised us over and over, and in other places, we hiked through rhododendron tunnels. Super. The feeling so overwhelms you that you wish you could bundle up the scene and take it home to show your friends. I would have been unfulfilled at such times if I had not had someone with whom to share the beauty. The trail is mostly tree lined - distant views are rare, but that never seemed to be a detriment. It is an interesting and worthwhile trail to make part of your life and your lifetime memories.

In fields and valleys, we saw acres of white daisies, Queen Anne’s lace, yarrow, and daisy fleabane. Lots of pink milk weed attracted beautiful black butterflies with electric blue tails. The most prevalent and cheerful flower was the yellow black-eyed susan. We saw only one of the intensely orange butterfly weed. Also, only one stand of orange Turk’s cap lily appeared. Blue chicory was abundant along the roadways as well as purple viper’s bugloss. Pretty lavender thistles appeared from time to time. Yellow sunflower popped up every now and then, and, surprising to me, the pink Joe-Pye-Weed was already six feet tall and in bloom. Now and then lavender bergamot and red bee-balm would appear. And

there were lots of little blue flowers that I can’t identify. Flowers surely added to the joys of the hike.

As to wildlife, we saw lots of bear scat, but no bears. At least a dozen deer snorted and darted away from us. Little critters like squirrels, chipmunks and rabbits made their presences known. Birds sang to us all the way, but I’m not good at recognizing their calls. The absolute highlight of the trip for me was seeing a bobcat. In the quarter century that I’ve been hiking in places where they have to be, I had never seen one. There is not a shred of doubt in my mind that it was a bobcat that darted across a dirt road a hundred feet ahead. I was ecstatic! Donna had seen one the day before. I was so jealous until mine appeared.

When should you hike the trail? July was great, but we encountered a great deal of stinging nettle that would not be so fully developed in early to mid-June. The housefly was pesky in some locations, and gnats could be buzzing around your ears and in front of your face whenever it was hot. But, there were virtually no mosquitoes. How great can the wilderness be. We had no problem finding water, but later in the season, it might be such. Some of the smaller streams were very low.

My juices are now flowing to complete the final 105 miles to the AT. Not sure when I’ll do that, but it’s a must. You should give the Allegheny Trail a chance to get its grip on you as it has me – and I believe Donna too.

### Details:

The Allegheny Trail was built and is maintained by the West Virginia Scenic Trails Association. Its yellow blazing was fresh throughout most of the distance, an essential at times because not all the rerouting is mentioned in the trail guide and web site updates. The trail’s web site is <http://www.wvonline.com/wvsta>. You can buy a hiking guide by contacting Ms. Vickie Shears, 463 Cobun Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26501 or by e-mail to [vshear@westco.net](mailto:vshear@westco.net) You will want to check the website for updates to the guide. Happy hiking!

Trip report - Sunday 05 August 2002, by Alexis Rzewski

Snorkeling trip at Indian Creek (near Fallingwater at Ohiopyle).

With temperatures in the nineties, it just seemed the right thing to do. Called up Norm during the week to get prepared to the idea of doing something with water or something cold. He usually doesn't do activities on Sunday, since he runs a flea-market stand, but he does exceptions for days in which rain is forecasted. This time he did an exception due to the extreme heat forecasted, since he knew people just don't show up at flea-markets in these conditions. Went to pick him up at 10 AM as usual, and headed towards exit 9 (Dogenal) on the Penna. Turnpike. At the trail head of Indian Creek where the lake and dam are, we recognized a group of people. "They are all Sierra Club people", Norm said. Ed Divers was just about starting to lead a trip exactly where we were headed ourselves. What a coincidence. Dave Blisten and Nick Boralwsky were there too. After greetings, salutations, and some talk, they started off on their hike while we ate lunch. At half past noon, we started walking towards the creek ourselves. Norm was wearing sneakers, long pants, T-shirt, a cap, snorkel and mask. I was wearing aquasock booties, long pants, long-sleeve polyester shirt, and snorkel and mask. Just below the dam, our first dip in the water. It was like bath water, warm. The hot bedrock was like a kitchen hotplate, one could fry an egg on it. Lots of green fish, looked like carps. Found several fun shutes on which to slide on feet down, head down, face up, face down, and over and over and over. It was just fun. About three miles downstream from the dam, we started seeing people. On a weekend day like this, many locals congregate at what is known as the Blue Hole, a deep water section of three creek that is found in a narrow section corniced by high cliffs. The location is reachable only by high clearance and 4x4 vehicles, so ATV and dirt bikes abound. We also re-encountered the Sierra Club hikers returning to their starting point. Down at the blue hole, a big party was in full swing. One of the fellas had dropped a beer bottle in the water and asked us to find it. After a few attempts, came bubbling up to surface with arm protuded forward and bottle in hand, and a chorus exploded "HE GOT IT!". All of a sudden, we were "in" the party, adoptees by a local tribe. A couple of swings and jumps in the water, and soon we too were thinking of heading back. A watch on someone's wrist said "5:45" and that meant almost five hours in the water. My fingers were corrugated by parallel grooves and was beginning to look like a sea-land evolutionary chain link animal. Swam across the blue hole for the last time, climbed up the cliffs and hemlock tree roots, and gained the steep ravine slope to reach the former railroad bed, on which we walked the three miles back to our vehicle. Another fun day in western Pennsylvania.



# ENJOYING THE SUPERIOR HIKING TRAIL

By Glenn Oster

The Superior Hiking Trail is that indeed! However, it takes its name, not from the quality of the trail but from its proximity to Lake Superior. It begins just northeast of the city of Two Harbors, Minnesota and when finished will extend to the Canadian Border. A sector near Two Harbors is yet to be finished as is the case above Judge C.R. Magney State Park. However, from Lake County Road 301 to Magney State Park, you can hike to your heart's content for 180 miles.

That's just what I did in August, 2001. The trail climbs to ridges of the Sawtooth Mountains and beyond flanking the western shore of Lake Superior. It's never far from the Lake and Minnesota Route 61 which follows the Lake's shoreline. Moreover, the trail crosses many state, county and forest side roads, making access convenient. Parking areas are provided at most of these road crossings. Parking is also available in the seven state parks (fee charged) through which the trail crosses.

Further in facilitating trail access, the Superior Shuttle operates on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays during the Summer hiking season. It routinely stops at the major trail crossings on a strict schedule. (Reservations are needed for pickups at the Trail's extremes, County Road 301 and Magney State Park.) This enables day hiking and is a real help for through hikers. As I did, you can spot your vehicle at the end point of your hike, shuttle to its beginning and hike back. Works out great.

Developed campsites are provided - just about everywhere they can be - and you are expected to camp only at these designated sites. Most days I found the sites sufficiently close to allow my old bones reasonable distances, as challenging or wimpy as I cared to make them. Occasionally, there are sectors with no streams or lakes from which to get water, and, as a result, no campsites. The sites generally include four or more cleared pads of bare soil, a fire ring, an "L" shaped bench around the fire ring and a latrine that consists of a plastic toilet (not a building) out in the open, but sufficiently far from the firering to allow privacy. One site even has a cable strung between two trees for hanging food bags to keep them away from the bears.

The trail is well laid out and constructed. The Superior Hiking Trail Association is the sponsoring organization, and they are serious about trail maintenance. One morning I was hiking through an area that had become overgrown, and, wouldn't you know, it was just after a night of rain. I was being soaked as I hiked through the wet weeds and was fussing about the need for trail brushing. Then I heard it, the unmistakable hiss of a power weed whip. It was in the skilled hands of Ken Oelkers, the trail's maintenance supervisor. He's a dedicated, full time trail worker and loves the trail; his interest is evident. We became friends for life when I told him what I was doing. I knew from hiking other trails that over as short a time as a weekend tree branches and limbs can fall on the trail. On that expectation, I had decided at the start of my hike to take along a "flicking stick" and use it to remove every fallen tree branch, limb or trunk that I could flick off the trail. I kicked what I couldn't flick and lifted off what I couldn't flick or kick - so long as it didn't require removing my backpack. I did that for the entire 180 miles. Ken was most appreciative. He even offered to help me with shuttling if I became out of phase with Superior Shuttle's weekend service.

The trail is often steep. In places they have installed wooden steps and rock steps in others. But some climbs and descents require grit and determination. In certain places, they have switchbacked the trail, but in others you must go straight up and over. It isn't an easy trail. The trail is a series of climbs up onto ridges, drops to lowlands and climbs back up again. The lowlands tend to be very wet, and miles of board walks (a.k.a. puncheons - bog bridges) have been placed to cover most of it. Also, every stream and gully crossing is bridged, some are real engineering works of art. One is even a covered bridge. Ken is especially proud of it - only recently completed.

. As to scenery, the ridges offer expansive vistas overlooking Lake Superior, the mountains east and west as well as inland lakes, rivers and ranges. The lowlands have beautiful lakes and huge beaver dams, but to me the lowland magic lies in its rivers. They start out as placid streams meandering as they will until they get closer to their descents into Lake Superior. There, they have carved gorges through which the water charges furiously over cataracts and waterfalls. I never tired of these. Incidentally, most of the great waterfalls can be accessed from Minnesota Route 61. Trails lead from parking areas and are well worth the effort to hike. At one point, the trail drops onto the shore of Lake Superior, but walking with a heavy pack on its loose gravel is most difficult. I enjoyed having lunch on the beach, but I returned to walk the road after another half mile. There is no chance for boredom on this trail.

The beaver pond at Jonvick Creek has an interesting history. Initially, the trail builders constructed a board walk across the broad beaver dam. However, the beavers became more active at dambuilding, and the following Spring the walkway was six feet under water. How to cross the pond? They brought in a canoe with a long rope at each end so that hikers could pull it to themselves from either side of the pond and paddle back. That didn't last long. The beavers chewed off the rope and wove it into their dam. The next effort was to install a steel cable that hikers could hold onto while working the canoe to the opposite side. Not sure how they dealt with the problem if the canoe was on the opposite side. Finally, the beaver activity stabilized and the board walk was once again put in place on top of the elevated dam. The canoe remains as a reminder of the beaver pond's history.

Despite the mountain range, the area remains true to form for the land of 10,000 lakes. It has lots of mosquitos. I went through a bottle of repellent the first week on the trail. The label states that an application is effective for ten hours, but at about three hours, I'd feel bites. I kept that bottle where it was easy to reach. Speaking of insects, I had three unbelievably severe horsefly bites, two yellow jacket stings and the only tick (no, not a deer tick) I've ever had in all my years of hiking. Earlier in the year, as is typical

in the northern tier of the USA, one has to deal with the vicious black flies. So, it would pay you to check out the optimum time to hike the trail. It would seem to me that mid to late September would be ideal. There would be fewer insects, and the leaves would have begun to change color. Should be magnificent then.

Although this is the upper reach of bobcat territory and the lower for lynx, I never saw either of these cats or any evidence of them. I saw moose droppings and bear scat at times, but no such critters in the flesh. A couple backpackers I met on the trail did see a black bear near Lake County Road 6. Lucky! I saw many deer, one three foot long non poisonous snake and dozens of chipmunks and red squirrels, but no rabbits. On one sunny morning, I was excited to see a mink cross in front of me with breakfast in its mouth. Beaver lodges are common, but none of those rascals were out for a swim when I went by. Hikers probably intimidate wildlife. I was startled by grouse in many locations along the trail. I saw woodpeckers doing their thing and heard a pileated woodpecker, but, true to form, never saw it. I heard endless bird calls, but I'm not a birder and couldn't identify them. I saw a bald eagle, lots of crows and larger crow type birds that I believe were ravens. At Sonju Lake and again at Agnes Lake, I heard the eerie, unmistakable call of loons. At Sonju Lake, I swear a number of them were having a contest to determine which could sound the looniest - a real loon concert for a half hour or so.

This wasn't the best time of the year to see wildflowers, but, nonetheless, there was quite a variety to be seen, i.e., orange and yellow hawkweed, fireweed, evening primrose, pearly everlasting (in abundance), daisies, orchid and white asters, joe-pye weed (but very short compared with Pennsylvania's version that is six feet or more tall), black eyed susans, sunflowers mullein, pilewort, bunchberry, goldenrod and others that I can't identify.

White paper birch trees dominate much of the area. They stand out strikingly in the sunlight, especially when viewed against a deep blue sky. But there are lots of other trees - maples, quaking aspen, alder, red oak, various pines, blue and other spruces, fir and cedar. Reference is often made to this being a boreal forest at higher altitudes.

More so than anywhere I remember having hiked, there is a great variety of fungi. Many types look like mushrooms of various sizes, on whose identities I couldn't begin to speculate. I took a picture of what I assume to be shelf fungus about the size of a dinner plate, brown with a beige ring around it about an inch from the periphery - much like a dinner plate. My favorite is a fungus about seven inches across, bright orange, and in various shapes, some with the edge curled up all around, some curled up on only one side like an Aussie soldier's hat, and some like a ball. I saw two in sunlight and took pictures. I'm anxious to see how well they turn out. The trail guide describes one sector as a mushroom fancier's heaven. I passed by a young Frenchman with a basketful of mushrooms. He was concerned about how long it was going to take him to reach the highway. Apparently, he had lost all sense of time and distance in his search for this treasure. He was much relieved when I assured him that he could reach the parking lot within an hour's walk.

From a personal standpoint, I'm up in years but still can't discipline myself to carrying a light pack. Accordingly, I laid out a hiking plan of about nine miles a day. When I started the first sector, I was carrying food and fuel for seven days, and my pack weighed in at 52#. I was hiking alone and couldn't share the tent weight with anyone. That was a difficult week for me. I've been doing more bicycling in recent years than backpacking, and my body reminded me of the fact from minute to minute. My pack on subsequent sectors was lighter by about a pound of food per day and a bit less in the way of clothing. Also, my cell phone wouldn't work there. So, my GPS would have been of little use in case of an emergency. Both remained in the van for the remainder of the hike. After that first tough week, my body seemed to get the message as to why it was there, and I did the next five day stretch in three days, the following three day sector in two days, added a twelve mile sector that I hadn't planned to do, and completed the final five day sector in two and a half days. Yes, I did better than I had expected, but my bruised shoulders will never forgive me. As a final personal note, you may recall my mentioning that Ken Oelkers had offered to help me with shuttling if needed. It was - and he did. He drove me nearly fifty miles to County Road 301 and would take nothing for his help. Talk about extending a helping hand. I surely appreciated it.

You can get additional information about the trail from its website at <[www.shta.org](http://www.shta.org)>. It includes interesting detail about The Superior Hiking Trail Association, the geology of the area, a description of the trail, maps and the trail guide. It also has a link to the Superior Shuttle with its schedule and charges.

The trail draws national attention. On the basis of a readership survey, the December, 2000 issue of *Backpacker* magazine identifies the top twenty trails in conterminous United States. It lists The Superior Hiking Trail as first and equal to The Appalachian Trail in the quality of signage. I have completed both trails and believe the Superior Trail to be the better. It holds first place in the category of best trail/camp/shelter conditions. As to best wildlife, it is in fourth place. In the category of best scenery, The Superior Trail ranks fifth, tied with The Colorado Trail. AND in overall ranking, The Superior Trail is second, only to the 95 mile Wonderland Trail that encircles Washington's Mount Rainier. That's quite a commendation, because the Wonderland Trail is the greatest overall trail that I've ever hiked. Being second to it is no dishonor.

It truly is a superior trail.

AYH Wilderness Lodge Cross Country Ski Weekends

February 7–9, 2003  
February 15–16, 2003

Greetings to all! Hope this finds you healthy and hope your summer has been fun. Nansi, citing taxes and electric bills, has raised the rates a bit but the weekend is still a bargain.

The Farmer’s Almanac and many other predictors are promising a snowy winter so start thinking ahead. We usually have decent to great conditions at Wilderness Lodge and even if we don’t, we manage to have a lot of fun anyway.

The weekend package includes Friday and Saturday night lodging and Saturday night family style supper. Breakfasts and lunches are available for a modest additional cost but feel free to bring your own food or snacks. The Lodge has a bar so you cannot bring your own and drink it in the common area (state law). The package does not include transportation. Ski rentals are available and there are trail fees required for the lodge property.

Double rooms are few and go fast so book early (these include linens as part of the fee). Singles are hostel style with three to six beds to a room and those people should bring their own linens (sheets and towels) or get charged \$3 extra by Nansi upon check in.

Reservations will be firm only when I receive your check in the mail or your Visa/Mastercard/Am Ex/ Discover numbers and expiration date. There are no refunds within 2 weeks of the weekend that you have registered for but you may find a same sex replacement for yourself. We have a \$10 cancellation fee at other times.

If you have any questions, call Marianne Kasica at 412 665-9554, evenings or email me at marianne@pitt.edu (or Larry at larry.laude@usa.net).

Wilderness Lodge is in Wattsburg, PA east of Erie and on the NY state line. If you need directions contact Marianne or check any of the map websites, such as http://www.mapquest.com, for 13488 Weeks Valley Rd, Wattsburg PA 16442-9306

Please make sure you fill out a form and sign a waiver, it is a necessary evil.

Singles: \$61 for AYH member  
\$66 for non-members

Doubles: \$71 per person for AYH members (two people required in room)  
\$77 per person for non-members (two people required in room)

Hope to see you there this year!

Marianne and Larry

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wilderness Lodge 2003 Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please send confirmation by ( ) E-mail ( ) Fax ( ) Mail

Payment ( ) check ( ) Visa ( ) MasterCard ( ) American Express ( ) Discover

Credit card number\_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date\_\_\_\_\_

C/C Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Weekend: ( ) Feb. 7-9 ( ) Feb. 14-16

( ) Men’s single ( ) Women’s single ( ) Double

For doubles, list the name and address of the second person. Both must sign the release below

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: AYH Wilderness Lodge, c/o Marianne Kasica, 210 S. Atlantic Ave./ Pittsburgh PA 15224. **Make checks payable to Pittsburgh Council AYH.** Signatures below are required.

In consideration of your acceptance of my application for participation in the Wilderness Lodge Weekend, I, the undersigned, for myself and for may heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, waive and release any and all claims for damages for death, personal injury, or loss of property I may or which may accrue to me as a result of my participation. I discharge and release the Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels, Inc., Wilderness Lodge and their respective agents, boards, commissions, employees, representatives, and volunteers from all liability arising out of or connected in any way with my participation, whether or not caused by the negligence of the above parties.

I acknowledge that there are inherent risks and dangers that may arise at any time during the Weekend. My participation is voluntary and is done at my own risk. I voluntarily assume all risks of loss, damage, or injury that may be sustained while participating. I attest that I am physically fit and sufficiently trained for participation in this event. I understand and agree that medical or other services rendererd to me by or at the insistence of any of the above parties is not an admission of liability to provide or continue to provide any such services and is not a waiver for any of the any of the said parties of any right hereunder.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# HI-PITTSBURGH 2003 DISCOUNTERS

2002 Discounters	type of discount offered	contact
<b>E House</b> 1511 E Carson St Pgh PA 15203 412.488.7455 ehouseco@citynet.com	10% off bill	
<b>East End Food Co-op</b> 7516 Meade St Pgh PA 15208 412.242.3598	10% OFF PURCHASES, NOT VALID WITH OTHER DISCOUNTS OR SPECIALS (PITTSBURGH'S BEST SELECTION OF ORGANIC AND WHOLE FOODS!)	David Shelow
<b>Eljay's Used Books</b> 1309 E Carson St Pgh PA 15203 412.381.7444	10% DISCOUNT ON ANY PURCHASE	Frank Oreto
<b>History Bead Trading Co.</b> 406 South Craig St Pgh PA 15213 412.681.2090	10% off regularly priced items	Adam Cannon
<b>Lenzner Coach USA</b> 110 Lenzner Court Sewickley PA 15143 412.741.2720 or 1.888.565.3963 www.coachride.com	\$2 DISCOUNT ON TOURS #1, 2, or 3	Catherine Spanard
<b>Jester's Court Tattoos</b> 1410 E Carson St Pgh PA 15203 412.488.TATS	20% OFF ANY TATTOO, PIERCING, T-SHIRT, ETC	Sean McCarthy
<b>Juice Stop</b> 119 Oakland Ave Pgh PA 15213 412.683.8343	10% off any smoothie juice drink	
<b>K &amp; M Pub</b> 200 Mt. Oliver St Pgh PA 15210 412.431.9655	20% off any food item	Scott
<b>Kaya</b> 2000 Smallman St Pgh PA 15222 412.261.6565 www.bigburrito.com	10% OFF BILL, NOT VALID WITH OTHER DISCOUNTS, COUPONS OR PROMOTIONS	Craig Seder
<b>Kiva Han Café</b> 3533 Forbes Ave Pgh PA 15213 412.682.5354	2 for 1 coffee, tea & specialty drinks. Excludes fruit based drinks & bottled beverages.	
<b>Kiva Han Café</b> 420 S Craig St. Pgh PA 15213 412.687.6355	2 for 1 coffee, tea & specialty drinks. Excludes fruit based drinks & bottled beverages.	
<b>La Prima Espresso</b> 811 Libery Ave Pgh PA 15222 412.471.4590 www.laprima.com	50 CENTS OFF ANY COFFEE DRINK	Sam Patti
<b>Little Chicago's Pizzeria</b> 1728 E Carson St Pgh PA 15203 412.431.1450	15% DISCOUNT	Jim Botinouch
<b>Mad Mex</b> 370 Atwood St Pgh PA 15213 412.683.6486 www.bigburrito.com	10% OFF BILL, NOT VALID WITH OTHER DISCOUNTS, COUPONS OR PROMOTIONS	Craig Seder
<b>Mad Mex</b> 7905 McKnight Rd Pgh PA 15237 412.366.5656 www.bigburrito.com	10% OFF BILL, NOT VALID WITH OTHER DISCOUNTS, COUPONS OR PROMOTIONS	Craig Seder
<b>Mad Mex</b> Robinson Plaza #2 Rt. 60, Park Manor Dr Pgh PA 412. www.bigburrito.com	10% OFF BILL, NOT VALID WITH OTHER DISCOUNTS, COUPONS OR PROMOTIONS	Craig Seder
<b>Mandala</b> 211 South Craig St Pgh PA 412.682.2703	10% OFF QUARTZ CRYSTAL SINGING BOWLS (ALSO AVAILABLE BY MAIL-CALL FOR DETAILS)	Frank Carroll?
<b>Mattress Factory Museum</b> 500 Sampsonia Way Pgh PA 15212 412.231.3169 www.mattress.org	\$1 OFF ADMISSION	Sara Radelett
<b>National Aviary</b> Allegheny Commons West Pgh PA 15212 412.323.7235 info@aviary.org www.aviary.org	\$1 off admission for up to 4 people. Not valid with any other discounts. Not applicable for special events.	Jaime Szoszorek

2002 Discounters	type of discount offered	contact
<b>Paisano's</b> 824 E Warrington Ave Pgh PA 15210 412.381.5530	10% DISCOUNT ON ANY PURCHASE	
<b>Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens</b> One Schenley Park Pgh PA 15213 412.622.6914 www.phipps.conservatory.org	10% OFF ADMISSION	Marty Connely?
<b>Pickel Barrel</b> 1301 E Carson St Pgh PA 15210 412.461.1114	BUY ONE PITTSBURGH DOG, GET ONE FREE(PITTSBURGH DOG: FOOT LONG HOT DOG, SHREDDED GOLD CHEESE, BLACK OLIVES, HONEY MUSTARD)	Brian Davis
<b>Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra</b> Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Ave Pgh PA 15236 412.392.3320 www.pittsburghsymphony.org	25% OFF CLASSICAL OR POPS CONCERTS, BASED ON AVAILABILITY. (some restrictions apply, not valid on previous purchases) OFFER VALID ONLY VIA PHONE RESERVATION. MAKE SURE YOU SAY THAT YOU ARE A HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL MEMBER. NO WALK-UPS.	Melissa Trifaromtri-faro@pittsburghsymphony.org
<b>Pgh Zoo &amp; PPG Aquarium</b> One Wild Place Rd Pgh PA 15206 412.365.2533 www.pittsburghzoo.com	\$1 OFF ADMISSION MONDAY THRU FRIDAY, EXCLUDING EVENING EVENTS. ONE DISCOUNT PER PERSON. OPEN YEAR ROUND.	Elizabeth Hill
<b>Senator John Heinz Regional History Center</b> 1212 Smallman St Pgh PA 15222 412.454.6403 www.pghhistory.org	\$1 OFF ADMISSION WITH MEMBERSHIP CARD, VALID EVERY DAY. THE PLACE WHERE HISTORY LIVES—VISIT TODAY!	
<b>Slacker</b> 1321 E Carson St Pgh PA 15203 412.381.3911	20% OFF ALL PURCHASES, EXCEPT MAGAZINES	Steve
<b>Soba</b> 5847 Ellsworth Ave Pgh PA 15232 412.362.5656 www.bigburrito.com	10% OFF BILL, NOT VALID WITH OTHER DISCOUNTS, COUPONS OR PROMOTIONS	
<b>South Side Card &amp; Gift Shop</b> 1717 E Carson St Pgh PA 15203 412.481.2500	20% DISCOUNT ON ANY PURCHASE OVER \$5	Rose Ann Kawiecinski
<b>Swank Gear</b> 73 1/2 South 13th St Pgh PA 15203 412.381.1037 www.swankgear.com	15% DISCOUNT	Chris Schneider
<b>The Bead Mine</b> 1703 E Carson St Pgh PA 15203 412.381.8822	15% DISCOUNT	
<b>Top Notch Art Centre</b> 411 S Craig St Pgh PA 15213 412.683.4444	20% off the regular price of art supplies	
<b>Wind and Water Boatworks</b> 455 Pittsburgh Rd Butler PA 16001 724.586.2030	10% OFF ALL ACCESSORIES AND HARDWARE FOR SAILBOATS, KAYAKS AND CANOES. NOT APPLICABLE TO SALE ITEMS	
<b>Yesterday's News - Vintage Clothing</b> 1405 E Carson St Pgh PA 15203 412.431.1712	10% discount on all purchases	Nancy
<b>past discounters:</b>		
Road to Karkash Spice Island 412.687.8821		Ron Lee

HI-PITTSBURGH 2003 DISCOUNTERS


2003 Discounters	type of discount offered	contact
#1 China House 823 E. Warrington Ave Pgh PA 15210 412.488.7780	FREE ICED TEA OR 10% DISCOUNT WITH \$5 PURCHASE	
Andy Warhol Museum 117 Sandusky St Pgh PA 412.237.8347	\$1 OFF ANY ADMISSION	Colleen Christ
Bar 11 1101 Bradish St Pgh PA 15203 412.381.0899 www.bar11.com	50 cents off well drinks, 50 cents off domestic bottles	rgrentz@hotmail.com
Beehive 1327 E Carson St Pgh PA 15203 412.488.4483	15 min. free internet w/ purchase of any drink	
Café du Jour 1107 E Carson St Pgh PA 15203 412.488.9695	10% off bill	
Casbah 229 South Highland Ave. Pgh PA 15206 412.661.5656	10% OFF BILL, NOT VALID WITH OTHER DISCOUNTS, COUPONS OR PROMOTIONS	Craig Seder 5740 Baum Blvd Pgh PA 15206
Chiarina's Restaurant 901 E Carson St Pgh PA 412.390.0744	15% OFF BILL, NOT VALID WITH OTHER DISCOUNTS, HOLIDAYS, OR SPECIAL EVENTS	
City Books 1111 E Carson St Pgh PA 15203 412.481.7555	10% OFF MOST BOOKS	Ed Telblum
City Theatre 57 South 13th St Pgh PA 15203 412.431.CITY www.citytheatre-pgh.org	\$10 TICKETS FOR AGES 25 AND UNDER WITH STUDENT ID OR HOSTEL CARD. \$5 DISCOUNT FOR ALL AGES OVER 25 WITH HOSTEL CARD	Roz Ruch or Laura McCarthy

Climb North 2468 Wildwood Rd Wildwood PA 15091 412.487.2145 www.jewarts.com	\$3 OFF UNLIMITED CLIMBING WITH 1/2 PRICE RENTALS	Chris Gerber 111 Oakhaven Dr Wexford PA 15090
Dairy Mart 1125 Arlington Ave Pgh PA 15210 412.481.4122	FREE 32 OZ. FOUNTAIN DRINK WITH \$5 PURCHASE	
Dave's Music Mine 1210 E Carson St Pgh PA 15203 412.488.8800 www.davesmusicmine.com	15% OFF ALL USED MERCHANDISE, %10 OFF ALL NEW MERCHANDISE	Dave Panasiuk
Dave's Music Mine 3710 Forbes Ave Pgh PA 412.687.1234 www.davesmusicmine.com	15% OFF ALL USED MERCHANDISE, %10 OFF ALL NEW MERCHANDISE	Dave Panasiuk

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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.



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.

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!

# Pennsylvania State Parks

## Reservations & Information



Call Toll Free

# 1-888-PA-PARKS

Reserve up to 11 months in advance

## Cabins - Pavilions - Camping

Mastercard      www.dcnr.state.pa.us      Visa

Ordering / HI-AYH Hostel Membership Application

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  
Mail to: AYH  
830 E Warrington Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15210



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(day) (eve)  
Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex (M/F): \_\_\_\_\_  
For hostellers: I need my hostel pass by:  
☐ I need a free copy of the North American Hostel Directory  
☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐  
Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Orders may be faxed to 412-431-2625 for faster service

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.

Adult (18-54)	\$25.00	Adult Renewal	\$25.00
Youth (17 and under)	FREE		
Senior (over 54)	\$15.00	Life (all ages)	\$250.00
Application for Complimentary Group Membership (not-for-profit organizations).....call for application		FREE	

Student/Teacher ID Cards

Student ID Card (2001)	\$22.00
Teacher ID Card (2001)	\$22.00
GO 25 ID Card (2001)	\$22.00

Universal student ID issued by CIBE. Good for worldwide student discounts. Send 1-1/8x 1-3/8 photo, name of your country of citizenship and proof that you are a student. Or ask for free brochure.

Qty	AYH Membership	Unit Price	
	(Type: )		
		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 every day from 8am to 10am and 5 pm to 10pm. 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.