# The Golden Triangle The Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels

Volume 43, number 1

January 1992

INSIDE

AYH Going On Cable TV (Maybe)

Squirrels in Your Attic?

Winter Festivals: A Complete Schedule

Rails To Trails: A Discussion of Issues

Eurailpass Increases January 1, 1992

#### February Deadlines

All Copy January 9

Binding and Mailing January 23

#### **About AYH**

American Youth Hostels is a nonprofit 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 lowcost travel programs. AYH is the US affiliate of the International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF) which coordinates more than 5,400 hostels worldwide-the largest network of accommodations in the world.

#### **Moving? Subscription Problems?**

To continue receiving the Golden Triangle, you must notify us by mail or phone of any change in your address. To notify us, write to the Golden Triangle, 6300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232. You can call the AYH office at (412) 362-8181.

The Triangle is mailed Third Class to save on postage costs. The Post Office, however, does not forward Third Class mail. It is returned to us with 52 cents postage due. To help us keep postage costs down, please notify us of any address changes as soon as possible.

### Pittsburgh Council Hostels

#### Ohiopyle AYH Hostel

Ohiopyte State Park PO Box 99 Ohiopyte, PA 15470 (412) 329-4476

#### The Pittsburgh VRC Hostel

1323 Forbes Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15219

#### Charleroi Youth Hostel (SA)

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

#### Little Hickory Home Hostel

East Hickory, PA (814) 755-4908

#### Living Waters AYH Hostel

RD #1 (1 mile west on Route 30) Schellsburg, PA 15559 (814) 733-4212



#### **Triangle Staff**

#### **Council Officers**

President .......... Larry Laude
(412-665-9554)
Vice Presidents. Joe Hoechner
Jon Maiman
Secretary ...... Marianne Kasica
Treasurer ....... Roy Weil

### Guidelines

Stories and pictures relating to our trips and activities, the environment, the outdoors, etc. are welcome. To submit an article, put it in the Editor's box at AYH head-quarters, or mail it to the Golden Triangle at the address to the right. Articles may also be submitted on 3.5" diskettes (PC preferred but Mac is OK), or by modem. The Editor's Compuserve address is 75530,3711.

The Golden Triangle is published monthly by the Pittsburgh Council of American Youth Hostels. Contents are at the discretion of the editor.

Mail regarding this newsletter should be addressed to:

> The Golden Triangle 6300 Fifth Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15232 (412) 362-8181 Office: (412) 422-2282

# **Volunteer News and Opportunities**

# AYH Office Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for day or evening to work at the Pittsburgh Council Office. We need people to answer the phone, do data entry, type and other light office duties. If interested please call Marianne at 921-5272.

# **Hostel Programming**

Volunteers are needed for hostel programming. Linda Smithyman would like to begin some real programming for the hostellers staying at the VRC and Ohiopyle hostels. If you would be interested in helping out Linda invites you to attend a meeting on Monday, February 10th at 7:30 pm at the AYH office on Solway Street.

If you have ever gone hostelling you will know what Linda is talking about. Call her at 531-1868 for more details and information. Stay tuned to the February newsletter for more information.

# **AYH Cable TV??!?**

Pittsburgh Council of AYH has an opportunity to work with our local community access cable channel to produce an AYH cable TV show!

"Pittsburgh Community Television" has invited us (as a local non-profit community organization) to use their studios, equipment and expertise to produce a short program in their studio or on location. The program would be aired on local cable at dates and times to be arranged.

Joe Hoechner is seeking an active, knowledgeable AYH member who can focus (no pun intended) in on this project to work with PCTV to produce a cable program for Pittsburgh AYH. Keep in mind that they have a variety of formats to follow: sit-down studio interviews, existing slides with narration edited together on videotape, or outdoor action locations to provide a video news release.

If you have some spare time available this winter, this could be a project for you! If you are interested in working to develop this project, be sure to give Joe a call at 242-0781.

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COVER PHOTO: Frank Bruns

## Thanks Folks!

#### by Linda Smithyman

The last Ohiopyle Hostel work party on October 20th featured a nice number of volunteers who turned out to paint, clear the lawn and plant bulbs. Thanks to Royanne Mac, Tom Rodgers, Chris Kline, Sandy Wycoff, Jerry Ritter, Ron Boone, Marianne Kasica, and A. J. Stones (especially for providing the ladders). All of you deserve a big round of applause for helping out.

Some of us went hiking in the park and we also got to meet Doug Hoehn, Ohiopyle Park Superintendent and his wife at lunch. He's a nice guy. Thanks to Sue Moore, hostel manager, for helping out with lunch, too.

A party of six of us went down the night before and hiked the rather level Great Gorge Trail as the sun set and the moon lit up the park. We were brave and left the flashlights off 'cause there was

almost plenty of natural light the whole time. We weren't going to run into any bears or anything with all of the noise that we were making! I would have been apprehensive if I had been walking alone but it was a great feeling to be out in the woods at night (OK, 7:00 pm) with a group and

having a good time. We took some photos on the bridge below Rail-

road Rapids and all said that we were going to hike in the evening again. But everyone was hungry (AYH also stands for Are You Hungry in case you didn't know) so we headed out to eat and visited Nemocolin Woodlands Resort for a while before heading back to the hostel to stay overnight.

I plan on having at least three trips next year with this same itinerary of an evening hike, staying overnight and then volunteering for the hostel work party the next day, possibly June, August and October. Stay tuned to future newsletters for dates.

# **Squirrel Problems?**

Pittsburgh AYH has a "Hav-a-Heart" live trap available that's just the right size for catching squirrels that might be living in your attic.

Joe Hoechner reports that the HQ squirrels are alive and well, living in upscale Fox Chapel.

If you would like to rent the trap (it's \$5 a week), Joe can provide tips on trapping and baiting. You must pick up and return to HQ on a Thursday night. Rental proceeds benefit Hostel Development. Call Joe at 242-0781.

P.S. If you catch a skunk, you buy the trap!

#### Pittsburgh Council Activity Chairs

#### Bicycling

#### Canoeing

Royanne Mac .......335-7326

#### Climbing

Eric Bauer ......687-0766

#### Cross-County Skiing

Fred Parker ...... 856-4713

#### **Family Activities**

Barbara Hanusa .... 441-7205

#### Hiking & Backpacking

#### Kayaking

John Gaylor ......366-4062 Ray Yutzy ......341-5682

#### Mid-Week Rambles

Cliff Ham ......697-4520

#### Rafting

Jon Maiman ...... 441-2306 Linda Smithyman ...531-1868

#### Sailing

Bob Zavos ......241-0659

#### Sea Kayaking

Mark Mistrik ...... 441-8293

#### Volleyball

Jeff Marsh ......384-7827

#### **Trips Coordinator**

Janet Supowitz

# Part Time Help Wanted

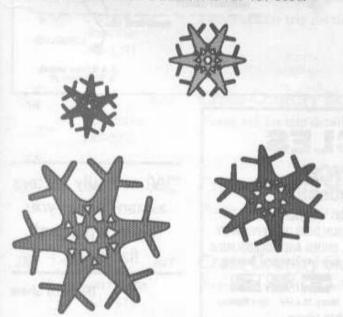
We need a person with office skills to work at the Pittsburgh Council AYH office. The job is for up to 15 hours/week during the day. Duties are to answer the phone, fulfill memberships, file reports and sell publications and supplies. The office is located in the Wightman Community Center building in Squirrel Hill. For more information call Marianne Kasica at 648-7803 during the day or 921-5272 at night.

## Where's the Snow?

Want to know the snow conditions in your favorite ski or snowmobile area? Both the Bureau of State Parks and Bureau of Forestry have telephone numbers to call for weekly snow updates.

For information on snow conditions and ice thickness in state parks, call 1-800-63-PARKS. Reports from the parks are updated each Thursday.

For information on snow conditions on state forest lands, the Bureau of Forestry operates a snowmobile hotline from December 14 to March 17 with a message that is updated by 10 am every Tuesday and Friday. The snowmobile hotline number is 717-787-5651.



# **Great Ride Set** for June 28

Mark your calendars! Pittsburgh Citiparks has set the date for the 1992 Great Ride as Sunday June 28th. The Great Ride is being moved from last year's Memorial Day date in order to spread out the cycling calendar a bit. The Ride will be in the same format as last year's Great Ride: 15, 25 and 50 mile rides starting near Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh's Schenley Park and touring through the East End, the North Side and the South Side. Join 2,000+ cyclists for one of the biggest cycling events in the Tri-State area. Watch the newsletter for more information.

Pittsburgh Council, along with the Western Pennsylvania Wheelmen, has been one of the main supporters of the Great Ride. We will again provide volunteer support for this event. An organizational meeting for Great Ride staff and volunteers will be held in early February. It will be announced in the newsletter.

With the help of our volunteers, over \$6,000 was raised from last year's ride, with most of that amount being donated to the Pittsburgh Hostel Fund.

## **Winter Festivals**

Feb 1 & 2: Snow Fun Days at Pymatuning State Park (412-932-3141) sponsored by the Pymatuning Trailblazers, a snowmobile club. Activities include ice fishing demonstrations, snowmobile torch light parade around the lake, bonfire and wiener roast, ice diving demonstration and ice boating competition.

Feb 8 & 9: Annual Winter Carnival at Chapman State park in Warren County (814-723-5030). Activities include cross-country ski races, snow sculpture contest, snowshoe races, and toboggan and sled races.

Feb 1 & 2: The Winter Family Festival at Parker Dam State Park in Clearfield County (814-765-0630) features a Blizzard Volleyball Tournament, the Freeze Your Gizzard Run and Frozen Rubber Band tube riding.

Feb 8 & 9: Sled Dog Races in Cook Forest State Park (814-744-8407) sponsored by the Pennsylvania Sled Dog Club. (No-snow dates are Feb 22 & 23.)

(From Pennsylvania State Parks, issued quarterly. For a free copy, call 1-800-63-PARKS.)

# Hiking/Backpacking

Wed

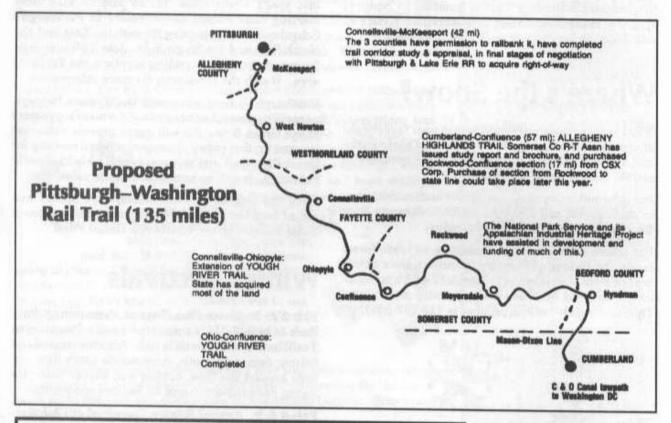
EASY

Third Annual New Year's Day Hike

10:00 am

Linda Smithyman 531-1868

This year's hike will be in Frick Park; it will be about three miles long. Meet at Headquarters at 10:00 am. We'll have brunch at Rhoda's in Squirrel Hill afterwards.



# T.R.M. BICYCLES SALES AND SERVICE

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"What really flatters a man is that you think him worth flattering."

Bernard Shaw

# **Cross-Country Skiing**

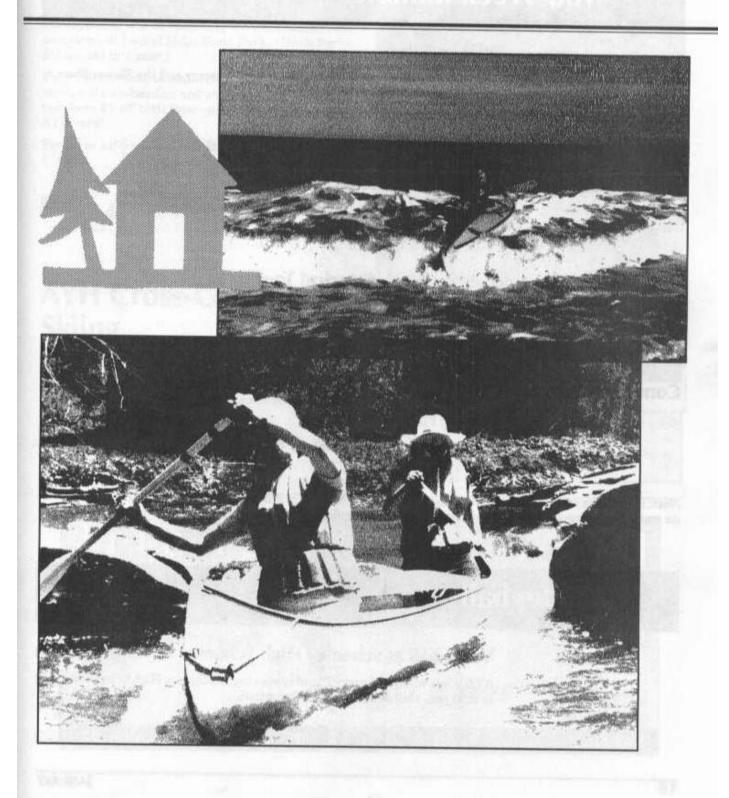
4	Sat BEG/I	NT Cross-Country Ski Trip	9:00 am
	Linda Smithyman 531-1868	Please call for trip details and requirements.	
5	Sun I	NT Cross-Country Ski Trip	8:30 am
	Jim Ritchie 828-0210 h 624-1220 w	Please call for trip details and requirements.	
11	Sat I	NT Cross-Country Ski Trip	8:30 am
	Steve & Jena Tubbs 279-4866		
12	Sun A	LL Cross-Country Ski Trip	8:30 am
	Mark Mistrik 441-8293	Please call for trip details and requirements.	
18	Sat A	LL Cross-Country Ski Trip	8:30 am
	Cheryl & Joe Hoechner 242-0781	Please call for trip details and requirements.	
19	Sun BI	G Cross-Country Ski Trip	8:30 am
	Ron Boone 222-0906	Please call for trip details and requirements.	
25	Sat A	LL Cross-Country Ski Trip	8:30 am
	Royanne Mac 335-7326	Please call for trip details and requirements.	
26	Sun II	NT Cross-Country Ski Trip	8:30 am
WE'L	Lori Prucha 421-7616	Please call for trip details and requirements.	

# ...What a Year It Was!





# AYH Trips...



## Mid-Week Rambles

8 Wed RAMBLE Flower Show

Dick Fischer 421-9215

Walk through Schenley Park to Phipps conservatory and the Flower Show.

15 Wed RAMBLE To Be Announced

22 Wed RAMBLE Swissvale and Nine Run Park

Cliff Ham 687-4520

Cliff Ham 687-4520

29

Wed RAMBLE Crafton Area

**Crafton Area Historical Tour** 

Coming in February:

5 Wed RAMBLE Spr

**Spring Hill Area** 

Marilyn Ham 687-4520

We might end up at the Allegheny Brewery once again.

Note: during the winter, all trips are subject to change—especially if the weather makes driving difficult. We do meet at least once a week, even in very cold weather, for at least a vigorous walk.

# Volleyball

Tuesday Nights Jeff Marsh

384-7827

Volleyball at Schenley High School

6:30 pm

AYH plays volleyball every Tuesday evening at Schenley High School from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Call Jeff for more information.

# **Laurel Run Cross-Country Skiing Info**

For the winter of '91-'92 Riversport, of Confluence, Pennsylvania will be operating the cross-country ski concession at Laurel Ridge State Park. (Hank Parke did not bid this year.)

They will continue to maintain the trails, rent equipment, sell merchandise and snacks, and provide AYH members \$1 off trail fees—so be sure to bring your AYH card!

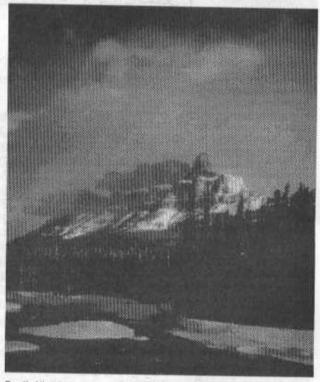
For more information, call Riversport at (814) 395-5744



# **AYH Cross-Country Skiing**

All AYH cross-country skiing trips are held on a "no snow, no go" basis. Please contact the trip leader if you have any doubts about the conditions on the day of the trip.

All trips leave from AYH HQ at 8:30 am unless otherwise indicated.



Banff, Alberta

This newsletter is designed and produced by Ron Wodaski at Triangle Computer Publishing. It is produced on a PC compatible using Corel Draw, Pagemaker and Photostyler.



## **Guest Editorial**

## A Rail Trail Unites Two Worlds

by Sue Gerard

[Editor's note: This article is taken from a recent issue of **Trailblazer**, the newsletter of the Rails to Trails Conservancy.]

y Dad used to look at rolling hills, steep bluffs, heavily wooded areas or swampy land and say, "Hell, it's worthless; you couldn't raise anything on it." He was a farmer. Mom was a town girl, and she loved to walk in the woods, especially between daylight and sun-up.

Why do I write this today? Because people like Mom and Dad are now involved in the new 200-mile long park, the Missouri River State Trail. It passes through farmland, rivers, hills, bluffs and wooded areas owned mostly by people like Dad. The hikers and bikers who come from the cities to this trail will be, mostly, people like Mom.

Here's a chance for urban and rural dwellers to understand each other more sympathetically. Imagine the farmer's delight when he visits over the fence with the customers who buy hamburgers, ice cream and cookies made of products produced on his farm. Imagine the city dweller's surprise to learn that the farmer gets only eight or nine cents for the grain that is in an expensive box of cereal!

Visiting with farmers who live along the Katy trail, I discovered that they think trail walkers will be the "city hoodlums" who've trespassed on their land, harassed their animals and shot holes in their mailboxes.

We farmers have legitimate complaints when non-farmers misuse us. Someone recently dug up the tulip and jonquil bulb I planted and tended near our mailbox. A neighbor's beautiful pine tree was cut and taken from her yard one morning just before Christmas. And just a couple of weeks ago, vandals pounded up mailboxes and uprooted their posts along our country road.

No wonder rural people are apprehensive! Bur vandalism by trail users is rare because hoodlums find very little to lure them down a long, skinny park.

Who are the hikers and bikers who seek nature trails such as the new Missouri River State Trail? They are people like my Mom, who yearn for the sounds of birds, the smells of wild plum blossoms and the feel of wild mushrooms and moss. They walk and bike for fitness and health; they seek a closeness with God-made things.

They'll hear the farmer's rooster crow, smell the freshly-cut alfalfa. They'll find rest where they see no billboards and hear no squealing tires.

Urban dwellers might be tempted to get off the trail to pick some wildflowers. But farmers can suffer tremendous losses from such a seemingly harmless thing as that. If one hiker makes a path through a field, others will likely think that it is OK and do the same thing. Trail users should stay on the trail and enjoy those wildflowers from afar.

Now is the time to accentuate the positive. For the last three or four years, the terms "trail user" and "land owner" have been batted around by the media until one might think that they were at war. They're actually quite dependent on each other. It's true what the farmer's bumper sticker says: "Feeding you is what farming is." The non-farmer must eat; the farmer must sell his products.

The bottom line is this: Let's all farmers and non-farmers—enjoy this wonderful new Missouri park.

Farmers, if you're not racing to get the hay in the barn before the storm strikes, take the time to welcome those hikers and bikers and help them learn where their food comes from. Trail users, stay on the long skinny park and treat this precious resource with respect.

See you there?

Sue Gerard is retired and lives in Columbia, Missouri. She taught physical education at Christian / Columbia College for more than 30 years.



ell, it's January. As soon as the holidays are over, it'll be time once again to get ready for a new year of AYH trips and activities and hostelling. One of the things coming up is a repeat of last year's planning retreat for the board of directors, probably in late February or early March. We'll be doing some long range planning for the Council for the next 2 years, 5 years and 10 years. This planning will be used to set the direction for the Council and to set specific goals and objectives for the next few years. What I'd like to get from the membership at large is a list of concerns and suggestions that can be used as a starting point for discussion at the retreat. What do you think the Council's priorities should be? What new projects should we start? What old projects should we drop? What should we continue and at what level?

A similar process is going on at the National level, with an apparent trend towards a greater emphasis on hostels and a lesser emphasis on activities. How should Pittsburgh Council, one of the traditional "activity councils" react to this? I'd appreciate your comments in order to get as much input as possible before the retreat. The general topics are Activities and Programs, Hostels, Hostelling, Member Services, and Administrative Support, but all comments on AYH and the Council are welcome.

The next Board of Director's meeting is on Jan 20th at the AYH office at 5604 Solway at 7:30 pm.

# Cross-Country Weekends at Wilderness Lodge

January 10-12 January 24-26 January 31-February 2 February 7-9

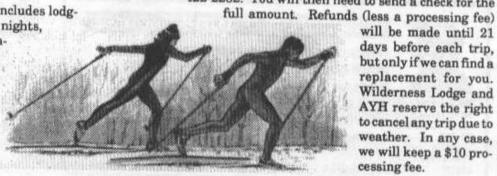
vou may still be able to reserve a spot at one of the four weekend trips to Wilderness Lodge. These weekends in the Erie snow belt feature rustic, intimate lodging and ski trails that are tracked and groomed. The lodge has been a perrenial favorite of AYH skiers, so you are warned to reserve early.

The cost of the weekend includes lodging Friday and Saturday nights, a delicious candlelight dinner Saturday evening. and cross-country trail fees for two days. A vegetarian meal is available on request. Ski rentals. breakfasts and lunches are available at extra cost.

Space is limited to 34 persons per weekend. AYH members' cost for the weekend is \$60, and nonmembers pay \$70. A private room (two only; the rest are dorm style) are an extra \$10 per person.

To reserve a spot, call Susan at the AYH office at (412) 422-2282. You will then need to send a check for the

> will be made until 21 days before each trip. but only if we can find a replacement for you. Wilderness Lodge and AYH reserve the right to cancel any trip due to weather. In any case, we will keep a \$10 processing fee.



# **EURAIL PASS PRICES TO INCREASE JANUARY 1st!**

Pittsburgh Council now has available all Eurail Passes and Eurail Flexipasses available for over the counter sales at our office. Almost all other rail passes in Europe, including eastern Europe, are also available but require 3 days for delivery. Please note that all over the counter sales must be cash or certified check; passes paid for by credit card will require 3 days for delivery. Sample prices are:

#### Standard Eurail Pass

15 day unlimited first class	430
21 day unlimited first class	\$550
1 month unlimited first class	680

#### **Eurail Flexipass**

5 days travel in 15 days	\$280
9 days travel in 21 days	\$450
14 days travel in 1 month	\$610

These are the 1992 prices and reflect a 10 to 20% increase. But passes can still be bought for the 1991 prices until December 31st, so hurry on over to the office and save money today! Call the office at 412-422-2282 for a brochure.

Remember, all sales benefit Pittsburgh Council.

# Classified

FOR SALE Two North Face junior (5 footlong) down mummy sleeping bags. Three pair of junior cross country skis and one pair of junior downhill skis. Call 341-9077 for prices and sizes on skis.

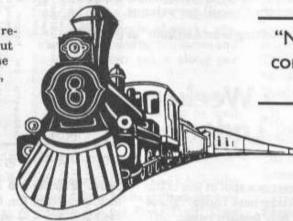
FREE Snowshoes, usable condition. 327-8737

ADVERTISE in the AYH classified. If you are an AYH member, there is no charge for classified ads. To place an ad, send it to:

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

"No great man ever complains of want of opportunity."

Ralph Waldo Emerson



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"To make astute people believe what one is not is, in most cases, harder than actually to become what one wishes to apprear."

Pavese



#### 1992 Membership Application

#### **American Youth Hostels**

Pittsburgh Council 6300 Fifth Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15232



membership Categories				Name:		
	- []	\$25	Adult (18 to 54)	Address:		
	- []	\$20	Adult renewel, pass #		LINE A PARTIE OF THE PARTIES OF THE	
	- 11	\$10	Youth (17 and under)	Phone:		
	- []	\$15	Senior Citizen (55 and over)	(chay)	(ava)	
	_ []	\$35	Family ( 2 adults, children under 18, 16 in Europe)	Birthdate:	M F	
	_ [1	\$25	Family renewal, pass #			
	- []	\$250	Life ( all ages)	For student ID cards o	inly:	
	. []	\$15	Student ID card (includes \$1 postage)	School name:		
				Citizenship:	NA .	
Inte	rnation	al hos	tel directories, misc. merchandise:		name, address, phone:	
	_ []	\$11	Volume 1: Europe, Mediterranean			
	_ []	\$11	Volume 2: Africa, Americas, Asia, Australia	din		
_	[ ] \$14 Cotton sleep sack (required at most hostets) [ ] \$6 Each foradvance booking vouchers	Billian Annual Control of the Contro				
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		\$1	Set of 10 hostel reservation postcards	See additional require	holow	
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I am joining primarily for:  [ ] Local activities [ ] Hostelling in the US [ ] Hostelling abroad				Please send me information on volunteering for:  [ ] Activities [ ] Office help [ ] Hostel development		
			rities			
			in the US			
			abroad			
Mario	VA CITA			100		

NOTE: Student ID cards require a 1-1/8" x 1-3/8" photo and proof of student status, such as a copy of a grade transcript, student body card or receipt for tuition for the current academic year.

All new memberships except for life memberships are valid for 12 months from the month of issue. All renewals are valid for 12 months from the expiration date of the current membership.

All memberships include:

- A 12-month subscription to The Golden Triangle, Pittsburgh Council's monthly newsletter for hostel news and local activities
- · The international hostel pass valid at over 5,000 hostels around the world
- · The North American Hostel Directory, listing over 250 hostels in the US and Canada

Please allow two weeks for delivery of mail orders. All items are also available at the Pittsburgh Council office and activities headquarters. Call (412) 422-2282 for more information.

Headquarters: open Thursdays from 8 to 10 pm	Office: open Mon., Wed., Fri. 9 am to 2 pm
6300 Fifth Avenue (at Shady Avenue)	Room 204 Wightman School
Pittsburgh, PA (412) 362-8181	5604 Solway St. (Squirrel Hill) (412) 422-2282

# **January Shows**

January 2 Social Evening No show

January 9
International Communities
Urban Land, Rural Land
Dan Sullivan

January 16 Mission Alaska Kathi Ferguson January 23
Puerto Rico
The Sunny Isle
Marilyn and Cliff Ham

January 30 Summertime Soviet Adventure Rush Howe

> To volunteer to do a show, call Tom Rodgers at 621-6310.

#### **American Youth Hostels**

Pittsburgh Council 6300 Fifth Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15232

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