

# 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.*



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**Happy Holidays!!!** The annual AYH Holiday Party will be held on Thursday, December 16, at the New Hostel in the Allentown section of Pittsburgh, starting at 7Pm. Bring snacks, drinks or deserts to share and join in for caroling in the neighborhood, as well!

## TOUR DE GRAPE HARVEST, OCTOBER, 1999

by Joan Roof

The "Tour De Grape Harvest" at Wilderness Lodge was a very successful bicycle event. Twenty-two eager bicyclists arrived, mostly Friday evening, to the usual warm, relaxing atmosphere of Wilderness Lodge. Nanci Janes assigned rooms and we settled down to games and conversation as the rain fell. Fortunately the weather forecast predicted clearing and partial sunshine for Saturday.

Saturday began with a big breakfast at 8 am, ham, bacon, homefries, eggs, or oatmeal, it was all good. Gray clouds hung heavy, but there wasn't any rain! We drove off to the charming little town of Northeast, where we met Don Hutchinson, our local guide. Don knows lots of vineyard owners in the area, and planned a 25 mile ride on the roads, vineyards and apple orchards. It was an exhilarating ride, with Lake Erie in view for part of the way. Mary Ruth Aull had an old fashioned train whistle, which added to the festive atmosphere.

Don provided us with a drink of apple cider at one of the vineyards, and we were able to sample the grapes and pick the crisp apples for a tasty treat. Then we stopped at a winery for samples, and continued on to a park at Lake Erie commemorating the first woman to swim across the lake. By now the weather was mostly sunny.

As we rode we passed a chrysanthemum farm and looked for a lunch stop. No one brought a bag lunch and our group of 23 was too large for the restaurants along the way. But we did find Johnny B's in Northeast where we ate lunch. Reservations are in order for next year. After the ride we scattered to explore and buy wine, apples and chrysanthemums.

Back at Wilderness Lodge, Nanci's crew provided us with a delicious home cooked meal. Clouds and rain kept us from having a star gazing walk so we spent the evening playing games and having a general good time.

On Sunday, after breakfast, we divided into two groups. Don led one group on the dirt roads to Peak and Peak and I led the other from Peak and Peak to and around Findley Lake. Findley Lake is an old time resort community. We stopped in the little town and had homemade ice cream before splitting up about 1 PM for the trip back to Pittsburgh.

### NEW 2000 MEMBER DISCOUNTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Continued on page 3)

### Hostelling - International Pittsburgh PA



*Now Open*

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



Be Sure To Visit:

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

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....And MORE!!!



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

*1999 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.*

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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**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:

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830 Warrington Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Office: (412) 431-4910  
or

HI-Pgh on the information super Highway. Point your browser to :  
<http://trfn.clpgh.org/ayh/>  
or you can email us at  
[ayh@trfn.clpgh.org](mailto:ayh@trfn.clpgh.org)



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INTERNATIONAL

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**NOTICE**

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

**Feb/March ISSUE**  
**All copy, January 6**  
**Binding/Mailing, January 20**

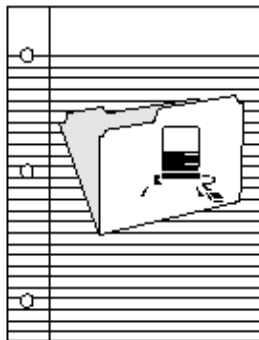
If your work is on computer, Please contact Joel Platt at [joelplat@yahoo.com](mailto:joelplat@yahoo.com)

**Moving?**

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

**About AYH**

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



**Submissions Policy:  
Golden Triangle**

**Classified Ads:**

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

**Trips**

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

**Articles**

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

**General rules for submission**

- No handwritten submissions
- Submissions Can be; On computer disk (IBM / MAC), 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 1999.

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

Editor...

**UPCOMING SLIDE SHOWS**

- December 2:** We show the 16 mm film "The Erie Canal". Opened in 1825 by New York governor De Witt-Clinton. Film footage of operation. Also, "Fantastic Yellowstone". Discovery of natural wonders. First national park.
  - December 9:** Henry Hanson, "Village Life In China". Tradition and change in Lijing, a village in Hunan. See also the booming city of Kunmin.
  - December 16:** Christmas party at 7 PM at the new hostel at Arlington and Warrington Avenues on the South Side. Also, caroling. More information elsewhere in this newsletter. Call 412 431 1267 for directions or for carpooling from Headquarters in Shadyside.
  - December 23:** Closed for Christmas holidays.
  - December 30:** Closed for New Year holidays.
  - January 6:** We show the 16 mm film "Eisenstaedt: Germany". Famous photojournalist's return to home country. Photo shoot through Germany for his tenth book. Prize winner at American Film Festival.
  - January 13:** Mike Fialkovich, "Traveling Through South Eastern Texas, The Hill Country And Rio Grande Valley". See the Santa Anna Wildlife Refuge.
  - January 20:** Cake and apple pie party.
  - January 27:** We show the 16 mm film "The First Texan". Sam Houston leads texans against Mexico in their fight for independence.
  - February 3:** Joyce Appel, "Traveling Through Four African Countries In The Back Of An Old Army Truck". Joyce and Paul visit South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe. They hike and canoe, and they sand-board the highest dunes in the world.
- Slide shows start at 8:30 PM, at AYH Headquarters, Shady Avenue at Fifth Avenue. Doors open at 8:00 PM. If you want to give a show, call Luc Berger at 412-683-3131.**

**Pittsburgh Council Hostels**

**Ohiopyle AYH Hostel**  
Ohiopyle State Park  
PO Box 99  
Ohiopyle, PA 15470  
(724) 329-4476

**HI-Pittsburgh Hostel**  
830 E. Warrington Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15210  
(412) 431-1267

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



# HOSTEL HAPPENINGS

## Volunteer Opportunities:

Join the fun! We are always looking for enthusiastic and fun-loving volunteers to help make HI-Pittsburgh a HIP place to visit for international visitors, US visitors, and residents of 'da burg alike. Call or stop by during hostel hours, either 8am-10am or 5pm-10pm every day...OR visit us at the Travel Store which will be re-opening in December!! The Travel Store, also located in the hostel building, will be open Tuesdays-Saturdays, 12pm-5pm starting December 11, 1999.

We are currently seeking volunteers to assist with and/or lead events such as:

### Travel Workshops/Seminars

Help first-time travelers prepare for their journeys by sharing ideas/tips on international travel. Talk about things you have learned from your own experiences; other cultures, travel safety, what to pack, how to save money, OR bring pictures/slides to share, OR just come and listen! We are looking to start having travel seminars once/month at the hostel. The next one will be in conjunction with the re-opening of the Travel Store: "Budget Travel 101—Down Under on a Budget" will be held at 2pm on December 11th. Volunteers interested in helping with this or any future travel workshops should contact Brian or Jessica at the hostel.

### Open House Guides @ the Hostel

Lead a tour of the hostel! Show visitors around in our great facility here in Pittsburgh. Answer questions about hostelling along the way. Open Houses are a great way to show local residents what our mission is all about, and a wonderful way to become more involved with and learn about the opportunities that exist here in the Pittsburgh Council.

### Walking Tours of the City

Lead a tour up to Mt. Washington, Oakland, the South Side, or your own favorite Pittsburgh attraction(s). Walking tours are a great way to meet new people from all around the globe. And the guests really appreciate being shown where "the locals" hang out. Wind down by stopping for eats at your favorite local hangout and chatting with your new friends. Our dedicated staff will be happy to assist you in preparing, planning, and scheduling. Just give us a call!

### Booths at Travel Fairs

Hostelling International is always attending travel fairs and seminars throughout the city. Help staff one of our booths, pass out flyers, answer questions about hostelling. Most of these events are 2-4 hours and are another great way to meet new people and network.

### Work Parties

Become involved in the behind-the-scenes efforts in helping make H.I.P. and the surrounding neighborhood a more beautiful place to visit. Join a clean up crew, work in our community garden, or help plan future events. We are always in need of creative, positive feedback and suggestions. We look forward to hearing your input.

### Shuttle to Fallingwater/Ohiopyle

It is oftentimes very difficult for travelers to find transportation to our Ohioopyle Hostel. If you are headed that way, why not make your trip more exciting by offering a ride to some travelers that otherwise might not have the opportunity to see this beautiful area? Carpooling is fun!

**FOR INFORMATION ON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE PITTSBURGH COUNCIL, PLEASE CONTACT BRIAN FUNK OR JESSICA CARPENTER AT THE HOSTEL. (412) 431-1267**

## The Travel Store is Re-Opening December 11th!

The Pittsburgh Council of AYH will be celebrating the Grand Re-opening of its Travel Store on December 11, 1999 at the Hostel. This long-awaited event will be kicking off at 12 noon. Activities will include: an Open-House with tours of the Hostel and Travel Store, Budget Travel 101 Seminar "Down Under on a Budget" at 2pm, plenty of free information on travel, group travel, volunteer opportunities, and more! The Re-Opening Celebration will end with a potluck dinner from 5pm-7pm in the hostel kitchen/dining area. Bring a favorite recipe and eat, eat, eat!! All hostel guests, members, and Pittsburgh residents welcome! Attend one or all of the events! For more information, contact Brian or Jessica at the hostel. (412) 431-1267. Hope to see you there!

## New Travel Store Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 12pm-5pm

Staff at the Pittsburgh Hostel

Please stop by and meet the enthusiastic, warm, and friendly staff members of the Pittsburgh Hostel:

Brian Funk, Manager  
 Jessica Carpenter, Assistant Manager  
 Nicole Mannino  
 Wade Burtch  
 Adalgisa Bosonetto

And be sure to visit Marjorie Pasqualle, the wonderful manager at our lovely hostel in Ohioopyle!! This hostel is in the heart of the largest state park in PA, and is the perfect location for skiing, hiking, cycling, rafting, or canoeing getaways. And it's just a few miles from Frank Lloyd Wright's famous "Fallingwater". Call Marjorie for information at (412) 329-4476.

### Help Wanted!

We are currently searching for two part-time staff members to work at the Pittsburgh Hostel and Travel Store. Candidates who are friendly, willing to answer visitor ques-

(Continued from page 1)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monti's Studio- 10% discount store-wide; 844 E.

Warrington Ave. / phone: (412) 381-3240

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

tions, and detail-oriented should send resumes directly to the Pittsburgh Hostel.

## Resources Available at the Hostel/Travel Store:

### Traveler's Resource Guide (FREE)

A guide to hostelling in North America and overseas, including information on membership, making reservations, planning itineraries, how to reach your destination (on a budget), packing, and saving money.

### Hostelling North America (FREE)

Complete listing of every hostel in the United States and Canada. Prices, directions, special facilities, local discounts, reservation procedures, and everything else you need in a pocket-size handbook. A perfect companion on your hostelling journey.

### Hostelling USA Map (FREE)

Shows the locations of US hostels in a colorful, glossy, fold-out format. A perfect map to keep on hand while you plan your next trip.

### Other Hostel Guides (\$10.95)

-Europe  
 -Americas, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific

Both of these books are updated yearly and offer complete listings of our hostels in over 70 different countries.

### Memberships

Don't go anywhere without your HI-AYH membership card! The cost is \$25 for an adult, one-year membership, \$15 for a senior, one-year membership, \$250 for a lifetime membership, and FREE youth membership. Stop by the hostel to get your card today! You may also request a membership application to be sent to you via snail mail, by calling the travel center @ (412) 431-4910 or the hostel @ (412) 431-1267; return the application and we will send your membership kit to you ASAP.

**As always, feel free to call the hostel with your suggestions for workshops/seminars that would be of interest to you. Watch future newsletters and flyers for upcoming events. Happy Hostelling!**

## AYH ACTIVITIES WITH BEN

Well, the hiking, canoeing and kayaking trips have seen another year. One of the greatest joys for me was in the people who came on our trips. A pleasant surprise, I have met up with old friends who I have not seen for years. And I have made some outstanding new friends. Aside from the Thursday meetings, I see people who can only travel the distance to Pittsburgh on the weekend. Another pleasant surprise is getting calls as activities organizer or hiking chair from someone who would like to walk or go on a trip. I have had several calls renewing contacts from former years.

Most amazingly, I have heard about people who my friends still keep in touch with, or even see frequently, all of whom they have met at the Pittsburgh AYH. I have enjoyed many good, long-term and durable friendships over the years, but few as durable as those with fellow outdoors trippers. There is something special about Pittsburgh, there is something magical about our trips and there is wishing all of you a good holidays and a great New Year. And yes, may the boaters have more water in the next millennium. And may Brian, Jessica and Marjorie have a crowd at the hostels. Happy holidays and Gelukkig Nieuwjaar.

Ben

## OUTDOOR COOKBOOK FOR SALE BY LOCAL SCOUTS

Cadette/Senior Girl Scout Troop 83 have put together 400 recipes -- ideal for picnics, cookouts, camp and cabin meals. As avid outdoor enthusiasts who camp together three times a year, rappel, hike, and have completed outdoor survival training and high adventure programs, they've compiled favorite recipes from other scouts and campers across the US to create "A Taste of the Outdoors". This cookbook includes menu ideas from breakfast entrees to midnight snacks...and everything in between; and offers a variety of cooking methods -- foil, Dutch oven, campstove, box oven, campfire, grill, solar, etc. Most recipes can be adapted for cabin (indoor - with minimal equipment) cooking. Cost of the cookbook is \$12.50 and includes shipping and handling (in the US). You can visit their website at

<http://members.aol.com/janed5/recipe/cookbook.htm>

or send payment along with your name, address and phone number to: Troop 83, c/o Barb Koehler, 30 Center Ave., Pgh., PA 15202. Cookbook sales will be used to fund a 2001 trip to the Girl Scout World Center - Our Chalet in Switzerland.

## Rambles For Autumn - 1999 & Winter - 2000

### December

- December 1** Heidelberg. Bill Phoennik. 279-5411
- December 8** Edgewood. Marilyn Ham. 687-4520
- December 15** Downtown Pittsburgh. Enjoy the holiday decorations. Helen Brownhill. 279-3672
- December 22** Allentown ramble. Bag lunch plus holiday goodies at the Hostel. John Hartman. 241-5031
- December 29** No ramble. HAPPY HOLIDAYS

### January

- January 5** Strip District. Cid & Helen Sclarsky. 421-2682
- January 12** Cedar Creek (Bag Lunch). Alex Federowicz. 421-0922
- January 19** Schenley Park. Don Hoecker. 243-8298
- January 26** Calvary Cemetery. Dick Fisher. 421-9215

### February

- February 2** Grand View Area. Optional lunch at Station Square. Jim Hurst. 276-8014

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

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

(Continued from page 5)

The Icycle Bicycle Ride is the WPW bicycle club's annual ride first ride of the year, but this year is a little different. It is the first bike ride of the Millennium! Everyone is invited! 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 continue on to the Mickey D's in North Side and return to our starting point via the riverfront trails and the 31st Bridge. 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: [wpwgeorge@aol.com](mailto:wpwgeorge@aol.com).



## CANOEING

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

We encourage feed back from trip leaders, instructors and participants. If you have ideas or suggestions for the year 2000, please contact the canoeing chairs, or try to make the late winter planning meeting, to be announced in a future issue. Until then, best wishes and many thanks to all who make the canoeing program possible. To Ben: the canoeists also are fond of dining out after paddling trips. We have even joked about a supplement to the Shaw/Weil guidebook, featuring favorite restaurants!!!!

--  
Shelley C. Nilson [shelleycn@yahoo.com](mailto:shelleycn@yahoo.com)



## ROCK CLIMBING

Rock Out with AYH!

**Rock climbing trips from Pittsburgh Council of American Youth Hostels**

The 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.

### 1999/2000 AYH ROCK CLIMBING TRIPS

No trips currently planned, as everyone is gearing up for cross-country skiing. Call Chuck Jones at (412) 242-6172 to see if anything comes up.



## SEA-KAYAKING

Activity Co-Chairs: Vickie Gotaski 412-344-4929  
Fran Fleming 412.363.1221

Paddler's Dinners are held at various local restaurants on the second Tuesday of every month. Everyone is welcome.

Don't have a kayak? That's okay we have extras. Call your trip leader for details.

**January 1, 2000 - Millenium Paddle - Everyone's Welcome**  
It's not too early to plan for our Y2Kayak  
Russ 412.331.2073



Kayaking near Little Talbot Island, near Jacksonville, Fla.

courtesy of Jim Ritchie



## SKIING

The Wilderness Lodge Ski Weekends are scheduled for the following weekends: Jan. 27-29 and Feb. 10-12. We have the full lodge for both weekends. See Page 7 for application.

## Skiing/Skating/Sledding

**Cross-country skiing, Ice Skating, Downhill Skiing, Sledding:** If you are interested in any of these and want to be put on a calling list, call Jim Ritchie at (412) 828-0210 or send email to [jimritch@aol.com](mailto:jimritch@aol.com). Throughout the months of December, January, and February, when the conditions are right, impromptu trips will be organized for these activities. **Cross-country skiing** will be at Harrison Hills Park or Laurel Mountain, depending on conditions. **Ice Skating** will be at North Park (outdoor) or BladeRunners in Harmarville (indoor), depending on conditions. **Downhill skiing** will be at Seven Springs, Hidden Valley, or the new Laurel Mountain Ski Area. **Sledding** will be at Indian Hill in Boyce Park. There are several sleds available for your use. Difficulty level will be easy to easy intermediate, suitable for advanced beginners and up. If you send email, be sure to include a telephone number, too.



## BICYCLING

Events and news courtesy of George Schmidt

The City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning announces the availability of the final City of Pittsburgh Bicycle plan, The Executive Summary and the City of Pittsburgh Bicycle Route System Map. Copies of these documents are available:

Executive Summary Free (in limited quantities)  
Route Maps \$7.50  
Bicycle Plan \$2.50  
Plan & Maps \$10.00

Checks should be made out to "Treasurer, City of Pittsburgh" and sent to:

Richard Meritzer  
Department of City Planning  
200 Ross Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The information is also available on the City of Pittsburgh web site at:  
[www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/cp/html/bicycling\\_plan.html](http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/cp/html/bicycling_plan.html)

For more information contact Richard Merizer at 412-255-2102 or  
[richard.merizer@city.pittsburgh.pa.us](mailto:richard.merizer@city.pittsburgh.pa.us)

### PPAC REPORT

"Another acronym," I hear you cry. "What the heck is it?" PPAC is PennDOT's Pedestrian and Pedalcycle Advisory Committee. Despite Bill Metzger's recommendation I was appointed to PPAC by Governor Ridge and attended my first meeting on September 14, 1999. The meeting was a complete shock to one who has attended meetings with PennDOT for years to advocate more bicycle facilities. Bicycling is now a high priority in the Pennsylvania transportation mix. While we have been babbling for years about the benefits of health, recreation and bicycle commuting, the Ridge administration has discovered that bicycles are good business. Improved bicycle facilities are relatively cheap and they draw big returns from tourism. When I mentioned the recent study that stated the Youghiogheny River and rail-trail bring in \$14 million a year in tourism money, people sat up in their chairs. Right now our major project is to establish six marked bicycle routes across Pennsylvania. (Please read the "A" Bicycle Route article.) I was appointed to PPAC to represent the interests of the WPW, the AYH, and other bicyclists in western Pennsylvania. I would like to form a sub-committee to gather information and issues to present at PPAC meetings and distribute information about the meetings. Anyone interested? Give me a call at 412-521-1538 or e-mail: [wpwgeorge@aol.com](mailto:wpwgeorge@aol.com). PPAC also has a web site under PennDOT's home page.

### TAKE THE "A" BICYCLE ROUTE FROM MORGANTOWN TO ERIE

Governor Ridge wants six bicycle routes across Pennsylvania as soon as possible. And when the Governor talks, people listen. PennDOT's Pedestrian and Pedalcycle Advisory Committee (PPAC) has formed a sub-committee to layout the routes. They are two across the length of our state, three running north and south and one connecting Ohio and New York through Erie. The "G" Route, running down the center of the state through Altoona, is complete, as is the "Z" Route from Ohio to New York.

Appropriately, the "A" Route is on our turf. It will run from the PA border near Morgantown, WV north to Erie, PA. PennDOT's District 12, based in Uniontown has the overall responsibility for posting route-marking signs. Local PPAC members Linda Boxx and Bill Metzger are heading the "A" Route Committee. Linda is President of the Allegheny Trails Alliance and lives in New Stanton. Bill Metzger is a legendary rail-trail advocate from Mt. Lebanon. Along with help from our own Ned Williams, they have laid out the route from Morgantown to Elwood City. They have asked me, the newest PPAC member from western PA, to help out and get the WPW involved to complete the route. As bike clubs already exist in these areas we intend to solicit the input of bicyclists and tourist agencies along the "A" route to achieve the best possible route.

You better sit down before you continue reading. PennDOT said the preferred routing is on state roads so they could make improvements to shoulders, perform maintenance and post signs without the red tape involved when dealing local and federal maintained roads.

This is an opportunity we can't pass up. The founders of the WPW dreamed of setting up a bicycle route system like this thirty years ago. Now it will be a reality. If you would like to become involved in the "A" Route Committee contact George Schmidt at 412-521-1538 or e-mail [wpwgeorge@aol.com](mailto:wpwgeorge@aol.com).

### CYCLE THE SOUTHERN ALLEGHENYS!

The Southern Alleghenies Regional Tourism Confederation has put together a program called "Cycle Southern Alleghenies" (CSA) to promote bicycle tourism in the Southern Alleghenies Region of Pennsylvania. This includes Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset counties. Altoona, in Blair County, was named one of America's Five Best Bike Towns by Bicycling Magazine. It hosts the annual Tour de'Toona, the largest pro-amateur road race in the country. Altoona was also the two time host to the United States Cycling Federation National Championships and Olympic Trials.

CSA has published a set of seventeen maps of bicycle tours in the region that feature the gorgeous scenery of the area and other cultural and historical attractions. The maps may be copied from the CSA web site, [www.cyclesa.com](http://www.cyclesa.com), or ordered by phone by calling 1-800-458-3433.

### KEYSTONE '99

The AYH and WPW was well represented at this year's Keystone Ride. Seen were Ned Williams, Donna & Jerry Green, Sally & Chuck Martin, Dan Oshop, and Glen

Oster. There were other bicyclists from our area wearing T-shirts from Pittsburgh area bicycle events that blew by me and I didn't catch their names. Kathy Matta, a former Republican candidate for Mayor of Pittsburgh, was also in attendance. Overall, there were about 400 bicyclists in attendance.

I drove up to Williamsport, PA with legendary rail-trail advocate Bill Metzger. We took eight hours to complete a four-hour drive due to stops at the New Portage Railroad and Horseshoe Curve. Bill is a fount of railroad and canal history. I have zoomed past these places on the way to someplace else for over 30 years and never took the time to stop. They are well worth a special trip from Pittsburgh.

Sunday evening, before the ride, Dan Oshop and some other Steeler faithful found a sports bar and watched the Stillers whup the Dawg Pound. The Williamsport folk were greatly amused by a black and gold T-shirt that said, "Cleveland Still Sucks".

On Monday morning we gathered at the site of the Little League Hall of Fame in South Williamsport for breakfast and to hear the politicians begin the speechifying. Our guardians, the State Police motorcycle detachment was smartly standing by and ready to rumble. Some Asian tourists approached and asked for permission to take a picture. In short order the ladies of the group were sitting on these gleaming Harleys surrounded by PA's finest. A great picture for the folks back home. It would appear those bikes run on 120 octane testosterone.

We left our cars at the beautiful Little League World Series complex, loaded our baggage on trucks, and headed down PA 220. Roughly 400 bicyclist shepherded by the booming Harleys. Yes, this is the way to travel. At the rest stops you just say, "We're with him." And you are welcome.

In theory, the ride is to promote bicycling, tourism and businesses in Pennsylvania. The bikers did their part at the Woolrich outlet store. Yes, the plastic was singing through the scanners that morning. The outdoor clothing selection was very good with excellent prices and they even shipped your booty home for free.

The riders began to stretch out on the route. That opened opportunities to cruise in the rocking chair of the convoy. It was then easier to visit with other folks and enjoy the countryside. A number of WPW riders formed a pace line in the face of an annoying headwind and boogied smartly down the road. One of the most memorable stops was Bald Eagle State Park. We rested at a pavilion overlooking the lake that was large enough for sailboats and nestled in a scenic valley.

We ended the first days ride at a grand reception at the park in Bellefonte. We were taken by bus to our lodgings State College. I took a stroll along College Avenue and paid my respects to Old Main. In previous life I spent a few semesters at Penn State. The kids look the same but the downtown area looks better. I personally felt like an escapee from Jurassic Park.

Tuesday dawned gray and rainy. We were transported to the Military Museum at Boalsburg where the ceremonies were rained out. In typical army fashion, the color guard stood in the rain for a couple of hours only to be told the ceremonies were canceled. It's nice to know some things never change.

We re-embarked and went to the next stop. By then the rained had stopped and we were finally on the bikes again. We stopped at Indian Caverns. October is Archeology Month in Pennsylvania and people who had worked on the dig at Indian Caverns were on hand to display stone artifacts found in the area. We were fed a boxed lunch and the local historical society raffled off souvenirs. Then we were off again. We cruised through open fields then dove down a steep hill that ended at a T-intersection. PennDOT had thoughtfully placed rumble strips on the road to warn motor traffic. Unfortunately, we almost lost some bicyclists over their handlebars when they hit the strips. At the base of the hill we swung on to the Lower Trail. I hung back to see what was happening at the rear of the ride. Bill Metzger and the sag wagon crew were shadowing the last rider. The Governor was being shown remnants of the Pennsylvania Canal by some local folk. Between the Sag Wagon and the main body of riders I had large stretches of the scenic trail to myself. It is a very beautiful, tree shaded trail and worth a visit. At this point the day had warmed up. The heat and the mileage began to take its toll on some of the riders. At the trail terminus in the little town of Williamsburg, many riders stretched out in the grass to relax while the Governor visited with the local folk. Governor Ridge pays particular attention to the children. He will stop and chat with any group of kids he sees along the road. They seem to sense that meeting the Governor of Pennsylvania is a major event in their personal history and they are delighted that he smiles, shakes their hands, gives them autographs, and asks them questions about themselves.

The last rest stop was at the Slinky factory in Holidaysburg, on the outskirts of Altoona. We were again treated to refreshments while an orchestra serenaded us and the Governor smoozed. He called the members of his cabinet who rode with him to the podium for a picture. That was truly a historic moment for bicycling in Pennsylvania. The Governor of Pennsylvania with five members of his cabinet posing in bike clothes after riding 50 miles on bicycles.

Finally, we made our triumphal entrance into Altoona. We regrouped at the new stadium that is the home of the "Altoona Curve" minor league baseball team. We met some of their players and a large fuzzy creature that one may assume was their mascot. Our trip ended at the Altoona Railroad Museum. A huge tent was setup with lots of food provided by local businesses, from wine to Penn State Creamery yogurt. Most amazing was a video that recapped highlights from previous Keystone Rides and ended with us entering Altoona on Keystone '99.

So as the sun slowly set on the Allegheny Front we loaded our bikes in the trucks. Some folks were headed back to Williamsport, while others would stay over in Altoona and return to Williamsport the next day.

The Keystone Ride is a rare experience. You get to do a bike ride with the Governor of Pennsylvania and many of the movers and shakers in the state-wide bicycling community. It takes you to places that we Pennsylvanians take for granted and usually by-pass on the way to someplace else. It gives you a new appreciation for our commonwealth and what it has to offer. In short, the Keystone Ride is a lot of fun.

MILLENNIUM ICYCLE BICYCLE RIDE  
JANUARY 1, 2000  
1:00 P.M.  
PENN & 31ST, STRIP DISTRICT  
PITTSBURGH

(Continued on page 4)



## HIKING/BACKPACKING/TRAILS

**December 5 Sunday Jim Ritchie 828-0210**  
**Baker Trail Hike, Red Bank Creek Section.** The fourth and final 1999 ten-mile hike on the Baker Trail, starting near Tar Kiln Run, going to Red Bank Creek, Heathville, and finally Summerville. Meet Amos Duck, visit the Summerville Shelter for backpackers and, at your option, eat dinner at the Kountry Kitchen in Summerville. This hike will be for experienced hikers who are accustomed to hiking 10 miles. It is not a beginner's hike. Rated intermediate or higher. Call Jim for more information and reservations. email: jimritch@aol.com

**December 19 Sunday Tom Kaveny 276 8044**  
 Tom will lead a hike up to 8 miles, destination to depend on the weather. Call Tom during the previous week. The hikers will meet at 8.00 AM at the Mellon Park lower parking lot.

**Year 2000 Sat/Sun J im Ritchie 828-0210**  
**Baker Trail Hiking Continues: Corsica/Mill Creek Section; Fisher-Sigel Section; Cook Forest Section; Allegheny National Forest Section.** Be sure to watch the Golden Triangle beginning next March when we continue hiking the Baker Trail. Each hike will be approximately 10 miles and will include mostly off-road wooded terrain. As we go further and further north, we will have dinner options at the end of the day. Eat hearty country cooking in legendary venues such as the Vowinkle Inn, Cook Forest Inn, Bucktail Inn, the Farmer's Inn and others.

**January 2 Sunday Ben Brugmans 361 3623**  
 Ben will lead a 7 mile hike at Schollards wetlands if the weather is good. In case of a less desirable day, we will hike closer to home for a shorter day hike on the new city trail from Oakland to town and back with a stop in an inexpensive restaurant afterwards. Call Ben the week before if in doubt. Meet at Mellon Park HQ at 9.00AM

**January 9 Sunday Veronique Schreurs 422 0358**  
 Veronique will lead a hike at Duff park in Murrysville if the weather is good or a shorter hike in Schenly Park in case of more rigorous weather. Hiking distance 5 miles or so. Meet at the Mellon park HQ at 10:00 AM.

**January 16 Sunday Brian Funk 431 1267**  
 Brian will lead a city exploratory hike starting at the Allentown hosel at 10:00 AM. To ask about detail pending weather of the day call Brian. Walking distance 5 to 6 miles.

**January 23 Sunday Ben Brugmans 361 3623**  
 Ben will lead a leisurely walk exploring the southside and possibly the southside slopes and some old eccleasical architecture. We will have lunch at an appropriately interesting southside affordable restaurant. Length of the walk from 4 to 6 miles pending weather conditions. Ability to have a good time a definite prerequisite. Meet at Mellon Park HQ at 10:00 AM.

### Official Rachel Carson/Baker Trail Website

is now live; the URL is <http://members.xoom.com/rachelbaker>.

Also, I discovered the following website, by accident; you may (or may not) enjoy it. I thought it was quite interesting.  
[www.bakertrail.com](http://www.bakertrail.com) -jim ritchie

## HIKERS ONLY!!!!

### "Hiking Only" On 21 National & State Forest Trails

The Bureau of Forestry, DCNR, has determined that eighteen state forest trails and three national trails shall remain designated as "hiking only" trails. David J. Gregg, Assistant State Forester, made the announcement at a meeting held in Huntingdon near Rothrock State Forest. Forester Gregg stated that "these trails have always been a part of the state forest hiking trail system and will remain as pure hiking trails." No other recreational uses will be permitted on these state trails, except where some permitted trail uses intersect. At some trail crossings, the permitted recreational user (other than hikers) will be expected to construct and maintain that section of the trail. On some shared sections of the trail, the users will share maintenance on an equitable basis dependent on the type of resource damage to the trail.

In reference to the posting of signs, there will be a combination of positive and negative signing as appropriate. Some enforcement requirements mandate that there must be some negative signing.

Attending the meeting were Ed Beck, President, Thyra Sperry, Education Chair, Keystone Trails Association, and representatives of the Bureau of Forestry, the mountain bike and equine communities.

The hiking community in Pennsylvania has a long record of building and maintaining footpaths. KTA recently was awarded the "Conservation Volunteer Group of the Year" by Governor Ridge and the Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources. Last year, over 35,000 hours of documented hours of work on hiking trails was reported. James R. Grace, DCNR's director of the Bureau of Forestry said that "KTA has been a valuable partner in keeping Pennsylvania's natural resources accessible."

KTA, its members and individuals have a history of building and maintaining footpaths so that they have the least impact on the land. KTA will continue to work to preserve the land. As the leader in trail building, we will share our trail-building expertise with mountain bikers and equestrians to help them in their goals.

A grateful "thank you" to members of KTA, hiking and outdoor clubs throughout the commonwealth and to everyone who wrote a letter, signed a petition, and contacted the Bureau of Forestry with your opinions in support of the "designated hiking trail" issue. Your generous input was instrumental in preserving these trails for future generations. The American Hiking Society and the Appalachian Trail Conference actively supported KTA in achieving this outcome. Their help is greatly appreciated.

The trails designated as "hiking only" are the Baker Trail, Black Forest Trail, Bucktail Path, Chuck Keiper Trail, Donut Hole Trail, Golden Eagle Trail, John P. Saylor Trail, Lost Turkey Trail, Loyalsock Trail, Mid-State Trail, Old Loggers Path, Pinchot Trail System, Quehanna Trail, Rocky Knob Trail, Susquehannock Trail System, Thunder Swamp Trail System, Tuscarora Trail, West Rim Trail, Appalachian National Scenic Trail, North Country National Scenic Trail and the Potomac Heritage (Laurel Highlands) National Recreation Trail.

*Ed Beck, President  
 Thyra Sperry, Education Chair  
 Keystone Trails Association*

### 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.



A line of hikers makes its way up the hill at "Mile 14", Rachel Carson Challenge, by Jim Ritchie

### REMINDER TO TRIP LEADERS

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

## Cross-Country Skiing Weekends at Wilderness Lodge

**January 28-30, 2000**

**February 11-13, 2000**

If you like your lodging rustic and your ski trails tracked and groomed, these weekends in the Erie snow belt are for you. Nansi Janes' Wilderness Lodge is a perennial favorite of AYH cross-country skiers. Peek'n Peak is within skiing distance for those who want downhill trails. After skiing, come back to the lodge for a warm fire and your favorite libations. The weekend package includes Friday and Saturday night lodging and family style dinner Saturday evening. Vegetarian meals are available upon request. Breakfast and lunches are available at the lodge at an additional but very reasonable cost. No meals are available Friday evening. Rooms are mostly hostel style with 3-6 people in a room but there are a few private double (and one triple) room available for each weekend. Cost does not include transportation. If you are carpooling, the fee for drivers is \$10 per person. Rental skis are available and there is a trail fee charged additionally for each day.

Singles must bring their own linens and towels (clean sleeping bags are ok too). Water is in short supply at Wilderness Lodge so short showers are the rule. Heat, however, is plentiful. **RESERVE EARLY**, we will confirm your reservation by mailing (or faxing!) you a map and information sheet. **Reservations will happen only when we receive your check in the mail or your visa/mc/discover.** There are no cancellations but you may find a same sex replacement for yourself. We will also keep a waiting list. In either event there is a \$10 per person charge. If you have any questions call Marianne at 412-665-9554 evenings. Please also note if there is a room you will accept if your chosen one is not available.

**AYH Member Cost:**     **\$58 for Single** in a dorm room  
                                   **\$68 per person for a Double** (two people required)

**Non Member Cost:**     **\$66 for Single** in a dorm room  
                                   **\$76 per person for a Double** (two people required)

Non-members can pay the lower rate by sending in a membership application with this form

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### Wilderness Lodge

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Weekend:  January 28-30            February 11-13  
 If you are a single:  Men's single            Women's single  
 If you are a double, names of persons and address/phone if different than above: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to : AYH Wilderness Lodge / 830 E. Warrington Ave. / Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Signature of all participants are required.

I consider of your acceptance of my application for participation in the Wilderness Lodge Weekend, I, the undersigned, for myself and for my 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, the undersigned, discharge and release the Pittsburgh Council, American Youth Hostels, Inc., Wilderness Lodge, their activity leaders, and their respective agents, board, commissions and any other involved 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 which 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 rendered to me by or at the insistence of any of the above parties is not an admission of liability to provide or to continue to provide any such services and is not a waiver or any of the said parties of any right hereunder.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Note: \_\_\_\_\_

