

Golden Triangle

American Youth Hostels, Pittsburgh Council

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



VOLUME 50, NUMBER 10

DECEMBER 2000/JANUARY 2001



Eastern Regional Meeting

Background:

The Eastern Regional Meeting is a chance for all the councils in the Eastern Region to get together to discuss regional goals, report on council activities, learn HI-AYH National News, and meet other HI volunteers, staff, and board members. Anyone interested in getting further involved with Hostelling International is welcome to attend the meeting. Each year, there are two ERM's, one in the fall, another in the spring

On the weekend of October 20 – 22, board representative Kevin Swenson and Pittsburgh hostel assistant manager Nicole Mannino attended the fall ERM in Albany, NY. The meeting was held at the State Street Mansion, a locally run bed and breakfast, since there is no hostel in Albany. The mansion was less than a block away from the New York State Capitol building, and was several blocks from Lark Street (similar to Pittsburgh's East Carson Street).

Russ Hedge, the new Executive Director for our National Office, spoke at the meeting. He gave an inspiring presentation about his vision for our organization and methods of achieving our goals. If you ever wondered what exactly our organization is about, the following excerpt is a vision for the year 2006;

Exposure to the wonders and diversity of the world is fundamental to the personal growth of every human being. Knowledge of diverse cultures, traditions, history, and geography empowers us as citizens of the world.

Travel promotes personal growth, cultural awareness, and self-reliance. Whether in the country or in the city, for a day or a year, traveling simply with an openness to the people and places around us can increase our understanding of, and respect for cultural and ecological diversity, thereby contributing to a better world for all.

Mission

To help all, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and it's people through hostelling.

Hostelling is educational travel, local and global, using programs and hostels to facilitate interaction between travelers and community members, and to promote discovery of ourselves, local cultures, and the world.

Hostelling:

Promotes global awareness... through a network of welcoming, comfortable, and affordable hostels that encourage exploration and nurture cross-cultural communication, and through programs that interpret local culture principally through interaction among hostellers and community members.

Encourages educational travel... through information, activities, and services that facilitate safe, affordable, and culture-sensitive travel for all ages.

Interprets our environment... through activities that promote meaningful, low-impact travel using hostels, and focus on conservation and interpretation of the built and natural environment.

Broadens community participation... through involvement of all members of the community in hostile travel, programs, and volunteer participation.

Desired Outcome:

Hostellers become caring world citizens who are catalysts for intercultural exchange and understanding, and who are stewards of the earth.

The Spring ERM will be held at HI-White River Junction the Hotel Coolidge in White River Junction, Vermont on April 20-22. It's a great spot to consider even if you don't attend the spring meeting. AT this hostel, most rooms have just two beds, and groups can buy into a weekend package which includes two overnights, two breakfasts and a dinner in their lovely dining room. This is an excellent venue for winter sports weekends.

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!!!

NEW 2001 MEMBER DISCOUNTS

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

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

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

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

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

HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL

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

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(Continued on page 3)

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:

American Youth Hostels
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830 Warrington Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Office: (412) 431-4910
or

HI-Pgh on the information super Highway. Point your browser to :

http://
trfn.clpgh.org/ayh/
or you can email us
at
ayh@trfn.clpgh.org



**PITTSBURGH COUNCIL
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**HOSTELLING
INTERNATIONAL**

Pittsburgh Hostel Manager
Jessica Carpenter
(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

February/March ISSUE
All copy, January 4
Binding/Mailing, January 18

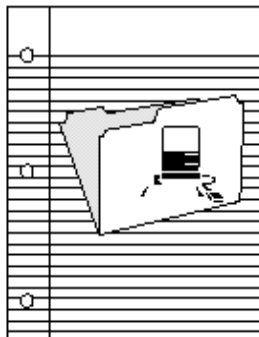
If your work is on computer,
Please contact Joel Platt at
golden_triangle@bigfoot.com

Moving?

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

About AYH

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



**Submissions Policy:
Golden Triangle**

Classified Ads:

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

Trips

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

Articles

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

General rules for submission

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

Editors Golden Rule

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

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

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

Editor...

UPCOMING SLIDE SHOWS

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

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

December 14: Christmas Party starting 6PM at the hostel, Warrington Ave. at Arlington Avenue in Allentown. Extensive food. Shuttle at 6PM from Activities Headquarters in Shadyside. More information on page 4.

December 21: We show the 16 mm film "From The Ocean To The Sky". Sir Edmund Hillary travels the 1500-mile Ganges River. He visits a waterfall by boat, then to the headwaters of the river. He climbs a himalayan peak.

December 28: Closed for Christmas holidays.

January 4: Closed for New Year holidays.

January 11: Ed Divers, "How To See In Nature And The Outdoors". A former game warden and mining engineer, Ed hikes along the Allegheny and Yough rivers, has secret ginseng patch. Increase your powers of observation while looking at his slides of landscapes and flowers, taken on his hikes.

January 18: Cheese, bread and juice party.

January 25: We show the 16 mm film "The Garden Of Eden". This wildlife sanctuary in Florida was preserved through cooperation between environmentalists, industry and government. Prize winner at American Film Festival.

February 1: Clifton McGill, "Botanical Treasures Of Frick Park". Includes spectacular slides of landscapes and birds, and a visit of Nine Mile Run.

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

HIOhiopyle@stargate.net

HI-Pittsburgh Hostel

830 E. Warrington Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA 15210

(412) 431-1267

hipgh@sgi.net



HOSTEL HAPPENINGS

We have new faces at the Pittsburgh hostel. We welcome to the staff Catherine Brawner. She will be working at the front desk. Emily McMahon has joined us as a Volunteer Coordinator. She has filled a much needed position, giving a breath of fresh air to the managers of the hostel, Jessica and Nicole. Emily will be around three times a week and can be reached at the travel store phone number (412) 431 4910. Below is a Volunteer Application. We have many exciting opportunities for volunteers, and we are constantly adding to the list, so give Emily a call or an email: hipgh@sgi.net

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE: () _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

I AM INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR:

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

I have the following skills that might be useful: _____

I can make a time commitment of : _____

Please return this form to: **Hostelling International - Pittsburgh**
830 East Warrington Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15210 Phone: (412) 431-4910 Fax: (412) 431-2625

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hungry for Interesting Food and Conversation? Then Join us for our **Potluck Dinners**. Bring a dish and a friend with a dish! No need to RSVP. Potluck Dinners are free of charge.

Saturday, January 13	6:30pm
Wednesday, January 31	6:30pm
Saturday, February 17	6:30pm
Wednesday, February 28	6:30pm

Travel Adventures

A chance to share your travel experiences with others. Show off your photos, souvenirs, newly learned recipes, and anything else you feel like sharing OR simply come to find out more about the world we live in!

Monday, December 11	6:30 pm
Seeking Volunteer	
Monday, January 8	6:30pm
Seeking Volunteer	

World Travel 101 - Budget Travel Workshops

Learn to Travel the World Without Spending a Fortune. Workshops are perfect for novice travelers. Topics like safety, packing, accommodations, transportation, and more will be covered.

Tuesday, December 12	Hostelling New England	7pm
Tuesday, December 19	Women Traveling Solo	7pm
Tuesday, January 9	Basics	7pm
Thursday, January 18	Hostelling North America	7pm
Saturday, January 27	Solo Travel	2pm
Tuesday, January 30	Women Traveling Solo	7pm

Christmas Party at Hostel

Thursday, December 14 6pm
Contact Ben Brugmans for details

Cultural Dinners To reserve your space at a Cultural Dinner, send \$6 to 830 E Warrington Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15210 (412) 431-1267

FIESTA!

MEXICAN CULTURAL DINNER
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2000 AT 6:30PM
R.S.V.P. BY DECEMBER 5

Hungarian Cultural Dinner
Thursday, January 4, 2001
RSVP by January 2

Ohiopyle Hostel Events

Kelly and Steve Miller are the new managers of the Ohiopyle hostel. Frequent hostellers themselves, they were introduced to hostelling through their cousin Becky, who is the HI-Sacramento manager. Kelly volunteered with the Minnesota Council of Hostelling International.

Kelly and Steve moved to Ohiopyle from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Kelly was a placement counselor at Nannies from the Heartland, and Steve was a chargeback administrator at Amerisource. They both graduated from Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Ohiopyle Hostel is hosting several events for their guests and the community. Potluck dinners will be hosted on December 3, January 14 and 28 at 5:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share and a friend! The Ohiopyle Coffeehouse will be open on December 8 and 22, as well as January 5 and 19 from 7-9 p.m. We will have coffee, tea, hot chocolate and hot apple cider, as well as cookies and bars for sale. Come for great evenings of conversation and games! RSVP to Kelly or Steve at 724-329-4476.

OHIOPYLE HOSTEL NEEDS HELP

By George Schmidt, HI-P Facilities Committee

The Ohiopyle Hostel needs some help. While we have been obsessing with getting the Pittsburgh Hostel up and running, the Ohiopyle Hostel has been neglected. Manager Jessica Carpenter and the staff have made Pittsburgh one of the best hostels in the U.S.A. We are determined to bring the Ohiopyle Hostel up to the same standards.

A number of years ago we had a crew of volunteers who regularly visited the hostel to help with cleaning and maintenance. We would like to gather a new team to support Ohiopyle again. If you are interested in helping, phone George Schmidt at 412-521-1538. One of the most important things we need is tools. Tools for yard and building maintenance. Everything from tree saws to hacksaws, from hammers to sledges. It's kind of silly to invite people to work at the hostel and not have any tools for them. If you have some extra tools lying around you don't need and would like to donate them to the Ohiopyle Hostel contact George Schmidt again at 412-521-1538.

(Continued from page 1)

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

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

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

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

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

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@slacknet.com website: www.slacknet.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AYH ACTIVITIES WITH BEN

Last November fourth, I had the pleasure of going to the annual meeting of the Butler Outdoor Club. This was their sixth annual dinner. A great success, by my estimate over 150 people filled the firehall in East Butler Township.

The Butler Outdoor Club draws members from Beaver to Allegheny county. The atmosphere is very congenial, the crowd of all ages, families, singles, boy scouts and girl scouts. It represents a cross section of a fine and enthusiastic outdoor and civic community. Programs include hiking, biking, mountain biking, canoeing, downhill skiing, and sea kayaking. The members have managed to support the North Country and Baker Trails, the Butler Freeport Trail, helped build two new trail bridges, worked on the Davis Hollow outdoor center, as well as remaining on a financially sound footing. A commendable feat, and of course an all volunteer effort.

After the awards, the evening was topped off with an outstanding slide show by Sally Martin, who bicycled the West Coast from California to Alaska. Sally's trip showed determination, spirit for adventure after retiring and great slides.

I must say I was impressed by the success of the dinner committee, 14 strong, who managed to produce an excellent evening, with awards, recognition for outstanding achievements and a large, lively and good natured crowd. The club meets the first Wednesday of each month, 7:30 at the Butler YMCA, 339 N. Washington St., Butler. The membership is 200 and growing, membership fees are \$20 for a family or \$15 for an individual. The address is;

Butler Outdoor Club
P.O. Box 243
Butler, PA 16003-0243

Internet: <http://www.butleroutdoorclub.com>

The club is an independent organization serving the Western Pa area. It is a pleasure to see them do well.

Back in Pittsburgh, the people at EMS had another of their club days last October. Eastern Mountain Sports invite regional outdoor clubs and conservation groups to come and display, disseminate information and present their organization to the public at long tables in the malls. EMS also gives a discount to club members on club day. I would like to thank them for their effort.

Well, as we approach the end of the year, the annual holiday party this year will be at the Allentown Hostel, Thursday, December 14, starting at 6:00 PM. An informal dinner is hosted by manager Jessica, and myself; homemade manicotti, salad and home baked apple pie. No charge, donations are accepted for the benefit of the Ohiopyle Hostel.

Hope to see you there. Happy holidays and a fortuitous new year. Ben

Dec 14 AYH Holiday Party

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

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

Rambles For Winter 2000

November

Nov 29 Seldom Seen. Don Hoecker. 243-8298

December

Dec 6 Homestead ramble. Dick Fisher. 421-9215

Dec 13 Downtown Pittsburgh ramble. Enjoy the holiday decorations. Joan Roof. 351-2061

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

Dec 20 Walk from Arts Center to home of Alex Federowicz and Margaret Laske. Bring bag lunch, but save tummy room for holiday goodies and drinks. Please give advance notice if you are coming. 421-5219

Dec 27 No ramble. Enjoy holidays.

January 2001

Jan 3 Ellsworth Avenue Fine Arts Ramble. Lunch at Elbow Room (or you may bring bag lunch). Margaret Laske. 421-5219

Jan 10 Egan Park (near Springdale). Ed Divers. 828-5154

Jan 17 Riverview Park (and then you can make annual pilgrimage to the Breadworks). Earl McCabe. 761-1844

Jan 24 Allegheny Cemetery. Visit the last resting place of a pioneer aviator and other famous? people. Optional lunch at Tram's Restaurant for Vietnamese cuisine. Armand Panson. 488-7612

Jan 31 Bloomfield Ramble. Marty Brigham. 521-1913

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.



CANOEING

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

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

Shelley C. Nilson shelleycn@yahoo.com



BICYCLING

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

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

HELMETS ARE REQUIRED!

THE REAL

MILLENNIUM ICYCLE BICYCLE RIDE

JANUARY 1, 2001

1:00 P.M.

PENN & 31ST, STRIP DISTRICT

PITTSBURGH

The Icycle Bicycle Ride is the WPW bicycle club's annual ride first ride of the year. Our kindred spirits from the AYH and their friends are most welcome to join us. Last year it was touted as the first bike ride of the Millennium. If you missed it you have another chance. People who worry about these sort of things say that this year is actually the first year of the new millennium. And we don't have to worry about computer glitches this time.

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 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



SAILING

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

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



SEA-KAYAKING

Activity Co-Chairs: Vickie Gotaski 412-344-4929

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



ROCK CLIMBING

Rock Out with AYH!

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

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

The following two pieces were submitted to me by Bill Grove who got them from his friend Liz Taylor who got them from her nephew Rachel Carson Challenger Sean Brady.

Jim Ritchie

++++
Coyotes in PA
by Sean Brady

I finally had the pleasure of hearing coyotes howl in PA.

I've seen their scat many times, even in Deer Lakes Park, but camping in Cook's Forest gave me the first opportunity to hear them. The temperature had dropped into the 30's from a high close to 70. The stars were almost painfully bright with a half moon rising. We'd been hearing strange calls all evening, possibly male and female screech owls, but when the coyotes let loose, it was an unearthly sound.

Easy to slip into a Blair Witch hysteria when that moaning/shrieking chorus starts swirling around. It's hard to hear any individuals and harder to identify the type of animal that might make such a sound. But then certain individuals break out into extended howls, barks, and yips. Very cool. Coyotes are my new favorite animal!!

++++
Autumn in Roaring Run
by Sean Brady

It looked like an otter kicking up gravel in the shallows and sending a wake downstream. But that was impossible since the stream was only a few feet wide and a few inches deep, lending a grandiose scale to the seven-inch fish we were watching. Slipping on polarized lenses, Jess's gaze penetrated the golden reflections of autumn foliage and revealed a pool of native brook trout in full breeding colors.

Earlier sunsets and cooler nights had sent the chlorophyll scampering back into tree branches, leaving reds and golds high and dry in leaves suspended above Roaring Run. Some of the leaves had fallen already, papering the stream's surface and providing cover for a Pennsylvania treasure swirling and cavorting below as it's done for time immemorial.

I'm challenged to describe the patterns and hues of a brook trout without painting the picture too garishly. I supposed the combination is for camouflage and starts reasonably with an olive green coat. But the ensemble quickly fills to bursting with speckled black top fins, a scarlet belly, orange and yellow spots circled in blue and multi-hued bars down each flank. The largest fish also outline their side fins in brilliant white, making these neon torpedoes hard to miss.

Only a few feet off trail, surrounded by trees burning a cool fire of yellows and oranges, the late season sun lights up every pebble, every spray of sand left from the last roaring flood. The Roaring Run Natural Area protects this seasonal phenomenon and provides mossy paths to an heirloom treasure found only in rushing streams with the highest water quality and the most intact laticework of environmental attributes.

If I were a landowner with similar natural resources, they would rank highly even among herds of heifers and piles of stock portfolios. Were a threat to this asset to arise, my fears would easily run abreast and outdistance any anxiety over brucellosis stalking my livestock or cyclical NASDAQ annihilation. Capital gains taxed and trifled away can be replaced, but when an ecological tapestry unravels, its ancient textiles may be permanently altered and its artistry lost forever. In such a case, the question remains whether the artisan who has woven us all into this universal tapestry will be able to recreate what has been undone.

To protect such an asset, I would use my precious search engines and Web application servers to find solutions, ways to insulate my holdings from harm. Trees and brush would buffer stream banks and wetlands would filter impurities from runoff entering the stream. I would exploit this asset fully by enjoying its beauty and complexity, taking every opportunity to invite others to enjoy it as well.

Walking through the Laurel Highlands provides a clear picture of what is possible when natural resources are valued intact, rather than tilled, mined and chopped. The Youghiogheny River supports a multi-million dollar rafting business that is in no danger of ebbing. Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater structure preserves some of the greatest architectural brilliance of this century, while also preserving the Kaufmann family's appreciation for shade and flowing water as a source of personal renewal. State parks and forests abound in the Laurel Highlands to allow visitors the opportunity to embrace nature however they please, be it by boat, bike, boots, snowshoes, skis or sled. Businesses line access routes to capture the accompanying cash flow like plants and animals clustering around a spring.

As we walk the trail criss-crossing Roaring Run, Jess and I wonder at the natural rituals progressing only a few feet away. Red bellies trace figure eights in a flash as toothy jaws nip competitors' fins. Both length and girth, as well as speed and agility, help in jostling lesser males from the sides of gravid females flush with eggs. A larger fish sometimes streaks back and forth, rubbing its belly and back alternately through the pebbles. Is this the male declaring his dominance or readiness? The female declaring her own readiness? The answers are out there on the Web somewhere, but sometimes it's nice just to wonder.

Jess and I have slipped into rhythm with this change of seasons. For some, autumn brings images of football or pennant races, but for us, it's a time get out and see mama nature's annual fireworks. I am especially moved by such natu-

“The Person I Admire Most”

The Pittsburgh International Hostel Writing Contest

Winner: Martha A. Sullivan

The person I admire the most at this point in my life is someone I knew, loved, and grew up with for many years. But all of those years of knowing him and loving him did not prepare me for the loss I feel for him now.

Ralph Shannon Axtell grew up in a farming family where hard work was expected and you were also expected to help anyone who needed it. Farmers in the early 1900's didn't have money for their children to go to college so Ralph had to work and save to further his education. At the same time, he was always sending a little money home to help his parents and 4 younger brothers and sisters. After he started to Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, his younger brother Charles wanted to go to college also, but unlike his siblings, Chuck was not healthy enough to work and so Ralph paid for his college at the same time he was paying for his own schooling.

In Ralph's family, you were not taught to do something for someone so they would return the favor to you. It was expected that you go the "extra" mile for the other person. Charles was never asked to repay his college fees but Ralph felt happy to be able to do it for him. (Charles became ill soon after college graduation and died a few years later.)

Another family value that he retained his entire life was never to turn you back on your family—no matter what. Ralph would spend weekends and summer vacations working on his father's farm. His mother was now living in California to be in a warmer climate and closer to two sons who had moved there. Every Friday, Ralph would sit at his desk at school and write his mother a 2 or 3 page letter with beautiful handwriting. This was done without fail until his mother's death.

Ralph could have made extra money during the summertime with his garden. He never planted less than 12 dozen tomato plants and 8 dozen pepper plants, but not just to freeze and "put up" for the winter but to give to his friends. No one ever left the house empty handed – whether they were taking home fruit, vegetables, eggs, or even flowers from his garden. He never took money for such items and was glad to give it away.

Sunday was a special time for Ralph as this was when he and his family spent time at church and with extended family. He was an elder deacon in his church and shared his love of the Lord with his family and friends, but never in a pushy way.

I came into Ralph's life in his 39th year as his only birth child – his only daughter. I was taught to love all people and animals, give to others, never to take the name of the Lord in vain, to always respect the right's of others, and too many other virtues to mention. At the time, I didn't think too much about what he was quietly teaching me. Daddy stressed having a good education and to put your education to a good use. I just took this all for granted.

Daddy taught high school math for 42 1/2 years and only missed 11/2 days in all that time. Again, I took that all for granted. When he asked me what I would do with my education, I would change my mind weekly. I started in for veterinarian medicine, then research work, then lab work. I started to Daddy's alma mater, Geneva College, but got married after 2 years and started a family.

It was only after I started raising a family (which after four years included 2 daughters and a son) that all the upbringing that Daddy had been instilling in me started "working". I realized how many lives he had touched in his teaching career and that he was a patient teacher as well as parent, and possibly I could do the same. After being out of school a few years, I re-entered Geneva College, trying to be as good a student as my father had been and all along, trying to be as good a parent also.

It must have hurt my father dreadfully when I told him "I will never be a teacher" as he would talk about going to teacher's meetings, and talking against strikes, etc. I never actually told him I was sorry, but when I went back to college, it was to be a teacher, and the best teacher I could be. I graduated from college in August of 1969 and my father died in January of 1970. He saw that I was trying to be a dedicated teacher. Daddy thought that you should always be aware of what was "new" in the teaching field, and went back to school to obtain his Master's degree plus many other credentials as well. I followed his lead and obtained my Master's degree, my Principal Certification, plus extra credits. As I obtained the extra credits, I constantly thought that he would have wanted me to do so and been happy with my choice.

And then it happened! I retired after teaching 30 years! I didn't have near perfect attendance as he did; I frequently forgot that it isn't nice to talk about people; if something made me mad, I would occasionally swear; I sometimes stayed in bed instead of getting up on Sunday morning for church; but I would like to meet with Daddy and tell him I tried.

I would like to sit and have a talk with him, teacher to teacher. His ethics were so good and he looked so nice – always in a suit with a white shirt. Teachers were starting to wear colored shirts and even shirts with no tie, but Daddy thought wearing a white shirt, having your shoes shined, and putting your "best foot forward" showed professionalism. And Daddy was a true professional.

I always admired my Dad, but now that I have 30 years of teaching behind me I sincerely hope that parents and other teachers will think I was as professional as he was; that I was as thoughtful and caring as he was; that my admiration for him inspired my life. I know I am a better person because of Ralph Shannon Axtell, my father.

ral areas because at any time, in the midst of any meeting, any crisis, any sickening change of strategic direction at work, I know that only 60 minutes away is a pristine mountain stream babbling on about the scarlet and speckled fish darting beneath its boulders and roots as they've done for millennia and, hopefully, as they will do for millennia to come.



HIKING/BACKPACKING/TRAILS

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

DECEMBER 3 SUNDAY Ben Brugmans 412-361-3623

Raccoon Creek. Hike through the nature reserve, along the creek and the meadows to get out and stretch your legs. We will stop of at a family style restaurant afterwards to warm up and have lunch. 4 miles, one small hill to climb. Carpooling fee \$3.50. Meet 10:00 AM at Mellon Park.

DECEMBER 10 SUNDAY Armand Panson 412-488-7612

McConnells Mill. A three mile walk along the very scenic Slippery Rock Creek. Bring a lunch. Carpooling \$4.00. Meet at Mellon Park 10:00 AM.

DECEMBER 17 SUNDAY Lorraine Johnson 724-325-8403

Duff Park. Lorraine will lead a hike through the woody hiking paths of Duff Park in Murreysville. Some hills, a good place to stretch your legs and stay in shape through the winter. Bring a lunch. Carpooling fee \$1.50. Meet at Mellon Park 10:00 AM

DECEMBER 31 PITTSBURGH'S OWN FIRST NIGHT. A great party by the City of Pittsburgh and the downtown cultural institutions to have a safe and alcohol free New Years Eve. Twelve of us went last year and it was a blast. Went to see dance, music, comedy act, stage performances, fireworks afterwards, even Mayor Murphy was among the crowd. You need to buy your own all inclusive ticket (@Giant Eagle, \$10, ahead of time). Meet at Station Square, Gandy Dancer at 6:00. For info, call Ben @ 412-361-3623

JANUARY 7 2001 SUNDAY Ben Brugmans 412-361-3623

North park, 5 miles around the lake. This is a flat, mostly paved hike around North Park Lake, a healthy pace and a nice view of the lake to get the blood flowing. Bring a lunch. Carpooling fee \$2.00. Meet at Mellon Park at 10:00 AM

JANUARY 10 SUNDAY Rich Gemeinhart 412-462-1876

Depending on the weather, a 5 mile hike to be announced in a more bucolic setting, or in case of precipitation, Schenley Park to get to stretch your legs. Rich will definitely opt for a restaurant stop afterwards. Meet at 10:00 AM at Mellon Park.

JANUARY 21 SUNDAY Lorraine Johnson 724-325-8403

As the winter temperatures are likely to be cool, a 6 mile briskly paced hike on the Jailhouse Trail, to town and back, originating at Panther Hollow, and ending up at Big Jims eateria, where the Italian hogies are excellent, also the Italian meatball sandwiches. Meet at Mellon Park, 10:00 AM.

JANUARY 28 SUNDAY Judy Woodring 412-828-9002

A winter hike around the Saxonburg area. 5 miles, depending on the weather, with a restaurant stop afterwards to warm up and have lunch. Carpooling fee 3.50. Meet at Mellon Park at 10:00 AM.

ALLEGHENY GROUP--SIERRA CLUB--OUTINGS THRU JANUARY 27 2001, Courtesy Bruce Sundquist

For a more up-to-date listing, visit their Internet web site. Address: <http://www.enviroweb.org/alleggheny-sc/>

EVENING CONDITIONING WALKS (Call for meeting time and place)

South Park (year-around). Times/locations may vary. Call Bonnie Thomas, 412-833-1068.

Sat. Nov. 25 Hike a moderate 8.5 miles on Lake Arthur Loop Trail in eastern Moraine State Park. \$3.00 carpool-30 miles from Cranberry Mall. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519

Sat.-Sun. Dec. 2-3 Backpacking on Laurel Highlands Trail (weather permitting)--one of a series of trips to cover the entire 70 miles of the LHHT. Call Harold Kotchig, 412-341-1196

Sun. Dec. 3 Schenley loop hike--an easy 7 miles near Freeport. Leave Harmarville Ames lot at 10AM. \$1.50 carpool-15 miles. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154

Sat. Dec. 9 Hike, exploratory and off-trail, somewhere on Laurel Ridge. Call Steve Tubbs, 412-279-4866

Sun. Dec. 10 Hike, strenuous and exploratory, in Hillman Gamelands 432 near Florence. On exotic and disorienting terrain. Visit Valley of Brush Creek, model airplane facility, Five Points. \$2.00 carpool-19 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

Sat. Dec. 16 Exploratory hike in the Raccoon Creek area. \$3. carpool-30 miles from Arts Center. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068

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 lead beginner trips on every weekend when snow conditions are good during January through mid-March whenever no other beginner trips are scheduled.

Sat. Jan. 6 Easy hike to Casparis Cave. Cookout. Bring change of clothes & flashlight if you plan to enter cave. Monroeville P&R lot, 10AM \$4.50 carpool-40 miles. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154

Sat.-Sun. Jan. 6-7 Backpacking somewhere on Laurel Highlands Trail (weather permitting)--one of a series of trips to cover the entire trail. Call Harold Kotchig, 412-341-1196

Sat. Jan. 13 Ski touring, beginner, in the Laurel Mountain area. Hike if snow conditions are not good. \$6 carpool-57 miles. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068

Sun. Jan. 14 Hike, strenuous and exploratory, along Tomlinson Run, including wilderness area extending through a wild stream canyon. \$4.50 carpool-45 miles. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

Sat. Jan. 20 Hike an 8-mile loop in Deer Lakes Park (fast-paced--intermediate) Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519

Sat. or Sun. Jan. 20 or 21 Ski-touring, intermediate, where and when conditions are good. Hike if snow conditions are not good. Call Don Stone, 412-441-2027

Sat. Jan. 27 Rock tour near Dunbar--Rock City, Kralic Rocks, Elk Rocks, Cow(?) Rocks. 9-

PRESERVING NATURE'S HERITAGE

33RD BIENNIAL APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONFERENCE JULY 13-20, 2001 AT SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY

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

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

Hiking and Backpacking trips of various challenges will be led on the A.T. in southern and central Pa and Maryland, and popular local area trails will also be included.

Some of the Excursions we have planned for participants are the Johnstown Flood Museum and National Memorial, Altoona Railroad Museum and Horseshoe Curve, Gettysburg Battlefield, Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, Historic Hershey, Lancaster Amish areas, Pioneer Mining Tunnel, Broad Top Railroad Historic Area, bicycling in historic areas and canoeing on the Susquehanna River, horseback riding and visits to cultural areas in our riverside capitol city, Harrisburg.

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

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

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

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

New Hiking Guide for the Laurel Highlands Available

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

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

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

Forests: Forbes, 86; Gallitzin, 30

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

Total Public Lands: 218 square miles

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

miles--intermediate. \$5.25 carpool-49 miles. Meet at Monroeville P&R lot, 9 AM. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154

Sat. Jan. 27 Ski-touring for beginners and intermediates where snow conditions are good. No-snow-no-go. Call Steve Tubbs, 412-279-4866

Fri. eve.-Sun. Feb. 2-4 Sixth annual ski-touring weekend in the Canaan Valley area near Davis WV. The elevation (3200-4100') produces more snow than Laurel Ridge, and the scenery insures great hiking if snow conditions are not favorable. Rental units must be reserved well in advance and space is limited, so sign up early. \$20 carpool-150 miles. Call Monika Vucic, 412-829-2311

Sat.-Sun. Feb. 3-4 Backpacking somewhere in Allegheny National Forest (weather permitting) \$20 carpool. Call Harold Kotchig, 412-341-1196

Cross-Country Skiing Weekends at Wilderness Lodge

January 26-28, 2001

February 9-11, 2001

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 refunds within two weeks of the weekend you've registered for, but you may find a same sex replacement for yourself. Prior to two weeks, there will be a \$10 cancellation fee. 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 or email:marianne@pitt.edu. Please also note if there is a room you will accept if your chosen one is not available.

AYH Member Cost: **\$52 for Single** in a dorm room
 \$66 per person for a Double (two people required)

Non Member Cost: **\$62 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

Wilderness Lodge

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____
 Signature _____ Date _____

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.

In consideration 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: _____

