

Golden Triangle

VOLUME 55, NUMBER 2

JULY-AUG-SEP 2005

Obituary -- American Youth Hostels - Pittsburgh Council

The end of an era - and a long era at that! The last weekly meeting of AYH was held on June 3, 2004 to a packed house, including members dating back to the 1950s. The first weekly meeting was held in the 1930s and, except for a several-year lapse during WWII, had been held weekly ever since.

The cause of death was bankruptcy caused, in turn, by its Pittsburgh hostel on the south side. It was a Black Hole for money as it turns out, pretty much like its Ohiopyle hostel. Below is a bit of history and a biopsy.

AYH's main (and sizeable) contribution to the quality of life in this area has always been its outings program - a lively mix of hiking, bicycling, flatwater canoeing, whitewater canoeing, kayaking, caving, climbing, ski-touring, backpacking and a few others (kite-flying??), plus countless schools in many of these activities. AYH built the Baker Trail and the Rachel Carson Trail that could take one from Pittsburgh to Allegheny National Forest. AYH published numerous editions of numerous guides to hiking and canoeing in the region. Its extended trips in the summer took many of us on unforgettable trips such as backpacking on Mt. Rainier, the Olympic Rainforest, the Olympic Seashore, the North Cascades and Rocky Mtn. National Park, cycling hostel-to-hostel in New England, hut-hopping in the White Mountains, white-water canoeing and sail-canoeing on the streams and lakes of Wisconsin and countless others. No one will ever know how many multi-decade-long friendships came out of the delights, camaraderie, trials and tribulations of all those thousands of trips. Calamity Rock in the Cheat Narrows was named for a terrifying rafting episode on an AYH trip. White water canoe trips have been known to arrive, still cold and wet, back in Pittsburgh around 4 AM. There was a broken back on a bicycle descent off of Pittsburgh's Mt. Washington, and a nasty altercation between a bicycle and a pickup truck.

AYH always had its ups and downs. At times its weekly Thursday evening meetings saw people packed shoulder-to-shoulder watching slide shows of past adventures and listening to 8-10 trip leaders advertising the adventures they had planned for the weekend. At other times the organization was held together by 3-4 people struggling to get the club back on its feet. A lot was learned about the dynamics of "volunteer associations" (as such organizations are called). One example of many: A preoccupation with social aspects and beginner-oriented trips foretells an impending collapse. A focus on substantive outdoor-oriented adventures and pleasures means another growth spurt toward a membership size that tends to attract the purely socially oriented.

AYH was always a down-to-earth, low-budget operation that attracted people of like mind. Its headquarters/ meeting room was a former Mellon estate chicken coop built on the property line with the Marshal mansion (now Arts Center), apparently as a result of some sort of feud. Outings had always been profitable, even with trip fees of \$0.25 to \$1/day, canoe- and bicycle rentals of a few dollars per day, and sales of modestly-priced trail guides. This combination of profitability and frugality might well have been AYH's undoing. The several hundred thousand dollars in savings generated over the decades was perhaps too much of a temptation to the hostel-oriented faction of the club. (AYH always had an uneasy split personality.) They grabbed control of the club, abolished the Activities Board (that had always handled the day-to-day operations of the club) and sunk everything into a highly leveraged hostel. The rest is history.

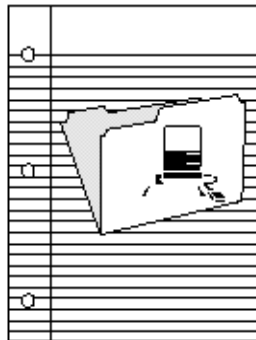
Bruce E Sundquist



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....And MORE!!!



Submissions Policy: Golden Triangle

Classified Ads:

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

Trips

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

Articles

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

General rules for submission

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

Editors Golden Rule

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

Please note, the Golden Triangle frequency of publication for 2005
Number 1 issue ->March/April/May **Number 2** issue ->June/July/August
Number 3 issue ->September/October/November

Triangle Staff

Managing Editor ... **Joel Platt**
 412-521-5244
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NOTICE

Please note the deadlines for
 future issues of the
GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Oct-Nov-Dec ISSUE
 All copy, Sep 7

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

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:

The Golden Triangle
 1632 Denniston St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15217

golden_triangle@bigfoot.com





SEA-KAYAKING

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

ActivityCo-Chairs Vickie 412-344-4929
 Russ 412-331-2073

See
 Sierra Clubs Hikes, at end.



ROCK CLIMBING

Important Notice / Rock Climbing

We regret to inform our members that the Pittsburgh Council is no longer able to sponsor any rock climbing activities for insurance reasons. Our liability insurance is provided through the National AYH organization. After lengthy discussions with National's insurance carrier, we have been notified that a number of activities classified as "high risk" have been excluded from our coverage effective 1 April. While National was successful in negotiating the removal of several activities (such as ice-skating and cross country skiing) from the initial list of exclusions, they were ultimately unsuccessful in being able to have rock climbing covered. While we are disappointed with this exclusion, we have no choice but to stop sponsoring all rock climbing activities. Thank you to all of the volunteers who assisted in the organization and operation of the rock climbing activity over the years. It would not have been possible without you. Discussions are underway with other activities organizations that may be able to sponsor rock climbing activities. For more information, please contact Chuck Jones at charljonz@excite.com or (412)766-4036 or Annie Jones at (412) 303-1793. Please call before 10 o'clock at night. <http://www.wpfi.org/>

While it is unfortunate that we will no longer be able to sponsor rock climbing, we would like to remind both members and non-members of the great activities that we sponsor, and encourage everyone's continued participation.



BICYCLING

IMPROMPTU BICYCLE RIDES EMAIL LIST

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

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

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

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

UPCOMING SLIDE SHOWS

Rambles For Spring 2005

JULY (Start at 9:30A.M.)

July 6-South Oakland. Park at Panther Hollow Trailhead. Bag lunch or eat at famous Big Jim's in Russian Town. Barbara Campsie 412-681-8387.

July 13-Cedar Creek Park in Rostraver.
 Bag lunch. Bill Phoennik 412-279-5411.

July 20-Bear Run. Rhododendron should be in bloom!
 Bag lunch. Earl McCabe 412-761-1844.

July 27-Seldom Seen in Beechview. Park at the end of Brashear High School Lot on Crane Ave. Bag lunch. Bill Lawrence 412-922-3951.

AUGUST (Start at 9:30 A.M.)

August 3-Ohiopyle State Park. Bag lunch. Judy Stark 412-363-0462

August 10-Harrison Hills Regional Park. Bag Lunch. Jack and Blanche Asherman 412-828-8158.

August 17-Scott Township. Bag lunch. Jim Hurst 412-276-0447.

August 24-Boyce Park. Bag lunch. Joanne Winwood 412-371-3167.

August 31-Highland Park. Climb Aiken Trail to the height's of Aiken Pass to look for Fort Stanton. Bag lunch. If raining eat at earthy Quiet Storm Café on Penn Ave. Don Stone 412-441-2027

SEPTEMBER (Start at 10:00 A.M.)

September 7-Steel Valley Trail and Site of Historic Homestead Strike.

Park in Damon's Restaurant Lot at the Waterfront. Luc Berger 412-683-3131.

September 14-Polish Hill. Park at Spaghetti Warehouse, walk through Polish Hill, then back to the Restaurant for lunch. (\$4.99) Mary Ruth Aull 412-795-7078.

September 21-Bird Park in Mt.Lebanon. Bag lunch. Sue and Dan Sebolt. 412-563-6987.

September 28-Point Breeze neighborhood walk. Maxine Russ 412-661-2174.

Meet in Mellon Park upper parking lot at Fifth and Shady Avenues. Carpooling is encouraged. Please pay driver \$1 to \$4.00,(plus share tolls), depending on the length of trip.

Rambles are subject to change due to weather or other circumstances. Call trip leader for more information if you plan to meet at trail head or to inquire about the difficulty of the hike. Alternate phone number or for general information call Billie Woodland 412-886-1603.



HIKING/BACKPACKING/TRAILS

AMBLE HIKES ARE 4-6 MILES IN INTERESTING LOCATIONS AROUND PITTSBURGH. CONNIE BLACK HAS AGREED TO TAKE CALLS FROM THOSE WISHING TO LEAD AN AMBLE AS WELL AS THOSE WISHING TO GO ON AN AMBLE.

CONNIE'S PHONE NUMBER IS 412-371-1062 AND HER EMAIL IS ceblack@libcom.com

ALLEGHENY GROUP - SIERRA CLUB - OUTINGS - May 14 - SEPT. 24, 2005

* Suggested carpool fee: 6 cents/ passenger-mile + a share of any tolls.
 * All trips begin and end at the trailhead.
 * (Unless stated, car-miles are one-way from Monroeville.)
 * For more up-to-date listings, visit <http://www.alleghenysc.org/>
 * Hardcopy subscriptions to this list are \$2.50/ year (4 issues). Make check payable to Allegheny Group, Sierra Club and mail to Bruce Sundquist, 210 College Park Dr., Monroeville PA 15146-1532
 * E-mail subscriptions are free. Contact bsundquist1@juno.com
 * All participants on Sierra Club outings must sign a standard liability waiver form at the trailhead. If you wish to read it well before you are asked to sign the form at the trailhead, go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a hardcopy.

EVENING CONDITIONING WALKS

South Park (year-around). Thurs. evenings at 6:30 PM. Call Bonnie Thomas, 412-833-1068, for meeting place.
 East End (during DST) Co-sponsored by the Sierra Club and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. Wednesday evenings in Schenley Park. Meet at 6 PM in front of the Visitor Center. Call Don Stone, 412-441-2027.

DAY- AND WEEKEND TRIPS

Sat. May 14 - Hike a dry 7-mile loop in Hartstown swamp near Conneaut. Lots of wildlife from turtles to eagles, so bring binoculars. Meet at Harmarville Ames at 9 AM. \$12.25 carpool - 103 miles. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154

Sun. May 15 - Easy 4-mile hike on the Baker Trail, starting near Crooked Creek Dam and going to the Rt. 66 bridge. Enjoy the wildflowers of spring. Meet at the trailhead. Call Luc Berger, 412-683-3131

Sun. May 15 -- Hike a 10-mile 5-waterfall hike in Ohioyle State Park. See the big falls and also Cucumber Falls, Jonathan Run Falls, Meadow Run Falls, and Sugar Run Falls. Intermediate difficulty. \$8.50 carpool - 65 miles. Call Jim Ritchie, 412-828-0210

Sun. May 15 -- Hike - strenuous and exploratory - in the Elk Rocks area of the Dunbar Gamelands. Large rock formations and ledges high above the gorge of the Youghiogheny, the historic 1812 New Laurel Furnace and Morgan Run. \$6.75 carpool - 52 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

Sun. May 22 - Hike an 8.5-mile loop in Linn Run State Park and Forbes State Forest, visiting Wolf Rocks and Beam Rocks. Fast-paced, intermediate. \$7.50 carpool - 59 miles. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519

Sun. May 22 - Bicycle the Mini-M&M - from Markleton to Meyersdale and return (38-40 miles total) on the Allegheny Highlands Trail. The trail follows the scenic Casselman River and crosses the spectacular Salisbury Viaduct. \$9.50 carpool - 73 miles. Call Donna Allen, 412-372-2993

Sat. - Mon. May 28-30 -- Backpacking in the Wilderness in the southern part of Dolly Sods in West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest. It is one of the most popular backpacking areas in this part of the US. Limit: 10. \$23 carpool -- 163 miles. Call Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737

Sun. May 29 - Hike some of the trails in Moraine State Park. 12-15 miles - intermediate+. \$3.50 carpool - 30 miles from Cranberry Mall. Call Alan Aliskovitz, 724-283-5436

Sun. June 5 - Hike an easy 8-mile on the Bagdad Loop near Freeport. Parts of the trail are along the Kiski River. Meet at Harmar Ames at 10 AM. \$1.75 carpool - 15 miles. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154

Sat. June 11 - Hike a moderate 6-7 miles in Quebec Run Wild Area in Forbes State Forest on Chestnut Ridge. Meet at 10 AM at the New Stanton Park-N-Ride Lot. (Allegheny County

trippers can get names, addresses and phone numbers of other trippers in Allegheny County for forming carpools.) \$5.50 carpool - 45 miles from New Stanton. Carpoolers from Allegheny County should pay \$3 more. Call Dianne Chicarelli or Bill Kozorra, 412-531-6236

Sat. - Mon. June 11-13 - Backpacking on Red Creek/ Roaring/ Flatrock Plains of Monongahela National Forest in one of the highest, most rugged and most scenic parts of the West Va. Highlands at the peak of the spring colors (mtn. laurel, azaleas, pink ladyslipper orchids). Lots of spectacular views. About 6 miles per day, leaving lots of time to explore. Prior backpacking experience required. Limit: 10. You could also leave the trip on Sunday. \$22.00 carpool - 150 miles. Call Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737

Sun. June 12 -- Hike - strenuous and exploratory - shuttle hike from Quebec Run to Pine Knob (panoramic views) and beautiful Lick Hollow, crossing from the east side to the west side of Chestnut Ridge, passing the vicinity of White Rocks. \$9 carpool - 73 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

Sat. June 18 - Visit Barton's Cave on Chestnut Ridge for about 3 hours. Intermediate. \$8.50 carpool - 65 miles. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068

Sun. June 26 - Hike 7.5 miles in Deer Lakes County Park near Harmarville. Fast-paced, intermediate. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519

Sat.-Sun.-Mon. July 2-3-4 -- Intermediate backpacking trip in northern Dolly Sods, the higher, more open, more scenic, less visited part of Dolly Sods - Raven Ridge, Cabin Mountain, and the Forks of Red Creek - 15 total miles of backpacking starting from Bear Rocks. Plenty of time for exploring. Prior backpacking experience required. Limit:10. \$23 carpool - 160 miles. The trip goes only if the weather forecasts call for cool and dry. Call Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737

Sat. July 16 -- Hike 12-13 miles on the north loop in Oil Creek State Park, starting at Drake Well Museum. Intermediate+. \$10 carpool fee - 84 miles from Richland Mall (Rt. 8). Call Mike Robertson, 412-678-4039

Sat. July 16 - Caving in Casparis Cave near Connellsville. Spend about 3 hours in the cave. \$5.50 carpool - 40 miles. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068

Sun. July 17 - Hike, strenuous and exploratory, in Quebec Run Wild Area-visiting areas not reached on the usual developed trails. \$9.00 Carpool-73 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

Sat. July 23 -- First in a series of three outings to climb the Steps of Pittsburgh, based on Bob Regan's book of that name. The first will be on Oakland. We will do some hiking in addition to the step-climbing. We'll start at the Schenley Park Visitors Center at 10AM, go back into Oakland and pursue a circuitous course back to the Visitors Center. About three hours and 3-4 miles, including some of Schenley Park. Call Don Gibbon, 412-362-8451.

Sat. July 23 - The hottest day of the year. Hike a 10-mile loop, high on top of the Allegheny Front on the J. P. Saylor trail's western half and the Bog-and-Boulder Trail. Located near Johnstown in Gallitzen State Forest. A little bushwhacking is involved. Intermediate difficulty. \$10.00 carpool - 83 miles. Call Jim Ritchie, 412-828-0210.

Sun. July 24 -- Umpteenth Annual Youghiogheny River Valley inner-tube hike from Johnson's Run to Camp Carmel (3 miles on foot on the Yough River Trail; 3 miles in inner-tubes). Weather must be hot and sunny or trip will be postponed one week. Those who wish to can bicycle in from Connellsville on the Yough River Trail (7 miles each way) Great scenery, fun rapids, quiet pools, sandy beaches, clear water, bald eagles, hooded merganser ducks. \$7.00 carpool - 54 miles. Limit: 17. Call Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737.

Sat. July 30 - Canoeing on the Conemaugh River/ Lake (easy). A livery is available in case you need to rent a canoe. \$4.00 carpool - 33 miles from Monroeville. Call Diane Neely, 724-459-3012

Sat. July 30 -- Hike an intermediate 7.6 miles in McConnell's Mill State Park, mostly along Slippery Rock Creek, from Hell's Hollow to Alpha Pass. \$3.75 carpool fee -- 31 miles from Cranberry Mall including the shuttle. Call Mike Robertson, 412-678-4039

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Sun. July 31 - Bad-weather date for the annual inner-tube hike. Call Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737

Sat. August 6 -- Hike a ten-mile loop using some of the new trails in Raccoon Creek State Park. Mostly wooded and cool. Intermediate difficulty. \$3.50 carpool fee - 30 miles from Shadyside. Call Jim Ritchie, 412-828-0210.

Sun. August 7 - Bicycle on the West Penn Trail (bike path), about 10 miles. \$4.00 carpool - 33 miles from Monroeville. Call Diane Neely, 724-459-3012

Sun. Aug.14 -- Hike, exploratory, 10+ miles in Lower Indian Creek Valley from Rt. 381-Mill Run Reservoir to the Youghiogheny River. Find a 60-ft. rock face near the Youghiogheny River. We may see the Hawkins Hollow Big Blue Holes. Creek-crossing and swimming, depending on temperature and water levels. \$7.75 carpool - 56 miles. Call Don Stone, 412-441-2027

Fri. - Sun. August 19-21 - Canoeing, Kayaking, and nearby hiking on Nicholson Island on Allegheny River. Open to all - easy. \$2.00 carpool - 17 miles from Harmar Ames. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154

Sat. August 20 -- Second in a series of three outings to climb the Steps of Pittsburgh, based on Bob Regan's book of the same name. This one will be on the Southside Slopes. We'll start at 10AM in the Southside Flats and cover several of his outlined hikes. We did these last year one at a time and found them too short. We'll do at least two this year, probably making up our own routes to combine them. Call Don Gibbon, 412-362-8451

Sat. August 20 - Visit Coon Cave. About 3 hours will be spent in the cave. \$4.25 carpool - 35 miles from Monroeville. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068

Sun. August 21 - Hike an easy 6-8 miles on Chestnut Ridge near Bear Cave. . \$4.00 carpool - 33 miles from Monroeville. Call Diane Neely, 724-459-3012

Sun. August 28 - Hike about 8 miles in Roaring Run Natural Area in Forbes State Forest on the west slopes of Laurel Ridge. About half the route will be along Roaring Run Trail with its (in)famous 28 stream-crossings. \$6.50 carpool - 45 miles. Call Donna Allen, 412-372-2993

Sun. August 28 - Hike (strenuous and exploratory) in Ohioopyle State Park on the high south reaches from Sugarloaf, including Laurel Run and Pressley Ridge. \$9.50 carpool - 72 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

Sat.-Sun.-Mon. Sept. 3-4-5 -- Intermediate backpacking trip in northern Dolly Sods, the higher, more open, more scenic, less visited part of Dolly Sods - Raven Ridge, Cabin Mountain, and the Forks of Red Creek - 15 total miles of backpacking starting from Bear Rocks. Plenty of time for exploring. Prior backpacking experience required. Limit: 10. \$23 carpool - 160 miles. The trip goes only if the weather forecasts call for cool and dry. Call Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737

Sat. Sept. 10 - Caving in Lemon Hole Cave on Chestnut Ridge south of Blairsville. About 3 hours will be in the cave. \$4.25 carpool - 35 miles. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068

Sun. Sept. 11 - Hike a fast-paced, intermediate 8.5 miles in McConnells Mill State Park from Alpha Pass to Hell's Hollow, mostly along Slippery Rock Creek. \$3.75 carpool - 31 miles from Cranberry Mall including shuttle. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519.

Sun. Sept. 18 - Hike a strenuous and exploratory loop from Wharton Furnace (a historic 1839 iron furnace) to Quebec Run Wild Area along the remote valleys of Laurel Run and Mill Run. \$9.00 carpool - 73 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

Sat. Sept. 24 -- Third in a series of three outings to climb the Steps of Pittsburgh, based on Bob Regan's book of the same name. This one will be in the North Side. We'll start at 10AM in West Park and cover Television Hill and Troy Hill. We may return to our cars once to make this happen conveniently. We may throw in a bit of West Park too! Stay loose for a good time. Call Don Gibbon, 412-362-8451.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sat. Oct 8 -- Geologic, Natural and Cultural History Tour of Downtown Pittsburgh, with Donald Gibbon, founder of Pittsburgh Walking (see www.pittsburghwalking.com). This one's for free... a highly annotated hike through the wonders of our "fair city." Six miles, from the northern tip of Washington's Landing to the Point and back. This is NOT a trivial walk; it takes about 4-5 hours. There's lots of amazing stuff to see. Co-guides especially welcome to contribute! Call Don Gibbon, 412-362-8451.

NOTES: Ask the leader for names and phone numbers of trippers for you to arrange a car pool. Reserve at least 36 hours in advance. If you leave your phone number on the leader's answering machine, give it slowly and clearly. Notify leader to cancel your reservation. Bring lunch, rain gear, water, first-aid kit, small flashlight and extra clothes for changes in weather. If you have a cell phone, bring it along. Cell phones have saved the day on several trips when accidents have required evacuation of trippers. Sierra Clubbers planning to lead outings during 09/18/05 -12/15/05 should contact Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737, bsundquist1@juno.com by 08/10/05.

HEADWATERS GROUP (Johnstown Area), SIERRA CLUB, OUTINGS - THROUGH August 28, 2005

Don't forget rain gear. Share carpooling expenses. Call the outings committee chair, 814-255-4775 if you cannot reach the trip leader. If you are from the Allegheny County area, ask the trip leader about possibilities for carpools from Allegheny County. Johnstown is about an hour's drive east of Pittsburgh, but some trips are less than an hour's drive from Pittsburgh.

Sat. May 14 - Bicycling in Ohioopyle State Park. Meet at 8:30 AM. Call Ed or Karlice, 814-255-2676.

Sun. May 22 - Hike in the Black Valley Natural Area. Meet at 1:30 PM.

Call Dorothy Brock, 814-288-2299.

Sun. June 5 - Hike on the Forbes Trail and the Laurel Highlands Trail starting at 1:30 PM. Call Lou Will, 814-536-0255.

Sat.-Sun. June 18-19 - Car camping at Price Gallitizin State Park. Call Jean Rigo, 814-255-1180.

Sun. Aug. 28 - Sierra Club Picnic: Meet at Shawee Picnic area #6 at 2:30 PM. Pack a picnic lunch with a dish to share. Call Ed Statler, 814-255-4775.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR USING OUTINGS-RELATED PARTS OF ALLEGHENY GROUP'S WEB PAGE

Trail Guides and Patches: Interested in trail guides and/or trail patches? Click on "Publications" near the top of the front page to get a descriptive list of all trail guides that Allegheny Group sells. Near the top of that list you can click on "Order Form" to get an order form that you can copy and mail in if you want to place an order. The top of the order form describes trail patches and guides that you can order.

Outings List: The front page contains a list of outings for the coming few weekends. Each trip is described in only a few words. But at the bottom of that brief list you can click on "more events/outings" to get a page that lists trips for the coming month or so in far more detail. But they may still be incomplete. To get the complete description, click on that trip's bold-faced title (not just the date). A complete description of that trip will then appear. Read this description before calling the trip leader to sign up for the trip. That helps you avoid trips that do not fit your interests or abilities.

Trails Updates:

The outings committee compiles new information that it learns about hiking trails and bicycle paths in western Pa. It also updates trail descriptions found in Allegheny Groups hiking guide to trails on public lands on Chestnut Ridge, Laurel Ridge and Allegheny Front in southwestern Pennsylvania (Title: The Laurel Highlands: A Hiking Guide) If you are planning to go on a hike or bicycle trip in western Pa., first check this list to learn of any recent changes to the trails you plan to use - or to learn about new trails. To get to this information, click on "Information About Outings" found just below the bottom of the more complete listing of outings described above. A new page will appear. Near the top is a sentence on "Trail Updates". Click on that to bring up the updates with a Table of Contents listing all trails covered.

About Allegheny Group Outings:

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About Allegheny Group Outings:

If you are new to Allegheny Group's outings, you should read a 2-page description of the outings program. To get this, click on "Information About Outings" found just below the bottom of the more complete listing of outings described above. A new page will appear and near the top is a sentence on "About Allegheny Group Outings". Click on that to get a page with that title.

Ski Touring for Beginners: If you are contemplating getting into ski touring, you should read about it. Click on "Information About Outings" found just below the bottom of the more complete listing of outings described above. A new page will appear and near the top is a sentence on "Ski-Touring for Beginners. Click on that to get a page with that title.

Waiver Form: If you want to go on an Allegheny Group outing, the National Sierra Club requires that you sign a liability waiver form to acknowledge that you are aware of the risks that are inherent in any of the sorts of outdoor activities that the Club is involved in. To read this form before you come on any Allegheny Group outing, click on "Information About Outings" found just below the bottom of the more complete listing of outings described above. A new page will appear. Near the top is a sentence on "Waiver Form". Click on that to bring up a page with that title.

HELP WANTED:

Allegheny Group's Outings Chair (Bruce Sundquist) has held that post since 1976 -- much too long. Running the outings program involves 32 well-defined tasks. Most are done quarterly; some monthly. About 12 could be done without any experience, and could be divided among several people. If you are willing to share some of these tasks, please contact Bruce at 724-327-8737 or bsundquist1@juno.com

SIERRA CLUB MEMBERSHIP INDUCEMENT

If you join the Sierra Club on one of our outings, your \$25 introductory membership will get you a free hip pack. Call 724-327-8737 for application form and pack.

ALLEGHENY GROUP MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

June 15 -- Ed Divers talks on Principles of foraging for food in the forest.

July 13 -- Kayaking: sea, river and flat water...even right here in Pittsburgh. Mark Mistrik will tell us all about it.

August 10 -- National Sierra Club Global Population and the Environment.

Sept. 14 -- Annual Member Adventure Travel Program.

Oct. 12 -- The Allegheny River Watershed -- Where the Mississippi Begins. Sue Thompson and Suzie Myer

Nov. 9 -- Karl Striedick, US National Soaring Champion: Hawks and the Appalachians

Dec. 14 -- Annual Member Slide Show and Holiday party.

NON-SIERRA CLUB TRIPS

Trips listed below are in no way connected with the Sierra Club. Sierra Club takes no responsibility, and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of these trips. They are published here purely as a service to our members.

BUTLER OUTDOORS CLUB

Contact Dave Adams at 724-453-1685 or DaveEAdams@aol.com or Bob Tait, 724-287-3382 BobTait@zbzoom.net or visit <http://www.butleroutdoorclub.com>
P.O. Box 243, Butler, PA 16003-0243

Fri.-Mon. May 27-30 - 9th Annual Outdoor Extravaganza. The base camp will be at Breakneck Campground near McConnell's Mill and Moraine State Parks. Activities include road bike trips, bike trail trips, canoeing, kayaking, caving, sailing, rock climbing and rappelling, horseback rides, hikes and pontoon boat tours. For more detailed information contact Joyce Appel, 724-526-5407 or joyceappel@arm-tek.net

Contact: Debbie Martinelli, Salute2004@adelphia.net 412-913-5548

(11/3/04)

MOVING SALE / OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT (and more!)

Bicycle, Cannondale, 19-inch frame, T2000 top of the line touring, 9 speeds, cane creek headset, cad 3 touring frame, Coda expert road crank, Shimano cogs rear gearing. Rode a short distance - once. Paid \$1500, asking \$1000. Giro bike helmet, s/m, Good condition. Paid over \$100, asking \$20.

Double Bike Head Light: Includes 20 watt/ 60 Lux Halogen front beam 5-watt Halogen front light, rechargeable 0.6 V/3.2 ahr. Charging unit 6 V/3.2 hr specifically designed for this unit. In original box, new. Paid \$80, Asking \$60.

X-C Skis, 195 cm., Splitkein with poles, 135 cm. excellent condition. Asking \$50.

X-C Ski Boots, Karhu, size 7 1/2 (38). Little used. Asking \$20.

Northface Backpack: holds X-C skis. Good condition. Asking \$35.

Window-Mount Locking Ski Rack (pink). Fits all cars. Never used; in box. Asking \$25.

Tent, Eureka: 4-person, slightly used but in good condition. Asking \$50.

Tent, Eureka: 1-person, used once. Paid \$125, asking \$70.

Reidell Shoe Figure Skates, woman's, white leather, size 7 1/2, nearly new, with blade guards. Paid \$100, asking \$45.

Skates, In-line, Solomon Woman's Size 8, never used, still in box, plus pads for elbows and knees. Asking \$200 for skates, \$40 for pads.

NEED MAPS AND TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE FOOT TRAILS OF SOUTHWESTERN PA.?

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 you 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 game lands of the "Laurel Highlands".

The Sierra Club's 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. 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 Game Lands #51 adjacent to Ohio State Park. Covered in this guide are the foot trails of the following public lands in the Laurel Highlands:

State Parks:	(sq. miles)
Ohio State Park	30
Laurel Ridge	24
Coopers Rock	20
Blue Knob	9
Laurel Hill	6
Linn Run	1
Kooser	0.4
State Forests	
Forbes	86
Gallitzin	30
Other Public Lands:	
Bear Run Nature Res.	8
Lower ICV Trail	4

Total Public Lands: 218 sq. 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 game lands. 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.

(Continued from page 6)

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
- * Ski-touring and backpacking in the Laurel Highlands
- * 32 photographs of some of the scenery along the trails
- * Ratings of scenery/ condition/ difficulty (hiking and skiing)
- * Altitude changes, stream crossing and other maps
- * Information on public organizations that use foot trails
- * foot-trail maintenance, water purification, and hiking ethics

To get your copy of "The Laurel Highlands: A Hiking Guide" send \$11.95 plus \$1.50 for book-rate postage and handling, plus any applicable sales tax, to Bob Roth, 80 Roseleaf Road, Pittsburgh PA 15220. Please make checks payable to Allegheny Group, Sierra Club. Allegheny Group also published "Hiker's Guide to Laurel Highlands Trail" (Edition 5, 128 pages, 24 pages of maps, \$6.00) and "Allegheny National Forest Hiking Guide" (Edition 4, 192 pages, 49 pages of maps, \$9.95).

** Authors: Monika Dalrymple, Mark Christy, Jan Frissora, Kim and Tom Metzgar, Tom Beebee, Palvina & Chavaya Beebee - Galvao, Judy Rodd, Bruce Sundquist



CANOEING

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



SAILING

The AYH no longer owns its own sailboats or runs trips but Bob Zavos will help coordinate sailing interests with other area organizations. The Moraine Sailing Club (MSC) is the largest local sailing group. Most activities are on Lake Arthur in Moraine State Park which is about 35 miles North of Pittsburgh. They offer education, social events and run a youth summer sail camp. They also have a large racing program and sponsor a Community Sailing Program for people without their own sailboats. They help organize/publicize Cruising Trips, but do not officially sponsor them. More information is on their website at www.morainesailingclub.org. Big boat sailors may want to check out the Erie Yacht Club: www.erieyachtclub.org or the Erie Bayfront Center for Marine studies: www.goerie.com/bcms

Moraine Preservations Fund (MPF), is looking for volunteers to help with the 50 passenger pontoon boat which they run on Lake Arthur in the Summer. It is used for scientific hands-on field trips for students and summer and fall tours for the public. They are looking for people interested in becoming volunteer mates and captains. You will need to have a boater's safety class, which you may already have taken or is easily available locally. To be a mate you must be 16 and 18 to be a captain. The boat training is given by experienced MPF captains, and you will be tested and licensed by the Fish and Boat Commission. The times and amount of time you would volunteer is completely by your choice. Even limited help is appreciated. If you have questions or would like to sign up, please contact Ruth Roperti at 724 843 7046, or email: missionmorain@zoominternet.net

The 6th annual **Lake Arthur Regatta is scheduled for August 14 & 15**. This is one of the largest water and boating related activities in the area. Mark your calendars and look for more information later in the season on the MSC Website or the Butler County site: www.visit-butler-county-pennsylvania-pa.com/

Other Outdoors Clubs

Butler Outdoors Club

BOC runs the same sorts of trips as Allegheny Group. Contact Dave Adams, 724-453-1685 DaveEAdams@aol.com or Bob Tait, 724-287-3382

BobTait@zbzoom.net or visit <http://www.butleroutdoorclub.com> Some trips by BOC and North Country Trails Assn. (NCTA) are listed below.

Wissahickon Nature Club

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

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania

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

WPW (Western Pennsylvania Wheelmen) Bicycle Club

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

Moraine Sailing Club

MSC offers sailing opportunities for new and experienced sailors at Lake Arthur in Moraine State Park. They have an active education program for all ages, numerous sailing related social events, Day Sailing at Lake Arthur, and a very active sailboat racing program. For more information see the MSC Web Page at www.morainesailingclub.org or contact Chris Neuwirth 412-441-5590, email to: cmn@andrew.cmu.edu

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA FIELD INSTITUTE -- TRIPS

For information on WPMI events, contact Sean Brady sbrady@wpfi.org 412-255-0564 or visit <http://www.wpfi.org/> All events open to the public.

Fridays, Noon-12:50 PM Nature Walks starting in Market Square, Downtown Pittsburgh, Cost: Free

Outside Adventure Learning of Western Pennsylvania

Outside Adventures 2002 Paddling Schedule
Call 724-230-0237 or 412-968-0310 for information or to sign up for any event.

www.outsideadventures.org or www.outsideadventures@Yahoo.com
More outings continuously offered. Call for Updates: 724-230-0237 or 412-968-0310.

Outside Adventures Sea-Kayaking Program "Sea-Kayaking Taught From Scratch"

Outside Adventure Learning of Western Pa. is a non-profit educational organization committed to introducing individuals to safe and enjoyable recreational outdoor pursuits. The sea-kayaking program specializes in teaching all levels of sea-kayaking skills and organizing trips from our evening introductory classes for new paddlers up to advanced expedition tours. Outside Adventures welcomes participation from individuals, families, youth organizations and outings clubs. Sea-kayaks, or touring kayaks are versatile, fun, human-powered watercraft that enables us to do all these things and more. They are sleek and fast, more efficient than canoes, more comfortable and stable than whitewater kayaks, have hatches to swallow loads of gear, and steerable rudders that enable even beginners to control the boat with ease.

**Baker Trail and Rachel Carson Trail
Trail Maintenance Opportunities for 2004**

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

Right now the trail needs AYH members who would like to participate in trail crew maintenance activities. Please contact Steve Mentzer SGMentzer@TrueCommerce.com

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

Baker Trail/Rachel Carson Trail Resources

- Rachel Carson Trail website:** www.rachelcarsontrail.com; **this website has information about the Rachel Carson Trail, the Baker Trail, and the Rachel Carson Trail Challenge.**
- Baker Trail website:** www.geocities.com/bakertrailpa; **this website has some abbreviated information concerning the Baker Trail.**
- Hostelling International website:** <http://trfn.clpgh.org/ayh/>; **general information about the BT/RCT sponsor organization.**
- Keystone Trails Association:** <http://www.kta-hike.org/>; **has information about all Pennsylvania hiking trails**
- "Guide to the Rachel Carson Trail";** this is a trail guide, with topographic maps, and some interpretive information about the 34-mile long trail, available from HI-Pittsburgh for under \$10, including postage and handling. Call 412-431-4910 to order.
- "Baker Trail Guide Book";** a trail guide with topographic maps, and interpretive information about the 141-mile long Baker Trail. Available from HI-Pittsburgh for under \$10, including postage and handling. Call 412-431-4910 to order.

*******HIKER ALERTS*******Current hiker alerts for both the Rachel Carson Trail and the Baker Trail may be found at www.rachelcarsontrail.com.

Pennsylvania State Parks
Reservations & Information



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