

Golden Triangle

VOLUME 55, NUMBER 3

OCT-NOV-DEC 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.

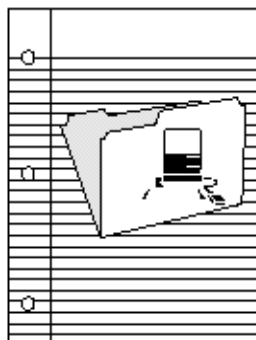
Bruce E Sundquist



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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

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NOTICE

Please note the deadlines for
 future issues of the
GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Jan-Feb-Mar ISSUE
 All copy, Dec 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 charlzjonz@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@yahoogroups.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 Fall 2005

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

October 5 - Montour Trail, passing across McDonald trestle with Bill Phoennik-412-279-5411.

October 12 - Moraine State Park with Earl McCabe, 412-761-1844.

October 19 -- Study the trees in Mellon Park and the surrounding area with Maxine Russ 412-661-2174.

October 26 - Take a neighborhood walk in Swisshelm Park with Joanne Winwood, 412-371-3167

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

November 2 - Walk the Southside Trail along the Mon starting at Waterfront park at the end of So.18th street. Bird-watchers, bring your binoculars! Meet either in the parking lot under the bridge at 10:30 or at the usual place at 10. Lunch at Cheesecake factory at The Southside Works (optional). Joan Roof, 412-351-2061.

November 9 -- Visit Braddock's Trail in Irwin with Marian Fast, 412-241-2109. Eat at a restaurant.

November 16 -- Walk the trail along Nine Mile Run from Duck Hollow to the old Hot Metal Bridge near Rankin with Ed Divers 412-828-5154

November 23 -- No ramble scheduled . HAPPY THANKS-GIVING!

November 30 - Walk the Falls Run Trail in Shaler with Connie Black, 412-371-1062. weather permitting.

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

December 7 - Visit Duquesne University campus in the Lower Hill district with Marty Brigham, 412-521-1913. Take the bus from Fifth and Shady or park in the Polumbo Center Garage.

December 14 - Visit Schenley Park and the Cathedral of Learning to tour the Nationality Rooms with Ruth Fischer, 412-421-9215, and Marilyn Ham 412-687-4520. The rooms will be decorated for Christmas.

December 21- Enjoy a Holiday Celebration with a Ramble and then lunch at Billie Woodland's in Whitehall. Any suggestions for a prepared lunch? Reserve :412-886-1603.

December 28 -- No scheduled ramble.

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 - AUGUST 19 - DECEMBER 17, 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/>

<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). Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM.

Call Bonnie Thomas, 412-833-1068, for meeting place. NOTE:

Beginning Aug. 31 these conditioning walks will be on Wednesday evenings instead of Thursdays, still beginning at 6:30 PM.

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

Sun. Oct. 1 - Canoe or kayak from Washington's crossing to the Point and return - about 9 miles on the Allegheny River. Call Ben Brugmans, 412-361-3623, for details.

Sun. Oct. 2 -- Hike a fast-paced intermediate 8.5 miles in McConnell's Mill State Park from Hell's Hollow to Alpha Pass, mostly along Slippery Rock Creek, \$3.75 carpool -- 31 miles from Cranberry Mall including shuttle. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519

Sat. Oct. 8 - Hike an easy 8-mile loop above Ohiopyle. Visit a Civil War Cemetery. One rough hill. Meet at Monroeville Middle School at 9 AM. \$9.00 carpool - 65 miles. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154

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.

Sun. Oct. 9 - Hike a moderate 8-10 miles in Bear Run Nature Reserve near Mill Run. \$8.50 carpool - 60 miles. Call John Dern, 412-856-4642

Sun. Oct. 9 -- Canoe Trip on the Youghiogheny River. This trip is dependent on having enough water. We'll meet at the outfitters near Perryopolis (Layton), shuttle to Connellsville and float down the Yough to the outfitter's where we started. It's 12 miles and there are some stretches with class 1 rapids. There should be an experienced person in each boat. The cost if they provide a boat is \$25 to \$30 a person. If you have your own boat they'll shuttle it for about \$10. This is a great trip for leaf peeping. Let me know if you are coming several days ahead of time, and please don't change your mind if you can avoid it. Meet at Duff Park at 8:00 AM. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

Sat. Oct. 15 - Easy 8-mile hike in Ohiopyle State Park - Ferncliff Peninsula and other water features of the park. \$5.75 carpool - 45 miles from New Stanton. Inquire about a subgroup leaving from Monroeville Middle School. Call Dianne Ciccarella or Bill Kozorra at 412-531-6236.

Sun. Oct. 16 - Hike about 8 miles on the Baker Trail in the

Crooked Creek area, starting at the visitor center, and ending at Cochran's Mill, home of Nelly Bly, famous newspaper reporter and world traveler; shuttle hike of intermediate difficulty; Meet at 9 AM. Return by 5 PM. \$6.00 carpool-50 miles. Call Jim Ritchie, 412-828-0210.

Sun. Oct. 16 -- Hike - strenuous and exploratory -- a loop hike along Camp Run, with its Chinese monument, and above Roaring Run, perhaps utilizing parts of Pike Run Trail and Laurel Highlands Trail. \$6.00 carpool - 42 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

Sun. Oct. 16 -- Easy 1.5-mile hike (2 hours) in Seldom Seen Greenway (Beechview Area). Meet at the far end of Brashear High School's parking lot at 590 Crane Ave. in Beechview at 1:30 PM. Call John or Kathy Murphy, 412-341-9367, or Bill Lawrence, 412-922-3951.

Sat. Oct. 22 - Easy 8-mile hike in Quebec Run Wild Area in Forbes State Forest on Chestnut Ridge. \$5.75 carpool - 45 miles from New Stanton. Inquire about a subgroup leaving from Monroeville Middle School. Call Dianne Ciccarella or Bill Kozorra at 412-531-6236.

Sat. Oct. 22 - Exploratory hike along the Conemaugh River. \$4.00 carpool - 33 miles. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068

Sun. Oct. 23 - Easy 4-mile walk on top of cliffs above Plum Creek in Penn Hills. Enjoy scenic views and the last wildflowers of the season. See ghosts in the woods. Meet at the trailhead. Call Luc Berger, 412-683-3131

Sun. Oct. 23 -- Intermediate hike on the Mtn. Streams Trail just north of Roaring Run. It's about 12 miles and may be a good opportunity to scout out a new place for ski touring. 5-mile shuttle. There may be some autumn color left. Meet at Duff Park at 8:00 AM. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

Sun. Oct. 23 -- Canoeing on the Conemaugh River/Lake (easy) and see the fall colors. Canoe rentals are available from nearby Saltsburg if you don't have one. Meet at 9:30 AM in New Alexandria or 9:45 AM at Conemaugh Dam. We will plan to canoe until about 2:30 PM. We must notify the Corps of Engineers at the dam how many will be going by Saturday afternoon. Call Diane Neely at 724-459-3012.

Sun. Oct. 30 - Easy exploratory hike in Dunbar State Game-lands - Old Crag Rock, Stone City, Robb's Knob, Zebley Flats. Meet at Monroeville Middle School at 9:30 AM. \$5.75 carpool - 44 miles. Call Don Stone, 412-441-2027

Sat. Nov. 5 - Hike a 7-mile loop near Connellsville; half will be on the Yough River Bike Trail. Meet at Monroeville Middle School at 10 AM. \$5.50 carpool - 40 miles. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154

Sun. Nov. 6 - Hike in North Park on an 8-mile loop using parts of Rachel Carson Trail and several bridle trails. Intermediate difficulty; meet at the trailhead at 10 AM; return by 4 PM. \$2.25 carpool - 18 miles from Shadyside. Call Jim Ritchie, 412-828-0210.

Sun. Nov. 13 - Hike an intermediate 9-10 miles in the Mountain Streams area on the west slope of Laurel Ridge north of Rt. 31. \$6.00 carpool-42 miles. Call Donna Allen, 412-372-2993.

Sun. Nov. 13 -- Hike (5-6 miles) with Llamas in the Laurel Highlands off US 30 beyond Ligonier. Meet near Latrobe at 10:00 AM. We will be back to Latrobe about 2:00 -3:00 PM. Inquire about a Monroeville carpool subgroup. Call Diane Neely, 724-459-3012.

Sun. Nov. 13 -- Hike - strenuous and exploratory - from Baldwin Creek (historic iron furnace) to Seward, climbing up to, and utilizing, the Laurel Highlands Trail, including the descent along the gorge of the Conemaugh River. \$6.00 carpool - 59 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

Sun. Nov. 13 -- Bike Ride/ Hike from Connellsville to Ohiopyle with a hike up to Baughman's Rock. This is 36 miles of biking and 4 of hiking but we'll take it slow with several breaks. The hike up to Baughman's Rock is 2 miles up hill all the way. This is a strenuous workout. Meet at Duff Park at 8:00 AM. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

Sat. Nov. 19 - Hike an intermediate 10-11 miles using some of the new trails in Raccoon Creek State Park. \$3.50 carpool - 30 miles from Shadyside. Call Mike Robertson, 412-678-4039

Sat. Nov. 19 - Exploratory hike along the Conemaugh River. \$4.00 carpool - 33 miles. Call Norm Snyder, 412-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)
351-4068

Sun. Nov. 20 - Hike a fast-paced 7.5-mile loop in Harrison Hills County Park. \$1.25 carpool - 10 miles from Harmarville. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519

Sun. Nov. 27 - Hike an easy intermediate 7 miles in Bear Run Nature Reserve near Ohiopyle. \$8.00 carpool - 60 miles. Call Mike Robertson, 412-678-4039

Sun. Nov. 27 -- Intermediate Hike at Quebec Run. This is 10+ miles of hiking on established trails but there are some steep climbs. This is great scenery in the summer but I have yet to find out what it looks like when the leaves are down. Meet at Duff Park at 8:00 AM. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

Sun. Dec. 4 - Hike in Moraine State Park; a short 7-mile shuttle hike using some of the park's bridle trails - you haven't done this hike before!! Easy side of intermediate difficulty; meet at 10 AM; return by 4 PM. \$6.00 carpool - 46 miles from Harmarville. Call Jim Ritchie, 412-828-0210

Sun. Dec. 11 - Hike an 8-mile loop near Freeport. Part will be along the Allegheny River. \$1.75 carpool - 15 miles from Harmarville. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154. Note: Deer hunting is currently not permitted on Sunday.

Sun. Dec 11 -- Hike - strenuous and exploratory - from Burgettstown Game Lands to Raccoon Creek State Park via Hillman Game Lands, across the unusual and disorienting re-graded terrain of little visited lands, with planted pines, lakes and the unique model airplane field. \$3.50 carpool-30 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

Sun. Dec. 11 -- Strenuous Bike Ride from Connellsville north towards Boston and return. We may not make it to Boston but we'll go as far as we can - probably 50+ miles. Meet at Duff Park at 8:00 AM. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

Sat. Dec. 17 - Exploratory hike along Dunbar Creek in Dunbar State Gamelands on the west slope of Chestnut Ridge. \$5.75 carpool - 44 miles. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068.

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 12/15/05 - 3/15/06 should contact Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737, bsundquist1@juno.com by 11/05/05.

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.

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.

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.

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:

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.

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.



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/

**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.

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