

Golden Triangle

VOLUME 56, NUMBER 1

JAN-FEB-MAR 2006

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.

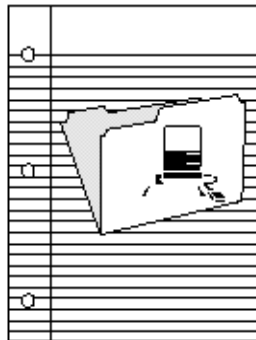
AYH was always a down-to-earth, low-budget operation that attracted people of like mind. Its headquarters/ meeting room was a former Mellon estate chicken coop built on the property line with the Marshal mansion (now Arts Center), apparently as a result of some sort of feud. Outings had always been profitable, 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 2006

Number 1 issue ->January/February/March

Number 2 issue ->April/May/June

Number 3 issue ->July/August /September

Number 4 issue ->October/November/December

Editor...

Triangle Staff

Managing Editor ... **Joel Platt**
 412-521-5244
 golden_triangle@bigfoot.com

NOTICE

Please note the deadlines for
 future issues of the
GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Apr-May-Jun ISSUE
All copy, Mar 8

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@yahoo.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 Winter 2006

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

DECEMBER 28-TBA Margaret Laske.412-421-5219.

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

JANUARY 4- Nine Mile Run-Lower Frick Park/Fern Hollow area. Enter by seldom-used access point. Joanne Winwood 412-371-3167.

JANUARY 11- Chatham College Campus. ? Lunch at their cafeteria.
 Avis Ellis
 and Martha Raak 412-802-7266.

JANUARY 18-Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center. Take 10 o'clock bus from 5th and Shady. Gather downtown at Grant Street and 5th Ave. in front of Mellon Bank. Mary Ann and Helen Brincka will lead the group to the Center. Café there. 412-884-0383.

JANUARY 25-Mt.Washington and Grandview Park. Walk to Station Square for lunch and return on the incline. (Bring PAT pass). Jim Hurst 412-276-0447.

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

FEBRUARY 1- Forest Hills. Marian Fast. 412-521-8226.

FEBRUARY 8-Waterfront in Homestead. Ruth Fischer. 412-421-9215.

FEBRUARY15-Shadyside. Barbara Campsie. 412-681-8387.

FEBRUARY 22-Frick Park Walkway off Beechwood Blvd, Squirrel Hill. Albert Farhy.412-521-8226.

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

MARCH 1-Friendship neighborhood ramble. Marilyn Ham. 412-687-4520.

MARCH 8-Walk to CMU. Visit Posner Rare Book Library. Decipher the history mural in the University Center. Lunch at the center. Luc Berger. 412-683-3131.

MARCH 15-Allegheny Cemetery. Lunch at a restaurant (optional).
 Connie Black 412-371-1062.

MARCH 22-Cloverleaf Estates West in Carnegie. Bob Tait. 412-821-5709.

MARCH 29-Oakmont area. Walk 2-3 miles on Barking Slopes off Hulton Road.
 Ed Divers 412-828-5154.

Rambles begin at 10 A.M. from the parking lot of Phipps Garden Center {Mellon Park} on Shady Ave. Carpooling is encouraged. Please pay driver depending on distance. Call trip leader for details, especially if you plan to meet at the trailhead. Or call Billie at **412-886-1603(H)- cell 412-889-7048.**



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 - NOVEMBER 13, 2005 - APRIL 2, 2006

* 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.

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.

Allegheny Group offers a 26-page (8.5x11") booklet Ski-Touring in Western Pennsylvania that discusses equipment, clothing, places to go, technique, etc. Edition 4 (2004) is available for \$2.00 + \$1.50 for book-rate postage from Bob Roth, 80 Roseleaf Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220. Make checks payable to Allegheny Group, Sierra Club.

EVENING CONDITIONING WALKS

South Park (year-around). Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM. Call Bonnie Thomas, 412-833-1068, for meeting place. Note the change of date from Thursdays to Wednesdays.

DAY- AND WEEKEND TRIPS

Mon. Dec. 26 -- Hike from Linn Run State Park up to where the LHHT crosses the PA Turnpike, along the LHHT a piece of the LHHT and back to Linn Run State Park. It should be 12-15 miles of strenuous hiking. If there's snow we'll ski on Laurel Mountain from the warming hut out to Wolf's Rocks and back. That will be a pretty strenuous outing too. \$7.50 carpool - 59 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

Sat. Dec. 31 -- Enjoy a New Year's Eve Day "Bridges of Pittsburgh" hike, starting on Washington's Landing at 11AM, going across the foot bridge to the Three Rivers Heritage Trail and criss-crossing the Allegheny River on each bridge we come to down to the Point (16th, 9th, 7th, 6th, Ft. Duquesne). If we have time then we will pick up the Smithfield St. and 10th St. bridges across the Mon. We might park a shuttle so we don't have to hike all the way back to the starting point. This would be about 5 miles and take 3-plus hours, so we will all be home long before New Year's Eve. Call Don Gibbon 412-362-8451.

Sun. Jan. 1 -- Hike along the ski trails at Laurel Ridge State Park off Rt. 653 with a loop down the yellow trail onto the LHHT with a return back up the steep climb just south of the park. 12-15 miles of strenuous hiking. If there's snow we'll ski some of the same trails. \$8.00 carpool - 60 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

Sat. Jan. 7 - Ski-touring at Laurel Mountain off US30. Meet at Edgewood Town Mall at 9 AM. Hike if snow conditions are not good. \$7.50 carpool-60 miles from Edgewood. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068

Sun. Jan. 8 - Hike an easy 5 miles at Todd Sanctuary and Beechwood Farms with an optional visit to the Hartwood Acres lighting display. Meet at 10:30 AM at the Harmarville National City Bank. \$3.50 carpool - 30 miles from Harmarville. Call John Dern, 412-856-4642

Sat. Jan. 14 - Ski-touring for all levels at Laurel Ridge State Park on Rt.653. Meet at New Stanton Park and Ride at 10 AM or inquire about Monroeville carpools. Rentals available. Bring lunch or buy at the warming hut. \$5 carpool - 40 miles. Call Bill Kozorra or Dianne Ciccarella, 412-531-6236

Sun. Jan. 15 -- Hike - strenuous and exploratory - A loop hike along the historic abandoned railroad grades and canal paths in the Conemaugh Reservoir area, above the submerged town of Livermore, across Bow Ridge which Charles Dickens describes going through in a canal boat (through a tunnel). \$5.25 carpool - 43 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

Sun. Jan. 15 - Ski-touring at Oil Creek State Park. Hike if skiing is not good. \$12 carpool - 102 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

Sat. Jan. 21 - Ski-touring, intermediate, in the Laurel Mountain area off of US30. Bring lunch or buy it at the warming hut. Meet in Latrobe at 10 AM or ask about Monroeville carpools. Call Diane Neely, 724-459-3012

Fri.-Sun. Jan. 27-29 - Umpteenth Annual Canaan Valley Weekend: Ski-touring, intermediate, in Canaan Valley, Blackwater Falls State Park and Canaan Mountain. The elevation (3200-4100') produces more snow than Laurel Ridge. Scenery in West Virginia's Highlands insures great hiking if snow conditions aren't favorable. Rental units must be reserved well in advance, so reserve early. Depart Friday night. Limit: 16. \$22.00 carpool-150 miles. Call Monika Dalrymple, 724-863-4163

Sat. Jan. 28 - Ski-touring for all levels at Laurel Ridge State Park on Rt.653. Meet at New Stanton Park-and-Ride at 10 AM or inquire about Monroeville carpools. Rentals available. Bring lunch or buy at the warming hut. \$5 carpool - 40 miles. Call Bill Kozorra or Dianne Ciccarella, 412-531-6236

Sun. Jan. 29 -- Hike (or ski) on Indian Creek Valley Trail, a bike path from Champion to Indianhead and beyond, along Indian Creek -- 9 or 5 easy miles (your choice). \$5.75 carpool - 41 miles. Call Donna Allen, 412-372-2993

Sat. Feb. 4 - Hike a strenuous 12-mile loop in North Park. If snow conditions are good we will go ski-touring on Laurel Ridge in the US30 area instead (for all skill levels). Meet at 9 AM. Call Alan Aliskovitz, 412-708-4094

Sat. Feb. 4 - Ski-touring at Laurel Mountain off US30. Meet at Edgewood Town Mall at 9 AM. Hike if snow conditions are not good. \$7.50 carpool-60 miles from Edgewood. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068

Sat. Feb. 11 - Ski-touring on Jones Mill Run Road - about a 5-mile downhill run starting from Rt.31. Visit Neiriser Cemetery along the way. Hike in the same area if snow conditions are not good. Meet at Gateway Middle School in Monroeville at 9:30 AM. \$6.50 carpool - 47 miles. Call Don Stone, 412-441-2027

Sat. Feb. 11 - Ski-touring for all levels at Laurel Ridge State Park on Rt. 653. Meet at New Stanton Park-and-Ride at 10 AM or inquire about Monroeville carpools. Rentals available. Bring lunch or buy at the warming hut. \$5.00 carpool - 40 miles from New Stanton. Call Bill Kozorra or Dianne Ciccarella, 412-531-6236

Sun. Feb. 12 - Ski-touring at Laurel Mountain off US30. Hike if skiing is not good. \$7.00 carpool - 57 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

Sat. Feb. 18 - Hike a strenuous 12-15 miles in Moraine State Park (in and out the same way). If snow conditions are good we will do ski-touring on Laurel Ridge in the US30 area (for all skill levels). Meet at 9 AM. \$3.25 carpool -27 miles from Cranberry Mall. Call Alan Aliskovitz, 412-708-4094

Sat.-Sun. Feb 17/18-19 -- Ski Trip at Chataqua. We'll stay at the Chataqua Resort where we can get off-season rates. Last year a small suite for a couple was about \$60 plus NY State Sales tax of 11%. We can make arrangements for singles rooms by gender for much less. County Parks and Wilderness Lodge are within 30 minutes for cross-country skiing or snowshoeing. For downhill enthusiasts there's downhill skiing at Peak-N-Peak or Holiday Valley. Most people go up early Friday and come back Sunday but you can come later and/or leave later if you wish. On Friday night we'll find a local restaurant for dinner and on Saturday night we'll have potluck together. Bring a covered dish if you wish. Call Dave Mottorn (724-327-7582) for information on making reservations

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in early January. Last year there were two feet of snow up there that weekend and it was great! \$20 carpool - 170 miles.

Sun. Feb. 19 - Ski-touring, intermediate, in the Laurel Mountain area off of US30. Bring lunch or buy it at the warming hut. Meet in Latrobe at 10 AM or ask about Monroeville carpools. Call Diane Neely, 724-459-3012

Sun. Feb. 26 - Ski-touring at Laurel Ridge State Park off Rt. 653. Maybe we can ski over to Seven Springs and back. Hike if skiing is not good. \$8.00 carpool - 60 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

Sun. Feb. 26 -- Hike - strenuous and exploratory - in the large west side of Raccoon Creek State Park, including historic Frankfort Mineral Springs and its large icicle formations, beaver activity along Traverse Creek, perhaps the far north end lands, and the beautiful valley of Little Service Run. \$3.50 carpool - 30 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567.

Sat. March 4 - Ski-touring at Laurel Mountain off US30. Meet at Edgewood Town Mall at 9 AM. Hike if snow conditions are not good. \$7.50 carpool-60 miles from Edgewood. Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068

Sat. March 4 - Hike a strenuous 12-15 miles on the Rachel Carson Trail using a car shuttle. If snow conditions are good we will go ski-touring on Laurel Ridge in the US30 area instead (for all skill levels). Meet at 9 AM. Call Alan Aliskovitz, 412-708-4094

Sun. March 5 - 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. March 5 - Ski-touring at Goddard State Park. If we can ski around the lake it's a good 12 miles. We will hike if skiing is not good. \$12 carpool - 103 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

Sat. March 11 - Ski-touring for all levels at Laurel Ridge State Park on Rt. 653. Meet at New Stanton Park-and-Ride Lot at 10 AM or inquire about Monroeville carpools. Rentals available. Bring lunch or buy at the warming hut. \$5 carpool - 40 miles. Call Bill Kozorra or Dianne Ciccarelli, 412-531-6236

Sat. March 18 - Hike a strenuous 12-15 miles in McConnell's Mill State Park - or ski touring on Laurel Ridge for all skill levels if snow conditions are good. Meet at 9 AM. \$3.25 carpool - 27 miles from Cranberry Mall. Call Alan Aliskovitz, 412-708-4094

Sat. March 18 - Take an easy hike with some llamas (the furry kind) in the Laurel Mountain area off US30. Bring lunch. Meet in Latrobe at 10 AM or inquire about Monroeville carpools. Call Diane Neely, 724-459-3012

Sun. March 19 -- Hike - strenuous and exploratory - A loop hike in Beaver Creek State Park on scenic Little Beaver Creek near Fredericktown, including sections of the North Country Trail. Well-preserved canal locks. \$6.00 carpool - 50 miles from Shadyside. Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567

Sun. March 26 -- Hike at Moraine State Park - all the way over and back-16.7 miles of fairly strenuous hiking. If there's dry snow we'll ski somewhere instead. \$7.25 carpool - 60 miles. Call Dave Mottorn, 724-327-7582

Sun. March 26 - Hike an easy 7-8 mile loop in the Freeport area near Baghdad. Meet at Harmar Ames at 10 AM. \$1.75 carpool - 15 miles from Harmarville. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154

Sun. April 2 - Hike an easy 9 miles in Ohio pyle State Park in Ferncliff Nature Reserve and on the Yough River Trail toward Confluence. Meet at Gateway Middle School at 9 AM. \$8.50 carpool - 65 miles. Call John Dern, 412-856-4642

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 3/11/06 - 6/30/06 should contact Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737, bsundquist1@juno.com by 2/05/06.

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.

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.

VENTURE OUTDOORS TRIPS: For information on VO events, contact Sean Brady sbrady@ventureoutdoors.org 412-255-0564 or visit <http://www.ventureoutdoors.org/> All VO events are open to the public, but there is usually a charge.

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

WESTERN PA ORIENTEERING CLUB: If you like orienteering you might enjoy WPOC's orienteering events. Below is their list of spring events. Registration for all events is from 11 AM - 2 PM. Most of their events are in the Indiana - Johnstown area.

WISSAHICKON NATURE CLUB: If you enjoy nature lore, look into the meetings and field trips of Wissahickon Nature Club. They meet every other Thursday at 7 PM (except June-August) at Community Presbyterian Church, 7501 Church Ave., Ben Avon. Contact Chuck Tague, 412-488-8760 or 432 Olympia Road, Pittsburgh 15219

OUTSIDE ADVENTURE LEARNING OF WESTERN PA -- Winter 2005-06 Outings Schedule

outsideadventures@yahoo.com Contact Mark Mistrik, 724-230-0237, for more information or to reserve for any of the following trips. Nordic ski equipment is available for all ski-touring outings listed below.

Sat. Dec. 10 -- Holiday Walking Tour in Old Bedford Village, Bedford, Pa: our annual historic visit to old Bedford village's candlelight walking tour. You may join us for an early supper at the jean bonnet tavern, an authentic 18th century colonial inn with a huge open-hearth fireplace, or meet us afterwards at the candlelight festival where all the rustic log cabins and homesteads are lit with candlelight and are traditionally decorated. Horse-drawn carriage rides through the village (sleigh rides, if snowy) make this historic, festive trip perfect for children too. This is a very easy trip, but requires walking outside at night in candlelight (or with a flashlight).

Sat. Dec. 10 -- Laurel Ridge Cross-Country Skiing. Pre-tour lesson offered. Laurel Ridge State Park in the Laurel Highlands: this is a great cross-country ski touring center featuring 20 miles of groomed trails, a warming hut, easy-to-follow trails, and color-coded trail maps. Novices and anyone wanting a review can join us in the morning for a ski intro and practice on easy trails; more experienced skiers can join us for ski-touring on intermediate trails after lunch. Beginners can continue practicing in the afternoon if desired. Trips will go if there's snow! Continue the companionship with dinner at our favorite area restaurants following skiing. Ski rentals available for children and adults. Note: ski conditions in the ridges are often much better than in Pittsburgh. Call Outside Adventures for snow conditions and trip status, even if there is no snow in Pittsburgh.

Tues. Eve. Dec. 13 -- Citiparks Evening Nordic Skiing at

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Frick Park. Pre-tour lesson offered. Nordic skiing provides healthy winter exercise and is a great way to meet new friends! Learn to ski or brush-up on your skills with our experienced ski trip leaders. Join us for an introductory lesson from 6:30 to 7:00 pm and/or for an evening of ski touring from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Warm-up afterwards at a local bistro or diner. Trips go if there's snow! Please call no later than 8 PM Monday evening to reserve.

Thurs. Eve. Dec. 15 -- North Park Evening Nordic Skiing (lessons and moonlight woodlands tour). Bring your own sled (or use one of our tubes) or cross-country skis (or use ours), and something hot to drink for these fun evening events. Help us build a snow castle! Trips go if there's snow! Join us for an evening of sledding and skiing for the young & young-at-heart. We'll meet at North Park wherever the snow is best, and sled or ski from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, and if you want to learn to ski, or brush-up on your skills, join us for a lesson and special beginner ski tour with our experienced ski trip leaders. Nordic skiing provides healthy winter exercise, and is a great way to meet new friends.

Sat. Dec. 17 -- Laurel Mountain Cross-Country Skiing. Pre-tour lesson offered. Forbes State Forest: learn cross-country Nordic skiing; then try our favorite trails while enjoying the deep snow and winter wonderland scenery at Laurel Mountain. Beginner and more experienced in-track skiers often prefer the un-groomed trails here, and there's no worry about being run over by the faster skiers. Meet at 10:30 am if you want a lesson. More experienced skiers can join us for ski touring on intermediate trails at 10:45 AM or after lunch at 12:45 PM. Trips will go if there's snow - and there usually is! Continue the companionship with dinner at our favorite local restaurants following skiing.

Sat. Dec. 17 -- Winter Solstice Warm-Up Paddle at Fisherman's cove. On this six-mile flatwater trip along the upper Allegheny, we will do some hiking, explore a river island and stop for lunch in Clear Creek State Forest. The "warm-up" is a lunchtime campfire with hot soup & sandwiches and tales from last year's paddling adventures. We'll be serving hot Rueben sandwiches, tomato soup & hot coffee, or you may bring your own lunch.

Tues. Eve. Dec. 20 -- Citiparks Evening Nordic Skiing in Schenley Park. Pre-tour lesson offered. Nordic skiing provides healthy winter exercise and is a great way to meet new friends! Learn to ski or brush-up on your skills with our experienced ski trip leaders. Join us for an introductory lesson from 6:30-7 pm and/or for an evening of ski touring from 7:-8 pm. Warm-up afterwards at a local bistro or diner. Trips go if there's snow! Call no later than 8 PM Monday to reserve.

Fri. Afternoon/Eve. Dec. 23 -- Hartwood Ski And Lights.

Sun. Afternoons January 15, 22, 29, Feb. 12, 19, March 5, 19, 26. -- Winter Indoor Kayak Pool Classes at U. of Pittsburgh (through Outside Adventures). Sea-kayaks & whitewater kayaks available.

Tues. Eve. Jan. 3 -- Citiparks Evening Nordic Skiing in Frick Park. Pre-tour lesson offered.

Thurs. Eve. Jan. 5 -- North Park Evening Nordic Skiing (lessons and moonlight woodlands tour).

Sat. Jan. 7 -- Laurel Mountain Cross-Country Skiing. Pre-tour lesson offered.

Tues. Eve. Jan. 10 -- Citiparks Evening Nordic Skiing - Schenley Park. Pre-tour lesson offered.

Thurs. Eve. Jan. 12 -- North Park Evening Nordic Skiing (lessons and moonlight woodlands tour).

Sat. Jan. 16 -- Laurel Ridge Cross-Country Skiing. Pre-tour lesson offered.

Tues. Eve. Jan. 17 -- Citiparks Evening Nordic Skiing in Frick Park. Pre-tour lesson offered.

Thurs. Eve. Jan. 19 -- North Park Evening Nordic Skiing (lessons and moonlight woodlands tour).

Tues. Eve. Jan. 24 -- Citiparks Evening Nordic Skiing in Schenley Park. Pre-tour lesson offered.

Thurs. Eve. Jan. 26 -- North Park Evening Nordic Skiing (lessons and moonlight woodlands tour).

Sat. Jan. 28 -- Laurel Mountain Cross-Country Skiing. Pre-tour lesson offered.

Tues. Eve. Jan. 31 -- Citiparks Evening Nordic Skiing in Frick Park. Pre-tour lesson offered.

Thurs. Eve. Feb. 2 -- North Park Evening Nordic Skiing (Lessons And Moonlight Woodlands Tour).

Tues. Eve. Feb. 7 -- Citiparks Evening Nordic Skiing in Schenley Park. Pre-tour lesson offered.

Thurs. Eve. Feb. 9 -- North Park Evening Nordic Skiing (lessons and moonlight woodlands tour).

Sat. Feb. 11 -- Laurel Mountain Cross-Country Skiing. Pre-tour lesson offered.

Tues. Eve. Feb. 14 -- Citiparks Evening Nordic Skiing in Frick Park. Pre-tour lesson offered.

Thurs. Eve. Feb. 16 -- North Park Evening Nordic Skiing (Lessons And Moonlight Woodlands Tour).

Sat. Feb. 18 -- Laurel Ridge Cross-Country Skiing. Pre-

tour lesson offered.

Tues. Eve. Feb. 21 -- Citiparks Evening Nordic Skiing in Schenley Park. Pre-tour lesson offered.

Thurs. Eve. Feb. 23 -- North Park Evening Nordic Skiing (Lessons And Moonlight Woodlands Tour).

Tues. Eve. March 7 -- Citiparks Evening Nordic Skiing in Frick Park. Pre-tour lesson offered.

Thurs. Eve. March 9 -- North Park Evening Nordic Skiing (lessons and moonlight woodlands tour).

Sat. March 11 -- Laurel Mountain Cross-Country Skiing. Pre-tour lesson offered.

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 WPFI 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.

Pennsylvania State Parks
Reservations & Information

Call Toll Free
1-888-PA-PARKS

Reserve up to 11 months in advance
Cabins - Pavilions - Camping

Mastercard www.dcnr.state.pa.us Visa

Baker Trail/Rachel Carson Trail Resources

Rachel Carson Trail website: www.rachelcarsontrail.org; **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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