

Golden Triangle

VOLUME 59, NUMBER 1

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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.

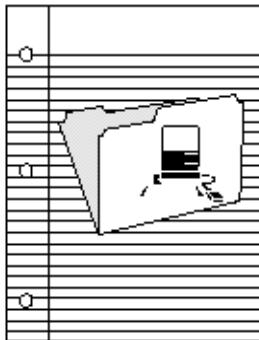
AYH was always a down-to-earth, low-budget operation that attracted people of like mind. Its headquarters/ meeting room was a former Mellon estate chicken coop built on the property line with the Marshal mansion (now Arts Center), apparently as a result of some sort of feud. Outings had always been profitable, 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 2008

Number 1 issue ->December/January/February

Number 2 issue ->March/April/May

Number 3 issue ->June/July/August

Number 4 issue ->September/October/November

Editor...

Triangle Staff

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NOTICE

Please note the deadlines for
future issues of the
GOLDEN TRIANGLE

MAR-APR-MAY ISSUE
All copy, Feb 4

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 Winter 2009

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

- December 3** Visit Old Economy Village and Restaurant with Sue Sebolt- \$6.00 admission. Guided tour-412-563-6987.
- December 10** We will be touring the Cathedral of Learning Classrooms which are decorated for the holidays. Ramble with Earl McCabe. 412-761-1844
- December 17** Christmas Party at home of Genevieve Mann. Hike around Highland Park Reservoir with Martha Raak. More details to be announced. Genevieve Mann, 412-661-5947. Martha Raak, 412-802-7266.
- December 24** Mystery Hike with Margaret Laske, 412-421-5219
- December 31** Mystery Hike with Margaret Laske, 412-421-5219

JANUARY

- January 7** Art Walk on Ellsworth Avenue. Lunch at Elbow Room. Margaret Laske 412-421-5219
- January 14** 5 Star Trail in Greensburg. Lunch at Restaurant. Ed Appleby. 724-834--5077.
- January 21** Hike in Frick Park. Alan Schick. 412-421-3196
- January 28** Tour of Carnegie Mellon University and new Posner Library-Catherine Harper. Eating at Gingers in Kepper Business School. Walk from Phipps or Bus. 412-621-1230 and cell-412-389-1118.

FEBRUARY

- February 4** Ed Divers- River Path Trail from 43 Street in Lawrenceville towards Strip District Loop. 412-828-5154.
- February 11** Dan and Sue Sebolt-Special Tour of Pittsburgh History and Landmarks. Paid guided tour. 412-563-6987..
- February 18** Martha Raak- Chatham College. Lunch at Café at Chatham. 412-802-7266.
- February 25** Dan and Sue Sebolt-TBA-412-563-6987.

Rambles begin at 10:00 AM . Meet at the parking lot of Phipps Garden Center on Shady Avenue at the corner of 5th Avenue. Carpooling is encouraged. Please pay driver about .07/mile. Picnic lunch if weather permits, otherwise go to a restaurant. Call leader if you plan to meet at trailhead. For information call Mark Le Schack at 412-271-7950 or Coordinator Billie Woodland 412-886-1603, cell phone 412-889-7048.

~~Trip changes will also be noted at hipittsburgh.org~~



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 29, 2008 - March 29, 2009

* Suggested carpool fee: 7 cents/ passenger-mile + a share of tolls.

* All trips begin and end at the trailhead. Carpooling is your choice - not part of the trip.

* (Unless stated, car-miles are one-way from Monroeville.)

* For more up-to-date listings and revisions, visit <http://www.alleghenysc.org/>

* E-mail subscriptions are free. Contact Dianne Ciccarelli at Dianne.ciccarelli@hotmail.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.

NOTE: 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.

Sat. Nov. 29 ~ Do an easy 7 mile loop hike in the Freeport area through Baghdad. Part of the hike is on the Baker Trail. Meet at 10 AM at Bob Evans Restaurant in Harmarville. (\$3.00 carpool - 20 miles) Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154.

Sat. Nov. 29 ~ Do a 14-mile shuttle hike from the northernmost LHHT trailhead to the New Florence Gamelands Parking lot. Meet at Duff Park near Murrysville at 8:AM or New Florence Gamelands parking lot at about 9:30. We'll leave some cars at New Florence and shuttle to the LHHT trailhead at Seward. The hike is very hilly and rocky in spots. We should be back to the parking lot about 4:30. You should be in fairly good condition for this outing. (\$8.75 carpool - 60 miles from Duff Park including 10 miles shuttle) Call or email Dave Mottorn 724-327-7582 dpmottorn@windstream.net. A stop at the new Clem's for barbecue is an option.

Sun. Dec. 7 ~ Do an 8-mile loop hike in the Schenley Area near Freeport. Meet at 10 AM at Bob Evans Restaurant in Harmarville. (\$3.50 carpool - 25 miles) Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154.

Sun. Dec. 7 ~ Hike - moderately strenuous and somewhat exploratory - in the large west side of Raccoon Creek State Park. The route includes historic Frankfort Mineral Springs and its large icicle formations, beaver activity along Traverse Creek, and the beautiful valley of Little Service Run. (\$4.25 carpool - 30 miles from Shadyside) Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567.

Fri.-Sun. Dec. 12-14 ~ Fourth Annual Winter Warm-Up. Enjoy an 18-mile backpack on Laurel Highlands Trail. Due to the active hunting season a minimum 200 square inches of blaze orange will be required. Some hats and vests can be provided. This is a good trip for those wishing to make a go at winter backpacking. The difficulty of the route will depend on the amount of snow present. Plan on 0-12 inches of snow. There are a couple moderate to challenging climbs on the second day also - depending upon your level of preparation. Be prepared! We will utilize available shelters with 4-person occupancy (with winter gear). This year we will start and end at Ohiopyle by utilizing a paid shuttle service. We will rally at the Falls Tavern before the shuttle and after the hike for a meal (around 1 PM Sunday). Estimated cost of the shuttle (per person) is \$10-\$15 depending upon the number of participants. There is also a \$3.50 per-night per-person fee for PA residents in the shelter areas. We will depart the Murrysville Park-N-Ride at 5:PM on Friday and return by 6:PM on Sunday. (\$10 carpool - 61 miles from Murrysville to Ohiopyle). Call Patrick Roberts, 412-596-3566. (Trip filled - 20 people).

Sun. Dec. 14 ~ Hike 8 miles on the Rachel Carson Trail in our "Almost-the-Winter-Solstice Quarter Challenge" starting in Harrison Hills County Park at the geographic terminus of the trail and then looping back along the Allegheny bluffs and through Harrison Hills. Across the highway we'll go by the thoroughbred horse farm, the ATV park, and down and up

dreaded Burtner Hill, finishing at Bull Creek. Expect pre-winter temps and muddy trails. This fast-paced hike will begin at sunrise (7:54 AM) and end as soon as possible. (\$1.50 carpool - 10 miles from Harmarville) Call Jim at 412.576.0849 for more information and reservations.

Sun. Dec. 21 ~ Hike an easy 3 miles in Audubon's Todd Sanctuary and another easy 3 miles in Audubon's Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve. An optional tour of the lighting display in Hartwood Acres County Park will follow the hikes. (\$4.25 carpool - 30 miles from Harmarville) Call John Dern, 412-856-4642.

Thurs. Jan. 1 ~ New Year's Day hike. Start at Washington's Landing and take Three Rivers Heritage Trail to PNC Park. Return on south side of Allegheny River to the 16th Street Bridge and back to the start (6 miles total). Start: 11AM at the northeast (upstream) end of Herr's Island/Washington's Landing by the Tennis Courts. Explore ahead of time and find this trailhead. We will leave it by 11:10 AM, so you have to find it before then! The walk takes about three hours. Call Don Gibbon, 412-362-8451.

Sun. Jan. 11 ~ Enjoy the ski-touring trails of Boyce Park between Monroeville and Plum. We will hike the same trails if snow conditions are not good. Start and end at the downhill ski-lodge. We will cover about 6 miles of fairly easy trails. Call John Dern, 412-856-4642.

Sat. Jan. 17 ~ Ski-touring (easy intermediate) in the popular Laurel Mountain Area just south of US30. Warming hut, lots of scenic trails. Meet at 10 AM at McDonalds on US 30 in Latrobe or inquire about a carpool from Monroeville. (\$8.50 carpool - 57 miles from Monroeville) Call Diane Neely, 724-459-3012.

Sat. Jan. 17 ~ Easy 7-mile shuttle hike from Harrison Hills County Park to Little Buffalo Creek. Part of the route will be on the Freeport-Butler Bike Trail. Meet at 10 AM at Bob Evans Restaurant in Harmarville. (\$1.40 carpool - 10 miles) Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154.

Sun. Jan. 25 ~ Easy intermediate 6 mile hike on Deer Lakes Park. (\$1 carpool - 4 miles from Harmarville) Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519.

Fri.-Sun, Jan. 30- Feb.1 ~ Enjoy the umteenth annual ski-touring weekend in Canaan Valley State Park, Blackwater Falls State Park, Whitegrass and Canaan Mountain. Intermediate. 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 whenever convenient on Friday. Limit: 16. (\$22.00 carpool-150 miles) Call Monika Dalrymple, 724-863-4163.

Sun. Feb. 1 ~ Hike about 6 miles in and out on the upper Indian Creek Valley Trail starting at Champion Pa. If snow conditions are good on the top of Laurel Ridge we will go ski-touring at Laurel Ridge State Park on Rt. 653. (\$7.25 carpool - 41 miles) Call Donna Allen, 412-372-2993.

Sun. Feb. 8 ~ Easy intermediate ski-touring at Laurel Ridge State Park on Rt. 653. We will hike if snow conditions are not good. Groomed trails. Rentals available. Trail fee required. Two warming huts. Possible views of the US Steel Building on a clear day. (\$10 carpool - 60 miles) Call John Dern, 412-856-4642.

Sun. Feb. 8 ~ Hike an Intermediate 7-8 miles in Harrison Hills County Park. (\$1.40 carpool - 10 miles from Harmarville) Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519.

Sat. Feb. 15 ~ Try ski-touring in the Laurel Mountain area just south of US30. Intermediate. Meet in Edgewood. (\$9.25 carpool - 63 miles) Call Norm Snyder, 412-351-4068.

Sat. Feb. 21 ~ Try an easy-intermediate ski-touring trip in the Laurel Mountain area off US 30. There is a warming hut there but no trail fee or groomed trails. Meet at 10 AM at McDonalds on US30 in Latrobe - or inquire about a Monroeville carpool. (\$8.50 carpool - 57 miles from Monroeville) Call Diane Neely, 724-459-3012.

Sat. or Sun. Feb. 28 or March 1 ~ Ski touring, easy intermediate, in the Laurel Mountain area just south of US30 or in the Laurel Ridge State Park area on Rt. 653 depending on snow conditions. Both areas have warming huts. Meet in Monroeville at 9 AM. Be back in late afternoon. Call Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737.

Sun. Mar. 15 ~ Hike an intermediate 7.5 mile loop around the perimeter in North Park. (\$5 carpool - 18 miles from

(Continued on page 5)

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Shadyside) Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519.

Sun. Mar. 22 ~ Easy intermediate 8-mile hike in Duff Park (overlooking Murrysville) partly along Turtle Creek. Some 200-year-old trees; among the best example of mixed mesophytic forest in the region. Then finish the 8 miles in fairly new (and not quite finished) Pleasant Valley Park near Murrysville. (Meet in the Duff Park parking lot) Call John Dern, 412-856-4642.

Sat. Mar. 28 ~ Try an easy 7-mile loop hike past Casparis Cave and Foley's pond near Connellsville. Meet at 10 AM at Gateway Middle School in Monroeville. (\$6.50 carpool - 40 miles) Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154.

Sun. Mar. 29 ~ Hike - moderately strenuous and somewhat exploratory - A loop hike in Beaver Creek State Park on scenic Little Beaver Creek near Fredericktown, including sections of the national North Country Trail. Well-preserved canal locks. (\$7.50 carpool - 50 miles from Shadyside) Call Dick Pratt, 412-362-5567.

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 4/1/09 - 6/30/09 should contact Bruce Sundquist at 724-327-8737 or bsundquist1@alltel.net by 3/15/09.

ALLEGHENY GROUP MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings of Allegheny Group are usually 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 half-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 and refreshments concludes the meeting. Vacate the building by 10 PM.

Wed. Dec. 10 ~ Come to our Annual Members' Slide Show with the inimitable Luc Berger and many others, plus holiday goodies. This year we will have music also. To be held at Phipps Garden Center on Shady Avenue behind the Scaife Unit of the Arts Center.

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, call 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

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 Fern Hollow Nature Center, 1901 Glen Mitchell Road, Sewickley, PA 15143 (412-741-6136) http://www.fernhollownaturecenter.org

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.

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 pyle State Park. Covered in this guide are the foot trails of the following public lands in the Laurel Highlands:

Table with 2 columns: Land Name, Area (sq. miles). Includes State Parks (Ohiopyle Park, Laurel Ridge, Coopers Rock, Blue Knob, Laurel Hill, Linn Run, Kooser) and State Forests (Forbes, Gallitzin).

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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.

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

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 Thursday at 7 PM (except June-August) at Fern Hollow Nature Center, 1901 Glen Mitchell Road, Sewickley, PA 15143 (412)741-6136 <http://www.fernhollownaturecenter.org> Contact Chuck Tague, 412-488-8760 or 432 Olympia Road, Pittsburgh 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 mousemapper@verizon.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 2006**

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

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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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