

# Golden Triangle

VOLUME 60, NUMBER 3

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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.

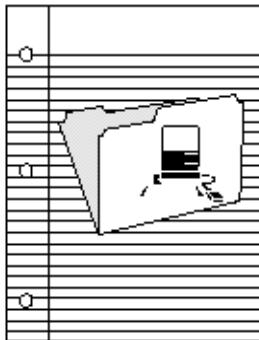
AYH was always a down-to-earth, low-budget operation that attracted people of like mind. Its headquarters/ meeting room was a former Mellon estate chicken coop built on the property line with the Marshal mansion (now Arts Center), apparently as a result of some sort of feud. Outings had always been profitable, 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 2010

**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**  
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## NOTICE

Please note the deadlines for  
future issues of the  
GOLDEN TRIANGLE

**OCT-NOV-DEC ISSUE**  
All copy, Sep 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 [charljonz@excite.com](mailto:charljonz@excite.com) or (412)766-4036 or Annie Jones at (412) 303-1793. Please call before 10 o'clock at night. <http://www.wpfi.org/>

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



## BICYCLING

### IMPROMPTU BICYCLE RIDES EMAIL LIST

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

If you would like to get on our bike email list our address is:  
[letsbikenow-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto: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 Summer 2010

### July

**July 7**      Ed and Pat Appleby: 724-834-5077

**July 14**      Ed Divers: 412-828-5154

**July 21**      Highland Park - an area that's being planned to be renovated (not park property, but adjacent to it and important to everyone using this area for recreation). Bag lunch at Gen's house, she will provide drinks and cookies. Genevieve Mann: 412-661-5947

**July 28**      Joan Roof: 412-496-4925

### August

**Aug 4**      Patty Hopkinson: 412-781-9388

**Aug 11**      Joel Platt: 412-521-5244

**Aug 18**      Janet Hartz: 412-889-7561

**Aug 25**      White Oak. Bill Lawrence: 412-922-3951

### September

**Sep 1**      Tour of Divine Providence/LaRoche College. Shirley Dougherty: 412-366-1192

**Sep 8**      Sue and Dan Sebolt: 412-563-6987

**Sep 15**      Mickey Dillman: 412-247-0220

**Sep 22**      Keystone Lake, Bag lunch (if the weather is nice).  
 Judy and Jim Stark: 412-363-0462

**Sep 29**      Judy Kosslow: 724-327-8707 and Genie Walko:  
 412-414-6036

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](http://hipittsburgh.org)



## HIKING/BACKPACKING/TRAILS

### ALLEGHENY GROUP ~ SIERRA CLUB ~ OUTINGS ~ June 19, 2010 – October 16, 2010

\* 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](mailto: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.

**Sat. June 19** ~ Come on the first of three DCNR trail-maintenance trips of the summer-fall season. On this trip we will be working on the trails and warming hut facilities on Laurel Mountain off US30. Usually about 20 outdoor groups join these trips. We usually quit around 3 PM. DCNR has been experiencing severe budget cuts in recent years. So keeping its trail system in good order is a difficult task without the help of trail users in these difficult times. Contact Dave Mottorn 724-327-7582 ([dpmottorn@windstream.net](mailto:dpmottorn@windstream.net)). We usually meet at the Duff Park parking lot in Murrysville to form carpools.

**Sun. June 20** ~ Come on a 12-mile loop hike that visits Frick Park, Schenley Park, and Homewood Cemetery with its outside garden and the graves of lots of notables in Pittsburgh's history. Meet at the trailhead - the parking lot of the Frick Park Tennis Courts on south Braddock Avenue just south of Forbes. Call John Dern, 412-856-4642.

**Sun. July 11** ~ The Quebec Run defacto wild area of Forbes State Forest on Chestnut Ridge is one of the most popular areas for hiking and backpacking in southwestern Pa. Its many clean, clear mountain streams, mature forests and excellent trail system are some of the attractions. Five portals with parking lots are located along the rim of the area. In early July the area offers a special bonus for visitors. Many of the lower walls of the deep, steep-walled stream valleys are blanketed with dense thickets of rhododendron - in full bloom. The streams and the shade often offer a fairly cool walk even in July. On this trip we will cover a loop 9.3 miles long that attempts to cover most (but not all) of the streamside trails through the more colorful displays of rhododendrons. (We will miss the display along Long Run.) The trails offer fairly easy, mostly streamside walking, with only two significant hills. We may stop at the remains of an ancient grist mill and its aqueduct. If the group is a bit slow, or the temperature is higher than expected, we can take a few shortcuts. Those who like backpacking will be able to check out all the best streamside campsites. \$10 recommended carpool fee - 65 miles from Monroeville. Meet at Gateway Middle School in Monroeville at 8 AM. Contact Bruce Sundquist at 724-327-8737 or [bsundquist1@windstream.net](mailto:bsundquist1@windstream.net). This will be a joint Allegheny Group - Meetup trip. Limit: 20. Those interested could stop at Valley Dairy (a Connellsville restaurant) for a snack or supper.

**Sat. July 31** ~ This 8-mile loop hike in North Park starts at Beaver Shelter on Babcock Blvd. and loops through all the lands south of Ingomar Rd and Wildwood Road. This includes a 2-mile section of the infamous Rachel Carson Trail as it winds its way up an unnamed tributary of Pine Creek, into the Hemlocks, across South Ridge and West Ridge. We'll also see the Pine Creek Spillway, the "Indian Caves", and maybe the old Wildwood downhill ski area. Lots of lunch spots, lots of rest rooms. Most of the hike is shaded under the tree canopy. Call Jim Ritchie at 412.576.0849 for more information, reservations, or directions to the meeting spot. More information is available at the Pittsburgh Hiking Meetup Group at [Meetup.com](http://Meetup.com).

**Sat. July 31** ~ Come on the second of three DCNR trail maintenance trips of the summer-fall season. On this trip we will be working on the trails of Roaring Run Natural Area and the North Woods XC ski area. Usually about 20 outdoor groups join these trips. We usually quit around 3 PM. DCNR has been experiencing severe budget cuts in recent years. So keeping its trail system in good order is a difficult task without the help of trail users in these difficult times. Contact Dave Mottorn 724-327-7582 ([dpmottorn@windstream.net](mailto:dpmottorn@windstream.net)). We usually meet at the Duff Park parking lot in Murrysville to form carpools.

**Sun. Aug. 29** ~ Come with us as we enter Roaring Run Natural Area by the almost-forgotten Pike Run entrance. Fight your way up the North Loop to the top of Painter Rock Hill. Last year, we saw a rattlesnake at Painter Rock. Explore vistas and rocks on the western slopes of Laurel Ridge. This is an 8-mile loop hike exploring Roaring Run This is a moderately-paced hike with frequent one-minute stops, not a race; we will stop to sniff the rocks, view the views, and eat anything edible we find in the woods. If everyone's feeling frisky, we may bushwack down the ridge on some abandoned logging roads to Roaring Run. Plan to stay together as a group, no hikers left behind. Intermediate difficulty, may be hot - bring 2 quarts of water. I don't expect to see any mud. It's hilly at Roaring Run so bring your lungs. We will meet at 9 AM at Gateway Middle School in Monroeville; call Jim for further details at 412.576.0849. More information is available at the Pittsburgh Hiking Meetup Group at [Meetup.com](http://Meetup.com).

**Sat. Sept. 4 to Mon. Sept. 6** ~ Backpacking on Dolly Sods North, the higher, more open, more scenic portion of Allegheny Front than Dolly Sods Wilderness that is just to the south. We will do only about 16 miles over the three days to allow for exploring, sight-seeing and blueberry picking. This is meant to be a fairly leisurely trip, but even then, the area is no place for beginners. So prior backpacking experience is required. We will be on, or close to, the Eastern Continental Divide for the first day of the trip and about half the second day. The trailhead on Day 1 is in the parking lot serving Bear Rocks. We will start with lunch atop Bear Rocks with its views over numerous ridges to the east. We start out on Bear Rocks trail through high, open, country with plenty of blueberries plus an area of cranberries. We turn onto Raven Ridge Trail and take it to our campsite that is well hidden just off the trail in a spruce grove at a high point of Raven Ridge. This Raven Ridge campsite offers views of Allegheny Front to the east (including Bear Rocks) and Cabin Mountain to the West. These mark the eastern rim and western rim of the huge bowl that defines the Dolly Sods area. The campsite also provides broad views of the headwaters of Red Creek to the east, and Left Fork of Red Creek to the west. There are few better areas in the mid-Atlantic states for star-gazing that this campsite. On Day 2 we take Rocky Ridge Trail along the crest of Cabin Mountain. It offers broad vistas of Canaan Valley and the drainage of the Left Fork of Red Creek. It is one of the most outstanding trails in Dolly Sods North. We then drop down to cross Left Fork and proceed to the Forks of Red Creek and the most popular campsite area in Dolly Sods Wilderness. A huge natural water slide, many waterfalls and several swimming holes are some attractions. On the second night of a three-day weekend the crowds have shrunk to insignificance. On Day 3 we return to the cars via Red Creek Trail, Blackbird Knob Trail, Upper Red Creek Trail, Dobbins Grade Trail and Bear Rocks Trail. Lunch will again be on Bear Rocks. Weather (even summer weather) on this high part of the Eastern Continental Divide can be severe. We need to be cautious. Recent years have seen more bear warnings (bears invading campsites) but, with a sizeable group, this should be no problem. Limit: 10. If you want to learn more about this outstanding area, read pages 185 to 200 of Edition 8 of Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide put out by the West Va. Highlands Conservancy as a paperback or as a CD. Visit <http://www.wvhighlands.org>. \$25 carpool - 145 miles from Monroeville. Contact Bruce Sundquist at 724-327-8737 or [bsundquist1@windstream.net](mailto:bsundquist1@windstream.net). A detailed trip sheet plus road directions plus topo maps will be provided. Depart Monroeville at 7 AM Saturday; return about 6 or 7 PM Monday (depending on whether we stop for supper).

**Sun. Sept. 19** ~ Cycle the Ghost Town Trail from Dilltown to Blacklick and return. (About 24 miles round trip). We will see an

(Continued on page 5)

*(Continued from page 4)*

old iron furnace on that section of trail. Ghost Town Trail is being extended in both directions. \$7.00 carpool + \$2/ bike carried, 50 miles. Meet at Gateway Middle School at 9 AM. Call Donna Allen, 412-372-2993.

**Sun. Sept. 26** ~ We will be hiking an 8-mile loop in the Mountain Streams area of Laurel Ridge. We will start on the eastern corner of the loop along Tunnel Road and ease our way down the hog-back to Indian Creek. This is abandoned trail so you may expect to climb over fallen trees and through high grass. This is a new route discovered on our hike here last year. We'll return by way of rough trail along the edge of a clear cut area looking for the opportunity to bushwack using map and compass back up to a high trail running parallel to our current route. This may involve a damp, if not wet, crossing of Little Run. We will have next to the babbling Indian Creek before we will make the long slow climb out of the valley and back to our cars - an outstanding cardiovascular workout. Summer's over, this is fall so temps should be pleasant and the trails should be dry, unless there is a lot of rain before the hike. Call Jim Ritchie at 412.576.0849 for more information, reservations, or directions to the meeting spot. More information is available at the Pittsburgh Hiking Meetup Group at Meetup.com.

**Sat. Oct. 16** ~ Come on the third of three DCNR trail maintenance trips of the summer-fall season. On this trip we will be working on the trails of the Laurel Mountain area off US 30. Usually about 20 outdoor groups join these trips. We usually quit around 3 PM. After that we will have a fall picnic (catered). DCNR has been experiencing severe budget cuts in recent years. So keeping its trail system in good order is a difficult task without the help of trail users in these difficult times. Contact Dave Mottorn 724-327-7582 (dpmottorn@windstream.net). We usually meet at the Duff Park parking lot in Murrysville to form carpools.

**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 1/1/10 - 3/31/10 should contact Bruce Sundquist at 724-327-8737 orbsundquist1@windstream.net by 12/15/10.



**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](mailto: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](http://www.morainesailingclub.org) or contact Chris Neuwirth 412-441-5590, email to: [cmn@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:cmn@andrew.cmu.edu)

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA FIELD INSTITUTE -- TRIPS**

For information on WPMI events, contact Sean Brady [sbrady@wpfi.org](mailto: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](http://www.outsideadventures.org) or [www.outsideadventures@Yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://www.morainesailingclub.org). Big boat sailors may want to check out the Erie Yacht Club: [www.erieyachtclub.org](http://www.erieyachtclub.org) or the Erie Bayfront Center for Marine studies: [www.goerie.com/bcms](http://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](mailto:missionmorain@zoominternet.net)

The 6<sup>th</sup> 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/](http://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

Mastercard www.dcnr.state.pa.us Visa

**Baker Trail/Rachel Carson Trail Resources**


- Rachel Carson Trail website:** [www.rachelcarsontrail.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.rachelcarsontrail.com).

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