

THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

VOLUME 1 ***** SPRING 1990 ***** ISSUE #1

WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

The Montour Trail-Letter will be published quarterly in the spring, summer, fall, and winter. Special editions may be printed if conditions warrant. The editor is Dennis Sims. Any questions, suggestions regarding this publication on how to improve it, can be forwarded to him. His phone number is 257-2553.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ENDORSE COUNCIL

With the PUC hearings coming up in March and April regarding the abolition of certain road-rail crossings, it was felt that some political pressure could aid our cause. Dick Wilson, Legal Affairs Chairman, drafted a letter to be signed by the Allegheny County Commissioners. This letter shows the support of the Montour Trail Council by the Commissioners and asks the PUC to keep the MTC in mind when they make their decisions. The letter has been signed by the three commissioners and sent to the Public Utility Commission in Harrisburg.

PUC HEARINGS

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission has set March 6 and March 7 as hearing dates at the State Office Building in downtown Pittsburgh for the possible abolition of various Montour rail-highway crossings in Allegheny County, and April 16 and 17 for the same in Washington County. These crossings are at grade, below grade and above grade. The Montour Trail Council would like to keep the below and above grade crossings intact where bridges are structurally sound and pose no traffic hazards. The less trail-road at grade crossings will make for a safer trail. Stan Sattinger, President of MTC has provided testimony on behalf of the MTC on this matter.

GROUP CONTACTS COMMITTEE NEEDS HELP

Tim Killmeyer is seeking help for his contact committee. This committee is responsible for seeking out groups in the communities that the trail intersects who may be interested in joining our coalition to support The Montour Trail. These groups may include little league baseball, service organizations (Kiwanis, Lions Club, etc), gyms, or any group that could use the trail. The MTC would like to make our presentation to these interested groups to gain their support.

He needs lead contact people in the following communities, Moon Township /Coraopolis, Bethel Park, Jefferson Boro, South Park Township, and the City of Clairton. The contact person will seek out the above type of groups in those named communities and report back to the committee with names of people and times they can see and hear our spiel. **Please call Tim if you can help at 787-1472.**

SPECIAL EVENTS COMING-UP

It will be important to support other groups that may support us. Over the next few months we will be making our presence known. Our members will be helping out the Pennsylvania chapter of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy at the Pittsburgh Outdoors Travel Expo February 28 to March 4 at the Convention Center. We will be there to assist RTC in spreading the word of RTC to Western Pennsylvania. Earth Day celebration at Point State Park on April 22 will be attended by our members. Future events that we may be making ourselves present would be the Pittsburgh Marathon, May 6; the Great Ride on June 3. Be on the look-out for local events such as firemen's carnivals and local celebrations that we could attend to gain the all important grass-roots support.

Our first Fund-Raiser is tentatively scheduled for June 9th. This would be a walk-a-thon centered around Arrowhead Trail in Peters Township. This event would be for our MTC and local RTC members. Further details as they come-about.

RTC WORKSHOP

The Montour Trail Council has been asked by Pennsylvania RTC to assist them in setting-up the annual workshop in the western Pennsylvania area. The workshop will be scheduled for a weekend this October. Some of the activities to be explored would be trips to the Arrowhead Trail in Peters and to the trail along the Youghiogheny River. Some assistance may be provided by the Yough River Trail Council. Other activities would be speakers from supporting groups and councils about trail building and maintenance. Further details as they come available.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dino Angelici, program chair has announced the following general membership meetings:

Monday, March 29, 1990 at 8:00 pm. Location: Finleyville Moose.

The speaker will be Jennifer Bearfoot of the Blair County Chapter of RTC who will talk about developing a rails to trails program in Blair County.

Monday, May 21, 1990. Location: Holy Trinity Church in Robinson Twp. (Allegheny County) Two speakers are currently scheduled. Phil Hodge, who was active in the Illinois Prairie Path and was a key person in building a large bridge on the trail. Gene Schaeffer will speak on the history of the Montour Railroad.

Sunday, July 29, 1990. A family picnic is scheduled for Peterswood Park in Peters Township. This park is adjacent to Arrowhead Trail, so bring your bike and/or walking shoes.

October or November will see the annual business meeting with the election of and board members.

THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL P.O. BOX 11866 PITTSBURGH, PA 15228-0866

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