



THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

VOLUME #4 ISSUE #1

A Bi-monthly publication of the Montour Trail Council

SPRING 1993

TRAIL COUNCIL WILL DRINK A MILLION DOLLAR ISTEAL

by David Wright and Marshall Fausold

State Transportation commission, on January 21, approved the recommendations of the Transportation Advisory Committee for several projects in western Pennsylvania for Federal funding under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). The Montour Trail project was approved for a maximum of \$1,250,000. Of this, 20% or \$250,000 is required to be matched from other sources. An anonymous donor recently approved a \$100,000 challenge grant to the Trail Council. We must now raise an additional \$150,000 to match the full amount of Federal funds available.

Other Allegheny County projects awarded Transportation Enhancements funding include the Youghiogheny River Bikeway (\$280,000), The Allegheny River Trail (\$340,000), the North Hills Bikeway (\$1,060,000) and the Riverwalk at Station Square (\$45,000).

On March 4, Moriah Baker of the PADOT District Office in Greentree, explained that our project, in order to receive Federal funds, must now follow the same procedures as are required for any other Federal highway project. Pat Remy, PADOT environmental officer, predicted that the

environmental approvals alone will take six months to a year.

NEW FEATURES PREMIERE THIS ISSUE

The Trail Council will be adding new features beginning this issue of the Trail-letter. This features are being added to increase the awareness of the reader of trail events and related activities. If you are a non-member reading this issue, we now have included a membership application to make it easier for you to join.

Beginning with this issue, members can place a "want ad" for items of outdoor interest that they may be trying to sell or buy.

Also included will be a map of the Trail showing the communities it will connect and the major highways that intersect the Trail route and regular status updates on various segments.

Finally, a Calendar of Events will be included that you can post in a prominent spot of your home or business. On this calendar will be Montour Trail happenings, plus Western Pennsylvania Wheelmen, AYH, and neighboring Trail group events.

While we take this year to raise additional matching funds and obtain various approvals, we will try to conserve funds for matching by minimizing capital outlays and maximizing donated labor, equipment and construction materials. Findlay Township road crews plan to continue constructing 3.5 miles between the Parkway West and Enlow, where last year they removed over 100 truckloads of loose ballast. Moon Township and Robinson Township, in Allegheny County, have expressed an interest in also having their road crews work on the Trail. They may begin after May 30, when Duquesne Light projects completion of their transmission line along that portion of the Trail. In connection with their project, Duquesne Light has completed constructing new decks and safety railings on two bridges over Montour Run. Although necessary for their purposes, this bridge construction, worth \$47,500, will be used by the Trail.

Browning Ferris Industries last year generously donated the hauling and disposal of 18 dumpsters of trash and old railroad ties in Findlay Township. Major other free help was provided by please see ISTEAL page 4

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL VIPS

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VICE PRESIDENT	DINO ANGELICI
SECRETARY	PETER KOHNKE
TREASURER	JACK SWISHER

(OFFICERS ARE ON INTERIM STATUS)

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TRAIL AREA COORDINATORS/COMMUNITY REPS

AIRPORT VICINITY : TIM KILLMEYER 787 - 1472

Moon	Dennis Pfeiffer	262 - 3748
Robinson	Frank Keppel	859 - 3020
	Steve Schotting	787 - 2079
North Fayette:	Fred Pollastrini	695 - 0134

WASHINGTON COUNTY : JACK SWISHER 221-7708

Cecil	Don Berty	221 - 6406
Peters	Jack McGinnis	941 - 4213

SOUTHERN ALLEGHENY COUNTY: MARSHALL FAUSOLD 531 - 8628

Bethel Park	Diana Blocher	835 - 4677
	Christine Bock	833 - 8069
South Park	Dave Carlson	831 - 8304
Jefferson	Tim Banfield	384 - 3185

NEWSLETTER EDITOR DENNIS SIMS 257 - 2553

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL PHONE NUMBERS

For Information	412 - 831 - 2030
For Administration and Business	412 - 257 - 2328

The Montour Trail-Letter is published bi-monthly by the Montour Trail Council. Deadline to submit copy is the 25th of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

The Trail-Letter is printed through the courtesy of Mail and More in Carnegie with the help of Mark Addlesturger.

ANOTHER BRIDGE IS IN THE TRAIL CONSTRUCTION YARD

The Trail Council has purchased another bridge. This 40 foot bridge once spanned Fishing Creek near New Freeport in southwestern Greene County. The bridge was purchased and shipped to Hendersonville for \$2000. The bridge was cut in half length-wise to make it easier to transport.

Some of the structural members will need some plates welded to them to improve their integrity. A good sand-blasting and paint job by volunteers will finish the job and the bridge can then be put in place when and where needed. Once in place, a new wood deck can then be installed.

Mid-States Steel in Eighty-Four has the Barner Hill Bridge from near Irwin in storage at their headquarters. This bridge, once it is put back together, will find a new home on the trail.

RECENT GIFTS TO TRAIL

MTC appreciates the generosity of the following persons and groups for gifts of \$1000:

The Falk Family Trust
John and Janet Swanson
Ray Weil and Mary Shaw

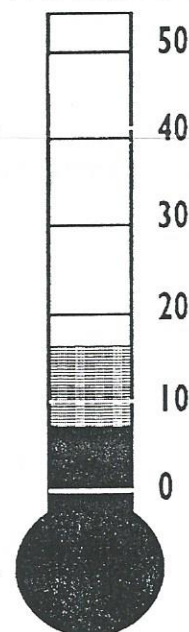
TRAIL PROGRESS



UNDER CONSTRUCTION



COMPLETED



MILES

1ST ANNUAL MONTOUR 100K ROAD RACE

The first running of the Montour 100-kilometer foot-race took place on Saturday, March 6.

Jerry Agin, a member of the Board of Directors of the Montour Trail Council, is a runner who regularly takes part in "ultra" races: trail races with lengths greater than the standard marathon of 26.2 miles. One of his ambitions has been to direct an ultra race along the entire length of the Montour Trail

Tentative plans have been made for an inaugural race in the Spring of 1994. But on the spur of the moment, a decision was made to have a low-key warm-up race a year early.

The idea was little more than a glorified training run. But a committee consisting of Jerry, Ann Ruth, and Sean and Nancy Smith were able to transform it into a real race with T-shirts, manned aid stations, a winner's trophy and engraved awards to every finisher.

With only three weeks' notice, word was sent out to about 80 experienced ultrarunners in Pennsylvania and neighboring states. Response was received from 14. But the day of the race brought snow. The fair-weather runners stayed home, bringing the number of starters down to 6.

One registered runner who didn't start deserves special thanks and condolences. Sean Smith had planned to run the race, but ended up manning an aid station when his wife Nancy got sick and could not run.

The race started at Clairton and ended in Coraopolis. The main line of the trail measures 46 miles. When the Bethel Park, Muse and Westland branches are added, run out and back, the total mileage is about 62 miles or 100 kilometers. Only about 8 miles of the total distance is developed. The rest of the race was run on the undeveloped portions. Road detours led around missing bridges, private property, etc.

Along the way, the runners were met at 8 places by mobile aid stations with water, Exceed, fruit, candy, pretzels, and a kind word. The aid stations were manned by Ann Ruth, Sean Smith, and Joe Morgovich.

The trail turned out to be exceedingly tough. Although the grades are all gentle, the footing can be rough. In various places runners had to contend with ballast gravel, up to two inches of snow, and shoe-sucking mud.

Kevin Courtright and Rick Freeman ran together and took the lead from the start. They were followed by Dan Debusschere, Bill Seiler, and Duane Carter. Jerry Agin ran last, removing the ribbons that served as trail markers as he went. Bill dropped out at mile 6 with digestive problems. Dan had only planned to go half the distance, and dropped after 32 miles, and Rick decided to call it a day at 48 miles. The finishers and their times are as follows:

Kevin Courtright	12:05
Duane Carter	15:26
Jerry Agin	15:26

These hardy souls are to be congratulated for completing every inch of the Montour Trail on foot in one day!

Kevin received a plaque with a mounted railroad spike for his win. Duane and Jerry each received an engraved railroad spike.

Considering the success of this year's race, next year's edition definitely on! It will be designed to track up to one hundred runners. Many of the participants will be experienced ultrarunners from out of town. Local runners who are looking for a challenge beyond the marathon distance will also be encouraged to attempt the Trail.

Next year, more of the Trail will be improved and the run will be easier. As the race becomes an annual affair, each year's times will become faster as the tough sections are smoothed out and surfaced. Until the entire trail is developed, each year's race is almost guaranteed to produce a course record.

MARCH MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF MINE DISASTER

On March 13, 1917 at 6:20 a.m. an explosion occurred in the Henderson #1 Mine in Hendersonville killing 14 miners. Thirty-eight men were in the mine as the night and day shifts were changing. Twenty-four men were rescued or escaped on their own.

Gas had accumulated in an entry face where doors and checks were left open and was then ignited by a mining machine. The violent explosion was spread by dust and gas over a large section of the mine which was 260 feet deep. (information provided by Tim Banfield)

TRAIL COUNCIL TO MEET IN WESTLAND

The next MTC membership meeting will be a joint meeting with the Westland Citizens Group. This group is trying to convert the property of the former Consolidated Coal Company mine to a park. The Westland Branch of the Montour Railroad ends at the mine property. A park at a Trailhead is a natural combination.

The Westland Mine was one of the last mines to be served by the Montour Railroad. The mine was closed in 1983 and its closing brought the end to the Montour Railroad. The Westland Spur runs off the Montour mainline at Gilmore Junction, near the location of Weavertown Transport on PA 50 just west of Mucks Lunch. The spur then runs south-west for 3.5 miles passing through a spectacular cut spanned by Johnston Road before terminating at Westland.

Westland is located on PA Route 519 about midway between Houston and Hickory and can also be reached from PA 50, by turning left about one mile west of Venice by the Cowden Farm. The meeting place will be the UMW Building next to the post office on 519 at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 5, 1993

ISTEA continued from page 1

a Federal Job Corps crew, which, supervised by Allegheny County Department of Special Services and Maintenance Operations, cleared ditches, extended pipes, and constructed streambank protection. The Forest Grove Sportsmen's Association has cleared trash from the Trail between Hassam Road and Beaver Grade Road before Robinson Township cut the brush there.

Dave Wright and Marshall Fausold, assisted by Tim Killmeyer, Bill Morphy and R. Stachel, have surveyed the five miles from Route 51 to Route 60. Preliminary construction drawings and quantity estimates have been prepared and submitted to Moon and Robinson townships for review.

This year there will be major work for Trail Volunteers. If we can scrounge for materials we will rehabilitate a 90-foot bridge over Montour Run and install a new deck and safety railing. Volunteers may also install safety railing on four concrete deck bridges, numerous fences, five new gates, and about 665 linear feet of barrier posts. We are also seeking donation of trash hauling and disposal services.

Yes, I Want To Help Build The Montour Trail

- ☐ I want to spread the word. Send me additional flyers
- ☐ I have written my Legislator and County Commissioners asking them to support the Trail
- ☐ My organization would like to provide a letter of endorsement
- ☐ I know a group interested in a presentation
- ☐ I wish to become a member of the Montour Trail Council (membership is tax deductible):

- | | |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT | \$5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CLUB OR ORGANIZATION | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORTING | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CORPORATE | \$250 |

- ☐ I wish to make a tax deductible contribution of \$_____ to the Montour Trail Council to help make the Montour Trail a reality.

(make your check payable to the Montour Trail Council)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (day time) _____ (Evening) _____

By applying for membership in the Montour Trail Council, I indicate my support of its goals.

Signature _____

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 11866
PITTSBURGH PA 15228-0866
(412) 831 - 2030














A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply registration.

MONTOUR CLASSIFIEDS















Need a way to get your bike to the Montour Trail. Call Tim at 787 - 1472 to buy a **RHODES GEAR BIKE RACK** for rear of car. It is three years old and in good shape. \$35.

RAILROAD TIES - Want a souvenir of the Montour RR for your yard? These ties are no good for construction (walls, etc) but could be used for ornamental edgings, etc. Call Peter 835 - 1835 for more information.

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1  Meets	2	3  Work Detail Hendersonville Shoppes 9:00 A.M.
4	5  Membership meeting at the Westland Miners' Hall	6	7	8  Meets	9  Meets	10  Criders Corner Loop 25 miles meet @ Olympia Grove North Park 9AM 931 - 6651
11 EASTER	12	13	14	15  Meets Mon/Yough Trail Council	16	17  Post-Planting work at the Sportsmen's Club 9 AM 5-6 volunteers needed Spring Janhorse
18  Cecil to Peterwood Park. Meet at Cecil Park on Route 50 at 1:00 PM. 931 - 6651 for info	19  Board Meeting	20	21	22  Meets	23	24 Tree Planting in Cecil on Cecil Ridge of Aral Highlands Trail Grand Opening
25  Peters Twp into South Park Twp on unimproved section. 1:00 p.m. Brush Run Access of Arrowhead Trail. Call Paul McKeown eve at 835 - 6693	26	27	28	29  Meets	30	

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1  Work Detail Moon- Robinson Area 9A.M. Meeting Place TBA
2 Pittsburgh Marathon Volunteers needed to man a water station	3	4	5	6  Meets	7  Meets	8  TOSRV RIDE COLUMBUS OH
9  TOSRV RIDE COLUMBUS OH	10  Board Meeting	11	12	13  Meets	14	15  Work Detail Moon- Robinson Area 9A.M. Meeting Place TBA
16  FRIENDS OF THE RIVERFRONT RIDE	17  Board Meeting	18	19	20  Meets Mon/Yough Trail Council	21	22
23  FRIENDS OF THE RIVERFRONT RIDE	24	25	26	27  Meets	28	29
30  FRIENDS OF THE RIVERFRONT RIDE	31 Memorial Day	<p>THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL BOARD MEETS BETWEEN 6 AND 10 PM AT 441 SMITHFIELD STREET IN THE ALLEGHNEY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT</p> <p>THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA WHEELMEN MEET AT THE ASCENSION CHURCH AT NEVILLE AND ELLSWORTH 8PM</p> <p>AYH MEETS AT 8PM AT THE EQUESTRIAN SHED MELLON PARK 5TH AND SHADY</p> <p>MON-YOUGH TRAIL COUNCIL MEETS AT THE BOSTON VFD 7-10P.M.</p> <p>Call Dino Angelici at 931 - 6651 for more information on any of these events. Leave message and he will get back to you.</p>				



BIKE
RIDE



AYH
EVENT



HIKE



M T C
EVENT



WHEELMEN
EVENT



MYTC
EVENT

THE MONTOUR TRAIL SYSTEM

