

THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL

VOL. V

NO. 1

NEW PRESIDENT PLOTS STRATEGY FOR '94

Jack Swisher, newly elected president of the Montour Trail Council, is well prepared to hit the ground running in his first year in office. Not only did he serve four years as treasurer of the organization, but he was also one of the prime movers in the completion of the Cecil section, as well as foreman (meaning he was often his own boss) for the fabrication and installation of the steel bridge posts in the Moon-Robinson on.

Swisher acknowledges that following in the footsteps of past president Stan Sattinger won't be easy, but he plans to utilize the diverse talents of the other board members

and volunteers to continue increasing the mileage of the trail each year. His biggest concern right now is finding the matching funds for the federal governments ISTEA grants. The trail council has to come up with twenty percent of over one million dollars. Not only that, but it also has to pay for its projects up front in order to be reimbursed the eighty percent from the ISTEA funds. To this end Jack has asked treasurer Nancy Reed to oversee a Fund Development Task Force to address this urgent problem. (see page 5)

Other priorities for Jack include increasing the membership roles and starting up programs to help maintain the trail in sections which have already been built. He says he is grateful that Stan Sattinger is going to stay on as a board member to continue many of the projects which he started as president and to help as advisor during his own term.

One of the toughest jobs Jack will have to handle though, is trying to corral the fifteen to twenty different personalities of board members and guests who show up for the monthly board meetings and turn all that positive energy into a fifty five mile recreational trail.

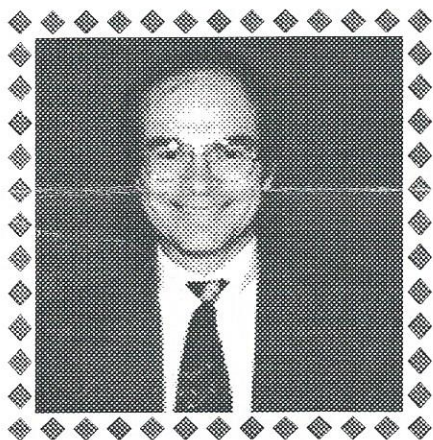
TRAIL-LETTER SPORTS NEW LOOK

Welcome to volume five of the MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER. As he reported in the last edition, Dennis Sims reluctantly resigned as editor of the newsletter due to increased job restraints. Beginning with this issue, I hope to build on the solid foundation Dennis has started in presenting our membership with news and information about the Montour Trail and its prime nurturer, the Montour Trail Council.

Anne Humphreys has kindly volunteered to do some of the writing for the newsletter and I expect many of the board members and trail reps will continue to contribute articles as they have in the past.

Partly because we are using different desktop publishing software (Microsoft Publisher 2.0), and partly because of the age of the old look, we felt it would not hurt to do a little revamping. But the changes are not only cosmetic. There are also changes in content. We hope to add regular features like a volunteer of the month profile and a letters to the editor/question and answer column. Over the next few issues we will be fine tuning the publication, with the hope of increasingly better results. In the meantime I hope you will bear with us until we hit our stride. And don't forget to ask a friend to join, especially if they are regular trail users. Thanks,

Tim Killmeyer
Editor



"OUR LEADER"

INSIDE

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

MEET
JOHN
NEUHAUS
PAGE 4

HUNTERS ON
THE TRAIL,
ARE THEY
ALLOWED?
PAGE 3



JANUARY
M.T.C.
MEMBERS
MEETING.
DETAILS
PAGE
6

NEW
LETTERS
TO THE
EDITOR
FEATURE
PAGE
2

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LETTERS



To THE MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL,

I just wanted to let you know that I feel privileged to have been a small part of the Saturday work crew. I saw the tireless work of many and sometimes the weary few. The work at times was back breaking, with blistered hands, cut fingers and shaking arms, yet the work continued. I observed workers with skin burning from the creosote railroad ties not giving up until the job was done. I know that many of the Saturday crew were there through snow, freezing rain, sweltering heat and sun. Some of the duties were done with a genius of design, some creative maneuvering and plenty of true grit. No job was too dirty, smelly or challenging to be ignored. The dedication was from young and old alike, working side by side with a vision. People with bright minds and glorious spirits. I'm sure the Great Spirit did smile. I am honored to have, in a small way, participated in this project. I look forward to more food for my soul in the spring.

With Appreciation,
Katie Wolf

CALENDAR

January 1994						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JANUARY 17 MTC Board Meeting

Second floor of 441 Smithfield St. across from Kaufmanns. 6:00p.m. All MTC members are welcome to attend. Call Jack Swisher at 221-7708 to get on the agenda.

JANUARY 20 Cecil Friends of the Trail Meeting

Cecil American Legion at 7:30p.m. Call Don Berty at 221-6406 for more information.

JANUARY 31 MTC Membership and Informational Meeting

West Allegheny Middle School at 7:30p.m. We will discuss plans to continue the Findlay section on to North Fayette almost to the Washington County line. Come and see what we have planned for 1994! Call Carole Weldon at 695-2474 for more information.

FEBRUARY 12 Findlay/North Fayette Trail walk

This could be your last chance to see the Findlay/North Fayette section before we start making improvements. We will meet at the end of the improved Findlay section near the ballfield (by the tunnel) at 10:00a.m. Open air transportation will be provided back to the parking area after the walk to the county line. Approximately five miles. Call Fred Pollastrini at 695-0134 for more information.



FEBRUARY 21 MTC Board Meeting—Same time and place as the January meeting.

Cecil Friends of the Trail meeting—Still being planned for the second or third Thursday of February.



ARE HUNTERS ALLOWED ON THE TRAIL? OR, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SEE THIS MAN ON THE TRAIL?

Many trail users were surprised this winter to see men and women in blaze orange clothing traipsing around the trail. But it was not their clothing which stunned them. It was the sight of the guns and rifles laying across their arms. Many had not expected to see this since the rules signs clearly state "NO HUNTING".

The founding fathers of the Montour Trail Council have debated this problem ever since the trail was in its embryonic stages. Some

would have gone as far as to close the trail during hunting season. Most agreed that attempting to ban hunting in areas surrounding the trail would in all likelihood create opponents to the trail at the very time they were trying to rally public support. It was never their intention to change the uses of adjacent land. It was finally decided to add a ban on hunting to the trail rules. This ban refers to the trail proper and does not extend to adjacent land, most of which is the property

others anyway. Hunters are permitted to use the trail to access their usual hunting areas and should carry their weapons in the same manner that is legal on any street in Pennsylvania. Anyone witnessing inappropriate behavior by a hunter on the trail is advised not to confront the offender themselves. All legal hunters wear a back-tag with a number on it. Note the number and report it to the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

HELP WANTED

As the trail becomes greater in length and the organization becomes larger, it is necessary for more people to take on some tasks to make the workload lighter for everyone involved. Please consider this list to see if you or someone you know might be able to spare a little time to make this trail become a reality a little faster. EXPERIENCE NOT NECESSARY.

♦ **Quartermaster/Supply coordinator**— Over the last two building seasons, we have accumulated many tools and building supplies (nails, bolts, lumber, fence posts, etc.). We have storage areas for these things, but we need someone to keep track of them so that we don't over-order and so that the trailblazers know where to find them if they need them. You might also be responsible for finding the best prices and ordering new stock as needed.

♦ **Equipment coordinator/maintainer**— Would work closely with quartermaster in keeping our tractor, chainsaws, portable generators, brush whackers and other equipment in good working condition.

♦ **Public event display coordinator**— Person to keep track of our display booth and all its accouterments. Also

SURE CURES FOR DRUNK DRIVING; A SOBERING THOUGHT

Don't drink and drive—If you think it's gotten tough on drunk drivers in the United States, see how they handle drunk drivers in other countries.

AUSTRALIA—The names of the drivers are sent to the local newspaper and are printed under the heading, "He's drunk and in jail."

MALAYA—The driver is jailed, and if he's married, his wife is jailed too.

TURKEY—Drunk drivers are taken 20 miles from town by the police and are forced to walk back under escort.

NORWAY—Three weeks in jail at hard labor, one year loss of license. Second offense within five years, license revoked for life.

FINLAND and SWEDEN—Automatic jail for one year at hard labor.

COSTA RICA—Police remove plates from car.

RUSSIA—Revoked for life.

ENGLAND—One year suspension, \$250 fine and jail for one year.

FRANCE—Three year loss of license, one year in jail and \$1,000 fine.

POLAND—Jail and fine and forced to attend political lecture.

BULGARIA—A second conviction results in execution.

EL SALVADOR—Your first offense is your last—execution by a firing squad.

Reprinted from the Pittsburgh Typographical Union #7 Newsletter

could help schedule volunteers to man the displays.

♦ **Volunteer coordinator**— Would help us achieve matches between the tasks which need to be accomplished and our list of volunteers who are

waiting to be called.

♦ **Phone chain person**—to help volunteer coordinator

♦ **Carpenter/Cabinetmaker**—to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

MEET JOHN NEUHAUS

John Neuhaus was one of the dedicated volunteers who spent many of his Saturdays this past summer helping to complete the Moon/Robinson section of the trail in time for its October grand opening. John, 47, lives in Greentree with his wife Laima and his two children. His son David, a second year student at Pitt, is working toward a degree in engineering. Michelle is a student at Keystone Oaks High School.

John is an engineer manager for Westinghouse at its Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory.

Besides his volunteer work for the trail, he has been involved with the Boy Scouts of America for 18 years. He is also a

band parent for Keystone Oaks and assists in their annual Christmas tree sale. He is also a coach at the high school for the Odyssey of the Mind science projects and has been a judge at the regional and state competitions for the same. John is on the Facility Advisory Committee at Keystone Oaks helping to oversee their building, reconstruction and renovation programs. He enjoys bicycling, backpacking and canoeing, and plans to do the entire C&O Canal towpath to Washington D.C. with his scout troop this summer. Where does he find time to work on the trail?

Thanks John, see you in the spring!

BRIDGING the GAPS

The Montour Trail Council is currently working to acquire the footbridge at Cooper Power Systems in Canonsburg, which is owned by Frank Sarris of Sarris Candies, so that we can place the 150 foot bridge over Rt. 980 in Washington County near Quicksilver Golf Course. Talks are pending and we will update you with all the details in



NEW BOARD MEMBERS Dick Quasey, Dennis Pfeiffer, Bill Morphy and Tim Banfield. Missing from photo are Don Berty and John Hooton.

PENNDOT TIGHTENS RESTRICTIONS ON ISTEAFUNDING

In a move which has taken the trail council by surprise, Penndot has enlarged their guidelines for organizations applying for federal ISTEAFunds.

ISTEA is the acronym for the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of the Federal Highway Bill. Ten percent of ISTEAFunds is mandated to the Transportation Enhancements Program.

Under the new guidelines, the money, which is allocated by the state transportation departments, cannot be given to organizations like the

The Peters township supervisors have approved a resolution to join our application for ISTEAFunding through Washington County to extend the Arrowhead Trail from Rt. 19 to Chartiers Creek.

Montour Trail Council outright, but must be funneled to the project through a sponsoring municipality. The trail council has held meetings with Washington County, Cecil Township, and Robinson Township (Washington County), to make the request of them to act as corridors for this federal funding. We were approved last year for over one million dollars of ISTEAFunds. This money is allocated in an 80:20 split, with us paying the 20%. But the 80% comes as a reimbursement, so we have to raise 100% of the money for a particular project first, and spend it, then we get reimbursed 80% from Penndot out of our pre-approved funds after we turn in our receipts.

Trail engineer David Wright is in the process of preparing our application for the second round of funding which is due this month.

the next issue of the newsletter. Also, the trail council has asked permission of the Middle States Steel Construction Co., where our Barner Hill Bridge is being stored, if our volunteers can sandblast and refinish the bridge while it is still on their property. The Barner Hill Bridge is the bridge we plan to use to span the road at the end of the Cecil stretch at the Hendersonville Craft Shop. All we need for the bids to re-erect the bridge at Hendersonville are the original 1902 drawings of the bridge from Conrail.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3) **HELP WANTED** repair our wind damaged display booth.

♦ **Marketeer**—to prepare press releases, handle other media contacts, and distribute Trail user surveys.

♦ **Mapmaker**—to prepare a detailed listing of entry points, parking areas, landmarks and crossroads by trail segment to use in brochures and other informational literature.

Please contact Jack Swisher at 221-7708 if you or anyone you know would be interested in helping us in these vital tasks.




FUND DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE CONVENES

The Fund Development Task Force has made its preliminary recommendations to the board of the trail council. While the financial goal for 1994 has not yet been established, the task force is in the process of developing subcommittees targeting specific aspects of fund raising so that the trail council can continue its duty to its membership and the local communities to build trail without interruption. Treasurer Nancy Reed will convene the task force meetings and act as liason to the board. Jim Bukovac will chair a committee to target small businesses in proximity to the trail. Judy Thompson will chair a committee to identify corporations and other major donors for fund raising. The group is also being assisted by Jerri Sattinger and Dick Quasey as well as others. Other committees which still need development are the Clubs and Organizations committee and a Special Events coordinator. If you would like to help get this trail completed, but you can't lift railroad ties, give Nancy a call at 921-0356 to help with this vital task force.

CECIL FRIENDS of the MONTOUR TRAIL

The Cecil Friends of the Trail group held their formative meeting at the Cecil American Legion on November 12, 1993. The Friends group is a prototype organization established to help maintain, monitor and improve the existing segment of the Montour Trail in Cecil Township. It is the hope of the Montour Trail Council to establish similar groups in every trail community. Anyone who lives in any of the areas surrounding the Cecil segment of the trail, who would like to become more involved in the stretch of trail they use most often, can attend the next meeting of the C.F.M.T. at the Cecil American Legion on Rt. 50 at 7:30 on Thursday, Jan. 20, or call Don Berty @ 221-6406.

NONPROFITS MAY BE TAXED

 When the state Senate reconvenes early this year, it will debate whether or not local governments should be allowed to tax nonprofit charitable organizations. The pending legislation out of the Senate Finance Committee would allow local governments to collect up to 25 percent of what it would pay in local property taxes if it were not tax exempt. While this would not affect us in Allegheny County, it may have some affect in Washington County where we are the sole owners of the trail. All members should grab a pen and paper or pick up their telephone and let their Senators know they oppose this bill which would reduce the amount of money we have to spend on building and maintaining trail.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- ☆ Altobelli/Sulkava Family
- ☆ John Barufaldi
- ☆ Glenn A. Bickerstaff
- ☆ Thomas D. Chaplik
- ☆ Kenneth G. Chase
- ☆ Peter Copeland
- ☆ Tom Cunningham
- ☆ Heather E. Douglas
- ☆ Mr. & Mrs. Pierre J. Hahn
- ☆ Frank M. Kon
- ☆ Jeff Lake
- ☆ David A. Lewis
- ☆ Sharon Link
- ☆ Neil & Lucille Maxson
- ☆ Kevin McDermott
- ☆ Celine M. Miller
- ☆ Ronald R. Myers
- ☆ Gary & Ryan Nagel
- ☆ Jennifer Nagel
- ☆ Network Resources
- ☆ Bruce & Mary Jo O'Neill
- ☆ R. Wayne Shipley
- ☆ John Wasco
- ☆ Kate Wolf

The Montour Trail Council would like to welcome these new members and thank them for their support. We would also like to thank all our members who have renewed their membership and remind all that a growing membership is one of the criteria foundations look for when we apply for grants.

Yes, I want to help build the Montour Trail!

- ☐ I want to spread the word. Please 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.

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

(Membership is tax deductible)

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) _____

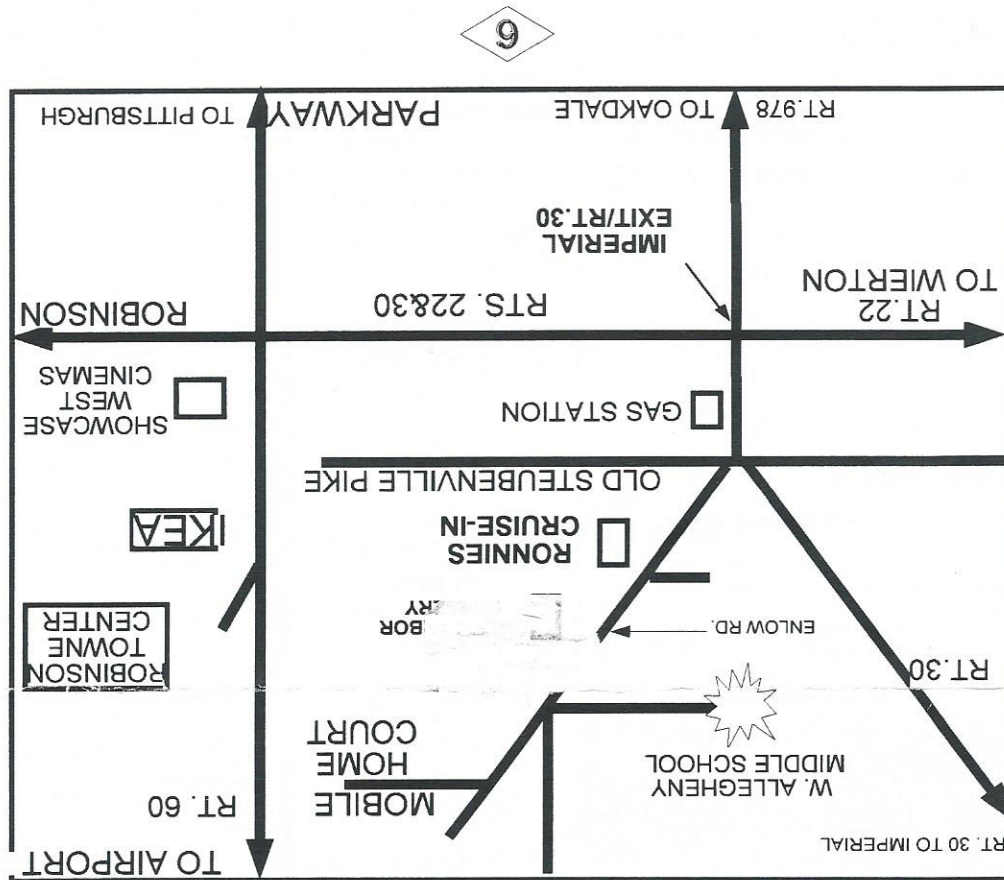
By applying for membership in the Montour Trail Council, I indicate my support of its goals.

SIGNATURE _____

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

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL
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Come to the membership meeting on Monday, January 31, at 7:30 p.m., at the West Allegheny Middle School in North Fayette Township. We will be discussing plans to expand the trail in North Fayette and Findlay Townships.

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING