



The Official Publication of the Montour Trail Council

# MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

Volume 18 Issue 1

March/April 2007

## 2007 Burgh's Run- MTC's Lucky Seventh!

by John Hooton

The seventh consecutive year of the running of this wonderful Trail fundraiser and "Party for the Trail" takes place on Sunday, April 22.

Cecil Park is again the venue for Burgh's fabulous after-run party with music, food and favorite beverages for all attendees. Burgh's offers not only a 10K Run with cash prizes for serious runners on our adjacent Trail, but also a 2-mile family walk, so that the more casual supporters can join in the fun as well. Over the previous six years, Burgh's Pizza and Wing Pub in Bridgeville has raised over \$100,000 for Trail development and maintenance. The Daily Brothers tell us they want to make the '07 event the most successful of all.



*The start of the 2006 Burgh 10K under sunny skies.*

Go to <http://www.montourtrail.org/race/burghs.htm> for more for further information and to register on-line. There is also an application on page 8 of this newsletter.

Come and bring a friend. We look forward to seeing you there.

## The Function at the Junction To Celebrate the Montour/Panhandle Connection by Stan Sattinger

We're planning a "Function at the Junction" from noon to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 9, to celebrate the completion of two new trail segments in Washington County: the Montour-Panhandle connector trail and the Primrose-Joffre section of the Panhandle Trail.

Both of these segments are located just west of McDonald, a community uniquely positioned at the intersection of two major recreational trails.

The Function at the Junction will be held rain or shine and will begin with **two** ribbon cuttings! In addition to displays by recreation, conservation, and other civic groups and agencies, we plan to have live music, organized rides and walks, food and drinks, and attractions for children. The event is designed to introduce the public to the new trail segments and build stronger ties connecting the Montour and Panhandle Trails with their communities and local organizations. (continues on page 4)



*It's quiet now at the Junction, but it will be hopping on June 9.*

### For your consideration

Big goals get big results. No goals get no results.

Mark Hansen

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### MTC Web Address

Visit the Montour Trail web-site at:

[www.montourtrail.org](http://www.montourtrail.org)



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## ***The Prez Sez***

Warm spring greetings to all our members and friends of the Montour Trail Council!

We have reached the time when fair-weather trail activities can start up again. Several are coming up, and trail construction is once again getting into swing. You can find more information in this newsletter on our seventh annual Burgh's Pizza & Wing 10K Race and 5K Fun Walk in April, and on the "Function at the Junction" trail opening celebration planned for June.

Volunteer trail-building activities in west Peters Township are resuming, and the bid package for the associated three-bridge rehabilitation project should be released soon after the time this article reaches you. We hope for significant progress on this section before the end of the year. Other trail construction activities this season include work on the bridge over Piney Fork Creek in South Park Township and a hoped-for temporary crossing at Routes 50 and 980 in Cecil Township.

I am pleased to announce that the two important volunteer positions you've seen advertised in the last two newsletters have been filled. I'd like to welcome Ms. Sam Hvitfelt as the new director for our September Tour the Montour ride, and Angela Cubbison as the new race registrar for our annual IKEA-Montour Trail Half-Marathon, 5K Race and 5K Fun Walk. We're always grateful for more energetic volunteers.

Now let me point you to an article in this newsletter describing another volunteer position we need to fill by June: the MTC Membership Chairmanship. Longtime membership chair Jerry Agin finds he will not be able to continue in this role, and we are looking for a volunteer with the right combination of interest, skills, and dedication to continue his crucial work.

Until next time ... walk, wheel, or whisk along at a run, and enjoy the trail!

Mark Imgrund

## Friends' Meetings and Work Parties

**MTC Board Meeting,**

every third Monday of the month - 6:00 p.m. at 304 Hickman St., Suite 3, Bridgeville, PA. Turn right off of the Bridgeville exit of I-79. Turn left at the next light, go straight at next light and make left turn onto Hickman St. just after the Post Office. Call Mark at 724-941-6351 for more information or to get on the agenda.

**Cecil Events:**

Friends of the Trail meeting, every fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. From May-August, meetings are held at the Kurnick Access area along the trail off Cecil Henderson Road; other months meet at the MTC Offices. Work and cleanup parties are scheduled as needed. Call 412-257-2553 for more information.

**Airport Area Events**

Friends of the Trail meeting, the Wednesday before the second Saturday of the month at 7:00 p.m., at the Forest Grove Fire Department. Anyone from the communities of Moon and Robinson is encouraged to attend. Call 412-859-3020 for more information.

Work and cleanup party, every second Saturday of the month - 9:00 a.m. Call 412-262-3748 for more information and location.

**Bethel Park Events:**

Friends of the Trail meeting, every first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Bethel Park Municipal Building Council Chambers. Anyone interested in the Bethel Park

Trail segment is encouraged to come. For Clifton Road Bridge Committee meetings, contact Peter Kohnke at 412-854-1835 for more information.

Work and cleanup party, every second and fourth Saturday of the month - 8:30 a.m. Call Bob O'Connell at 412-833-6259 for location and information.

**South Hills Friends of the Trail**

Meeting first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Jefferson Hills Borough Building. Work and cleanup parties scheduled and advertised as needed. For more information, contact David Oyler at 412-831-9288, davidoyler@verizon.net, or Paul McKeown at 412-835-6692, mckeownp@adelphia.net

**Fort Cherry Friends:**

Friends of the Trail Meeting, second Wednesday of the month at McDonald Borough Bldg., Council chambers at 7:00 p.m. Work and cleanup parties, scheduled as needed. For more information, contact Ray Johnston at 724-356-2621.

**Peters Township Friends:**

Friends of the Trail Meeting, first non-holiday Monday of the month at Peters Township Parks and Recreation Center at 7:00 p.m. For more information on work and cleanup parties, please contact Jim Robbins at 724-941-6132, or for monthly meetings, Mark Imgrund at 724-941-6351 or by e-mail at markingrund@comcast.net.

## Trail Dust from the Editor's Desk

On March 13, 1917, 14 miners lost their lives in a gas explosion in the Henderson Mine at Hendersonville near Trail milepost 27. There were 38 men in the mine when the explosion occurred at 6:20 a.m., while the day and night shifts were changing. Twenty-four miners were rescued or escaped on their own. The explosion was caused when a mining machine ignited gas that had accumulated when doors and checks that were left open.

Today, the only readily visible remnants of the mine are fences on either side of the ballfield that mark the sites of the 260-foot-deep shafts.

You can learn more about this event on two web sites. The first, <http://patheoldminer.rootsweb.com>, is a listing of coal mines that exist or once existed in western Pennsylvania. You can search by county or by the name of the mine. In some instances, there are links to more detailed information about the mine and the towns that grew up around them.

The second site, <http://www.coalcampusa.com>, is a pictorial directory of coal patches and the towns that grew around the mines, with a bit of history of each patch.

Both web sites feature Hendersonville, with pictures of the town and the mine when it was active in the early and mid-1900s. Other Montour towns appearing on the latter site are Muse, Westland, Lawrence, Library, and Imperial.

Some other items of note:

A colorized version of the Newsletter is now available at the Montour Trail website.

The deadline for the May/June edition of the Trail-Letter will be May 5. Please feel free to submit articles to be considered for inclusion to [newsletter@montourtrail.org](mailto:newsletter@montourtrail.org).

Dennis

## HOLT Leads Earth Day Cleanup

by Janet Thorne



In recognition of Earth Day on April 21 this year, the Hollow Oak Land Trust (HOLT) will participate in the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup by removing debris from its Montour Woods Conservation Area on Hassam Road in Moon Township. A similar event last

year resulted in the removal of over 70 tires and most of the trash from two illegal dumps near the road. This year we'll focus on debris along Meeks Run and Montour Run, including three abandoned and well-rusted automobiles.

If you've been wondering how you can contribute to the recognition of Earth Day, this is your opportunity! Please pass this message along to family, friends, and neighbors who might be able to help us clean up this designated conservation area. The more people who volunteer, the quicker we'll get done, and the more successful we'll be in protecting the natural resources of this important site.

We will work from **9:00 to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 21**. Meet at the Montour Trail parking lot where Hassam Road crosses Montour Run. Wear layers of old clothes and shoes that you won't mind getting dirty. Bring some heavy gloves, and perhaps a wool cap to stay warm.

Anyone able to help should call us at (412) 264-5354 to let HOLT know that he or she will be able to come, or if you have questions. We certainly will appreciate your participation!

*Janet Thorne is the executive director of the Hollow Oak Land Trust*

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**Function at the Junction** continues from page 1

The host organizations planning this event include:

- Fort Cherry Friends of the Montour Trail
- McDonald Area Redevelopment Association
- McDonald Borough Council
- Montour Trail Council
- Panhandle Trail Council
- Washington County Board of Commissioners
- Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency

Mark your calendars now and watch for more details on this significant milestone in trail building for western Pennsylvania!

## Spring Training on the Trail

by Tim Killmeyer

Last year 15 to 25 people of all ages, some with little or no bicycling experience, joined Tim Killmeyer, a charter member of the MTC and life-long bicycling enthusiast, in enjoying some sunny springtime Saturday mornings on the Montour Trail. From grade-schoolers to senior citizens, they all grew in their cycling ability. This year, Tim will again be organizing training rides.



For the first Saturday, March 24, the group met (without bicycles) at 9:00 a.m. in the Holy Trinity Parish school cafeteria on Steubenville Pike, Robinson Township. This first session included an outline of the schedule, a discussion of basic riding technique for comfort and endurance, and information on bicycle equipment.

The following Saturday, March 31, the group assembled at the TREK Bicycle Shop on Steubenville Pike (next to Krispy Kreme and Caribou Coffee), where they discussed proper bicycle fit, simple maintenance, and minor adjustments that will make your rides a more enjoyable experience. The TREK store has various bicycles on display, along with the gear and accessories used in bicycling. Store staff described some strategies for trail riding.

Beginning on Saturday, April 7 and continuing every Saturday through June 2, Tim's group will meet on the Montour Trail (at the parking lot on Old Beaver Grade Road, near the Brothers Grimm Lounge) for a prompt 9:00 a.m. departure. Participants will begin with a 10-mile ride (at a comfortable pace) and add a few miles every week, so that by June 2 they will be ready to do an easy (by that time) 30-mile ride. They will not be training to race, but to ride 30 miles comfortably.

The weekly schedule and maps to locations are posted at [www.clubmtc.com](http://www.clubmtc.com) in the "2007 Saturday Rides" thread.

All ages are welcome. Come see what it's all about. As with any exercise program, it is always best to check with your doctor before you begin.

Go to [www.clubmtc.com](http://www.clubmtc.com) or call 412-787-1472 if you have any questions.

# With a little help from our Friends...

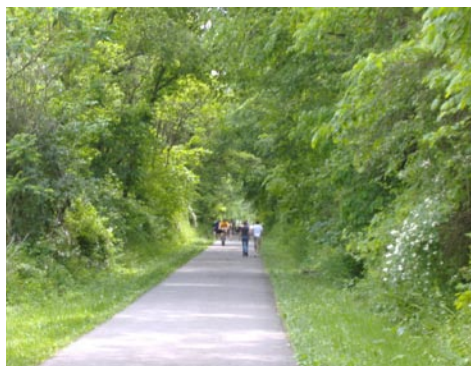
## Airport Friends

Do you have an old jar or can of pennies sitting around your house that you just never seem to get around to wrapping? Well, now you can use them to help the Montour Trail, and possibly win a prize such as dinner at a local restaurant or various sports accessories.

Just empty your pockets—or look under the sofa cushions—and bring your cans, jars, cigar boxes, or carboys full of loose change (nickels, dimes, quarters, and paper dollars are also permitted) to the gazebo near the intersection of Montour Run Road and Park Manor Blvd. on Saturday, May 12, 2007. The Airport Area Friends of the Montour Trail will be there, rain or shine, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. collecting and weighing the coins as part of their annual **Pennies for YOUR Trail** campaign.

The Airport Area Friends have solicited numerous prizes from area businesses, and these prizes will be awarded to the persons donating the most change by weight. All money raised will be used to maintain the Airport Area sections of the Montour Trail. Please help to support your trail on May 12!

## Bethel Friends



The Friends of The Montour Trail in Bethel Park will host two events on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 2.

The first event of the day will be the second annual 5K Race for the J. R. Taylor

Memorial Bridge, starting at 8:30 a.m. The top 3 finishers in each age category will receive awards. Snacks and refreshments will be served after the race.

The fourth annual Party on the Trail will follow from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a noncompetitive, fun event for trail users of all ages. There will be activities along the trail, and lunch will be served at noon. Registrants will be eligible for a prize drawing at the end of the event. The winner need not be present. All event proceeds will go to the construction fund for the J. R. Taylor Memorial Bridge over Clifton Road.

Registration fee for the 5K race is \$18.

## Party on the Trail

Adult	- \$16
Children ages 11 to 17	- \$12
Children ages 3 to 10	- \$8
Family Fee	- \$45

You may register on-line through [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) or via registration forms available at local businesses or along the Trail.

Questions:

Cyndee Welsh 412-835-0522 or [cyndee5011@verizon.net](mailto:cyndee5011@verizon.net)

## Cecil Friends

The Cecil Friends of the Montour Trail will host their third Tails for the Montour Trail 5K Fun Walk on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 2, between 9:00 a.m. and noon with the “barking-off” at 9:30 a.m.



The Walk begins at the Kurnick (National) Access area along Cecil Henderson Road in Cecil Township and proceeds to the Muse-Bishop Bridge through the National Tunnel. Proceeds will support a fund to rehabilitate the National Tunnel.

All licensed and vaccinated dogs are welcome to attend with their owners on a leash. (And you thought it was the owner who had the dog on the leash?) Each participant is limited to two dogs for the event. Register before May 15 and the fee is \$10 per dog, \$16 for two dogs. From May 15 to the event date, registration will be \$12 per dog. Each dog will get a neckerchief (guaranteed if registered by May 15) and each owner receives a goody bag. The event will be limited to 100 dogs.

A professional photographer will be taking both posed and action images of the dogs; the photos can then be placed on different items, including t-shirts, or just framed. Refreshments will be available for both the four-legged and two-legged participants. Representatives from several animal-related organizations will be in attendance. A Chinese auction will be held with prizes including health club memberships, dinner at local eateries, and pet items.

So leash up your dog (or have the dog leash you up) and have a good time raising money to restore the National Tunnel. For more information, or if you would like to be a sponsor, please call 412-257-2553 or 412-445-0185. To register for the event, go the Montour Trail website at <http://www.montourtrail.org/events/tailswalk.htm>.

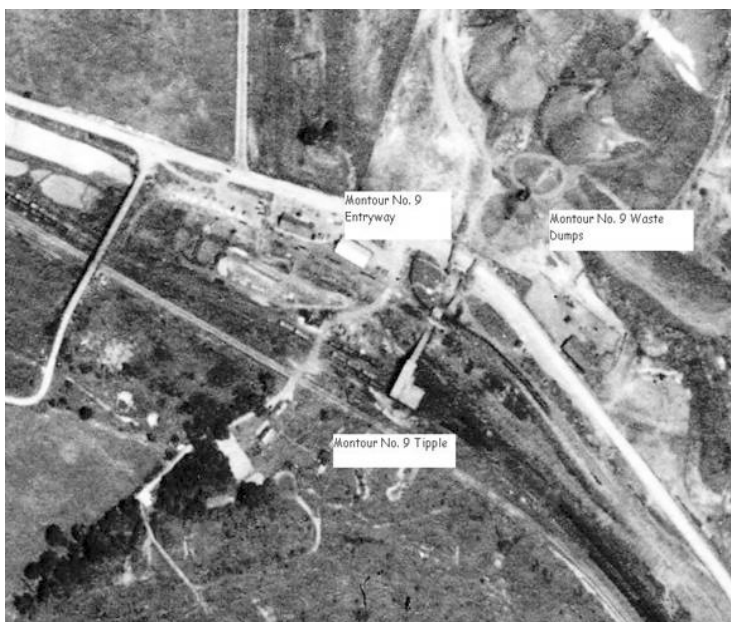
## MONTOUR RAILROAD HISTORY BY BOB CIMINEL

### The Montour Railroad – Champion to McDonald Viaduct

Miles 13 to 17 of the Montour Trail don't hold as much history as some other sections, but several items deserve our attention as we continue our series on the Montour Railroad.

There were two "stations" between Champion and McDonald Transfer. Keep in mind that a station is not the same as a depot. In railroad parlance, a station refers to real estate (land, track, depot, and other structures). The term "station" is also used to assist in computing shipping charges and to identify routes. For example, at McAdams (MP 15.5) Pittsburgh Coal Company's Montour No. 9 coal mine was station 93; however, the siding at McAdams was station 93A. This distinction allowed the railroad to differentiate between cars delivered or removed from the mine tipple and cars delivered or removed from the siding. Because of the various tariffs used to calculate shipping charges, a carload of coal had a different tariff from a boxcar filled with supplies for the mine.

In the early 1900s the station known as Geary (MP 14) was a flag stop for passenger trains. Geary Curve is the wide sweeping curve to the left that passes over



*The photograph is an aerial shot of Montour No. 9 taken in 1939.*

two arches. It was named for the nearby Geary Farm, just as many other passenger stations along the Montour were named after local families. A flag stop is used to designate a station where trains will stop only when signaled either by the conductor on board the train (because passengers need to disembark) or when the engineer sees passengers waiting to board the train.

McAdams was another flag stop. The station at McAdams served the mining community associated with Montour No. 9. This was a fairly large mine, with the mine entries passing beneath Route 980 south of the intersection with North Branch Road. Prior to the construction of the Montour Extension, the Shaw Mine was located west of Montour No. 9, between Quick Silver Road and Route 980. Shaw Mine was served by the Pennsylvania Railroad's 1.5-mile Midway and Oakdale Branch. After Pittsburgh Coal Company completed the Montour Extension, it opened Montour No. 9 and coal was no longer transported on the PRR.

In the next issue, we will continue our historical journey eastward into Cecil and Peters Township.

*Bob Ciminell is the founder of the Montour Railroad Yahoo group ([http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/montour\\_rr/](http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/montour_rr/)). There are currently 160 members from across the country. You are encouraged to join. There is a wealth of information about the Montour Railroad at this location and you can pose questions of its membership, from whom you are sure to get an answer.*

# Welcome New Members

*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.*

## New Members

Dick & Annette Bryant  
Marie H. Byrne  
Bill Gochis  
John Jaeger  
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Mihalcik  
Rev. David Scharf  
Carol Stein  
Thomas J. Stevenson  
Tom & Karen Stewart  
Joan Strueber

## Leader's Circle

Louis & Vida Komer  
Roy Weil & Mary Shaw

## Benefactors

Dev Earle Lemster  
Gwen & Jeff Steigerwalt  
Gregory Walz

## Membership Chair Opportunity

After over a decade of impeccable service, Jerry Agin is stepping down as the MTC's membership chair in June. We are deeply grateful to Jerry, not only for his long tenure in this position, but also for his other contributions—as IKEA-Montour Trail Half-Marathon race director for several years and as webmaster when our web site was initially set up.

As Jerry concludes his service, we are looking for a new MTC membership chair. This person will maintain our database of members and other supporters. The work includes processing member donations, as well as supplying mailing lists and address labels for the newsletter and other purposes.

The time commitment varies, but usually the duties can be handled in one to four hours per week. Access to a Windows-based computer is required. Familiarity with Microsoft Access is desirable but not essential. Detailed step-by-step instructions exist for most of the routine procedures involving the database, and Jerry intends to offer free on-the-job training to his successor. He will also remain available when structural changes to the MTC's membership database are needed.

This is a great opportunity for someone who is more comfortable sitting at a keyboard than leaning on a shovel to help the Montour Trail. To learn more about this position or to express your interest, please contact Mark Imgrund at [markimgrund@comcast.net](mailto:markimgrund@comcast.net) or 724-941-6351.

## Trail Trivia:

Fifteen years ago, the Montour Trail commenced construction of its first section of the trail in Cecil Township. The first section of trail would be 4.4 miles in length and would pass through the National Tunnel, while connecting Cecil Park with Hendersonville.

## 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.

<input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT / SENIORS	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORTING	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> BENEFACTOR	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> LEADERS CIRCLE	\$500 + up

- ☐ I wish to become a member of the Montour Trail Council. **(Membership is tax deductible)**
- ☐ I wish to make an additional 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 (daytime) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Please fill out this application and return it with your check to:

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

**DON'T FORGET!** The Montour Trail Council may be designated as your **United Way Contributor Choice option #3308, or Combined Federal Campaign Contributor Choice option #9308, where you work.**



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## **Burgh's Pizza & Wing Pub 7th Annual 10K Run**

*Benefits the Montour Trail*

**Sunday, April 22rd 2007 10:00 a.m.**

ENTRY FEES	Adults	Children under 12
10K Fee	\$25	\$20
2-Mile Walk Fee	\$25	\$10

Make checks payable to:  
BP&W 10K Montour Trail  
(Please do NOT cash.)

Mail to:  
BP&W 10K Montour Trail  
533 Washington Ave.  
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Please print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Age as of April 22, 2007: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: M F

Event: 10K Run 2-Mile Walk

Waiver: In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, I waive for myself, my heirs, and assigns, all rights and claims for damages which I might have against the Burgh's Pizza & Wing Pub 10K Run for Family, Friends & Fun to be held Sunday, April 22, 2007, Burgh's Pizza & Wing Pub, The Montour Trail Council, other sponsoring organizations, businesses, or individuals as a result of any and all injuries suffered by me in that event. I attest and verify that I am an amateur and physically fit and have trained sufficiently for this event. I also release any photos that may involve myself.

Signature:

If under 18, parent or guardian must sign below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent or guardian

\_\_\_\_\_