



The Official Publication of the Montour Trail Council

MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

Volume 20 Issue 4

September-October 2009

The 14th Annual Ikea-Montour Trail ½ Marathon, 5K Run and 5K Fun Walk Is Another Success by Laura Orr, Race Director

The most important thing to say about the 14th Annual Ikea-Montour Trail ½ Marathon, 5K Run and 5K Fun Walk that was held on Saturday, September 12, 2009 is **THANK YOU**.

Thank you to Terri Noble and IKEA for their continued sponsorship and support. For allowing us to utilize the store lot for all race day activities, for the post race bananas and chips, for volunteering wherever you needed, and for sponsoring the finisher medals which were presented to all ½ marathon participants to recognize their accomplishment.

Thank you to Kevin Smith and Elite Runners and Walkers for his sponsorship of the event, his sage advise, procuring and printing the tech shirts, and for the use of his store for pre-race packet pick-up and in-person registration. Thank you to the employees of Elite Runners and Walkers for their help, for fielding many race related phone calls and for graciously putting up with the volunteers stationed at the store for two days during packet pick-up. Congratulations also to Justin DiIanni of Elite Runners and Walkers for his 1st place age group placing in the 5K Run.

Thank you to Jim Famularo and Dicks Sporting Goods; Jennifer Highfield and Comcast; David Higie and Michael Baker Corporation; Adam Dick and First Niagara Bank; Jim Hopkins and Swindell Dressler International; and Jackie Cooney and the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott for their monetary support. Thank you to Ed Sickmund and My Way Storage Solutions for his donation of time, coffee and bottled water. Thank

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Visit the Montour Trail Web Site at:
www.montourtrail.org

To Converse, join the Yahoo Group at:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Montour-Trail/>



Women's overall finishers from left to right, Jocelyn Smith, 3rd; Heather Park, 1st; and Jeanna Heink, 2nd. (photo by Dave Oyler)

you to Interstate Communications for donating the radios used to monitor the race. Thank you to Mr. John of Pittsburgh for the port-a-johns at the start and near the finish. Thank you also to the Imperial, Moon, North Fayette and Robinson police departments for their help, and to the Northwest EMS, Robinson EMS and Valley Ambulance EMS for donating their time to provide availability to emergency services.

Thank you to Chick-Fil-A (Bruce) for donating fruit cups, bottled water, and "the Cow" who made an appearance at IKEA to encourage everyone to eat more chicken! Thank you to Breuggers' Bagels (Mary Kaye), Panera Bread (Laura) and Vocelli Pizza (Rachel) for the food donations (continued on page 4.)

New Pavilion at Hendersonville Park



The Hills-Hendersonville VFW Post 8308 held a ceremony on Saturday, September 19 at Hendersonville Park to dedicate the pavilion constructed in memory of Robert "Bucky" McPherson who was killed in action in Vietnam in 1968. Post Commander, Joe Stewart (our construction yard neighbor in Hendersonville) spearheaded the construction of the 30' x 60' shelter that was constructed over the summer. The pavilion was built with private and business donations. The Montour Trail Council donated monetarily and provided asphalt millings to enlarge the parking area near the pavilion. The pavilion has been donated to Cecil Township and the public and trail users are welcome to use it.



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MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

Suite 3

304 Hickman Street
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Or E-mail to:

newsletter@montourtrail.org

All other trail correspondence should be addressed:

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL

Suite #3

304 Hickman Street
Bridgeville, PA 15017

MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL

PHONE NUMBER:

412-257-3011

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Prez Sez – the MTC Juggling Act

September is a busy time of the year for MTC volunteers. The IKEA Race and the Tour the Montour Ride require hard work from scores of MTC volunteers, and these events make up a sizeable percentage of the trail's operating income for the year. We also have a 20th Anniversary Celebration that has another committee busy making preparations for this toast to where we've come in our first twenty years. If you haven't yet made reservations to join the fun, check elsewhere in this newsletter or our website, and plan to be there. The Engineering and Construction Committee is also hard at work on perhaps a dozen or so trail projects in various phases of planning or completion. Some of our busier volunteers liken their trail work to juggling a large number of balls.



With the economy the way it has been, the Montour Trail Council has found itself in the same position as almost all other non-profit 501(c)3 organizations – with membership and donation levels down from previous years, and grant monies harder and harder to come by. The MTC board understands that some of our members cannot give right now at levels of the past, and thanks all of you who still manage to provide support for the Montour. We are also continuing our efforts to compete for the funding sources still available, and evaluating other ways to financially support the important mission of the Montour Trail Council. As always, the board will keep MTC members informed of any advances we make in doing so.

As this year's peak trail using season winds down, and with all this activity going on to build, operate, and maintain the trail, I want to take a bit time from the "juggling" to thank all our devoted volunteers and donors for their continuing work and support. Thank you!

Mark

P.S. Since I am one of the newsletter proofreaders, I can sometimes add things after I see the other articles. The headline IKEA race article is full of many thank you's, but the one that is missing is the one to the author of the article and the race's director, so... thank you to Laura Orr!

The G24 Ride

Venture Outdoors holds its second annual 24 hour cycling relay on the C & O Canal Towpath and The Great Allegheny Passage on September 22 and 23. The relay was timed to coincide with the opening of the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh. Mark Imgrund and Bill Orr represented the Montour Trail in this endeavor. It should be noted that both Mark and Bill gave it their all during this event, including blood and skin as they took tumbles heading to Pittsburgh from Washington D. C. They suffered no ill-effects and were seen riding on the Trail during the Tour the Montour.

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 Friends:

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 (with the exception of November and December) meet at the MTC Offices. Work and cleanup parties are scheduled as needed. Call 412-496-4308 for more information, or email densimwx@comcast.net

Airport Area Friends:

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, Robinson, North Fayette, and Findlay 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 Friends:

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. 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:

Meeting second Wednesday 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@comcast.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 markimgrund@comcast.net.

The Montour Railroad Historical Society:

The newest Friends group. For more information send email to mrhs@montourr.com.

Twilight Trail Walk 2009

The Peters Friends hosted their seventh Twilight Trail walk on Friday, July 31. The popular event took place along Arrowhead Trail in Peters Township. The event had 450 participants and raised over \$4,800, topping last year's total by more than \$1,000. This year, a 50/50 raffle was added to event. A total of \$134 was raised and the winner Amanda Smith of Washington, Pennsylvania donated her prize money back to the trail. All of the money raised will go towards trail maintenance in Peters Township.

The three mile round trip walk was lit with more than six hundred luminaria. Participants enjoyed cookies and drinks donated by Parkhurst Dining service. Entertainment was provided by Bill Loughman at St. Petersburg Center.

This year we had three title sponsors Lighthouse Electric, Casper Colosimo & Son, Inc. and Scalise Industries. Other sponsors were St. Petersburg Center, My Big Fat Greek Gyro, Farm House Coffee, Pittsburgh Children's Foundation, The Eye Gallery, Timothy P. Weyrich, MD, Eat'n Park Hospitality Group, David M. Patera-State Farm Insurance, Carr & Associates, John Hooton Associates, Tony Zuback-Erie Insurance, Spa in the Hollow, Opeka Auto Repair, Dana Johnson-Ameriprise Financial, McMurray Dairy Bar, Pat & Al Cambridge and an anonymous Friend of the Trail. Many raffle prizes were donated by local businesses.

Events like this would not take place without all of the great volunteers that worked hard to make it happen; Jim Robbins, Karen Robbins, Craig Robbins, Jane Engel, John Gallagher Linda Gallagher, Mark Imgrund, John Hooton, Berenice Hooton, John Murphy, Sandy Murphy, Jamie Headley, Sue Headley, Mark Mendelsohn, John Kozak, Jack Shoup, Noreen McGurl, Gil McGurl, Linda Jewison, Peter Kohnke, Chris Nagoda and Dan McPoyle. Also volunteering this year were several members of Jim and Karen Robbins extended family that were in town for a family reunion the next day. They came from Easton, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and North Carolina.



Left to right: Traci Robbins, Sarah Robbins, Sonja Laaksonen, Joshua Laaksonen, Katie Spence, Rachel Robbins, Gracie Robbins and Emily Robbins

Correction: In previous trail-letters, Nick Jarina's name has been misspelled. The newsletter staff apologizes to Nick for any inconvenience.

Ikea wrap up continues from page 1

Thank you to all of the runners and walkers as well as their families and friends who came to cheer them on, for coming out on race day in spite of an early morning threat of rain. The day was a good one for racing as evidenced by the excellent times achieved by our overall ½ marathon winners, A.J. Kelly who finished with a time of 1:13:32 with Eric Anish and Timothy Bishop hot on his heels; as well as our female winners Heather Parks who finished with a time of 1:22:22 with Jeanna Heink and Jocelyn Smith in pursuit. Our 5K runners also had a successful day with the leaders Eric Shafer (15:53),



Men's overall finishers from left to right, Eric Anish, 2nd; A. J. Kelly, 1st; and Timothy Bishop, 3rd. (photo by Dave Oyler)

Dan Rabe (16:13) and Patrick Fisher (16:18); followed quickly by the ladies' competitors Christina Keck (19:05), Ashley Rabe (20:53) and Melissa Migliaro (20:58). We appreciate your support of the Montour Trail, and congratulate each and every participant on your finish of the event.

Lastly, but by no means least, a very heart felt thank you to the many, many volunteers who donate their time and talent to making this a successful event. Thank you to Cathy Connor for donating her graphic design expertise for our flyers, posters, race day signs, and for the shirts – we've received numerous compliments on your designs. Thank you to Angela and Burt Cubbison for all of the work for registration and on the website, www.mtchalfmarathon.com. Thank you to our newly drafted Communications Coordinator, Tim Marsh, for keeping us in touch with one another throughout the event, your help was truly invaluable. Another newly drafted position, John Macek, our event announcer and DJ, thank you for coming out and making our event much more lively. Thank you to Dennis Pfeiffer, Pete Merther and the Airport Friends for the maintenance of the trail, and the course set up and take down on event day – your work is "behind the scenes" but we couldn't do it without you. Thank you to Phyllis McChesney for the hours upon hours that you give in lining up the volunteers to make this event run smoothly, you truly are the Most Valuable Player on this team!!! Thank you also to the boy scouts and the North Fayette Parks & Recreation volunteers who man the various water stations; the cross country team members who help remove timing chips at the finish line; the trail marshals who ensure the safety of participants at all road crossings; all of the volunteers at the race day registration and chip tables; and all of the volunteers who have gone unnamed – your help is essential in making the event run seamlessly, you are treasured friends.

We look forward to seeing you all again at the 15th Annual Ikea-Montour Trail ½ Marathon, 5K Run and 5K Fun Walk on Saturday, September 11, 2010.



Slate of Board Member

Nominees

The by-laws re: board terms- members may be elected for two consecutive three-year terms; and may be asked to serve again after at least one year off the board.

Vote for no more than five:

Bill Capp(2nd term) _____

Peter Kohnke (2nd term) _____

Deb Esia (1st term) _____

Tim Killmeyer (1st term) _____

Don Thobaben (1st term) _____

Other _____

Detach this ballot please bring it with you to the meeting on November 1, or if not attending, mail to

Election
MONTOUR TRAIL COUNCIL
 Suite #3
 304 Hickman Street
 Bridgeville, PA 15017

by October 23.

MRHS Update by Bryan Seip

The Montour Railroad Historical Society has reached the 1 year anniversary of the acquisition of the X 1 crane. It arrived on site at Montour Mine #4 on September 5th of last year. While progress has been made in its restoration, there is much to be done. PPG has donated sealer and paint for the project. We have completed one side and the top of the boom, but there is still a long way to go.

This is where you come in. The X 1 needs your help. Yes, I am talking about funds needed to purchase supplies and parts needed to continue our project. Wire wheels and sanding discs are used to remove old paint - and we use a lot of them. Paint rollers and brushes are used, along with solvents, cleaners, rags, etc. We have gotten the air compressor up and running teaming it up with a donated gas motor that required some repairs.

Another project that the MRHS has taken on is the placement of signage at several locations denoting the historical significance of that location. The group has also restored original railroad markers and signals.

So, consider making a donation to the MRHS to help support our ongoing projects. For more information go to <http://mrhs.montourrr.com/> and follow the links under donate and help preserve the history of our area.



Bryan Seip and grandson work on the restoration of the X-1

The Venetian Stairs Reach the Top

After months of work, Ned Williams and his many volunteers have completed the stairs with bike ramp at the intersection of PA 50 and PA 980 in Venice. The stairs were completed just in time for the Tour the Montour. Trail users can now avoid the on-road detour on busy 50 by walking their bikes down the ramp and crossing the road to reach the stairs. Extreme caution is advised as the intersection can become very busy at peak traffic times. At the top of the stairs, the Montour Railroad Historical Society has refurbished the Montour Railroad yard marker indicating Gilmore Junction and have placed a marker explaining its significance.

Eagle Scout Candidate Completes Shelter along West Peters Section



I am Andrew Glaid, assistant senior patrol leader from Boy Scout Troop 215 sponsored by Bethel Presbyterian Church in Bethel Park, Pennsylvania. I am a junior at Bethel Park High School. For my Boy Scout Eagle Service Project, I planned and constructed a pavilion near milemarker 30. I received a grant from the Trail Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation. and bought my materials at a discount from Lowes Home and Garden Center and Kiefer Coal Company. I had many volunteers totaling 263 hours of their time.

Trail Birthday Surprise



May Moticko celebrated her 87th birthday on July 25 with a surprise birthday party at the Kurnick Access pavilion given by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. A few of us were riding with her and as we neared the Kurnick Access area, she remarked, "look, someone is having a birthday party." Needless to say it was really a surprise.

She rides ten miles 4 or 5 days (and sometimes 6 days) each week (weather permitting). She has also used other trails in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Photo and story provided by her daughter Shirley Gottschalk

MONTOUR RAILROAD HISTORY BY BOB CIMINEL

Clinton Block Spur*Penn Pilot Photo*

The Clinton Block Spur was located at Milepost 10 (Trail Milepost 9) west of Route 30 at Imperial, PA. The spur was built to serve the Clinton Block Coal Company's mine near Clinton, PA. A single track was laid along the west side of Route 30 and followed the North Fork of Montour Run toward Clinton. The track crossed Route 30 at grade about 500 feet south of the Burgettstown Road intersection. The aerial photo, taken on May 31, 1939, shows the spur crossing Route 30 and continuing up to the mine tipple. By this time it was more economical to strip the remaining coal than to remove it by underground mining.

On a side note, the mine at Clinton changed hands three times before it finally closed for good. In 1918 the property contained the Clinton No. 1 and No. 2 mines, owned by the Clinton Block Coal Company. In 1920 the mine was the Clinton No. 1 Mine and was owned by the Lebanon Block Coal Company. And by 1939 it was the Clinton Lake Mine, owned by the Clinton Lake Coal Company. Today, the new Findlay Connector bisects the property and all that remains is an acid mine drainage treatment facility and overgrown waste piles.

According to a case described in the Pittsburgh Legal Journal of 1919, the track between Clinton Block Junction and the Clinton No. 1 mine was not owned by the Montour Railroad, but were part of the Clinton Block Coal Company's property. This probably explains why we don't find much about the spur in the Montour Railroad's historical information.

On July 12, 1919, a Mrs. O'Reilly, who owned a farm near the tracks, filed an injunction against the coal company to stop them from running trains over the grade crossing on the lane that ran from her house to Robinson Road (Imperial - Burgettstown Road). The lane was about 200 feet from where the Clinton Block Spur crossed Robinson Road. Mrs. O'Reilly lost the case.

Mrs. O'Reilly and her husband bought her farm and the rights to use the lane on April 30, 1917 from Mattie Burns, a descendant of Mr. Robert H. Burns. More than 50 years prior to that, on March 11, 1865, Robert Burns and Mr. Henry Leech accepted an arbitration award granting Mr. Burns right-of-passage using Mr. Leech's lane to reach Robinson Road (Imperial - Burgettstown Road). However, Mr. Leech still retained full legal title to the lane and the land on either side of the lane, which included the right to use the lane, make openings into it, cross it, or anything he saw fit to do that did not amount to a substantial or unreasonable interference with Burns' right to use the lane.

Eight months after Mrs. O'Reilly bought her farm from Mattie Burns, James Leech, a descendent of Henry Leech, granted a right-of-way to the Clinton Block Coal Company to construct a crossing at grade over the lane.

The coal company built the crossing at right angles to the lane, 1.5 feet above grade, and installed 2.5-inch thick, 16-foot long oak planks between the rails and two feet on either side of the tracks. According to their testimony, the coal company estimated that six trains a day would use the spur.

The court ruled that Mrs. O'Reilly had not maintained the lane in passable condition before the railroad crossing was built, and often used a wagon track through her field to reach the road. In summary, the court said that the coal company's use of the crossing would not prevent Mrs. O'Reilly from using the lane, and that her deed only gave her right-of-passage, not right-of-way.

Here's a Google map showing the approximate location of the land in dispute:

http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=Robinson+Rd,+PA+15126&sl=37.0625,-95.677068&ssp=50.777825,78.837891&ie=UTF8&ll=40.454785,-80.256007&spn=0.012017,0.02738&t=h&z=16

Bob Ciminel is the founder of the Montour Railroad Yahoo group http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/montour_rr/ There are currently 270 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 welcomes these new members and thanks them for their support. We would also like to thank all our members who have recently renewed their membership and to remind all that a growing membership is one of the criteria foundations look for when we apply for grants.

New Members	Gordon & Anne Mitchell
Craig Knox	Chris Poskin
Rosemarie Baumann	Carol Rich
Brian Bell	Molly Richter
Rose Ellen Crompton	Michael & Christy Shaughnessy
Eugene Dennison	Tom & Brenda Shields
Kenneth Devore	James Smith
Marilyn Dunn	Kathy Smith
Bob Fargo	Robert Taylor
Federated Communications	Michael Walsh
Rick Fenton	Guy & Carol Wolf
Thomas Fitzpatrick	Xiaolin Zang
Allan Frain	
Howard Irwin	Benefactors
Valerie Keys	Pete & Janet McGuire
Leonard Kogut	Helge H. Wehmeier
John & Sharon Lawrence	
Paul McNulty	Leader's Circle
Paula Meddings	Aldo Angelo
Michelle Micija	

Have You Considered Planned Giving?

As your Trail grows, our needs seem to grow even faster. Fortunately, we have taken some steps in planning that give interested and willing Trail supporters a number of ways to maintain and even beautify the Trail into the future. The Montour Trail Endowment Fund with The Pittsburgh Foundation is a big part of our plans.

Like many other organizations, we have two primary financial concerns, original construction and long-term maintenance. While federal, state and even local grants are often available during construction, they are far less likely for maintenance. That is where endowment funds are vital in addition to annual giving.

So, when doing your financial planning, please consider a gift to the Trail, either directly or through The Pittsburgh Foundation. Your gift might be to name the Trail in your will or as a beneficiary in an existing life policy. You could also begin a new policy (with tax deductible dollars) naming the Trail as owner/beneficiary. Yet another technique is a charitable gift annuity offering you a lifetime tax-sheltered income. Please check with your tax professional for advice specific to your situation.

If you would like to help ensure the continued maintenance of the Trail, please call The Pittsburgh Foundation at 412-391-5122 and mention your interest in supporting the Montour Trail. Or go to our website www.montourtrail.org and click on the "Help Us" tab for further information (<http://www.montourtrail.org/membership/membership.html>). As always, we sincerely appreciate your help and support.

I want to help complete the Montour Trail!

I want to join the Montour Trail Council at this level:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Student/Senior	\$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"/>	Leader's Circle	\$500+

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Don't Forget
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Trail Birthday Celebration Time Is Almost Here.

Reserve by October 23 to Join the Fun! by John Hooton

The Airport Marriott Hotel is our host site, and reservations are still being accepted for the MTC's 20th Anniversary Celebration on November 1. It will be a busy night: Happy hour at 5:00 p.m., an excellent dinner, and chances at well-chosen prizes (an overnight "Stay for Breakfast" at the Marriott and a plane ride over the Montour Trail are just two of them). Bill Flanagan, Executive Vice President of the Allegheny Conference, has been asked to be the emcee. Your Trail Birthday Committee loves the kind of entertainment that will be provided by the "NewLanders", a funky folk group that seems to fit our Western Pennsylvania humor and our bent for history.

It hardly seems possible that our beloved Montour Trail has grown to 44 miles of groomed beautiful parkland to date and we will pause to thank those who have done so much to help. Then, too, you will want to hear about plans to add new Trail miles and possible networking with other trails.

Your Trail has achieved "new heights" in public presence: our birthday announcement is to be displayed on the Mount Washington electronic sign from October 1 -14. The sign is sponsored by Bayer Corporation and we thank them for helping us "get our message out".

See the reservation form at www.montourtrail.org/MTC_20thAnivForms.pdf