AXA World Ride ‘95 set to hit the Trail

by Tim Kilmeyer

After riding through Europe, Siberia, and the Gobi Desert, the cyclists on the AXA World Ride ’95 Tour will be pedaling through what is probably their most beautiful scenery yet, the Montour Trail.

In March, 40 persons (including support drivers) left Atlanta to circumnavigate the globe. Five of them are persons with disabilities using hand-cycles. Their aim is to promote rights of the disabled and accessibility issues around the world. You might have seen coverage of them on CBS Sports over the last couple of months.

On Sunday, November 12, they will be leaving Steubenville, Ohio and heading to Pittsburgh, in part on your Montour Trail. The world tourers will be arriving at the North Fayette Shop-N-Save (near the Imperial, Rt. 30 Exit of Rt. 22) at approximately 11:00am for a small snack. There, they will be met by a contingent of bicyclists from the Western Pennsylvania Wheelmen, the area’s largest bicycling organization, who will escort them to Pittsburgh.

The group will enter the Trail at the Enlow Ballfield near milepost 8 in Imperial where many of our Trail events have been held. They will then stay on the Trail all the way to the beginning at Milepost 0. Crossing the Coracropolis/Neville Island Bridge, they will traverse Neville Island to Rt. 51 and from there go to Carson St. to the Smithfield St. Bridge at Station Square. They will cross the bridge to downtown and stay at the Ramada Bigelow Inn on Sixth St. near the Civic Arena.

Why not go out to the Trail on November 12 and cheer them on? Let’s show them that we Western Pennsylvanians can be just as supportive as those Belgians or Kamchatkans. Who knows, we might even make the CBS feature to be shown on Thanksgiving.
Editor's Observations

Well, it is that time of year again. Time to remind everyone that hunting season is about to begin. Time to remind all of you that hunters are allowed to use the Trail to access their favorite hunting location.

Two years ago, when I first took over as editor of this fine publication, I wrote a nice little article explaining the rule about hunting from the Trail. I thought it was well balanced and did not condemn hunting in any way. The Montour Trail Council has always taken a neutral position when it comes to hunting, only stating that it does not allow hunting from the Trail. (In fact, guns should be unloaded when carried on the Trail.) In my article though, I included, for a little humor, a picture of a man in battle dress uniform, leaning on a tree holding an automatic rifle. I was besieged by hunters telling me that, joke or no joke, they were tired of being portrayed as nuts and killers and that the picture was very inappropriate.

So last year, I put in a little notice letting people know that hunting season was about to start. I included a small picture of a deer with a cross-hair sighting over its heart. Would you believe I got a letter from an animal lover (I love animals too, BUT) who was hurt by my portrayal of a deer about to be killed. So this year, NO PICTURES. Just know that hunting season is here so be even more vigilant in staying on the Trail. Remember that hunters are allowed to use the Trail to access their hunting areas so you might see some on the Trail with their weapons (preferably unloaded).

A reminder to WALKERS and CROSS-COUNTRY SKIERS:
WALKERS - Please do not walk in the cross country ski tracks. They are very hard to blaze and maintain. Boots and shoes dig them up and make them less smooth for gliding. Walk, run, and ride toward the middle of the Trail.
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIERS - Make your tracks to the far right hand side of the Trail (in either direction). They will be far less likely to be trod upon in that location.

See you on the Trail,

Tim

Letters

THE MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER welcomes all questions and comments. Please send all correspondence to the address on the left.

The Montour Trail Council is an all volunteer organization founded in 1989 to convert the abandoned Montour Railroad right of way and the abandoned Peters Creek Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad into a fifty-five mile recreational trail for non-motorized activity regardless of physical ability or financial wherewithal.
MTC Board Meeting, every third Monday of the month - Second floor of 441 Smithfield St. across from Kaufmann’s, 6:00pm. All MTC members are welcome to attend. Call Jack at 221-7708 for more information or to get on the agenda.

Cecil Friends of the Trail meeting, every first Tuesday of the month - in the Boy Scout room at the Cecil American Legion, Rt. 50, 7:30. Call 221-6406

Work & Clean-up party, Cecil segment, every third Saturday of the month - 9:00 am. Meet at the Kernick Tract parking area. Call 221-6406 for more information. (No work Dec., Jan. + Feb.)

Moon/Robinson Friends of the Trail meeting, Every Wednesday before the second Saturday of the month at 7:00. At the All Occasion Catering party room near the intersection of Silver Lane and Clever Rd.s in Robinson Twp. Anyone from the communities near Moon and Robinson are encouraged to attend. Call 859-3020 more information.

Work & Clean-up party, Moon/Robinson segment, every second Saturday of the month - 9:00 am. Meet at North Star Petroleum (Formerly Robinson Petroleum). Call 262-3748 for more information. (No work during Dec., Jan. + Feb.)

Findlay/ North Fayette Friends of the Trail meeting, every third Wednesday of the month, at 7:00. Held at the West Allegheny Community Library. Anyone from the communities around Findlay and North Fayette are encouraged to attend. Call Fred at 695-2354 for more information.

Work & Clean-up party, Findlay/North Fayette segment, every forth Saturday of the month - 9:00 am. Meet at the Enlow Ballfield. Call 695-2354 for more information. (No work Dec., Jan. + Feb.)

MTC Annual Meeting - December 3, from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. At the Airport Marriott. See Page ...... for details.

AXA World Riders - come to the Montour Trail between 11:00am and noon. See page 1 for details.

Robinson Twp. Washington County - February, informational meeting and volunteer recruitment to continue the Trail into Robinson Twp. to the McDonald Trestle. See the January newsletter for details.

BIG NEWS

11th hour reprieve for Federal Railbanking Law and ISTEA legislation.
Both issues still to be decided, hearings to be held in Spring, 1996.

In a press release issued on Oct. 24, 1995, Congressman Bud Schuster, chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, indicated that he wishes to promptly pass legislation terminating the Interstate Commerce Commission and did not want that bill complicated by rails-to-trails issues.

Congressman Schuster says that he recognizes the value of rails-to-trails projects but also believes that a more “balanced approach” that preserves the rails-to-trails programs while protecting the principle of private property rights is desirable.

Richard R. Wilson, boardmember and recent past-president of the Pennsylvania State Rails-to-Trails Chapter says “We are pleased with this development but recognize that the battle to save Federal Railbanking is not yet over.”

Hearings next Spring will provide a forum for airing both sides of the issue. Pennsylvania (and national) rail-to-trail advocates will need to make certain that the Congressman hears from all of us in a very clear and powerful fashion. The implementation of changes to the Federal Railbanking Law will not impact the Montour Trail directly but it will impact many of our neighbor Trails. Those of us who wish to see the link between Washington D.C. and the Montour Trail (see page 4) become a reality should not take these changes lightly. Attempts to redistribute ISTEA funds already allocated affects everybody.

Keep your eye on the next issue of this newsletter for further developments and for advice on what action we can take.
Trail groups in Pittsburgh to Washington D.C. connection hold summit conference

On September 29, a day-long meeting was held at Hidden Valley to bring together people involved in creating the long-sought bike trail connecting Pittsburgh to the C & O Canal's western terminus at Cumberland, Maryland, and thus to Washington, D.C. Several trail groups have existed in Western Pennsylvania for the past half dozen years, each working independently to develop a segment of trail which would be a link in this corridor. About a year ago it began to become increasingly obvious that a much higher degree of coordination between them would be necessary in order to obtain the support of major foundations and exert the maximum political influence.

The Hidden Valley meeting was attended by about eighty individuals representing not only the five trail groups directly involved (Montour, Friends of the Riverfront, Steel Heritage, Mon-Yough, and Allegheny Highlands) but also Pennsylvania and Maryland Departments of Transportation and State Parks, County Planning Commissions, and others. National Rails-to-Trails president Dave Burwell, Pennsylvania Chapter chairman Dick Wilson, and Chapter coordinator Tom Sexton all attended. The Montour Trail, with ten attendees, was the largest delegation!

After status reports from the various trail groups and an update on political developments of immediate concern, the meeting focused on how we could most effectively pool our efforts toward completion of this trail. Effective fund raising strategies were discussed, with emphasis on the need to approach both large foundations and governmental bodies with a unified and coherent plan.

A consensus was reached that a steering committee composed of two representatives from each of the trail groups would begin to meet regularly. They will draw up a structure for a confederation to speak henceforth with one voice and plan for these trails.

Efforts will be initially directed solely toward completion of the mainline trail, although the organization may well eventually have a broader geographic responsibility. It is emphasized that this confederation will not in any sense govern or replace the individual trail groups, but will instead represent them. The MTC reps are Marshall Fausold and Bill Metzger.

Speaking of the "mainline" trail, the desirability of selecting a good specific name for this trail was recognized. Bill Metzger led a discussion of various proposed names, concluding with a very informal poll to identify favored name candidates. The results are not available.

The enthusiasm of the group as a whole for the project and the benefits of this conference were such that at the wrap-up session they called for such an event to be held semi-annually. All felt that the opportunity to meet and discuss concerns, problems and solutions with other regional trail developers, both collectively and individually, was a great experience.
WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS

☆ Norman Booth
☆ Douglas Boyd
☆ Merle Brickner, Sr.
☆ Gerald F. Conlon
☆ William J. Dodds
☆ Dristas Family
☆ Anne & Harold Hall
☆ Kristine Miller
☆ Mr. & Mrs. K.R. Piercy
☆ Sam Rockwell
☆ Linda Routch

☆ Dani & Dennis Scears
☆ Robert Shepherd
☆ Dale A. Sunday
☆ Jo Wilson

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.

Thank you -Anonymous- you know who you are

by Nancy Reed, Treasurer

And thank you to everyone who has designated the Montour Trail to be the recipient of your yearly United Way gift. This money that you send us through the United Way of S.W. Pennsylvania or the Upper Ohio valley United Way helps us to pay the necessary operating expenses for maintaining the sections of the Trail that have been completed. This has been an important source of unrestricted funding and has been increasing every year. Since 1992, we have received a total of $10,570, and $4100, or about 40%, of that has been received in the past year. Some of these gifts are only identified as coming from “Anonymous” so this is our only way to say thank you. Anonymous, or otherwise, we acknowledge your generosity and the help of United Way’s Designated Giving Program and your employers.

Please renew your membership when the renewal notice comes around. 1996 should be a big year for Trail construction, amenities to existing sections and bridge construction.

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.

☐ STUDENT $5
☐ INDIVIDUAL $15
☐ FAMILY $25
☐ ORGANIZATION $50
☐ SUPPORTING $50
☐ SUSTAINING $100
☐ BENEFACCTOR $250 + up

(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 (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.

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 where you work.
Reservation form for the MTC Annual Meeting

This year’s Annual Meeting will be held at the Airport Marriot on Sunday, December 3, 1995 from 1-5pm. Among the items on the agenda besides the election of new board members is the “State of the Trail” address from President Marshall Fausold and an update on the Pittsburgh to Washington D.C. connection by Bill Metzger with questions and answers to follow. Try to attend. A good time is always had by all. Please make your selection from the choice of entrees below and send it along with your check for $18.00 per person (made out to “Montour Trail Council”) to the address at the bottom of the page before November 30. A cash bar will be available.

<table>
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<th>Item:</th>
<th>Number:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sole Almondine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grilled Breast of Chicken</td>
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Ballot form for the Montour Trail Council Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Fausold</td>
<td>Current MTC President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Reed</td>
<td>Current MTC Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bob Boyce</td>
<td>Crafton Heights resident, Univ.of Pittsburgh Facilities Mgr. outdoor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>enthusiast, active in Moon/Robinson Friends Group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul McKeown</td>
<td>Upper St. Clair resident, Engineer at Westinghouse Bettis Labs, on/off</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>road bicycle enthusiast, active in various local conservation groups,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>active in distribution of MTC publicity materials and paraphernalia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judy Thompson</td>
<td>Thornburg Borough resident, Founder - Montour Education Foundation,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>former member of the Montour School Board, United Way Food Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coordinator, bicycle enthusiast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Fill in this space if you know of some other person who could lend their</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>talents and expertise to MTC.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Select five

Even if you cannot attend the Annual Meeting, please fill out this ballot and mail to: MTC Annual Meeting
Must be received before November 30
212 Ogden Nash Dr.
Moon, Pa. 15108
Order form for the Incredible Inch Campaign

Disclaimer: You won’t actually own a piece of the Montour Trail, but we appreciate your donation.

The whole Montour Trail is now "for sale". All 3,484,800 inches of it. Buy it by the inch, foot, yard, rod, meter, furlong, mile or league. It is all the same reasonable price; a buck an inch. That’s right, a buck an inch! And your inches run the whole ten foot width of the trail (that’s 120 inches wide).

You can be creative: add up the height of your entire family and buy that many inches of trail, or measure the length of your whole family’s feet. How long is your dog? Buy his length in inches of trail. Or, if your a little short, just buy the length of his tail. And they make great gifts for that active friend. If we “sold” every inch of trail, it would pay for the whole thing.

For your money, you will receive a genuine, simulated hand-lettered, faux-embossed, 8 1/2 x 11 inch official looking “deed” (suitable for framing), that will proudly proclaim your ownership of the trail (with the requisite fineprint). This beautiful document will show the total number of inches you “own” and the township in which they are located.

NAME__________________________________________________________
ADDRESS_______________________________________________________
CITY_______________________________________ZIP____________________
NUMBER OF INCHES_____________________________________________
CIRCLE THE COMMUNITY THAT YOU WOULD LIKE NAMED ON YOUR "DEED":

MOON TOWNSHIP
ROBINSON TWP. (ALLEQ)
FINNLAT TOWNSHIP
NORTH PATETTE TWP.
ROBINSON TWP. (WASHINGTON)
MT. PLEASANT TWP.

CECIL TOWNSHIP
PETERS TOWNSHIP
SOUTH PARK TWP.
JEFFERSON BORO
CLAIROHN
BETHEL PARK

Please fill out this form and return it with your check to:
MTC INCREDIBLE INCH CAMPAIGN
1060 STANFORD RD.
PITTSBURGH PA. 15205

USE THE COUPON
This Montour Trail is a great place to work off that Thanksgiving dinner!

 Rib Cook-off Volunteers net Big Payoff