

Fall 2010

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IN THE LOOP

The McKeesport Trail Commission Newsletter



Members of the Ride Against AIDS cross-country cycling team included Shane Hegde, Sanford Roberts, Zane Silver, Claire Fisher and Jason Lupatkin all from Stanford University in California; Mike Stewart, University of Wyoming; and Kirsten Pufahl, Illinois Wesleyan University. The FACE AIDS student group is dedicated to fighting the spread of AIDS in Africa and raising awareness about HIV/AIDS. They began their trip in San Francisco on June 14 and planned to end in Boston, MA on August 19. To learn more about the ride go to www.faceaids.org/raa.

Frank A. Cavaluzzi, a standing cyclist, rode from McKees Cafe to Washington, DC to raise awareness of mesothelioma. (See his photo and caption on page 3.)

The LooP Trail, running on both sides of the Youghiogheny River between the Boston and 15th Street Bridges, is exactly 6.2 miles or 10K in length. It is open to the public and is served by three trailhead parking lots, at Boston and Will and 28th Streets in McKeesport.

If any local group or organization would like to walk or pedal the LooP for a cause or fund raiser and have The McKeesport Trail Commission host the event, please contact Linda Brewster, President, c/o City Hall, 500 Fifth Avenue, McKeesport, PA 15132.

CYCLING FOR A CAUSE

Trail activities on the Great Allegheny Passage through McKeesport this summer were highlighted by two long-distance cyclists riding under challenging circumstances to Washington, DC and one group of seven college students cycling from coast to coast, all for charitable causes.

David Lackner, 15, of Great Falls, VA traveled by unicycle from McKeesport to Washington, DC to raise money and awareness for juvenile diabetes. David was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes in June 2009 and took up unicycling soon after that. He and his father, Daniel, began their trek on August 8. His video blog recording the trip can be viewed at www.unicycle4jd.webs.com.





The weather was perfect. The food was delicious. And the crowds were in the thousands during the three days of the 51st Annual International Village, August 17, 18 and 19, 2010. The Marin Cruiser Bicycle Raffle was a great success and we thank Zak's Speed Shop for the bicycle donation. The winner

was Mark Fey, at left, of North Versailles.

The McKeesport Trail Commission extends a special THANK YOU to the volunteers who staffed the booth during the three-day festival: Darlene Allen, Robert Baum, Linda Brewster, Lynn Dougherty, Brian Evans, Maryann Huk, Laura Jenkins, Bob and Joyce MacGregor, Kimberly, Chazlee and Sterling Myers, David Ringler, Henry Russell and Charlie Smith.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK



Congratulations to McKeesport Mayor James R. Brewster on being named Mayor of the Year by the Pennsylvania State Mayors' Association. He was chosen by a five-member panel of Pennsylvania mayors and received the award on July 17 in State College, PA.

Mayor Brewster, pictured with McKeesport Trail Commissioner Darlene Allen at left, works tirelessly to "Bring McKeesport Back." He has taken the lead in getting the trails through McKeesport completed and for the renovations to the McKees Point area. The McKeesport Trail Commission thanks him for his dedication and support.

We wish him the best of luck in the race for the 45th Senatorial District seat.

TRAILSCENES

HAPPY TRAVELERS

Cyclists are impressed with the scenic beauty of our McKeesport Trails. Pictured, left to right, are visitors Larry Hoffacker of Poolsville, MD, Ryan Rabideau of University of Maryland, College Park, Lee Rabideau of Frederick, MD and David Wozniak of Fairfax, VA. We welcome David as a new "Friend" of The McKeesport Trail Commission.



TRAIL BEARING FRUIT

Robert MacGregor, Trail Monitor, offers apples from the McKeesport Trailhead apple tree to Jessica Wachter of Louisville, KY, Patricia Wachter of Northampton, MA and Joe Greene also of Louisville. They commented that the trail was well-signed. The apple tree was pruned and fertilized last fall as part of the trail beautification project and yielded a bumper crop of apples this summer for any passing cyclist to enjoy.



A HEALTHY WALK

The McKeesport Trail Commission hosted "A Health Walk on the Trail" on Saturday, June 5, 2010 for residents and staff of Auberle. Robert MacGregor, Trail Monitor, led the group along McKeesport's section of the Great Allegheny Passage from the McKees Point Trail to the Fifteenth Street Bridge and back. Trail Commissioner Darlene Allen arranged the event. Pictured at the McKeesport Trailhead are Darlene Allen, left, and Boniface Igba, Spiritual Development Coordinator at Auberle, and two teen participants.

STAND UP. DO GREAT THINGS.

Frank A. Cavaluzzi, a standing cyclist, rode from McKees Cafe to Washington, DC to raise awareness of mesothelioma. He uses a bicycle that has no seat and a fixed gear that does not allow him to coast. Frank cycles for special causes and uses the motto, "Stand Up. Do Great Things." For more information email him at fac@standingcyclist.com.



AMTRAK TO OFFER NEW BICYCLE SERVICE



Amtrak announced this summer that they would begin offering roll-on/roll-off bicycle service on the Capitol Limited by the end of June 2011. Allegheny Trail

Alliance president Linda McKenna Boxx explains, "This means that cyclists boarding at Pittsburgh, Connellsville, Cumberland, Harpers Ferry, Martinsburg, Rockville, or Washington, DC will be able to roll their bikes onto the train (reservations will be required; spaces will be limited at first), put them in a rack, and get off at any of these stops. Amtrak will be retrofitting several cars and needs to work out operational issues before the service can begin.

"This is great news for all the towns along the Great Allegheny Passage and the C&O Canal towpath," Ms. McKenna Boxx said. "This will add a great convenience and extra excitement to tourists who want to bike our great trail system.

"Special thanks goes to the SCA Trail Town Outreach Corps for their work in developing a survey to assess interest in this service, conducting other research, and helping to organize a letter writing campaign to Amtrak. Leadership in Somerset County helped us bring this idea to Amtrak's attention in conjunction with their efforts to create a stop at Rockwood, and ATA developed a report showing the need, the trail traffic, survey results and sample itineraries. Thanks to all of you who sent your letters to Amtrak; it made a big difference."

McKEESPORT TRAIL COMMISSION ANNOUNCES OFFICERS & COMMISSIONERS

Officers of the McKeesport Trail Commission include:

- Linda Brewster, President
- Kimberly M. Myers, Vice-President
- Bob Baum, Treasurer
- Joyce MacGregor, Secretary

New Commissioners are the Rev. Brian A. Evans and Regis McLaughlin, President of McKeesport City Council. Continuing their service as McKeesport Trail Commissioners are Darlene Allen, Lynn Dougherty and Laura Jenkins. The Commission thanks Roy Faloskey, Dale McCall and Robert MacGregor for their service since 2007.

McKEESPORT TRAIL COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

The commission will have its final meeting of the year on Tuesday, October 26, 2010. Meetings resume in March and a schedule will be printed sometime in February in the "Legal Notice" section of THE DAILY NEWS. All meetings are open to the public and are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 PM at McKees Cafe, 501 Water Street, McKeesport.

McKEES CAFE WINTER HOURS

Beginning November 1, 2010, McKees Cafe will be open from 8 AM to 2 PM Thursdays through Mondays. The Cafe will be closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The McKeesport Trail Commission thanks Ray Dougherty for providing them with a pleasant monthly meeting place and Brian Cumberland for all the delicious meals.

McKees Cafe has become a popular stop-over for through cyclists, who have filled nearly all of the wall space with their names and home towns and home countries.

NEW McKEESPORT TRAILS WEBSITE

The City of McKeesport's Webmaster, Robert Baich, has added a comprehensive article and photos about the four bicycle/hiking trails within the city limits under "Community". Please visit www.mckeesport.org to view this trail information and other interesting details about the city. The McKeesport website can also be accessed through a link in the Great Allegheny Passage website www.atatrail.org.

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

- McKeesport Lions Club for their donation
- Robert W. Baum of Wilson Baum Agency
- Ryan Beck of Beck Concessions
- Ray Dougherty of McKees Cafe for a meeting place
- Colette Satler for her donation
- Julie Smith for her donation
- Zaks Speed Shop for the Marin Bicycle

NEW "FRIEND OF THE TRAIL"

- David Wozniak of Fairfax, VA

McKeesport Trail Commission

Linda Brewster, President
Kimberly M. Myers, Vice President
Robert Baum, Treasurer
Joyce MacGregor, Secretary
Regis McLaughlin, Councilman
Darlene Allen
Lynn Dougherty
Brian A. Evans, Newsletter Editor
Laura Jenkins

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McKEESPORT TRAIL COMMISSION

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☐ FAMILY - \$25

TRAIL SUPPORTERS

☐ SUPPORTING - \$50

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Please make checks payable to:

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IN THE LOOP

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% Linda Brewster
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