

HIWAYS

Volume 16 • Number 3 • September / October / November 2011

**Calendar
Pull-Out**



**HOSTELLING
INTERNATIONAL
TOLEDO AREA
(HI-TA)**

P.O. Box 352736
Toledo, OH 43635-2736
www.hitoledo.org
www.hiusa.org

*To help all, especially the young,
gain a greater understanding
of the world and its people
through hostelling.*

All events are open to
the public; newcomers are
always welcome.



HI-Ways is published by
Hostelling International
Toledo Area (HI-TA).

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The deadline for the
December/January/February
issue is October 21.



Through its programming,
HI-TA supports the mission of
Hostelling International USA.

HI-TA Annual Meeting October 23

The Annual Meeting of Hostelling International-Toledo Area Council will be Sunday, October 23 at 2:30 p.m. at the Lodge at Oak Openings Preserve Metropark, Swanton.

Members and guests are invited to attend the meeting and related activities. Come early for a “tornado walk” through areas of the preserve severely damaged by a deadly tornado that struck northwest Ohio in June 2010.

Bring a dish to pass for the pot luck lunch (beverages and utensils provided) and enjoy a presentation by youth cyclists who participated in the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure, with the support of HI-TA. ▲

Schedule:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 11:30 a.m. | Group walk led by Scott Carpenter |
| 12:30 p.m. | Pot Luck lunch |
| 1:30 p.m. | Program: GOBA youth participants |
| 2:30 p.m. | Annual meeting – awards & other business |

GOBA Trip More Than A Bike Tour

By Andy Stepnick, Toledo City Bicycle Co-op, andystepnick@yahoo.com

The recent Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure was undertaken by the Toledo City Bicycle Co-op in collaboration with Toledo Mountain Mentors and was supported financially by HI-TA. The financial report has been submitted back to HI-TA accompanied by a first hand account of the trip and evaluation. We will present our story at the annual meeting.

The program was extremely successful for the co-op because including an adventure trip in our program adds to the opportunities for youth who get involved at the shop.

The participants consisted of one mechanic teacher and two graduates of the advanced mechanic training (undertaken by contract with the Juvenile Justice System last year.) Ironically, before training began for GOBA, we had never ridden together despite having rehabilitated several bicycles together since the training program was solely skills-based.

continued on page 3

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President's message:

Considering Our Options

By Judy Wright

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer and enjoying all the HI-TA biking opportunities!

On June 11, 2011 a historic vote passed for Hostelling International USA at the special National Council Meeting in Chicago. The vote was for unification of our organization, which means elimination of our councils as we now know them. A National Transition Board was immediately voted into place and that is the team that is working on our future.

There are many questions our board and other councils have that need answers before we can move forward. The biggest question is how to keep things as stable in our council as possible, keeping all that is good about us and eliminating all that is unnecessary. We have a grid of options, among them becoming a Friends of Hostelling or advisory group, or acting as free agents. Each of these groups could apply for grants from National to conduct mission-based programming along with other formally organized groups such as Girl Scouts.

We still don't know what that means as far as autonomy. We have been told to do business as usual until our council is unified, so for now that is what we are doing.

Our rich hostelling history in the Toledo Council has been full of many hours of hard work and good times! We have all met such wonderful people and formed lasting relationships. We have traveled with, shared meals with and had conversations with so many. We have a bond that not many people experience in their lifetimes and I am so grateful for that! The good news is that we can continue to do just that -- make wonderful hostelling memories!

Know that our board has a development team that is working hard to make this happen! ▲



Historic Changes Just Beginning

By Scott Carpenter, Past President, NCM Delegate

Casting a vote at a National Council Meeting that will lead to the end of the Toledo Area Council after nearly 50 years would have been a difficult thing to do, if that's the way we looked at it. But the local board, which voted to support the unification of all councils with HI-USA, saw it differently:

This is not the end! It is the start of an exciting new era when HI-USA becomes a larger, stronger organization.

Any anxiety we felt about casting that vote in Chicago in June had to do with what role our local group would play in the future. That required a leap of faith. But in the opinion of the majority of councils across the country, the unknowns about the

Changes *continued from page 2*

future were outweighed by what we did know: that the existing structure of HI-USA was not taking us in the right direction. The question we had to ask ourselves was, Is it better to support a healthier, growing HI-USA, or continue to be a council affiliated with a shrinking organization whose future was in doubt?

That was then. The question now is, What does this mean for HI-TA?

Once an agreement is reached between HI-TA and HI-USA, there will be no local council. Until then, it's business as usual. It will likely take several years for National to reach agreements with each council and hostel.

In the mean time, the council board and Development Committee are exploring our options. They include, among other possibilities: reincorporating as another organization that continues to partner with HI-USA on mission-based activities, being a "friends" group of the national organization or disbanding all together and finding new sponsors for our bike tours and other events. To some extent, our negotiations with HI-USA will help determine what road we choose.

Under the new, unified organization, each of us - individually or as a group - is invited to play a role in HI-USA to help all, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and its people through Hostelling. Whatever form the Toledo Area Council takes in the future, that will continue to be the driving force for local members of Hostelling International.

Get Involved: HI-USA answers a lengthy list of frequently asked questions about unification in a document posted on the front page of hitoledo.org. To join the discussion, contact any member of the board, listed on page 2. Meetings will be scheduled in the months ahead to talk about the future of the Toledo Area Council. ▲

GOBA *continued from page 1*

Toledo Mountain Mentors participants consisted of three students and the program coordinator. The organization also considered the program extremely successful! Their criteria were that the students and mentors experience physical, emotional and spiritual challenges, and growth as happens



(L to R) Elijah, Steve, Jay, Andy, Lazaar and Kenny

on their traditional backpacking trip in New Hampshire, which has been going on for 25 years. It was disappointing to not recruit enough adults to provide a 1:1 ratio for this trip, but since both adults had taken week long backpacking trips with teens before, we took our chances with the group anyway.

GOBA moves as a 2,400 person transient city and one major task of this year's pilot program was to test how it would be to work with the students in this atmosphere. With so many people sharing the campground, it was sometimes difficult to have the space we needed to sort out some group dynamics.

Having so many options of things to do once getting to camp, including going into town, made it difficult to know what the best activity for the group would be ahead of time. When the teenagers would get excited about one possible activity over another, they would get impatient as the adults sometimes had other ideas for keeping the group energy higher than the status quo back home. Individual member's feelings of exhaustion or fear can cause outbursts which are awkward in a large group setting.

The GOBA atmosphere also provided many benefits for our group. The excellent use of quiet rural roads provided near-solitude moments. The constant sea of new faces made us feel like we were on our own journey within a larger one, giving cohesion to our group. The vast array of types of riders was a powerful thing to experience, with the overall GOBA city being one of positivity and rewarding physical exertion followed by peaceful rest.

Many family and friends were having quality time together. The presence of others sometimes allowed lessons to be self-teaching. For example after a student would complain about something like the headwind, we would no sooner finish the day behind someone three or four times older (or younger) who had been ahead of us all day pedaling through the same wind as well.

The questions have been answered: would a pre-packaged outdoors (but not-quite-wilderness) trip be suitable for both organizations and the students? Would a local, bicycle based group adventure be "different" enough from everyday life to provide a truly new experience for the participants?

Some outside observers even questioned if teenagers could ride that long and we certainly put that doubt to rest! So without surprise based on our positive evaluation, we are planning for the 2012 trip. Part of the team has already been enrolled and the bike co-op anticipates another Juvenile Justice mechanic training program - for which this will be an exciting prospect to introduce to some of the participants. ▲

HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL TOLEDO AREA

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September / October / November 2011

195 Riders Participate In Metroparks Tour

By Judy Wright, Tour Director

The Metroparks Tour in July was a great success, without incident, and I am so grateful! The unofficial count was 195 riders: 4 15-milers, 75 31-milers, 82 62-milers and 34 100-milers. It was 91 degrees with a light breeze.

The registration staff of Mary-Lou Leonard, Andy and Rose Kandik, and MaryAnn Radsheid was an efficient team. Mary-Ann brought and organized all the registration material, which was a huge help.

Renee Dallas, Pat and Ray Squire, Scott Carpenter, Susan Gulich and Sharifa Hotchkiss were again at the lunch stop, another well-oiled team. There were many compliments on lunch – the fruit, veggies and especially the friendly staff!

Pat and Dick Whitaker, who have helped every year, were at Oak Openings; Patti and Edgar Rapp were at Secor Metropark, Gary and Jan Samples were at Fallen Timbers. I didn't have to worry with these loyal volunteers at the stops who knew all the ropes and were self sufficient. John Rider carted items to Secor and sagged along with Ray Squire and

Ted Wright. Only one person needed SAG assistance due to the heat and traffic – an inexperienced 15 miler. Behind the scenes, Gerry Getz visited the post office regularly to get registrations as they came in, and handled the finances and record keeping, as well as SAGing on his bike. We had many compliments on the marked route, thanks again to Ray and Pat and all those who helped paint arrows!

A big thank you to Anthony Wayne Schools for allowing us to use their property and well kept restrooms.

Finally a big, big thank-you to the Metroparks staff: Heather Norris who reserved every shelter for us, communicated with all the staff to have buildings open and rangers, who were so kind; Scott Carpenter for all the PR and support. Isn't it great to be proud of our parks! We sometimes take for granted their beauty, but it isn't that way on its own, it takes many man hours and resource development to keep them looking so good and run so efficiently. Yes, we are very fortunate!

See you next year. Mark your calendars for July 21, 2012. ▲

Two More Bike Tours Left For The Season

Bike tour season is only half over, with two tours left for this year.

The annual Irish Hills Tour will be Sunday, September 18 at Centennial Terrace in Sylvania. Registration opens at 7:30. Choose from 10, 31, 62 or 100 miles. Riders will have maps and marked routes to follow, with road assistance (SAG), snacks and lunch on the longer routes.



The Tombstone Tour, a 38 mile fun ride past 11 country cemeteries (wear your Halloween costume!), is Saturday, October 15 at Secor Metropark. This is also a full-service ride, with a lunch stop for Tombstone Chili at Oak Openings Preserve and a snack stop at MacQueen's Orchard.



The Family Haunted Ride, a child-friendly 3-5 mile ride inside Oak Openings, is another option on that day. Kids 12 and under are invited to wear their costume and hit the trail. Limited to 60 children.

For more information, please see the calendar, or download tour brochures/registration forms at hitoledo.org. ▲

Women's Backpacking for Beginners

HI-TA is offering a two-day backpacking adventure for women close to home, Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25 at Oak Openings Preserve Metropark. Most gear and food are included for the \$100 entry fee. For information, contact Cheryl McCormick, 419/340-4005. ▲



Everyone Welcome...

Everyone is invited to attend the programs and activities listed in this calendar. Membership is not required.

To learn more about Hostelling International, or to join our national organization, please visit the Northwest Ohio website at: www.hitoledo.org.

September 2011

Thursday, September 1

10:00 a.m.

Maumee Bay Ride, 30 miles – C ride

Meet in International Park, 1st parking lot. Bike to Maumee Bay State Park. Bring a bag lunch to eat at the beach.

Ray & Pat Squire, 419/243-7680 cell 419/324-6364

Thursday, September 8

10:00 a.m.

Northern Erie County Grand Exploration & Adventure, 41 miles – C ride

Meet at Gary & Mardell Porter's home – 2704 Eastwood Dr., Sandusky 44870. Explore northern Erie County by bike. Several stops including restaurant lunch & ice cream. Car pool info & directions to the Porter's house: Pat Squire 419/243-7680 or call Gary.

Gary Porter, 419/621-1998

Thursday, September 15

10:00 a.m.

Give Me Liberty Ride, 38 miles – C ride

Meet in Oak Openings Metropark, Mallard Lake. Bike to restaurant lunch in Liberty Center.

Mary Lou Leonard, 419/865-5795



Sunday, September 18

7:30 a.m.

37th Annual Irish Hills Bicycle Tour

Centennial Terrace, Sylvania, OH
– Centennial & Sylvania-Metamora
Rds. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m.
10/31/62/100 miles. Map, marked
route, SAG, snacks, lunch on longer
routes. \$20 pre-reg, \$25, day of ride.
Registration forms in bike shops and at
www.hitoledo.org

*Patti Rapp & Mary Ann Radscheid,
PS00262@AOL.COM*

Monday, September 19

6:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

Reynolds Corners Public Library,
4833 Dorr St., Toledo

Judy Wright, 419/410-0087

Thursday, September 22

10:00 a.m.

Bike North Coast Inland Trail, 25 miles – C ride

Meet in Elmore, OH – Ory Park
parking lot (OH-51). Ride paved trail,
Elmore to Fremont & back. Bring a
lunch to eat in the park in Fremont.

Judy Smith, 419/340-8061

Saturday & Sunday,

September 24 & 25

Women's Backpacking for Beginners

Oak Openings Metropark.

Two-day event (9 a.m. Sat. - 4 p.m.
Sun). Many others, teens to seniors,
have completed this experience. Now,
you can, too. Pre-registration (\$100)
& HI membership required. Most
gear and food included. For complete
details, see article in this newsletter.

Cheryl McCormick, 419/340-4005

Thursday, September 29

10:00 a.m.

Susan's Mystery Ride, 30 miles – B ride

Meet in Secor Metropark, Nature
Photo Center. Bike rural roads.
Mystery restaurant lunch stop.

*Susan Goodman, 419/882-6608
cell: 419/944-4190*

October 2011

Sunday, October 3

11:30 a.m.

Day at Lakeside + Pot Luck Lunch

Harry & Marcia Roby's house
(619 Plum Ave. 419/798-9839) in
Lakeside, OH. Bring a dish to share
+ bike or walking shoes. Bike or walk
after lunch. Driving or carpool info
(1 hr from Toledo): Pat Squire
419/243-7680.

*Harry & Marcia Roby,
419/832-0883*

Thursday, October 6

10:00 a.m.

Bellevue Ride, 35 miles –

C ride

Meet at Bob Forney's house in Bellevue
(181 Yorkshire Pl). Bob will lead one of
his favorite rides. Snack stop at White's
Landing. Lunch provided (please
RSVP – help the cook!) Bring bread or
popcorn to feed the trout in Castalia.
Car pool info & directions to Bob's
house: Pat Squire 419/243-7680 or
call Bob.

Bob Forney, cell: 419/217-1641

Saturday, October 8

10:00 a.m.

Double Cannonball Ride 28 miles – C ride

Meet in Fallen Timbers Mall - in front
of J.C. Penney's . Bike trail & roads.
Restaurant lunch in Swanton.

Elvin Buchele, 419/885-0528

Thursday, October 13

10:00 a.m.

Pedal to Petersburg, 32 miles – C ride

Meet in Carr Park on Lewis Ave. in
downtown Temperance, MI. Bike to
restaurant lunch in Petersburg

Ed Szymanski, 734/847-8929



Saturday, October 15

11:00 a.m.

Tombstone Bicycle Tour, 38 miles

Secor Metropark – Nature
Photography Center. Registration open
11:00 to 12 noon. Map, marked route,
SAG, 2 food stops including chili
lunch. See 11 cemeteries. Optional
“Graveside Sighting Adventure”. \$20,
pre-reg, \$25, day of ride. Entry forms
in bike shops and at www.hitoledo.org

*Judith Wilkinson & LaRae Sprow,
419/882-5707*

Saturday, October 15

11:00 a.m.

Haunted Family Ride, 3 to 5 miles

Oak Openings Metropark – Mallard
Lake. For families with children aged
12 & under. Bike “haunted” trail
with Park Naturalist. Tombstone
chili lunch. Limit 60. Pre-reg forms
in area locations or call. Day of event
registration available.

*Judith Wilkinson & LaRae Sprow,
419/882-5707*

Monday, October 17

6:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

Sanger Public Library, 3030 W. Central
Ave., Toledo.

Judy Wright, 419/410-0087

Thursday, October 20

10:00 a.m.

Sylvan Lakes & Prairie Paths, 40 miles – C ride

Meet in Wildwood Metropark –
Visitor Center. Bike paths & roads.
Restaurant lunch in Mayberry.

Elvin Buchele, 419/885-0528



Friday, October 21

6:30 p.m.

**Halloween
Bonfire & Pot
Luck**

10119 Lewis Ave., 1.5 mi N of Temperance, MI. Bring a dish to share. Hot dogs, beverages & marshmallows provided. Optional hayride. Rain date: Saturday, October 23.
Judy & Dan Smith, 419/340-8061



Sunday, October 23

**Annual Meeting of HI-Toledo Area
& Pot Luck**

Oak Openings Metropark LODGE

11:30 a.m. Group walk in the park – led by Scott Carpenter

12:30 p.m. Pot Luck lunch begins promptly at this time. Bring a dish to share. Utensils & beverage provided.

1:30 p.m. Program: GOBA youth participants, supported by HI-TA

2:30 p.m. Annual meeting – awards & other business. For details, see article in this issue.

Judy Wright, 419/410-0087

Thursday, October 27

10:00 a.m.

**Carol's Mystery Ride, 25 miles –
C ride**

Meet in Wildwood Metropark – Visitor Center. Bike to lunch at a favorite restaurant. Last Thursday morning bike ride of 2011.

Carol Rider, 419/865-9145 cell: 419/343-7572



November 2011

Thursday, November 3

10:00 a.m.

First Fall Walk, 4 miles

Meet in Swan Creek Metropark, Airport Hwy parking lot. Walk park trails. Bring a lunch to eat after walk in window on wildlife..

Mary Lou Leonard, 419/865-5795



Thursday, November 10

10:00 a.m.

Providence Walk, 4 miles

Meet in Providence Metropark – canal boat parking lot (US-24). Walk river trail. Restaurant lunch in Grand Rapids.

Connie Bauer, 419/260-8387

Thursday, November 17

10:00 a.m.

Secor Walk, 5 miles

Meet in Secor Metropark, Nature Photo Center. Walk park trails. Bring a lunch to eat in Window on Wildlife, afterwards.

Carol Rider, 419/865-9145 cell: 419/343-7572

Monday, November 21,

6:00 p.m.

Mail Party & Board Meeting

Sanger Public Library, 3030 W. Central Ave., Toledo. Come early to prepare newsletter calendar for distribution. Board Meeting follows.

Judy Wright, 419/410-0087

December 2011

Thursday, December 1

10:00 a.m

Oak Openings Walk, 5 miles

Meet at Pat Gooch's house, 13835 Reed Rd. (corner of OH-64). Walk in Oak Openings Metropark. Bring a lunch to eat in Pat's house after walk. Beverages provided.

Pat Gooch, 419/825-2735

Saturday, December 10

6:00 p.m

HI-TA Annual Holiday Party

Lane's End Farm, 8602 Pilliod Rd (off Albon, between Airport & Garden Rds.) Meet old and new HI friends. Bring a dish to share. Ham, beverages & table service provided. Please also bring a holiday gift for those in need: canned goods, hat, scarf or mittens.

Parking somewhat limited, so carpool if possible.

Come when you can, leave when you must. RSVP by Dec. 8.

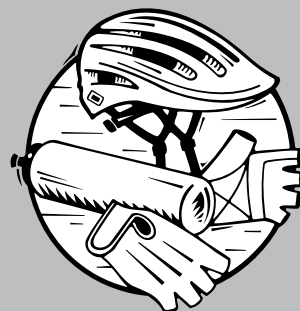
Mary Lou Leonard, 419/865-5795






REMEMBER:

Life jackets/vests must be worn during all HI-TA sponsored canoe activities.

All HI-TA sponsored bike rides require cyclists to wear approved helmets.



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City / State / Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

Please send me a copy of the current USA Hostel Directory.

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