



# HI WAYS

Hostelling International – Toledo Area: March, April & May 2009: Vol. 14 No. 1

## Pousadas de Juventude—Lisbon, Portugal

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The trip had been planned for years. I would meet three friends, all arriving at different times, in Lisbon. From there, we would travel through Portugal, Spain, and Morocco, and head back to Lisbon for the last few days of the three-week venture to enjoy the music and museums. My *Lonely Planet* guidebook promised that Lisbon's medieval and Moorish past would be evident in the streets and buildings, so I knew that would provide a memorable place to end.



It stands to reason that when four single adult women are called upon to compromise on issues of shared space, budgets, and ideals, it can be a bit of a strain. Add to that the worldwide economic uncertainties and the upcoming U.S. presidential elections, and our resulting trip looked precious little like the one we had originally planned.

So by the time we arrived back at the HI Pousadas de Juventude, I was dirty and tired and needing to recharge my batteries. I had missed having a home base, was desperate for some separation from my group, and looked forward to doing some people watching. Mr. Carbonera greeted us at the hostel's front desk and happily checked us in. He mentioned that he was a transplant from Brazil, studying law in Portugal and using his hostel job as an opportunity to perfect his foreign language skills. "Portuguese, Spanish, English—I hope to learn even more," he said.

The hostel had wonderful accommodations—Internet, inexpensive cafeteria food, and even a bar/

lounge, complete with board games and a pool table. It was also clean and decorated cheerily. Shortly after our arrival, as I stuffed the washing machine with my clothes, I heard a masculine American voice behind me. "What's your story?"

I spun around. The man, who appeared to be in his mid-fifties, stood looking down at me with a grin on his face. "My laundry's dirty," I told him. "Yours?"

"I'm from Massachusetts, seeking political asylum until after the Revolution."

I searched his face for a hint of humor or mirth but found none. "Are you talking about the presidential elections?" I asked. He was not. I went back to my laundry and was happy that for a few euros I could wash it all. For a couple more, I grabbed a beer in the hostel's lounge and proceeded to divide my attention between some young German pool players and my journal. During that evening, I met Courtney, a university student from Arizona who was studying for a year in Athens, Greece. I met Kim, an African man who spoke fluent Russian and German. Some women from France and a group of Japanese high schoolers also passed through the lounge and exchanged pleasantries with me. All this made me feel connected again.

My bedroom in the hostel was small, with two bunk beds and a tiny table for writing. The mattresses were comfortable, and the noise level, despite the hostel being at capacity, seemed to be held to a minimum in the vicinity of our room.

The next morning, I ate breakfast at the hostel for just two euros. The food was pleasant enough, with eggs, pork, and a variety of cereals, juices, coffees, and teas. Once again, I appreciated the opportunity to converse with other excited travelers.

I then walked less than a city block to get a few more euros at an ATM, and from there it was fifteen minutes on foot to the Museu Calouste Gulbenkian, which had been described as second only to the Louvre by one of the travelers I had met at the hostel. I spent the afternoon looking at Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Chinese, Japanese, Oriental and Islamic art collections. It definitely did not disappoint.

Later, back at the hostel, Courtney and I talked about walking thirty minutes away to the Bairro Alto neighborhood to listen to fado, the Portuguese equivalent of blues, but we both tired out earlier than the 9 PM start time. Instead, I enjoyed a quiet dinner of a Portuguese meatloaf-type dish and potatoes at Antonio's, a small café just a five-minute walk away. When I returned to the hostel, I was anxious to get on the Internet and check the news to see how the election polls were looking. ...continued on p. 6

HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL TOLEDO AREA (HI-TA)

P.O. Box 352736  
Toledo, OH 43635-2736  
[www.hitoledo.org](http://www.hitoledo.org)  
[www.hiusa.org](http://www.hiusa.org)  
[toledoareacouncil@ekit.com](mailto:toledoareacouncil@ekit.com)

*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.



## President's Message

Welcome to 2009, the 75th anniversary year of hostelling in the United States. This spring, we will announce how HI-TA plans to celebrate this milestone and how you can be involved.

We begin the year with a lot of energy and a full board of fourteen members. At our January 21 board meeting, Andrew Schuman, of Grand Rapids, Ohio, was appointed to fill an open seat on the board. Some of us got to know Andrew on a road trip to Washington for the National Council Meeting in

November; others met him at a volunteer workday last year at Malabar Farm. An attorney and father of two boys, he comes to the board with hostelling experience, having served as manager of the Stanford House hostel in Peninsula, Ohio. Sadly, Stanford House closed at the end of 2008, with no plans to reopen.

I'm looking forward to working with a terrific board as we begin an exciting new season of hostelling. While these are difficult times financially for many individuals and organizations, there may never be a better time for hostelling to fill the need for low-cost travel experiences that bring people of different cultures together in peace.

I'd like to share my priorities for 2009:

- It's critical for our organization to have four successful bike tours. These tours are the primary way HI-TA raises money to support all the good works we do in the community. They are also important traditions in our council. See back page for this year's ride dates.

- We want to use the opportunity of the 75th anniversary to let more people know about hostelling, and we invite members to become more involved in our efforts. Jennifer Jarrett, our immediate past president, has agreed to chair the new Development Committee, which will have oversight of our 75th anniversary celebration. Look for more information to come.

- We must do all we can to encourage people, especially youth, to experience hostels. We don't have a hostel in our council, but we can help further the goals of HI-USA by promoting hostelling in the U.S. and around the world through our educational efforts. With the closing of Stanford House, I also think it's important that we do all we can to support the Malabar Farm hostel, the only remaining hostel in Ohio.

- Finally, as a communications professional, I want to find new ways to engage our members in our organization, programs, activities, and mission. I need your help to figure out the best way to do that. Please call or email me—or other board members—with your suggestions.

*Scott Carpenter*

100 YEARS OF  
HOSTELLING  
WORLDWIDE

2009

75 YEARS OF  
AMERICAN  
YOUTH HOSTELS



Meet the newest member of our board, Andrew Schuman, and his two sons—Jordan, age 6 (on the left) and Daniel, age 4—and the family dog, Moses. Andrew is a lawyer in Bowling Green and just moved into a new home in Grand Rapids. He brings with him great experience as the five-month interim hostel manager at the Stanford House. Welcome, Andrew!

## HI-Ways

### EDITOR:

Anne Burnham  
419/841-8427  
727/348-9983 (cell)  
aburnham56@hotmail.com

### STAFF:

Peter Tubbs, Layout  
Susan Gulich, Proofreader  
Gerry Getz, Circulation  
Pat Squire, Distribution

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## Hostelling International — Toledo Area Board Members

Scott Carpenter: pres./Public Relations chair	419/346-7858	scott.carpenter@metroparkstoledo.com
Renée Dallas: vice pres./Membership, Programs, Development	419/475-7972	rdallas9@yahoo.com
Jamie Olmstead, secy./Hostel Development	419/418-2359	jamieo28@gmail.com
Gerry Getz: treas./Membership chair, Finance, Activities	419/472-7785	gerrygz@juno.com
Ed Dolgorukov: Hostel Development	419/292-1551	dolgorukov@marshall-melhorn.com
Scott H. Grenerth: Activities, Programs, Development	419/306-7575	sgrenerth@wcnet.org
Jennifer Jarrett: Programs, Development chair	419/244-6794	jjarrett0628@yahoo.com
Audrey Johnson: Programs, Activities	419/870-9977	jlmcabex.net
Patti Rapp: Activities	419/250-0262	ps00262@aol.com
Andrew Schuman: Finance	419/352-9999	3529999@live.com
Bill Siebenaler: Public Relations, Development	419/478-6609	wmaseb@yahoo.com
Pat Squire: Activities chair	419/243-7680	patsquire@juno.com
Judy Wright: Public Relations, Programs chair	419/410-0087	jawright@buckeye-access.com
Dr. Judith Wilkinson: Programs	419/882-5707	judith.wilkinson@utoledo.edu



## Quick Notes

### Blue Creek Service Project Thursday, April 16th - 10:00 AM

This service project was suggested by Pat Gooch (419/825-2735). We will be working on flowerbeds if the sun shines or on an inside project if the weather doesn't cooperate. Bring work gloves and a lunch to enjoy on the property. Old clothes and long pants are recommended. We are to meet at the "big white barn" on the property, which is on Schadel Rd., between Stiles and Neapolis-Waterville Rds. (Nature's Nursery is on the same property.) For further directions, call Penny at 419/461-4861.

Join us and bask in the good feeling we get from participating in these projects.

*Jan Samples*

### Maumee Valley Tri-Adventure Race Saturday, May 16th - 7:00 AM

The race starts at the marina parking lot of Independence Dam State Park, which is on State Route 424, three miles east of Defiance. Information and a brochure are available at the race website: [www.maumetriadventure.net](http://www.maumetriadventure.net). Bicycle shops, YMCAs, and health clubs within sixty miles of Toledo also have brochures.

This is already the 24th annual Maumee Valley Tri-Adventure Race. It is the most challenging race of its sort in Northwest Ohio. This year everyone will do the 36 miles of road biking first. The second leg is 6 miles of canoeing or kayaking and the last is 8 miles of backpacking, carrying 20% of body weight. The total distance for the race is 50 miles. Anyone who can do this race in less than five hours is really moving. In 2008 a relay team made up of Tim and Rick Nijakowski and Steve Rieger went the distance in just 3 hours and 26 minutes, a new all-time record.

If you have any questions, contact me at [larryl.lindsay@amplex.net](mailto:larryl.lindsay@amplex.net) or 419/826-5182. If you can volunteer, your help would be much appreciated.

*Larry Lindsay*

### Best Wishes to Pat Squire

Pat had a nasty fall on the ice recently and broke her wrist, necessitating surgery. She expects the third cast to be removed in early May. Despite the great difficulties in doing the usual things, she has somehow managed to organize the calendar of activities for March/April/May and submit various other notices for this newsletter, all while typing one-handed. You're amazing, Pat!

### Lupine Ride Sunday, May 17th

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about all the wonders that are available to you right outside your door. Join the Nature Conservancy and Hostelling International-Toledo Area in celebrating Blue Weekend (May 16-17). Many activities are planned, including this bike ride.

The Lupine Ride is a guided tour of the Oak Openings Region, where cyclists will learn what is so special about the wild lupine and the Karner blue butterfly. The ride starts at Crissey School at 1 PM (registration begins at 12:30) and ends at the same place (Crissey and Geiser Roads, just north of Airport Highway). Enjoy a refreshment stop at the Nature Conservancy's Kitty Todd Preserve, where you can also opt to take a short hike through prime lupine and Karner blue butterfly habitat. Ice cream and homemade blueberry sauce will be served to all riders! The cost to participate in the event is just \$3. You may register at the start or pre-register by downloading a form at [hitoledo.org](http://hitoledo.org), emailing ([toledoareacouncil@ekit.org](mailto:toledoareacouncil@ekit.org)), or calling 419/410-0087. A schedule of other Blue Weekend activities is available at the preserve office, 10420 State Line Road.

*Cindy Warner*

### Change of Board Meeting Place & Time

Beginning on March 18th, board meetings will no longer be held at Toledo Hospital. The new location, at least through May, is Sanger Library, 3030 W. Central Avenue. The new start time for meetings will be 6:30 PM.

### 2008-2009 Bicycle Facilities Guide for Recreational Riding

This new 14-page booklet, published by TMACOG (Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments), is now available in bike shops, at HI-TA events, and on TMACOG's website ([www.tmacog.org](http://www.tmacog.org)). It includes descriptions and maps of existing and proposed paths, as well as signed bike routes in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. Also included are safety tips and lists of bike shops, bike clubs, and useful websites. On the TMACOG website, click on "Transportation" to locate the guide.

### Sign up for Email Notices

The HI-TA board urges all members to go to [hitoledo.org](http://hitoledo.org) and sign up to receive email notices. It's quick and easy and will ensure that you know about upcoming events. Your email address will be kept private.

### RoadID Update

In an earlier issue of this newsletter, I extolled the virtues of RoadID, a stainless steel identification plate that can be worn on a wrist or shoe strap, ankle band, or shoe pouch. It has given me comfort to know that when I'm out jogging, biking, rowing, or whatever—whether in a group or alone—there is information readily available should something happen to me. Shortly after I received the original RoadID, however, my daughter's phone number changed. Now I have something better.

RoadID's new interactive option provides room for a couple of lines of personal ID, followed by a phone number and website to a 24-hour emergency response system. The interactive ID allows you to build a fully updateable, secure emergency response profile that is available to first responders 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The cost for each type of ID is the same (\$19.99); the interactive service is free the first year and after that costs \$9.99 per year. It's perhaps the best insurance against ever having to use it!

*Anne Burnham*



Congratulations to Patti and Edgar Rapp, shown here at their wedding in Locherhof, Germany, on December 27th.

*Ed. Note:* Patti reports she has been taking weekly German lessons from HI-TA member Marcia Roby and that that has been a big help on her trips to Germany with Edgar.

## Hostelling International – Toledo Area – March Calendar

Mar 5, Thur 10:00 am	Carol's Month-of-March Walk Secor Metropark, Photography Center. Walk trails. Bring brown bag lunch to eat in Window on Wildlife.	4 miles	Carol Rider	419/865-9145
Mar 6, Fri 6:30 pm	Soup's On! Potluck supper, hosted by the Robys, 2071 Thornapple Dr., off Eastgate. Soup and beverage provided. You bring a salad or dessert. Warm HI-TA fellowship on a cold winter evening. Get exact directions when you RSVP.	RSVP by 3/5 to:	Marcia & Harry Roby	419/382-0883
Mar 7, Sat 1:00 pm 2:15 pm	Walk (or Ski) & Travel Circle Secor Metropark, Nature Center, to walk (or ski, if snow) trails. Secor Room: "South Africa, It's Not All Black & White," a slide program by Tom & Nancy Verner.	3 miles	Mary Lou Leonard	419/865-5795
Mar 12 Thur 10:00 am	Providence Walk Providence Metropark, canal boat parking lot (US-24). Walk river trail. Restaurant lunch in Grand Rapids.	4 miles	Connie Bauer	419/875-5345
Mar 14 Sat 1:00 pm 2:15 pm	Walk (or Ski) & Travel Circle Oak Openings Metropark <u>Lodge</u> to walk (or ski, if snow) trails. <u>Lodge</u> : "America the Beautiful," a slide program by Ruth Rittichier.	3 miles	Scott Price	419/877-4712
Mar 15, Sun 1:30 pm	St. Patrick's Bike Ride St. Patrick's of Heatherdowns, 4201 Heatherdowns, corner of Eastgate. Bike to Historic St. Patrick's for Irish music, then back. Brief rest stop (each direction) at South Toledo YMCA, 1226 Woodsdale Park Dr. (near Toledo Zoo).	25 miles	Ray & Pat Squire	419/243-7680
Mar 18, Wed 6:30 pm	Board Meeting Sanger Branch Public Library, 3030 W. Central Ave., Toledo-meeting room just inside door.		Scott Carpenter	419/346-7858
Mar 19, Thur 10:00 am	Pat's Chili Walk Pat's house, 13835 Reed Rd. (corner of OH-64). Walk in Oak Openings Metropark. Lunch after. Chili & beverage provided. Bring a salad or dessert to share.	5 miles	Pat Gooch	419/825-2735
Mar 21, Sat 1:00 pm 2:15 pm	Walk (or Ski) & Travel Circle Oak Openings Metropark <u>Lodge</u> , to walk (or ski, if snow) park trails. <u>Lodge</u> : "Travelling in Germany," a slide program by Patti & Edgar Rapp.	3 miles	Judy Wright	419/410-0087
Mar 26, Thur 10:00 am	End-of-Winter Walk Wildwood Metropark, Visitor Center. Walk trails, seeking signs of spring. Bring a lunch to eat in Window on Wildlife.	5 miles	Elvin Buchele	419/885-0528
Mar 28, Sat 1:00 pm 2:15 pm	Walk (or Ski) & Travel Circle Oak Openings Metropark <u>Lodge</u> , to walk (or ski, if snow) park trails. <u>Lodge</u> : "Costa Rican Escape," a slide program by Cindy Warner.	3 miles	Pat Gooch	419/825-2735

## Hostelling International – Toledo Area – April Calendar

Apr 2, Thur 10:00 am	Ride to Oak Openings Monclova School parking lot, southwest corner of Monclova & Monclova-Waterville Rds. Bike trail & roads. Bring bag lunch to eat at Mallard Lake window on wildlife.	20 miles - C ride	Marcia Roby	419/382-0883
Apr 9, Thur 10:00 am	Mystery Lunch Ride Lowe's, 7010 W. Central Ave. Bike trail & more. Mystery restaurant lunch stop.	25 miles - C ride	Carol Rider	419/865-9145
Apr 15, Wed 6:30 pm	Board Meeting Sanger Branch Public Library, 3030 W. Central Ave., Toledo-meeting room just inside door.		Scott Carpenter	419/346-7858
Apr 16, Thur 10:00 am	Blue Creek Conservation Service Project Blue Creek Conservation Area, Schadel Rd. (between Stiles & Neapolis-Waterville Rds.)-go to "white barn." Bring bag lunch & work gloves. Questions: Pat Gooch, 419/825-2735. See article in Quick Notes for project details.		Gary Samples	419/874-7369
Apr 18, Sat 10:00 am	Looking for Spring Walk Pat's house, 13835 Reed Rd. (corner of OH-64). Look for signs of spring in Oak Openings. Bring a lunch to eat at Pat's after walk. Beverage provided.	5 miles	Pat Gooch	419/825-2735
Apr 23, Thur 10:00 am	Popcorn Ride Wildwood Metropark, Visitor Center. Restaurant lunch stop.	20 miles - C ride	Cheryl Smith	419/885-3332
Apr 30, Thur 10:00 am	Pedal to Petersburg Carr Park, Lewis Ave., downtown Temperance, MI. Restaurant lunch stop.	32 miles - B ride	Ed Szymanski	734/847-8929



**Remember: All club-sponsored bike rides require cyclists to wear approved helmets.**

A : fast pace 16 + mph    B : fairly quick 14 + mph    C : moderate 12 mph    D : slow & short 8 mph

# 2009 100 YEARS OF HOSTELLING WORLDWIDE 75 YEARS OF AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS



Among those joining in the holiday festivities at the Wheeler's home on December 20th were (left to right): Linda Wheeler, Jane Wallace, Cheryl Sexton, Sue Wilson, Mary Lou Leonard, Ron Toneff, and Judy Wright

A hale and hearty group gathered on January 9th at Evergreen Lake in Oak Openings Metropark for some cross-country skiing; left to right: Edgar and Patti Rapp, Janet Smith, Neal Martin, Kathy Carnicom, Elvin Buchele, and Pat Gooch.

## Hostelling International – Toledo Area – May Calendar

May 2, Sat 9:00 am	Black Swamp Budget Tour Woodland Mall, US 25, Bowling Green. Park in rear lot. Discover the Black Swamp by bike. Fee: \$3 - map, marked route, sweep SAG. Food: buy at carry outs or restaurants on route or bring your own.	20/40/50/60 miles	Ray & Pat Squire	419/243-7680
May 5, Tue 6:30 pm	Ice Cream Ride Fallen Timbers Monument, off the Stitt Rd./Jerome Rd. exit from US-24, just west of I-475. Bike to ice cream stop along the way. First evening bike ride of the year!	15 miles - C ride	Marcia Roby	419/382-0883
May 7, Thur 10:00 am	Double Cannonball Ride Oak Openings Metropark, Mallard Lake. Lunch stop at Mom's Restaurant in Swanton.	28 miles - B & C ride	Elvin Buchele	419/885-0528
May 12, Tue 6:30 pm	Ice Cream Ride Sylvania Northview High School, 5463 Silica Dr., parking lot next to stadium. Bike to ice cream stop.	15 miles - C ride	Judy Wright	419/410-0087
May 14, Thur 10:00 am	Delta Lunch Ride Oak Openings Metropark, Mallard Lake. Bike to restaurant in Delta.	30 miles - C ride	Mary Lou Leonard	419/865-5795
May 17, Sun 1:00 pm	Wild Lupine Ride Crissey Elem. School, 9220 Geiser Rd. Tour Oak Openings region. See wild lupine in bloom. Fee: \$3. Food stop & activities at Nature Conservancy's Kitty Todd Preserve. For details, see article in Quick Notes.	20 miles - C ride	Cindy Warner	419/861-1058
May 19, Tue 6:30 pm	Ice Cream Ride Smith's house, 10119 Lewis Ave., 1.5 mi. north of Temperance, MI. Bike to ice cream stop.	15 miles - C ride	Judy Smith	419/340-8061
May 20, Wed 6:30 pm  7:00 pm	Mail Party & Board Meeting Sanger Branch Public Library, 3030 W. Central Ave., Toledo-meeting room just inside door. Prepare newsletter for distribution. Board Meeting.		Scott Carpenter	419/346-7858
May 21, Thur 10:00 am	Grand Rapids Ride Towpath trailhead/boat launch parking in Farnsworth Metropark (off U.S. 24, south of Roche de Boeuf entrance). Bike to restaurant lunch in Grand Rapids.	30 miles - B ride	Anne Burnham	419/841-8427
May 26, Tue 6:30 pm	Ice Cream Ride Side Cut Metropark, Silver Lake parking lot. Bike to an ice cream stop.	15 miles - C ride	Marcia Young	419/352-4897
May 28, Thur 10:00 am	Bike & Potluck & Swim Smith's house, 10119 Lewis Ave., 1.5 mi. north of Temperance, MI. Potluck picnic after ride. Optional swim in Smith's pool. Bring a dish to share & swimsuit.	30 miles - C ride	Judy Smith	419/340-8061



**Remember: All club-sponsored bike rides require cyclists to wear approved helmets.**

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## HI-TA Plans 75th Anniversary

As some of you may realize, this year is the 75th anniversary of Hostelling International USA, and the 100th anniversary of hostelling worldwide. The national council has marked the occasion by declaring Wednesday, August 26th, as National Hostelling Day. Mark your calendars now!

The Toledo Council was swept up in the excitement at this year's national meeting and has agreed to participate in several great events. HI-TA's 75th Anniversary Committee met on January 24th to begin planning a year full of service-oriented and fun events, as well as support for Malabar Farms and our local Girl Scout chapters. As Toledo has no hostel of its own, the council has decided to take Malabar Farms under its wing, with work weekends and contributions. Essay contests and Community Wall projects are among the events in store for local Girl Scouts.

All members of Hostelling International -Toledo Area can look forward to a year of opportunities for sharing hostelling stories, photo contests, and volunteer opportunities in honor of this momentous milestone. Stay tuned!

*Jamie Olmstead*



Board members gathered at Secor Metropark to make local plans for HI's 75th anniversary; left to right: Renée Dallas, Andrew Schuman, Audrey Johnson, Jamie Olson, Scott Carpenter, Gerry Getz, and Jennifer Jarrett; Judy Wright also participated and took the photo.

## Portage River Tour

Sunday, June 28

Woodmore High School, Elmore

The Portage River Tour is HI-TA's first major bike event of the year. You are invited to join us on this tour of scenic rural roads along the Portage and Toussaint Rivers. With clearly marked routes of 10, 31, 62, and 100 miles, the tour offers distances for riders of all skill levels, from novice to expert. Each rider receives a map of the route, a Portage River Tour 2009 patch, snacks and drinks at designated rest areas, and the famous Portage River Festival lunch in Elmore. SAG vehicles are available to assist in case of emergency or non-repairable breakdown. Pre-registration is \$20; registration the morning of the event is \$25, with discounted fees for children. Check-in is between 7 and 10 AM. Longer distance riders should start early.

After April 1st, entry forms will be available in bike shops, libraries, and YMCAs, as well as at [www.hitoledo.org](http://www.hitoledo.org)—or phone me at 419/243-7680. Not a bicycle rider? You can participate as a volunteer at one of the rest stops or at the registration table. Contact me today!

*Ray Squire*  
Tour Director

## National Council Meeting

The November HI-USA National Council Meeting in Washington, DC, was part training, part pep rally, and part public relations.

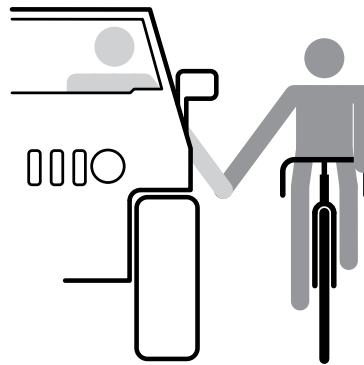
The PR component involved visits to Congressional offices for the third consecutive year. Fellow representatives of HI-Toledo Area—Renée Dallas, Jennifer Jarrett, Jamie Olmstead, and Andrew Schuman—visited with staff members of Representatives Marcy Kaptur and Robert Latta and Senators George Voinovich and Sherrod Brown. The purpose of the visits was to keep the HI-USA name in front of legislators, both for immediate and future purposes. In the short term, the organization is requesting that resolutions be introduced in both houses of Congress commemorating this year's 75th anniversary of hostelling in the United States. Longer term, HI would like the opportunity to discuss operating hostels on federal lands, such as national parks.

The anniversary was the subject of the pep rally part of the meeting. The celebration, which is to take many forms, will culminate with a week of activities in August all across the country. Look for details about upcoming HI-Toledo Area plans in future issues of *HI-Ways* and at [hitoledo.org](http://hitoledo.org).

Most of the three-day meeting was used to educate attendees about HI-USA initiatives, such as Campaign for Hostelling, a three-year development effort. New trial memberships, called Try Cards, were also announced. Free, three-month memberships will be offered this year, primarily to college students and other young adults, and will be valid only at domestic hostels in the HI network.

The National Council meeting included a board meeting and election of officers, and a regional council meeting. National CEO Russ Hedge hosted council presidents for lunch, and awards were presented at a banquet.

*Scott Carpenter*



A reminder from Bike Hugger (<http://bikehugger.com>) for all of us to share the road.

## Pousadas de Juventude ...Continued from p. 1

As I perused MSN, I wondered how closely fellow hostellers from countries all over the world were following the U.S. political scene.

The answer came soon enough. The women's bathroom sink on our floor had become hopelessly stopped up, and a long queue was quickly forming behind one of my roommates as she approached Mr. Carbonera at the front desk.

"Excuse me," she said, "but the sink is clogged up on our floor, and many women are waiting to brush their teeth. Could you please send someone to help?"

"No problem," came his quick response. "I will immediately dispatch Joe the Plumber."

*Liz Meredith*

To book a reservation at the Pousadas de Juventude, go to [www.hihostels.com](http://www.hihostels.com) and click on Lisbon—Centre. They can also be contacted by calling 35 1213532698 or emailing [lisboa@movijovem.pt](mailto:lisboa@movijovem.pt).

# Volunteer Profile: Scott Carpenter

## *Where were you born and raised?*

I'm a Toledo-area native and currently live less than a half-mile from the home where I grew up in Oregon. My parents, brother, and two sisters all live nearby.

## *What career have you followed and what educational background led to it?*

I began as a newspaper reporter for a very small paper that was bought by a larger chain of papers and worked my way up to editor. About fifteen years ago I got restless, and one trip to the mailbox changed my life. I sent out a proposal for a book I was interested in writing, along with several resumés. A publisher accepted the book proposal and a daily newspaper in Port Clinton hired me. Neither of those things happened for a year, but that one trip to the mailbox initiated both.

When I heard two years later that there was a job opening in the Public Information Department at Metroparks, I jumped at the chance to work there. Today, I am director of public relations and manager of the Marketing and Communications Department.

My book *Lake Erie Journal* has been out for several years. You don't get rich writing a regional travel guide, but it sure does open a lot of doors. It's been fun speaking at events, meeting people from around the country, and talking about one of my favorite subjects: our beloved Lake Erie.

## *Tell us about your family (of origin and/or by marriage).*

My wife Beth and I are approaching our empty-nest period. We have two daughters: one married in October and will graduate from Lourdes College this year; her sister will be graduating from high school this May and plans to attend Eastern Michigan University in the fall. I know how important children are to both of my kids, so I would not be surprised if we become grandparents before we're 50.

## *What are your interests?*

HI-TA has really rekindled my interest in bicycling. I should add that I'm a fair-weather cyclist, however, so the bike will stay in the garage for a while! I love to canoe. I'm a rookie traveler by this organization's standards. There are many places I haven't been. On the other hand, I've traveled a lot in the Great Lakes region and probably know about a number of great places in our backyard that many people are unaware of.

## *Have you been involved with community volunteering?*

Quite a bit, but not as much as I'd like. Metroparks keeps me pretty busy, and we do a lot of things that benefit the community. Most of my volunteer time goes to Metroparks or HI. I'm also president-elect of the Public Relations Society of America chapter in northwest Ohio, which is how I volunteer time to my profession.

## *What brought you to HI-TA? When?*

About five years ago, Judy Wright called out of the blue and asked me to join the board. I wasn't even a member (which wasn't a requirement at the time). I was aware of HI-TA from its programs at Metroparks, such as Travel Circles and two bike tours, but really didn't know much about it. Judy found me through Leadership Toledo, I believe.



## *What has your involvement been with the Toledo Council?*

I've been a member of the board for five years, VP for two years and now president. I've worked three of the four bike tours and have attended two National Council Meetings in Washington. I've also been chair of the PR Committee, a position I continue to hold while serving as president.

## *What have you liked best about HI-TA? What improvements could HI-TA make?*

I think the welcoming nature of the people is what I like best. HI is one of the few organizations I belong to that is not purely work related; it's what I do for fun and to meet new friends. I think of everyone in this organization as my friend.

In 2009 we plan to improve communications and renew our emphasis on the mission of HI-USA. Our yearlong anniversary celebration will be a big part of that. Since we don't have a hostel in our region, I'd like to make it an important part of our mission to help people in our council experience hostel stays elsewhere, as those experiences are really the core of what our national organization is all about.

## *Do you have a favorite hostel?*

I'm such a strong supporter of anything related to Ohio that I'm going to say Malabar Farm Hostel, even though I haven't been there yet! I will visit sometime this year.

## *Tell us something that few (if any) HI-TA members know about you!*

In college (BGSU) I wrote a humor column for the *BG News*. Over the years, I've written humor essays for the various newspapers where I worked, and even sold a few to *The Blade*. My New Year's resolution is to start writing again. I've started a blog. It's kind of nice to write for fun, not just for work.

*Ed. note:* Bill Siebenaler is no longer able to do the Volunteer Profile interviews—thank you for a great job, Bill! We hope readers will like this new Q & A format.



One way HI USA is marking the 75th anniversary of hostelling in the United States, as well as a century of hostelling worldwide, is with the release of a series of seals. The attractive stamps, featuring nostalgic images, can be used to seal letters. Watch the newsletter or go to [hitoledo.org](http://hitoledo.org) for ordering information.

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**2009 HI-TA major bike events:**

Portage River Tour - Sunday, June 28th - Elmore

Metroparks Tour - Saturday, July 18th - Whitehouse

Irish Hills Tour - Sunday, September 20th - Sylvania

Tombstone Tour - SATURDAY, October 17th - Secor Metropark, and

Family Haunted Ride - SATURDAY, October 17th - Oak Openings Metropark  
(Note change in day of week!)

**Volunteer! Ride! Enjoy!**

**For more info, go to [hitoledo.org](http://hitoledo.org).**

