



Steel Valley Trail Council eNewsletter

Providing a summary of the news on the Steel Valley Section of the Great Allegheny Passage

From the President, **LOOKING AHEAD 2015**

Our section of the GAP has proven to be wildly popular. Trail parking is a serious issue, particularly in the Homestead Waterfront area. It appears that the Waterfront planners only considered a relatively few through riding bicycle tourists when laying out the trail right-of-way.

On any weekend when the weather is good, the Rivers of Steel Pump House trail access parking area is filled to capacity. We are working with the Waterfront management to designate additional trail parking areas with safe access to the trail across busy Waterfront Drive. We would also like to improve safe access to businesses in the Waterfront and Homestead from the trail.

It is gratifying to see so many people enjoying our section of the GAP and re-discovering the historic Monongahela Valley. Not many trail groups can say their trail has an operating steel mill, two battlefields, and nesting eagles.

Happy Trails!
George Schmidt

RIDE THE 2ND STEEL VALLEY BICYCLE TOUR APRIL 25

We will kick off the year with our 2nd Steel Valley Bicycle Tour on April 25. Our first tour was a success with over 50 happy riders raising about \$700 for trail maintenance. The tour is organized in the manner of a road riding event with rest stops and sag wagon service. We had good weather last year and the event was well received. This year we hope to build on the success with more involvement from local businesses and communities.



Photo by George Schmidt, SVTC

Please see the registration form later in this newsletter for details. Online registration is available at <https://endurancecui.active.com/event-reg/select-race?e=14822753>

The Steel Valley Trail Council is proud to be sponsored by the following community partners.



KU Resources, Inc.

Interested in learning more about our sponsors?
Visit <http://www.steelvalleytrail.org/CorporateMembers.html>

Interested in becoming a sponsor, email us info@steelvalleytrail.org

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2014

Number one. We kept the trail open and well maintained.

This is due mainly to the efforts of Bob MacGregor and his maintenance volunteers. Thankfully, Kennywood stayed in its place last year and we had no landslides. Maintaining our section of the GAP is a unique challenge in that we have a very narrow right-of-way. We have only two feet on either side of the trail. At times it seems more like we are cutting a tunnel through the encroaching flora. We cannot use large power, tractor mounted equipment so the trail must be manicured by hand (in most cases with handheld power equipment).

Kennywood Park has just recently granted permission for us to relocate our maintenance container box on their property in a central location on the trail. It is currently located under the Riverton Bridge. Our volunteers have to travel 6 miles on a riding lawnmower to get to the Waterfront-and then another 6 miles back! That is some serious volunteer abuse.

Our section of the GAP was the last to be developed and it is still a work in progress. We continue to discover new maintenance issues such as loose expansion joints on the Riverton Bridge. These will be addressed with assistance from the Regional Trail Corporation.

Clairton Connector Signage



Photo by Jim Taggart, SVTC

The SVTC received a grant from the Rails-to-Trail Conservancy for new signage on the Clairton Connector. Through great effort, Jim Taggart, working with PennDOT, local municipalities and our trail partners, developed the plan and had the signs made and installed.

This is just the first phase. Once United States Bicycle Route 50 is approved, additional signs will be installed. We hope to have an update on USBR 50 soon.

FUNDRAISING

Our largest fundraiser last year was the PittsburghGives Day of Giving back in May. However, this event is currently not scheduled for 2015. We are currently looking for similar fundraising opportunities to be part of. Suggestions? Please email us at info@steelvalleytrail.org.

Please note while the PittsburghGives Day of Giving is not happening this year, there will be a WestmorelandGives Day of Giving on May 5th. The Regional Trail Corporation is participating with funds going towards the upkeep of West Newton Station. More information on our Facebook page as the date gets closer.

Get updates as they happen!
facebook.com/SteelValleyTrail



Photo of the new safety mirror installed near Mitchell's Fish Market. Photo by George Schmidt, SVTC

WHO WE ARE

The Steel Valley Trail Council maintains the section of the Great Allegheny Passage that runs from McKeesport to Baldwin and City of Pittsburgh. We also oversee the bicycle route from McKeesport to Clairton that connects the GAP to the Montour Trail. It is commonly called the "Clairton Connector."

SVTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2015

At our annual meeting in November, Terry Chavara and Paul Coleman were elected to the Board. Sara Petyk and Yale Cohen have been re-elected to the Board for a second term.

Newly Elected for a First Term

Terry Chavara (2015-2017) - Appointed to the Board in 2014 to fill in a vacant position.
Paul Coleman (2015-2017)

Reelected for a Second Term

Sara Petyk (2015-2017)
Yale Cohen (2015-2017)



Continuing First Terms

George Schmidt (2013-2015)
Mike Sabo (2014-2016)

Continuing Second Terms

Lois Liberman (2013-2015)
Bob MacGregor (2013-2015)
Bob Holder (2013-2015)
Earl Novendstern (2013-2015)
Paul Heckbert (2014-2016)
Jim Taggart (2014-2016)



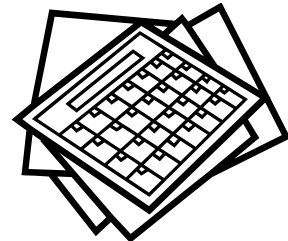
Special thanks to outgoing directors Ron Schipani and Joe Segina for their service on the SVTC Board.

SVTC Directors Meetings

Our monthly board meetings are the third Monday of every month. The location varies between Duquesne, Whitaker and the Waterfront.

All SVTC members are welcome to attend.

For more information: gschmidt1@verizon.net or 412-521-1538.



Not a member of the SVTC? Has your membership lapsed?

Please consider joining or renewing today by visiting
steelvalleytrail.org/member.htm



**2nd Annual STEEL VALLEY BICYCLE TOUR
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2015 at 9:00 AM.
The ride begins and ends at Mitchell's Fish Market,
East Waterfront Drive, Homestead, PA**

16 Mile or 26 mile rides.

Registration opens at 8:30 AM and closes at 10:00 AM.

Note: SAG support ends at 3:00 pm.

HARD HATS (Helmets) ARE MANDATORY

The tour goes on rain or shine.

**FUNDS RAISED WILL SUPPORT MAINTENANCE OF THE STEEL VALLEY
TRAIL COUNCIL SECTION OF THE GREAT ALLEGHENY PASSAGE.**

The Steel Valley Bicycle Tour (SVBT) is a fully supported flat ride through the historic Monongahela River Valley. The first 8 miles of the ride is on the Great Allegheny Passage from Homestead to McKeesport. The next 5 miles continues on local streets through Glassport and Clairton to the Montour Trail trail head. There will be rest stops with food and drinks in McKeesport and Clairton. There will also be sag wagon (transportation) service for broken bikes and tired riders. The total distance out and back is 26 miles.

Pre-register! All pre-registered riders receive a packet containing maps and a snack ticket.

Confirmation? Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope with your registration.

Questions? Contact George Schmidt: 412-521-1538 or by e-mail at gschmidt1@verizon.net

Online? Yes, you can pre-register online in addition to the mail-in form. The link is on our web site (steelvalleytrail.org) and through the QR code to the right.





2015 STEEL VALLEY BICYCLE TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Club/Organization: _____ Email: _____

Are you 18 or older? Yes ___ No ___

REGISTRATION FEE:

By April 18, \$20 _____ / After April 18, \$30 _____

Children under 16 years old ride free with a registered adult.

Total \$ _____ Please send checks to: SVTC, PO Box 318, Homestead, PA 15120

Signed: _____ Date _____

Individuals under 18 must obtain the signature of a parent/guardian. By signing this release, I as a parent or guardian of minor participant hereby give permission to the terms of the above release. Note: Individuals under 16 must be accompanied by parent/guardian.

Signed Parent/Guardian: _____ Date _____

Liability Release—I voluntarily request permission to participate in the 2014 SVBT. I UNDERSTAND THE HAZARDOUS NATURE OF THIS ACTIVITY AND ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY PARTICIPATION AND THE RISKS INVOLVED including, by way of example and not limitation, dangers of collision with pedestrians, vehicles, other cyclists and fixed or moving objects, dangers arising from surface hazards, equipment failure, inadequate safety equipment, the released parties' negligence, weather conditions and the possibility of serious physical and/or mental trauma or injury. I have no physical or mental condition, to my knowledge, which would endanger myself or others, or would interfere with my participation. I have inspected all my personal equipment to be sure it is in good and safe condition. I agree to abide by all applicable laws and regulations and to act in a safe and courteous manner. I acknowledge that it is mandatory that I wear an ANSI or Snell approved helmet at all times while bicycling the SVBT. In consideration of permission to participate in the SVBT for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, legal and personal representatives, successors, and assigns. I DO HEREBY DISCHARGE, RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS, PROMISE NOT TO SUE AND I INDEMNIFY THE STEEL VALLEY TRAIL COUNCIL, its officers, volunteers, and any other organizations including sponsors, associations, municipalities, or individuals connected with SVBT from any and all claims, demands, rights, actions or causes of actions of whatsoever kind and nature, arising from and by reason of any and all known and unknown, foreseen and unforeseen bodily and personal injuries, damage to property and all the consequences thereof which may hereafter be sustained by my participation in the SVBT. In addition, I hereby consent to emergency treatment in the event of injury or illness.

Signed: _____ Date _____

Emergency Contact: (name) _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____