



Volume 28 Issue 2

Rails to Trails of Central PA Inc.

March 2023

RAFFLE



You should have received your fifteen raffle tickets with this newsletter. If you did not, please let us know.

The raffle is our major fund raiser, providing a large percentage of our annual operating budget. It is also a way for you to renew your membership. By returning your ticket stubs and money, you extend your membership by one year. This applies to all memberships. For example, even if yours does not expire until January, 2024, by selling the tickets, your expiration date would move to January, 2025. Or, if you do not wish to extend your membership, you may use the ticket sales to give a membership to someone else as a gift.

We understand that not all individuals feel comfortable participating in raffles, let alone fund raisers. If you do not wish to receive tickets, please let us know. If you did receive tickets and do not wish to participate, please accept our apology. You may either return the tickets or destroy them.

We are certainly grateful for every individual's support, either by renewing your membership as it expires, or by participating in this fund raiser. Tickets again this year are \$2.00 apiece. Ticket stubs and checks may be mailed to Rails-to-Trails, PO Box 592, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact Vickie Brua at vicbrua@atlanticbb.net or Jennifer Barefoot at 814-695-8521 or by e-mail at jbsunbrook@gmail.com. Thank you!

The drawing will take place June 13th prior to the June 13th monthly Board Meeting.

We have been blessed to have such wonderful businesses that have supported donating prizes/gift certificates. You will notice by the write-ups on our supporters that we have had other donations given after the tickets were printed. Not listed on the ticket but to be added to this year's drawing are: Martinsburg Memorial Park; two gift certificates were given, one for a three lane two hour bowling party and the other for a public rollerskating party, (each of these prizes are valued at over \$120. Freedom Excursions donated two gift certificates; a \$25-dollar gift certificate for Freedom Excursions. and the other a \$10 gift certificate from Jimmy Johns.

This year's donors are:

SPOKES-n-SKIS: Located at 315 S. Logan Blvd. Altoona, this shop along with Hoss's have been the longest sponsor and supporter of the Lower Trail. Bryan and Troy work with each and every customer, no matter how young or old, beginner or expert, to make the outdoor experience the best it can be. They have all the gear you will need for cycling (on or off road), skiing and snowboarding. For more information please visit their website at www.spokesnskis.com or phone at 814-941-3888

REI: (Recreational Equipment, Inc.) www.rei.com :

Since 1938, REI has been your local outdoor co-op, working to help you experience the transformational power of nature. REI brings you top-quality gear and apparel, expert advice, rental equipment, inspiring stories of life outside and outdoor experiences to enjoy alone or share with your friends and family. And because REI has no shareholders, with every purchase you make, you are choosing to steward the outdoors, support sustainable business and help the fight for life outside. Annually, more than 70 percent of REI's profits are invested back into the outdoor community through dividends to REI members, employee profit-sharing and retirement, and investments in nonprofits dedicated to the outdoors. Rails to Trails of Central Pennsylvania has benefited from REI's grants.

NEW: MARTINSBURG MEMORIAL PARK: 201 S Walnut St, Martinsburg, PA 16662

There is a beautiful park, with a lot of history, nestled in the small town of Martinsburg. This recreational community complex has so much to offer. There is a community pool, (the Hershberger Community Pool), a bowling alley, gymnasium/skating rink as well as outside picnic areas, a playground and so much more.

We are so happy to have two gift certificates donated, one of up to a party of eight for a night of bowling and the other for a roller-skating party. What good, old-fashioned family fun! Even if you do not win these prizes, we hope you will go check out this beautiful park.

HOSS'S: Hoss's has many locations throughout Pennsylvania and West Virginia. It was founded in 1983 by Willard Campbell with his first location in Altoona. Hoss's along with Spokes-n-Skis have supported Rails to Trails for well over 20 years. Hoss's is well known for supporting the communities in which it is located. For more information please visit their website at www.hosss.com

NEW: BLUEGILLS BAR & GRILL:

214 Main St, Alexandria, PA (814) 667-7349

For those of you who remember days gone by, Bluegills was once the Main Street Café. Located in Alexandria, if you leave the Alfarata trail head it is just a short distance down the road on the right in Alexandria. They have a wonderful menu and the Juniata River is just off of their parking lot.

BLACK DOG CAFÉ: Located at 519 Allegheny Street Hollidaysburg, PA 16648, (814) 695-5700, just next to the Post Office, is a wonderful coffee shop known for its great baked goods and lunch menu. It is open mornings to midafternoon Monday thru Saturday. They also do catering. For more information and hours, visit their website at: www.blackdoghollidaysburg.com or phone, 814-695-5700

ALLEGHENY CREAMERY AND CREPES: 814-696-5055, Located at 505 Allegheny Street in Hollidaysburg, Kirk and Heather Seleme converted an old shoe repair shop in the historic district into a wonderful restaurant in 2009. It is open 7 days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. For more information and hours, visit their website at: www.alleghenycreperie.com or phone 814-696-5055

US HOTEL: Located at 401 S. Juniata St. Hollidaysburg, 814-695-2624. The historic U.S. Hotel has been a part of Hollidaysburg since its initial conception in 1835. Built by John Dougherty, the building was initially used to accommodate westward travelers with lodging, food, and spirits. Strategically positioned along the Pennsylvania Canal and the Allegheny Portage Railroad, Hollidaysburg was connected with the Great American West and a vital link in the development of industrializing Johnstown and Pittsburgh. As a result of the completion of the Pennsylvania Railroad mainline through Altoona in 1854, Hollidaysburg's status as a national transportation center was lost. Yet, the U.S. Hotel survived and continued to service the new railroad industry until it was destroyed by fire on November 29, 1871.

In 1886, German immigrant Engelbert Gromiller, a brew master by trade in his Bavarian homeland, rebuilt the U.S. Hotel and established a brewery in the building next door. In 1905, the cut block barroom was added to the structure and still serves as the barroom today. The hand-carved mahogany back bar, beveled silvered mirrors, hand leaded stained glass windows and a brass foot rail, under which is a fresh-flow trough spittoon, are original to the 1905 design of the bar. The fresh-flow trough spittoon is a pre-Prohibition relic that can only be found in a limited number of bars in the United States. During World War II, the Navy used the U.S. Hotel as a radio school where the very same tiled bar area was used as a shower room. When the Gromiller family sold the business in 1945, the original bar was reassembled.

The U.S. Hotel changed hands several times over the decades following WWII, falling into disrepair along the way. As a result, the neighboring brewery deteriorated to the point of being destroyed. The beginning of the 21st Century saw the addition of Liberty Hall to the U.S. Hotel. Constructed with authentic Mid-19th Century beams rescued from a barn in Smithton, PA, Liberty Hall at the U.S. Hotel Tavern maintains the historic charm of

Hollidaysburg while providing a large banquet facility to serve the region.

NEW: FREEDOM EXCURSIONS by Scully LLC, is a privately owned transportation company located in Blair County, Altoona, PA. It began operating as a transportation provider in May of 2005, receiving PUC Authority from the State of Pennsylvania, with one 16-passenger bus. It currently operates (2) Limousine buses, (4) Mini-coaches, and (4) Motor Coaches. Bus seating capacities are 16-55 passengers. We have both PA PUC and Federal DOT Authority.

Owners, Bill and Deborah Scully's goal and mission statement since the company's inception has been to "Exceed our Guests' Expectations". Freedom Excursions strives to insure that the personal touch is conveyed with each event that it is a part of. Freedom Excursions considers it an honor to be chosen as your professional transportation provider. It is personally involved in every arrangement that is made to insure that you get our company's complete and undivided attention. Its desire is that you find our service to meet and exceed your needs so that your experience is not forgotten and that you will share your experience with others!

From a single day Corporate Event to a multiple day trip, Freedom Excursions can handle your needs from 1-200 guests. 814-941-8687

ACE FIX-IT HARDWARE: As your local Ace Hardware at 86 16th Street, Duncansville, the store is a member of the largest retailer-owned hardware cooperative in the industry. Every Ace Hardware store is independently owned. PA native Chuck Bickel owns this location as well as stores in Tyrone, Huntingdon, Dillsburg, Oakmont, Grove City, Brookville, Greentree, Mercer, Everett, and DuBois, Pennsylvania. Chuck purchased the Duncansville location in April of 1984. From neighborhood hardware stores to super-sized home centers, each Ace Hardware is unique and tailored to meet the needs of its local community. Here, our friendly faces are your friends and neighbors. Starting with our manager Steve Johncola, we are all committed to being "the Helpful Place" by offering our customers knowledgeable advice, helpful service and quality products. As the helpful hardware folks in your community, Ace Fix-It promises that "helping you is the most important thing we have to do today."

PRIME SIRLOIN: Located at 501 Municipal Drive Duncansville, PA. 814-693-8504 Prime Sirloin Buffet has been serving the Altoona, Pennsylvania area for years. As one of the area's largest buffets, Prime Sirloin has a variety of options for you to choose from. Prime Sirloin offers Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner!

NEW: BIDDLES BREWING: 321 E. 2nd St. Williamsburg PA. Biddle's Brewing was founded in 2021 with a love for coffee and a passion for community. The business started in a 6x12 foot coffee truck with nothing but big dreams and coffee beans. Owners Mike and Britt Biddle work to incorporate their adventurous spirit and competitive nature to build individual customer relationships and always serve the perfect cup.

Headquartered in Williamsburg, PA, Biddle's Brewing draws on its small town roots in an effort to spark life within its communities. Biddle's Brewing prioritizes a strong presence in its hometowns of Williamsburg and Loretto, blending a fun and casual coffee shop atmosphere into the lifestyle of rural America. Biddle's Brewing's goal is for you to enjoy *simplicity with an experience*.

coffee@biddlesbrewing.com

BORO COFFEE CO.: Located at 411 S Juniata St, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648, 814-317-5166

"Coffee shop, bakery, and event space located in Historic Hollidaysburg in two renovated Canal Workers Houses from the 19th century."

NEW: JIMMY JOHN'S: GOURMET SANDWICH AND SUB SHOP: 3420 Pleasant Valley Blvd, Suite 1A; Altoona, PA 16602, Phone: (814) 201-2261. The Jimmy John's gift card was donated by Freedom Excursions.

**HOSS'S FUNDRAISER / 9/11 SPEAKER:
April 19th, 2023**



We invite everyone to come hear firsthand about the 9 /11 National Memorial Trail. As we have told you in the past, this trail was signed into law as a National Memirial Trail by President Biden and the Lower Trail is a part of it. The trail connects all of the sites that changed the history of the United States on September 11th, 2001. We are honored to have as a guest speaker Jeff McCauley. Jeff is the current President of the 9/11 Trail Alliance and lives just east of Pittsburgh in Penn Hills PA. Jeff received a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science and Management from Duquesne University in 2012 and has a background in environmental stewardship and conservation working with the local trail group Friends of the Riverfront from 2011 to 2017 utilizing volunteers to steward the riverfront trails of the Pittsburgh region. Additionally, Jeff has worked for a land trust developing single track trails and managing capital projects. In Jeff's free time he enjoys spending time with his daughter, running, and cycling.

All you have to do is clip the coupon from Page 3 of the *Trekker* and go to Hoss's on Patchway Drive in Duncansville. Present your coupon when ordering lunch or dinner and Hoss's will donate 20% of the cost of your group's meals to Rails to Trails. Now how easy is that? You get a great meal and help out Rails to Trails at the same time.

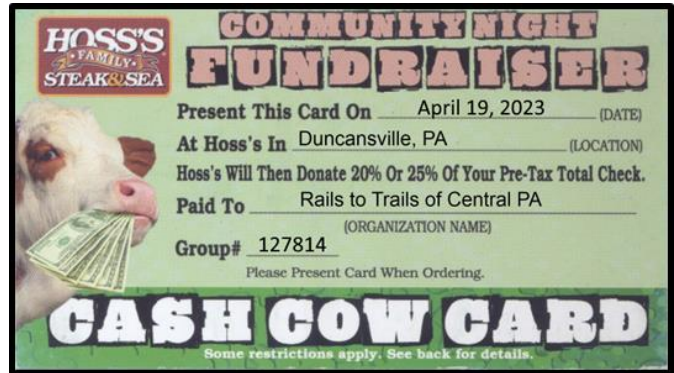
You can eat at any time during the day. If you plan to come to the Spring Gathering, plan to come about 6 PM to eat, with the program to follow. We will be eating in the side room of Hoss's restaurant and the program will follow in that room.

HOLLIDAYSBURG COMMUNITY DAYS

Once again this year Rails to Trails will be partnering with the Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School for their Community

ervice Days. This year we will have about 40 to 50 students volunteering their time to help us spruce up the trail, on May 15th, 17th, 18th, & 19th.

This is also a time when we could use extra trail volunteers to oversee the students and work alongside them while doing their projects ranging from just throwing sticks and debris off the trail surface and mowed grass areas to repairs of benches and fences to special projects. So if you could possibly volunteer your time please contact Mike Panek at mbp138@gmail.com or Tim Gildea at tpgildea@gmail.com.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (____)- _____

E-mail _____

_____ New Membership _____ Renewal

_____ Individual	\$15.00
_____ Family	\$20.00
_____ Supporting	\$50.00
_____ Group	\$75.00

I am interested in:

_____ Horses	_____ Hiking
_____ Heritage	_____ Bicycling
_____ Nature Study	_____ Jogging
_____ Other	

I would like to help by volunteering for:

Make checks payable to:

Rails-to-Trails of Central PA Inc.
PO Box 592,
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
www.rttcpa.org





RAILS-TO-TRAILS, INC.
OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA
P.O. Box 592
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Altoona, PA 16601

PERMIT NO. 66

Or Current Resident.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 11th, 2023,
April 19th, 2023
May 9th, 2023,
May 15th, 17th, 18th and 19th
June 13th, 2023,

Monthly Board Meeting, 7 PM at the Grannas Station
Hoss's Fundraiser, 9 /11 Trail Program, 6 PM Hoss's in Duncansville
Monthly Board Meeting, 7 PM at the Grannas Station
Hollidaysburg Community Volunteer Days on the Trail
Monthly Board Meeting, and Raffle Drawing.

Please check our Calendar of Events page on our website at www.RTTCPA.org to keep up to date, for other events that may be taking place on the trail hosted by other organizations

KEEP YOUR ADDRESS CURRENT

This newsletter is mailed 3rd Class Bulk Mail. The Post Office will not forward 3rd Class Bulk Mail. If anything about your address changes, Route Number, Street Numbers, or Zip code, the Trail Trekker will not be forwarded to you. Please keep Rails-to-Trails informed of any address changes by using a post office change of address card or dropping us a note at the address below.

Remember, if your mailing address is Highlighted, your membership is about to expire. Please renew quickly and continue to support Rails-to-Trails. Thank You!

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