

Somerset County Rails-to-Trails Association

The High Point of the Great Allegheny Passage

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www.bikesomersetcountypa.com

2009 MEMBERSHIP FUND DRIVE

Dear SCRTA Member,

Thank you for your continued support of the Somerset County Rails to Trails Association. Without our enthusiastic members behind us, the progress that we've made on the Great Allegheny Passage over the years would not have been possible.

What an exciting year '08 was! After four years of planning, fundraising and hard work; the historic Bollman Bridge has been completed. What a gem! Our sincerest thanks to the many parties who made it happen. The Pinkerton Horn was also resurfaced which makes for a muuuuuuuch smoother ride.

We all helped celebrate the 250th birthday of the city of Pittsburgh. As part of the celebration, plans were unveiled to complete the last nine miles of the trail into downtown Pittsburgh which should be completed by the end of 2010. Hundreds of articles about Pittsburgh 250 appeared all over the country. This publicity attracted many cyclists here for their first time out on our trail, but I'm sure it won't be their last.

The vision of a long distance trail from Washington D.C. to Pittsburgh that many of us have shared for over 20 years has truly come of age. It has evolved into a remarkable asset that is really helping to put our region on the map. The Great Allegheny Passage is a great demonstration of the notion, "build it and they will come". Each year more people discover the trail and enjoy the part of Pennsylvania that many of us have been fortunate to call home all our lives.

Trail maintenance and improvement continue to be a priority. We are currently working on several major projects. Plans are ongoing to make major enhancements to the Rockwood trailhead. The design and engineering for a short tunnel to safely take the trail under the highway in Garrett is also progressing with construction to begin in 2010. Two pavilions similar to the ones on the trail between the Big Savage Tunnel and Cumberland will be constructed this summer. Rest room facilities will be improved along the trail and more resurfacing of some of the older trail sections is planned.

Won't you please consider an additional donation when you send in your membership? Also, please pass along the blank membership form to a friend. There truly is strength in members.

Thanks again for your help. I'll see you on the trail.



Hank Parke, President



*A Member
of the
Allegheny
Trail
Alliance*