



Scioto Valley News

Autumn 2006

A Publication of Hostelling International, Central and Southern Ohio Council

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

California Road Trips

Hostelling Family Trip

By Judy Scott

We are just back from a great end-of-summer vacation in California, where we visited four different HI-USA hostels in our ten days.

First let me tell you all a little about our hostelling "family." I have been a Hostelling International member since around 1990. My daughter is twenty-six and her brother is nine. For this trip, our family consisted of the three of us and my daughter's boyfriend. To keep our family together, I reserved family rooms at the hostels we visited.

We started our California experience in HI-Los Angeles, Santa Monica. At \$113.00 a night and parking about \$20.00 extra, you can't call it cheap, but we found the accommodations clean and comfortable and the security excellent. They required a key card for entry past the front desk as well as into the bedroom. The room also had individual lockers.

The hostel offered simple, basic breakfast selections for a reasonable cost, a great kitchen, and comfortable common areas. Los Angeles has many attractions, but for us it was the beach (the hot sun and the cold water), the beach (the street artists and drum circle), and the beach (the Santa Monica Pier and the Venice Beach shops)!!!



Judy Scott & son at Big Sur

[See "Family Trip", p. 3]

Hostelling through the Wild, Wild West: The Merry Vagabonds

By Steve Erwin



Steve and his Merry Vagabonds, HI-San Luis Obispo

We turned left off Bay Street toward Fisherman's Wharf.

Suddenly our minivan dropped into freefall down a near-vertical street, past ghostwhite bay windows blurred, accordion-like, and glistening in the dew of a westcoast morning. We ramped at North Point Street and went airborne again, landing on two front wheels and fishtailing wildly downhill.

Fresh with a grin and feeling as carefree as the California dawn, I asked in confused excitement, "Which way now?"

[See "Merry Vagabonds, p. 4]

From the President

I recently returned from the National Council Meeting of Hostelling International-USA (HI-USA) in Washington, D.C. Russ Hedge, Executive Director, spoke in detail on the organization.



We have come back financially from the dark days after September, 2001. We faced tough years after the 2001 terrorist attack, the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic and numerous security alerts. More people have finally begun to travel again.

HI-USA's national office actually had a surplus at the end of this past fiscal year. We have saved a great deal of money through refinancing debt.

The strength of the organization economically rests on overnight stays in the biggest hostels. Those of you that have been with HI-USA for a while have probably noted how the number of hostels has shrunk and shrunk, currently to 75.

Good news: new hostels are coming! St. Louis, MO hopes to have a hostel open soon, as do Baltimore, MD and the Headwaters in Wisconsin. Also, HI-USA is considering new hostels for six gateway cities.

Unfortunately, membership suffers. HI-USA membership has fallen to 40,000 from 120,000 in 2000. How many organizations can lose 2/3 of their members and survive long-term?

Renew your membership when the time comes, or save by opting for a life-membership. It might help remind you to go hostelling more often and make some new friends!

-Allan South

HI-Malabar Farm Hostel Open Times for Fall & Winter 2006

Now through December 11, 2006;
December 14-16 (see below); &
January 15-Memorial Day 2007:

Thursday night – Sunday morning
(evening hours 5-10 PM; morning
hours 7-10 AM)

Rates: \$17 per person for HI
members.

Additional \$3/person for non-
members.

Discount for children 12 yrs. and



under.

Discount for groups of 10 or more.
Inquire about reservations and
special arrangements for groups:

Hi-Malabar Farm Hostel
3954 Bromfield Rd
Lucas, OH 44843

Tel: 1-419-892-2055

Fax: 1-419-892-3055

E-mail: hi-malabarfarm@juno.com

Malabar Notes

By Betsy Rush, Manager, HI-Malabar Farm Hostel

HI-Malabar Farm Hostel will be open during "Christmas at Malabar," Dec. 14-16, 2006. The Malabar Farm State Park "Big House" is beautifully decorated and will have live music, cookies and wassail, wagon rides, story time for children and Santa Claus. Come and enjoy the Christmas celebration!

During January the farm becomes a destination for cross country skiing - free with your own equipment, or rent equipment available for nominal cost. The park is open daily for hiking, sledding and birding. Winter is a great time of year to get out and enjoy nature. Call to make reservations now!

Wishing everyone Happy Holidays!

Call for Artists:

Share your art and photography of Malabar Farm State Park

The Central and Southern Ohio Council (CSOC) of Hostelling International is looking for artists to share their art and photography of Malabar Farm State Park. The images should reflect the inspiration and splendor of Richland County, the State Park and the surrounding area. CSOC will select works to accompany CSOC's Community Wall in a June 2007 exhibit at the Grandview Heights Public Library in Columbus, Ohio. For further details, contact Phyllis South at asouth@columbus.rr.com or 614-276-0447.

Family Trip, continued.

We did manage to make it inland to see the Hollywood sign on the hill, the stars in the sidewalks, and the swanky Beverly Hills homes.

We left the LA pretty people and the large homeless population (part of the reason for the security) to head up the gorgeous California coast.

While San Luis Obispo, Monterey, and Santa Cruz each have hostels, their prices or the unavailability of family rooms led us to get a motel with a pool to cool off for this leg of the trip.

For our next hostel, we stayed at the HI-Pescadero (Pigeon Point Lighthouse) hostel. We loved Pigeon Point for the view, the seclusion, the sound of the waves and the hominess. The family room presented a small challenge, however.

The rooms all had six beds, and if you brought children under six years old, you could reserve the room and pay for only the three or four beds you actually used. If staying with kids over six, though, you had to pay for the extra beds in the room even if you didn't need them. In our case, this made a \$72.50 room into a \$102 cost. In the end I negotiated an agreement: they would keep the cost to only the beds we used, and we would share the room if the other rooms reached capacity. As it turned out, no crowd developed, and we enjoyed the room without the additional expense.

Next we headed for San Francisco. My daughter and I had stayed at the HI-San Francisco, Fisherman's Wharf (Fort Mason) hostel before, but the others had never seen it. The room cost \$100 a night, but includes free parking. We've always found this place to be easy-going and comfortable with a spacious kitchen, a great location on the bay with views of the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz, and within a short distance of many attractions.

We chose to cross the bridge the first day. We headed up the coast to Point Reyes National Seashore and stopped at the funky little town of Bolinas for dinner on the way back. The next day we saw the California sea lions at Pier 39, shopped in China Town, and checked out Haight Street and the Golden Gate Park.

It was hard to leave SF, so we got to the HI-Midpines hostel

near Yosemite late, and encountered another snag. HI staff had quoted \$85 a night on the phone with me, but when we checked in, they wanted to charge \$235 (\$117.50 per night). While hostels will often provide confirmation numbers and e-mail a price quote to take to registration, I did not have one for this hostel, so again I negotiated and got the price down to \$187 (\$93.50/night).

Neither HI-San Francisco, Fisherman's Wharf nor HI-Midpines give any discounts for members and don't ask to see your card. I began to wonder about the expense of my lifetime membership.

This place seemed to be part resort, part hostel. The room felt definitely upper-middle class, not just the clean, basic and comfortable room to which I am accustomed.

It also had a full-blown restaurant with matching prices and live entertainment on Saturday night. The hostel kitchen proved hot, crowded and noisy, however.

The biggest rock slide I've ever seen shortened our tour of the park! To get around the rocks, road crews had built a one-lane paved road on the opposite side of the creek and two new bridges to cross the creek on either side of the slide. Because

of this, the road closed at dark. No one at the hostel mentioned this when I made reservations or when I checked in, to my disappointment. I noticed it on an obscure piece of paper in the small gift shop. Our leisurely morning turned into a hectic trip to see as much as we could and get back past the rock slide area before dark. I felt like a genuine tourist rushing around snapping pictures.

In summary, hostels remain a great way to travel, meet people and see the sights, but one encounters occasional snags. Family rooms can be pricey or

unavailable. One frequently encounters no member discounts. Be sure to always get a confirmation number and have them e-mail the price they have quoted, so you won't be charged more when you get there.

Ask about unusual rules and suggest alternatives, if you can think of any. Be ready to add a motel with a pool, refrigerator, and microwave (sometimes cheaper than the hostel) to keep prices within your budget.

Finally, when you run into these types of problems, fill out a comment card, if you can find one.



Judy Scott's daughter Eliza & boyfriend Chris

**Thank you, Columbus Outdoor Pursuits and Ann Gerckens for donating a scanner and software to HI, Central and Southern Ohio Council!
Old friends are the best!**

CSOC could still benefit from your high technology donation. Upgrading to a new laptop? Please consider CSOC for your old one! Contact CSOC at ayh@netwalk.com or Allan South at (614) 276-0447.

Events Calendar



CSOC Annual Meeting (rescheduled) and ice cream, 6-8pm, Sunday January 14, 2007, Graeter's Ice Cream Shop, 2555 Bethel Rd., Columbus. Free Graeter's ice cream to the first five CSOC members to arrive! [CSOC Board members not eligible.] Come hear about the state of hostelling, elect new Directors to our Board, meet fellow hostellers...and eat ice cream.



Yoga Retreat, Pugh Cabin, Malabar Farm State Park and HI-Malabar Farm Hostel, Lucas, January 19-21, 2007. Our most popular annual get-away. Two nights in the hostel, several different yoga sessions, plenty of time to socialize. Reservations deadline: January 8, 2007.

Interested? Call CSOC's Allan or Phyllis South (614-276-0447) for more information or to sign up. Get involved with your Council and have some fun!

Merry Vagabonds, continued.

Connie shot back, "Straight ahead!" and I knew we were about to fly off the west end of the continent we call North America.



San Francisco. Its very name calls up the romance of its patron saint, Francis, and lyric images of little cable cars climbing halfway to the stars. We'd reached the destination of our wild rampage through the west. By air and by road we'd traversed the continent, sharing with those wonderful and transient ambassadors of the wind - the hostellers, wanderers, and people of the road we met along the way.



Our group - Marilyn, Connie, Mary, Ann, Vicki, Mitch and I - had shared rooms at the large and magnificent HI-Los Angeles, Santa Monica Hostel. We shuffled roommates at the homey HI-San Luis Obispo Hostel and at the friendly and awesomely scenic HI-Montara, Point Montara Lighthouse Hostel. The Point Montara site features a wonderful working lighthouse and some of the most majestic scenery on the coast.



Marilyn served as our navigator and Vicki as our tour guide (having studied all points of interest in detail on the Internet). Mary assumed the role of our activities director and advisor, Ann our shopping and attractions coordinator and Connie our locator for exciting photo shots, people-watching and restaurants.

Mitch and I shared the driving. My job included finding fun-filled Irish pubs, photographing stuff, acting weird and scaring everyone with my driving.

Our memories: Big Sur; Mitch tackling the Los Angeles and Ventura Freeways; shimmering mirages of the high Nevada desert with its dazzling blue skies and clean, dry air; dizzying dropoffs in the Sierra Nevada and coastal ranges; winding mountain roads with no guard rails; and towns with romantic names like Blue Diamond, Half Moon Bay and Carmel-by-the-Sea.

We shared the fun and the adventure. Surf to our MerryVagabonds Road Trip photo website, <http://homepage.mac.com/stevee3/CaliforniaRoadTrip/PhotoAlbum129.html>, and continue sharing it!

Philatelic Corner – Special Call to Action Edition

By Allan South

Hostelling was born in 1909 out of the excursions of German schoolteacher Richard Schirrmann and his pupils. [See <http://iyhf.org/pdf/HistoryPhilosophy.pdf> for a concise history.] We will soon reach our 100th Anniversary!

Let's recognize this milestone and use the occasion to spread the word!

Hostelling International-USA Councils are campaigning for a commemorative U.S. postage stamp to be issued in 2009 honoring the Centennial of Hostelling. On November 16 of this year, over fifty HI-USA National Council Meeting (NCM) delegates visited U.S. Congressional offices to ask for congressional support for such a postage stamp.

I stayed in the HI-Washington Hostel, located at 11th Avenue and K Street. Some of my NCM colleagues and I became, for a short period, K Street lobbyists! It was quite an experience.

I am asking for your help in this matter. Please write, telephone or e-mail your federal Congressional Representative and Senators, asking them to support a hostelling stamp. Ask them to send your letter to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, and send an additional letter there yourself.

You can point out that since 1909 youth hostels internationally have hosted a total of 1.2 billion overnight guests, and hostellers visiting America from about 100 countries number roughly ½ million annually. You can share your favorite hostel story.

The minimally motivated can simply sign an e-mail petition linked from the HI-USA web site (www.hiusa.org): go to <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/stamp/>.

[I'm mailing a letter. If old-fashioned letters receive more attention than e-mail in general, I'd wager this holds doubly with the Post Office. Presumably, they love letters! - Editor]

Please telephone or send your paper or electronic letter as soon as you read this, because the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee will submit its recommendations for 2009 stamps before the end of 2006 – that's **less than a month away!**

Write the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee:

Mr. Ron Robinson, Chair
Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
United States Postage Service
1735 North Lynn Street
Room 5013
Arlington, VA 22209-6432

Contact information for reaching your legislators:

The U.S. Capitol switchboard: (202) 224-3121

Website for help reaching your U.S. House Representative:
<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

Website for help reaching your U.S. Senator:
http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/general/one_item_and_teaers/contacting.htm

Your Senator's DC address:

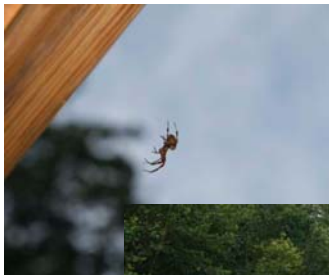
Office of Senator (Name)
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Write your legislators also at their home address in Ohio, particularly during this holiday vacation season.

Mostly, don't worry which method is best, just pick one and do it now while it counts!

Repeat, WE WANT A STAMP, PLEASE!

CSOC's Annual Meeting* and Picnic, September 17, 2006



* CSOC members enjoyed the Annual Picnic September 17, 2006 at Caesar Creek Lake, but we rescheduled the Annual Meeting in order to reach more members. Please come to our rescheduled



meeting at **6 pm, January 14, Graeter's Ice Cream Shop, 2555 Bethel Rd., Columbus.** Be one of the first to arrive and have a "Sundae on Sunday" on us!

Some of the CSOC members at the Annual Picnic: Brian Stettner, Mark Nunley, Katie Davie, Allan South, Phyllis South, Jon Porter

Cultural Kitchen: A Smashing Success

By Phyllis South

On Monday, November 27, Hostelling International, Central and Southern Ohio Council (CSOC) partnered with Girl Scouts of the USA and Capital University to present a wonderful Cultural Kitchen dinner that delivered a greater understanding of the world, especially to the young.



and created an electronic game, on display all evening, to test one's knowledge of Indonesia.

Seven Capital University students from seven different countries shared dinner and informal discussion about their culture with the Girl Scouts. Prasamsa Pandey from Nepal,

Fatimata Ba from Mauritania, Tabitha Mbyua from Kenya, Johanna Haavisto from Finland (who brought her OSU husband Daniel), Catharina Holmberg from Sweden, and Subathia Thanabalan from Malaysia offered a diverse cross-cultural mix that would rival any hostel's guest registration log.

The whole evening was a huge success because so many people were willing to work and

cooperate together.

Thanks to Girl Scout Troop 227 members Ericka Eisenschidt, Ashley Ford, Robin

Groth, DeLisa Hunte, Jennifer Machovina, Lindsay Newburn, Stephany Overley, Krista Turner, and Amber Wirth for the enthusiasm they brought to this project and congratulations on their outstanding success! Thank you to their leaders Kathi Overley, Melina Machovina, Robin Newburn, and Harriet

Marshall, for their support for the girls. Thanks also CSOC's Jon Porter (a food service professional among many other things) for his wonderful help in the kitchen, and Tina Wirth and Robert Groh, who were just watching the kitchen and got roped into helping! Also thanks to CSOC's Allan South and Brian Stettner for transporting the Capital University guests.



Organizational Development staff at HI-Chicago, IL developed Cultural Kitchen programming as a means of promoting Hostelling International's mission. With a Cultural Kitchen, a youth group picks a country to study, researches the country

with their leader or teacher, creates a presentation, cooks a meal replicating the cuisine of that country, and shares the meal and presentation of their research with travelers.



Whereas Chicago's Cultural Kitchens typically involve food and presentation prepared for hostel guests at the HI-Chicago Hostel, our Cultural Kitchen took place at East Columbus Christian Church and hosted Capital University international students.

Girl Scouts and leaders from Troop 227 of Reynoldsburg served as our key partners. They chose Indonesia as their topic, and prepared a delicious dinner and informative



presentation as the project's culmination. The girls worked very hard on their reports, which covered government, religion, geography, and other cultural topics. Girl Scout Lindsey Newburn had collected everyone's information, chosen important facts



We hope that other Girl Scout Troops or youth groups will want to share similar experiences. If you are involved with a youth group and would like information about our Cultural Kitchen program, please contact Phyllis South at 614-276-0447 or asouth@columbus.rr.com.

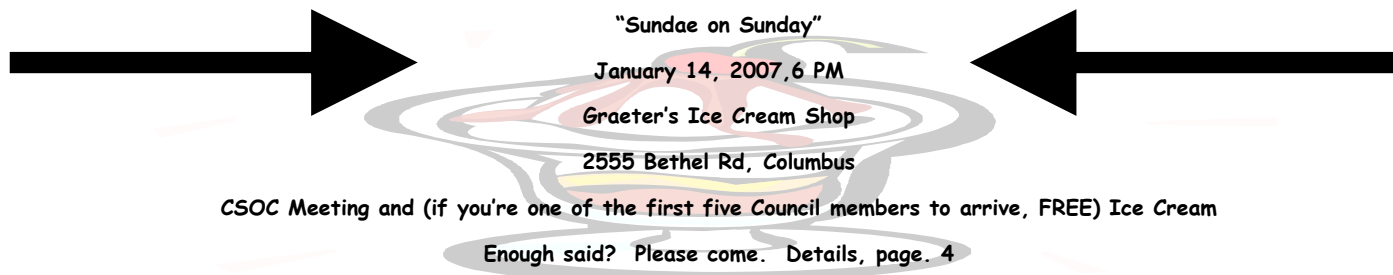
CSOC thanks the volunteers who helped with our International Festival booth:

Christina Arnold, Sue Finch, Girl Scout Troop 2547, Jessica Greer, Matthew Heller, Connie Knightwine, Sara Moyer, Jon Porter, Al and Phyllis South, Brian Stettner, Gary and Sharon Todd, Gretchen Yerian.

We couldn't have done it without you!

CSOC awards special T-shirts to Steve Erwin and Judy Scott for their equally great contributions to this newsletter issue.

Want to win a T-shirt? Send us your contribution. You may see it in the next newsletter!



Board of Directors Meetings

The CSOC Board of Directors welcomes all council members to our meetings; please let us know in advance if possible.

If you have a HI-USA membership and live in our jurisdiction – receive this newsletter – **you are a council member.**

We also encourage potential new Directors to contact us.

Next scheduled meeting: call for information.

Hostelling International, Central and Southern Ohio Council

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Voicemail: (614) 470-4276

E-mail: ayh@netwalk.com

URL: <http://ayhcs.netwalk.com>

Board of Directors

President: Allan South

Vice President: Phyllis South

Secretary: Brian Stettner

Treasurer: Jon Porter

Suanne Goings

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Anna Lee

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Kendra O'Reilly

Contributors to this issue of Scioto Valley News

Brian Stettner (editor)

Steve Erwin, Suanne Goings, Jon Porter, Betsy Rush, Judy Scott, Allan South, Phyllis South.

To renew your HI-USA membership, purchase a new HI-USA membership, or purchase HI-USA Directories, please call CSOC's Allan or Phyllis South at (614) 276-0447.

Newsletter delivered to your E-mail Inbox!

CSOC offers this newsletter in two formats: the familiar print version or a PDF attachment to an e-mail sent to your e-mail address.

Additionally, you may completely cancel your subscription to this newsletter, though we hope you won't.

You will continue to receive the print version unless you direct us otherwise.

To begin receiving the electronic version instead of print version, please e-mail a brief message to that effect to ayh@netwalk.com, subject = "Newsletter."

