



MEMBER OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY AND THE KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### **A Look Back and a Look Ahead**

Looking back to our hikes throughout the year I'm excited to remember all the places we've been and energized about what hikes are yet to come in 2024. Throughout the year we had hikes on the rugged and rocky Appalachian Trail, treks on city streets, maintenance activities to keep our trails clear and passable, and everything in between. Hike leaders continually gather like minded individuals to take them on a journey, in some cases to places they have not yet visited. And whether it's a familiar trail or something new, it's always fun to explore new places with folks who share the same appreciation of the outdoors. That's what the Allentown Hiking Club is all about.

Enjoy these snippets from our year in hiking/trekking and keep watching the club calendar for upcoming activities. If there are hikes you would like to lead and share with others, please reach out or, better yet, come to a monthly meeting and the Club will help and support you throughout that process.

And I could not conclude the year without expressing a heartfelt thank you to Ed Ritter who recently stepped down as the Club's Trails Chair. His support throughout the decades has been invaluable. I also want to say a big thank you to Kerry Snyder for stepping up to assume the responsibilities of Trails Chair. I know our club's maintenance activities will continue to be in very good hands. And an additional thank you goes out to Cyril Quatrone who has stepped up to take on the role of Programs Chair. We can look forward to presentations at our monthly meetings in the upcoming months. If you have ideas for a program please reach out to Cyril.

Happy New Year to all and Happy Trails!

Paula Uhrin  
President Allentown Hiking Club



## Allentown Hiking Club

P.O. Box 1542—Allentown, PA 18105-1542

Sponsored by City of Allentown Department of Parks and Recreation

President.....Paula Uhrin jcnj168@ptd.net	KTA Representative ..... Ed Ritter - (610) 730-2683 critter888@verizon.net
Vice-President .....Karen Gradel - (215) 536-5857 kjgradel@gmail.com	Program Committee Chair .... Cyril Quatrone (610) 262-3578 popestcyril@yahoo.com
Secretary.....Dick Fink - (610) 865-3925	Publicity..... Cindy Paetow - (215) 536-7311 cpaetow@hotmail.com
Treasurer .....Liz Uhl - (610) 282-3573 euhl@epix.net	Webmaster ..... Hal Wright - (215) 630-2008 webmaster@allentownhikingclub.org
Membership.....Paula Uhrin allentownhikingclub.membership@gmail.com	Newsletter Editor ..... Karen Gradel - (215) 536-5857 kjgradel@gmail.com
Appalachian Trail Chair ..Kerry Snyder - (610) 737-7768 ksnyd82@gmail.com	Hiking Schedule Coordinator Agnes Sablow 610-393-2612 Agnes.sablow@gmail.com
A.T. Monitor Coordinator Mike & Lucy Cantwell - ..... (267)664-3550 cant123@verizon.net	

## Deadlines for the Spring 2024 Newsletter & Schedule

**Happy Hiker Newsletter**

**Monday March 24th 2024**

**Activity Schedule**

**Monday March 24th 2024**

Please forward all club related articles, thoughts, and items to the Newsletter Editor by mail or, preferably, by email.

Send all hiking schedule activities to the Hiking Schedule Coordinator.

## Welcome to our New Members!

### October

Marta Stella.....Elverson, PA

### November

Ralph Pena.....Monroe, NY

Nathan Kutz.....Allentown, PA

James Gensch .....Macungie, PA

Barbara Fogal.....Jim Thorpe, PA

Charlene O'Brien .....Coopersburg, PA

Chad Nevils.....Allentown, PA

Carmona Cadet.....Trenton, NJ

David Chalk.....Palmerton, PA



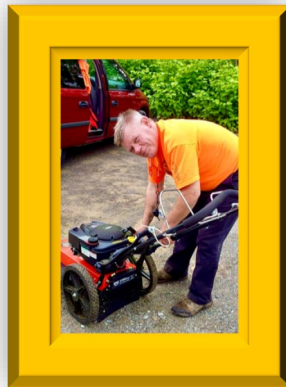
**Thanks to all of our volunteers**

**Hike Leaders, Trail Maintainers, Corridor Monitors,**

**Board Members and Committee Chairs**

**Special thanks to**

**Ed Ritter for his many years of service as Trail Chair**



**And to Kerry Snyder to taking over as Trail Chair**



**And finally to Cyril Quatrone  
For becoming the new Program Chair**





We received 2 post cards from thru-hikers thanking us for maintaining the trail.



To the Allentown Hiking Club,  
 Thank you so much for everything you do to maintain and support the Appalachian Trail. Your Section is beautiful and wonderful to traverse, and we greatly appreciate your time spent on the AT.  
 Thank you!  
 -Victory, meadow



## 2023 Honorary Member Award Recipient

**Karen Gradel**





## 41st Annual ALDHA Gathering

By May Ann Nissley

On October 6, I left for Arlington, Va.—an 8 and a half hour drive for a get-together of long distance, short distant hikers and all in between. There are meetings, workshops, programs and lots of fun with all of our friends. When I got there hotdogs, baked beans, potato salad and all kinds of food was being served. I immediately met many of my friends and settled in for a fun weekend. After registering, I went over all the meetings and workshops for the weekend. As usual I wanted to attend almost all of them but they overlap. Most workshops are 2 and half hours long and I always learn about a trail I wish I could hike. Friday night is a roll call of past and present hikers. Awards are handed out and then we have a social time and a bonfire. On Saturday morning we were given breakfast and then went off to our various workshops. We had a good program at night Aquaman starting a thru-hike on the 5th of December at Mt. Katahdin, Then we had another social time an bonfire. On Sunday morning we had a Sunrise Service with a beautiful sunrise. Even a dog attended. We had to step through a sea of tents to attend. After that we went to the meeting and various workshops. We also had our group photo taken. Sunday night was a music fest and lots of fun. There were photo contests, apple tasting, Billy Goat Award for any 25,000 milers plus other contests. There were many vendors nd information booths. It makes me wonder how we fit so much into one weekend. On Monday I went home while many people saty to work on the AT and the Virginia Creeper Trail. Next year it will be in Abingdon again on October 14, 2024. I am working very hard to have it at Del Val University in Doylestown. That's a 15 drive for me instead of 8 and a half hours!

Group Photo





## Winter 2024 Hiking Schedule and Upcoming Events

FOR THE MOST CURRENT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, CHECK OUR WEBSITE

MEMBER OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY AND THE KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

The general public is invited to join us on hikes and other events. If a club or organization wishes to include one of our hikes as a formal activity on its schedule, we ask that it contact the leader in advance for permission.

Times listed are departure times; please arrive at least 15 minutes before the listed time. Starting times are strictly observed and appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes/boots should be worn at all times.

Generally, our pace is moderate with opportunities for resting and sightseeing. Every attempt is made to assist and encourage hikers, but we cannot be responsible for their safety on the trail. Any rugged outdoor activity entails risk, and we expect all participants to rely on their own judgment and good sense to take care of themselves and know their limitations. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. Hikers are expected not to lag too far behind the main party.

We car-pool as much as possible to save fuel. PASSENGERS PAY DRIVERS 10 CENTS PER MILE TO DEFRAY FUEL EXPENSE. Drivers, please remember to check your mileage and let the passengers know how much mileage reimbursement they owe you.

Meetings are held at 7:30 pm the first Wednesday of the month at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 South Ott Street, Allentown, Pa. Meetings include a discussion of the previous month's activities, as well as upcoming activities. Scheduling meetings are held quarterly for members to coordinate hikes/trips, etc. for the upcoming schedule. All members are invited and encouraged to schedule activities; we are a 100% volunteer organization, and it is up to members to keep the schedule filled.

### AHC HIKE RATING SYSTEM

In an attempt to assist hikers, a hike rating system has been set up to allow the hiker to judge his/her ability to complete the hike. The rating system will precede the Allentown Hiking Club's usual hike description. On multi-day outings such as backpacks, the rating for the hike will reflect the distance traveled on a per-day basis. Remember that the hike ratings are assigned by the hike leader, and are therefore based on the leader's subjective opinion. The rating system is:

RATING	DESCRIPTION (distance,terrain,pace)
A+	<u>Up to 7 miles, little climbing and easy terrain, 2 mph or slower</u>
A	<u>Up to 7 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 mph or slower</u>
B+	<u>Up to 7 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph</u>
B	<u>7-10 miles, some climbing and easy terrain 2 to 2.5 mph</u>
C+	<u>7-10 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph</u>
C	<u>7-10 miles significant climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph</u>
D+	<u>10-12 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph</u>
D	<u>10-12 miles, significant climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph</u>
E+	<u>Over 12 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, over 2.5 mph</u>
E	<u>Over 12 miles, significant climbing and/or rocky terrain, over 2.5 mph</u>
U	<u>Hike unrated by hike leader</u>



**Please check our website for updates to the calendar**

Wednesday 01-03-2024 7:00 pm	<b>January Monthly Meeting</b> Monthly Business Meeting and presentation by club members Ron Kiefer and Mercedes Jurkiewicz  Meeting place: St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 South Ott Street, Allentown, PA. Enter from the back parking lot. Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net Co-leader: Karen Gradel 215-536-5857
Tuesday 01-09-2024 10:30am  Hike / bike / on-water distance: 4 miles  Hike rating: A+	<b>Monocacy Trail and Bach at Noon Concert</b> Enjoy a winter walk and Bach concert  Meet at the Illick's Mill parking lot at 100 Illick's Mill Rd. in Bethlehem where we will begin our 2 mile walk on the Monocacy Trail to the Central Moravian Church (73 W. Church St.) for a Bach at Noon concert. The concert is free, but voluntary donations are appreciated. After the concert, we will stop at a picnic table along the Monocacy Creek for lunch and then walk back to our cars. The Monocacy Trail is flat and has a good walking surface (paved, gravel, grass). Steady rain or snow or icy conditions on the morning of the event will cancel the hike portion of this event, but participants can meet in the balcony of the church for the concert. Bring lunch and water.  Meeting place: Meet at the parking lot at 100 Illick's Mill Rd., Bethlehem, PA 18017 Leader: Barbara Wiemann 610-262-6977 blwiemann@gmail.com
Saturday 01-13-2024 9:00 am  Hike / bike / on-water distance: 11 miles  Hike rating: D+	<b>Loop hike though the Bryn Coed Preserve (11 miles)</b> Loop hike through the rolling hills of the Bryn Coed Preserve  We will be hiking through open fields and woods in this 500-acre former farm that has been preserved by Natural Lands Trust. The preserve includes a Pennsylvania Champion white oak, the headwaters of the Pickering Creek, and several Bald Eagle nesting spots. Terrain is mostly flat, mostly sunny with periods of shade and can sometimes be muddy so wearing hiking boots is recommended. Bring lunch/snacks and water. Steady rain or snow cancels.  Meeting place: 1869 Flint Road, Chester Springs, PA Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net
Saturday 01-20-2024 9:00 am  Hike / bike / on-water distance: 10 miles  Hike rating: D+	<b>Winter Pulpit and Pinnacle Hike (10 miles)</b> Loop hike to the Pulpit and Pinnacle  This is a loop hike, starting at the Hamburg Reservoir parking lot, first climbing to Pulpit Rock and then onward to the Pinnacle for spectacular views of the Lehigh Valley from both locations. This is not a beginner's hike due to the 1000' ascent and very rocky terrain. If there is snow on the ground, microspikes or other traction devices will be mandatory. Bring a least 2L of water and lunch / snacks. Steady rain or snow cancels.  Meeting place: Hamburg Reservoir parking lot; 410 Reservoir Rd, Hamburg, PA Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net
Wednesday 02-07-2024 7:00 pm	<b>February Monthly Meeting</b> Monthly Business Meeting and presentation TBD  Meeting place: St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 South Ott Street, Allentown, PA. Enter from the back parking lot. Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net Co-leader: Karen Gradel 215-536-5857





Sunday 02-11-2024 11:00 am	<b>South Mountain Preserve Hike (10 miles)</b> Loop hike on the trails of South Mountain Preserve.  This preserve features woodland trails, large rock outcroppings, small stream crossings, moderate inclines, and several boardwalks. We will start the hike from Klines Lane parking lot at 11am so that folks can first stop at the Emmaus Farmers Market which opens at 10am. Sturdy hiking boots are recommended as the terrain is moderately rocky and some areas may be muddy. Bring water and lunch/snacks. Steady rain or snow cancels.  Meeting place: Klines Lane parking lot (just east of the 2nd set of RR tracks), Emmaus, PA Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net
Tuesday 02-13-2024 10:30am	<b>Monocacy Trail and Bach at Noon Concert</b> Walk the Monocacy Trail to a Bach at Noon concert.  Meet at the Illick's Mill parking lot at 100 Illick's Mill Rd. in Bethlehem where we will begin our 2 mile walk on the Monocacy Trail to the Central Moravian Church (73 W. Church St.) for a Bach at Noon concert. The concert is free, but voluntary donations are appreciated. After the concert, we will stop at a picnic table along the Monocacy Creek for lunch and then walk back to our cars. The Monocacy Trail is flat and has a good walking surface (paved, gravel, grass). Steady rain or snow or icy conditions on the morning of the event will cancel the hike portion of this event, but participants can meet in the balcony of the church for the concert. Bring lunch and water.  Meeting place: Meet at the parking lot at 100 Illick's Mill Rd., Bethlehem, PA 18017 Leader: Barbara Wiemann 610-262-6977 blwiemann@gmail.com
Sunday 02-25-2024 9:00 am	<b>Green Lane Reservoir (13 miles)</b> Loop hike around the Green Lane Reservoir  This loop hike will circle the Green Lane Reservoir, affording views of both the lake and countryside. There will be several short climbs and stream crossings. Sturdy hiking boots are recommended. If there is snow on the ground, microspikes or other traction devices will be mandatory. Bring a least 2L of water and lunch / snacks. Steady rain or snow cancels.  Meeting place: Meet at the Park Office at the dead end of Snyder Road, just south of the dam. 2144 Snyder Road Green Lane, PA 18054 Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net
Sunday 03-03-2024 9:00 am	<b>Loop Hike through French Creek State Park (12-15 miles)</b> Let's explore the trails of French Creek State Park!  We'll cover trails in both French Creek State Park and Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, including both Hopewell Lake and Scotts Run Lake and trails on both sides of Route 345. Trails are rocky and hilly and could be muddy. Please bring at least 2 liters of water and wear sturdy hiking boots. Steady rain or snow cancels. Trail map can be found here: <a href="http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_004691.pdf">http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_004691.pdf</a>  Meeting place: Hopewell Lake Boat Launch Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net
Wednesday 03-06-2024 7:00 pm	<b>March Monthly Meeting</b> Monthly Business Meeting and quarterly scheduling  Meeting place: St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 South Ott Street, Allentown, PA. Enter from the back parking lot. Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net Co-leader: Karen Gradel 215-536-5857
Tuesday 03-12-2024 10:30am	<b>Monocacy Trail and Bach at Noon Concert</b> Walk the Monocacy Trail and enjoy a Bach at Noon concert.  Meet at the Illick's Mill parking lot at 100 Illick's Mill Rd. in Bethlehem where we will begin our 2 mile walk on the Monocacy Trail to the Central Moravian Church (73 W. Church St.) for a Bach at Noon concert. The concert is free, but voluntary donations are appreciated. After the concert, we will stop at a picnic table along the Monocacy Creek for lunch and then walk back to our cars. The Monocacy Trail is flat and has a good walking surface (paved, gravel, grass). Steady rain or snow or icy conditions on the morning of the event will cancel the hike portion of this event, but participants can meet in the balcony of the church for the concert. Bring lunch and water.  Meeting place: Meet at the parking lot at 100 Illick's Mill Rd., Bethlehem, PA 18017 Leader: Barbara Wiemann 610-262-6977 blwiemann@gmail.com



<p>Saturday 03-23-2024 8:00 am</p> <p>Hike / bike / on-water distance: 22 miles</p> <p>Hike rating: E</p>	<p><b>Loop Hike of Blue Marsh Lake (22 miles)</b> Loop hike around Blue Marsh Lake</p> <p>This is a 23-mile loop hike around the lower portion of Blue Marsh Lake. Total elevation gain is 2000' which includes several steep climbs. The distance and pace make this a not-at-all-for-beginner hike. Bring at least 2+liters of water plus lunch and plenty of snacks to stay fueled. Steady rain cancels.</p> <p>Meeting place: Meet at the Dry Brooks Boat Launch: 1336 Palisades Dr, Leesport, PA 19533 Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net</p>
<p>Wednesday 04-03-2024 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>April Monthly Meeting</b> Monthly Business Meeting and presentation TBD</p> <p>Meeting place: St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 South Ott Street, Allentown, PA. Enter from the back parking lot. Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net Co-leader: Karen Gradel 215-536-5857</p>
<p>Wednesday 5-01-2024 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>May Monthly Meeting</b> Monthly Business Meeting and presentation TBD</p> <p>Meeting place: St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 South Ott Street, Allentown, PA. Enter from the back parking lot. Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net Co-leader: Karen Gradel 215-536-5857</p>
<p>Wednesday 6-05-2024 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>June Monthly Meeting</b> Monthly Business Meeting and quarterly scheduling</p> <p>Meeting place: St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 South Ott Street, Allentown, PA. Enter from the back parking lot. Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net Co-leader: Karen Gradel 215-536-5857</p>
<p>Thursday 6-27-2024 8:00 am</p>	<p><b>Trail Magic Day</b> Trail Magic on the AT</p> <p>We always get a great assortment of goodies and supplies. Fresh fruit, vegetables and sweet treats are always popular. You can also contact hike leader to find out what we need. Karen 267-424-4602 or email me at kjgradel@gmail.com.</p> <p>Meeting place: Bake Oven Road Parking lot. GPS Coordinates 40.744544, -75.738112 Leader: Karen Gradel 215-536-5857</p>
<p>Friday 6-28-2024 8:00 am</p>	<p><b>Trail Magic Day</b> Trail Magic on the AT</p> <p>We always get a great assortment of goodies and supplies. Fresh fruit, vegetables and sweet treats are always popular. You can also contact hike leader to find out what we need. Karen 267-424-4602 or email me at kjgradel@gmail.com.</p> <p>Meeting place: Bake Oven Road Parking lot. GPS Coordinates 40.744544, -75.738112 Leader: Karen Gradel 215-536-5857</p>
<p>Wednesday 7-03-2024 6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>JULY MONTHLY MEETING and POTLUCK PICNIC @ FRANKO PARK</b> A short monthly business meeting followed by a potluck picnic</p> <p>It's that time again for our annual picnic. The club will provide hot dogs and drinks. We ask our members to bring a favorite dish to share with the group. DIRECTIONS: I-78 to the Lehigh Street exit then north on Lehigh Street. Turn right at the 1st light onto Downyflake Lane. Then turn right onto S. 12th Street. At the light, turn left onto W Emmaus Avenue. Then turn right, before the Eastern Salisbury Fire and Rescue, onto Honeysuckle Road. Then bear left onto Black River Road. Franko Park is 1/4 mile on the left.</p> <p>Meeting place: Franko Park, 1339 Black River Road, Salisbury Township, Lehigh County, PA 18103. Leader: Paula Uhrin 484-951-4299 jcnj168@ptd.net Co-leader: Karen Gradel 215-536-5857</p>



## Help Wanted

Membership Secretary

Contact Paula Uhrin @ jcnj168@ptd.net for more information

## Membership Dues for 2024



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$15.00 PER CALENDAR YEAR FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER, AND RENEWALS MUST BE MADE BEFORE JANUARY 31ST TO STAY ON THE CLUB'S MEMBERSHIP ROLLS. DUES CAN BE PAID AT THE MONTHLY MEETING OR MAILED TO THE CLUB MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY. HOUSEHOLD DUES

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Paula Uhrin: 283 Ridgeview Drive, Alburtis Pa. 18011

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

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PHONE:

RENEWAL

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NEW

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EMAIL:

Dues @\$15.00 / \$20.00 Household

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Club T-shirt @ \$10.00 + \$4.80 shipping each

Club golf shirt @ \$12.00 + \$4.80 shipping each

Club Embroidered patch @ \$3.00 + \$.75 shipping each

Club decal @ \$2.50 + \$.75 shipping each

Checks payable to "Allentown Hiking Club"

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes - Please sign me up for the Allentown Hiking Club's email list --- the AHC Forum





**AHC Hike / Event Form - Please fill out all fields and give this to the Hiking Scheduling Coordinator at the scheduling meeting or see page 2 of The Happy Hiker for email and phone contact information.**

Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Co-Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type Of Event (circle one): hike / meeting / maintenance / backpack / other  
 Round trip road miles: \_\_\_\_\_ Hike distance: \_\_\_\_\_ miles  
 Meeting Place: check \_\_\_\_\_ contact hike leader, or enter directions

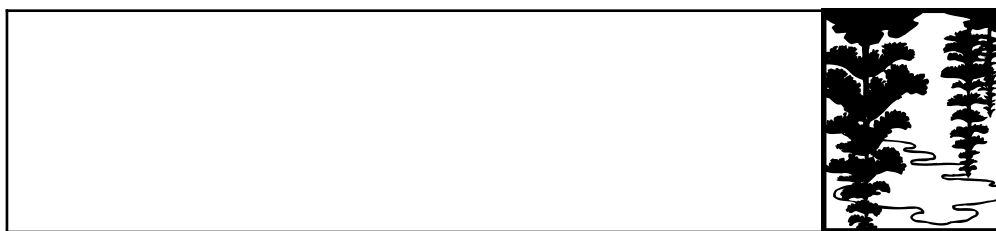
Hike Rating (from AHC Hike Rating System): \_\_\_\_\_

Add this hike to Meetup.com ? yes / no (select one)  
 If yes limit hike to \_\_\_\_\_ hikers or no limit.

Event Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: A one-sentence description of the event that appears on the website Activities page, the main page, and in the AHC Weekly Update email.

Additional details that appear only on the Activities page



**Please Rush-Dated Material**

www.allentownhikingclub.org  
 Allentown, Pa 18105-1542  
 P.O. Box 1542  
 Allentown Hiking Club

