

# Walsh: Second bike expo offers ride among many highlights

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By Lawrence Walsh / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The second Pittsburgh Cycling Expo, a celebration of all things bicycle in and around western Pennsylvania, western Maryland and eastern Ohio, will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at the IBEW Circuit Center, 5 Hot Metal Street on the South Side.

The event, open to bicyclists of all ages and ability, is sponsored by Aero Tech Designs Cycling Apparel of Coraopolis. A \$5 donation will be collected at the door. Bike parking will be available. The Expo includes a 9 a.m. bike ride on the nearby Three Rivers Heritage Trail led by veteran cyclist **Kevin Craig**, a silent auction, raffles and a high tech and "tubular" fashion show.

There will be more than 60 vendors from bike shops, bike clubs, trail organizations, bicycling magazines, tourism organizations, bike tour operators, and B&Bs, guest houses and restaurants from trail towns along the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP).

When the last mile of the passage through Sandcastle in West Homestead and Keystone Metals near the Glenwood Bridge officially opens June 15, it will provide 150 miles of user-friendly trail from Point State Park to Cumberland, Md.

Information on organized rides and trail updates will be available, including the latest developments on the Montour Trail ([www.montourtrail.org](http://www.montourtrail.org)). When completed, the Montour Trail will extend 46 miles from Moon near Coraopolis to Clairton, where it will link with the GAP. Multiple sections totaling more than 40 miles have been completed.

Information: [www.pghcyclingexpo.com](http://www.pghcyclingexpo.com);

## Armstrong Trail

A 30-mile ride from East Brady to Rosston with shuttle arrangements, breakfast and snacks; the re-decking of the Pine Creek Bridge in Mosgrove; and the completion of the Armstrong Trail in East Brady. All that and more will be on the agenda when the Armstrong Rails to Trails Association meets at 6:30 p.m. Monday in the Commissioners Conference Room in the Armstrong County Courthouse Annex

Building, 500 East Market St., Kittanning.

Information: [www.armstrongtrail.org](http://www.armstrongtrail.org); email [toni.henry51@gmail.com](mailto:toni.henry51@gmail.com); 724-543-4478.

## Welcome addition

The Tandem Connection, a new full-service bike shop and cafe at Milepost 27 on the Montour Trail, will celebrate its grand opening from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 13-14 with live music by singer/guitarist **Carolyn Hock**, giveaways, raffles and activities for children.

There will be samples of barbecued chicken, pork and rib sandwiches, free snacks for children and a drawing for a new bike. The shop and cafe are in a renovated century-old former coal company store at Milepost 27 at Southpointe, 5 Georgetown Road, Hendersonville. Information: [www.tandemconnection.com](http://www.tandemconnection.com), 724-745-2453.

## On the road

Wind chill temperatures in the low teens did not deter the young cyclists and staff members of the Pittsburgh Youth Leadership from completing a 277-mile bike ride last month in Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee.

PYL founder **Mark Rubenstein** and staff members **Peter Geiringer** and **Jake Rubenstein** were joined by **Diondre Farris**, **Lawrence Davis**, **Cody Wagner**, **Gene Flowers**, **Hassain Estes**, **D.J. Fitzgerald**, **Maquale Steward**, **Mentchaas Anderson**, **Darrell Rodgers** and **Marquis Williams**.

"The kids demonstrated great attitudes and determination in cycling in some tough weather, just seemed to be having lots of fun, learned a great deal of history and made the trip wonderful for all," Mark Rubenstein said.

Trip highlights included visits to two sites in Memphis -- the National Civil Rights Museum and the Lorraine Motel where **Martin Luther King** was assassinated April 4, 1968 -- and attending an NBA game in Memphis.

Larry Walsh, who writes about recreational bicycling for the Post-Gazette, will be the host of a Spring Bicycle Tune Up from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 27 at the Post-Gazette. Details at [www.post-gazette.com/pgu](http://www.post-gazette.com/pgu).

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