



Keystone Capers

Some consider Watts Bay Marina and Country Club a state of mind. Others more correctly consider it a state of the palate and stomach. But regardless of how you might perceive it, its loyal following maintain that Watts Bay on Lake Arthur is the best place to windsurf in central Western Pennsylvania.

Although the sailing conditions might not present much of a challenge to the Robby Naishes of the windsurfing world, the menagerie of obscure personalities that comprise this bizarre collection of humanity make it a must on any vacation itinerary.

Eating at Watts Bay is a serious matter and second only to windsurfing on the list of priorities. Sometimes, however, on extremely calm days, its ranking has been known to be upgraded. If you arrive early enough, you might even catch home-made breakfast at water's edge. If not, don't worry. Kim will be firing up her grill for lunch and possibly dinner as well; that is if she's not out breaking speed records on her Windsurfer (sarcastically known as "Swift"). Membership fees and club dues are quite steep; a box of Nutty Wheat Thins, a pack of hotdogs, or any junk food will secure you a life membership.

But don't be fooled. A danger-

ous side to Watts Bay exists. Officers of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission lie in wait like hungry sharks, ready to pounce on any poor boardsailor who forgets to wear his PFD lifejacket. Fortunately, protection is afforded by our guardian angel, a park ranger and ex-officio member of the club, affectionately referred to as "The Green Marine." He, unlike the Fish Commission and other sailors, doesn't consider us and our Hobie brothers to be "the motorcycle gang of the lake."

—Joseph Waltenbaugh

A GUIDE TO

WATTS BAY

HOW TO GET THERE

Watts Bay is located 40 miles north of Pittsburgh on the north shore of Lake Arthur in Moraine State Park. Get there from Pittsburgh via I-79 North to Exit 29, then take US 422 East to the Moraine State Park exit. After the exit, follow the signs to the north shore of the lake.

CLIMATE AND DRESS

Summer air: average 70° to 85°; summer water temp: 75°. Lake Arthur is a shallow lake that warms quickly. Best winds in spring/early summer and fall. Late summer: humid. Wetsuits in April, October and November. Ice picks required December through March.



Celestial Watts Bay, on the hot corner of Lake Arthur, is a good place to catch the wind, but an even better place to catch breakfast.

SAILBOARD SHOPS

Sailboard rentals and lessons are available on the south shore of Lake Arthur, or can be arranged through Outdoor Experience, 818 S. Aiken St., Pittsburgh, PA 15232 (412-687-1386). Boards and accessories are also available at: Pittsburgh Scuba, 314 Craig St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213 (412-621-9900); Paddler's World Inc., 668 Pittsburgh Rd., Butler, PA 16001 (412-586-2030); Ski North, 10455 Perry Highway, Wexford, PA 15090 (412-935-1640).

RESTAURANTS/NIGHTLIFE

A wide variety of nightlife, food and entertainment abounds in Pittsburgh, but some excellent food and drink can also be had in the vicinity of Watts Bay. Home-cooked meals are available at Eppingers and The Village Inn. If you want a "brew" with your meal, go to Rachael's Roadhouse and The Iron Bridge Inn.

TRAVEL NOTES

Bruce Matlack has established a new high-wind center at the **Hotel Las Arenas at Punta Arena**, 26 miles north of the **Los Bariles** area of **Baja, Mexico**. The place reportedly has flat water (unusual for the area) and high-velocity sideshore winds. A two-mile sandspit that blocks the waves is only a short sail away, with surfsailing galore. Brand

new 1987 **Alpha** sailboards will be available for all visitors. Write Hotel Las Arenas, POB 3766, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670, or call 800-423-4785 (800-352-4334 in California) . . . Hawaii news to commemorate the coming of the summer trades! **Hugh England**, a well-established fixture in boardsailing's short but exciting history, has branched out and started his own: near **Kanaha Beach** on **Maui**—the **Maui Windsurf Company** (nice name, Hugh!) will give group or private lessons, arrange tours, clinics, car and condo packages for groups or individuals. Call 'em toll free at 800-872-0999 . . . Why not **Kauai**? When you're there, contact **Carl Stepath** at **Sailboards Kauai**. Besides offering daily lessons and rentals, this summer he has planned instructors' clinics for those with the yen to teach. The first clinic starts almost too soon: June 6-7. After that, the next two are scheduled September 26-27 and December 5-6. If you don't want to clinic, you ought to go sailing; the winds are 15-18 from the northeast, and there is something for everyone. Write Sailboards Kauai for travel information at: 3470 Paena Loop, Lihue, Kauai, HI 96766 . . . **ATTENTION!** Any boardsailor with plans (or even dreams) of a trip to "the Islands"—get a copy of the annual magazine, **Windsurf-**

