

Benedum Planetarium  
Oglebay Resort  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
(304)243-4034



May 21, 2007

Dear SEPA, GLPA and MAPS Colleagues,

We would like to invite you to join us for the first ever Triple Conjunction Conference of the Southeastern Planetarium Association, the Great Lakes Planetarium Association and the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society, October 9-13, at the Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, West Virginia. Wheeling is located in the northern panhandle of the West Virginia, one hour southwest of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. **Please make special note of deadline dates and room release date for conference hotel.**

The conference will consist of many papers, posters and workshops designed to stimulate and encourage fellow colleagues. We are anticipating a good vendor turnout for the conference to give you the opportunity to learn about some of the exciting new tools available to planetarium professionals.

Four outstanding speakers have accepted invitations to give talks during the conference. The speakers are David Levy, James Kaler, Charles Wood and Dr. James Sweitzer. Their biographies are listed in the delegate information and tentative conference program that is a part of this packet.

The Carnegie Science Center Buhl Planetarium in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania will be the conference co-host on Thursday, October 11, as we will visit the facility for additional conference activities. Later that day, we will travel to their sister museum, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History for a behind the scenes tour of the newly remodeled Hall of Dinosaurs and a dinner in the Hall of Architecture. After dinner, James Kaler will give his Annual Astronomy Update talk in the Carnegie Lecture Hall.

Susan Reynolds Button is organizing a portable dome workshop consisting of at least 4 domes. The workshop will feature many activities, lessons and resources. The portable dome workshop will be held Wednesday on afternoon.

We look forward to your presence at the conference and we are sure that you will find something valuable to take back with you to incorporate into your programs and activities.

Steven R. Mitch, Planetarium Director and Conference Host



Triple Conjunction Conference  
of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society, Great  
Lakes Planetarium Association and the Southeastern  
Planetarium Association  
**October 9-13, 2007 - Oglebay Resort**  
**Wheeling, West Virginia**

## Delegate Information & Conference Program

(Registration limited to 300 persons)

### Conference Hosts

Oglebay Resort and the Benedum Planetarium located in Wheeling, West Virginia, welcome the Great Lakes Planetarium Association, the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society and the Southeastern Planetarium Association to the Triple Conjunction Conference, October 9 through 13, 2007. This conference represents a historic first gathering of all three of the planetarium regions east of the Mississippi River for one conference.

The Oglebay Resort is a 2,000-acre, scenic resort offering many recreational and educational opportunities for the entire family. Technically a municipal park, Oglebay is a non-profit organization run by the Wheeling Park Commission, which is a five-member commission made up of local businesspersons in the Wheeling area. Oglebay is not affiliated with the political entities of the city, county or state.

Wheeling, West Virginia is located on the eastern banks of the Ohio River, whose history extends back to the mid-seventeen hundreds as settlers migrated into the "western frontier" prior to the Revolutionary War. Most of the area within the northern Ohio Valley was surveyed by George Washington before he became the commander of the Revolutionary army. The Ohio River is the natural boundary separating all three of the planetarium regions, MAPS to the east, GLPA to the west and SEPA to the south.

The Benedum Planetarium was made possible by a grant from the Benedum Foundation of Pittsburgh, PA and funds from the Wheeling Park Commission. The facility was completed in early

May, 1978 and opened its doors to the public on May 26, 1978. Steven Mitch is the Director of the Benedum Planetarium and is the host for the conference.

The planetarium houses a 40-foot, tilted Spitz dome, 133 unidirectional seats, a Spitz 512 star instrument and a JHE, ScreenMaster 3 automation system.

The Benedum Planetarium has been conference host to the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society Conference in 1986, 1990 and 1998; The Great Lakes Planetarium Association Conference in 1994 and the Cinema 360 Consortium Conference in 1992.

James Hughes and the Carnegie Science Center's Buhl Planetarium in Pittsburgh, PA will be the co-host for the conference on Thursday, October 11. Vendor demonstrations and conference sessions will take place at the facility during the visit, as well as a chance to explore the science center. A visit to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh is planned for the evening with a buffet dinner in the Hall of Ancient Architecture.

### Conference Lodging

The conference hotel is rustic Wilson Lodge on the grounds of Oglebay Resort. A block of 185 standard and intermediate rooms is being reserved for the conference, **but only until August 9<sup>th</sup>**. These rooms will be released for other guests after that date. Delegates are encouraged to room with colleagues in order to keep rooms available for other planetarians. Several 4-bedroom cabins are also being held; however, they are not physically connected to Wilson Lodge. All the cabins are

reasonably close to Wilson Lodge, ranging from a couple hundred yards to a half-mile. You may reserve a room or cabin by phone, **(800) 624-6988**, and ask for reservations. Please indicate that you will be with the Triple Conjunction Conference, October 9 - 13. Room rates are \$99.00/rm/night for standard rooms and \$129.00/rm/night for intermediate rooms, plus 13% tax. Cabins are \$325/cabin/night, plus 13% tax. Wilson Lodge has an indoor pool and sauna, exercise room, resort shop, Glassworks Lounge and a very nice dining room. The entire facility is **non-smoking**. Additional information about Wilson Lodge, cabins and Oglebay in general can be found at [www.oglebay-resort.com](http://www.oglebay-resort.com)

**Alternate lodging may be available**, though could be difficult to secure with competing activities in town. Wheeling also has a dog racing track and slots facility, which draws from a wide area. If the table gaming vote wins in early June, hotel rooms will be more difficult to secure.

A Hampton Inn **(304) 233-0440** is located 3 miles from Oglebay, on National Road, next to the Bob Evans restaurant. The Wheeling Island Race Track and Gaming Center Hotel **(304) 232-5050** is approximately 6 miles from Oglebay. The Hampton Inn is \$109-\$114/night. The Wheeling Island Track and Gaming Center is \$112/night, Sun. through Thurs. and \$139.50/night, Fri. and Sat. A 17% tax is added to both rates. Although not as convenient, other hotels are in the area.

## Getting Here

**By Auto** – The best on-line map is [www.maps.live.com](http://www.maps.live.com). Go to this site. Click on the “X” in the upper right of the ad to get a larger image. Place the cursor in the map and roll the cursor scroll wheel “up” to reduce the map area (wider view) and roll the cursor scroll wheel down to enlarge the map area (better local view). To print out the driving directions, click on “driving directions”. On the left side, type the city or town and state you are departing from in the “start” box. Type in “Wheeling, West Virginia”(no quotes) in the “end” box. Choose the shortest time or shortest distance option and click on “get directions”. The route summary will appear in the lower, left column. Click on the down scroll arrow to reveal the printed directions.

A map of the local area is included showing exits, intersections and local road numbers.

**Flying In??** Several major airlines service the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport through direct flights or commuter connections from all of the major hubs and cities in the U.S. US Airways has the greatest number of daily flights into and out of Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh Airport has all of the major car rental companies on or close to the property. There is limousine service to Wheeling and Oglebay Resort via the Airport Limousine Service, Inc. of Wheeling. Prices vary according to the number of people brought at the same time. To inquire about these prices or to make reservations, please call **800-326-2907** or reserve on-line via e-mail to [info@wheelinglimo.com](mailto:info@wheelinglimo.com)

If you are driving to Oglebay from the Pittsburgh Airport, take Route 60 toward downtown Pittsburgh. Take the I-79 south exit and follow I-79 south to I-70 west at Washington, PA. Take the Oglebay exit (exit 2A) off I-70. Turn right onto US Route 40 east at the second light off the exit ramp. Travel on Route 40 east for a half mile and turn left at the 3<sup>rd</sup> light, onto state Route 88 north. You will see a Sheetz Brothers service station on the left corner. Follow state Route 88 north for 3 miles. At the top of the hill, you will see a sign for the Wheeling Country Club and a

sign for Oglebay just beyond it. Continue on Route 88 north and follow the park road signs to Wilson Lodge.

## What to Pack

Eastern Daylight Savings Time will still be in affect during the conference, but sunsets come early and evenings are often chilly. The state's notoriously variable weather can bring cold winds, and rain in early and mid-October. If the weather cooperates, Indian Summer conditions will bring warm, sunny days with temperatures in the mid 60's and 70's and the area will be very close to the time of our annual peak fall foliage, so be sure to bring along a camera. Medium jackets, hats & rain gear are recommended.

Don't forget comfortable shoes for a refreshing stroll along the many walkways throughout the park when you get a chance.

Planetarians express their characteristic "individuality" by typically attending sessions in jeans, tee shirts and other casual wear. The banquet is a more formal affair, so it is recommended that appropriate attire be considered. Jackets and ties and dresses are the norm for this occasion. This is the one event of the conference, where we recognize the accomplishments of our colleagues and collectively reflect upon our profession.

## Added Attractions to Consider

There are many other attractions around Oglebay and in the area that delegates, spouses and guests can enjoy. For advanced planning purposes, these are all described in detail, on-line, at [www.oglebay-resort.com](http://www.oglebay-resort.com) or [www.wheelingcvb.com](http://www.wheelingcvb.com)

Delegates are encouraged to come early, build in some "escape time," or stay over and enjoy the great variety of attractions in the Wheeling area. Guides to Oglebay and area attractions and restaurants will be included in your conference registration package when you arrive.

## Registration & Meals

Basic non-vendor registration fee is \$245, with an added **\$35 Late Fee for any registration postmarked**

**September 12 through September 30, 2007 and a \$50 Late, Late Fee to any registration faxed on or after October 1, 2007.** Any registrations submitted after the **Late, Late Registration Deadline of October 1<sup>st</sup>** should be **faxed to (304) 243-4110, not mailed** to the Conference Host as indicated on the registration form instructions. On-site registration is intended only for extreme hardship cases and may result in conference meals being unavailable.

**Annual Dues for your primary region membership** must be paid in addition to the Conference Registration Fee in order to attend the conference. Members not attending the conference, **in order to receive a free copy of the 2007 Conference Proceedings**, must be current with their primary region Annual Membership Dues by November 1, 2007.

**The meal package** is included in your registration fee and covers all major conference meals except for Wednesday evening, which is dinner on your own. Your registration fee also covers food for the opening reception and breaks. (See Tentative Conference Agenda for details). Spouses or guests may purchase the opening reception, Thursday boxed lunch, dinner and bus transportation and the Friday banquet. Please see details for these items on registration form.

Cash bars will be available at the opening reception and prior to the banquet.

## Speakers

**Keynote Speaker: David Levy:** David H. Levy is one of the most successful comet discoverers in history. He has discovered 22 comets, nine of them using his own backyard telescopes. With Eugene and Carolyn Shoemaker at the Palomar Observatory in California he discovered Shoemaker-Levy 9, the comet that collided with Jupiter in 1994. David is a contributing editor for *Sky and Telescope* magazine. Levy is the author or editor of 35 books and other products. He won an Emmy in 1998 as part of the writing team for the Discovery Channel documentary, "Three Minutes to Impact." As the Science Editor for *Parade* magazine he writes its monthly "Star Trails" column.

**Dr. James Kaler:** A highlight of each conference is the annual update on the latest impressive astronomical discoveries by GLPA's beloved resident astronomer. Jim is now professor-emeritus at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, and is author of a number of books and popular articles.

**Charles Wood:** Charles A. Wood is a planetary scientist who has studied all of the solid surface planets and moons in the solar system. Currently he is a member of the Cassini radar team that is mapping Saturn's moon Titan. Wood's specialties are volcanism and impact craters and he has published books and papers on both. His first and remaining love is Earth's Moon, about which he has published a book, monthly *Sky & Telescope* articles and the daily blog, Lunar Photo of the Day. Wood is Executive Director of the Center for Educational Technologies at Wheeling Jesuit University.

**Banquet Speaker - Dr. James Sweitzer:** Jim Sweitzer (U. Chicago, 1978, Ph.D. Astrophysics) began his career at the Adler Planetarium, Chicago. After 13 years as a planetarium professional, Jim returned to the University of Chicago to help create the Center for Astronomical Research in Antarctica. In 1996, Jim became the Science Project Director for the Rose Center for Earth and Space of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. He was responsible for the development and implementation of the new Hayden Planetarium, including its exhibitions and scientific visualizations. He served as executive producer of the groundbreaking sky show, "Passport to the Universe." In 2002, he returned to Chicago to become Director of DePaul University's Space Science Center, acting as liaison between NASA's Space Science missions and a seven-state Midwestern region. In 2004, Jim launched Science Communications Consultants, dedicated to making the message of science accessible, exciting and inspiring to all.

## Questions or Concerns??

### Contact the Following:

#### Conference Host/General Questions

Steven Mitch, Benedum Planetarium  
Oglebay Resort  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
(304) 243-4034  
[smitch@oglebay-resort.com](mailto:smitch@oglebay-resort.com)

#### Sponsorships/ Vendor

#### Registration/Technical Requirements

Steven Mitch, Benedum Planetarium  
Oglebay Resort  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
(304) 243-4034  
[smitch@oglebay-resort.com](mailto:smitch@oglebay-resort.com)

#### Registration

Steven Mitch, Benedum Planetarium  
Oglebay Resort  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
(304) 243-4034  
[smitch@oglebay-resort.com](mailto:smitch@oglebay-resort.com)

#### Lodging

Wilson Lodge Reservations  
Oglebay Resort  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
(800) 624-6988  
Lodging concerns other than conference hotel are your responsibility.

#### Workshops

Steven Mitch, Benedum Planetarium  
(304) 243-4034  
[smitch@oglebay-resort.com](mailto:smitch@oglebay-resort.com)

#### Papers & A.V. Requirements

Steven Mitch, Benedum Planetarium  
(304) 243-4034  
[smitch@oglebay-resort.com](mailto:smitch@oglebay-resort.com)

#### Door Prizes

John Schroer, Detroit Science Center  
(313) 577-8400, Ext. 449  
[jcschroer@sciencedetroit.org](mailto:jcschroer@sciencedetroit.org)

#### Posters

Steven Mitch, Benedum Planetarium  
(304) 243-4034  
[smitch@oglebay-resort.com](mailto:smitch@oglebay-resort.com)

#### In Event of Emergency

In the unlikely event that a delegate or other conference guest must be reached immediately, calls may be placed directly to Wilson Lodge at Oglebay. The switchboard is manned 24 hours a day at **1-800-624-6988**. Press zero and ask for assistance. Explain the situation and give the delegate's name and any other useful information. Oglebay personnel will be equipped to directly contact appropriate Conference and Wilson Lodge staff.

## Don't Forget Important Dates

**August 9** - Last day in which a block of 185 rooms will be held at Wilson Lodge, the conference hotel. Reservations can be made by calling **1-800-624-6988**. A one-night deposit on your credit card will guarantee your room for late arrival. Ask reservation staff about the cancellation policy if in doubt.

**August 9** - Postmark deadline for workshop submission forms. All workshops and information will be posted on the websites after August 17. Interested parties will contact workshop presenter directly. Workshop presenter is responsible for collection of any fees.

**September 1** - Postmark deadline for paper/poster submission forms in order to guarantee inclusion in printed conference program.

**September 11** - Postmark deadline for early registrations. Registrations postmarked between **Sept. 12 and Sept. 30** will be assessed a \$35 Late Registration Fee.

**October 1** - Postmark deadline for Late, Late Registration. Any registrations submitted on or after this date (form must be faxed, not mailed, to 304-243-4110 - attention Steve Mitch) will be assessed a \$50 additional fee. Persons registering after Oct. 1 may jeopardize being able to purchase meal packages and those registering upon arrival definitely will not be able to purchase a meal package. There will be no refunds for registrations after this date.

**October 1** - Last day to cancel registration and receive full refund if notification is made before 4:00 pm. Call or E-mail Steven Mitch (304) 243-4034.; [smitch@oglebay-resort.com](mailto:smitch@oglebay-resort.com)

**October 1** - Deadline for submitting paper/poster electronic text, per "Instructions to Authors" to Dale W. Smith; [dsmith@newton.bgsu.edu](mailto:dsmith@newton.bgsu.edu). in order to avoid cancellation of paper or poster.

## New Member Orientation

This is an opportunity for new members, first time conference delegates or even seasoned delegates to meet the officers and board of your organization, to gain tips on what you can expect from, how to utilize and benefits of membership in the association and how to get the most from the conference.

## Conference Program

### Subject to Revision

For updates and any changes, consult the websites: [www.glpaweb.org](http://www.glpaweb.org) or [www.maps-planetarium.org](http://www.maps-planetarium.org)

## Tentative Itinerary

### Tuesday, October 9

3:00 pm - Hotel check-in begins.  
3:00 pm - Registration area opens  
6:30 - 8:00 - Opening reception  
7:30 - 8:00 pm - New member orientation  
8:00 pm - Jon Bell's "Astropardy" game contest. Astropardy is based on the popular Jeopardy game show. However, in Astropardy, all of the questions are astronomy related. This will be a regional contest, with bragging rights to the winning region. Great Fun!

### Wednesday, October 10

6:30 - 8:00 am -Breakfast  
8:00 am - Welcome and opening remarks  
8:30 - 10:00 am - Paper session # 1  
10:00 - 10:45 am - Morning break in vendor area  
10:45 - 12:15 pm - Paper session # 2  
12:15 - 1:30 pm - Lunch/Speaker - Charles Wood  
1:30 - 2:00 pm - Group Photo  
2:00 - 2:45 pm - Workshop session # 1  
2:45 - 3:30 pm - Workshop session # 2  
3:30 - 4:00 pm - Afternoon break in vendor area  
4:00 - 5:30 pm - Portable Dome Workshops  
4:00 - 4:45 pm - Paper session # 3  
4:00 - 5:30 pm - Workshop Session # 3  
1:30 - 5:30 pm - Vendor Time  
5:30 - 7:00 pm - Dinner on your own  
7:30 pm - Keynote Speaker - David Levy  
10:00 pm - Hospitality suite opens

## Thursday, October 11

6:30 - 8:30 am - Breakfast  
8:30 -10:00 am - Vendor Time  
10:00 - 10:30 - Board coaches - boxed lunch provided  
10:30 - 11:45 am - Travel to Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh  
11:45 - 12:00 pm - Welcome, introductions and afternoon itinerary  
12:00 - 2:00 pm - Group 1-Vendor Demos, Group 2 - Explore Science Center  
2:00 - 2:30 pm - Afternoon break  
2:30 - 4:30 pm - Group 2-Vendor Demos, Group 1 - Explore Science Center  
4:30 - 5:00 pm - Board coaches  
5:00 - 5:30 pm -Travel to Carnegie Museum of Natural History  
6:45 pm - Dinner  
8:15 pm - Dinner speaker - Dr. James Kaler, Astronomy Update  
9:30 pm - Board coaches  
9:50 pm - Return to Oglebay  
11:00 pm - Hospitality opens

### Friday, October 12

6:30 - 8:30 am - Breakfast  
8:30 - 10:00 am -Paper session # 4  
Workshop session # 4  
10:00 - 10:45 am - Morning break in vendor area  
10:45 - 11:45 am - Paper session # 5  
11:45 - 12:45 pm - Lunch  
12:30 - 1:00 pm - Go to planetarium  
1:00 - 3:00 pm - Vendor talks and demos, Group 1 - planetarium, Group 2 - classrooms  
3:00 - 3:30 pm - Afternoon break  
3:30 - 5:30 pm - Vendor talks and demos, Group 2 - planetarium Group 1 - classrooms  
5:30 - 6:00 pm - Return to hotel  
6:30 pm - Banquet reception  
7:15 pm - Banquet/awards  
9:00 pm - Banquet speaker - Dr. James Sweitzer  
10:30 pm - Hospitality opens

### Saturday, October 13

7:00 - 9:00 - Breakfast  
9:00 - 10:30 am - Final paper session  
10:30 am - 12:00 - Regional business meetings  
12:30 pm - Door prizes, closing remarks  
1:30 pm - Conference closing?

From your location, travel north or south to Interstate 70. Once on I-70, travel east or west to Wheeling, West Virginia. I-70 runs through the heart of Wheeling.

**Local Map on Reverse Side**



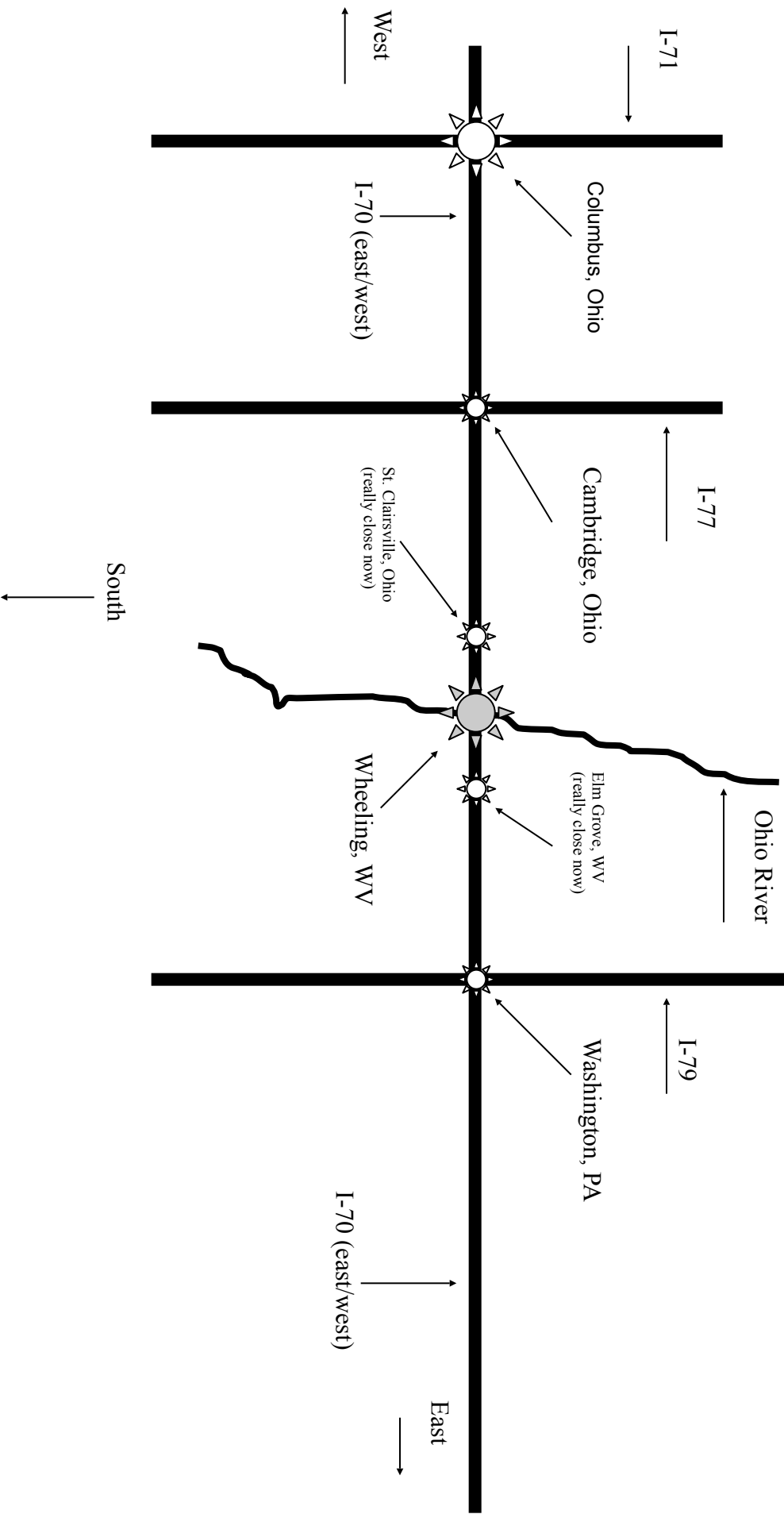
From airport, take Route 60 and follow signs toward Downtown Pittsburgh. Take I-79 south to Washington, PA, then I-70 west.

Greater Pittsburgh Int. Airport

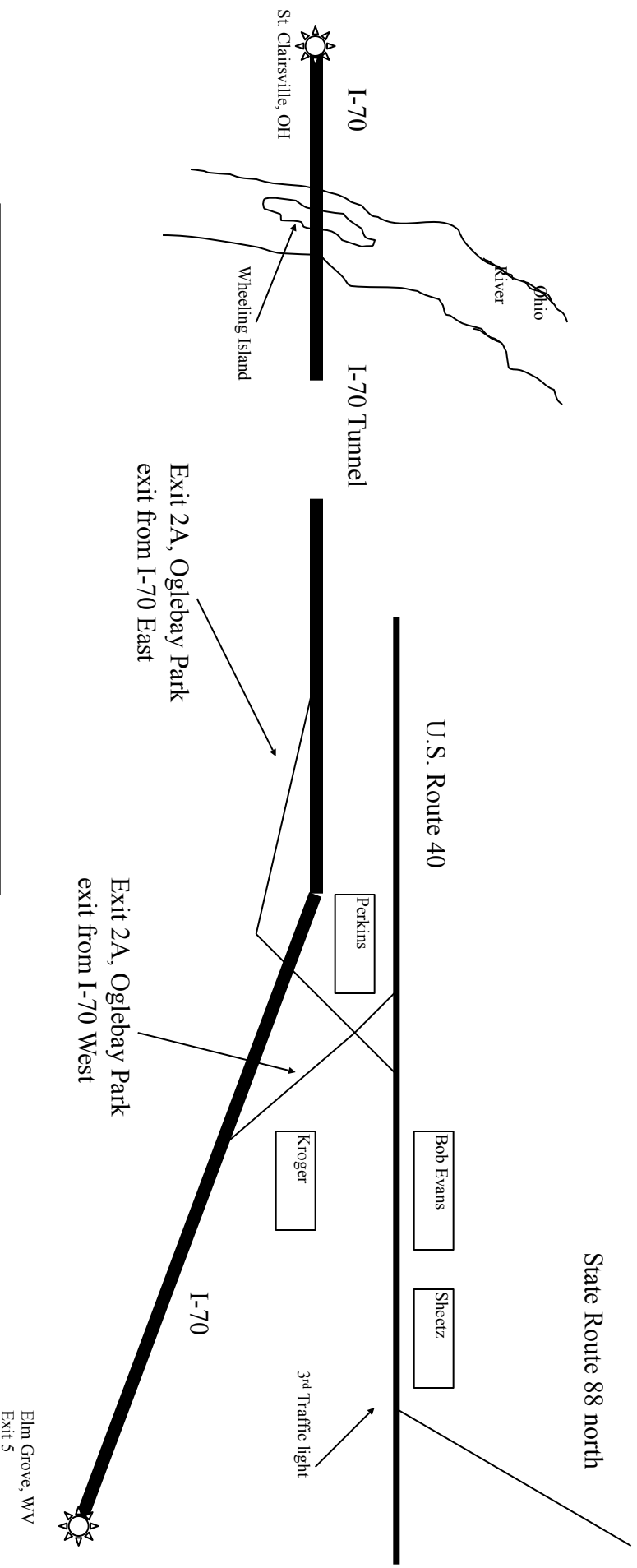
To Erie, PA



Pittsburgh, PA



# Local Map



Take exit 2A from I-70 onto U.S. Route 40 east. Follow Route 40 east approx. ½ mile. Stay in the left lane. Once on Route 40, go to the 3<sup>rd</sup> traffic light. You will pass a Bob Evans, Hampton Inn, Exxon, and Sheetz on the left. At the third light (Sheetz intersection), turn left onto state Route 88 north. Follow 88 north for approx. 3 miles. After about a mile, Route 88 starts up a rather steep, winding hill (ok, mountain, depending on what you are used to). You will see the Oglebay sign at the top of the hill. Follow park signs to Wilson Lodge.