

BOOTPRINTS

Volume 4 Issue 2

May 2000

Sages Ravine/Bear Rock Falls

"Twenty-six miles across the sea", oops, sorry, that's twenty-six miles backtracking to find the correct trail head!!

Saturday, Feb. 26, we were to meet Mike Rattelle at 6 a.m.--yes, that's A.M., at Friendlee's in Westfield for breakfast before starting our backpacking weekend. First, Friendlee's doesn't open until 6:30 a.m., (we could have had a half hour more sleep) but, we had a nice chat in the parking lot while waiting. No problem. Mike, Terry, and I had a nice breakfast--almost finished--and Joe Zawrotny finally strolled in! No problem, plenty of time.

We started out at 7 a.m., as planned, and headed for our destination. We drove for approximately 2 1/2 hours then had to backtrack 26 miles to the correct trailhead!! No problem, plenty of time!!

We were finally ready to hike at 10 a.m. -- only 3 hrs later!! We got our snowshoes on (well, 3 of us were prepared anyway, Joe is another story), our packs on and off we went, Mike, Joe, Terry and I, the only female I must mention, lucky me!! (Come on, girls, let's show 'em how tough we are!) Beautiful day, beautiful scenery, with water falls all along the trail. We had some fog, but it cleared up.

We finally got to Bear Rock Falls Campground at around 12:30. We set our tents up ate lunch, and collected enough firewood to make a beautiful fire--Joe entertaining us with his fine art of cutting logs! Supertime came, Mike with his new stove, recommended by

someone we won't mention by name, needed some help because the canister totally froze up on him. Joe had a neat "pull string meal" because he brought NO STOVE with him. Terry fixed a delicious cheese potato and ham dinner for us! Dinner over, we sat around the still blazing fire with coffee and cookies and solved the problems of the world.

Bedtime came early. Terry and Mike, after putting heating pads and Joe's left over meal package on Mike's stove to unfreeze it, heated water for all the bottles to put in our sleeping bags. Mike guided Joe back to his tent because Joe had NO LIGHT, either. It stayed warm all night, though very wet out because of the fog and dripping trees. The sound of the waterfalls lulled us all to sleep pretty quickly.

In the morning, we took pity on "No Stove Joe" and reheated his "soft-boiled" eggs; he didn't cook them quite long enough the day before, so he had a warm meal. Mike had oatmeal (YUCK) and we had pancakes and sausages. Terry, you win the best meals award!

Our hike out was just as beautiful; sunny and warm, but we were all pretty tired. The 3 guys were wonderful helping me over a couple of rough, steep, icy spots over looking the "raging river". Boy, how I love those challenges!!! Yeah, right. Anyway, we had to stop at 20 Railroad St. in Great Barrington on our way home to get our strength back with some great food.

THANK YOU, Mike, for a real nice weekend!!

How about some more of you trying a backpacking weekend? With 150 members, surely some of

you must want a new challenge. Believe me, if I can do it, you can.

Sandy Cripps

Ask Joe Zawrotny how to cut logs without a saw or an ax. Better still, let him demonstrate this fine art for you. A definite "SHARP AS A TACK" nominee!!

-- Mike, Terry, and Sandy --

White Water Rafting with Zoar



On April 8th, 26 courageous men, women and children braved the early April weather and drove to Zoar in Charlemont, Ma for a fun day of whitewater rafting on the Millers River, in the Turners Falls area. Although cloudy, damp and windy to begin with by the time we were bused to the point of entry on the Millers River we were enjoying 68-degree temperatures and clear blue skies. The wind was very strong, but may have enhanced our journey through class II/III and one section of class IV rapids. It was probably a lot safer to be in the water than in the woods with 35 -40 MPH winds!

It was so wonderfully warm that many of us were peeling off extra windbreakers, wool sweaters, gloves and water resistant pants prior to getting in the 6 person rafts.

Our fears of freezing air and water temperatures vanished and no complaints were heard from those that remained in their rafts or those 3 out of 100 folks that either



voluntarily or involuntarily went into the drink. We'll let you ask John Klebes what the cause of his submersion was?

Following the very exciting, but too brief, of a ride through class IV rapids, called the funnel, we pulled our rafts over to the bank where the guides set up different food stations. There was an area for nachos, salsa and hummus, an area for a warm bowl of chili, a beverage area and the buffet table. Lunch was assorted cold cuts and cheese, fresh rolls, pasta salad and all the important accompaniments. Dessert was an assortment of rather delicious cookies. No complaints from anyone!!

We still had an hour or so of class II/III waters ahead of us, after lunch, before we were bussed back to Zoar. Many of us had a lot of color in our faces from the heat of the sun and that ferocious wind.

There was nothing but "thumbs up" excitement in every ones hearts and enjoyment being shared on the bus ride back to Charlemont. We were very much on schedule and having a great day and no one really wanted it to end. So I suggested that we change our clothes view the slide show of our trip, give everyone an opportunity to buy their 8"x10"s and tee shirts and move the party a little further west to view Tannery Falls in Florida, MA.

Twelve of the original 26 folks packed up and we drove right to the

parking area of the Falls and spent an hour walking through the woods, along side roaring streams and snapping photo's of ourselves and the magnificent falls.

It was still pretty early and we were having such a great time that we moved the party to one last stop. One of our guests, Ed, knew the area and directed us to a fine, fairly price Chinese restaurant in Greenfield where some of our gentleman members proceeded to rearrange the restaurant to comfortably accommodate our party. The restaurant staff took good care of our hunger and thirst.

Special thanks to Tom Harrington for his offer to drive his van and take a group of us to Zoar, enabling me to attempt to relax, and concentrate on activities planning.

The entire day was excellent, the company terrific. It was even mentioned that this should be an annual Club event! What more could a trip leader want from the first trip that she has ever led?

I'm now really looking forward to co-leading the Battenkill canoe and camping trip with Betty Channing. Come on water-lovers, sign up for another great PVHC weekend - June 3-5!!.

-- Donna Jago --

A Fork in the Trail

The Pioneer Valley Hiking Club has come to a fork in the road. It is

with sad feelings that we say goodbye to Backpacking, Etc., our home for eight years. We have grown with the help of our founder Ray Tibbetts and Backpacking Etc. Over these years many of us would stop in to discuss the latest in gear & expert advice Ray has to offer. We will all miss Ray's store and the camaraderie of meeting at our home at Backpacking, Etc. As founder and lifetime member of the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club we look forward to Ray's continued involvement in the club's meetings and activities. We hope you can make an honorary dinner for Ray May 5th, at the Monte Carlo Restaurant.

As we start a new path with Scott Cook, and new friends at Wilderness Experiences Unlimited, we embark on a new and exciting future. We have maintained the opportunity to contact people who enjoy the outdoors and to increase the scope of the club with expanded activities and new outdoor interests added to our core of hiking and backpacking. Please join us in welcoming Scott Cook and the Wilderness Experiences crew to our club!

- The PVHC Executive Board -

Notes from Shari on the Appalachian Trail

April 22, 2000

Hello Everyone,

Just checking in. I am in Hot Springs, North Carolina for some rest-n-relaxation. My feet need it. It has been raining and cold. Looking for some nicer weather. Thanks for all of your messages, notes, and letters.

Shari Cox



Trail Maintenance Day on "Tully Trail"

Please join your fellow hikers for the club's Spring Trail Maintenance Work Party on May 27th. This year we will be coordinating our efforts with The Trustees of Reservations to help complete the new Tully Loop Trail in Royalston, MA.

Come out for a fun and rewarding day building bog bridges, clearing underbrush, and blazing the trail. This is a great way for both new and old members to share some time together working and having fun outdoors. We always have a great time and especially enjoy relaxing over the club provided mid-afternoon lunch. The club has general tools and equipment on hand but we suggest you bring work gloves, water, and maybe a set of pruners.

Due to the complexities of working within the state forest system at Bear Town the club will be refocusing our trail maintenance activities in more support of The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR). More information to follow shortly.



The BASICS

Day Hiking

Going on a day hike should be a very pleasurable experience, good exercise and a chance to meet new friends. A little preparation will maximize your enjoyment for the day.

1. Call the trip leader for details about the hike.
2. Dress for the weather! Use hiking boots. Bring extra clothes since mountain tops are normally cooler than ground level. Dress in layers to be able to adjust to changing conditions. Use synthetic fibers instead of cotton if possible.
3. Bring water. 1 to 2 Quarts
4. Bring lunch and snacks.
5. Bring a daypack, fanny pack, or even a backpack as needed for your gear.
6. Consider bringing the ten essentials (every day hike group must have them to be safe, if backpacking everyone should bring) Map, Compass, Extra food, Extra clothes, Headlamp or flashlight, First aid kit, fire starter, matches, knife and cord.
7. Seasonal equipment to consider; bug repellent, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, gloves, mittens, snowshoes, crampons, walking poles
8. Other considerations; toilet paper, whistle, moleskin, camera/film, bandannas

On the hike, know your limitations. Before you get too tired or too cold or hot, stop and rest and assess the situation. If needed ask someone to return to the car with you, please don't go alone. Make sure the leader knows you've left. Please let the leader know of any injury, even minor ones.

Behave at all times in a manner that reflects favorably on the club, with minimum impact to the environment. Please leave dogs at home. Alcohol should not be consumed on club hikes. Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints.

Club members often like to stop for a social snack or meal after a hike. Ask ahead if your car pooling if they are stopping or returning directly afterward.

PVHC Annual Picnic

Our Club Picnic this year will be held at "Peppermint Park Camp Ground" in Plainfield Ma, on August 6th from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Once again we will have available to us: Softball field, Volley Ball area, Swimming Pool, Hiking trails, Walking areas, etc. There is a Pond nearby (4 miles) for canoeing or kayaking or fishing.

Members will be asked to bring side dishes and soda only.

Hamburg's and hotdogs will be supplied along with all paper plates, condiments, silverware, etc. We will have access to the "Lodge" as a part of our package. This is an area inside for us to sit and eat or relax at tables or booths. For those of you that don't want to bring beverages, the "PUB" serves a (complete) line of liquid refreshment available to you at a nominal cost. So fellow club members, lets picnic together and have a good time.

-- Terry Cripps --

Bartholomew's Cobble Workday

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, to all of you that showed up for our annual Maintenance day at Bartholomew's Cobble in Ashley Falls. The PVHC has once again demonstrated what a few dedicated "workers" can do. Our Club should be proud of what we help to accomplish for the hiking community in general and for a specified area such as "The Cobble". The trails were "manicured," the barbed wire fences removed, dead trees cut down, an observation deck built, and various other areas were attended to as well. I was asked by a couple of people not associated with our group, who we were. I told them and they were impressed with the attitude of all and were amazed at how much was accomplished by our group. Once again DON added his gratitude for our help and efforts to get "The Cobble" up and running for another year. Again THANKS for your help.

-- Terry Cripps --

New England's Highest State Summits

On Sunday, April 16th, eleven climbers got to stand atop the highest point in Connecticut as we checked off the first of the New England Highest State Summits. Connecticut has the unique problem of having the highest point located on the slope of a mountain that has a summit in Massachusetts. Because of the high point not actually being a summit we hiked a large figure eight to include both the highest peak and the highest point in the same hike. Don't let anyone every say the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club doesn't cover all it's bases.

Starting at the Mt. Washington road crossing above Sage Ravine we hiked up Round Mountain and Mount Frissell. We had great views despite the threat of rain. Norm wrote a very nice write-up about our

summit bid in the register at the summit of Mount Frissell (2,380 feet). We stopped at the Connecticut high point (2,543 feet) on the western slope of Mount Frissell for the required photographic record, to be seen at the next club Christmas party. Then we hiked on to the South Taconic Trail and the Tri-state marker between NY, CT, and MA. Wayne had his daughter with him and she thought it was neat that we were hiking through three different states in one hike.

We hiked on to a very scenic spot on Brace Mountain for lunch at the summit overlooking the valley. Had a great view of Riga Lake from the bald summit. You could see the whole hike from the summit as we retraced the hike in our minds from the view of Round Mountain, Mt. Frissell and our final destination -- Bear Mountain. After Lunch we hiked down an old logging road and back to our cars then after a short rest did a loop up and over the summit of Bear Mountain (2,316 feet) on the Appalachian Trail. Here we shared another great view and great feelings of accomplishments as we summited our first of the New England State High Points.

Join us in May when we climb the elusive Jerimoth Hill in Rhode Island as the second hike in our New England Highest State Summits Series.

- John Klebes -



CAMPING FUNNIES:

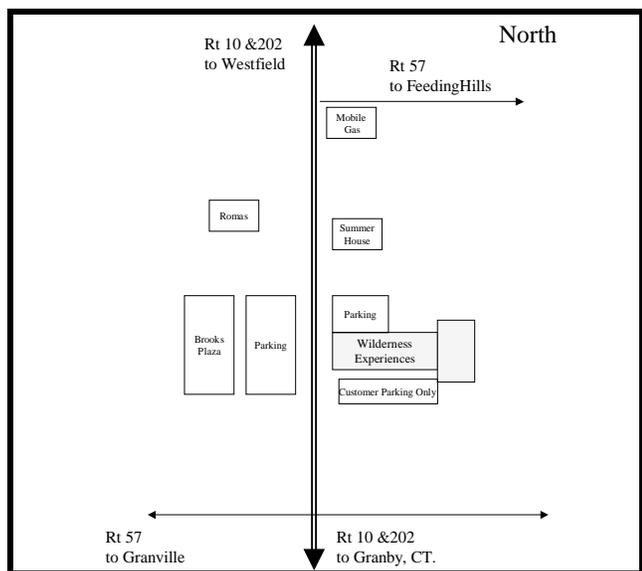
- ❑ Lint from your navel makes a handy fire starter. Warning: Remove lint from navel before applying the match.
- ❑ When using a public campground, a tuba placed on your picnic table will keep the campsites on either side vacant.
- ❑ A hot rock placed in your sleeping bag will keep your feet warm. A hot enchilada works almost as well, but the cheese sticks between your toes.
- ❑ While the Swiss Army Knife has been popular for years, the Swiss Navy Knife has remained largely unheralded. Its single blade functions as a tiny canoe paddle.
- ❑ You'll never be lost if you remember that moss always grows on the north side of your compass.
- ❑ When camping, always wear a long-sleeved shirt. It gives you something to wipe your nose on.
- ❑ A two-man pup tent does not include two men or a pup.
- ❑ A potato baked in the coals for one hour makes an excellent side dish. A potato baked in the coals for three hours makes an excellent hockey puck.
- ❑ In emergency situations, you can survive in the wilderness by shooting small game with a slingshot made from the elastic waistband of your underwear.
- ❑ The guitar of the noisy teenager at the next campsite makes excellent kindling.
- ❑ It's entirely possible to spend your whole vacation on a winding mountain road behind a large motor home.
- ❑ Bear bells provide an element of safety for hikers in grizzly country. The tricky part is getting them on the bears.
- ❑ In an emergency, a drawstring from a parka hood can be used to strangle a snoring tent mate.

New Location for Club Meetings

With the closing of Backpacking ETC., our club must move its operations. At our April 4th business meeting the club membership, by unanimous vote, adopted the boards recommendation to affiliate itself with Wilderness Experiences Unlimited.

As of our next meeting, May 2nd, we will meet at:

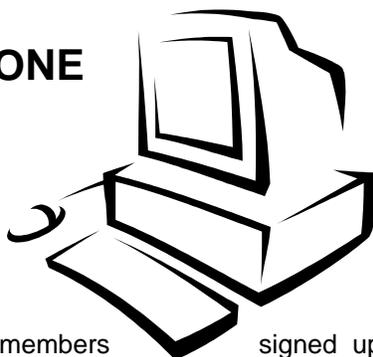
Wilderness Experiences Unlimited, Inc.
526 College Highway (RT. 10/202)
Southwick, MA 01077
(413-569-6445 or 1-888-WE Climb)



PVHC HAS GONE HI-TECH

Our Club now has an:

- E-Mail List
- Internet Web Site
- Intranet Site



We now have 45 members signed up on the Internet e-mail list, and some have signed up on our Intranet site. If there are any of our members that have Internet Access and have not signed up yet, we now have a new Intranet password protected site that is for club members only. It is an interactive site that lets us add info about what we think will benefit the Club and to add our opinions on what we think about issues that effect the club. The Hiking Schedule is posted at both sites and available at the "click" of your mouse. These sites have been beneficial to the club for adding another dimension of communication as tools to keep information flowing at a faster rate. If you do have access, try them out. Here are the addresses.

PVHC Email List

(Contact Terry Cripps to be listed and get a copy of the latest club email directory)

Web Site on the Internet

(open to all Members and Non-members)
<http://members.aol.com/hikingfile/pvhc.html>

Intranet Site

(Password only to Club members)
www.pioneervalleyhikingclub.intranets.com/

I know that there are some of you that do not have Web Access. This area of club activity is by no means meant to exclude any of the members of PVHC. Anything discussed on these sites will be available to all club members at open discussions.

-- TERRY --
(available at bakpak@javanet.com or 786-0335)

PVHC T-SHIRTS

The Pioneer Valley Hiking Club will be placing an order for a new embroidered logo T-shirt. The base T-shirt is a "Lee" name brand, "Performance" series, moisture wicking short-sleeve shirt made with 85% Polyester and 15% cotton.

The logo is 3-1/2 inch wide and 4 inches long over the left breast. The words "Pioneer Valley Hiking Club" is embroidered in hunter green thread with a bootprint



embroidered in black thread. The t-shirt is a light gray to hide the dirt for those long days on the trail.

I had a sample made by RTS Embroidery and will have it for display at the next two club business meetings. The cost of the t-shirt is \$20.00 and if paying by check please make checks out to PVHC.

Please sign up on the list that will be distributed at the next two club meetings if you are interested in purchasing a shirt. If you can't make the meeting you can leave your request with John Klebes (413-786-3620)

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees

Rob Schechtman, President (860) 668-2758
 John Klebes, Vice President (413) 786-3620
 Jennifer Lamothe, Secretary (413) 562-5654
 Joyce Berg, Treasurer (413) 594-8299
 Scott Cook, *Wilderness Experiences Unlimited*
 Ray Tibbetts, Founder

Standing Committee Chairs

Trail Maintenance: Joe Zawrotny
 Hike Planning Coordinator: Dick & Sue Forest
 Backpacking Coordinator: Mike Rattelle
 PVHC Web Page Editor: Mike Gross
 Intranet Site/Email List: Terry Cripps
 Bootprints Editor: John Klebes
 Membership: Ann Mundy
 Quartermaster: Wayne Rodriguez

Bootprints is a publication of the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club. Send your story contributions to the editor at: klebes@aol.com (Email) or by USmail to John Klebes, 157 Thalia Drive, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meeting:
June 6, 2000, 7pm at WEU
- ❑ Next Hike Planning Meeting:
June 13, 2000, 7pm at WEU
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: June 27, 2000
- ❑ **PLEASE NOTE:** Due to the 4th of July being on a Tuesday this year our July meeting will be held on July 11, 2000, 7pm at WEU

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 526 College Highway
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