

# BOOTPRINTS

Volume 4 Issue 4

September 2000

- Lisa, Mitch and William -

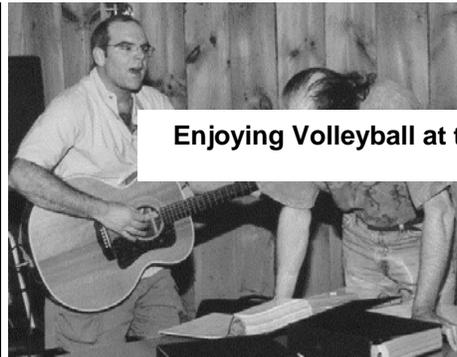


Hayride at the Club Picnic - (photo by Scott Aschenback)

## PVHC Picnic

This years picnic was held at Peppermint Park. There were 10 people that camped overnight and 43 of your fellow hikers enjoying a day of good food, volleyball, swimming, and a sing along by Bob Eccleston with his guitar, amp and song books. I'm sure the club made Dick Forrest's day as the chorus of Happy Birthday was sang to him. The following is a sampling of some of your fellow hikers comments on the picnic. Thanks Terry for a great PVHC event.

My boys and I are new members of PVHC, and we just wanted you to know we had a really nice time at the picnic. The boys are still talking about the fun time they had at the campout the night before. The day was filled with good food and music. A special thank you to Terry and Sandy. We're looking forward to next year.



Bob & Barry at the Club Picnic  
(photo by Scott Aschenback)

I arrived in time to play Frisbee with Rob Schechtman, Lisa Frigo and her sons. (Last time I played Frisbee was on John Klebes' all downhill hike up the highest point in

MA; Mt. Greylock. Only an engineer of John's talents could lead a trip that defies the laws of physics and elevation!) Had plenty of good food and snacks throughout the day. I liked the rustic feel of the hall, but felt that the location was kind of far away.

By far, the best part of the picnic for me was the enthusiastic response from many of the club members when I broke out my guitar for a little sing-a-long. I brought my songbooks and tried to play as many song requests as possible. Well, I had so much fun playing for everyone that the next thing I knew, over three hours had passed! I really want to thank you all for being so kind, supportive, and fun-loving. I will always remember the ladies lined up doing the

locomotion around the hall, and when they lined up like professional backup singers doing choreographed moves to the music. Or the haunting beauty of the Native American flute played by Barry Higgins whose steady voice was one of the key reasons so many songs worked out. To all the singers and listeners who tolerated my off key howling, thanks for a great time, one I never could have had without each and every one of you.

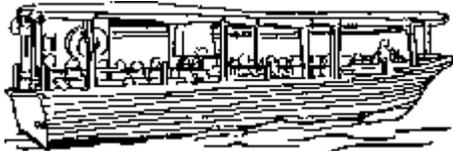
- Bob Eccleston -



Enjoying Volleyball at the Club Picnic - (photo by Scott Aschenback)

## "The Perfect Cruise"

**U**ndaunted by ominous storm clouds, 17 members of the PVHC set out for Northfield Mountain's Quinnetukut II for what was to be known as "The Perfect Cruise". Prior to going aboard, Ann Marie and Berry Higgins graciously welcomed the sailors into their home for a picnic supper.



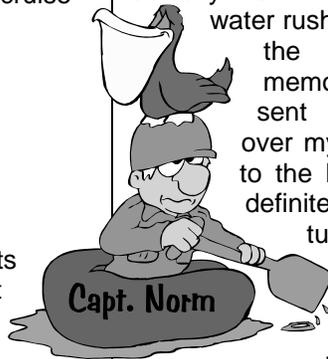
The rain began to fall on them, the tiny ship was tossed, but the music of Trailer Park continued at all costs. Tantalized by Angie's tambourine playing and the fancy footwork of Alan 'Bo Jangles' Herrick, it wasn't long before every passenger had joined the motley crew for dancin' in the aisles as we rocked and rolled our way up the Connecticut River from Northfield Mt. to Barton's Cove. After weighing anchor, it was time for scrumptious sundaes at Higgins' Hideaway.

Kudos to Captain Frank Kamlowski for a wonderful cruise night!

- Sue Carey -

## Tubing on the Deerfield River

**A**fter three attempts that got rained out last year Norm Plante finally came through in style. As a veteran of many tubing trips, on the comparatively calm and slow moving Battenkill River, I was astonished at the exciting river ride that Norm put us through. After leaving cars down stream we had a nice picnic lunch at the Zoar picnic area just below Zoar Gap. Then we cast off into what must have been peak river conditions due to all the rain. This was more white water then lazy river.



While it was a little overcast and cool our group had a fantastic ride down the fast moving river. What normally would have been a shallow stream, with our heinie's scrapping on the rocks, was transformed into a roller coaster ride in the high water. Very exhilarating as some of us attempted to maneuver into the rockiest rapids while other attempted to keep out of harms way.

I remember a few spots where I actually flew into the air as the water rushed us past rocks in the stream. One memorable spot sent a wave crashing over my head soaking me to the bone. This was a definite adrenaline rush tubing trip. Thanks Norm and please lead it again next year!

- John Klebes -



Historic Tip-Top House at the Summit of Mount Washington

an exciting conclusion to the tour from high atop Mt. Katahdin in Maine.

To recap we started off our tour in Connecticut in April climbing Mt. Frissell. May brought us to Rhode Island and Jerimoth Hill, and in June we hit Mt. Mansfield in Vermont. Then it was on to Massachusetts and Mt. Greylock in July.

As I write this I am basking in the afterglow of a great adventure climbing the highest point in all of New England -- Mt. Washington. Nine climbers made the steep ascent to the top of New Hampshire's high point in August.

We started off our Mt. Washington trip by setting up base camp at the Beech Hill Campground. Wayne Rodrigues arranged for us to stay at a secluded group camping area that made it feel like we had our own PVHC private campground.

After setting up camp Mike Rattelle, Sue Ziff, Wayne Rodrigues, Jerry Cyr, Ed Kleciak, and I did a little sightseeing with a visit to profile lake to view the "Old Man on the Mountain", and a leisurely hike around the Basin and Little Flume with it's fast moving cascades and rock features.

Ed Laroche and two club guests, Carl and Carol, joined us at the campground later than evening. After a quiet dinner around the

## New England's Highest State Summits

**L**abor Day weekend completes our year 2000 series on Hiking the Highest peaks in each of the New England States. Hopefully as you read this we will be looking back at

campfire, and a good nights sleep, we got an earlier start and headed up the steep Ammonoosuc Ravine trail. Along the way we passed the Gem Pool with it's beautiful waterfall and deep emerald green pool. Farther up we took a side trail overlooking two waterfalls that cascaded steeply down over 600 feet.

We made good time up to the Lake of the Clouds Hut, where we took in a snack and signed the register before heading for the summit. While at "Lakes" I met a reporter that asked if he could mention our club in an outdoor column. I'll try and repeat the column in the next Bootprints if I can.

The weather was warm and we had light mist and clouds so the visibility was very limited but it still made for a great hike. Everyone seemed to stand with an air of accomplishment as we stood at the summit for a group picture in the clouds. The clam chowder from the summit house renewed our energy as Ed Laroche lead us across the summit and through our above treeline traverse to the Jewel Trail for our descent.

At the junction with the Jewel Trail, Sue Ziff, Ed Kleciak, and I went on a short side trip to the summit of Mt. Clay where we caught a very small glimpse into the Gulf side of Mt. Clay between the clouds.

One of our guest hikers, Carol, shared her homemade granola bar treats with us. They were so good I asked her to share the recipe with the club. (See accompanying letter)

I hope everyone had as much fun on the hikes as I did. Back in July our club guest speaker, Peter Anderson, introduced us to the Highpointer club. Hiking all five summits qualifies you to earn the Highpointer Patch if you join the Highpointer Club (\$10.00 dues + cost of patch) You can contact me if you want more information.

- John Klebes -

## CHEWY GRANOLA BARS

John,

I really enjoyed the hike, especially getting to meet everyone. What a great group. I hope I can hike with your Club again in the near future. Well, here goes the recipe:

### Chewy Granola Bars

1 cup firmly packed brown sugar  
 2/3 cup peanut butter  
 1/2 cup light corn syrup  
 1/2 cup margarine/butter, melted  
 2 teaspoons vanilla  
 3 cups quick-cooking rolled oats  
 1/2 cup coconut  
 1/2 cup sunflower nuts  
 1/2 cup raisins  
 1/3 cup wheat germ  
 2 tablespoons sesame seed  
 6-oz pkg (1cup) semi-sweet  
     chocolate or 1/2 half chocolate  
 1/2 peanut butter.

I've used the "not quick oatmeal" and it worked fine. Also, have substituted other nuts for the sunflower nuts and have left out sesame seed when I didn't have any. I use the golden raisins.

Enjoy!!!

Later gator,  
 Carol

## Hiking Trail Guides, Books & Maps

Did you ever wonder where people get all those great ideas for hikes? I'll let you in on a little secret -- it's called the PVHC library. Over the years the club has purchased, acquired, and been donated a number of trail guides, books, maps, videos, and literature on almost every area within a reasonable distance of the club. This is part of the benefits of membership so please come and check them out. They are available

to view, or borrow, to help you to find just the right hike or trip to explore. Perhaps if you find something interesting you will even wish to share it with your fellow hikers by leading your discovery as an event for the club.

The club also has a limited amount of money set aside to purchase additional material so if you are aware of a particularly good guidebook or map that we should make available please let us know.

The library is located in a file cabinet in the back classroom at Wilderness Experiences. See our club Quartermaster: Wayne Rodrigues for more information on what's available and how to check them out. And remember, these resources belong to all of us. Use them but remember to return them promptly so others can use them as well.

### *FALL TRAIL MAINTENANCE*

*Mark your calendars now for our fall trail maintenance day. Give a little back for all those great days and nights spent enjoying our local wilderness and nature areas. It's always a fun day and the club will provide a picnic lunch. Let's all come out and show our clubs pride. Ask anyone who has been on one of our workdays and they will tell you -- the works easy and we always have a great time. Good friends working together and left with good feelings for a job well done.*

*Date and location will be announced at our club meeting.*

*- Joe Z. (Trail Maintenance)*

# UPCOMING HIKES AND EVENTS

## September 30, 2000

### Ice Glen & Laura's Lookout

On this hike we will start off by crossing the Housatonic River on a suspension footbridge and hiking to Laura's Lookout to enjoy the views of the surrounding countryside of historic Stockbridge. Then off into the boulder-strewn ravine of the Ice Glen, a dark gorge formed between cliffs and boulders. We will follow a twisted path through mazes of stone, caves, and tunnels on the floor of the gorge.

- John Klebes -

## October 7-9, 2000

### Backpacking on the Appalachian Trail

Great beginner/kid trip or for experienced folk who crave terrific views. Easy pace and low miles per day plus the finest views the CT AT has to offer! See waterfalls, extensive fall foliage ridgeline views, soaring turkey vultures, Sages Ravine, Bear MT, Lions Head, and more. Stay at backwoods tent sites with privies. Call Bob Eccleston for details. (D)860-566-5996 (E)860-523-4648

- Bob Eccleston -

## October 7, 2000

### Saturday Night (And Late Afternoon) At Northampton 'Check It Out'!

Meeting in front of Thornes' Market in Northampton, will be the beginning, of what promises to be another Club 'good time'! Would you believe that- right on the outskirts of Downtown 'Noho'- is a wide and wonderful dirt path, through woods, by a river; surrounded by trees, grass, etc.? If you come along on this venture- you WILL be experiencing this, and much more, along with your 'PVHC comrades'!!

We will also walk along the hallowed grounds of Smith College, with its flowers, trees, and 'ye old architecture'. ...Afterwards, we will go to a neighborhood coffee house, where we can option to have Cappuccino, Chai, Tea, and/or pastries! Eventually, those of us who wish to, can go out to dinner together; the food should be delicious. And some of us can even option for a movie, or perhaps a low-key performance, at the Fire and Water cafe. If some, or all, of this sounds good to you, then meet Gary and Jane, your 'Outings chairpeople', for a true 'evening out'! And remember, there's no requirement that says you must 'do it all' on this venture! Do as little, or as much, of these group activities, as you want! Our joy (and I know this sounds corny), is for 'y'all' to enjoy yourselves, and 'feel good about it'!

-Gary Dolgoff-

## October 21, 2000

### Skinner State Park- Walk To The Summit, Social, Plus Picnic!

(Easy- but hilly- exercise, and more!).

Enjoy a late afternoon/evening 'Summit experience'! The group will meet at the gates of Skinner State Park. We will walk up a wide paved path. The panoramic view from the Summit has to be seen to be believed. You can see so much; and you'll most likely find yourself, in that 'good place': your heart is filled with calm, as you easily mingle with your fellow PVHCers. As day turns to evening, one can appreciate the vast tableau of the slowly darkening sky.... Bring some food for the picnic (for yourself, and perhaps a little something to share). Bring your flashlights. Although we may not need it to descend the wide paved path, it can't hurt to have it with you!

Who knows? If time, and the 'fates', are with us- those so inclined, can join your 'Hike leader' Gary Dolgoff, and company- to go to that most wonderful of ice cream places, the nearby rural, and totally delicious 'Flavors'! You'll probably love the fresh taste of their delicious and great assortment of flavors of ice cream- plus the 'wooden look' and atmosphere, of the place itself!....

-Gary Dolgoff-

## October 22, 2000

### Rock House Reservation (easy & short 1/2 day hike)

Visit the unique attractions of the Rock House Reservation which include an exceptionally scenic pond surrounded by massive rock ledges and outcrops, an unusual "balance rock", scenic overlook, and the massive cave-like rock shelter that gave this hike its name. An easy and short hike; you can join us for ice cream or lunch and still have plenty of time to rake leaves in the afternoon.

- John Klebes -

***"Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life."***

**- John Muir -**



## E-Hiking

Jay Sylvain

This month we will focus on vacations. How many of you have been on a non-hiking vacation and thought, boy, I would love to go on a day hike. Well if you log onto <http://www.hikenet.com> you will get a domestic and international listing of hiking clubs. You could contact one of these clubs for hiking information or to attend a hike with their club. Hikenet.com also has sections for advice, stories, hikers profiles, etc. Although these sections are not as good as gorp.com the main focus is for club information.

### Computer Tip:

The biggest strain on a car is when you keep starting it. The same holds true for your computer. Naturally you cannot keep your car running all the time but you can leave your computer on. If you use your computer allot, consider leaving it on. Please remember to shut it off if you are leaving your home for an extended period of time. Make sure you shut your monitor off when you finish your computer session.

## PVHC T-Shirts

The PVHC embroidered T-shirts are in! If you ordered a shirt and have not picked it up it probably means you have missed the last two meetings. Give me a call, or email, and we can make special arrangements to make sure you get one. I have a few more available in limited sizes if you didn't order one but would still like one. Based on an overwhelming demand for additional shirts I will be placing another order to replenish the stockpile for guest speaker gratuities. If anyone wants to order another shirt please let me know as soon as possible.

- John Klebes -

(Phone: 413.786.3620, email: klebes@aol.com)



## PVHC Mailbox

### Open Letter to the Club:

Our club meetings are becoming noisier and noisier. At our last meeting in particular, people were talking out loud, shuffling papers, and conducting all sorts of important business while someone else had the floor. Not only is it very annoying and hard to hear; it is very rude to the person who is speaking! Let's keep our conversations with one another for break time or after our meetings so we can enjoy everything our speakers have to say!

- Sandy & Terry -

### Open Letter to the Club:

Every other month the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club hosts a Hike Planning Meeting to put together the hikes and events for our activity schedule. As you all know this schedule is the heart of the club. It lists the activities and contact information for all our great events. While there are many individuals that make this possible, especially all you hike leaders; two people have consistently taken the reins to make this happen.

I would like to call special attention to Dick and Sue Forest for all the work they have done behind the scenes to make the planning meetings come together. How they manage to extract all the details for two months of events from our rowdy bunch is amazing. If you have never been to one of our hike planning meetings please come on out and see what it's all about. Our next planning meeting is October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Put it on your calendar now. And remember to give Dick and Sue Forest a show of appreciation for all the hard work they put in to run this important meeting. THANKS Dick & Sue!!!

- John Klebes -

## Who's Who of PVHC

Have you ever wanted to get a few fellow hikers together for a last minute adventure? The new PVHC Membership Directory may be just the tool for you. You should have received, with this newsletter, a form that will allow you to specify exactly how personal information will be listed. Please return this form, with your instructions, as soon as possible. If we don't hear from you by October 15<sup>th</sup> only your name will be listed in the directory.

## Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees

Rob Schechtman, President (860) 668-2758  
 John Klebes, Vice President (413) 786-3620  
 Jennifer Lamothe, Secretary (413) 562-4061  
 Joyce Berg, Treasurer (413) 786-4404  
 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: Ron Gaudreau  
 Intranet Site/Email List: Terry Cripps  
 Bootprints Editor: John Klebes  
 Quartermaster: Wayne Rodrigues  
 Membership: Ann Mundy & Dottie Gates

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

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meeting:  
October 3, 2000, 7pm at WEU
- ❑ Next Hike Planning Meeting:  
October 10, 2000, 7pm at WEU
- ❑ Deadline for Returning your form for the Membership Directory is October 15, 2000
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: October 24, 2000

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