

BOOTPRINTS

Volume 5 Issue 2

March 2001

Windblown Hikers Survive!

by Florinda Peck

There were ten of us that braved the fifty mile an hour winds on Feb. 17th at the Ashley Reservoir in Holyoke. It was quite the experience and I'm glad we did it, but this is one that you say "I'll do just ONCE!" The scenery was spectacular with the frozen snow covered lake and stark blue skies matched against the winter green fur trees of New England. As we made our way through the tranquil woods, we had to use allot of new leg muscles just to maneuver over the snow covered ice that was in our path. Some of us "smarter ones" wore shoe crampons, and some of us did not.



Once we got to the open territory of the lake, the winds hit us with such hurricane force taking along with it huge

snow squalls, we had all we could do just to keep our stability. This lasted a good majority of the hike, as the reservoir was extremely vast and there were numerous comments made by the hikers along the way. This made for allot of laughter despite the horrendous circumstances. One was that the weather conditions here that day matched those on top of Mt. Washington in New Hampshire.

Nearing the end of our journey, after approximately three plus miles, we finally made it back to those tranquil woods with much relief. A good time was had by all and we agreed, WHAT AN ADVENTURE!!

- Florinda Peck -



Winter Backpacking at Liberty Spring Tentsite - picture by John Klebes

(Mt. Liberty & Mt. Flume Backpacking lead by Ed Laroche on Jan 13-14, 2001)

First Night

by Sue Carey

For the third consecutive year, Frank Kamlowski led a group of about 20 revelers from the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club to Northampton to enjoy a kindler, gentler New Year's Eve. The evening began with a pizza party hosted by Monica Kendra and Mike Gross in South Hadley. Undaunted by the bitter cold, the party proceeded to Thornes Market where they joined a second club contingent led by Gary "Speak Out" Dolgoff, perused the evening's calendar of events, decided who wanted to go where and when, and descended upon the city.

One of the hottest events of the night was the rock musical group Forever Young, consisting of about 40 senior citizens who, having recently returned from a worldwide concert tour, burned up the stage at the Academy of Music with their renditions of such classics as "Stairway to Heaven" and "Staying Alive". There was a unicycling juggler wielding sabers who also balanced a step ladder on his chin, a jazz ensemble and a cabaret singer, just to highlight a few of the performances held at a number of venues across the city.



Summit of Mt. Liberty

One unfortunate void was the absence of the ever-popular Rock 'n Roll Sing-a-Long, an annual favorite with the PVHC. (Rumor was that Norm Plante's prior year's performance of "Louie, Louie" forced the group into an early retirement!)

In spite of the wind chill factor, the hikers made a stop at Bart's ice cream before progressing to the Hotel Northampton, where the ball was raised at midnight to herald in 2001. Although the fireworks display was abbreviated due to the high winds, Northampton's First Night was outstanding! A special thanks to Monica and Mike for their generous hospitality and to Frank for, once again, returning with all members intact.

Thanks, Sue Carey

Hooray for the Hot Tubs!

by Suzanne Love

On Sunday, January 28, 2001 the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club and the Friends of the Mount Holyoke Range teamed up for a joint hike at Skinner State Park in Hadley, MA. Sixteen people tromped up and down the Devil's Football and Tramway trails before heading up the snowy Mountain Road to the Summit House on top of Mount Holyoke. With perfectly clear blue skies, the day was perfect for a snack on the porch of the historic building before heading back down the paved road to the cars. Eight enthusiastic hikers then climbed in their cars and headed down Route 47 to Northampton and East Heaven Hot Tubs. The group enjoyed an hour soak in the private pavilion: an indoor tub with large skylights and chilly outdoor temperatures. The Japanese experience was followed by a Chinese one as the group shared a meal together at Hunan Gourmet.

- Suzanne Love -



Pictures from Last Years Campshow

2001 Camping & Outdoor Show

by John Klebes

Once again the annual PVHC Booth at the Springfield Camping & Outdoor Show was a great opportunity for fellow members to get together and share our love for the outdoors. Using a backdrop of pictures and a live slideshow the constant flow of visitors were treated to an impressive image of our clubs past year's events. Several people commented that they had heard our club was one of the best in the area. This year over 45,000 visitors attended the show.



Dave Rotondo did an excellent job again this year with building signs, pictures boards, lighting, and helping out all four days. Over 28 of your fellow PVHC members came out to staff our booth this year. Thanks to all of you for chipping in and helping.

- John Klebes -

McLean Game Refuge

by Ann Mundy

On Dec. 30 Dave Rotondo lead a hike to McLean Game Refuge with Marion Germino, Carl Brothers, and Ann Mundy. A beautiful winter wonderland. The best part is hiking with Dave. He has such an enthusiasm and childlike spirit that it is always a good time. Thanks Dave for a great day!

- Ann Mundy -

Impromptu Winter Adventures

by John Klebes

Five adventurous soles set out Saturday morning to join Norm on his Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary hike. Only problem is all five of us failed to follow the golden rule of PVHC. As the time got later and later it became apparent that Norm was nowhere to be found and all five of us had failed to call the hike coordinator to let him know our intents. Breaking this standing rule we undoubtedly missed the vital information regarding any change in

PVHC 2001 Election Results

PRESIDENT
Rob Schechtman

VICE-PRESIDENT
John Klebes

SECRETARY
Ann Marie Visconti

TREASURER
Shari Cox

planning and were left on our own. **"Shame on all of us for failing to call ahead."** This should act as a lesson to all of PVHC on the importance of calling the hike coordinator prior to a trip.

Since none of us knew the location of Norm's planned hike we made an impromptu decision to head out for section two of the M&M trail. We had great cool and clear weather with the sun shining and crisp white snow blanketing the trail ahead. Heading north from route 57 in Agawam we followed what we affectionately called the bunny trail. The magic of winter snow allowed us to follow in the paw-prints of rabbits and bunnies as we headed down the trail. This would not be our first encounter with animal tracks as we tried to identify the many tracks that crisscrossed our path through the virgin snow. We followed one set of tracks to the brink of a steep ledge overlooking a quarry where it was clear that the animal that had left the tracks also stayed to admire the view. As we hiked north across Proven Mountain we stopped to snack at some rocks overlooking the beautiful farmlands and rolling hills of Westfield and beyond. As we continued north it became a little harder to make out the trail due to the snow. It appeared no one had traveled this trail since the big snowfall we had weeks ago. As we encountered wind blown drifts we were thankful that the crust of snow was strong enough to keep us from breaking through into the deep snow beneath.

Despite a few short but steep sections, where ice made the trail almost dangerous, we had an excellent adventure. Crampons would have been a good safety addition on this hike. Our little group responded to the challenge with great teamwork helping each other over the icy obstacles. Toward the end of our hike we had a great view of Mount Tom in the distance, views of soaring hawks, and a startle as a plump pheasant rustled out from the trees as we passed. A great winter adventure!

- John Klebes -

A Taste of K2 Dinner and a Movie

by John Klebes

A group of 14 fellow PVHC'ers braved the critics for a night out with dinner and a movie. It all started with a number of people expressing interest in seeing the movie "Vertical Limit" at the PVHC Holiday Party. Using word of mouth, and the clubs email list, we passed the word that an impromptu group was forming. We met at the Ground Round for a nice group dinner then headed out to the Cinema in West Springfield. We lucked out as the movie was playing in the newly remodeled section with stadium seating.

Vertical Limit is a high speed adventure movie about a climb and rescue on K2 the 2nd highest mountain in the world. While the critics gave the movie a poor rating many of us sat at the edge of our seats as one mishap after another demonstrated the perils of high altitude mountaineering. Special thanks to Shari Cox for getting us discount movie tickets.

- John Klebes -

In-the-News:

Capitalism comes to Tibet

According to the Chinese paper Sing Tao (January 11, 2001), a New Zealander has cleared all the bureaucratic hurdles and is getting set to start building the highest altitude hotel in the world. It will be built on the Tibetan side of Mt. Everest or, as it is called in Tibetan, Chomulangma at an altitude of 21,648 feet. The hotel will have 52 rooms at around US \$100 a night.

The project will cost around US \$3.2 million. Representatives of the China-Tibet Mountain Climbers Association are in support of the venture, But many environmentalists and mountain climbers in and out of China oppose the project. They say it will attract many tourists that will result in substantial accumulations of debris as has happened on the Nepali side. *Compiled from an article by Franz Schurmann* - John Klebes -



New and Exciting PVHC Website

I started this club site to help the club communicate better and have a place for chat. I have used Yahoo Clubs for other interests and it works well. Here is a URL to Yahoo's Club pages for PVHC. Click on "become a member" for instant membership. Post your picture in the club album. Post hiking pictures in separate albums. Leave messages regarding upcoming hikes or comment on past hikes. Have fun with it.

PVHC Club on Yahoo!
http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/pioneer_valleyhikingclub

Thanks,
Snapdragon (The hiker formerly known as Ron, formerly known as Solemate)

Potential Leaders And Co-Leaders: 'We Still Need Ya'!

Thinking about leading a hike, but feel 'a bit intimidated'? Well- try 'the joy of co-leading!' We'll try to 'hook you up' with a present PVHC hike leader, whom you can request to 'scout the hike with' (before the actual 'led hike!'). He/she can show you how to recognize and follow trail markings, organize and 'look after' your fellow hikers, etc. ...Believe me, it's fun! Interested? Let me (Gary Dolgoff) know and come to the hike planning meeting.

- Gary Dolgoff -

UPCOMING HIKES AND EVENTS

March 29, 2001

More 'Dinner, Walk, and Movie Nights'!

Thursdays- March 29th, and April 26th! Meeting place and time: In front of Thornes' Market in Northampton, at 6:30 PM. Join Jane Glushik, Gary Dolgoff, and your fellow PVHCers- for some 'easygoing evening endeavors'! (Our last 'Noho Night' event in Feb. was so enjoyed by the 12 of us- that Jane and I, decided to do some more!). We will first go to a 'tasty' Northampton restaurant (Gary is a 'Noho' resident), followed by a walk (perhaps through some of the atmospheric walkways of Smith College), and then to a movie in one of the Northampton 'town Movie theatres. Those who can't 'stick around' for the movie, are welcome to accompany us, on the dinner and walk... As always; 'a time with your fellow Club members, is time well-spent, indeed!'. Any questions; feel free to call Gary, or Jane.

- Gary Dolgoff -

April 1, 2001

April Fools' Day Hike- Northfield Mtn., with Gary D.! (5 Miles, Moderate- Joint with AMC)

Yes, Gary Dolgoff DOES, lead 'real hikes' (as in-'in the woods')! Join the group; (some of you 'easy hike affectionados', might want to stretch him or herself a bit!). We will have some steep parts, a fairly long uphill; all this will result in n excellent view or two, at the very least! Just know- That Gary's hikes, are known to be led at a 'compassionate pace', especially up hills! ...After the hike, we will have the option to do some small 'social' thing.

- Gary Dolgoff -

April 26, 2001

More 'Dinner, Walk, and Movie Nights'!

See March 29th above.

April 28, 2001

Another 'Dolgoff Hike': Mt.

Lincoln! (Moderate; 3 and 1/2 miles, with an optional 'extra mile') This hike, is 'worth its' stuff! There will be a summit (views), waterfall(s?), and a 'walk through a rich and varied forest'....Come!

- Gary Dolgoff -

May 5, 2001

Boston Trip

Marcia Kelly will lead a trip to Boston on Sat May 5th. Car pool and meet at McDonalds in Ludlow just off the turnpike at 8:30 am. We will park in Watertown and take bus to Harvard Square. Walk down Mass ave, Cross the Charles and walk up Newbury Street, thru the Boston Garden and Common down to Quincy market and on to the North End where we can have dinner. Lunch - bring your own or pick up something on the way. Will take the "T and bus back to our cars.

- Marcia Kelly -

May 19, 2001

New York City Extraganza-2001 (Affordable!) (Jane Glushik And Gary Dolgoff) 5+ Miles

Here 'tis: In its' own way, 'The expedition of expeditions'! -Last year, the Jane (and Hal Goldberg, of NYC)-led trip, drew 'rave reviews' from our (over 30-odd) 'intrepid PVHC adventurers'! So- 'Here we go! The plan: We will meet at 8 am (location to be soon determined), and board a bus (only 'hitch': We must collect enough 'bus fares', before we can reserve (and pay

for), our Charter bus; if, by some chance, there were no buses available by that time, we would have to then refund you the bus fares,; the trip would still be on; but, transportation would then be available via 'PVHC carpool'; so, get that money in soon!). Upon arriving at New York's interesting Upper West Side, we will take our merry walk downtown, people-watching, looking at some interesting buildings, and the many varied stores of NYC. We will stop somewhere to have a good lunch. Continuing down these urban, weekend streets, we will eventually reach Battery Park (at the southern tip of Manhattan), having already stopped at one of those famous New York delis, to 'hang out and have a (5-7 pm) picnic', overlooking the waters, and the Statue of Liberty- with members of the NYC AMC Singles and Sociables group, led by the 'urban NYC hike-leader extraordinaire', Larry Stack! (Don't worry, 'non-singles folk': The 'Singles and Sociables' group there, is open to- and attended by- single, AND non-single people! In fact, many of the (present) hike leaders of that outfit, are no longer single, themselves!). After our 'so very social' picnic, we will then- take an evening stroll, across the famous Brooklyn Bridge, winding up at our 'friendly and now-familiar' bus, waiting to take us home, to Massachusetts (We will be back by around midnight; but, 'what a day'!!

One thing: we need to have you 'interested people', get \$30.00 each to us (for bus fare), as soon as possible (so we can reserve the bus- they won't make the res., without the payment). Pay Gary or Jane at the meeting (checks preferred), or- if you can't make it; call one of them up, get the address, and- 'send in the dough'!!

- Gary Dolgoff

Membership Directory Update

Membership Directories were distributed at the Holiday Party in December or mailed to all active members as of January 2001. I have a limited number of extra copies if anyone who joined after that date would like a copy.

Please make note of the following amendments to the directory:

1. **Claire Carocci** - 61 Larchwood St.,
W. Springfield, MA 01089-2440, 413.737.1858,
ccarocci@mtholyoke.edu, joined in 2000
2. **Lynn Gebo** - 21 Pine Ridge Rd., Montgomery, MA
01085, 413.862.4572, joined in 2000,
Interests: hiking, tennis, skiing, knitting, reading,
Comment: Teacher

Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

March Renewals:

Borgatti, Fay
Brusco, Ursula
Byington, Kay
Carey, Diane
Carrier, Mike
Cipperly, Elva
Clairmont, Nathan
Cyr, Jerry
Davis, Maurice
Frigo, Lisa
Goodhind, Alan
Guilmette, Gary & Tyler
Hitchcock, Troy
Lamothe, Jennifer
Mahaffey, Theresa
Mahlau, Cynthia
McBride, Lisa
Roselli, Celeste

April Renewals:

Aschenbach, Scott
Bowers, Helen
Drumheller, Bonni
Fitts, Stephen
Fugere, Cyndi
Glushik, Jane
Goodwin, Bryan
Kendra, Monica
Kennedy, Joan
Lahoski, Sue
Mathieu, Michelle
McGurk, Susan
Munsell, Dick
Pozzi, Claudia
Rattelle, Mike
Tilden, Marty
Ware, Rosemary
Williams, Charles

Please renew early, and renew by mail. Mail your renewal with your name and any address or phone number changes to:

Shari Cox, PVHC Treasurer
223 Gifford Street
Springfield, MA 01118

John Muir, father of the American conservation movement, once said of ambling, "*Throw a loaf of bread and a pound of tea in an old sack and jump over the back fence.*"

Hey, What's stopping you?



Book Review

In a Sunburned Country

by Bill Bryson

I mentioned to John Klebes that I was reading *In a Sunburned Country* by Bill Bryson, since he had just reviewed Bill Bryson's more famous book, *A Walk in the Woods*. He suggested that I write a review for "Bootprints," so here it is.

Bill Bryson is America's best travel writer. And what makes his books a joy to read is his humor. If you have read *A Walk in the Woods* and you thought that that book was funny, *In a Sunburned Country* also has a number of passages that will make you roar with laughter.

Bryson paints a paradoxical picture of Australia, the land Down Under. He scares the hell out of you by saying that there are any number of natural things that will either make your life miserable or do you in in Australia (i.e. crocodiles, pesky flies, biting ants, deadly snakes, poisonous spiders, lethal jellyfish and octopi, and, of course, sharks.) The vast open spaces of water deficient deserts in the Outback with mind-numbing temperatures won't do you any favors, either. But after Bryson writes so many negative things, who would ever want to visit the God-forsaken place?

On the other hand, Bryson loves Australia. He visits all the major cities of Australia, and ventures into the Outback. He walks a tremendous amount, especially in the major cities, often trying to find some landmark or an obscure site of personal interest that he's read about. Bryson does a tremendous amount of research on Australia, and it shines through in his writing. He wonders why we rarely hear anything newsworthy from the country, and posits that Australia is truly a forgotten land. He also finds the optimism of the people of Australia captivating, especially considering the natural obstacles that they have had to overcome.

Bryson starts the book by scaring the hell out of you (undoubtedly trying to provoke interest in his subject), and notes the irony of the way Australians do things. I thought the tone of the book towards the Australian people at the beginning was a bit harsh at times. But he settles in and finds humor, and occasional disgust, in just about everything. *In a Sunburned Country* is a big book, three hundred pages long. It is filled with more trivia about Australia than you would wish to know. However, if you are going to Australia, or have an interest in the country after watching the recent Survivor series on television, or would like a hilarious or extremely well written book to read, then this is the one for you. - **Dick Forrest-**

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees

Rob Schechtman, President (860) 668-1321
 John Klebes, Vice President (413) 786-3620
 AnnMarie Visconti, Secretary (413) 547-2729
 Shari Cox, Treasurer (413) 796-1326
 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 (Email) or by USmail to John Klebes, 157 Thalia Drive, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:
April 3, 2001, 7pm at WEU
May 1, 2001, 7pm at WEU
- ❑ Next Hike Planning Meeting:
April 10, 2001, 7pm at WEU
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: April 24, 2001

***** Check out our web page at:**
<http://members.aol.com/hikingfile/pvhc.html>
 Join the PVHC Email List by sending a message to Terry at bakpak@javanet.com.

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