

# BOOTPRINTS

Volume 5 Issue 6

November 2001

## LAND LOVERS AHOY!

Aug 4<sup>th</sup>. Ct. River Canoe Trip

By - Dianne Chiba

Let me first say, this was our first attempt at canoeing. With great anticipation and a bit of reading from a old Boy Scouts Canoeing How to book, we started off feeling ill prepared for what would lie ahead. The day started off with the skies opening up and raining buckets, but rain can't stop a determined personality! With water up to the middle of our hubcaps in places, we set off for the meeting place at Brooks in Holyoke. Pulling into the lot I felt relief, seeing cars with canoes and familiar faces. Rain here doesn't mean rain in Conway! Carpooling with Dick and Shelia we formed our caravan and were off.

After one rest stop and some tightening of ropes on the kayaks, we continued to the canoeing rental sight. After signing your life away (as with all risky activities) we were given our life vests and paddles. We then all boarded the bus, (very convenient I must say) and were brought to the spot, where our canoes awaited us. The first test, could we get it in the water and board without killing ourselves? Yes we did it, and quite nicely I must say. Ok, now the trick is to paddle together and get somewhere. After a few strokes, we got the hang of it, and started in the direction we wanted, I was the paddler and Bill was responsible for steering. That just wasn't going to cut it, so we both paddled in unison. It felt great out there on the Ct. River with the sun shining down and making it a wonderful day. As we maneuvered down the river doing lots of paddling (there wasn't much current to help) we came to a few area's where



Connecticut River Canoe Trip - Ascutney, VT (photo by Dianne Chiba)

decisions were made as to which side of the river to paddle on.

We heard happy singing voices ahead, it was Ron and family. Wow, there goes Marcia in her Kayak flying by us. Now, we're starting to get hungry, after all those burnt calories paddling, and followed some of the others to some rocks on the side of the river and rested and ate out lunch. After a brief rest we continued our trip and found more low spots and almost got beached. I am now proficient at the "J" stroke and know how to stop the canoe too. After about 8 miles I could feel my back starting to ache so I decided to try paddling standing up like in a gondola. This was a great relief and was fun too. Making my husband Bill nervous, he thought I'd tip us for sure. And so what if I did, it was shallow and we had our swimsuits on! Now, we've done about 10 miles and Bill's arms are killing him and we are getting tired, just four more to go, Yes, the end is in sight and we survived our first canoeing trip and enjoyed it immensely. Now for ocean

canoeing and kayak lessons!! With a Big Grin,

- Dianne Chiba

## In Memory Of Carl Brothers



This issue of Bootprints is dedicated to Carl Brothers. You will be sadly missed by your friends and hiking companions. The many happy adventures we shared will live on in our memories.

## Griffith Lake Backpack

by Ann Mari Visconti

The weekend of October 13-14, a "DIFFERENT" type of group went on an overnight backpack to Griffith Lake near Stratton, Vermont. The group was comprised of Debbie Fila, Jordan, (Deb's 11 year old niece), myself and Leah (11 years old also). The drive was about 2 1/2 hours with a few stops. It was easy to get to accept the road for the trailhead did not have a sign. So after driving up and down the main road for a while, Deb asked directions. Although the directions still were not clear we found the trailhead.

It was definitely worth going to. The day was gorgeous, yellow leaves were falling down all around us like snow, and the trail we followed ran along the stream. There were many people day hiking up to Baker's Peak, which we went up to the next morning. One woman with her dog had scared a moose right before we got to that spot. We didn't see it but we could smell it. It was very strange; it smelt like a horse.

Upon arriving at the lean-to, we met a man section hiking the AT, named Warlock (I didn't ask why he had that name), he said he had run into a lot of groups over the last month, but we were "different" compared to the rest. I believe he wasn't used to seeing a group of women hike, especially with little girls, but he thought we were very knowledgeable. Of course we told him we belong to the Pioneer Valley Hiking Group.

While we were there we went swimming, looking for moose, cooked marshmallows around the campfire, and tried to keep two pesky chipmunks from eating our food. We had the lean-to all to ourselves and just had a great time. We hiked about 10 miles round trip in the two days. I would like to do it again next year and encourage you to join me. It is a nice place to dayhike or backpack.

## THE LATEST NYC EXTRAVAGANZA

### SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE... (Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>)

by Gary Dolgoff

It was with great interest (especially considering the tragic event, of September 11th)- that I, a fellow New Yorker-teamed up with the able and organized Jane Glushik- to unfold the third New York Extravaganza, for our Club....

Once again, Jane arranged a rental bus, for us; once again, she handed out detailed flyers, on the bus. -We were first going to the Bronx Zoo, where Carson Tang (president of the New York Appalachian Mountain Club's Singles and Sociables chapter- where you don't have to be single to attend), gave us a guided tour of the zoo, filling our head with endless facts about those prodigious pachiderms (elephants), and much else- as well as giving us the benefit of his entertaining personality, for us- and the New York AMCers-alike!

The zoo is a wonderful place for most of the animals there (as far as zoos go)- giving most of them some freedom of movement, while providing us with some 'entertaining, animalistic' sights! One of our favorites was the Congo exhibit, which provided 'quite natural' settings, in which the gorillas were interacting quite naturally, too! We couldn't get to see all of the zoo in a few hours, as we were bound for Little Italy, by 3pm, as planned....

-A sizeable group of us PVHCers decided to make their way to Ground Zero, upon our arrival in Manhattan; I didn't go all the way down their with that group, as I led the people who weren't into going (turned out we did go quite close, as well; quite a sad thing to see, what little was exposed to the public-unbelievable...

-Close to 7:30, we got together at this neat Italian restaurant in Little Italy, named SPQR of St. Anthony; I was glad to see that they were busy

enough, that they could not seat us earlier; hence the post-7 reservations....

The food, was nothing short of fantastic; this restaurant was huge, with pillars inside it; yet it retains a warm, caring atmosphere- aided in no small way, by the helpful, courteous and professional waitstaff, most of whom seemed to be from Italy itself! We sat at two very long 'tables of 17', and had a ball; we were also joined by Jill, an AMCer from upstate New York- she helped me plan the dinner-part of the event, and even brought me some unique and thoughtful deserts, to share with my fellow 'clubbies'!

As we wended our way home in our chartered bus that night, weary but content, I felt 'aglow' with that warmth, fun, and that good feeling- which is all part and parcel, of our club....

## Talking Trash

Ever wonder why even in the most remote spots you can still find a reminder that someone has been there before you? That's because even one person leaving a piece of trash can have long lasting results.

Here's a list of how long it takes for some common items to decompose:

- Banana Peels (up to 1 year)
- Orange Peels (up to 2 years)
- Cigarette Butts (up to 5 years)
- Plastic Bags (10-20 years)
- Wool Hiking Socks (50 years)
- Aluminum Can Tabs (80-100 yrs)
- Plastic six-pack Holders (100 yrs)
- Glass Bottles (1 million years)
- Plastic Bottles (Indefinitely)

Next time you see someone else being careless how about chipping in and carrying it out? The next hiker to your favorite spot will thank you for it.



## PVHC Mailbox

To all my dads' friends from the Hiking Club:

Thank you so much for the flowers and most generous support. Thank you also, for making our dads last days the happiest. I never heard him so happy as when he was talking about all his hikes and campouts he did, as well as all of you. We will miss him dearly, but we are so glad that he had friends like you.

Carolyn, Tim, & Ryan Brothers

I'd like to extend a special thank you from the club to one of our members, Mark Henke, for the efforts to weld together a replacement part for the clubs screen house. With his help we should get many more years of use out of your club's screen house.

The screen house is available for use on any club events by contacting the quartermaster.

John Klebes

Fellow Club Members,

Scott & I would like to thank each and every PVHC member for volunteering to help us man our Big E booth. The number of volunteers were way more than we needed so please understand if you didn't receive a call. We simply had enough help! Thank yous to Dave Rotundo, Rob Scheckman, Edward

LaRoche, David Guay, Lee Merrill, Bill Nickerson, Sandy Jurczyk, Frank Kamlowski, Sue Carey, Connie Fogarty, and John Taupier.

Laure Cook (*Wilderness Experiences Unlimited, Inc. & Westfield Water Sports*)

## Visit our National Parks for Veterans Day Weekend

by John Klebes

In a special invitation to visit our uniquely American places of inspiration the Park Service will be waiving entrance fees to all of America's National Parks during the Veterans Day weekend (November 10-12, 2001). "America's National Parks tell our nation's stories, from which we can all draw lessons of unity, hope, and healing." says Fran Mainella, Director of the Interior.

## New Map Highlights Ice Cream Stops

by Dick Forrest

I thought you might like to know that Sue brought home a current map of Central Massachusetts that is a bicycle and road map and bed & breakfast guide. Well, wouldn't you know it has ice cream cones next to towns or cities on the map, which highlight homemade ice cream shops. This is taylor-made for our club. Even Al would be impressed. (You can include this info in the next Bootprints.) The map is a Rubel Bike Map, P.O. Box 401035, Cambridge, MA 02140.

Or <http://www.bikemaps.com/>.

Or [info@bikemaps.com](mailto:info@bikemaps.com).

## Triple-M our own New England Trail

by John Klebes

Pat Fletcher, from the AMC, passed on the following update to progress on designating the Mattabesett-Metacomet-Monadnock trails as a National Scenic Trail.

*The Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail Study Act Of 2001 (Bill HR 1814) passed in the House of Representatives as amended\*\*, but still needs to be introduced in the Senate and passed by that venerable group. If/when the bill is passed it will authorize a FEASIBILITY STUDY to help determine IF the combined Mattabesett-Metacomet-Monadnock trails should be designated as a National Scenic Trail, and thus be a part of the National Trails System (and thus be eligible for funding and technical expertise from the federal government). The Feasibility Study should take about two years, once money has been appropriated and put into the National Park Service budget.*

With the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club's adoption of section 1 and 2 of the M-M Trail we should all be proud of the roll we have, and will play, in the development and protection of our local trail system.

## PVHC Club T-Shirts

A new shipment of club T-shirts is in. I will have them available before and after our Club Meetings and at the Holiday Party. Sizes available are Med, Large, and XLarge. These are the Lee Performance wicking T-shirts in gray with Pioneer Valley Hiking Club embroidered in Hunter Green and a black footprint logo on the front. Cost is \$20.00 and checks made out to PVHC will be accepted.

John Klebes

# UPCOMING HIKES AND EVENTS

## NOVEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>

### TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Come and help the PVHC maintain our adopted trail, the M&M, on Sunday November 18. We are planning a much-needed overhaul to the "puncheons" or bog bridges in section 1 in Southwick, MA. This activity is need now before the wet spring to keep the trail passable. Many hands will be needed to move in the wood and clear out the old wood. Working together we can make great things happen on this important trail, build our friendships and accomplish a founding charter of our club for giving back to the trails.



Metacomet-Monadnock Trail

We'll supply tools, wood, lunch and hot drinks, dress for the weather. If you have high reaching waterproof boots or waders they will be of help in the Bog. The meeting place is 9 am at the Agawam Friendly parking lot. Call Ann Marie Visconti, 413-547-2729, if you can plan on coming so we have an accurate count for Lunch.

## Dec 6<sup>th</sup> and Jan 10<sup>th</sup>

### LET THE 'NOHO DINNER, WALK, ETC. - NIGHTS CONTINUE!

Fast becoming a monthly Club tradition, led by 'yours truly'- these events are an excellent, low-key way, to 'meet and greet' your fellow club members, over dinner and beyond! (I am even hoping to get some of those 'hard-core hikers', to

'loosen up, and attend!'- c'mon, folks! We- want your company, as well!

Anyway; The food in Northampton is flavorful- not unreasonably priced- and varied (something for 'most everyone!'). Also, allow me to dispell to myths about Northampton: 1)"It's a hassle to get to!"

No, it isn't! It's conveniently located minutes from I-91, or rt. 10, or rt. 5; only 15-20 minutes from Springfield, for instance.. 2) "Parking's a hassle in Northampton!" -Wrong again! After 6, there is no 'meter charge'; if you can't easily park on its' city streets, try the outdoor parking areas (again- no charge after 6pm!). The easiest/quickest way: park in the indoor pkg. lot for 50 cents an hour- there's even an enclosed walkway to Thornes Mkt (our meetingplace), on the third floor of that garage!

- Gary Dolgoff

## February 17-23, 2002

### Windjammer Vacation

Our February Windjammer vacation is nearly full with just 5 spaces left it is a great way to escape the Winter Blahs from February 17-23, 2002. This is a vacation everyone will enjoy with Scuba, snorkeling, kayaking and much more available.

Two new notes of interest: Our ship the Polynesia is currently in drydock and will be renovated and brand spanking new for our trip. The batchlor/ette quarters will be for only 4 instead of 6, which means a more roomy cabin.

Also for those who love reality TV - Catch the new show called Love Cruise and note that the Windjammer Barefoot Cruises supplies the vessel/ship for their cruise so watch the show and catch a glimpse of the Windjammer fleet in full sail - at sunset - below deck, topside & lots of other activities! Any questions regarding the trip contact me for info & a brochure.

Laura Cook 413.568.8764 (home)

## February 23-24, 2002

### Camping at Battleship Cove

Come camp out on the USS Massachusetts. This is a living floating museum of an actual battleship used in WWII. Sleep in authentic bunks and participate in demonstrations like nautical knot tying. RSVP: \$15.00 pp nonrefundable deposit due by November 15, 2001. Balance of \$20.00 due by January 15, 2002. Saturday's dinner & Sunday's breakfast included. Please give payments to Shari Cox.

Mark Henke



## HOLIDAY GATHERING

Date: December 8, 2001

Time: 6:00 pm

Where: Pueblo, East Campus,  
Springfield College  
Off of Wilbraham Road,  
Springfield, MA

First it's frost on the pumpkins, then turning clocks back, and turkey day. Then, before you know it, it will be our Holiday Gathering. Mark your calendar.

Everyone who went last year will attest that it is a great time. FOOD, FOLLY, PRIZES, DANCING. What more could you ask for?

It is important to call and reserve your spot so that we have an accurate count for food. We are asking people to bring a dish: an appetizer, side dishes, salad, or dessert.

Members free, guests \$5.00 fee.  
Call Shari, (413) 796-1326.

# Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

### November Renewals:

Marie Babbitt  
 John Paul Boisvert  
 Rosy Campbell  
 Suzanne Carey  
 Miriam Chaput  
 Wm & Suza Cichaski  
 Mike Foster  
 Cheryl Funk  
 Ron Gaudreau  
 Lynn Gebo  
 Edward Laroche  
 Lee Merrill  
 Joanne Miller  
 Kate Phelon  
 Richard Puzzo  
 Connie Wilson

### December Renewals:

Claire Carocci  
 John Choinere  
 Terry & Sandy Cripps  
 Alan Herrick  
 Sandy Jurczyk  
 Frank Kamlowksi  
 Bo Miller  
 Dave Pierrepont  
 Darlene Stoll

Please renew early, and renew by mail. *(Make checks payable to PVHC)* Mail your renewal with your name and any address or phone number changes to:

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



**Otter Point - Acadia NP** (photo by Kevin Hogan)



**Flying above Acadia NP** (photo by Maryann Hogan)



**Acadia National Park** (photo by Maryann Hogan)



**Battenkill Canoe Trip** (photo by Marcia Kelly)



**Tea House - Newport Cliff Walk** (by Marcia Kelly)

"CLIMB THE MOUNTAINS AND GET THEIR GOOD TIDINGS. NATURE'S PEACE WILL FLOW INTO YOU AS SUNSHINE FLOWS INTO TREES. THE WINDS WILL BLOW THEIR OWN FRESHNESS INTO YOU AND THE STORMS THEIR ENERGY, WHILE CARES WILL DROP OFF LIKE AUTUMN LEAVES."

- John Muir, *Our National Parks*, 1901

## 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

Hike Planning Coordinator: *Dick & Sue Forest*  
 Backpacking Coordinator: *Ed Laroche & Mike Rattelle*  
 Trail Maintenance: *Scott Aschenbach & AnnMarie Visconti*  
 PVHC Web Page Editor: *Ron Gaudreau & Dick Forrest*  
 PVHC Email List: *John Klebes*  
 Quartermaster: *Jack Leary*  
 Bootprints Editor: *John Klebes*

***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 Meetings:  
December 4, 2001, 7pm at WEU  
January 8, 2002, 7pm at WEU
- ❑ Next Hike Planning Meeting:  
December 11, 2001, 7pm at WEU
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: December 31, 2001
- ❑ **SPECIAL NOTE:** Have you signed up for the Holiday Party? See inside for details.

\*\*\* Check out our web page at:

<http://www.geocities.com/pvhcweb>

Join the PVHC Email List by sending a message to: [pvhc2000@hotmail.com](mailto:pvhc2000@hotmail.com)

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