

BOOTPRINTS

Volume 6 Issue 5

September 2002



Club Picnic (Aug. 18th)

by Gary Dolgoff

THE CLUB PICNIC - Great camaraderie, and a nice day- a winning combination, for our annual picnic! It took place at The Pueblo, in Springfield (site of our annual- and festive- holiday party!), from 12 noon, till 5pm. Great food was brought in, by a) the Club officers, and b) by the rest of the attendees; Rob Schechtman was grilling the burgers (they were good!); the variety of food there, was great...everyone seemed to have a great time (as evidenced, by the majority of 'picnic-ers', staying for a number of hours); both tough hikers, 'mellow walkers'; and, everyone in-between, had great interactions, with each other...such is the 'Club-way'!

- Gary Dolgoff

Quiniboag River

by Mary-Beth Carney

On Saturday, July 27th, Shirley Porter and I led a canoe/kayak trip on the Quiniboag River, which goes from Holland Lake in Holland, MA to the East Brimfield dam in Brimfield. We were joined by Harriet and Dan Madar.

The canoe trail is 5 miles. In the past we've done the entire length both ways making it a 10 mile trip. This year, mother nature's little beavers have been busy and there were two beaver dams on the river. The first one, we were able to go over in our Kayak. Harriet and Dan

had to get out of the canoe to do a



Paradise Glacier - Mt. Rainier National Park (story on page 2)

little maneuvering, but without too much effort got over the dam. We saw a little bit of wildlife including a blue heron. After about 1 1/2 hours of paddling, we came to the second beaver dam. This would have required getting out and carrying the boats around it and by that time, we were all ready to turn back and so we did. Shortly after, we stopped by the riverbank for lunch. On our return, we saw a pair of blue herons, who had been spooked by us, fly off together towards the woods. It was the first time I had seen a pair of them and was really quite a beautiful sight.

- Mary-Beth Carney



Forest Park Moonlight Hike

by Mary-Beth Carney

On Wednesday August 21st, Shirley Porter and I had planned a moonlight hike at the McCann Family Farm in Somers, CT. Unfortunately, this land which is in trust is only open on Weekends. Hopefully, in the future, I'll get permission to go on a weeknight when we have a full moon, because I think it would make a great moonlight hike.

Instead, a group of six of us met in the X in Springfield at 5:30 for dinner at Typical Sicilian Restaurant. We all had a great meal. We went back to our original meeting place and were joined by six others for a walk through Forest Park. For those of you who haven't been to Forest Park recently, it really is a great space in the City. They have flower gardens, etc. and it is really a great place for a stroll. We began at the main entrance at

Sumner Ave and made a loop through the entire park, so that we probably walked about 5 miles. We did not see the blue heron that Shirley and I had spotted a couple of evenings earlier. We did see a snowy egret. Some of us (those that didn't stop at the carriage house for a nature break. We won't name names) also saw a mother deer and her fawn. They didn't realize we were there and stayed near us for several minutes. The fawn was so playful. We thought it was ironic that we saw more wildlife on this city hike than we usually see on a trek through the woods. I think everyone thought it was a good time.

After the walk, we met at Friendlies for some after-hike nourishment.
- Mary-Beth Carney

Adventures on Mount Rainier

By John Klebes

All those training hikes, backpacking trips, and climbing flight after flight of stairs with full backpack and mountaineering boots really paid off. Six members of the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club, as well as our two new friends from California and Tennessee, successfully completed an intense six-day Expedition Seminar on the snowfields and glaciers of Mount Rainier.

Rainier, at 14,411 feet, is the tallest of the 15 major volcanic peaks in the Pacific Northwest. First climbed in 1870 it is considered the toughest and longest endurance climb in the lower 48 states. With its frequent avalanches, 26 glaciers, and changing weather (we saw bone chilling cold, fog, red hot sun, and whiteouts all in the same trip) it is considered the ideal training ground for climbers wanting to tackle some of the world famous peaks such as Mt. McKinley and Mt. Everest. Each year 8-10,000 attempt the climb but only about 4500 make it.

We started our adventure at the Whittaker's Bunkhouse and RMI Basecamp where the eight of us in our climbing party meet our three guides. The talk of the night was the huge pile of group gear that was set out for us. I think all of us were sleepless that night wondering how in the world we would possibly fit all that gear into our backpacks. Four large three-man tents, a cooking tent, several huge pots, pans, utensils, four stoves, two gallons of fuel, climbing ropes, helmets, harnesses, snow shovels, climbing hardware, wands, pickets, and piles and piles of food. With our packs already full to the seams with our own personal winter camping gear it seemed an impossible task.

The first day of our adventure was climbing school. The original plan was to spend the day on the Paradise glacier and review self-arrest, crampon techniques, roped climbing, and related mountaineering skills. Since the weather was poor, our guides decided that it might be more



productive to make a light carry of equipment up to our first camp and space out our climbing school education over the full week on the mountain. We started up from Paradise through unbelievable fields of alpine flowers and wildlife. The whole Paradise area was in bloom and the rolling valley hills were painted in greens, blues, reds, and yellow colors. The large open alpine meadows, scattered with patches of snow, looked like a manicured garden or golf course until we got higher up on the slopes to see the raw rock sides carved open by the glacier travels. The deep reds and browns of the higher slopes contrasted with the bright green valley.

As we continued higher the green alpine gardens gave way to rock and snow as we began the true climb of the mountain. The views of the icefalls on the Nisqually Glacier were fantastic. At about 7800 feet we crossed over a rock talus ridge onto the edge of Paradise glacier, at a place called "The Sugarloaf", and set up a tent to cache our

small load of gear; one tent, a few stoves, snow shovels, and our crampons. It didn't look like much compared to that huge pile of group gear still waiting for us down below. As snow began to fall,

we practiced breathing exercises, the mountaineer's rest step, and high angle snow stepping. Skills we would later need as we gained higher elevation on the mountain.

As we descended back to the RMI Basecamp for the night we encountered a number of Marmots foraging by the side of the trail. That night we had a great feast of lasagna and salads with cheesecake for desert. This would be our last honest meal before a steady diet of rice and pasta based trail meals.

On day two we again headed up the trail from Paradise and regrouped at our equipment cache. We spent the afternoon carving tent platforms and setting up camp.

We spent time practicing French and German crampon techniques, ice ax belay and self-arrest skills. The day was foggy with drizzle or snow off and on but by late afternoon the sky cleared. We climbed up on the talus rock slope beside the glacier and soaked in the warmth of the sun as we admired the fantastic views around us. That evening we practiced a number of different rope knots and skills that we would need later on the trip.

The third day we packed up to move our camp higher on the mountain. This time we would be traveling on the Paradise glacier and roped up into three rope teams. Using crampons and ice axes, with full weight packs averaging 50-65 lbs. each, we ascend the glacial slopes to just below Camp Muir. During the climb we practiced our roped climbing techniques and how to safely turn, traverse, and climb while maintaining good control and pace while roped together. It was so much fun I hardly noticed that huge weight of the pack on my shoulders.

That afternoon, as snow began to fall, we were very busy carving out our new camp with platforms for our tents and camp kitchen at around 10,000 feet. We spent special attention to the tent platforms as we knew this would be our home for the next three nights. After settling in at "Camp Protection" we took a steep but short hike up to Camp Muir. Camp Muir is a small cluster of buildings perched on a rock ridge between the Muir Snowfield and Cowlitz Glaciers. There is a public shelter that houses about 20 bunks, a RMI bunkhouse that holds another 24, and separate structures for a small ranger hut, RMI caretaker, and solar toilet facilities. The views into the glacier were fantastic with large crevasses and other climber's tents scattered around the area.

By late afternoon we began our education on ice and snow anchors. We broke into teams and practiced tying ropes to the snowfield using various anchors such as snow pickets, snow and ice bollards, and deadman anchors. It was a lot of fun and something that would come in handy the next day.

Our time at camp was interesting to say the least. Water had to be melted from snow

"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." Quote from John Muir



and everything we ate had grit and glacial till mixed in to give it a satisfying crunch! Those who were unlucky enough to have that untimely urge to use the bathroom, far from Camp Muir's outhouses, had the privilege of using the famous "Blue bag" system of packing out their waste. Can you say poop, scoop, and bag? The only saving grace is the fantastic view full of stars and the milkyway that you get while performing this conversation piece of a task. Coyotes even visited us just outside our camp.

Our fourth day on the mountain was one of the funnest! We climbed up to Camp Muir, roped up, and set out on the Cowlitz Glacier in search of some crevasses to practice our skills in. After maneuvering around many crevasses we settled in on a beautiful spot surrounded by crevasses, rockwalls, icefalls, and never ending views. We poked and probed the area and set up marker wands to identify a safe area for us to work in.

Then the fun began. We broke up into two groups. The first group took turns pretending to have one person fall into the crevasse while the rest of the roped team did a team arrest. Then each team had to either belay the fallen climber as he tried to climb out on his own or setup a rope system to haul the fallen climber out of the crevasse. Each of us in turn got a chance to be lowered into the crystal blue ice crack in the glacier and practice using a different techniques to climb out of the hole or be pulled out from above. Quite an exciting experience.

During the day we saw many ice and rock falls as the sun warmed the mountain. We could now see and understand the source of the thunder like noises we heard periodically during our time on the mountain. Great clouds of dirt, rock and debris drifted up from some of the rock walls around us as the sun heated and loosened the ice's hold and sent small avalanches of loose and rotten rocks tumbling down the mountainside. The mountain was truly alive - moving and changing constantly underneath us.

After lunch we traded places with the second group and got a chance to try ice climbing with Kristen our third guide. Using ice tools and front pointing with our crampons we were lowered into the crevasse and ice climbed straight up the walls of the crevasse.

Very exciting and what beautiful and mystifying views we saw as we were lowered deep into bowels of the glacier.

That night we head to bed early for tonight's the night of our summit attempt. I don't think anyone slept at all that night. The guides got us moving around 11:30pm and we quickly finished up our preparations for the climb. After melting snow, topping off water bottles, and last minute details we roped up for our 1:15am alpine start. It was eerie starting out with headlamps, roped together and on crampons as we headed up to Camp Muir. As we crested over Camp Muir and headed out on the Cowlitz Glacier it got even eerier as we saw the line of headlamps of the climbers ahead. A steady line of lights snaked across the glacier and between the crevasses then moved up the steep rocky Cathedral Gap to another ridgeline. As we hiked in the still of night we stepped over snow bridges and deep eerie crevasses in the glaciers surface.

By the time we came to the crevasse fields of Ingraham Glacier, for our first rest break, we were all breathing heavy from the altitude. We were now at 11,200 feet and in a dark magical place that was both scaring and exciting at the same time. Ingraham flats was the highest point on the mountain we had been on so far and we really could feel the effects of the altitude here. The Disappointment Cleaver section ahead is considered one of the most dangerous sections of the whole climb. It was this point when our guides advised that we would need all our resources for the coming sections of the climb. This would turn out to be the turning point for some as the difficulty of the climb and need to maintain a fast pace up the mountain would be critical to a successful summit. Take too long on the Cleaver and the risk of rock or icefall was too high. Take too long to get to the summit and the trek back down the Cleaver would be very very dangerous as the warming sun loosened even more rock and ice to the point where it was too dangerous to even attempt climbing down. That would result in bivouac at a very high and exposed altitude.

Ultimately the Disappointment Cleaver resulted in the high point for half the group as they made the significant accomplishment to

this point in the climb. With two ropes heading back four of us and one guide headed forward toward the summit. At the top of the Cleaver we came across more climbers that had reached their limit and three off them were roped into sleeping bags and camped out on the ridge top to view the sunrise as the rest of their team headed farther up. On average well over fifty percent of climbers are turned back without summiting on this mountain.

As we reached our "high break" I admit the altitude was getting to me. I was breathing very hard and it was difficult to force down the food I knew my body needed. But the view of the sunrise above the horizon was fantastic. It's impossible to describe the views as the mountaintops fell below us and we ascended into the highest point within the clouds.

We continued up the summit cone, sometimes at angles as steep as 45 degrees. We weaved and traversed the slope to avoid the biggest crevasses but had to step over flimsy snow bridges and sometimes jumping over two foot cracks that were hundreds of feet deep. The trail was a maze of abandoned and alternate routes that were useful at one time but as the glaciers moved and opened new crevasses became impassible. I'm sure glad we had a knowledgeable guide picking our way.

The last hour to the summit cone was exhausting above belief. The winds had picked up and we were now wearing most of our winter clothing. Gusts over 35 miles per hour threatened to make our climbing too dangerous and our guide said that if it gets much worse we would have to turn back. Back on the radio he confirmed that the summit had lighter winds and we continued up. Just as fatigue was setting in we crested the summit cone at "Point Success" and looked into the bowl of the volcanic crater. The feeling of accomplishment was heaven.

As we dropped down into the bowl the wind was blocked and an eerie cold calm descended. We quickly slipped on our down parkas in the still cold. With only a very short break, Brandon, our guide, encouraged us to quickly hike the last quarter mile to the true summit on Columbia Crest. Even without the pack, it was a long slog in the thin air of the summit cone. We stopped to write a brief note in the summit log and stood on the windy summit of Columbia Crest. FANTASTIC!!!

(Rainier - continued on page 5)



On the Summit of Mt. Rainier

PVHC Tent Rentals:



The club has purchased for the use of our members 2 Tents; we have a Clip Flashlight (1-2 person) and a Taj 3 (2-3 person). Both tents come with a footprint ground cloth to be used. We recommend you set up the tents at home first if you are not

familiar with them. Our Quartermaster, Jack Leary (413-562-0264), will assist you in renting these items under the following conditions: (Snowshoes, club screenhouse, and hand-held radios are also available - see Quartermaster.)

Tent Rental Process

Rental: \$10; 1-5 days (i.e. pick-up Thurs return Monday)
Deposit: \$50 to be refunded upon return (separate check)

Max. Rental length: 5 days, Must be current member, one tent only, and one reservation for future dates at a time.

Procedure:

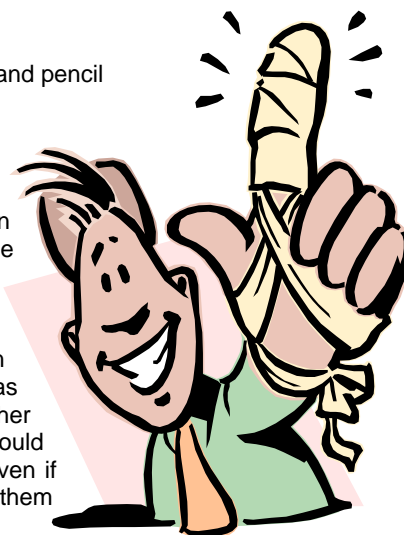
1. Call Quartermaster place on hold for dates.
2. Send \$5 min of rental/deposit fees, Quartermaster will confirm receipt. Reservation dates forfeited if money not received within 4 days.
3. Arrange for pick-up with quartermaster, pay-in full upon pick-up.
4. Be sure tents are DRY and free of loose debris, before returning by airing out. Obtain deposit fee upon return.

Basic Hikers First Aid Kit:

- Assorted Bandages
 - band aids, small and large
 - 2" gauze pads,
 - 3" gauze pads
 - butterfly bandage
 - roller gauze
- Adhesive tape
- Mole skin, or mole foam, for blisters
- Antibiotic cream
- Acetaminophen (Tylenol) -for headache, fever, pain relief
- Ibuprofen (Motrin) - for sore muscle relief
- Antihistamine (Benadryl) - for allergies and bee stings
- Anti-diarrhea tablets (Pepto Bismol)
- Latex or vinyl disposable gloves
- Miniature tweezers
- Water proof matches
- Single edge razor blade
- Safety pins
- Needle and thread
- Very small note pad and pencil

Personal

medications: You should have at least a two-day supply of any prescription medicines you take in case you have to spend an unexpected night out. I have allergies to bee stings so I also bring a prescription bee sting kit. Items such as an asthma inhaler or other prescription medications should be part of your first aid kit even if you normally don't need them while hiking.



Extras: Some extras I usually carry include: insect repellent, sun screen, duck tape, nail clippers, mini flashlight, rope or cord, triangular bandage, ace bandage, space blanket, trash bags, water purification tablets, tissues/toilet paper and a feminine hygiene pad (doubles as a great pressure bandage).

T-SHIRTS ARE IN!!

Just wanted to let you know the T shirts are in. If you ordered one, you can pick it up at the September meeting. Please bring a check for them. The short sleeve T shirts are \$20.00 and the long sleeve T shirts are \$22.00. You can make it out to the PVHC.

If you did not order a T shirt, but would like to buy one, come to the meeting on September 3rd. We ordered extras, but they might go fast. You can also email me if you want me to put one aside for you, but you will have to make arrangements to pick them up. I also can't guarantee that I will have it when you email. Remember the early bird gets the T shirt.

Short sleeve T shirt-Royal blue, yellow footprint, white lettering \$20.00 Long sleeve T shirt-gray, black footprint, green lettering \$22.00

Shari Cox Treasurer 413-796-1326 sharilyn.cox@the-spa.com

Book Review

Rowing to Latitude: Journeys Along the Arctic's Edge
By Jill Fredston

I like to read books in what I call "the adventure genre." I guess that's because I like to live each of the author's lives vicariously. Since I can't be there, reading a book with adventure is the next, best thing. And most of the adventure books that I read involve journeys and descriptions of the natural world.

Jill Fredston's recently published book, Rowing to Latitude: Journeys Along the Arctic's Edge tells about Jill's and her husband's (he's named Doug Fesler) adventures rowing and kayaking in different places in the Arctic. Jill is the rower in the family - she rowed competitively at Dartmouth College. Doug is the kayaker because he felt more comfortable in a kayak.

Jill and Doug are avalanche experts who live in Anchorage, Alaska. They are the people who go into an avalanche zone to tell others it's safe to perform rescues and then organize the rescue attempts, or they actually direct recoveries after an avalanche disaster. The area they live in is rife with avalanche danger when the snow is either on the ground or falling.

When they are not avalanche advising, Jill and Doug like to spend their summers tooling around the amply sunlit Arctic by water. Their journeys in the book include trips in their boats on the Inland Passage from Seattle to Skagway, from Whitehorse to Nome on the Yukon River, from Great Slave Lake up the Mackenzie River to the Beaufort Sea and navigating the northern edge of Alaska, as well as other trips along the coasts of Labrador, Norway, Greenland, and Spitsbergen, which is part of the Svalbard Islands north of Norway.

Jill writes beautifully, which makes this book a joy to read. She's also a great storyteller, which is essential for interest. Among the book's highlights are: how Jill and Doug meet and fall in love, stories about some of the people she and Doug meet along their journeys, descriptions of the beauty of the various environments they visit, the risks and dangers of their Arctic travel, encounters with various Arctic animals, and the stresses and strains involving incredible athleticism by self-propelling their boats every day of their journeys.

Jill Fredston is among the best of adventure and nature writers. If you have an interest in either genre, this book is well worth reading.

Reviewed by Dick Forrest

(Rainier - Continued from Page 3)

We snapped a few pictures, admired the somewhat cloudy early morning views and headed back down across the crater and out of the wind.

I was nauseous from the altitude but high on the excitement of the successful climb. It felt good to be on the way down and the views on the now sunny mountain were spectacular. We made quick work climbing down to the top of the Cleaver, but it was still scary crossing over those crevasses that were now softer and less safe. After a short rest, we tackled the dreaded Cleaver.

As we descended, Ed yelled rock from behind me. As I looked up, I saw a large two-foot or so boulder rolling directly at me. I quickly moved backward to get out of the path and to my horror the rock hit a

ridge of ice and bounced back directly at me again. Not sure what to do next, I was saved by fate as the rock lodged in a notch of ice just 15 feet or so above me. Not a great start to the decent of the most dangerous section of the trip. I was on edge the whole way down the cleaver as we traversed the ice and rock fall back down to Ingraham flats.

Finally off the most dangerous section of the climb, we took a long break and admired the fantastic views and enjoyed our accomplishment. Since there was still some more crevasses and ice and rock falls ahead, we continued our decent to Camp Muir before the full heat of the sun increased our danger further.

I was walking on air as the rest of our group greeted us at Camp Muir with congratulations. After a short break a few of us broke off and did a short climb over the rock pinnacle overlooking Camp Muir. With a fantastic view into the glaciers and mountainside, Gary Talcott, one of our other guides, gave us pointers on route finding, glacier travel, and how to read the terrain.

That afternoon we had full sun and with the exhaustion of the summit climb and no sleep, we spent a lazy afternoon dozing. Gary made us a welcome pot full of sun tea iced with mounds of snow. There was nothing better than lying on slopes, soaking up the sun, with ice tea in one hand and the endless mountain views stretching out forever. We had clear views of the Tatoosh Range, Mt. St. Helens, and Mt. Adams. Visions of new climbs ahead danced around in my mind.

Late afternoon we had a chance to practice ascending fixed lines, self-belaying while descending ropes, and using avalanche beacons to locate a buried climber.

On our final day, we packed up camp and made the heavy carry of equipment down the mountain. It was a beautiful sunny day and to liven things up our guides taught us some glissading techniques to speed up the climb down. Boy, what fun. The giggles and laughing must have been heard all across the mountain as we slid down the mountainside. A great end to a fantastic adventure.

This was close to the hardest hike I have ever done and easily the most exciting adventure to date. Congratulations to all eight of us for successfully completing this six day expedition seminar: Shari Cox, Ed Laroche, Ann Marie Visconti, Bill Cichaski, Laurie Mahoney, and John Klebes with our new friends Ed from California and Ron from Tennessee. Many thanks to Brandon, Gary, and Kristen for guiding us on this adventure and getting all eight of us safely home. - John Klebes

Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

September Renewals:

Nancy Canata
Shari Cox
Kathleen Cronin
Deb Fogarty
Dick & Sue Forrest
Cal & Suzie Gauss
Barry & AnnMarie Higgins
Maryann Hogan
Donna Jago
Donald Leis
Daniel & Harriert Madar
Sheila Messer
Wm Nickerson
Dena Palmer
John R Rothery
Bob Sabbides
Marty Schoenemann
Karen Siemering
Chris St Germain

October Renewals:

Rachel Bellenoit
Donna Blanchard
Dona Burdick
Laurie Cabana
Betty Channing
Jack Doyle
Robert & Sue Eccleston
Clark Fenn
Fran Fimbel
Donna Fleury
Winona Flynn
Barbara Graf
Kim Jackson
Elaine Massery
Peter Monbouquette
Jean Moore
Kathy Moore
Carl Platts
Al & Martha Roman
Dave Rotondo
Chris & Nancy Sullivan
Bruce Tingle
Beth Visconti & Family
Sue Ziff

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

UPCOMING HIKES AND EVENTS

Sep7-8 Monroe Forest Backpack

I will be leading an overnight backpack trip to Monroe State Forest-Dunbar Brook Area on Sept. 7-8. I plan to meet at the Holyoke Brooks parking lot at 9 am on Sat. Sept. 7th. Dunbar Brook is in Florida and Monroe, Mass close to the Vermont border. There are approximately 7 miles of trail and I plan to hike about 4-5 miles on Saturday and 2 on Sun. There are 3 shelters, we will be at the one on Dunbar Brook. There is one lookout along the trail and numerous cascades along the brook. Some of the largest white pine and other species grow along the brook. A beautiful place. I have three maybes who signed up at the last meeting and I will be at the Sept. meeting if anyone wants to go. Dayhiking is also an option if you don't want to stay overnight. My phone # is 569-5309 (evenings around 9 pm), email rbriggs2002@yahoo.com .
- Rick Briggs

Sep 7th - Mt. Monadnock Hike

The hike was scouted by myself, and Dianne (who was kind enough to accompany me, on this rocky sojourn)... The hike is 'really boss'; going up, it consists of these three parts: first, a nice, pretty easy trail; you get 'a-ways', before any significant 'elevation gain'...that is part II of this journey; rocky, but not insurmountable..(though some hiking experience is helpful, for this climb...); as you keep climbin' you 'break thru the woods', as you go above treeline...a fascinating world unfolds, and you are then treated to vast, large-scale view...the third part, which is above treeline, takes some vigorous rock-scrambling; but, getting to the top, and enjoying the panoramas- makes it all worthwhile!! -Come see!!
- Gary Dolgoff

Sep 8th - Newport Cliff Walk

There will be a Cliff Walk in Newport, Rhode Island on Sunday, September 8. It will be an easy walk along a relatively flat trail which runs between the ocean and mansions. The estimated length is 4-8 miles depending on the group preference and the weather. Bring your camera. Also, bring a picnic lunch because we will begin hiking when we arrive at Newport. Please meet at 9:00 AM at the Ludlow

McDonalds'. Take the Mass Pike (I-90) to exit 7. After the hike, there will be an opportunity to walk around town for ice cream or a late lunch/early supper. The plan is to arrive back home before sundown. If some hikers wish to stay and do a mansion tour, start Christmas shopping, visit the International Tennis Hall of Fame, etc. that is okay with me.
- Lee Merrill

Sep20-22 Adirondacks Car Camp

Sept 20 -22 Adirondacks Car Camping or more; Mod. Plan to camp at Blue Mountain Lake at junction of Route 28 & 30 in Adirondacks, NY. If the weather is mild we can canoe or Kayak through 3 lakes. If too cold we will do a 10 mile hike to a Great Camp. Sunday we can climb Blue Mountain which will be finished in early afternoon. If the weather is really bad the museum there is rated as one of the best regional museums in the country. Camping is at a state campground. \$14 per site. 5-6 to a site comprising 2 tents, 2 cars one of which could be an RV etc but then only 1 tent. No reservations after Labor Day but I can go early enough Fri to secure sites if I have money in advance. Will have some info shortly on cabins

Marcia Kelly, (413) 256-1063, (email: mmmkelly_29@hotmail.com)

NORTHAMPTON DINNER & WALK- a monthly expedition!

We are growing in popularity, it seems. Last month, we had 11 participants! (More than I had, on my last hike, to Bash-bish falls...) One of the folks there (a 'veteran hiker' of the club), seemed surprised that- yes- we actually walk! (many of us- for miles! [about 3]). -So; come join us..it's a great- and easy- way to 'hang-out' with your fellow club members!
- Gary Dolgoff

Oct 5th - Canoe/Kayak Day

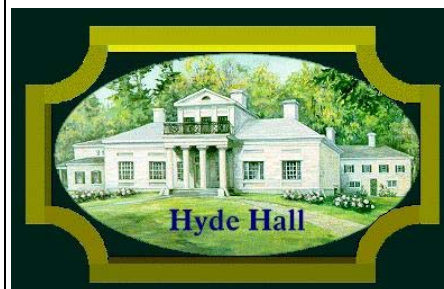
Shirley Porter and I are planning a canoe/kayak day on October 5th, meeting at WEU in Southwick at 9:00 a.m. and paddling on Congamong Lake. We have arranged with WEU for rentals, canoe or kayak, at \$45 each for the day and if we can get a minimum of three rentals they will transport them to the lake. We would like to have people get their money to us no later than

September 28th. Checks can be made payable to WEU. We plan a lunch on the shores of one of the lakes. Assuming there is adequate water, we'll paddle all three lakes. We will paddle rain or shine on the 5th. My phone number is 796-2974 and Shirley's is 525-2351.

Thanks, Mary-Beth

Oct 12 - MOHONK STATE PARK NY STATE...

This hike takes place in a state park, that most Club members have never been to, I'd wager! It will be an outing with beautiful views, and some fun rock-scrambling..we will also be joining the New York AMC there (and they are, also- an amicable group...) So- come!....
- Gary Dolgoff



Oct 19 - Coopetown New York

Come join me in Cooperstown, New York, on Saturday, October 19th. We'll meet Marlene Spencer at Hyde Hall and have a guided tour through this beautiful 19th century mansion. Hyde Hall is considered one of the finest houses of its type in America. A "Restoration in Progress", it was built between 1817 and 1834 and has 50 rooms.

Bring a picnic lunch, we'll eat lunch overlooking beautiful Otsego Lake. After lunch, we'll take a 9-mile walk to the village of Cooperstown where you can browse around this charming village or visit the Baseball Hall of Fame.

If you have any questions, you can call me at (413) 562-8613 or email Marlene at haymar@wpe.com. Hope you can join us, it'll be a lot of fun.

-Dianne Carey

Nov 2 - NEW YORK CITY TRIP

(Formerly announced as Oct. 19th)- Meet at 7:45am; Westfield Friendlys

Well, it was 'much tougher' to get a bus, this time around..however- we've now procured, Per Pan bus lines! It will take us to NYC and back...it's a great time (we return to Westfield, about 12 midnight...); we go thru Central Park, walk down Manhattan, thru various neighborhoods, and tourist areas- and, we spend some 'quality time', in Greenwich Village, where I plan to make dinner reservations for the group! We will also be able to go down to Ground Zero...our trip will 'cap off'-going across the Brooklyn Bridge, at night!

Ask anyone who has gone on our previous NYC trips; they will tell you, what a great time all us 'Club-folk', have together, in the Big Apple!

We need all participants to give us \$30 each, for round-trip bus fare; if interested, send a check to Jane Glushik her address is in the Club directory)...or, give me (Gary D.), a check- at the monthly meeting, or the next monthly dinner/movie....

- Gary Dolgoff

Feb 2003 - Windjammer Cruise

Wilderness Experience Unlimited

We have a few spaces left for our February Adventure to the British/U.S. Virgin Islands on the Windjammer Cruise for next February school vacation- Feb. 16-22, 2003. Cost is approximately \$1600. Contact Laura & Scott Cook at (413) 568-8764.



Australia and Hawaii Excursion

Wilderness Experience Unlimited

Our 2nd Adventure planned for 2003 is truly a Once in a Lifetime Vacation. Our 17 day excursion to Australia and Hawaii is unique! We will have the opportunity to see the many faces of Australia and catch a couple of days/nights on the return to spend some time in Honolulu, Hawaii. Our scheduled trip dates are June 27-July 13, 2003 and we will leave out of Bradley Airport and head for Honolulu, Hawaii for an overnight stay. Then proceed on to Cairns, Australia for our first Australian encounter! Three nights/four days aboard Mike Ball's supersport for a liveaboard experience in the Coral Sea, Great Barrier Reef. Snorkeling and Scuba diving is our prime focus for these few days where we will swim with

huge Potato Codfish and Minke Whales which are here during this limited season, along with other types of marinelife.

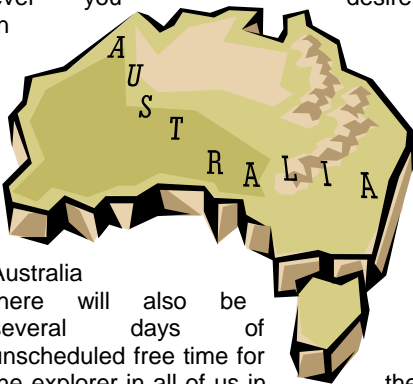


Our next stop is the Tradewinds Hotel located right on the shore, which will serve as a

base for a couple of special tours, which can be optional for certain adventurers. White water rafting on the Tully River, a 2 day excursion to Gulf Savannah to experience the outback & an unusual tour of Undara to its magnificent skyrail, Koala & Wildlife park & much, much more.

Next Stop is 3 nights/days in Sydney, Australia and then returning homeward we stop for 2 days/2 nights back in Honolulu, Hawaii. Hawaii offers plenty of free time to snorkel, scuba dive, tour the island, bike/hike or what ever you desire.

In



Australia

there will also be several days of unscheduled free time for the explorer in all of us in the " Land of Down Under". Interested people should contact Laura at 413 568-8764 for details, brochures and videos. The approximate cost of this 17 day trip is \$4000.00 depending upon your tour choices. All flights, liveaboard, hotels, etc. are included as well as many meals. We are limited to 12 participants and at this writing we have 6 spaces left. Hope your can make one of these exciting Adventures, Contact Laura & Scott Cook at (413) 568-8764.

2003 - Tibet

If anyone is interested in trekking in Tibet next summer please contact me. I went this summer and it was an incredible experience although we did not really hike. I would like to go back and spend time hiking possibly to the Everest Base Camp.

Marcia Kelly, (413) 256-1063, (email: mmkelly_29@hotmail.com)



GOLF

Is there anyone in the hiking club that would like to golf on the weekend? Marianne and Dave mcl036@aol.com 860-745-9870

Club Raffle

Looking for a volunteer to coordinate the PVHC door prize raffle at the clubs monthly meetings. Frank Kamowski's has done a great job coordinating this popular raffle but it's time to give someone else a turn. We need one or two hearty soles to volunteer to continue this tradition. Contact Frank or any of the board members for more information.

Pemmigewasset Backpack Tour

Shari Cox led us on a four-day grand tour of the Pemmigewasset Wilderness in the White Mountains over the 4th of July weekend. Went up from Lincoln Woods and the Wilderness trail to Bondcliff and Mt. Bond. We stayed the night on the ridge overlooking the Guyot campsite. In the evening we took a trip to Westbond for the sunset and slept with stars in the sky.

It rained most of the second day over to Garfield Ridge tent sites. No views from South Twin but had some great soup at the Galehead Hut and ran over to Galehead Mountain on the way. It rained hard that night.

Next morning we summited Garfield in the mist but it cleared while we crossed Mt. Lafayette and over the ridge to Mt. Lincoln. It started raining again at Little Haystack. It finally cleared a little in the evening while setting up our tents at Liberty Springs Tentsite.

The last day we hiked out over Liberty and Flume with nice views then hiked down the Ossco Trail back to Lincoln Woods. About a 35 mile roundtrip. Thanks Shari for putting this adventure together.

- John Klebes

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: *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 (Email) or by USmail to John Klebes, 157 Thalia Drive, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:
October 1, 2002, 7pm at WEU
November 5, 2002, 7pm at WEU
- ❑ Next Hike Planning Meeting:
October 8, 2002, 7pm at WEU
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: October 25, 2002

*** Check out our web page at:

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

Join the PVHC Email List by sending a message to: pvhc2000@hotmail.com

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