

# BOOTPRINTS

Volume 8 Issue 4

July 2004



## 2004 Battenkill Annual Kayak/Canoe Trip

by Monica Gross

The reins of the Battenkill trip leadership were passed this year to Mike Gross. Terry Cripps, who has moved on, had led this trip for a number of years.

The weather gods were with us Sat. morning. (Friday night had been frosty for the three of us who had camped over the extra night.) The sun shone and the breeze was blowing. I should add the breeze was blowing upstream as we paddled downstream.

Our group of water ventures met up at the camp store about 11:30am. The majority of participants drove up on Sat. morning. All the kayaks and canoes were loaded and 2 vans filled with the 28 people who longed to make this memorable trip down the 12 miles of the Battenkill River.

Walter, the owner of Battenkill Sport, has hired more help. This year we had newer vans and not only did they transport us up river but they lowered the boats into the water and helped us into them.

Mike and I waited until everyone was off before we headed down river.

The river was peaceful and quiet. The water level was somewhat low but at least we didn't have to drag any boats over rocks. Shortly after Mike and I set off Mike got hung up in a snare and for the first time Mike went over and the kayak filled with water. He was

fine, just wet and flustered. He righted the kayak, emptied the water out, I saved his hat, which was floating downstream, and off we went again. The best thing was that I had decided to purchase a real dri-sack this year for our lunch, camera, etc. Mike was carrying it when he went over. It worked very well, everything stayed dry and safe.

We came upon Kim & Jonathan in their canoe and saw Kim "washing" a shirt in the river. Jonathan was without a shirt. We asked, "What's

up?" We hear the tail of the large bird vengeance. As they were paddling peacefully down the river along came a large bird, type unknown. As the bird passed over their canoe it relieved itself from stem to stern. Kim, Jonathan, and canoe were covered in foul smelling bird dodo. They say it is good luck if a bird drops dodo on you. If quantity increases luck Kim & Jonathan should be playing the lottery a lot.

Donna had brought her son and her own kayaks. The first half of the trip her son spent a great deal of time out of his kayak. After lunch, however, he managed to get better control of his kayak and sped down the river enjoying a drier trip.

We all lunched together in the usual spot about halfway down river. Finishing lunch we set off again to finish our trip back at the campground. Mike & I finished up a little ahead of most so we could check on the dinner arrangements.

Everyone had opted for the chicken bar-b-que. As usual it was a great meal complete with tasty seasoned potatoes, and topped off with a luscious frosted brownie for dessert. You certainly don't leave that



PVHC Returns to Ireland – story on page 3

table hungry unless you chose not to eat.

Twenty-two people camped over and Mike & I hosted the nighttime campfire. Most of the group joined us and added wood to keep the fire going. Stephanie demonstrated her mastery of the roaring campfire, Terry would have been proud. (He also enjoyed roaring campfires) We toasted marshmallows and being true to our reputation as a hiking and eating club we had more snacks. We tried to sing songs, generally off key, and most of the time we didn't know the words.

Norm maintained a watchful eye on all of us by standing the whole evening. Perhaps, he had a sore bottom for canoeing. He's not saying.

Next year we may add a hike to the weekend for Sunday. A new trail has been opened just up the road from the campground. Hope to see you there. It is a trip well worth your time.

Monica Gross

## One Day on the AT

By Linda Benoit

**O**n May 30, 2004 over 170 volunteer hikers and photographers from Maine to Georgia set out to photograph sections of the Appalachian Trail as part of an AT Photography project. I signed up to cover Massachusetts Section 5 after receiving information about this in an e-mail last July from PVHC. The intent is to create an unprecedented photo essay of the entire AT. Several publishers have been approached and L.L. Bean has expressed an interest. Profits would go to the Appalachian Trail Conference.

Section 5 runs 9.4 miles from Pittsfield Road north to US 20/Lee, south, across varied terrain along the plateau of the Hoosac Range, through parts of October Mountain State Forest, ending with one short, steep climb over Becket Mountain. As far as I know, only 36 of the volunteers were women but "my" section of the trail was hiked by a troupe of women. Two close friends and two cousins joined me. It turned out to be one of the most



memorable and fun Memorial Day weekends that I've ever had.

The weather was glorious and I'm hoping that the photographs I took do the scenery justice. As you might recall it was a beautiful clear, crisp day – the kind of day ideal for hiking. The day began with a Lady's Slipper sighting (and subsequent photos) and ended with myself crouched in a sunny bed of periwinkle wildflowers capturing pairs of beautiful black & yellow butterflies dancing on top of their blooms. It doesn't get much better than that.

Early on we made sure we stopped and took a group photo in front of the, decidedly clean, October Mountain Lean-to. We read the log book, a notepad that AT hikers use to write a few thoughts about themselves and/or their hikes, and I took a picture of the most recent page before writing a plug for my own little adventure. In between we made the acquaintance of some thru-hikers, most notably a young couple from Georgia with the trail names "peanuts" and "pickle." They said they began their trek in late February and were going to make it all the way to Maine.

Last but not least we made a stop at The Three Bears Sugar Shack in Becket. The proprietor of this establishment invited us in for a tour when we stopped our car nearby to take a photo on our way back to Pittsfield Road. The sugar shack enterprise doubles as a small farm. We left with a complimentary jug of maple syrup and what might end up being a blue-ribbon photo of a close up of momma pig and her eight 2-week old piglets. Hey – it's *near* the

trail...what can I say – you bet I'll submit it!

There are a total of 212 sections of the AT and 197 of them were supposed to have been photographed as of May 30th. That still leaves 7% of the trail yet-to-be-covered, if you're interested or if you'd like to help get the word out. If anyone wants more information about this AT photo project just visit the URL at <http://www.atphotoproject.com/> or if you'd like to know more about my experience with it feel free to e-mail me at [imarollingstone@yahoo.com](mailto:imarollingstone@yahoo.com).

My thanks to the club for the great tip and for helping to spread the word about a real trailblazing project.

- Linda Benoit

**Congratulations to  
Ann Mundy  
for successfully  
completing a  
Wilderness First Aid  
Program.**

Ann Mundy received a partial scholarship of \$25.00 as part of the PVHC scholarship program. If you are interested in taking a leadership or outdoor skill training course that directly benefits the good of the Club please contact one of the executive board about qualifying for a PVHC scholarship.



**Castletownbere on the Beara Peninsula** (Photo contributed by Marcia Kelly)

## Ireland Again!!!

By Marcia Kelly

For our 3<sup>rd</sup> trip there were twelve of us, five have come all 3 years. Each time we have come down to the Beara Peninsula, which is in very few Irish tour books. We have hiked a lot of the sections of the 120 mile Beara Way and this year was no exception. We came a month later to join part of the West Cork Walking Festival and then went up to Inishmoor, one of the Aran Isles. Here at home we go for ice cream after our hikes, in Ireland we head for the nearest pub. There were 1 or 2 opportunities for ice cream but no one seemed to choose it.

We flew into Shannon, leaving Boston on the 8PM flight and then drove 5 hours down to Castletownbere so we could hike with the festival the next day. Mary Donegan at Realt Na Mara greeted us warmly for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row and served us tea and biscuits to help us recover. I think that first night we introduced the newcomers to McCarthy's Pub before dinner. I do remember afterwards we went to the pub that had music and dancing and some locals remembered us from the year before.

Sunday Ann Marie, John, Norm and Mike set off on the "A" hike because of course they can do it with no problem. Charlotte and I set off to

do the B hike, which we thought would be a little milder. Big mistake! The 13 mile hike we did the first year in the wind and rain and hail with the big hill we repeated and kept going and did most of a hike we had done one day last year. We started out at a reasonable 10AM and around 2 took a 20 min lunch and on the move again. The leaders were urging us on because our bus had to get us back in time to pick up the A group. We did finish in time to stop in the pub before we got on the bus.

Some of the C group was already in McCarthy's when we got back. They had walked quite a way the wrong way before their hike leader joined them.

*Finally the A group came back and couldn't believe the death march hike with no lunch until 2PM.*

The next day the 6 of us went on the hike that started in Bonane and ended at the Eccles Hotel.

The incredible part of this hike was the ambulance that followed us the entire way. We all photographed this. Our hike leaders were Katrina and Kristiana and did a great job keeping

us together. The C group: Ed Sullivan, Gail Carrier, Marlene and Spence and Charlottes' friends Jan & Gil had a lovely day in Glengariff Woods except their hike continued on and on until they rebelled and stopped. While there are not high mountains they more than make up for it with the steady pace, distance and hardly any stopping until the pub!

The highlight of this day was revisiting Maureen's House of Pain where quite a few stayed the first year. We all had dinner in Eccles Pub and then reminisced with the usual PVHC carryings on for a while in Mary's parlor.

We called that evening to set up our Hungry Hill climb. John Lyne, who had generously offered to take us up, said that it was dependent on the weather if we went or not. We were wondering what could stop us since it frequently rains and seldom snows. That night you could hear the wind and of course in the morning John said to check back later. He was willing to go as late as 4PM. It was rainy and windy and we slowed our pace. We went into town and stopped at the bank. I tried to cash group money, which I had in \$100 bills. The bank no longer accepted large bills. Next we stopped in McCarthy's Pub. We were telling the person behind the counter. She said "Oh that is ridiculous. I'll change the money for you. So I left \$ 1500 with her with no receipt and went to a few shops. When I came back she handed me an envelope with our money now converted to Euros. Certainly couldn't and wouldn't do that here.

Hungry Hill did not happen that day



**PVHC on the Summit of Hungry Hill, Ireland**  
(photo contributed by Ann Marie Visconti)

and it was extremely windy. Norm, Mike, John and Ann Marie searched again for a way up the mountain. If our guide couldn't make it they were determined to go anyway. At dinner that night we saw an English couple who had hiked with us the first day. We all chatted with them awhile and after they left Charlotte said they were going up Hungry Hill with a guide tomorrow. Four persons jaws just dropped open. They could not believe Charlotte let them go without saying anything. Next we went over to McCarthy's. There sat Linda and Pat. They were immediately surrounded by all of us with many questions about their guide. Turns out theirs was also not definite.

The next day was rainy but John said yes he would take us and came by our B&B and we set out. He turned off the road where we had already searched but at the fork where we always went left he turned right. We continued across but soon headed up. The dirt road soon became a rutted path. Norm was driving one of our rentals. At one point John said watch he's going to get stuck and sure enough Norm had to back up to get going again. It seemed like we were going to drive up the mountain not hike. Finally we parked and even there the view was magnificent with the land, the sea, and other mountains. We started up more a bit winding around the rocks trying to put our feet on something non slippery. There was no path and if you went the wrong way it would be too steep to keep going. One minute it was pouring rain the next the sun was shining. It was cold and windy but we were finally getting up Hungry Hill. John is a retired physician (we think since it seems he travels frequently) and



comes up here several times a week when he is not traveling.

A quote from the Skibbereen Walking group aptly describes it *"Both ascending and descending this is not a mountain where you can remember an exact route - you have to work it out on the hoof. Going up "a little scrambling" gets mildly interesting at times! Going down the ridges needs patience as we find seemingly easy paths lead to sheer drops."*

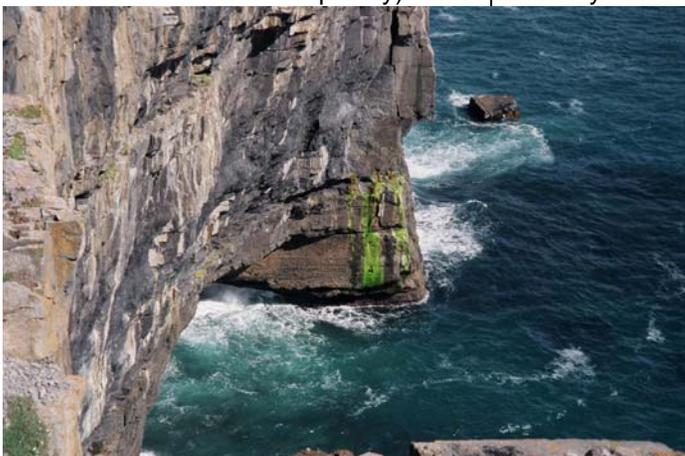
Thanks to John we muddled up. At one point he pointed to a rock about 50 lbs or more and said he was bringing it up one move at a time. We all helped by moving it a little forward. When we got to the first summit there were stones across to the final summit. John had brought those all up so he would not lose his way in the fog or the dark. There were many places it was quite muddy. But after 3 years here we were with fantastic scenery in all directions. We could see

Glengariff and Bantry Bay, in the other direction we could see Kerry. As we came down we even had hail. This mountain had become almost mythical because each year we had been unable to find a trail. It is 2228 feet but because it took us so long seems much higher and the

views also make it seem higher. It was anticlimactic because that done we were on our way up to Ennis which was over 5 hours to the north... The next day we were leaving for the Aran Isles

But it was not to be. Winds had stopped the ferry from running and so we spent an unplanned day in Doolin, one of the biggest trad music areas in the country. Some hiked out to the Cliffs of Moher, which was a cliff walk all the way. The rest of us walked around the village, which was lengthy. We had one of our best meals there and heard great music. We had a lovely hostess at our B&B and she helped us get to the ferry the next day. The sun came out and Inishmore was lovely except our only bad experience was at the B&B there. We would definitely not recommend that one.

While it had gotten chilly down on the Beara Peninsula it became sunny and summer like in Inishmore. We went to the local museum and saw the old black and white movie "Man of Aran" which really gave us a good idea of how the Aran Isles came to be. Next we took a motor tour of part of the island. These islands are all stone and in the movie it showed how they made what little earth is there. The earth is made by mixing sand and seaweed. The Aran Isles have some very rare wildflowers. And more stone walls than we have ever seen. Our full day we spent walking amongst these walls and separated into different groups. Ed and Spence found a seldom seen ancient Mass altar. Norm



was on his own along the sea. John, Ann Marie and Mike took much the same route. Charlotte, Gail, Marlene and I went in a different direction and it seemed we had a wall to clamor over every few minutes.

We had a great meal. The second night some of us tried a new place but those at the repeat place saw Liam Neeson enjoying a quiet meal. We would then stop in at the place to be – the American Bar, which is a pub in the center of town where tourists and locals all hang out. Everyone was friendly and welcoming. The next night we went back and they were having a memorial party for a local islander an accordion player who died in his 50's. Ten years ago Friends and relatives were all there and we and other tourists were made welcome also. People played music, danced sang, told stories of this John-Joe's influence and reminisced about this man they all seemed to have loved well. One of the great things about an Irish Pub is that it can frequently be family oriented. It was on this occasion with all his family and friends present. The next day on the ferry his brother and a friend were also returning to the mainland.

We returned via Galway so were able to see the City Center, before we went on for our last night in Ennis. How was this trip?. We stayed at the same B&B in Ennis we had stayed in before. Everything was welcoming there except when Jan & Gil's showerhead fell off in the middle of the night. Each year we have had problems getting the cars we had reserved. This year we got exactly what we had paid for and our luggage just could not squeeze in, so again the cars were a hassle and a laugh. When we got back to Ludlow we all stood around instead of rushing off and someone made the remark that we should go down to the nearest pub. We didn't but we will the next time.

How was this trip? Others were questioning us as to what kind of group we were because it did appear to them we got along very well. We had a lot of fun and laughs, accomplished the big goal of climbing Hungry Hill, and joined the walking festival. We introduced newer members to what we thought was special. Each year we have done parts of the Beara Way and then saw

another part of Ireland. It is hard leaving even though this year we spent 10 days.

## **The Yankee Clipper sails the "Grenadines!"**

*Excerpts of Laura Cook's Travel Journal February 2004*

The Windjammer fleet's smallest vessel, yet one of the smoothest sailing. Our itinerary was to be the Grenadines. Down the equator guaranteed us guaranteed great weather and more.

Sunday 2/15/04

We began our voyage in Sunny Puerto Rico where our layover was nearly 7 hours. No problem! We headed towards Isla Verde near Pioness, a local beach spot where the best island food is served. We spend the afternoon swimming and sunning on Carolina Beach. We then departed to catch our flight to Grenada, where we would board our sailing vessel the Yankee Clipper that is docked at a local bay. A late dinner was awaiting us and with a local band on board the dancing began promptly!

Monday 2/16/04

Union Island- A relaxing day with again too much food. We caught up on our rest and began to mingle with other guests and crewmembers of our new home for the week.

Tuesday 2/17/04

*We had an opportunity to scuba dive today at Glen point just off the Coast of Union Island. An easy 40 feet dive with a water temperature of 82 degrees for about 41 minutes. We observed a nurse shark; several spotted sea snakes, many sergeant-major fish and blue tangs. It was a good safe dive and the five of us had a great time. The afternoon we spent on Mayreau at the local beach, snorkeling swimming and more relaxation. After dinner, Sylvester, our first mate lead the passengers on a "culture walk" which is a chance to sample the areas clubs for a drink and dancing.*

Wednesday 2/18/04

Today we had the opportunity to go to Bequia and catch the beautiful catamaran "passion" for a sail to the island of Mystique. This island is know for its rich and famous residents to the likes of Mick Jagger, Bryan Adams, and Shania Twain just to name a few.

We lunched at a famous mountain top restaurant called "The Firefly", complete with killer view of the ocean/bay. We dreamed of a much easier existence than the hustle and bustle of the United States. We later snorkeled that same bay just off the Passion's bough and later returned to Bequia. Some of the other passengers went to the turtle sanctuary for a tour and then off exploring.

Thursday 2/19/04

This was one of my favorite days, a trip to the Falls of Balline on St. Vincent Island. It began with a very fast speed boat race around the island, followed by a tour of the coast of St. Vincent, which ended at the movie set of where the Pirates of the Caribbean was filmed. After lunch we went to the falls for a short hike to a beautiful waterfall and swam in very refreshing water! Later, we went back to the "Clipper" for rum swizzle time.

Friday 2/20/04

Today, we went to island of Carricou to explore this charming little town for a bit of shopping and sight seeing. After lunch, the ship sailed across the bay to Sandy Island Beach for an afternoon of snorkeling on this deserted island paradise. More incredible snorkeling, looking for shells and just enjoying the sunshine on the beautiful February day. Our last night on board already, complete with a fabulous Captain's dinner.

Saturday 2/21/04

We had the opportunity to sample 6-7 islands in the Grenadine this past week for a taste of island living at its best. Who could ask for more from a vacation? Grenada bound once again to catch our flights back to Puerto Rico and then on to Hartford. I have a suitcase full of spices, pictures and memories to take back with me to share until the next Windjammer voyage.

## PVHC Mailbox



For Immediate Release

### PUBLIC FORUMS SET FOR METACOMET AND MONADNOCK TRAIL STUDY

June 3, 2004

The public is encouraged to attend either of two upcoming public forums on the Metacomet and Monadnock Trail Feasibility Study. There is an opportunity for landowners, trail users and interested citizens to learn more about the study and to provide input on the trail at either of two public forums that will be held on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, June 30th, 2004 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Hadley Community Center, Middle Street, Hadley.**
- **Wednesday, July 7th, 2004 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Holyoke Community College, Frost Building, Room 309; and**

An open house will be held prior to each meeting from 6:00–7:00 p.m. to view maps of the trail and meet trail maintainers.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) is working with the National Park Service to complete a feasibility study for the section of the Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett (MMM) Trail that is located in Hampden and Hampshire Counties in Massachusetts. This includes the section of the trail that is located in the communities of Agawam, Southwick, West Springfield, Westfield, Holyoke, Southampton, Easthampton, South Hadley, Hadley, Amherst, Granby, Belchertown and Pelham.

This feasibility study is intended to take a comprehensive look at the MMM Trail. The work will include mapping the trail's location, identifying the resources and current uses along the trail, and developing recommendations for the future use and maintenance of the trail. As part of this feasibility study, various options will be considered such as whether the trail would benefit from being recommended for inclusion in America's National Scenic Trails System.

The forums will provide an overview of work completed to inventory and map the MMM Trail in Massachusetts. Trail issues and problems will be a focus for discussion. Findings from research on other long distance trails across the United States will be presented. The open house before each forum will provide landowners with opportunities to meet trail stewards and discuss trail issues specific to their properties.

For further information, contact:  
Anne Capra, Senior Planner (413-781-6045 or [acapra@pvpc.org](mailto:acapra@pvpc.org))  
or Christopher Curtis, Principal Planner (413-781-6045 or [chcurtis@pvpc.org](mailto:chcurtis@pvpc.org))

## PVHC Photo Contest:

**Wanted:**  
Outstanding pictures from 2003/4 PVHC events. Grand prizewinner gets prestige, recognition, and accolades of your fellow club members.



(OK, we will throw in a free club T-shirt as well.) Runners up will receive an embroidered club patch. Please send your photos by email to [Klebes@aol.com](mailto:Klebes@aol.com) or by US Mail to John Klebes at P.O. Box 51385, Indian Orchard, MA 01151 by September 15, 2004. By entering you give permission to PVHC to use your photos on our clubs webpage and club information brochure only. All rights retained by the owner of the photos.



## Welcome to Ultralite Backpacking

Through the generosity of Hennessy Hammock the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club has the opportunity to try out the latest in ultralight backpacking - the 1 lb 15 oz Ultralight Backpacker "A-sym". "It's a Hammock, It's a Tent, and It's a chair."

### Features of Hennessy Hammocks

- Bug-proof, Windproof, Waterproof
- "Easy Enter, Easy Exit" Through The Bottom
- Asymmetrical Shape is the secret for maximum comfort
- Patented "Snap Tight" Zipperless Closure, Full Velcro Seal
- Patented "Never-Tip" Center Balance Design
- Gear Pocket, Glove Hooks, Carabineer Loops
- Also functions as a tent with a pair of hiking poles or as a chair/lounger

The Hennessy Ultralight Backpacker Asym can be loaned out under the condition that you write a short review of your experiences with the product to be shared with the manufacturer. Contact Rob Schechtman for more information.

Please join me in thanking the Hennessy Hammock Corporation for their generosity in providing this gear to the club. They would be happy to answer any questions you might have with use and setup of this product. Please contact Hennessy Hammock toll free at 1-888-539 2930 or email them at [hennessyhammock@gulfislands.com](mailto:hennessyhammock@gulfislands.com)

Hennessy Hammock wants you to have a good experience the first time you use a Hennessy Hammock. They ask members to check out all the tips, pictures and letters from users, how to properly insulate the hammock for cold nights, etc. on their website at: [www.hennessyhammock.com](http://www.hennessyhammock.com)

**PVHC SUMMER FUN PICN IC**

Monica Gross 5366611

**Date: Sept. 12, 2004****Time: 12:00pm — 6:00pm****Look Park - Mini Shelter**

Northampton, MA (Florence)

Free to members, \$5.00 for guests. Sign up with Monica by August 20th, 2004.

\$4.00 parking fee per vehicle suggest you car pool if you wish to save.

Softball fields and Volleyball courts available.

Also, walking, playground and wading pool.

Gear swap .

Bumper Boats-\$5.00, Pedal boats—\$6.00

Golf—\$5.00, Train rides \$1.50 Adult fees

Time for the annual  
summer picnic. Good  
times, Good people, Good  
food, Good fun!  
Bring a dish to share,  
dessert or salad.

**Club Meeting Minutes**

*Greetings to all club members from your club secretary.*

*Here is brief summary of the May and June club meetings for those who may not have been able to attend.*

*Respectively submitted: Monica J. Gross, Secretary*

**Summary of May 4, 2004 Club Meeting Minutes**

Activities Report was given by hike leaders two hikes were cancelled. Rick Briggs will be rescheduling his NY backpack to the fall. Adirondack camping for July is closed. Adirondack trip for the fall still had 8 slots.

Club has purchased the newest edition of the High Peaks available for members in club library. Westfield new parking site it Tighe and Bond next to Friendly's. Weekends only. New York trip for Oct./Nov. with Gary and Jane more details to come.

Clinic: Dick Forrest PVHC – A Look Back over the Years slide show.

**Summary of June 1, 2004 Club Meeting Minutes**

Thanks to Marcia for great trip once again to Ireland, and completing the goal to climb Hungry Hill. New schedule will go out to the second week in Sept. after the planning meeting held in June. Aug. 14th Dinosaur Footprints – Julianna.

Trustees of the Reservations asked for backpack for Tully Lake Aug. 14th & 15th 18 miles staying at the Shelter we helped build. WEU – Rope course is open & programs are upcoming

Heather Wyman had her baby. Boy – May 21st & 7lbs 7oz. Jacob Wyman. Manhand Rail Trail now open 46 mile official opening was June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion regarding number of trail hikes available for potential new members to be discussed at executive board meeting. Hennessey hiking hammock with tent may be coming to club for trials by club personnel.

Clinic: Starry night with Mike Gross.

**Important Notice**

The following memberships are up for renewal:

**July Renewals:**

Douglas Borgatti  
Rick Briggs  
Robert Church  
Elaine Furtak  
Don & Anne Gasiorowski  
Jeanne Kaiser  
Marcia Kelly  
Daniel Liese  
Donna Omega  
Norm Plante  
Robert Schechtman  
Karin Spencer & Family  
Barbara Taylor  
Carol Vermillion

**August Renewals:**

Harry Allen  
Marie Bienvenue  
Stefanie Capite  
Arthur & Joan Chapdelaine  
Daniel Devlin  
Connie Fogarty  
Frank Grabinski  
Roz Gwozdz  
Dana Hachigian  
David Keith  
Liz Kugler  
John D. Leary, Jr.  
Shirley Mitchell  
Ann Mundy  
James O'Donnell  
Florinda Peck  
Janice Pelletier  
Catherine Perina  
Michael Potocny  
Sonalika Rungta  
Gail Schoonover  
Kevin Tarney  
Gary Tompkins  
Juliana Vanderwielen  
Ann Marie & Leah Visconti  
Heather Wyman & Family

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:

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club  
c/o Wilderness Experiences  
P.O. Box 265  
Southwick, MA 01077

(Dues are \$25 member, \$40 family, and \$15 for students)

# Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees

John Klebes, President (413) 519-1859  
 Ann Marie Visconti, Vice President (413) 547-2729  
 Monica Gross, Secretary (413) 536-6611  
 Kimberly Stevens, Treasurer (413) 569-1970  
 Scott Cook, *Wilderness Experiences Unlimited*  
 Ray Tibbetts, Founder

### Standing Committee Chairs

Hike Planning Coordinator: *Sue Forest & AnnMarie Visconti*  
 Backpacking Coordinator: *Ed Laroche & Mike Rattelle*  
 Trail Maintenance: *Ed Laroche & Rob Schechtman*  
 Web Page Editor: *Dick Forrest*  
 Email Correspondent: *Rob Schechtman*  
 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, P.O. Box 51385, Indian Orchard, MA 01151.**

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:  
August 3, 2004, 7pm at **FBC**  
September 7, 2004, 7pm at **FBC**
- ❑ Next Hike Planning Meeting:  
August 10, 2004, 7pm at **WEU**
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: August 31, 2004
- ❑ Club Picnic – September 12, 2004  
**Have you signed up yet?**

**FBC** – First Baptist Church, West Springfield  
**WEU** – Wilderness Experiences Unlimited

\*\*\* 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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A publication of the  
**Pioneer Valley Hiking Club**  
 c/o Wilderness Experiences Unlimited, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 265  
 Southwick, MA 01077

**September 12th  
 is the PVHC Picnic**

