

BOOTPRINTS

Volume 8 Issue 6

November 2004



PVHC CLUB PICNIC – September 12th, Look Park (Thanks Mike & Monica!)

Four Thousand Footer Essay

by Laurie Mahoney (DreamCatcher)

My name is Laurie Mahoney and I live in Walpole, Massachusetts about 30 miles southwest of Boston. Although I had done a lot of walking/easy hiking in the Blue Hills in Milton, Mass. near where I live, I had only done a few hikes in New Hampshire and never any 4000 footers prior to 1999. Well, one evening in late June 1999, a fellow, Peter Monbouquette, who I had met a few weeks previously while hiking at the Blue Hills asked me if I would like to try hiking in the White Mountains. I thought it would be an interesting experience so I said yes and we made plans to do a hike the next weekend.

On July 3rd, we drove up early in the morning to hike for the day. We started out by going up Old Bridle

Path to the Greenleaf Hut so I could see my 1st White Mountain hut and then we hiked up to Franconia Ridge, went along the ridge and then down Falling Waters. It was a beautiful day and I could not believe my eyes when I saw that view from the top of Lafayette. I felt like a kid at Christmas who had just been given the most wonderful gift in the world.

I woke up the next day, sore all over but eager for my next hiking experience. The next weekend we did another day hike (Mount Washington) and even though it was foggy and rainy that day, I still enjoyed being in the mountains. During that summer and fall we did a few more hikes in the White Mountains and each time I got to the top of a mountain, I felt that all was right with the world.

I was 53 years old when I started hiking in the Whites and those hiking experiences certainly changed my life. In early September, I did the 100 Mile Wilderness section of the Appalachian Trail in Maine. I started the hike with a fellow I had met only briefly and he



decided to hike out after 3 days. I really wanted to complete the hike but I was very nervous to stay by myself because I had only backpacked twice before - once for one night with a group from Eastern Mountain Sports and once for a weekend with the AMC. I decided to stick with the hike and those next 6 days really increased my confidence in my hiking ability. I thought about maybe doing the whole Appalachian Trail someday, but really didn't think I had the strength or outdoor knowledge to do it.

Well in February 2000, I had some changes in my personal life so I decided I would give the AT a try. I ordered the AT maps on February 2nd, worked until March 24th, flew to Georgia on March 27th and hiked to the top of Springer Mountain on March 28th.

My 188 days thru hiking the AT were a mixture of joy, wonderment, pain, boredom, fun and misery. I became friends with another thru hiker, a woman named Shari Cox, from Springfield MA and we ended up finishing the trail together. Our trail

Holiday Donation

Please bring a non-perishable food item to the December Meeting for PVHC to donate.

HAPPY Holidays!
Frank Kamlowski

names were U-turn (Shari) and DreamCatcher (mine).

New Hampshire was one of my favorite sections of the AT, but at the time I had never heard of the 4000 footer list, so I didn't try to get any extra peaks while doing the trail in the Whites. I finished the AT on October 2nd and continued to hike that fall. I finally heard about the 4000 footer list the next spring and after counting up the peaks I had already done with my friend Peter and on my thru hike, I decided to complete the list.

In the spring of 2001, I met Mitch Manseau who does the 4000 footers every year with his friends and we did a lot of hikes in 2001 and 2002. I only had 4 peaks left in February 2003 when my friend, Shari and I decided to travel around the world for a year. We did a lot of walking and hiking during our year abroad and my New Hampshire hiking and my AT experience stood me in good stead for backpacking around the world and for tramping/trekking/hiking in many diverse places (New Zealand, Nepal, UK, Europe).

I returned home on February 18, 2004 and started my hiking again with a winter hike up to Mount Adams but I was waiting for better weather to complete my 4 peaks (Owls Head, Isolation, Zealand and North Twin). I did Owls Head and Isolation in late June/early July but thought it would be some time before I did the other 2 because I was having trouble rounding up friends to share my last peak hiking experience with me.

I finally decided it would be awhile before I finished, so I made plans to do a hike with Mitch who wanted to do North Twin, South Twin and Galehead for his 2004 list. On July 10th we started the day by spotting a car at the Gale River Trail and then driving over to the parking lot at the North Twin Trail. We hiked up the North Twin Trail to the North Twin summit (my 47th peak) and then along the North Twin Spur Trail to the South Twin summit where we stopped for lunch. During lunch Mitch got the great idea of splitting up.

He figured it was about the same mileage (6.4 miles) from the South Twin summit for him to go to Galehead Hut, then up to the summit and back and then down to the car as for me to get to Zealand Hut (including the little 0.1 out and back to Zealand summit) via the Twinway Trail. Then I



On the Summit of Sugarloaf Mountain, (Corn Maze Hike – Oct 16th, 2004)

would have 2.8 miles from the hut to the Zealand Falls trailhead where he would pick me up. I hadn't hiked alone in ages, but the Twinway Trail is the AT from the South Twin summit to the hut so I was very comfortable thinking of walking the AT alone because it is so well marked.

We split up at 12:30pm and I made great time (for me). I got to Zealand summit at 2:13pm and then to one mile before the hut at 3:04pm. Then it took me 43 minutes to get to the hut (I forgot how steep that last mile down to the hut is) and then another 53 minutes to do the 2.8 miles from the hut to the trailhead. I finished at 4:40pm and boy was I glad to see Mitch. I had done the 14.8 miles in 8 hours and 25 minutes (with a lot of

most everything on my body was hurting.

I am so glad Mitch suggested splitting up. I liked being on the AT, I enjoyed hiking alone and it felt great to know that I had finished my 4s. All in all, it was a great day.

- Laurie Mahoney



Carol Vanderheiden Helps PVHC explore Mike's Amazing Maze!

uphill on that North Twin Trail) and

Club Meeting Minutes

Greetings to all club members from your club secretary,
Here is brief summary of the July and August club meetings for those who may not have been able to attend.

Summary of Sept 7, 2004 Club Meeting Minutes

Activities Report: Hikes went well. Tubing trip was fun but cold. Workday went well. Jonathan saved the day for Ann Marie when missed the trail and helped backtrack.

Kudos to Marcia Kelly for gourmet delight for backpacking trip. Lessons and reminders for leaders and club membership. If you are planning to go on a trip or event which involves the payment of fees you have some responsibilities. 1) Members assume money for trips is not refundable, so be sure before you commit. 2) Leaders should not take the risk of putting forth their own money for tentative participants. 3) If a leader is unsure of how to handle individual circumstance they should contact executive club members for advise. 4) Deadlines for payment need to be specific and adhered to by all. 5) Leaders need to set appropriate amounts to cover excess for trips and refund difference to participants if they collect too much. 6) Play fair and no one will be hurt. Ray Tibbits is in Melbourne FLA is ok after Hurricane Frances.

Summary of October 5, 2004 Club Meeting Minutes

Richard Harris has completed the M & M trial series Club Picnic was well attended and looks like Sept. is a better time to have the picnic. Looking forward to next year. Laurie's Blue Hills hike did take place despite the heavy rain. Highlighted by the dinner and Gestures game at Laurie's home. Thank you for opening your home to club members. Adirondack trip was a success due in part to the culinary skill of Rob and the careful planning and efforts of Ann Mundy. Thank you. Ann is already planning to repeat both trips next year so if you are interested let her know. Photo contest is table for now. Poor response. May revisit the idea later. However, one the main reasons for the contest was to update photos on the web page and Dick Forrest has done a great job of doing that so take a look at the web page and all his efforts. 2 openings available for the Grand Canyon trip contact leader if interested. Whiting Reservoir Mon. hikes to continue until Nov. Get Photo to Ann Marie for the Christmas Party slide show. Sue Forrest, Ed Laroche, & Gail Carrier will be taking care of refreshments for next meeting.

Respectively submitted: *Monica J. Gross, Secretary*

Actual comments left on Forest Service registration sheets and comment cards by hikers completing wilderness camping trips.

- Escalators would help on steep uphill sections.
- A small deer came into my camp and stole my bag of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed? Please call.
- Please avoid building trails that go uphill.
- A McDonald's would be nice at the trailhead.

{A friend pass these on to me thought club might get a laugh – Monica Gross}

PVHC Snowshoe Rentals:

Now that the colder weather is fast approaching I wanted to remind members that we have snowshoes available for rent. Not sure if you will like snowshoeing? This is a great way to try it out without investing in equipment and also to find out what size and brand works best for you before you buy your own. The clubs snowshoes and backpacking tents are available for rent at a nominal cost. The clubs screen house, trail maintenance tools, and hand held radios are also available for club events without fees. Contact Jack Leary (413) 562-0264, our Quartermaster, for help with rentals.



Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

November Renewals:

Iwona Bednarski
John Paul Boisvert
Marlene Cannon
Suzanne Carey
Miriam Chaput
William & Suzanne Cichaski
Cheryl Funk & Bill Young
Douglas Gaudet
Lynn Gebo
Bill Grygiel
Richard Harris
David Hershops
Edward Laroche
Joanne Miller
Fred Riotte
Carol Rushby
Steven Sayles
Edward Welsh

December Renewals:

Harriette Block & Karlton Sweet
Phyllis Dassatti
Sandy Jurczyk
Frank Kamlowksi
Malcolm Meltzer
David Pierrepont
Lynne Shapiro
Jeanne Tsatsos
David Vibber
Donna Walters

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)

"Everyone needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike."

—Quoted from John Muir

Up Coming Hikes & Activities

Monoosnoc Trail & Tour

Sunday, Nov 21st. Leaving Ludlow McD's 8:00am

Tired of hiking the same old trails? Join us on an easy hike of the new Monoosnoc Trail in Leominster, MA. We will be meeting up with Dick O'Brien from The Trustees of Reservations who will provide a group tour of their new "Green" building located by the trailhead and Pierce Park at the Doyle Reservation property. Recently completed in June of 2004 the Doyle Conservation Center uses "green construction" techniques and provides the least impact and most positive effect on the surrounding environment as possible. Learn about renewable energy and sustainable materials. The Doyle Conservation Center is home to Trustee's staff working in the areas of land conservation, ecology, resource protection and planning, environmental education, and mapping as well as home to the Putnam Conservation Institute and the site of workshops and training seminars for conservationists around the state of Massachusetts.

Pierce Park at the Doyle Reservation was part of a former estate assembled by Harry W. Pierce at the turn of the twentieth century. This grand estate featured a twenty-nine-room stucco mansion with a ballroom and conservatory, a matching stable, extensive horse paddocks, pierce Pond, and an extensive system of bridle paths through woodlands and around the pond. Ten acres of the original landscaped grounds have been restored as a neighborhood park and is a link in the Monoosnoc Trail we will hike.

The Monoosnoc Ridge Trail is approximately 8 miles and crosses the summits of 985 foot North Monoosnoc Hill, 1159 foot South Monoosnoc Hill, and 1068 foot Bayberry Hill, passing by rock outlooks and the hiking past the Haynes, Morse, Fall Brook, and Hayward Reservoirs. We will stage a car at the end of the trail at the Samosett School but feel free to join us for just a short section if you prefer and you can backtrack to the Doyle reservation at any time.

- John Klebes

Strawbery Banke Museum and Candlelight Stroll December 4, 2004

(This trip can be done as a day trip or stay overnight)

Event: Candlelight Stroll, Portsmouth, NH

- Meet at Strawbery Banke at 3:30pm.

Other Attractions: Marginal Way, Ogunquit, ME and Outlet Shopping, Kittery, ME.

Restaurant: Weathervane Seafood Restaurant, Rt 1, Kittery, ME.

Lodging: Anchorage Inn & Suites, 417 Woodbury Ave., Portsmouth, NH. 1-800-370-8111 or 1-603-431-8111

Rooms: K or 2DBL beds: \$109.75 (AAA rate \$97.15)

Includes Cont Bkfst., *if we get 10 rooms rate is \$86.34

Be sure to mention you are making a reservation with the Goodhind Group.

For More Information: Call Al Goodhind - 732-0978

Easy "Late Fall" Backpack – Tom Leonard Shelter December 18-19, 2004

Join us for an easy backpack on the Appalachian Trail to enjoy late autumn in New England. Beginners are welcome. We love sharing our passion for backpacking so don't let lack of gear stop you. We can share stoves, pots, water filters, and other group gear so all you need is a backpack, sleeping bag, warm clothing and a few essentials like a flashlight and mug. Call ahead if you need help with borrowing a backpack or sleeping bag or need help planning. We will hike in a few miles to the Tom Leonard Shelter (open lean-to with loft and fire pit), set up camp and offer a day hike from camp. We will provide evening hot chocolate and marshmallows by the campfire. Come prepared for cold New England Fall weather, woodland hiking, great company, and take home happy memories. Leader: John Klebes, email Klebes@aol.com, cell phone 519.1859.

Snow shoeing at Mt Sunapee January 9, 2005 (mod-diff, call leader)

I will be teaching skiing and snowshoeing during the week to disabled veterans and when the staff heard about the snowshoeing they expressed an interest in having the opportunity. Most are skiers but all are interested in outdoor activities. I am not sure how many will be there but I will know in Dec when they say for sure if they plan to snowshoe on Sunday. So if you would like to join the volunteers for a day of fun please join us. Contact me if interested.

- Marcia Kelly

Winter in Vermont

Jan 22-23rd



Join the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club on a trip to the Merck Forest in Rupert, VT. Our destination is a former sugarhouse located in a secluded valley where a nearby stream adds tranquility and peacefulness to our rustic cabin. After an easy farmland hike, 1.9 miles from the Visitor Center, we will setup camp at Dunc's Place. This cabin, Merck Forest's former sugarhouse, is fully enclosed and equipped with a wood burning stove and firewood. It sports bunk and loft space for up to 15 people with a maximum capacity of 20. The cost for the cabin (\$75) will be split evenly between those camping (about \$5-10 each). Merck Forest has an extensive network of hiking trails (bring your snow shoes and cross-country skis) and for those more ambitious Mt. Equinox is nearby for a Sunday hike. Check out the website www.merckforest.org for more information.

- John Klebes

Sargent Camp - Peterborough, NH
Feb 5-6 Sat-Sun (easy-diff, Marcia Kelly, Call leader \$res)

This camp is in a lovely location on a lake with hiking trails and x-c ski trails on the grounds. It is not too far from Mount Monadnock and a small downhill ski area. It is about 1 1/2 hr drive. I have reserved the weekend of Feb 5-6. I have tried before but it has always been booked. You have your choice of staying in a dorm or 4-6 person cabin. I have stayed in both. There is a large central building where we can have meals served to us.

Cost is \$109 in dorm and \$119 in a cabin. This includes sat overnite, Sat lunch and dinner and Sun breakfast and lunch. I will have cost of just dinner by the meeting. The meals certainly meet Pioneer valley expectations. There is space to dance or play games on Sat night. I will need to make reservations by Nov 10 to ensure space.

Marcia Kelly

CONGRATULATIONS!

*To Ann Marie Visconti & Jan Barlow
 on summiting all 48 of the 4000 foot
 or higher peaks in New Hampshire.*

2005 Adirondack Fall Foliage Trip

- Johns Brook Lodge Sept 30, Oct 1 & 2, 2005

3.5-mile backpack from Keene Valley to a lodge in heart of High Peaks. 800 feet elevation gain over moderate terrain to get to JBL. All of the High Peaks are very strenuous. Therefore, the trip is for experienced hikers only. Leader-Ann Mundy 413-562-1864 (mailto:ahmhiker@aol.com)

Tentative reservations must be made immediately if interested in a bunk. You can get a full refund up until the June 2005 meeting. After that, you are committed and would need to get your own replacement. Home phone 413-562-1864. Address: Ann Mundy, 35 Christopher Drive, Westfield, MA 01085. Please specify if you want to have a bunk at JBL on Sat., Oct 1 only. \$20-includes dinner. Or wishes to have a bunk at JBL for Fri., Sept. 30(\$17) & Sat. Oct.1. Total \$37

I am reminding you that parking at the Garden is a challenge. If you are going in on Friday night and want to catch the shuttle from Marcy Field overflow lot, you need to be at the Garden by 6:30 P.M. at latest. If you can't be there by then, you will probably want to stay at ADK LOJ (\$34) (1-518-523-3441) or Hostel (\$20) (1-518-676-2030) on Friday night.

We had a great trip and made happy memories in September and look forward to another great time together in those beautiful ADIRONDACKS!

Happy trails! Ann Mundy

Holiday Party – December 11th, 2003

This year's holiday party will be held at the Pueblo on the campus of Springfield College on Saturday, December 11, from 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. The party is free for members, and \$5.00 for each invited guest. Please make all **reservations by December 3**, sign-up at

the November meeting, email pvhc2000@hotmail.com, or call me at 860-668-1321 or call Lisa, at (413)-786-4198. Everyone is

requested to bring an appetizer, or side, or dessert so be ready to choose one when you sign up. The club will provide the main courses and drinks. Last year was a huge success thanks to all of you who donated your time and cooking talents. We expect to have a great time this year with awards, slide show and entertainment. Dress casual.

-Rob Schechtman



DIRECTIONS TO PVHC'S HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 11, from 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m

The Pueblo - Springfield College, East Campus (701 Wilbraham Rd., Springfield, Ma)

From the East or West

Mass Pike Rt. 90, to Exit 6. Take 291 West for one mile to Exit 5 (East Springfield/Indian Orchard) Turn right onto route 20A, then immediately move into the left lane. Turn left at the first light onto Roosevelt Avenue. Proceed three miles to Alden Street and take a left. Proceed down Alden St. to first light and take a right at the light onto Wilbraham Rd. East Campus is the first driveway on the right. Follow driveway to parking lot.

From the North

Take Interstate 91 South to Interstate 291. Proceed four miles to Exit 5B, East Springfield/ Indian Orchard. Turn right at the end of the exit ramp onto Route 20A, then immediately move into the left lane. Turn left at the first light onto Roosevelt Avenue. Proceed three miles to Alden Street and take a left. Proceed down Alden St. to first light and take a right at the light onto Wilbraham Rd. East Campus is the first driveway on the right. Follow driveway to parking lot.

From the South

From CT take Interstate 91 North to Mass Exit 2, Route 83. Proceed on Route 83 to the second traffic light and turn right onto Sumner Avenue. After two miles, turn left onto Roosevelt Avenue. Continue through two traffic lights, then bear left at the stop sign. Half a mile after the stop sign, cross a bridge and turn right onto Alden Street. Proceed down Alden St. to first light and take a right at the light onto Wilbraham Rd. East Campus is the first driveway on the right. Follow driveway to parking lot.

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 (Email) or by USmail to John Klebes, P.O. Box 51385, Indian Orchard, MA 01151.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:
December 7, 2004, 7pm at **FBC**
January 4, 2005, 7pm at **FBC**
- ❑ Next Hike Planning Meeting:
December 14, 2004, 7pm at **WEU**
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: December 20, 2004

SPECIAL NOTE: Have you signed up for the Holiday Party? See inside for details.

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

fold here



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

