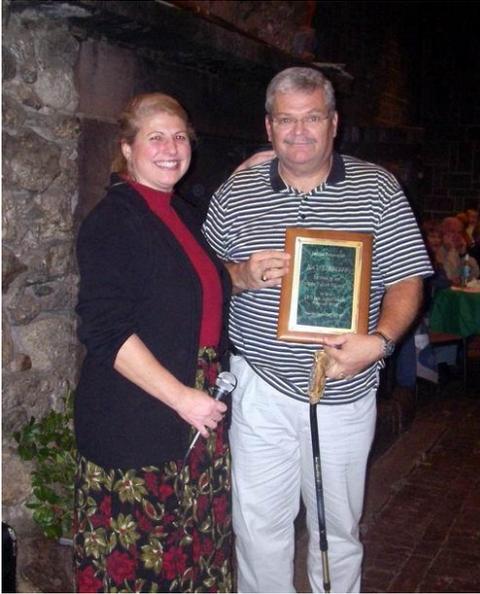


# BOOTPRINTS

Volume 10 Issue 1

January 2006



**Club founder, Ray Tibbetts, is a surprise guest at this years Holiday Party!**

## Holiday Party

*By Ann Marie Visconti*

A big thank you to the many who helped with the PVHC Christmas Party. The roll call is as noted: Mike & Gail Carrier were the shoppers, Marcia Kelly obtained raffle gifts along with Harry Allen donating gifts. Connie & Bill Nickerson were party greeters and did table centerpieces and Diane Chiba donated centerpieces and paper goods. Ravi Kulkarni and Mike Rattelle loaned use of the LCD projector and coolers. Debbie

Alberghini picked up food for me. Cleanup and setup crews were as follows: Bill & Connie Nickerson, Carol Vanderheiden, Dave Rotondo, Deborah Alberghini, Joyce Berg, Rick Briggs, Bill Burgart, Dianne Chiba, John Gorey, Frank Kamlowksi, Norm Plante, Michael Reed, Celeste Ziemba.

When John & I arrived people mentioned above were already in the process of setting up. They looked like they were all old pros at this and it was like they were on automatic pilot. It came together so well



and they worked great together. Ray Tibbetts, our clubs founder was a surprise and welcome guest. I hope he can attend our party again next year. He currently lives in Florida. The club gave him a plaque commemorating the 15<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the club.

There were many raffle prizes and the slide show got bogged down, but hopefully people had a good time. Unfortunately we had some computer problems that forced us to use a slower backup computer. I hope next year to try to obtain a laptop and LCD projector that are compatible with each other. Unfortunately right now the club can't afford them. So I have to borrow from others that I appreciate but it doesn't always work out well. People can feel free to give me feedback regarding the slideshow. I know most of you like it but I was frustrated this year and will make changes to insure that it goes smoothly in the future.

The DJ was great as usual. Mike is very enthusiastic and looks forward to our party every year.

Again hope you all had a good time. It was nice to see Ray Tibbetts and I wish you all the best for the coming year.

*~ Ann Marie Visconti*

## Stump Sprouts Hike

*By Sheila Croteau*

My hike on Sunday November 13th to Stump Sprouts Cross Country Skiing Center in West Hawley went very well. We had 12 hikers. The fall weather couldn't have been nicer, even though most of the colorful leaves were down - the sun was shining & air refreshing. It is a long drive but good to see

that part of the country again. The view of the surrounding hills from the Lodge is great -- the owners were too busy with their weekend guests to show us around so we began hiking with a steep climb up (how do they get up here with skis on?)

We came across two wilderness first aid enactments put on by the group that was staying there that weekend--they told us to call them if we needed any help. We continued on to the Three-State-Vista. We were a noisy group & although seemed to enjoy the view they never stopped talking - then we looped around to the other side of the mountain on a lesser used winding trail that seemed like we were backtracking a lot--since it is a skiing area--that's how they are I guess. I had not actually hiked on this path prior to today (I had a trail map though) so thought it would be safe to explore a new trail. Even one or two of the experienced hikers were worried that we wouldn't make it back before dark. I started to worry too when the group got quieter--then heard a shout from afar & counted us & realized...oh no!...four were missing. We waited for them to catch up. I should have realized something was wrong when I was in the lead - usually I am the sweep. Where was that emergency rescue crew when you needed them? However, we were on the trail just 2 hours and everyone seemed to enjoy the adventure.

To finish off the fun day we all risked a first time visit to the highly recommended Warfield House Inn Restaurant in Charlemont. They welcomed us hiking boots & all into their dining room & pub with more spectacular views of the Berkshire Hills as we enjoyed a delicious lunch and a bonus: the waiter pointed out how to find the trails on Warfield Mountain to explore on another day.

*~Sheila Croteau*





*Richard on the Summit of Mt Jackson, Nov 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005*

## 4,000 Footer Series

by Richard Harris

After I completed section hiking the M-M Trail, several persons asked what I was going to do for my hiking series. Well, as I turned 50 in late October and I was enjoying the beauty and grandeur of the White Mountains and several of the 4,000 footers, an idea dawned on me . a hiking series that culminates in hiking all of the 4,000 footers in New Hampshire and eventually all of the 4,000 footers in the Northeast. Recognizing that I had achieved 6 of the Presidential 4,000 footers over Al Goodhinds previous 3 White Mountain Weekends and I had just completed two more, I only had 40 to go. Two more were achieved over the Veterans Day weekend. So, over the next 18-24 months, I will be placing on the schedule 4,000 footers.



*Southern Presidentials from Mt. Jackson*

For those of you who have been working on your 4,000 footers, please contact me and let me know which ones you have remaining. It is my intention to schedule these hikes to expedite other club members reaching the

goal of summing all 4,000 footers. For others who have thought about doing the 4,000 footers, but did not want to do them alone, this is an opportunity to do them with some friends.

These hikes will involve some winter hiking and some very long hikes. All of the hikes will be rated as Difficult; although some are not as difficult as others. Persons contemplating these hikes should recognize that the White Mountains is known for its dangerous weather conditions. Many of the hikes will take us above tree line. Even those that don't technically traverse above tree line will involve exposed areas and everyone should be prepared for cold, changing weather, and high wind. During winter, conditions are especially difficult and dangerous due to ice and sub-zero wind chills.

~Richard Harris

### **Congratulations to our Year 2005 Recognition Award Recipients**

**Norm Plante  
Marcia Kelly  
Richard Harris  
Juliana Vanderwielen  
Michael Reed  
John Klebes  
Ray Tibbetts**

2005 was another impressive year for the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club. During this year's Holiday Party we had the honor of acknowledging the over 44 Event Coordinators and Standing Committee Chair people who volunteered their leadership over the past year to put on over 248 events.

Special recognition was given to our top four leaders Norm Plante, Marcia Kelly, Juliana Vanderwielen, and Richard Harris. In addition, this year's Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Michael Reed. Michael not only took on the task of coordinating our summer picnic but put together some of the more complicated and best attended trips this year including Block Island, Hyde Park, and Bear Swamp. Michael represents the heart of leadership with his careful scouting, researching, and focus on interesting features to bring us some new fresh events this year.

This year we had a special guest attend the Holiday Party; our club founder Ray Tibbetts. Ann Marie presented Ray with a plaque honoring his contribution and commemorating the 15-year anniversary of the club. A special Distinguished Member Award was given to John Klebes. Thank you everyone it was quite a surprise.

Thanks to all of you that volunteer your time to make this club the best in the area. As we move into 2006 how about adding your name to this list by becoming more active in the leadership of the club? Sincerely, John Klebes

## PVHC LOGO FLEECE

Al Roman has graciously offered to procure PVHC logo Embroidered Fleece Jackets for a fantastic price. The Tiger Fleece Jackets are available in Men's or Ladies style and will feature left chest embroidery similar to our club T-shirts. (Gold bootprint and "Pioneer Valley Hiking Club" in white) This bonded 2-layer fleece provides 12 times the wind protection of normal fleece. It has a weatherproof insert and coating which makes the fleece water repellent. It has superior breathability for active outdoor use.



Please note that Al has donated his commission to keep the costs down for the club. I'm happy to be able to help club members get some warmer fleece at a great price. I joined PVHC to hike and make new friends, not to expand my business, said Al. Be sure to tell Al how much you appreciate his support of the club.

A sample jacket will be available to view at the January meeting. If you are interested please provide a check, payable to PVHC, for the noted price and clearly indicate on a piece of paper you name, address, phone number, color, style, and size. Orders will be accepted up till the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting when the order will be placed. For more information or to place your order mail your check to arrive by the February meeting to: Al Roman at 41 Old Farm Road, Westfield, MA 01085.

### **MEN'S:**

The men's style F200 is available XS - 3X in 4 colors Black/Black, Red/Black, Midnight Heather/Black and Navy/Black. XS -XL at \$40 ea., XXL at \$42 ea. and XXXL at \$45 ea. All prices are delivered and include left chest embroidery.

Sizing on this style:

	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL
Chest	30-32	34-36	38-40	42-44	46-48	50-52	54-55
Neck	13 1/2 -14	14-14 1/2	15-15 1/2	16-16 1/2	17-17-1/2	17 1/2-18	18-18 1/2
Sleeve	30 1/2-31 1/2,	32-33	34-35,	35-36,	36 1/2-37 1/2,	37 1/2-38 1/2,	38 1/2-39 1/2

### **LADIES:**

The ladies style L200 is available XS - XXL Plus 1X & 2X in 4 colors. Moss/Black is offered instead of the Midnight Heather/Black which is only available in the Men's style. The other 3 colors are the same.

XS -XL at \$40 ea., XXL at \$42 ea., 1X at \$45 ea., 2X at \$46 ea. All prices are delivered and include left chest embroidery

Sizing on this style:

	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL	1X	2X
Size	4	6/8	10/12	14/16	18/20	20	18-20W	22-24W
Bust	32 1/2-34,	34 1/2-35 1/2,	36 1/2-38,	39 1/2-41,	43-45,	48,	47-51,	52-56

### **Measurement**

Please be sure to verify the proper size you need before ordering. Embroidered items cannot be returned.

## Upcoming Hikes

### **Ski Fest 2006 at Notchview**

(Windsor, MA 413-684-0148)

Sunday, January 8, 2005 9am - 3pm

Take a free lesson early in the season to shake off the rust or improve your technique. They will offer both classical skiing and skating lessons, a wax clinic and fun activities. Ski rentals can be arranged. Members FREE, Nonmembers Adults \$10 FREE lessons, trail Pass. Meet your leader Arline Ely at 8:45 am at Notchview. Any questions call Arline

### **February 7<sup>th</sup> Elections**

Elections will be held for new club officers at the February 7th Club Meeting.

### **Remington Lodge**

*By Norm Plante*

**O**n Feb 18, 2006 one of the more popular events of the hiking club will be taking place, our annual trip to Remington Lodge. This is a very rustic and quaint lodge nestled in the foothills of West Cummington Massachusetts about an hour's drive from the Springfield, MA area. People can elect to come up for just the day or make it an overnight also. There is a communal bunk room on the lower level and upstairs there are three rooms with three bunks each. The maximum number of people overnight is limited to 36 so avoid the rush and sign up early. Bunks are claimed on a first come first claimed system.

The place is very cozy, has a big living room with wood/coal stove, a dining area, a hot tub and two great hosts Ken and Jo. The dinners there are top notch four course events with soup, salad, entrée and dessert. The meal choices are currently being decided but will be chicken, fish and vegetarian. But lets not forget why we joined the club, that's right, to hike and spend time outdoors. I will lead a moderate, compassionately paced, hike somewhere in the area and I'm sure Gary Dolgoff will be leading his usual easy outing on the roads or nearby Windsor State Forest. For skiers and snowshoe buffs, there is a cross country ski area just up the road. For those people not so inclined, you can vegetate by the fire and read a good book. One of the best things about the trip is the chance to bond with fellow members in a relaxed and fun atmosphere as after the hikes and dinner we usually all get together for a rousing game of Guesstures, Pictionary or whatever. It's worth the price of admission alone just to watch Gary perform charades.

There are many options people can choose to do for this trip. Typically if you're coming for lunch on Saturday you should plan to arrive between 11:30 am and noon. You can come up later if you like and just do the dinner that evening usually around 6:30-7pm. The hikes will probably be going out around 1 pm or so.

The costs are as follows:

- Overnight stay \$55.00 . includes lunch & dinner Sat and breakfast Sun.
- Lunch only \$5.00 . typically cold cuts, chips, condiments, and beverage.
- Dinner Only \$20.00 . 4 course meal, chicken, fish or vegetarian entrée.
- Dinner & overnight only - \$45.00 (Does not include breakfast)

The cutoff date for signups and money collection will be at the Feb 7th hiking club meeting. Make checks payable to Pioneer Valley Hiking Club and send to Norm Plante (108 Campbell Dr., Agawam, MA 01001)

If you have questions you can call me. If I'm not in leave a message.

**Directions to Remington Lodge:** Rte 91 North to Northampton exit for Rte 9 West. Follow Rte 9 West through Williamsburg and Goshen into Cummington. Look for large white building ~~the~~ Creamery+ with a life size cow on the roof. (Use as landmark as Remington Lodge is just a few miles away) Look for small green sign for ~~West~~ Cummington/Windsor Jams/Winsor State Forest+ on your right, shortly after sign is West Main Street. Take a right here and Remington Lodge is a large Gray building about 1/8 mile on left. Take a left there and park in lot. Remington Lodge phone number (413) 634-5388 or 634-5493

## **ADIRONDACK ADVENTURES**

### **Adirondack Car Camping Trip**

- Ironman Weekend July 21-24, 2006

Adirondack LOJ Campground in Lake Placid, N.Y.

You can climb High Peaks, canoe, kayak, or sit by the lake. I have reserved several campsites and will collect money in April. Cost will be between \$20 and \$25 and will include Sat p.m. hamburgers/hotdogs. Please contact me if you want a tentative reservation.

ahmhiker@aol.com

### **Adirondack Fall Foliage Trip**

- Sept.29 & 30, 2006

Backpacking Trip(3.5 miles) from Keene Valley to John's Brook Lodge, an ADK Mt Club facility. This trip is for experienced hikers intending to do difficult High Peaks from JBL. The trip is almost full so contact me soon if you want a reservation. I am collecting \$20 now and another \$25 later. Sat dinner is included.

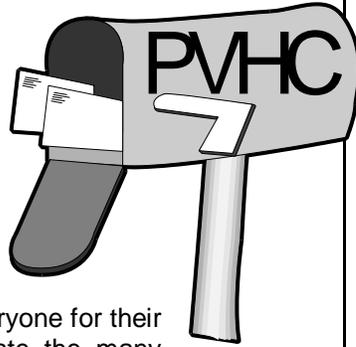
[ahmhiker@aol.com](mailto:ahmhiker@aol.com)

## Open Letter To Our Members:

Dear PVHC,

Scott & I are sorry to miss this year's party- its usually one of the best parties we attend during the holiday season. We want to thank everyone for their support of WEU and appreciate the many friendships we have made through the PVHC. Please remember even though the club doesn't meet at WEU much anymore you are always welcome there. We will continue to give our support and spread the word about a really great group of people and a fun club. Our only regret is that we aren't able to attend more activities with the club. Unfortunately running a business 7 days a week tends to put a crimp in most plans. We wish everyone a very safe, healthy and happy New Year and look forward to another great year!

Laura & T. Scott Cook  
Wilderness Experiences Unlimited &  
Westfield Water Sports  
413-569-1287 or 413-562-7431  
adventures@weu.com  
www.weu.com



## Trailcast – Podcasting on Foot

Reported by John Klebes

Trailcast, the creation of Robert Butler, is a website with recorded interviews focused exclusively on long-trail hiking. What a great find! I listen to all ten of his initial installments of Trailcast starting with an interview with Janet Hensley of the hiker-hostel, Miss Janet's House+ in Erwin, TN on the Appalachian Trail. Other favorite stories included the fascinating Barefoot Sisters, two sisters who hiked the AT in both directions in what is called a Yo-Yo+from end to end and back again. And they did most of it - you guessed it - Barefoot! Another favorite is the wonderful character Gilford Bush (trail-name wooly-Troll), a Louisianaq native, who tells a captivating story of his AT thru-hike. Other interviews include Dan Wingfoot+Bruce the author of the AT Thru-Hiker's Handbook, the Ozark Highland Trail, and much more.

My only disappointment is that new installments of Trailcast have been on hold since Hurricane Katrina hit. Bob Butler lives in Baton Rouge and, as you can imagine, his priorities lately have been focused on volunteering with the Red Cross and helping displaced friends during this crisis. He has promised to come back to this project soon and low and behold a new installment is up on his site today.

So join %eneration @+ and download the latest podcasts to your MP3 player to listen to while your trapped tent-bound in that snowstorm. Check it out at: [www.trailcast.org](http://www.trailcast.org)

## Membership Directory Update

**M**embership Directories were distributed at the Holiday Party. Those who didn't pick them up got them mailed in December. The membership directory is a great resource for setting up impromptu trips and social events, staying in touch with your club friends, and contains handy reference information in the back. If you are a new member and would like a copy or did not receive your copy by January let me know. I have a limit supply of extras that I would be happy to mail you.

John Klebes (j.klebes@ieee.org)

*Do not follow where the path may lead.  
Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.  
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*

*(Contributed by Dick Forest)*

## Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

### January Renewals:

Claire Bailey  
Jan Barlow  
Sheila Croteau  
Diane Crowell  
Kathleen Damon  
Gary Dolgoff  
Thomas Harrington  
Theresa Marshall & Family  
Scott Rainville & Family  
Kathy Romeo  
Karen Savoy  
Cynthia Taylor & Family  
Ann Wood

### February Renewals:

William & Suzanne Cichaski  
Cathy Durie  
Paul & Maxine Lessard  
Claudia Pozzi  
Patricia Stevenson  
Edmund Sullivan  
Carol Vanderheiden  
John & Melissa Vulllo  
Karen Williams

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

Ann Marie Visconti, President  
John Klebes, Vice President  
Monica Gross, Secretary  
Mike Gross, Treasurer  
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: j.klebes@ieee.org (Email) or by USmail to John Klebes, P.O. Box 51385, Indian Orchard, MA 01151.***

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:  
Feb 7, 2006, 7pm at **FBC**  
(combined Hiking Planning & Elections)  
Mar 7, 2006, 7pm at **FBC**
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: Feb 25, 2005

**FBC** . First Baptist Church, West Springfield

**\*\*\* 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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