



Bootprints

The Bimonthly Newsletter of the
Pioneer Valley Hiking Club

Trail Angel Comes to the Rescue on Mt. Monadnock

A hardy group of PVHC hikers took part in Dick Forrest's annual Mt. Monadnock hike on Saturday, January 3 of this year. For me, it was a beautiful, brisk, uneventful day until a quarter of mile from the end. Shortly after the White Cross trail joined the White Dot trail, I slipped on ice and broke my ankle. Initially, several members helped carry me down...thank you Harry, Kevin and Lori. Matt was coming up the trail and offered to help, as well, eventually carrying me piggy-back. I would like to share his email to me and my response.

"Carol,

I ran into someone today that had some interesting info for me. A couple of pictures and an email. I would like to thank you for getting me prepared for a successful hike that day. It was great meeting you and I was more than happy to help out. I do apologize with the method on which we went down, but it seemed like the fastest and also less stress on your ankle. I hope the injury wasn't too bad and that you're back in business!

See Rescue continued on page 3



Matt and Harry carrying Carol down the trail at Mt. Monadnock

The Tuesday Night Comedy Hike

Carol Vanderheiden has been leading the Tuesday night hike for PVHC for some years now. But, back in January, Carol fractured her ankle on the Mt. Monadnock club hike and is out of commission for a few months. I've been leading the hike in her stead until she is back on her feet. After what happened on the February 10th hike I think Carol should get back ASAP!

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March, 2015

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Hobblebush in flower

*"I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree."*

*~ from "Trees" by Joyce Kilmer,
published in 1914*



Hobblebush in fruit

The Trees of Sections 1 and 2 of the New England Scenic Trail (formerly, the M&M) as of 2014

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. American Chestnut | 22. Yellow Birch |
| 2. Northern Hemlock | 23. Black Birch |
| 3. American Beech | 24. Sassafras |
| 4. Shagbark Hickory | 25. Black Cherry |
| 5. Pignut Hickory | 26. Pitch Pine |
| 6. American Hornbeam | 27. White Pine |
| 7. Red Oak | 28. Witch Hazel |
| 8. White Oak | 29. Eastern Red Cedar |
| 9. Chestnut Oak | 30. Speckled Alder |
| 10. Sugar Maple | 31. Chokecherry |
| 11. Red Maple | 32. Hazelnut or Filbert |
| 12. Silver Maple | 33. Butternut Hickory |
| 13. Striped Maple | 34. Viburnum Rafinesquianum Downy Arrowwood |
| 14. Norway Maple | 35. Viburnum Opulus – High Bush |
| 15. Crabapple | 36. Viburnum Nudum Withe-Rod |
| 16. Red Sumac | 37. Viburnum acerifolium Maple-leaved |
| 17. White Sumac | 38. Viburnum dentatum Smooth Ar- |
| 18. White Ash | 39. Viburnum lantana Wayfaring Tree |
| 19. Cottonwood | 40. Viburnum lantanoides Hobble Bush |
| 20. White Birch | 41. Viburnum Lentago Nannyberry |

The above list of trees were identified recently growing on our very own PVHC adopted sections of 1 & 2 of the NET, Rising Corner Road to the Westfield River. When hiking those sections, you are hereby challenged to discover additional tree varieties. Bring this list with you to aid in your search; take a picture of each additional variety discovered. Leaf and bark. Please contact Chip Pray to add further discoveries to the existing list. Good Luck! — Chip Pray

Rescue continued from page 1

You meet such great people on the way. I'm glad you made it down without the stretcher. I did research on your hiking group on Facebook and it looks like you guys have a lot of fun.

It was fun sharing some smiles in a semi-entertaining situation (I know a hurt ankle is no fun.)

Glad to have met you and will see you on the hill again,
Matthew”

“Hi Matt,

I am so happy that you responded. I really wanted a chance to thank you personally for helping me down the mountain last month. Piggyback was quite an entertaining experience once I realized how sure-footed you were. Much better than a stretcher. You were great!

I expect it was Margot Horn or Larry Davis who gave you the email and pictures. Not knowing how to contact you, one of my friends recalled that Larry Davis hikes Monadnock daily. His website address was on NH Public TV, so I sent an email there. Margot responded to that email and said although she didn't know you well, she once saw you give one of your microspikes to an unprepared hiker.

I did break the ankle. I no longer need crutches (since week 2) and can do almost anything with the walking cast. I have to wait until the 20th, which makes 7 weeks, for another x-ray and hopefully the o.k. to discard the cast and resume driving (this was my right ankle). Obviously I won't hike again until the snow and ice are gone. I WILL be hiking Monadnock again this summer. I may not finish my NH 4000 footers this year, but am not ruling that out. I have 15 more peaks to go.

I hope to cross paths again.

Thank you again for being my ‘trail angel’.

Carol”

I contacted Matt after researching NH Public Television for Larry Davis's website, larrydavisnh.com. Some of you may remember in this hike in 2011 when Larry asked if he could take pictures of us on the summit. He was working on a documentary for Public Television and hoped to capture pictures throughout the year. His friend, Margot, responded and was able to pass along my original email and copies of pictures to Matt.

— Carol Vanderheiden



Carol being carried down the trail
at Mt. Monadnock

*“I hope to cross paths again.
Thank you again for being my
‘trail angel.’”*

~ Carol Vanderheiden



“This particular Tuesday was a combination of a comedy of errors, Keystone Kops and miscommunication.”
~ Lori Tisdell



Comedy continued from page 1

This particular Tuesday was a combination of a comedy of errors, Keystone Kops and miscommunication. There were six of us signed up to hike. Five of us were at the Rite Aid, awaiting the sixth, when Dave Vibber called. He'd been stuck in traffic and was still 15 minutes out. I decided to have him meet us at the trailhead - the parking area across from Whiting Reservoir on route 141. The rest of us headed there in two cars. Ed Marone was following behind me with Rick Briggs, or so I thought. I turned into the parking lot but the car behind me didn't, oh-oh. We parked and waited. A few minutes later Rick called and said they were at the Log Cabin - a couple miles past us. So they turned around and headed back. Karen Markham, Bob Morgan and I started getting ourselves ready when Karen realized she'd forgotten her snowshoes, poles and mittens! Say what? How very disappointing in someone with her hiking credentials. I had extra mittens and Karen elected to hike without the snowshoes and poles. There you go - hiking cred.

Then I got another call from Rick, “Where's Jarvis Rd.?” Oh no, they'd passed by the parking lot. Seriously. They turn around....again. Finally Ed and Rick arrive. Then I got a call from Dave. “Where are you?” Huh? “Where are we? Where are you?” Oops, he's at the wrong reservoir. No! Dave may still try to catch up with us. Oh my, can anything else go wrong? Well, obviously it can 'cuz more did go wrong.

We head across the road, thankfully no one is hit by the cars whizzing by in the dark. Then I realized that I'd forgotten my headlamp in the trunk. Screw it, I'm not going back. And Bob has a spare. We put our snowshoes on, those of us that remembered them - Karen, but Ed is having a problem. The strap won't attach and then he slices his finger open on the binding (Insert me shaking my head at this juncture). Ed also says screw it and leaves his snowshoes at the gate to pick up on our return.

We finally start hiking; it is 20 minutes to 7:00 p.m. We met at 6:00 p.m. - five minutes away from the trailhead. But at least we are hiking and we persevered. The road has several inches of loose, powdery snow, slightly broken by a walker - by which I mean someone without snowshoes, not a walker from “The Walking Dead.” But who knows, the way things are going

See Comedy continued on page 5

Comedy continued from page 4

we could meet the undead! At least we have hiking poles to defend ourselves with, well most of us do - Karen.

We are moving along fine, chatting and enjoying the night. Rick is in front breaking trail and after a while I ask if he would like me to spell him. I get in front and on the first step find myself face-planted in the snow. Huh? Someone was a little too close behind and stepped on my snowshoe. I won't name any names but his initials are RB. I lay in the snow and can't stop laughing because at some point you just have to see the humor in the situation. I pick myself up and off we go.

It's a beautiful clear night and we can see the stars above us through the trees. After a time we see the "lighthouse" in the distance. I decide that it will be our turnaround point. A few minutes more and we are there. The building is on top of a steep embankment and we decide to climb up. The snow is deep here - knee high and hard for the snowshoes to hold onto. But we all make it to the top, even those who forgot their snowshoes - Karen. We have a great view of the Mt Tom ridgeline, the starry night sky above and the frozen reservoir. This is why we didn't turn around and go home. We stay for awhile looking at the constellations, picking out the ones we know, breathing in the night. I need to get one of those smart phone apps that tell you the constellations when you point the phone at the sky.

Then we see a light in the distance, it's Dave! I call him and tell him we will meet him, we're on our way back. So we head back the way we came. As we walk along I look over and see Dave's light circling the reservoir moving away from us instead of towards us. We'd turned back but Dave was going around. Just another incident added to an already screwed up night. We signal with our headlamps and I call Dave to let him know to turn back. Dave basically calls us wusses for not going all the way around the reservoir. Say what? Insult to injury! I tell Dave we will meet him back at the junction and he (I think regretfully) agrees to turn around. Dave's not a wuss.

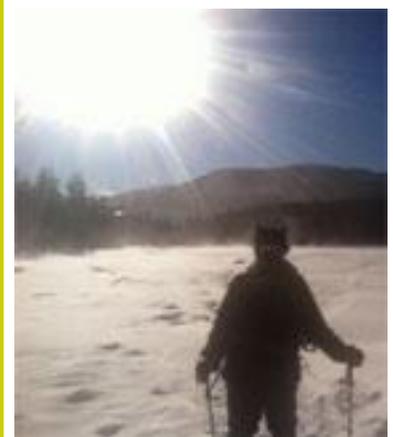
Surprisingly, the rest of the night went fine. We all met up at the junction and hiked out together. Dave still thinks we are big wusses. But the night ended well, we got a nice hike in despite all the problems, Ed's snowshoes weren't stolen, his finger will heal, no one gets hit by a car crossing the road and we do not run into any undead.

— Lori Tisdell



*"We stay for awhile
looking at the
constellations, picking
out the ones we know,
breathing in the night."*

~ Lori Tisdell



Important Membership Renewal Notices

The following memberships are up for renewal:

March Renewals

Rose Behnk
 Debbie Bombard & Cheryl Stevens
 Stephanie Bustos
 Kay Byington
 Mike & Gail Carrier
 Norma Casillas
 Shari & Mark Dorman
 Howard Eldridge
 Alan Goodhind
 John Gorey
 Bill Grygiel
 John Klebes
 Jason Lambert
 Pete & Susanne Ledoux
 Donna Mages
 Edmund Marrone
 Chuck O'Connor
 Richard Perreault
 Ellen Petersen
 Lorraine Plasse
 Linda Quesnel
 Susan Wills
 Kevin & Robin Withers
 Maiyann Zak

April Renewals

Jacki Barden
 John Bien
 Luci Bolduc
 Virginia Brown
 Dianne Carey
 William Driscoll
 Arline Ely
 Jane Glushik
 Bryan Goodwin & Joan DelPlato
 Mike Gross
 Alice & Dan Hackett
 Eunice Jones
 Susan McGurk
 Lori McMahan
 Robert Morgan
 Louise Pilegi
 Mike Rattelle
 Bea Robinson
 Albert Shane
 Lynne Shapiro
 Jacqueline Sheehan
 Ed Watson
 Susan Young
 Kathy Zeiben

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers

Chip Pray, President
 Marcia Kelly, Vice President
 Lori Tisdell, Secretary
 Paul Kozikowski, Treasurer
 Ray Tibbetts, Founder

Standing Committee Chairs

Hike Schedule: Jeanne Kaiser & Chip Pray
 Backpacking Coordinator: Rick Briggs
 Trail Maintenance: Chip Pray & Rob Schechtman
 Web Page Editor: Dick Forrest
 Non-Member E-mail Coordinator: Rob Schechtman
 Club E-mail Coordinator: Chip Pray
 Quartermaster: Mike Carrier
Bootprints Editor: Dick Forrest

Bootprints is a publication of the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club. Please email your story/event contributions to Dick Forrest at: dforrest@charter.net.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

January

Paula Christian
 Sue French

February

Dianna & Mark McMenamain



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
 PO Box 225
 West Springfield MA 01090-0225

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

UPCOMING EVENTS AND THE USUALS

- Every Mon. (MA) Morning Hike – various locations
- Every Tues. (MA) Tuesday evening hikes
- Every Wed. (MA) Wednesday evening
- Every Thurs. (MA) Morning hike
- Mar. 7 (MA) Sugar House/Ashfield Trails
- Mar. 14 - 15 (VT) Little Rock Pond Fondue Backpack
- Mar. 15 (CT) Farmington Heritage
- Mar. 15 (MA) Ioka Farms Maple Lunch/Mt. Greylock
- June 26-28 (NH) White Mountain Sampler
- July 17-19 (NY) Adirondack Heart Lake Camping
- Aug. 23 (CT) Club Picnic

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Next Club Meetings:
 March 3, 2015, 7 pm at **FBC**
 April 7, 2015, 7 pm at **FBC**

Deadline for submissions to the next Bootprints is April 20th, 2015

FBC - First Baptist Church, 337 Piper Road, West Springfield

**** Check out our web page at:**
www.pioneervalleyhikingclub.org

Members may join the PVHC Email List by sending a message to:
pvhc.hikingclub@gmail.com



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