

BOOTPRINTS

Volume 5 Issue 1

January 2001

Memories of the PVHC Holiday Party

by AnnMarie & Leah Visconti

The weekend after the holiday party, we went on a backpack to Mt. Alander. It was cold, but fortunately we were able to stay in the cabin with a wood stove. All night it thundered and rained. While cozy and warm in our sleeping bags and apparel, we dreamed of the party the weekend before.

What a great time was had by all. With three big rooms to enjoy, one could dance the night away or sleep by the fire. Leah and Stephanie were complaining this weekend on our backpack that their legs were "killing" from dancing for four hours straight. The disc jockey was really in to music/dance mood. The food was terrific; we have such good cooks in our midst. The slide show was fun I hope all enjoyed. It was such a good idea to have so many door prizes. Of course I thought it was fixed until I also won.

The turnout was unbelievable 120

Rodrigues. Their energetic and well-



Holiday Party at the Springfield College Pueblo - photo by John Klebes

plus people. How nice it was to see everyone together verses a few people at a time on a hike. I want to take this opportunity again to thank Wayne, Sue, Lisa, Rob, John, Bill (at the door), Dave (kids' entertainer), Sue and Dick (slide show), and all that helped set up and clean up. It was truly a great effort.

- AnnMarie & Leah Visconti -

'That Wonderful Holiday Party!'

by Gary Dolgoff

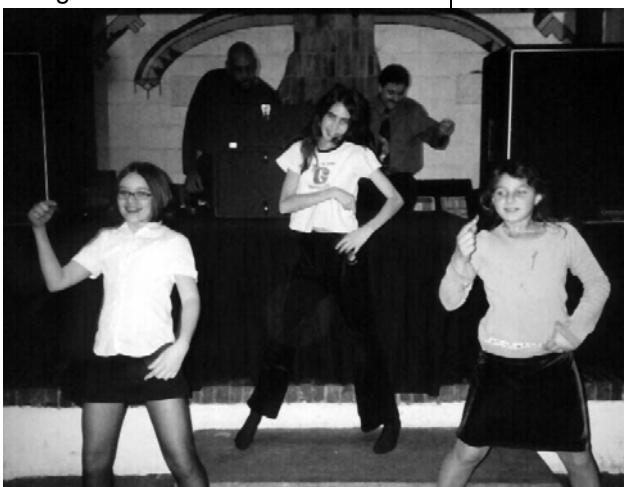
As many of you know, the Clubs' annual Holiday Gathering, was an event looked forward to, by many of us members (about 120-130 attendance this year?).

This year, some new 'enhancing ideas', were tried out, spearheaded by Sue Ziff and Wayne

guided efforts, led to our event being held at this 'fantastic and atmospheric' place: The Pueblo it is called, a part of Springfield College; Inside, it is a sprawling place of deep, large 'wood motif'; another words, 'lots of wood, everywhere!' Also present; two fireplaces, plus- a dance floor! Wayne, who teaches at Springfield College, found us this 'wonderful joint', plus made all the arrangements to secure it for the Club. He and Sue Ziff, made sure that we had (very good) directions, to get to the place. They spearheaded and commanded all (or 'most all), of the 'mix', that made this party, such a fantastic success. "Hats off' to you folks!" Seriously, though- their dedication, friendliness, and goodwill, are what our Club thrives on, and seems to attract. Yaybo!!

I arrived, pretty much right on time (around 6:30 pm). Already, I recognized legions of Club members, many of them 'dressed up nice', which wasn't required- but was done by many, with the recognition that this was, indeed- a special event!

There was, of course, easy, friendly mingling; both with 'old,



Those Dancing Divas at the Holiday Party

photo by AnnMarie Visconti



Dancing up a Storm at the Holiday Party - photos by AnnMarie Visconti

very last tune of the evening), was "We are Family", a tune we all enthusiastically danced to, in an interactive manner. ...And then it was over- when it was, 11:30 pm, or later! So- come next year, why dontcha? "Methinks you'll be glad you did!"

PS- If any of you come up with any ideas for 'outings and events', and/or some hikes, bicycle rides, 'woods maintenance days', etc- let us know! Email, and; come to our general meetings (on the first Tuesday of each month), come to our bi-monthly Hike Planners' Meetings; Come on our hikes!!

familiar faces', and- with various 'new faces' (recently-joined folk, or those who were just 'checking it out')

What can I say? There's just this wonderful 'Club Chemistry', that just makes it all so- right! Lively conversations, gentle (and sometimes boisterous) laughter, great food (and plenty of it!), awards given to 'whomever led the most 'things' (hikes, etc.)- Dave Rotondo won that one, having led many, many hikes this year, many of which are his famous (or infamous- only kidding!) 'moonlight hikes', and the write-in vote (still unannounced, as of this writing) for the person in the Club who has just done the most 'blood sweat and tears', for the

Club.

Following were hours of lively dancing: some slow, much fast, plus a lot of 'in-between'. A highlight of the dance-floor was the 'kids brigade': lively, entertaining to watch; it gave you a warm feeling in your tummy, to watch those 'lil things' (and some, NOT-so little!) twirl, whirl, and jump around the floor, in response to those syncopated beats!

The next to the last song (Donna Summers' "Last Dance", was the



- Gary Dolgoff -

Congratulations to our Year 2000 Recognition Award Recipients

**Dave Rotondo
John Klebes
Mike Gross
Jennifer Lamothe**

During this years Holiday Party we started a new tradition in the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club by awarding our most active Hike & Event Coordinators with a Recognition Award and \$25 Monetary Prize. To show our appreciation to the people who make the club great we started off by acknowledging the over 40 Event Coordinators who volunteered their leadership over the past year. We than gave special recognition to our top three (actually four due to a tie) leaders for there contributions over the year. Thanks to all 40 of you for taking the club through a fantastic year. The results of the voting for the Volunteer of the year award will be announced at the January 2001 meeting.



I Survived an Ed Laroche Forced March!

by Dick Forrest

Ed Laroche is not your normal in-your-face drill instructor. But if you go on one of his hikes, you will soon learn the meaning of the word, "difficult." I went on one, and actually survived! One of the definitions of a march is "a long, tiring journey on foot." Well, Ed sure gave us our marching orders. Also, Ed has a reputation for more aggressive hikes and backpacking trips. His reputation is well deserved. In fact, Ed took us through 20 to 40 degrees or more below zero wind chill on the top of Mt. Greylock, and thought nothing of it.

To be fair to Ed, he led a great hike up Mt. Greylock on Saturday, December 23. The other four of us, Jerry Cyr, Dick Forrest, Ed Kleciak, and AnnMarie Visconti, were willing participants. For the record, Ed did not actually have to twist our arms, and we were not exactly forced to climb the mountain. Ed took us up the Roaring Brook Trail for 2.6 miles to the Sperry Rd. campground, and then another 1.8 miles up the Hopper and Appalachian trails to the summit of Greylock. We ended up marching 8.8 miles for the day. On the way down, both Ed's took a short detour to see Deer Hill Falls.

I was surprised by the bitterly cold weather, although each of us was properly prepared for the climb. The clouds were rapidly scudding across the sky from the brisk wind, and the sun came out only occasionally. (Characteristically, the sun comes out at the end of Ed's hikes.) Snow crystals were floating down from the trees, which were swaying and cracking in the wind. We trudged through a snow cover of about two or three inches on the ground. The snow layer helped to minimize our slipping on the ice layer beneath. The temperature was close to zero at the base of the

mountain, and when we got on top three hours later, the temperature and wind chill were way below zero.

We stopped at an unheated shelter on the south side of the mountaintop where we ate lunch. (Bascom Lodge and the War Memorial were both shut up tight for the winter.) My fingers surprised me by feeling painfully frozen, even out of the wind. I had to shake them to warm them up. Ed Laroche found a friend when a mole in the shelter jumped up on his boot. Ed, however, spurned the mole's friendship by kicking him off, and saying "I don't want that thing on me!" Before leaving the shelter, both AnnMarie and I put on crampons because the trails had many icy patches. Though, Jerry wore his crampons all day. I also donned a balaclava to protect my face from the bitterly cold wind. Amazingly, when my face warmed up, so did my hands.

I have to confess that the forced march was really unforced and pleasurable, although I liked the end of it the best. Ed Laroche would really not have made a very good drill instructor. He's far too nice. But I am proud to say that I survived a "difficult" Ed Laroche hike.

- Dick Forrest -

Tri-State Border Hike

by Don Leis

On Saturday, October 28th, Norm Plante led a group of six intrepid souls on a blustery wind-swept trek to the peak of Mount Frissell in the southwestern corner of Massachusetts. The trail to Mount Frissell wends its way along the Massachusetts/Connecticut border before junctioning into the South Taconic Trail in New York State. The trail, which includes several steep rocky stretches, traverses over the top of Round Mountain (el. 2296 feet) and then continues over the top of Mount Frissell (el. 2653 feet). Descending the southerly

slope of Mount Frissell, the trail crosses the highest point in the state of Connecticut (el. 2380 feet) and it affords a scenic vista of Lake Riga in Salisbury, Connecticut, in the distance. A short way further west on the trail is the granite monument, which marks the spot where the Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York borders meet.

The hike took place on a bright, sunny day, but the frigid wind blowing in from the north probably accounted for the fact that our group encountered only a couple of other isolated hikers on the trail. The group of us left a signed entry in the journal, which is stored at the top of Mount Frissell, and we then posed for group photos at the tri-state stone monument. We continued westward to the top of Brace Mountain in New York and then, hugging the ridge line, we hung a left onto the South Taconic Trail and proceeded to the stone cairn which is at the summit of South Brace Mountain. We stopped for a wind-chilled lunch break on the top of South Brace Mountain, but even though there was a panoramic view of the Catskill Mountains to the west, the chilly conditions did not prompt any of us to linger over our luncheon snacks.

Following our abbreviated meal stop, the group backtracked along the same route over Mount Frissell and Round Mountain, back to the spot on Mount Washington Road where we had left our vehicles. We thereafter adjourned for a warmer and more leisurely meal break at the Station "20" restaurant in Great Barrington. Despite the biting cold wind gusts, the hike did succeed quite well in allowing the hike participants to leave their work-a-day stresses and aggravations behind, a sentiment that was duly noted in the written entry, which we added to the journal at the peak of Mount Frissell. - Don Leis -

"The best climber in the world is the one having the most fun."

- Quote from Alex Lowe



Mt Adams Backpacking, Spur Trail above Crag Camp -photo by John Klebes

The Start of Winter on Mt. Adams

by John Klebes

It was the weekend before Thanksgiving when Mike Rattelle and I headed up the Lowe's Path toward the Grey Knob cabin. We started out with snow flurries and a light dusting of snow in the valley. They had gotten snow the night before so by the time we got to the cabin we had a base of about 17 inches. The trees were coated with a thick layer of snow and ice and it looked like a winter wonderland. Due to the snow flurries we had no view on Saturday during the day. At sunset the sky cleared and filled with color. We could have seen the sunset better from Grey Knob but the cabin was full. We stayed at Crag Camp overlooking the King Ravine. Shared it with a small group of boy scouts from Longmeadow, MA. Also a group of college kids. Nineteen people in all. It was below freezing in the cabin and the water kept freezing in our pots and water bottles.

During the evening we all swapped stories of our recent mountaineering adventures. One of the scout leaders shared the details of his summer guided trip to the summit of Mount Rainier. It always amazes me how friendly us outdoor

folk are. A group of people who barely know each other and within a few hours we are sharing food and good stories like close friends. Between crackers and cheese, sausage and pepperoni, popcorn, candy, and leftovers we ate like kings. A real party on the mountain that night.

During the night the stars were fantastic. Great views of the Milky Way and someone actually saw a falling meteor. Then around 11:00pm the clouds rolled in. I didn't get a picture of the ravine because it was too dark and in the morning we were socked in again. Fourth trip and still have no picture. In the morning we had very poor visibility. The weather was nice but overcast and in the fog. We hiked up to knights castle that overlooks the ravine and could just make out the cabin below us as the clouds started to burn off. Due to the poor visibility Mike and I decided to forgo the summit of Adams. Hope to make a repeat trip in March.

- John Klebes -

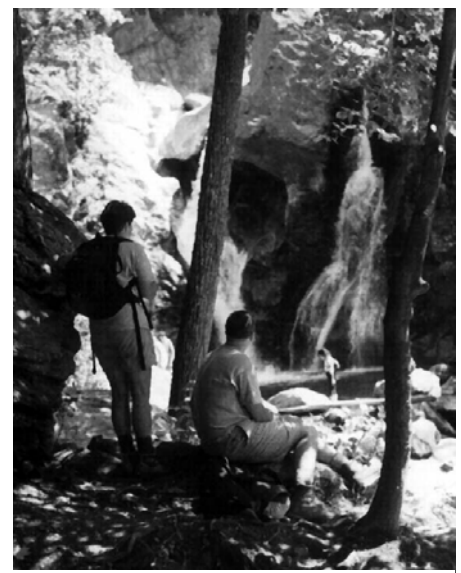
Hiking Bash Bish Falls

by Sandy Lisella

The weather couldn't have been more perfect and the hike was both invigorating and tranquil. We hiked up one side of the falls which was a decent

incline offering everyone some good cardiovascular exercise (and a few bee stings along the way). As we neared our destination the woods opened up almost like a door welcoming us to view and partake of its hidden refreshment. We traversed down to the stream where we hung out for a while soaking up the sun, the open sky, the vast rock formations, the tranquil pools and the cascading mini-falls -- a mere curtain raiser for the grand finale! Crossing the stream without soaking our hiking shoes was nearly impossible for us short-legged folks, but with a little help from Dick and his hiking stick, we all made it over no worse for wear. We hiked up the other side of the falls stopping at lookout point to have lunch. After hanging out there for a while we hiked down a very well-groomed path to our final destination -- the base of the falls. The falls were flowing strongly, although I don't believe they were at their full strength. Some of us took our hiking shoes off and refreshed our feet in the VERY cold water. Others from the group sat in private areas to meditate (or sleep!) Although there was an abundance of sightseers that day, the thunder of the falls provided almost a white noise (or should I say wet noise), which nearly silenced their voices.

After about an hour of being



Bash Bish Falls
photo by Sandy Lisella



Bash Bish Falls (Aug 26, 2000) - photo by Sandy Lisella

mesmerized by the whole waterfall experience, the group headed back to the vehicles where we exchanged names, phone numbers and email addresses. Gary apparently led a convoy to get ice cream afterward while others of us headed back home. This was my very first hiking experience as a new PVHC member. I didn't know a single soul when we met up in the morning and headed out, but in no time at all I felt completely comfortable and safe. The experience was just what the doctor ordered! It was a feast for the senses and the image of the day will stay vivid in my memory for a very long time.

Thank you for letting me share,
- Sandy Lisella -

Something to Think About

by Ray Tibbetts

On our recent camping trip across the country; what we found as far as minimum impact or saving the environment. We found many different views and ideas. Most of what we found was different from what we were used to. Overall what we found is that the people (in general) in the northeast are very lax or lazy when it comes to protecting our forest. I think its

because we take for granted that it will always be there. (myself included).

We camped in almost every state and national park and the evidence of things like camp fires, going to the bath room in the woods, leaving trash, even washing up and

showers, became an issue. Some rivers and lakes didn't permit any form of motorized units on it.

We saw wildlife on the shores of the river that was spectacular, but were told by guides that it was becoming less and less because of the motorboats polluting the water and people leaving trash. On the Salmon River we had to carry a special unit to go to the bathroom, the land and water was so fragile. Fires while camping (which everyone loves) became less and less as we traveled west, for various reasons, using up resources which kill the trees which make the animals go away because they didn't have food to eat. We went places that fined you if you got off the trail for any reason. We also kayaked in places that were so beautiful and clear water, because they didn't permit motors, fires, or cleaning fish in the water.

Learning to take a bath in the woods is inconvenient but we have to do it. Not only to keep clean and healthy, but to protect our lakes and streams. The farther west we went the more fragile things got. What we enjoy in the northeast is fantastic, but won't last if we don't change our ways. Fires in the wilderness was nonexistent, fires in established campgrounds were discouraged but permitted. We couldn't leave anything out at night because of animals. Rangers told

us our food not only changed there habit of finding food, but made them sick and in some cases, and changed there whole life cycle. We saw evidence of the so-called biodegradable items and what they did and are doing. Different parts of this country are more concerned than we are because they have lost what we still have and in some cases take for granted. I believe that God left us in charge of this planet. It's about time that we took that responsibility. We are all guilty in some form or another. We need to talk it over and become more aware of what we do in the woods

- Ray Tibbetts -

These Boots Are Made for Walking

by Marilyn Martino

We all know someone who has been affected by breast cancer – a wife, mother, sister, daughter, friend, co-worker... Recently a long-time friend was diagnosed and has to go the full route (you know what I mean).

I decided to help in a way I could and I am requesting your support. I will be joining thousands of others who will be participating in the **Boston Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day (60 mile) Walk** on May 18-20. In its seven-year existence this effort has raised nearly \$80 million for breast cancer research, care and support services.

I will have more information by mid-January, but know that you can spread your pledge over 10 months on your credit card, e.g., a \$100 donation can be paid \$10 per month – it won't hurt at all and it's a tax deduction. Plus, all pledge information goes directly from you to the campaign (so, no worries, I won't have your credit info for a personal shopping spree.)

Please contact me if you have any questions, want a pledge form or are thinking about joining me on the trek -- I welcome your call, need your support and would love the company. mbmartino@juno.com or telephone 562-0012.

UPCOMING HIKES AND EVENTS

Early February

Movie & Dinner Evening (see schedule for day, time, and meeting place).

Come with Gary Dolgoff and Jane Glushik on a spirited "Movie and Dinner Evening"! (Followed by a stroll). We will go to a film theatre, then have dinner together, during which we can discuss the movie, and just generally 'chat around'. For those of you who still have the energy after dinner, we will walk off the food, with a stroll (length of the walk determined by the weather, and the general 'mood of the crowd')... Any questions, etc.- call Gary at 413- 584-8564. Best time to call- 9-11 pm.

February 16-19, 2001

Springfield Camping & Outdoor Show at the "Big E"

The Hiking Club will have our own booth again this year at the Springfield Camping & Outdoor Show at the "Big E" fair grounds in West Springfield. Volunteers are needed to help work the booth. Please signup at the January or February meetings or you can call me at (413) 786-3620. Volunteers for Monday are especially needed.

- John F. Klebes -

February 17, 2001

Ashley Reservoir

Florinda Peck will lead a hike around Ashley Reservoir at 10:00am on Saturday February 17th. Meet at the Ashley Reservoir. The directions to the reservoirs is as follows: Take I-91 north to exit 15, (Holyoke Mall), turn left at the lights at the bottom of the ramp.....go through next set of lights and turn right at the next lights on to Homestead Ave. ...go to next set of lights at rte. 202 and turn left.....go

approx. 1/2 mile to Ashely, take a left and park there in front of the gate.

- Florinda -

Early March

Hike and Birthday cafe-fest! (See Schedule)

Join John-Paul Boisvert, Gary Dolgoff, and Jane Glushik, on an easy-moderate walk followed by a visit to an Italian 'pastry and coffee' place, to celebrate two birthdays! After the pastries and- perhaps an urban 'stroll', to 'walk off', all that goodness!!

March 9-11, 2001

Grey Knob Cabin Backpacking on Mt. Adams in the Whites

Join us as we take the Lowe's Path, 3.5 miles to either Grey Knob Cabin at treeline, Crag Camp on the edge of King Ravine, or tenting at the Perch, depending on availability. Weather permitting; we will attempt the summit of Mt. Adams, 2nd highest peak in the northeast. Summit attempt is optional. Overnight fee at the camps is \$8.00 and winter camping clothing and equipment is required. Call hike coordinator for details and to review equipment.

- John Klebes -

March 17, 2001

McLeans Reservoir

Florinda Peck will lead a hike around McLeans Reservoir at 10:00am on Saturday February 17th. Meet at the McLeans Reservoir. The directions to the reservoirs is as follows: Take I-91 north to exit 15, (Holyoke Mall), turn left at the lights at the bottom of the ramp.....go through next set of lights and turn right at the next lights on to Homestead Ave. ...go to next set of lights at rte. 202 and turn left.....go

approx. 1 mile to McLeans (1/2 mile past Ashley Reservoir) and park on the right side of 202...will have to cross the street for the entrance.

- Florinda -

Friends of the Mt. Holyoke Range:

Jan 28th, 9:30am

Suits & Boots:

Enjoy a hike on a cold winter's morning and soak in a hot tub after! We'll meet at the main gate of J.A. Skinner State Park, Route 47, Hadley, for an easy 3-5 mile hike. After the workout, we'll go to East Heaven Hot Tubs in Northampton for a 1/2 hour soak in the tubs. Please feel free to join us for the hiking portion only, if you wish. Preregistration is required by Jan 21st. Leader: Suzanne Love 586-8553.

Feb 10th, 10:30am

A Poetic Journey

Come hike the Robert Frost Trail with poetry. We will do a nice, easy, hike along the Robert Frost Trail, connect with Northside/Sweet Alice Trails back to the visitor center. Bring your favorite lines of poetry, if you wish. Meet at the Notch Visitor Center. Leader: Suzanne Love 586-8553. Snow shoes or crampons may be necessary. Foul weather cancels. Bring lunch and drinking water.

March 10th, 10:30am

Lithia Springs Reservoir

Explore Lithia Springs in late winter. We'll meet at the Notch Visitor Center and carpool a short way to the trailhead. From there we will hike or snowshoe along easy trails to the Lithia Springs Reservoir. We'll stop for lunch and then loop back to the beginning. Snowshoes may be necessary. Bring lunch and drinking water. Leader: Suzanne Love 586-8553.

**Florinda Peck shares a poem
she wrote about the Christmas Party:**

*Pioneer Valley Hiking Club
It was sure good to join you this year.
I was blessed by many friendships
I will cherish in the coming years!*

*We hike the beautiful mountains
all year long, even when it snows,
we get rosy cheeks and boy do they glow!*

*The Christmas Party was such fun
I'm not even making a pun.....
No one had too much of a bubbly brew,
that's why were all such a healthy crew!*

*Good times were had by all
at the wee hours, we danced and had a ball!*

*The food was a plenty, from nuts to
cakes, to the end of the pantry!*

*Gifts were given and welcomed received
to many to mention I can't even perceive.*

*So come join us next year,
if you've a mind for good cheer.
The same group of people who gathered
this year.*

*They'll be greeting you---not with bells on their toes,
but a kind and smiling face that's not full of woes.*

*Looking forward to all the activities
there's so many to choose from I need to decide--
but I know there always will be a ride.*

*May God bless you each and everyone,
and have a great millennium!!*

Florinda

Membership Directory Update

Membership Directories were distributed at the Holiday Party and January Meeting. Those who have not picked them up will have them mailed during the second week of January. Please make note of the following amendments to the directory:

1. **Fran Frimbel** - please delete inactive email address.
2. **Marion Germino** - correct email address should be: mariongermino@mediaone.net
3. **Marty Tilden** - new email address: jaybirds15@hotmail.com

PS: Thanks Jane Glushik for all your help with the type setting.

- John Klebes -

FOR SALE:

For Sale: X-country Ski equipment new and used. Adults and children sizes. Solomon boots and bindings. Many sizes available. Call Rob Schechtman 860-668-2758.

For Sale: Two pairs of Winter Mountaineering Boots

- Koflach "Degree" Mountaineering Boots, Men's size 7-1/2, worn once. Purchased new for \$260.00, yours for \$90.00.
- Asolo Mountaineering Boots, Men's size 7-1/2, worn twice, for sale for \$75.00.
Call Doug Borgatti (413) 532-1576

PVHC CARDS!!! Yes! We have new, up-to-date ones! If you want some to give out (in case some of your friends, or the people you just 'bump into', might want to 'check it out'), let us know.

- Gary Dolgoff -

{Special thanks to Jane Glushik for having them made-up for the club}



Book Review

A Walk in the Woods

"Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail" by Bill Bryson

I stumbled on this book at the library and found its mix of humor, silliness, and true trail experiences refreshing and lighthearted. I wanting to share my great find with others but, alas, I find that I may be one of the few people who haven't discovered this gem. I really felt empathy for the humorous, and sometimes not so humorous, accounts of the impact long trail hiking has on the everyday person. This is not a book about an experienced, well trained, athlete fulfilling his dream. Bryson's comical account of how he learns to hike his own version of the Appalachian Trail will keep you laughing page after page. More then once I could see myself getting lost, moody, or troubled by the tribulations experienced by the author. But for those of us that dream of someday hiking the great AT Bryson say's it best when he describes his excitement and sense of achievement. Where else can one ... "be able to stand with my left foot in one state and my right foot in the other and pee across state lines?" This was a fun book to read.

- John Klebes -

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees

Rob Schechtman, President (860) 205-5351
 John Klebes, Vice President (413) 786-3620
 Jennifer Lamothe, Secretary (413) 562-4061
 Joyce Berg, Treasurer (413) 786-4404
 Scott Cook, *Wilderness Experiences Unlimited*
 Ray Tibbetts, Founder

Standing Committee Chairs

Trail Maintenance:	Joe Zawrotny
Hike Planning Coordinator:	Dick & Sue Forest
Backpacking Coordinator:	Mike Rattelle
PVHC Web Page Editor:	Ron Gaudreau
Intranet Site/Email List:	Terry Cripps
Bootprints Editor:	John Klebes
Quartermaster:	Wayne Rodrigues
Membership:	Ann Mundy & Dottie Gates

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:
February 6, 2001, 7pm at WEU
March 6, 2001, 7pm at WEU
- ❑ Next Hike Planning Meeting:
February 13, 2001, 7pm at WEU
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: February 27, 2001
- ❑ **Special Note:** Elections will be held for New Club Officers at the February 6th Club Meeting

***Join the PVHC Email List by sending a message to Terry at bakpak@javanet.com.

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Southwick, MA 01077

