

# BOOTPRINTS

## Ocean & Seashore Hikes in 2001

By John Klebes

Last issue I told the tale of our Cape Cod Adventure to the Great Island Trail. Since then we have completed the rest of the Ocean & Seashore Hiking Series with three more great hikes. On June 17<sup>th</sup> we explored the coastline of Rhode Island from the vantage point of the famous Newport Cliff Walk.

We followed with a leisurely summer walk of the Connecticut Shoreline, with views into Long Island Sound, as we explored the many wonders of Bluff Point State Park on August 5<sup>th</sup>.



And during August 24-28<sup>th</sup> we had the Grandest Hikes of all as we took in a whirl-wind tour of every major hiking feature within the Acadia National Park in Maine. For more on the Grand tour of Acadia see page 2.

- John Klebes



## SUZANNE LOVE'S 'ASSAULT' ON MT. ASCUTNEY! (8/19).

Yep- you really missed, a 'great one' (those of you who didn't attend.)... Suzanne is a competent, lively, and interactive hike leader, who makes all her 'troops' feel at ease, and all... There were ten of us; the day was sunny, beautiful; we did a 2000-foot elevation gain, in 2.9 miles, or so. It was billed mod/strenuous and it was. Pace was reasonable, and despite my slowness on these 'big hills'- I did not feel unduly pushed, to go 'super-fast'. The views- and of course, the camaraderie- were TERRIFIC! After the hike, a few of us stopped, and got us some good ol' ice cream... So- I say to y'all- next time you are 'sitting on your duff', and feel the need to be 'inspired': come on one of our journeys, and 'take a hike!' - with us...

- Gary Dolgoff

## Tully Lake Hike

by John Klebes

What better way to spend a summer weekend than hiking, swimming, canoeing, and camping along side a tranquil blue water lake dotted with islands? Add a cool breeze and waterfalls and you have another fantastic PVHC outing.

Seventeen of us set out for a relaxing hike around Tully Lake that included great views of the lake and islands with Tully Mountain in the background. We hiked around the Tully Dam and lakeside trails and topped it off with a picnic lunch beside the thundering Doane's Falls. We watched in awe as some of the local college kids jumped from the rock cliffs into the deep pools around the falls.

After our hike we set up camp along the lake at Tully Campground and sat back to enjoyed the sun at our waterside campsite. A nice breeze swept the campsite keeping the mosquitoes away as the five day hikers joined twelve campers for an appetizer of chips and salsa from Rob (complements of Lisa Frigo).

Later we took turns canoeing around the lake. Anne Marie and Dave came back from their canoe outing with tales of up close encounters with beaver's and a lake otter while exploring the coves around the lake. Calli and Leah had

their own wildlife encounter while swimming beside the campsite as a small snake sauntered by with his head above the water. This didn't stop the brave Leah from swimming along side this miniature sea serpent and having a ball in the lake.

After the day hikers had left, and nightfall brought a sky full of stars, we enjoyed smores by the campfire. What better way to spend a summer weekend?

- John Klebes

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## Acadia National Park "The Grand Tour"

by John Klebes

They don't call them National Parks for nothing and as the only major National Park in New England, Acadia lives up to it's fame as the crown jewels of Maine.

Seventeen of us arrived at our basecamp at the Blackwood Campground on Friday afternoon. Our group camp site was a little on the small side and quickly took on the feel of a major expedition as we erected close to a dozen multi-colored tents and a screen house. As a finishing touch we hung the PVHC banner out to warn unsuspecting visitors of the terror that awaited those that might wander into our tent city.

After setting up camp many of us

took the short walk down to the ocean cliffs to climb on the rocks and watch the sunset by the water.

### The Beehive

On Saturday morning we started out on the famous "Beehive" trail. zigzagging up ledges, switchbacks, and near vertical rock faces. We scrambled up with the help of iron ladder rungs drilled into the rock. From our vantage point at top the 520 feet tall rock we had spectacular views of Sand Beach, Great Head, and Frenchman Bay. The waters of Sand Beach were a bright blue/green in the sunlight and the view of the islands was fantastic.

We continued around the backside of the Beehive to a large mountain pond called "The Bowl" and followed the Bowl Trail across Halfway Mountain to the Gorham Mountain Trail. As we climbed the ridge to Gorham Mountain we had vast panoramic views of the Atlantic coast. Descending from Gorham we discovered huge boulders and ancient sea caves of the Cadillac Cliffs before stopping for a lunch on the rocks. Our return was by way of the "Ocean Path" that follows the rugged shoreline from a little north of Otter Cliffs back to Sand Beach. Along the way some of us found spots to try out a little boulder climbing along the shore before reaching the famous "Thunder Hole" where the waves crash into a channel-like pocket in the rocks to create a loud thunder noise.



Hiking along Tully Lake Trail (photo by John Klebes)



Tully Lake Campground (photo by John Klebes)

## Echo Lake

On Saturday afternoon a group of us spent the late afternoon on the beach of "Echo Lake" swimming or enjoying the sun. Echo Lake is surrounded on one side by tall cliffs. As tired as we were it did not take long to realize the fantastic view that could be had by climbing to the top of those cliffs. Up the more adventures went via the Beech Cliff's Trail, a steep rock path that included four vertical ladders, to the top of the cliffs that towered over the beach.

## The Grand Acadia Traverse

We got up early on Sunday morning for this was the day planned for "The Grand Acadia Traverse". The Acadia Traverse is the brainchild of Michael Lanza and is listed as one of the top ten Hardest Day hikes in the Northeast. The traverse covers the six highest summits in Acadia and zigzags through most of the steepest trails in the park. Most of the time you're above treeline overlooking the surrounding ocean, islands, ponds and rugged glacial terrain.

For most of us this was our first trip to Acadia and I was glad to see all seventeen of us make the arduous, but awe inspiring, route to Cadillac Mountain.

We started up the Bear Brook Trail past a beautiful mountain pond with a large beaver house visible in the middle, to the summit of Champlain Mountain. Within minutes of beginning our hike we enjoyed expanding views of Frenchman Bay spotted with islands.

We then followed the Beachcroft Trail over Huguenot Head. The trail swings around the summit of Huguenot on a long flat ridge walk with steep cliff sides. As we walked 270 degrees around the summit we had more great views finally spotting route 3 below us in front of another mountain pond named appropriately "The Tarn" (ponds formed high in the mountains are called tarns)

Here we were high on Huguenot Head with a road barely a few hundred feet away yet we were



**The Grand Acadia Traverse - Acadia National Park** (photo by Dick Forrest)

towering above it. How could this trail possibly lead down to the road in such a short distance? Well we quickly found out. The trail dropped off the ridgeline by way of stone terraces and steps that switched back and forth and seemed built directly into the side of the mountain. The rockwork was a piece of art as we rapidly descended the granite pile of boulders.

We passed the side of "The Tarn" and headed up another steep trail up Dorr Mountain. From the summit of Dorr we had unobstructed views back toward Champlain Mountain, Bar Harbor, and the islands of Frenchman Bay. Looking forward we saw the crowds scattered over the summit of Cadillac, our next destination.

We headed down the Dorr Mountain Notch Trail, which drops into the rugged and distinctive notch between Dorr and Cadillac, and up the open rock slopes to the summit of Cadillac Mountain. Cadillac, at 1530 feet, is the highest elevation on the Eastern seaboard.

Since Cadillac Mountain's summit is accessible from the park loop road there were a lot of non-hiking tourists joining us for our lunch break but it was nice to stop into the gift shop for some ice cream at the top of Acadia's highest

peak. This first 1/3 of the 14-mile Acadia traverse was a difficult but immensely rewarding hike with fantastic views and terrain. I'm proud to say all seventeen of our party made it and probably saw in one day more than most people see of Acadia in many cumulative visits.

At this point some of our group left the summit by car to try out biking on the parks many carriage roads around Jordan Pond and Bubble pond our returned to camp. Eleven of us continued on descending the Cadillac South Ridge to the West face of Cadillac and steeply down to Bubble Pond.

The north end of Bubble Pond had a picturesque beach that looked very inviting as we descended the step trail to the water. Much to our disappointment a sign warned that the pond was used as a water reservoir and no swimming was allowed. We crossed the carriage road and headed up Pemetic Mountain. The constant up and down was starting to take its toll as we became weary during the midpoint of the afternoon. Finally make the summit we continued south over the long, rocky ridge before descending to Jordan Pond and finally to well needed rest at the Pond House Restaurant. We filled our water bottles and stretched out for a short rest on the beautiful

lawns of the Pond House that overlooked Jordan Pond.

Two of our group took the convenient Park Shuttle bus back to Bar Harbor while the nine remaining members of the original seventeen pushed on to the final leg of our grand traverse.

We left the pond house by way of the Penobscot Mountain Trail, at one point climbing straight up steep and rocky terrain then over the rocky open summit of Penobscot. We then found the Sargent Pond Trail, which brought us to a tiny alpine pond nestled in a forest of conifers. From here we started our gradual, but constant, climb up the long ridgeline to the summit of Sargent Mountain. We hiked on large slabs of granite rocks and through alpine meadows but the constant up hill and many many false summits, Stephanie counted five, dulled our senses to the fantastic views that surrounded us.

The last section of the hike had some confusing turns but we all made it over Parkman mountain - not all off take the same route - and then down to our car for the return home. After a hot shower most of us found our way into Bar Harbor for a traditional New England seafood dinner. My fourteen-year-old daughter Stephanie said if she did the full hike I had to deliver on a lobster dinner!

### The Precipice

Monday was a more open day with many of the group going to see different parts of the Island. Some went into Bar Harbor to see the shops and find a Island boat tour, others to hike the Great Head Loop trail and enjoy Sand Beach, and others to enjoy the park by horse drawn carriage.

Despite the difficulty of the long hike the day before I was able to scare up a group of seven brave souls to try out the famous Precipice trail. The Precipice trail to the Peak of Champlain Mountain is considered Acadia's most challenging hike. It traverses huge boulders, steep overhanging rock ledges, and many iron ladders with breathtaking views and perilous drop offs.

On our return from the Precipice we stopped to explore the hidden "Anemone Cave" at the Schooner Head Overlook. This mysterious cave is only accessible at low tide and while there where no sea anemones it was filled with iridescent plants and small crabs and fish in the tide pools and swallow nests in the caves ceiling.

### The Park Loop Road

During the afternoon a small group of us took the 27-mile Park Loop road tour around the park with stops to walk through such features as Otter Cliffs, Otter Point, Sand Beach, the carriage horse stables, the Bubbles, Sieur de Monts Spring, and the Visitors Center.

On Tuesday we broke camp, and after a nice breakfast in Bar Harbor and a walk down to the docks to see the fishing boats, we took the long ride back home. Fantastic!!!

### PVHC Adopts M-M Trail Section 1&2

Join us on September 9<sup>th</sup> for our first official trail maintenance day on the newly adopted M-M Trail Sections 1&2. At our last meeting the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club enthusiastically supported a long-term Trail Maintenance presence by agreeing to adopt sections 1 & 2 of the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail. Given the recent certification of the



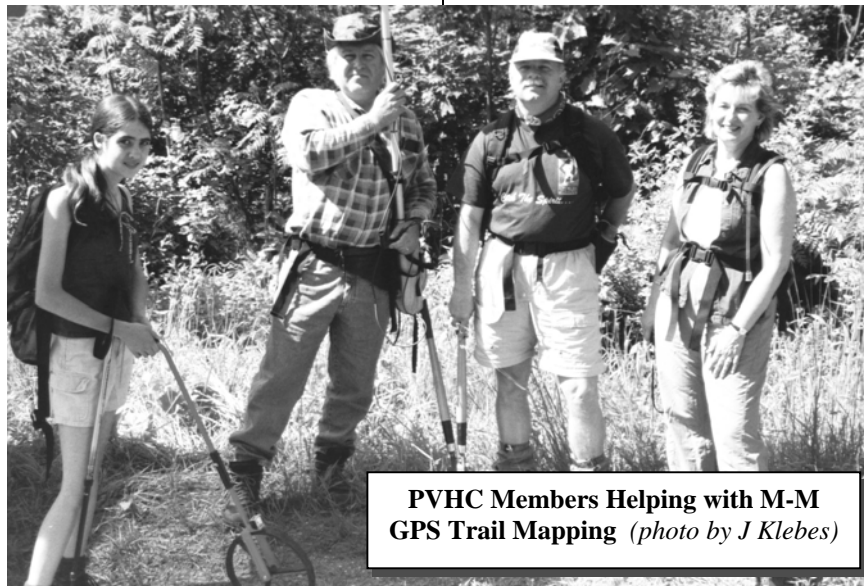
Metacomet-Monadnock Trail

public land sections of the M-M Trail as a "National Recreation Trail," and the fact that this scenic portion of the trail is in our back yard, it seems very appropriate for us to establish this project as a legacy for the club.

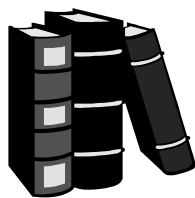
As a first step four of us from PVHC joined with the AMC to help with formal GPS mapping and data collection as part of the DEM Recreation Trails Program Grant to map the M-M trail. On June 9<sup>th</sup> Carol Vanderheiden, Dave Koerber, John Klebes and Stephanie Klebes joined Pat Fletcher of the AMC to help map out section 1 & 2. We each took turns using the GPS tracking systems, reviewing the guidebook accuracy, noting in a journal critical notes and trail maintenance issues, and pushing a distance measuring wheel. It was a lot of hard work and also a lot of fun.

As we go forward with our adoption of the M-M trail section 1& 2 we look forward to the support of many more of you as we make this project something for PVHC to be proud of.

- John Klebes



PVHC Members Helping with M-M GPS Trail Mapping (photo by J Klebes)



## Book Review

***TOUCH the Top of the WORLD*** – “A Blind Man’s Journey to climb farther than the eye can see”

*My Story by Eric Weihenmayer*

**E**ver try rock climbing while blindfolded? How about climbing 8000-meter peaks with your eyes closed?

Back in 1999 my son and I tried out rock climbing for the first time. I mentioned to the instructor that I had a fear of heights and she suggested something a little out of the ordinary. “Try climbing blindfolded, you will forget about how high you are and be more focused at your climbing skills.” Well believe it or not I tried it and was impressed with how you could find holds that you can’t see and have confidence in your ability without seeing where you are. Holds that I had no confidence in when I saw them with my eyes became rock solid when felt and envisioned with you’re mind. When I saw Erik Weihenmayer’s book, “*Touch the Top of the World*,” I found I just had to read it to understand what it would be like to climb big peaks without your vision.

While a good part of the first half of the book is about Erick growing up and slowly losing his vision during his early teen years his writing style captures your interest on a very human level. Reliving his experiences gave me a new respect for the difficulties blind people have and how one has to find totally different approaches to solve problems of navigation.

The second half of the book is as exciting and involving as any of the top mountaineering stories as Erik tells his story about his climbs of Mt. McKinley, El Capitan, Kilimanjaro, and Argentina’s Aconcagua.

I fully expected a major part of these big climbs to include others

going out of their way to make up for Erik’s disability. I was dead wrong. Erik’s achievements are a classic example of the group being stronger than the sum of the individuals as Erik’s skills complement and enhance the teams climbing successes. This is not the story of a team dragging a blind guy to the summit but a true integrated team sharing skills and leveraging each to his best ability. Erik excelled at endurance and came to the rescue more than once to help his teammates and they him.

I’d recommend this excellent book not because it’s a story of the achievements of a blind mountaineer but because it’s an exciting story about mountaineering, ambition, and achievement. It just

so happens to involve someone with the vision to see beyond his eyes.

PS. Congratulations Erik on you successfully summit of Everest this year.

- Reviewed by John Klebes

***Someone told me that blind people need to realize their limitations; but I think it’s more exciting to realize my potential.***

Eric Weihenmayer



**Riga Plateau Backpacking on the AT**  
(photo by Scott Aschenbach)



# UPCOMING HIKES AND EVENTS

## Sept 20<sup>th</sup> & Oct 18<sup>th</sup>

### MORE- NORTHAMPTON DINNER/WALK/MOVIE NIGHTS!

Come join our sociable group- led by Gary Dolgoff- as we peruse the interesting- and tasty- restaurants, of mighty Northampton! We then take a 1-2 or 3 mile stroll (optional for attendees)- usually through the hallowed grounds of Smith College. Afterwards- for some of us 'PM folks'- we select a movie to see, usually in one of the local 'Noho' theatres! (With good- and affordable- popcorn)...

Dates for these events, are on the hiking schedule- or just call Gary Dolgoff at 413-584-8564...

## Sun, September 23rd

### 'BASH-BISH FALLS' HIKE! FEEL THE WONDER!

Gary and his coleader Lisa Hayes, will lead a 'blessed journey (moderate), through some beautiful woods- plus great views; and end up, at the MIGHTY 'BASH-BISH!' Pace will be moderate (I am slow on uphill; but, you will have a great workout).... -For more details, consult the hiking schedule, or- call.

Gary Dolgoff (413-584-8564)

## Sat, October 27th

### NEW YORK FALL EXTRAVAGANZA:

The Bronx Zoo, plus dinner in Little Italy! (Led by Jane Glushik and Gary Dolgoff)

-Time to 'roll out the New York- red carpet', anew! We will have a great time, as always; (hopefully) a chartered bus; a number of hours in that 'Greatest Zoo in the U.S.'. (Gary has been to the zoo countless times, while living in NY most of his life; plus, we will have another guest appearance by none other than Larry Stack, as well as a 'bunch of members', of the NY AMC (those who met them on our last Club 'NY extravaganza', commented on how 'nice those New Yorkers were'; 'how friendly', and all)....-Larry always prepares well for his 'group soliloquies', performed by him with- shall we say-'gusto'. He is quite entertaining, and informing as well. (Those who wish to, may 'wander off' for the afternoon, or part of it; we will try to have Zoo maps, for those who wish one)...

The Zoo itself, gives most animals, birds, etc- plenty of 'breathing room'- wait till you go on the monorail ride, and see large animals, 'just bein' themselves'; the Lily Acheson World of Birds, with jungle foliage, and exotic birds flying around you; the World of Darkness; and, so much more!! -After the

zoo, the bus will take us to Little Italy, for dinner; a truly full, and enlivening- day!

Jane and I plan to collect \$25 from each member who wishes to go. -Please get the money to us, 'the sooner the better'; as soon as we have collected enough money, we can reserve the bus! -Please make out checks to Jane Glushik. You can either send it to her, or give it to me at the Club meeting (pref. Sept.'s). Any questions; feel free to email (or call: 413-584-8564)

Gary Dolgoff

## Irish Walking Untour

Mar 30 – Apr 6, 2002

This trip is limited to 20 people. We will travel in the Southwest of Ireland mainly in Counties Cork & Kerry and end our trip in County Clare. We will do most of our hiking on the Beara Peninsula. An informational meeting will be held on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Marica Kelly



## PVHC Mailbox

Kayak Opportunity:

I own two Perception Swiftly kayaks and I am looking for people who would like to try some paddling on local rivers. The kayaks are nine feet long and they are a lot of fun. I live in Enfield, CT.



Jeff Mills (860) 698-9133

Dear PVHC:

Once again its Big E time but this year we find ourselves very short staffed- I am hoping to enlist some volunteers to sign on for a couple of hours to help us. We just need bodies so our staff person is not alone. This means club

members can come and talk to the public about PVHC and hand out fliers! I will gladly supply admission tickets to those who will seriously commit to at least 1 three hour shift- volunteers are mostly needed - 9am-noon, 4pm-7pm, & 7pm-10pm on any of the 17 days. I am unable to supply parking but we would appreciate the help. Please put this out to the membership and I will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting.

Thanks Laura Cook (Wilderness Experiences Unlimited)

Fellow Club Members,

This month's issue of the Bootprints is a little thin on contributions. With all the great adventures we have had this summer I thought more people would have contributed stories. It seems it's always the same three or four people contribute and it would be nice to see some new authors giving their impressions of the clubs events. Remember each of our clubs activities is organized by one of your fellow members. One of the best ways to say thank you for a great trip is to write about it in Bootprints for all to see. It really makes the hike coordinator feel appreciated and it lets others know about trips they missed.

Contributions can be anything related to the clubs field of interest:

- Write-ups of your favorite trip.
- Educational articles that teach basics or advanced techniques relevant to our club's activities.
- Classified ads for private sales of outdoor related equipment.
- Equipment and gear reviews.
- Upcoming events - "sell up your next hike or event"
- Pictures with or without text for inclusion in either the Bootprints or our web page.
- Send in your favorite outdoor related web site.
- Read a great outdoor related book lately? Send in a review.

Please send your Bootprints contribution to the editor at: klebes@aol.com or by US mail at: John Klebes, 157 Thalia Drive, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

-John Klebes

## Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

### September Renewals:

Shari Cox  
 Dick & Sue Forrest  
 Cal & Suzie Gauss  
 Barry & AnnMarie Higgins  
 Maryann Hogan  
 Donna Jago  
 Donald Leis  
 Linda Malcovsky  
 Sheila Messer  
 Wm Nickerson  
 Cecile Roosa  
 Bob Sabbides  
 Chris Saint Germain  
 Marty Schoenemann  
 Karen Siemering

### October Renewals:

Donna Blanchard  
 Betty Channing  
 James Curran  
 Patrica Delgaudio  
 Robert Eccleston  
 Fran Fimbel  
 Donna Fleury  
 Winona Flynn  
 Barbara Graf  
 Mike Gross  
 Elaine Massery  
 Carl Platts  
 Dave Rotondo  
 Kathryn Steinbock  
 Bruce Tingle  
 Sue Ziff

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:

Shari Cox, PVHC Treasurer  
 223 Gifford Street  
 Springfield, MA 01118

## For Sale:

Kelty Trekker 4300.  
 Used once. Over 10  
 points for adjustments  
 and a telescoping frame.  
 \$85.

Carl Brothers 413.594.2197



## For Sale:

Dave's Deals: zero-degree sleeping bag, gas grills, backpacks, buttpacks, goretex pants, goretex boots, knives, pocket multi-tools, micro LED lites, pocket stoves, solid fuel bars, water/wind proof matches, space blankets, tent pole repair kits, freeze dried foods, hike/ski poles, lite sticks, glow sticks, MRE food packs, drink mix packs, batteries ("C", "D", "AA" Energizers, "AA" Lithiums, 6-volt Lithiums), lantern mantles, spare flashlight bulbs, fleece socks, gloves, first aid kit, krill lites, vortex head lites, primus fuel, coleman fuel, face goggles, ropes, etc.

Contact Dave Rotondo at 860.668.7721

## Congratulations to the M&M's

On July 14<sup>th</sup> 2001 PVHC  
 Members Mike Gross & Monica  
 Kendra Exchanged Marriage  
 Vows in Skinner State Park, MA

PVHC wishes you both  
 happiness.

## Bookmark Your New Club Website!

at

**"<http://www.geocities.com/pvhcweb>"**

Our club's webpage has a new and exciting look to it. The background image has a footprint as a backdrop for the entire site. We have a navigation bar on each page of the site for easy navigation. We also have text links at the bottom of each page for the same reason - easy navigation.

Ron Gaudreau started the PVHC website, and has done a terrific job with it. This is just an extension of Ron's fine work. Both Ron and Dick Forrest will be helping to maintain the new site.

Other pages in the website include:

1. The "hikes page" will list the date, day, where the hike will be, the leader, time and location for each upcoming scheduled hike or activity.
2. There is also a "club info page" to give basic club information and to gather information about potential new members.
3. A "picture gallery page" will allow us to post the latest pictures from any club activity.
4. A "past events page" will give a representative overview of current yearly club activities.
5. A "site map page" will give a table of contents type of overview to the site.
6. And finally, a "links page" will have links to other sites that have interesting information for our members.

If you have contributions to the site or comments about how the site might be improved, please talk to either the club executive committee members, or Ron, or Dick.

In the meantime, happy web surfing, and please bookmark our site!

- Dick Forrest

Don't be afraid to take a big step. You  
 can't cross a chasm in two small jumps.

- David Lloyd George

## Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees

Rob Schechtman, President (860) 668-1321  
 John Klebes, Vice President (413) 786-3620  
 AnnMarie Visconti, Secretary (413) 547-2729  
 Shari Cox, Treasurer (413) 796-1326  
 Scott Cook, *Wilderness Experiences Unlimited*  
 Ray Tibbetts, Founder

### Standing Committee Chairs

Trail Maintenance: Joe Zawrotny & Scott Aschenbach  
 Hike Planning Coordinator: Dick & Sue Forest  
 Backpacking Coordinator: Mike Rattelle  
 PVHC Web Page Editor: Ron Gaudreau & Dick Forrest  
 PVHC Email List: Terry Cripps & John Klebes  
 Bootprints Editor: John Klebes  
 Quartermaster: Jack Leary

*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, 157 Thalia Drive, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.*

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:  
October 2, 2001, 7pm at WEU  
November 6, 2001, 7pm at WEU
- ❑ Next Hike Planning Meeting:  
October 9, 2001, 7pm at WEU
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: October 23, 2001
- ❑ **SPECIAL NOTE:** Please plan on helping out on September 9<sup>th</sup> for our first official trail maintenance day on the M-M Trail Sections 1&2.

\*\*\* 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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**Pioneer Valley Hiking Club**  
 c/o Wilderness Experiences Unlimited, Inc.  
 526 College Highway  
 Southwick, MA 01077

