

BOOTPRINTS

Volume 7 Issue 1

January 2003



Award Presentations and Door Prizes at the PVHC Holiday Party

Strawbery Banke "A Christmas Tradition"

By Al Goodhind

PORTSMOUTH, NH

Step back in history and experience life from the late 1600's to the 1950's in this neighborhood known as Puddle Dock. This is exactly what 31 club members and guests did on December 7th. Known today as Strawbery Banke Museum, it offers a glimpse of everyday lives of everyday people spanning over four centuries. It was named by the first settlers in 1630 for the profusion of wild berries found on the shores of the Piscataqua River.

The 23rd Annual Candlelight Stroll gives visitors an opportunity to explore 300 years of holiday celebrations among 700 luminaries along every lane. Eighteen different buildings are open, some with costumed



role-players, which allow you to experience life during different eras of our history. Our group split up into small groups to explore all that was offered.

One could visit with Mrs. Goodwin to experience an 1870 Victorian Christmas. See how the Jewish celebrate Hanukkah at the Shapiro house and watch Mrs. Shapiro make latkes. Have hot or

cold cider and cranberry bread in the Cider Shed while being entertained by the instrumental string music of the Alryki Trio. These were three teen-age girls who played Christmas music on their violins.

Some of us took a carriage ride around the property while others warmed up at the huge bonfire. In Pitt Tavern you could converse with Colonial soldiers. I asked if they had seen any Redcoats lately and was told "I haven't smelled one yet this evening." At any given time you could hear the strolling carolers singing holiday selections. New this year were two live reindeer to pet and photograph.

In addition to Strawbery Banke eleven "hikers" walked Marginal Way along Perkins Cove in Ogunquit, ME earlier that morning. Along the way we watched surfers catching some great waves. After Strawbery Banke we watched the Annual Portsmouth Holiday Parade. This included 800 Participants, 25 illuminated floats and live bands. Mardi Gras it wasn't but the parade was fun to watch as it seemed half of the population was in the parade.

Congratulations to our Year 2002 Recognition Award Recipients

**Frank Kamlowksi
Mike Gross
Marcia Kelly
Gary Dolgoff**

During this years Holiday Party we awarded 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 50+ Event Coordinators who volunteered their leadership over the past year. We than gave special recognition to our top three leaders for their contributions over the year. In addition, this year the Executive Board awarded a SPECIAL Recognition Award to Frank Kamlowksi for his years of volunteered leadership including chairing the club's picnic in 2001, holiday party in 2002, and numerous trail maintenance days with Bartholomews Cobble, among many other contributions. Thanks to all of you that volunteer your time to make this club the best in the area.

It was a terrific small-town celebration of the holiday season.

The evening ended for many of us at the "Friendly Toast" which is a quirky 50's-type eating place in downtown Portsmouth. It serves breakfast all day with real home fries along with many unusual choices. The food is good.

The club had last done this trip two years ago. We usually offer it every two years. The Candlelight Stroll is held the first two weekends in December on Saturday and Sunday from 4-9pm. It is a great way to bring in the holidays.

- Al Goodhind

My 'Walk In The Woods'

By Marie Bienvenue

I'm writing this in response to the desperate plea from the editor (John Klebes) for contributions to the next edition of *Footprints*. (Although this could end up being a story with the moral of 'Be careful of what you ask for-you just might get it!').

The last hike I went on was an ambitious one of 7 or 8 miles (depending on who you ask and at what point in the hike you inquire with totals rising the longer the hike lasts). Before the hike I made sure to call the hike leader to find out a little more about the intensity of the hike. I've found this to be a good idea since the hike may have been canceled or otherwise changed and I do not relish the idea of rolling out of bed early on my day off to find it was all for naught. (Lesson #1 for new hikers-and this is a very valuable tip-GRILL your leader in advance so there will be no surprises on the trip!). Unfortunately the answers I received only served to calm my fears rather than exacerbate them, which should clue you in to how attuned I am to reality and what a poor interrogator I'd make! (Lesson #2- Know who it is you are asking to evaluate the ease of this hike and snicker to yourself when they tell you "It's fairly easy." 'They' scale world renowned summits-OF

COURSE this is easy for THEM!) I was foolishly placated with our leaders description when suddenly my antennae picked up the quick reference to the innocuous sounding, but dreaded, STREAM CROSSING! (Lesson #3- When the hike leader says there is a 'stream crossing' and that leader is John Klebes or Mike Gross-although not necessarily limited to those two, they have led many hikes and certainly the most 'stream crossings' -- you must understand this may mean you have to FORD A RIVER! Now they will argue semantics (while chuckling to themselves) and say that these are only 'streams', but I personally consider any body of water too wide for me to cross without getting my feet wet, a RIVER! From my experience they tend to define as a stream anything less than 6 feet deep, and God only knows how wide, since I've crossed so-called 'streams' that were probably 20 feet across with no bridge--man made OR natural--to take me from one side to the other. You can imagine how the fun of this increases exponentially with each 10 degree drop in ambient temperature below a (for me) comfortable, let's say 70 degrees, with the water temperature not much warmer than the cold night air, which on this cooler than normal early November hike was probably in the low 30's! I only briefly mention this so inexperienced hikers will not be stunned-uh-er-surprised when confronted with these minor inconveniences.

Anyway, the day of our hike was on a crisp (isn't that a cool word -- crisp-so English sounding!) Autumn day which made for perfect hiking weather. The trail we took I initially, but incorrectly, thought was THE M+M trail but later found out it was ANOTHER one-the Mahican-Mohawk Trail also located in W. Mass. (I think I hid my disappointment as well as could be expected under the circumstances.) It wasn't a strenuous trail. It was pretty level which was good for me because it'd been awhile since I'd been out in the woods. It was also wonderfully devoid of jutting tree roots and jagged rocks so that you

could walk and look at the same time which is usually more than I am capable of doing. We stopped at a picturesque spot on the riverbank for lunch and took a short siesta on a conforming, comfortable boulder while basking in the nurturing warmth of the midday sun (as close to being one with the snakes as I ever want to get).

After this (too) short rest period we (did I forget to mention there was about 15 of us-give or take the one or two John always seems to lose on these hikes!) set off again through some very pretty forest. I don't know the types of trees but there were a lot of them. Intermittently throughout the hike we had seen train tracks and could hear and see passing trains. At one point we had to cross the tracks to get to the continuation of the trail. On this hike we were fortunate to have our very own train expert who is a locomotive engineer. He seemed slightly nervous when we approached the tracks and noted some of our group standing on and near the tracks (which is not an abnormal thing for us to do). I questioned him as to just how unsafe this could be and I'm still surprised by his answers. I discovered that if you happen to be on train tracks and the train is coming quickly you may not be able to hear it in time to get off the tracks! If you happen to see it coming around the bend it will probably be the last thing you see since there will only be seconds to get out of its path. Others also spoke of how dangerous it probably would be anywhere near the tracks because when the trains come they are very loud and kick up debris along the tracks. I discovered that had I ever encountered a train going by at a good clip of 60-80mph (and now even higher speeds on certain lines) and I was standing too close to the tracks I would probably have been sucked underneath and natural selection would have occurred, boy have I been lucky so far! I was even more flabbergasted to find out that a 'safe' distance is TWENTY FEET AWAY! No wonder why all those people get run over by trains! He regretted that this



The GOOD: Riverside Lunch on the Mahican-Mohawk Trail

information wasn't well publicized and I know I was more clueless than usual about this. You can just imagine how all those deer never stood a chance (and I understand THAT can get QUITE messy!). Almost makes a rifle look humane. Well, enough train safety education for today.

After we barely escaped the tracks with our lives and limbs intact we walked a little on a paved road

Grandmothers house...oops! wrong story!... now to get 'back on track' ...we came upon ...(I know you were expecting this but for some reason I wasn't)...a RIVER....I mean a stream.....no I mean a RIVER.....crossing! Unfortunately for us neither nature nor human had the courtesy to devise a way across without either walking through or falling into the water. There were two brave souls in our midst who crossed on two, mostly parallel, wires strung between old concrete trestles that were about fifteen to twenty feet above the 'stream' bed which was extremely rocky just not in the right places to get across. Ed and Fred (I swear I am not making this up) were the two who shuffled across the river walking on the lower wire while maintaining their balance and sometimes carrying their weight holding the upper wire (did I mention how thin the wires looked as I was assessing my chance for an equally successful DRY river crossing? I thought I might be able to use it to floss my teeth should the need arise), I also took into account that one of the triumphant wire walkers had just been on active duty and was in great shape. I asked him if it was hard (remember lesson #2 when advised to know who you're asking!) and he said it took a lot of upper body strength which made me hesitate but then I thought how I lift heavy people all the time at work and I was considering giving it a go, then I asked Shari's advice. Shari-the AT thru hiker, the future WORLD explorer, the laugh at danger adventurer-who told me that SHE wouldn't do it and didn't think it was safe. Glancing from wire to

ground and seeing my body falling down on the rocks in the water and knowing how hard it is to get emergency services in the middle of the woods and knowing that would just ruin everyone's afternoon (or maybe not?) and then taking in the fact that there would be a high likelihood of head trauma and I knew that I had no brain tissue to spare so any further damage would significantly impact my daily life, I chickened out and decided to forgo that experience.



The BAD: Highwire act over river

and over a bridge that crossed a river (which should have been a CLUE for what was to come because that was too easy). People were out fishing in the RIVER. We then reentered the woods where we soon came upon...hmm...over the river...and through the woods...to



The Ugly: Fording the River

So that meant ANOTHER river crossing! (Yes, I said RIVER- I don't care what anybody else calls it). There were no paths of protruding rocks even remotely in a diagonal line which would leave us unscathed by the rapids (Yes I said RAPIDS-it's my story and can make-up, uh, say anything I want). We would have to do the dreaded deed and strip down (take our shoes and socks off-get your mind out of the gutter!) to cross in order to keep dry and to try to avoid hypothermia. Step by excruciating, bone chilling, numbing, burning, step we cross the 'stream trying to find the smooth wedged rocks so as not to fall into the water and get even wetter and colder. It was an assault on my legs and feet that was relieved relatively quickly after they were dried and clothed. It's truly amazing how warm blood can feel when it flows once again through tissue that's been flash frozen! Kudos to our NEW hiker who was the only one to take OUR OWN web sites' advice and brought small plastic bags for those who crossed and whose boots got wet. The bags allowed their dried feet and socks to be able to wear the boots after without getting wet and cold. I will also give our fearless leader John credit for gallantly (or was it a guilty conscience?) STANDING in the bone numbing water and assisting several of us across the slippery rocks so that we wouldn't fall in (It would have been too much to carry us across? ...just kidding!). Thank you John!

The rest of the hike was relatively uneventful, except for those few hikers John kept losing. It was easier to differentiate between those hikers that have walked 7 or 8 miles in the woods from those who hadn't by the groans of "Are we almost there yet?" OK, I'll admit I was the loudest but I wasn't the only one! I think most of us were thinking that by then, at least I hope I wasn't the only one whimpering. We did take a little side path which actually had probably the steepest hill of the hike which is EXACTLY what you want on the last leg of a long hike. There was another side trail further up I opted out of and OF COURSE there were no hills and it was very pretty.

We had spotted cars and those who drove got to sit in a nice warm car for the ride back to get them. We had to pay careful attention to the route in case we got separated on the way back to pick up the rest of our group. This was easy to do after the first couple of turns John, our leader and editor, made until we discovered they were wrong turns and there was no way I would remember how to get back there so we followed him closely hoping he wouldn't be able to lose us.

Now I know that most of the people that know me will take this story for what it is and for those of you that don't know me there's nothing I will ever be able to say to you again that will ever make you think I'm normal (but I don't worry about that because that's what the people that DO know me are thinking too!). Anyway, for all my whining and complaining it was a great time and a fun adventure and it beats staying home and doing housework or sitting around (not that I ever get a chance to do that). And I hope nobody takes offense at anything written in this story since a GREAT amount of literary license was used and it was written tongue in cheek.

- Marie Bienvenue



Items for Sale

1) Trezeta Evolution Winter Hiking Boots, Leather with thinsulate. Size 42 (8-1/2 mens) New: \$280.00 Asking Price: \$100.00 Never worn. Still in original box

2) Vaude Aeroflex Tour 50 Backpack, 3000ci, Brand new condition. Asking price: \$45.00

3) Mountainsmith Revolution Expedition Pack. 3500 ci (Small Frame). New: \$325.00 Asking Price: \$100.00 Great suspension system

Call Doug and leave message at (413)532-1576
Thank you! Doug Borgatti

Items for Sale

1994 Toyota Corolla For Sale:

End of February I will be selling my car. Right now it has 121,000 miles. Tires fairly new. Major service recently done. Good little car. Even equipped with PVHC sticker. Call me with your offer. Make it one that I can't refuse. 796-1326 Shari

Holiday Party

Thanks to all who attended the Holiday party and brought different items for a great feast. Also thanks to all the people that helped to setup and cleanup. And a special Thanks to Mr. Dave Rotundo for getting there early to setup and donating some of the prizes for the raffle.



Thanks to the officers of the PVHC. As we are continuing to grow (over 200 members) I want to thank all of the officers of our club, Rob, John, Shari, and Ann Marie for doing a great job. I have met a lot of nice people and been on some great hikes and trips through this club.

Frank Kamlowski

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 third week of January. 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 do not receive your copy by February 1st let me know. I have a limit supply of extras.

John Klebes (klebes@aol.com, 413.786.3620)

From the Sidelines

By Heather Wyman

To those of you who are fortunate enough to go out and enjoy the cool winter chill, good for you- go out, get cold I say! I for one am going to stay indoors and appreciate all that there is to offer this flu season from a cozy distance. For example, while you are out deciding which hiking trail offers the least snow to negotiate through, I will be inside deciding which blanket offers the most warmth.

While you are deciding if it is your nose or your fingers that feels most frostbitten, I will be heartily enjoying a refreshing hot

cocoa from the safety of my couch.

It's not that I wouldn't be happy to be in your hiking shoes, don't get me wrong. It's just that there are so many other, *warmer* things to do when the snow starts to fall. Even famed "A Walk in the Woods" author, Bill Bryson, who attempted to hike the whole AT to Mt. Katahdin realized that, as a whole, hiking was a fruitless effort, with the exception that he managed to lose a few pounds, and gain a new respect for a hot shower and home-cooked meals- All of those things I can fully appreciate without ever leaving my front door. So, why is it that people venture out into the coldest weather known to man, find the most severe terrain to hike upon, and call it fun? Realistically, these are either people who have either A) Far too much free time on their hands or B) a true love of being outdoors, and spending this grueling time with their friends.

I believe that the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club has some of the best people to call "Friends" around. While I may be warm this winter, I truly miss hiking with some of the nicest people I have had the good fortune to meet on one hike or another. You know who you are. Once these crutches are gone-and the weather turns a bit- I hope to be joining you again. Thank-you for all of your encouragement! Heather Wyman

Our Club Meetings

By Connie Fogarty

I'm not writing about my participation in any recent PVHC event, but instead chose to comment on our PVHC monthly meetings. They are a wonderful way of connecting with caring and friendly people. I look forward to the first Tuesday of each month as a special time. It's a time for sharing great experiences with fellow



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members through interesting conversations and beautiful picture presentations. Guests are always welcome.

Our PVHC officers have a talent for conducting well organized, informational meetings. Total group participation is encouraged and much appreciated. That total group input helps to create an enjoyable atmosphere for all. I especially enjoy the interplay among friends, and the gentle teasing or polking-of-fun that helps members to relax and unwind after a busy day.

When a PVHC member asks "How are you?", they really are interested in an answer, and members are always there to help if needed. One of the best parts of the evening is the after-the-meeting gathering at The Summer House for ice cream and more good conversations.

Another aspect of being a PVHC member is attending monthly planning meetings held on the second Tuesday of the month. This allows club members who would like to lead an activity or hike to get together and brainstorm the best way to do it. It also provides club members with guidelines for leading activities as well as info on how to participate in them.

Some of the more recent fun-filled events were Carol's Halloween Maize Night, Gary/Jane's NY City Trip, Al's Strawberry Banke Weekend, and the ever famous Annual Christmas Party organized by Frank/Sue. Club members are looking forward to more wonderful events in the New Year. These include Frank/Gary's First Night in Northampton and Terry/Sandy's Remington Lodge Weekend.

Please feel free to attend any of these meetings, even if you don't want to lead a hike or an activity. Your input would be greatly appreciated. Thanks PVHC for everything!!!!

- Connie Fogarty

Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

January Renewals:

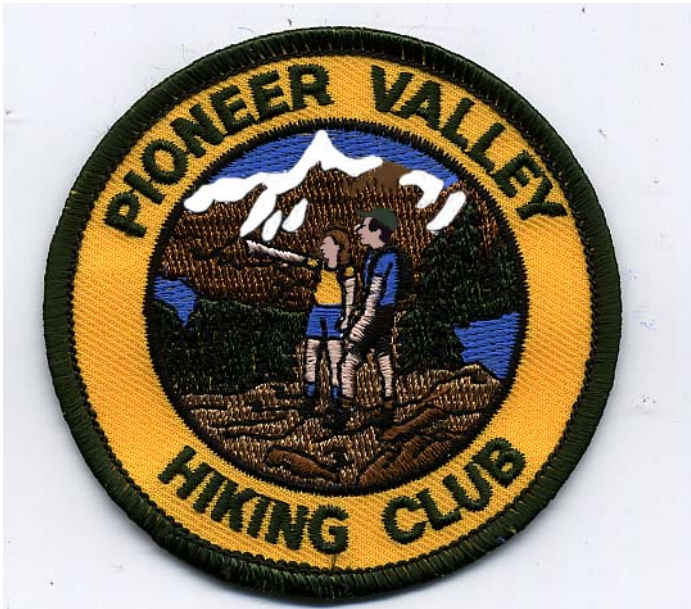
Claire Bailey
David & Marianne Cortelli
Robin Creek
Sheila Croteau
Shirley Cusluski
Gary Dolgoff
Thomas Harrington
Linda Januszkiewicz
Jane McCarthy
Judy McQuillen
Lee Paluch
Karen Savoy
Ann Wood
Ronald & Susan Woodward

February Renewals:

Linda M. Benoit
Mary-Beth Carney
Bart Estes
Louise Fowles
Gary Hale
Donna Hatch
Eva Kealey
Ed Kelliher
Paul & Maxine Lessard
Chris Pierce
Shirley Porter
Catherine Poudrier
Michael Sharpe
Amy Sternheim
Edmund Sullivan
Carol Vanderheiden
Glen Young

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



The PVHC PATCH Has ARRIVED!

You may have forgotten or you may have thought we had forgotten. Needless to say that we did not. The new PVHC has arrived and we had the presentation at the Holiday party.

In last March's Bootprints, we had a coloring contest for the patch. The winner was to receive a free patch. Creating the patch had some difficulties because we used the design from the decal and it has hard to make some areas distinctive. The other problem was that we could only use seven colors. Since we did not have many submitted, we decided that everyone that turned one in, would get a free patch. Those people are, Sheila Paquette, Dick Forrest, Stephanie Klebes, John Klebes, Callie Schechtman and Donna Jago.

I want to thank those people for taking their time and creativity. We, the executive committee could not agree on any particular one (but then again, we usually can't agree on anything). We picked different ideas from each one.

So with the creativity from the coloring contest, the executive committee and Al Roman, the PVHC Patch was created. Al Roman, a member of the club, is a salesman for promotional products. He helped us make some final changes and was able to get the patch to the vendor and back in time for our Holiday Party.

I feel that I should also mention that the original design that club uses for it's decal, and on the Bootprints and brochure, was created by the original founder Ray Tibbetts. Many people may not know Ray or have even heard of him. Ray was the owner of Backpacking, Etc, which was located in West Springfield and then Feeding Hills. He helped many of us several times with equipment and hikes and passed on a lot of knowledge. Ray relocated to Florida in 2000. The executive committee has sent him a patch to thank him also.

So don't be left patchless. There are plenty available, so stop by at a meeting and pick one up. They are \$2.00 each.

- Shari Cox

A VERY PVHC CHRISTMAS

By Kerry Tuell

'Twas eleven days before Christmas, and all through the Pueblo, all the hikers were gathered, partying with gusto!

The centerpieces were lit on the tables with care, in hopes that hungry hikers soon would be there;

The huge stone fireplace crackled and glowed, the hors d'oeuvres table alone was a sight to behold!

All of us hikers, cleaned up and decked out, we had to use name tags to figure it out!

And I in my raincoat with "pigs in a blanket", had just arrived for the evening's gala banquet.

When out in the Great Room a voice begged to be heeded, Rob Schechtman was speaking, no microphone needed!

He had our attention and it was time to give thanks, to the dedicated officers, and helpers, and leaders that grace our Club's ranks.

Then the raffle began, with all sorts of prizes, Rob called out the numbers and the winners trooped up, till quite a crowd gathered, all undecided.

On to the slide show we flew as Ann Marie narrated, we commented and quipped at all the great photos submitted.

Then what to our wondering eyes should appear, but a singing DJ and an empty dance floor!

More rapid than eagles the hikers they came, prancing and dancing and calling out names!

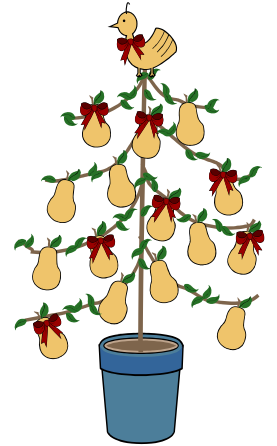
There was Twisting and Swinging and Sliding, the young and the, well, not so young, all coinciding.

The tunes they kept spinning and the rug had to be moved, hiking's built up our stamina and it had to be proved!

After all the food and festivities, I was feeling quite spent, I said my good-byes and off into the rain I went.

I jumped in my car with a smile and a stretch, thinking thoughts in my head of the best party yet.

But I heard them exclaim, ere I drove out of sight, "Happy hiking to all, and all a good night."



THE HOLIDAY PARTY- 'Comraderie, personified'!

...Once again, we had a gr-reat time...This place it's held in, The Pueblo..it's 'loaded' with atmosphere! Thick wood everywhere; a nice fireplace; and so forth! Good 'n roomy- there's a section that is 'tailor-made', for dancin'...which, to our credit- we have! (I esp. enjoyed 'cavortin' on the dance floor', with the swirlin' lady that I call, 'The Barefoot Countessa'..." There was tons of great food, and tons of fun, lively conversations going on, throughout the sprawlin' quarters...kudos to Frank, for organizing 'so much stuff'...Also great, was the awards ceremony, followewd by the 'prizes giveaway'...the slide show was 'boss'; so many events, so many 'cool memories'!.... By Gary Dolgoff

UPCOMING HIKES AND EVENTS

Jan. 11th- MASS MOCA and (mellow)Walk/Hike

9am, Westfield Friendly's, Mass Moca is freaky..something, really different; artsy, in a way...it's 'worth a look!' -Also; we will walk/hike about 3 miles, most likely at (or near), the base of Mt. Greylock..if the road is closed, & covered with snow (which I'm pretty sure it is)- then we will probably walk up that road (uphill), and then back down again..a pretty walk, to be sure! -Joint with the NY-NJ AMC, it

- Gary Dolgoff

Jan 18th - Easy Winter Camping

Have you ever wondered if you could camp in the winter and be warm enough? Well, I have a way that you can do that, without much discomfort.

When I first joined the club, the club had a tradition of hiking Mt. Monadnock in January and then camping out there at the park. The tradition kind of got lost due to a few years of bad weather. We always continued the winter Mt. Monadnock hike, but had stopped camping. Well last year, I tried to resurrect the tradition. So, I offered the club to spend the night with Laurie and me at Mt. Monadnock. I don't know why I didn't get any takers. Who could resist such an offer? I was thinking that I didn't give everyone enough notice. So this year, I am announcing it ahead of time to everyone, so they can have more time to plan.

Last year, Dick Forrest coordinated the hike and we had a beautiful clear, windy and cold day. We had a large group and we all made it to the top. After the hike we went to Lily's to have hot soup and food. We said our good-byes at Lily's and Laurie and I went to EMS in Peterborough. We went back to Mt. Monadnock Park and set up our

tents. I think it was snowing slightly. We then got a nice fire going and made hot chocolate. It was a fairly mild night. Laurie had brought folding chairs, so we sat by the fire, sipping our hot chocolate and enjoying the peacefulness and beauty of it all. We went to bed and when we woke there was about 3-4 inches of snow on the ground. It was absolutely beautiful.

So the offer is out there. If anyone that plans on hiking Dick Forrest's hike to Mt. Monadnock on January 18th, wants to sleep out with Laurie and me, bring your long johns, tent, sleeping bag and hot chocolate. Remember that the club has tents to rent.

The reason that this is easy winter camping, is that we don't have to cook and we don't have to freeze if we get too uncomfortable. Our cars will be right there where we can go in and turn the heat on.

So who can refuse such an offer! Also, remember, this might be the last time you will get to sleep out with us, unless you want to join Laurie and me somewhere in the world.

-Shari Cox

FEBRUARY ELECTIONS Don't forget to VOTE

February 1, 2003 - Hilltown Old-Fashioned Sleigh Ride

On February 1, outdoor activities followed by a sleigh ride with Belgian horses is planned in Worthington. Snow shoeing, hiking back roads, or cross-country skiing at Hickory Hill. We will meet at Westfield Friendly at 1:00 and car pool to Worthington to the home of Phyllis Dassatti, continue with activity and have a potluck dinner,

followed with sleigh ride and finally crash by the fire. Space is limited for the sleigh so sign-up and submit \$5 for the ride. More details can be provided by the leader: Phyllis Dassatti, P.O. Box 233, Worthington, MA 01098, (413) 238-5962, and wish for great weather conditions.

Feb 8th: The New York City Museum Extravaganza

Meet at 7am, Westfield Friendly's... -We will carpool to Manhattan (I think I know a good, affordable garage to park at)- meet up with the AMC group there (who are a fun bunch, there)- and then proceed to The Hayden Planetarium/ Museum of Natural History. There, we will tour the Museums, plus see an Imax movie, AND- a 3-D flick (admission 'for it all', is about \$28...). Then, we'll all go down to The Village, and have dinner at the 2nd Ave. Deli...

-Anyone interested, let me know! (Esp. drivers- we can use, more of those!)-GD-

HIKE-LEADING: IT'S FUN! ...So, I'm leading some more events..well, guess what...I like it!! I get to do what I like to do anyway, plus I get some great 'Club company', to do it with!! Leading.."Try it..methinks; you'll like it!!....

- Gary Dolgoff

Apr 12th Bartholomews Cobble

Think Spring: Bartholomews cobble trail maintenance is planned for April 12th. A fun day of helping out with trail maintenance, lunch, easy hike and social gathering. Contact Frank at 568-0859

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

Hike Planning Coordinator: *Dick & Sue Forest*
 Backpacking Coordinator: *Ed Laroche & Mike Rattelle*
 Trail Maintenance: *AnnMarie Visconti & Ed Laroche*
 PVHC Web Page Editor: *Dick Forrest*
 PVHC 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, 157 Thalia Drive, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:
February 4, 2003, 7pm at WEU
March 4, 2003, 7pm at WEU
- ❑ Next Hike Planning Meeting:
February 11, 2003, 7pm at WEU
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: February 24, 2003

*** 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



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 526 College Highway
 Southwick, MA 01077

**A Happy
New
Year!**

