

BOOTPRINTS

Volume 9 Issue 1

January 2005



First Night – Dinner at Opa Opa before ringing in the New Year.

FIRST NIGHT

By Frank Kamlowski

On Friday Dec. 31st twenty seven members of the PVHC and two former members (Terry and Sandy Cripps) met at the Opa Opa steak house in Southamton MA to enjoy a new years eve dinner. After a great meal most of us headed to Northampton for the first night activities. Among the ones I shared with club members were Young-at-Heart, Double-Vision, and an Elvis impersonator which I enjoyed all three.

At about 11:30 walked to hotel Northampton and waited for the arrival of 2005. At the stroke of midnight as the illuminated ball hit its destination their was a lot of hugging hand shaking and good will among the

PVHC family. After swapping stories about the different activities. we all went our separate ways with smiles on our faces.

The weather was good the food was great and the company was even better. I want to thank everybody for their company and friendship and wish all members a happy and prosperous 2005.

Frank Kamlowski

HOLIDAY PARTY

- Celebrating our 'outdoors adventures', and our Comraderie!

By Gary Dolgoff

Yes; as always, 'twas a great time! This party lasts over 5 hours (from 6 till 11:30pm). It takes place in a fantastic venue called The Pueblo (belongs to Springfield College) - it's rustic, and feels cozy yet spacious, all at once-with its' stone walls, fireplaces, and so forth...

We start with 'mucho food'...the Club supplied meatballs, delicious eggplant in red sauce, soft drinks, many bottles of water, and much else; the members supplied us with 'alot else'...salads with tempeh, shrimps, and other delicious foods; plus a nice assortment of desserts. Rob and his team did a nice job of getting everything ready, No wonder a number of us nickname our group,



Holiday Party Award Recipients: Ed Laroche, Marcia Kelly & Norm Plante (not pictured – Jack Leary, Richard Harris)



PVHC Holiday Party – Living up to our reputation as the øHiking & Dinning Clubø

'the hiking & eating club'.

Towards the tail-end of dinner, John Klebes started announcing awards for the members who led the most hikes (and other events) for the Club. They were Marcia Kelly, Norm Plante, Richard Harris, Ed Laroche and Jack Leary.

One of the amazing facts about our Club is the (relatively high) ratio of hike leaders compared to total number

of members...cool! Attendees were given tickets with #s, upon arriving; dozens of prizes were given out after dinner.

Ann Marie (our de facto photographer, in many cases) - gave us a 'boss' slide show, showing our many outdoors adventures (plus some group shots); good - natured ribbing was heard here & there among club members, as we simply enjoyed each



others' company!

Later on (from about 9pm 'till 11:30 or so), we had our yearly DJ and dancing...many of us 'got into it' on the dance floor; fun, fun it was! (in fact, my calves were sore for the next 2 or 3 days!). The DJ we've had for our 3rd year in a row; he also 'gets into it', with a variety of good tunes, that bring out the 'get up & boogie' feelings, for many of us!

Finally, we all dispersed the last of us helping to clean up, and so forth...another great year for our Holiday Party! (about 100 of us attended).

NEW YEARS EVE in NORTHAMPTON, with The PVHC!

By Gary Dolgoff

Kudos to Frank Kamlowski for organizing our dinner & gathering for this day... We all had a great time.

I organized with a few members to meet early (1:30pm), so we could have more time to take advantage of all Northampton has to offer on New Years' Eve: basically a choice of 8-10 events (live music of 'most all kinds, Comedy Improv [where I got to perform a couple of things with the 'Villa Jidiots'], and 'much else') per hour from early afternoon 'till almost midnight...)

At 4pm, we left for Southampton, where Frank had arranged for us- the willing- to engage in a large group meal (31 of us attended the dinner) in a nice restaurant.

The service was efficient and friendly enough, without seeming rushed....Thanks there, Frank! During the dinner two weddings were announced: Rob with Lisa, and Dave Pierrpont and with Theresa. ...All told, a great dinner event!

Many of us went to Noho (the 'hip' name for Northampton) to sample the activities. We sometimes split into smaller groups, kind of 'hanging loose'...some of the group saw the amazing Young At Heart chorus, cool tunes sung by folks in their 70s to 90 or so. I went to Comedy Improv. Then a bunch of us viewed this interactive couple doing amazing juggling (of

knives, among other things); also the lady did a great balancing act, having about 12 of us from the audience keeping the rope taut. (I was on one side with 5 others, John Klebes on the other side).

After that, a number of us heard a classy & pretty lively concert put on by a small group called the Fiddleheads, led by a 15-year old who played the violin with gusto and expertise! Her father was in the band as well, playing another instrument. After the show, her mom was representing her CDs for sale...

Around 11:30pm onwards, the crowds in Noho, us included, gathered (the 'main area' was now closed to traffic)- waiting for the ball to go ...up!

Near 12, they fired off a cannon , more than once...some in the crowd visibly recoiled...

At 12 midnight, the crowd cheered; a number of us PVHCers hugged, shook hands, and wished each other well for 2005 ('and onward', I'd say).

Strawbery Banke

By Leah Visconti

Strawbery Banke was exactly what I expected, a lot of shopping and a nice place to stay overnight. Except there was more. Such as unlimited access to a hot tub and pool, many fun places to eat, and a few walks we will never forget. Stephanie Klebes and I had a great time exploring every store we



Hiking the Marginal Way, Maine

could fit into our schedule (we missed quite a few), while our parents with the company of my grandmother had a blast searching through all kinds of stores me and Steph didn't find so fun. Of course I'm sure they are just as interesting to you adults as our "teen stores" were to us.

Later that day, we headed to Strawbery Banke for a candle light stroll. We walked around and explored houses filled with Victorian tradition, cookies, a hilarious clay sculptor, and some very talented story tellers and musical performers. There were also a few beautiful horses pulling around people on a carriage which looked like fun but the line was a little too long so we skipped that feature. After bearing the cold for a few hours Stephanie

and I retired to John's warm car. After waiting for the rest of the group (did I mention there was a good amount of people on this trip?), we all went out for a beautiful dinner all together.

Returning home to Anchorage Inn, we all quickly slipped on our bathing suits and ran down stairs to the hot tub and pool awaiting us. After Mike and Gail Carrier, John Klebes, his daughter, Steph, my mother, and I soaked and swam for a few hours, we all made our way back to our rooms to sleep cozily for a few hours before we had to get up and start the next day's adventure.

Before Steph and me woke up grumpily the next morning, everyone else went downstairs and had a breakfast that I cannot honestly say I



PVHC at Strawbery Banke – Candle Light Stroll

tasted for I chose sleeping over eating that morning, but from what the adults told us, it was quite enjoyable. We all hopped in the car after packing up and saying good bye to Anchorage Inn.

Our next stop was The Marginal Way. It was a nice jog for me and Stephanie and a nice stroll for the rest of the pokey, picture taking group. The views along the way were gorgeous and the sparkling waters blew our minds. With time to spare, since the gang stopped for hot chocolate without informing us, my grandmother and I checked out a few of the cute stores in the area. They were selling a whole bunch of little trinkets, books, gifts, and other things you just can't find in any old store.

Finally meeting up with everyone, we all drove to Kittery and did a little more shopping, mostly at a famous candy store called Goodies. Let me just say, that place is too good to be true. You just have to see the shelves full of every candy you could imagine for yourself. In the parking lot we all said our good byes and gave our final hugs and drove back to our homes with memories, clothes, and candy to remember our trip to Stawbery Banke. Thanks to Al Goodhind for making this adventure possible.

-Leah Visconti*

Congratulations to our Year 2004 Recognition Award Recipients

**Norm Plante
Marcia Kelly
Richard Harris
Ed Laroche
Jack Leary**

2004 was another impressive year for the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club. During this year's Holiday Party Ann Marie and I had the honor of acknowledging the over 35 Event Coordinators and Standing Committee Chair people who volunteered their leadership over the past year to put on over 280 events.

Special recognition was given to our top three leaders Norm, Marcia and Richard, for their contributions in 2004. In addition, this year's Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Ed Laroche for his years of volunteered leadership as Trail Maintenance Coordinator, Backpacking Coordinator, and especially with supporting our land stewardship activities with the M-M Trail. Ed has been the vital link between our club and the local activities around us involving the AMC, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and the scenic trail study. In addition Ed has helped coordinate some of our most adventurous and ambitious hikes while providing educational and mentoring to less advanced members.

This year we also presented a special service recognition award to Jack Leary for his years of service as Quartermaster helping newer members with access to snowshoes, tents, and other items that the club makes available for borrowing or rental. His time and efforts are very much appreciated.

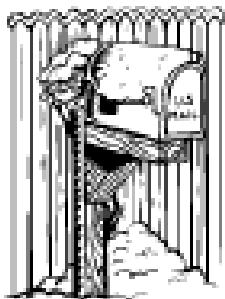
Thanks to all of you that volunteer your time to make this club the best in the area. As we move into 2005 how about adding your name to this list by becoming more active in the leadership of the club?

Sincerely, John Klebes



November M-M Trail Maintenance Day

PVHC Letters



From: frank kamlowski
Sent: Sunday, December 26, 2004

Hi John,

Wishing you and all the officers of the club a happy and prosperous new year. And thank all of you for your hard work and also Dick and Sue Forest for a great job on the hike planning meetings.

Frank Kamlowski

Open Letter to the PVHC,

Bob Smith, from the First Baptist Church, asked me to thank all of our members for the card and donation to the Church building fund. He said it was a true "gift from Heaven" when they needed it most. I would like to also thank each of you that gave additional money to help show Bob how much we appreciate his support of our club. The money was donated in lieu of our traditional thank you gift for helping PVHC with a place to hold our meetings.

He also asked me to pass on his thanks for the can goods donated at our last meeting. They will be used by the Parish Cupboard food pantry in Springfield that helps many people in the surrounding communities where our membership resides. We collected approximately 5 shopping bags of items. Thank you to all that donated and to Frank Kamlowski for coordinating.

Hope everyone had a great time at the Holiday Party. Thank you to Rob Schechtman and his committee and especially those members that came early and stayed late to help clean up!

And to all of our members I would like to wish you happiness during this holiday season, a Happy New Year, and a year ahead full of enjoyable hiking.

See you out on the trail,

John Klebes
 Ann Marie Visconti
 Kim Stevens
 Monica Gross

February Elections

Elections will be held for new club officers at the February 1rd Club Meeting

New Email Address for Bootprints and club announcements:

I am retiring my Klebes@aol.com email address. Future emails from the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club will come from pvhc.hikingclub@comcast.net Please be sure to add the name pvhc.hikingclub@comcast.net to your address book if you have spam blocking software to insure that you continue to get PVHC emails after January 1st. Contributions to Bootprints and requests to send items to the clubs email list can be sent to either j.klebes@ieee.org or pvhc.hikingclub@comcast.net.

Sincerely, John Klebes

Membership Directory Update

Membership Directories were distributed at the Holiday Party. Those who didn't pick them up got them mailed in 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 mid-January let me know. I have a limit supply of extras.

John Klebes (j.klebes@ieee.org, 413.519.1859)

Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

January Renewals:

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

February Renewals:

Larisa Altman
 Linda M. Benoit
 Donna Delisle-Mitchell & Family
 James Hastings
 Kenneth Hrycay
 Paul & Maxine Lessard
 Catherine Poudrier
 Norma Roche
 Patricia Stevenson
 Edmund Sullivan
 Carol Vanderheiden
 Matthew Winer & Fusa Iwamoto
 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:

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club
 c/o Wilderness Experiences
 P.O. Box 265
 Southwick, MA 01077

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

Up Coming Hikes & Activities

Remington Lodge

Gary Dolgoff

On March 5, 2005 one of the more popular events of the hiking club will be taking place, our annual trip to Remington Lodge. This is a very rustic and quaint lodge nestled in the foothills of West Cummington Massachusetts about an hour's drive from the Springfield, MA area. People can elect to come up for just the day or make it an overnight. There is a communal bunk room on the lower level and upstairs there are three rooms with three bunks each.

The place is very cozy, has a big living room with wood/coal stove, a dining area, a hot tub and two great hosts Ken and Jo. The dinners there are top notch four course events with soup, salad, entrée and dessert. The meal choices are chicken (Chicken Rose w/artichoke hearts, mushrooms, scallions; with light rose wine sauce), fish (Salmon with red pepper sauce, or vegetarian (probably an alfredo or pasta Primavera).

But lets not forget while we're here why we joined the club, that's right, to hike and spend time outdoors. Gary Dolgoff will be leading his usual easy outing on the roads or nearby Windsor State Forest. For skiers and snowshoe buffs, there is a cross country ski area just up the road and a number of moderate hiking opportunities are available nearby. For those people not so inclined, you can vegetate by the fire and read a good book. One of the best things about the trip is the chance to bond with fellow members in a relaxed and fun atmosphere as after the hikes and dinner we usually all get together for a rousing game of Guesstures, Pictionary or whatever. It's worth the price of admission alone just to watch Gary perform charades.

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

The costs are as follows:

- Overnight stay \$60.00 . includes lunch & dinner Sat and breakfast Sun.
- Dinner Only \$20.00 . 4 course meal, chicken, fish or vegetarian entrée.
- Lunch & Dinner on Saturday - \$26.00

The cutoff date for signups and money collection will be at the Feb 1st hiking club meeting. Make checks payable to Gary Dolgoff, 32 Washington Place, Northampton, MA 01060. Put your dinner selection on the check. If you have questions you can call Gary at 413-584-8564.

Directions (see top right)

Directions to Remington Lodge: (Remington Lodge phone number (413) 634-5388 or 634-5493)

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

Sat-Sun Jan 15 & 16. Overnight Backpack to Spruce Peak Shelter, Manchester, VT Long Trail

Enjoy a wide variety of terrain downhill along rushing brooks, uphill to Green Mountain vistas. Spend the night in four-sided Spruce Peak Shelter, heated with a potbelly stove. Bring own meals. Round trip is 6 miles. Lunch Sunday afternoon in Manchester. Sign up by Wednesday, Jan. 12. Group size limited to eight. Leader: Donna Walters (dwalters2800@verizon.net; 413.498.5696) Co-listed with Berkshire AMC

Sat. Jan 29. Snowshoe Pisgah State Park - Winchester, NH

Varied terrain. Beautiful views of Mount Monadnock. Leader: Donna Walters (dwalters2800@verizon.net; 413.498.5696) Co-listed with Berkshire AMC

Sat-Sun, Feb 5 & 6 Overnight Backpack, Mount Greylock, North Adams, MA

Hopper Trail to the summit. Spend night in unheated shelter. Full winter gear, clothing, snowshoes, & crampons required. Bring your own food. Leader: Donna Walters (dwalters2800@verizon.net; 413.498.5696) Co-listed with Berkshire AMC

Sat, Feb 19. Snowshoe M-M Trail, Wendell State Forest

Section 15 of the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail from Ruggles Pond North towards Farley off route 2, Erving. Enjoy a wide variety of terrain downhill along rushing brooks, uphill to mountain vistas. Leader: Donna Walters (dwalters2800@verizon.net; 413.498.5696) Co-listed with Berkshire AMC

Sat-Sun Mar 5 & 6. Overnight Snowshoe on Mount Cardigan, NH

Newly renovated AMC Hi-Cabin near summit. A woodstove and 12 bunk beds with mattresses await you after a great day on the trails. Second day ridge walk. Full winter clothing, snowshoes, & crampons required. Bring your own food. Fee \$20/person, due by Monday, Jan. 31. Leader: Donna Walters (dwalters2800@verizon.net; 413.498.5696) Co-listed with Berkshire AMC

Opportunities with Wilderness Experiences Unlimited

April 16-23: Cayman Brac with Adventures in Little Cayman & Grand Cayman

Scott is taking a very small group to the Caymans this Spring. Hurry and sign -up to avoid missing this Great Trip! The dates are April 16th-23rd, 2005- We will spend time in Grand Cayman and visit Stingray City. We will then hop over to Cayman Brac for a week of Snorkeling/Scuba Diving, Hiking, Kayaking, Caving and much more. We will also dive Little Cayman's Bloody Bay Wall if weather permits.

Trip price includes R/T air from Hartford, Ct.
7 days/nights accommodations at the Brac Reef Resort
17 Boat Dives & Unlimited Shore Diving
All Meals
Ground Transfers
Taxes & Services Charges & More

Scuba Diver price \$2200. Non-Diver price \$ 1775.

Galapagos 2006

The trip that everyone has been waiting for. Off the coast of Mainland Ecuador is where we will be going to visit the Galapagos Islands. Darwin often wrote about these Incredible islands.. You can observe many of the world's most unique wildlife and marine life that gather at the Galapagos. Swim with seals, snorkel with penguins or dive with mantas and more. Come join us for an unforgettable trip to the land that time forgot. We have chartered our own boat for this trip. The "Deep Blue"

Cost: \$3000.00 plus international airfare- special price for both weeks! Call and inquire

Dates: Two weeks available- Join us for one or both!

Southern Itinerary: July 16th-25th, 2006

Lots of hiking, snorkeling and one dive each morning. This trip is for the vacationer who is looking for lots of photo opportunities, topside!

There are only 1 space available - The boat is nearly full- Don't delay!

Northern Itinerary: July 23rd-August 1st, 2006

Lots of diving- 3 to 4 dives daily, limited snorkeling and hiking opportunities

This trip is for people who love to scuba dive and are looking for large animal encounters!

There are only 6 spaces available at this time.

Call Laura at the office for more details 413 562-7431.

QUOTE FROM NADINE STAIR (ATTRIBUTED, PROBABLY ERRONEOUSLY)

If I had my life to live over, I'd dare to make more mistakes next time. I'd relax; I'd limber up. I would be sillier than I have been this trip. I would take fewer things seriously. I would take more chances. I would climb more mountains and swim more rivers. I would eat more ice cream and less beans. I would perhaps have more actual troubles, but I'd have fewer imaginary ones.

You see, I'm one of those people who lived sensibly and sanely hour after hour, day after day. Oh, I had my moments, and if I had to do it over again, I'd have more of them. In fact, I'd try to have nothing else. Just moments, one after the other, instead of living so many years ahead of each day. I've been one of those persons who never goes anywhere without a thermometer, a hot water bottle, a raincoat, and a parachute. If I had it to do over again, I would travel lighter than I have.

If I had my life to live over again, I would start barefoot earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall. I would go to more dance; I would ride more merry-go-rounds. I would pick more daisies.

ANNE FRANK:

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature and God.

Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature.

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees

John Klebes, President
Ann Marie Visconti, Vice President
Monica Gross, Secretary
Kimberly Stevens, Treasurer
Scott Cook, *Wilderness Experiences Unlimited*
Ray Tibbetts, Founder

Standing Committee Chairs

Hike Planning Coordinator: *Sue Forest & AnnMarie Visconti*
Backpacking Coordinator: *Ed Laroche & Mike Rattelle*
Trail Maintenance: *Ed Laroche & Rob Schechtman*
Web Page Editor: *Dick Forrest*
Email Correspondent: *Rob Schechtman*
Email List: *John Klebes*
Quartermaster: *Jack Leary*
Bootprints Editor: *John Klebes*

Bootprints is a publication of the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club. Send your story contributions to the editor at: j.klebes@jeee.org (Email) or by USmail to John Klebes, P.O. Box 51385, Indian Orchard, MA 01151.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:
February 1, 2005, 7pm at **FBC**
March 1, 2005, 7pm at **FBC**
- ❑ Next Hike Planning Meeting:
February 8, 2005, 7pm at **WEU**
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: February 22, 2005

SPECIAL NOTE: Nominations wanted for club officers . February Elections

FBC . First Baptist Church, West Springfield
WEU . Wilderness Experiences Unlimited

*** **Check out our web page at:**
<http://www.geocities.com/pvhcweb>

Join the PVHC Email List by sending a message to: pvhc2000@hotmail.com

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