

BOOTPRINTS

Volume 12 Issue 2

March 2008



Lonesome Lake Hut

January 26th, 2008

By Lisa Frigo-Schechtman

What better way to get through these winter months than to go on a winter backpack up at Lonesome Lake hut. While the bunk houses are not heated you do have some nice amenities of the central hut which has a kitchen and wood burning stove.

We started our trip on a clear Saturday morning. We car pooled up to the Lafayette campground in Lincoln, New Hampshire. At the hut we met the rest of our fellow hikers the Klebes brothers+ There were 10 of us in all. Rob, Lisa, Carol, Richard, Mike, John, Rick, Sybille, Larry, and Mike.

The hike up to the hut is 1.6 miles and the temp was about 20 degrees. The trail was well packed down some of us bare footed, some had snow shoes. Once there we lightened our packs and had some lunch and some hot tea and coco. We met the care taker, Sean. The view out on the lake was so vast and beautiful, we had walked across the lake to get to the hut as we could see many foot tracks that had traveled across this huge lake. You could hear all that crunching under our feet letting us know how frozen it was. At the hut we signed up for our cooking time which was 6:30pm. The hut was full of different small groups and then a large group of boy scouts. We would

later talk to the scout leader who was there the very day we were in 2003 when John led this trip.

We proceeded to pack up and continue our hike up Cannon Mt. It was getting colder but we all felt strong and good. I was having some problems with my crampons and could not make the last .5M. So part of our group headed back for a hike around the lake and then onto the hut to start dinner. The rest of the group proceeded to the top and had more beautiful views of this winter wonderland. The snow in the woods appeared to be about 4-5 ft deep and the snow on the pines



Jan 27th Pool & Pizza Party!

The hiking club enjoying a fun filled time at the pool thanks to Wilderness Experiences Unlimited. Thanks Scott & Laura for hosting this annual event!

2008 Election Results

President
Ann Marie Visconti

Vice-President
Marcia Kelly

Secretary
Gail Carrier

Treasurer
Deb Gebo

was so heavy and beautiful just like a picture off a winter scene of a calendar or Christmas card. The sun was setting and it made the majestic mountains look like they had a spirit and soul.

Just after dark everyone had returned to the hut, we started our evening with some cheese and crackers, salami, and eggplant spread. They ate all the crackers we brought! We had hot drinks of tea and coco. The hut was becoming pretty lively as all the hikers of the day returned. Our dinner menu included chicken soup, salad, garlic bread, and pasta with meatballs. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. We later enjoyed a game of cosmic wimp-out a challenging game of dice. I didn't see any one cheat! Then off to bed, it was 6 degrees!

I just want to thank my fellow PVHC members for joining Rob and I on this trip. We always seem to have a good time. I would urge others who have thought about doing a winter trek like this to challenge yourself and join us sometime on a winter backpack to Lonesome lake hut. I never thought I would be able to but with the right gear (thanks rob for my new sleeping bag) and be able to rough it for a night it is all worth it! Great memories with great friends.

~ Lisa Frigo-Schechtman



Its' Winter . . .

The White Mountains are Calling

By Richard Harris

When Winter comes to New England, many hikers forego their hiking boots for skis or a warm fireplace. But, not all. To some hikers, the onset of Winter is a call to go the White Mountains to bask in the wintry weather, fellowship in unheated cabins, and seek that most elusive of targets . . . a summit on a clear sunny day. So, it was when some of us set out on some of our winter treks.



You Left the Marshmallows and Where's the View?!!! (Mt. Cabot 2-2-08)

When most people in this area were cozying up to their favorite blanket and planting their feet firmly indoors on February 1st to avoid the ice and snow onslaught which Mother Nature was unleashing on New England, Allison Cook, Kathleen Damon, Bob Morgan, and I were driving north (well, Kathleen was driving and the rest of us were very thankful) heading for a nice warm motel in Gorham, NH . typically a 3-1/2 hour drive. Well, it took us 6 hours and we were glad it did . Kathleen drove through the icy mess like an arctic expert. We saw the effects of three vehicles not being driven as cautiously . one car spun out along I-91, another car flipped on its roof along I-91, and a tanker truck turned over along the off-ramp on I-89. But, Kathleen persevered and we arrived at the Hiker's Paradise later that night where we had room accommodations for the night.

We arose the next morning and plotted our day's hike of Mt.

Cabot. The day turned out to be less than ideal, overcast; but the forecast gave us hope. Following Bob's instructions, Kathleen got us to the trailhead . 3.9 miles from the summit. Being billed as a snowshoe 4,000 footer hike, we all left crampons and stabilizers in the car and took our snowshoes. Before long, we were on the trail and enjoying the easy/moderate grades of the Mount Cabot Trail. No one had been through this area in a while and we were breaking trail . also means we were making the trail as the blazes were not very visible or in abundance. Before long, we reached the Old Fire Warden's Cabin where we planned to enjoy the gorgeous view which Bob and I enjoyed a year or two ago. But, the clouds had not lifted about 3,500 feet.

After adjusting our gear and warming ourselves, we headed out for the summit . a mere 0.4 miles and 100 feet of elevation away. No one had been up this way for sometime so, finding the summit became a little like finding Easter eggs, particularly difficult with the cloud cover obscuring vision to 20 feet. Before long we had completed our task and decided to head back to the cabin. Bob and I had brought our cooking devices (my JetBoil and his MSR pocket rocket). Soon we had boiling water for hot chocolate . while Allison, Kathleen, and I enjoyed the nice warm, tasty hot chocolate and Bob enjoyed tea, I realized what I had forgot . the Marshmallows. I promised to bring them on the next snowshoe 4,000 footer hike.

After warming up and having a bit of lunch, we headed down the trail. Allison and Kathleen were down before Bob and I . something about the allure of a warm car . . . So, they brought the car to us . a couple of tenths of a mile up the road/trail. In spite of the lack of a view, we had a good time on this hike . I believe it was the first winter 4,000 footer in the White Mountains for Allison and Kathleen. We had a great time, inspite of the dismal clouds, with a great group of friends. We intend to go back and do it again next year . but, I will bring the marshmallows when we do.

~ Richard Harris



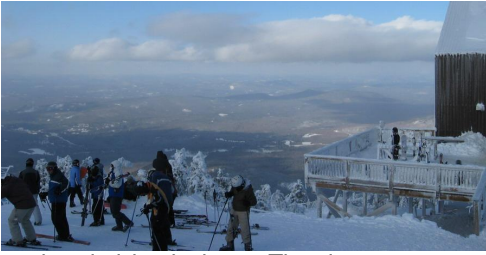
How Far is Cannon Mountain Summit?

For President's Day weekend, I had planned a trip to Carter Notch with the intent of staying in the hut and hiking 3-4 of the 4,000 foot peaks in the area. A funny thing happened along the planning of this trip . everybody else and their brother and sister had the same idea. So, there was no space available when I tried to make the reservations. For various reasons, no one else wanted to go to Gorham and do day hikes.

Since I had not been able to summit Cannon Mountain in January on the Lonesome Lake trip, when Bob Morgan mentioned that Shari Cox and Tom Pederson were considering a day hike, which became the weekend trip . only for one day. So, early on the morning of February 16th, the four of us met at Rite Aid in Holyoke and headed north. The weather conditions looked good and the forecast was good.

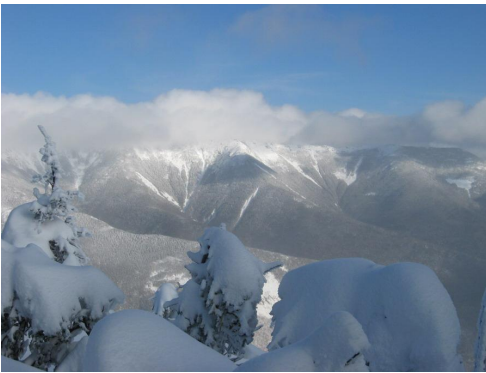
Before long, we were pulling into the Lafayette Campground Trailhead parking area and heading up the trail. The first 1-1/2 mile was not too bad; most of the trail had been used recently. But, then we started going around the lake, breaking trail. Soon, we met a group of 8 guys who were staying at the hut and intending to summit Cannon Mountain as a day hike. So, off we went . hoping the snow would lessen. We took turns breaking trail as it was fairly deep. Before long we reached Coppermine Col where the Lonesome Lake Trail meets the Kinsman Ridge Trail which actually goes to the summit.

Some of the other group decided they had hiked enough and headed back to the cabin. Fortunately for us, 5 of them decided to continue breaking trail to the summit. It was a gorgeous day as the clouds were around 4,500 feet and scattered. A mere hour and 45 minutes later, we were entering the warming hut atop Cannon Mountain. After enjoying the warmth of the hut and some hot beverages and lunch,



we headed back down. The descent was a mere fraction of the effort and time it took to ascend. Before long we were in the car headed home and commenting how we left a really good sidewalk in the snow to the summit for the next group to enjoy. Also, how fortunate we were to meet up with the other group to show the trailbreaking duties. Another great winter hiking experience with a wonderful group.

~Richard Harris



A Perfect Winter Day – Mt. Adams

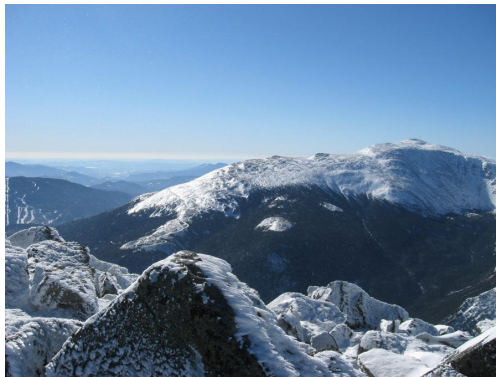
I scheduled a trip to the Gray Knob Cabin with the idea of trying to do the 3 northern Presidential summits (Madison, Adams, and Jefferson) in winter on a single day. Well, I don't know why I would do it in winter when the previous 2 times I tried to do the same 3 peaks, conditions limited the hike to Madison and Adams. However, the snow event of February 22nd stopped that idea as it was not feasible to go up to the Whites that day leaving only part of Saturday or Sunday to actually hike to a summit. So, early on the morning of February 23rd, John Klebes, Rick Briggs, Bob Morgan, and I set out for the White Mountains. We planned to hike into Gray Knob Cabin; if we got there early enough, we would summit Mt. Adams on that day; if not, then possibly early on Sunday we could hike Mt. Adams.

Before long, John had us at Lower Store on Route 2. We realized that we might not be able to stay at Gray Knob Cabin when we saw the trailhead parking lot was nearly full and a van with 7-8 college students pulled in right after us. Shortly we were on the trail and John and Rick were motoring along as Bob and I were inching along the trail. It was decided that John and Rick would try to get bed space for us at Gray Knob if that was possible (found out later that all of the

bed space for that night was taken by 10 am.).

Bob and I got to the cabin around 3:00 (over hour after John and Rick had reached Crag Camp). So, Bob and I decided to enjoy the relative warmth of Gray Knob before making the hike over to join John and Rick. Around 4:00, we started to get ready to hike over when 5 of the people who were intending to stay at Gray Knob informed us and the caretaker that they were going to stay at Crag Camp which left space for Bob and I in the warmer facility of Gray Knob Cabin (next winter we WILL stay at Crag Camp).

We had dinner and John and Rick came over and visited. The night sky was gorgeous. The galaxy, innumerable constellations were clear to the eye. It was a wonderful night out in the winter of the Northern Presidentials. John and Rick commented how hot the cabin was as they left for their ice home for the night. After playing a dice



game with a group of French Canadians and chatting with various people, we turned in and got into our cozy sleeping bags. It turned out that Gray Knob Cabin had 20 people and Crag Camp had 13 for the night. I don't know how many people were at The Perch or the Log Cabin (based on the trails the next day, there were some).

On Sunday, Bob and I, knowing that John and Rick will catch up to and pass us, headed out for Mt. Adams around 8 a.m. Before long, we were passing the summit of Sam Adams 4 and viewing Thunderstorm Junction and the clear summit of Mt. Adams. As we descended Sam Adams 4 and hiked towards Thunderstorm Junction, John and Rick caught up to us and we hiked the rest of

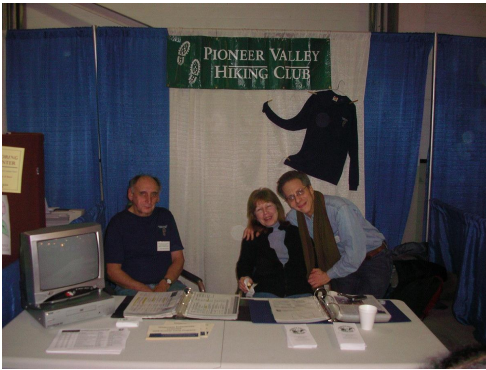


the way together. It was a clear, clear day with a bright sun and occasional clouds. Soon the four of us were standing atop Mt. Adams and viewing the summits around us. One of the clearest days I have ever had in the White Mountains. Temperatures were in the single digits and winds were relatively light, but strong enough to make one cover their skin when facing it.

After enjoying the views and taking a vast amount of pictures (piece everybody's pictures together and one could have a group shot), we proceeded down. Following the sage advice of Rick and John, after leaving Thunderstorm Junction, the four of us descended on the Spur Trail noting the location of the Great Gully Trail and how that is NOT a trail to descend on anytime (Norma, Bert, and I can tell you what that descent is like from our August trip). Enjoying the views of King's Ravine and of the top of Mt. Madison, we hiked down to Knight's Castle on our way to Crag Camp. After taking more photos and resupplying with water, we hiked over to Gray Knob and loaded our gear and headed down to the Trailhead and the car. It was a particularly spectacular day to have been in the White Mountains and on top of Mt. Adams with a great group of guys.

~Richard Harris





PVHC Campshow

By John Klebes

Thank you to everyone that helped out this year with our Hiking Club Booth at the 2008 Campshow. I couldn't do it without you. I hope everyone had some fun and got a chance to also enjoy some of the campshow. The show was very well attended and we had a lot of interest in our club. Our volunteers this year were Chip Pray, Chuck & Fritz Tiernan, Connie Fogarty & Bill Nickerson, Bill Burgart, Cindy Taylor & Gary Dolgoff, Tina Garde, Cindy Hibert, Norm Plante, Mike & Gail Carrier, Marie Babbitt and Ruth Preston.

Dear PVHC Friends,

I know I didn't personally thank everyone who contacted me so I want to take this opportunity to thank you ALL so much for your cards, calls, thoughts, and prayers throughout my surgery and treatments. Your kindness and friendship helped to bolster my resolve to get through each cycle and emerge now to the point where I have the all clear to return to work! Your support meant the world to both of us. Marty and I are looking forward to rejoining you on the trails and waterways. Maybe now we'll get some use out of the kayaks we bought last spring and weren't able to try! You are truly wonderful friends and are what makes the PVHC such a great club. Looking forward to good conversations on the trail!

Meg Schoenemann

Dear PVHC,

I am new to the club (went on a couple of hikes this summer). My boyfriend and I are considering some winter hiking. We spent most of the summer and fall hiking in MA, NH and NC and are getting restless. I have snow shoe's and winter gear, he needs all gear. Any suggestions on where we can pick up some gear to get him started (6ft, 195lbs.)? We are checking out Craig's list for some snow shoes and winter gear. If you hear of anything please let me know. We are looking forward to joining the club members on some winter hikes.

Thanks, Stacey Brigham
Email: brighamstacey@yahoo.com

From: walsh2369@gmail.com
Subject: backpack for sale

Hello,

My name is Sandy Walsh. I live in Easthampton and was wondering if anyone in your club is in the market for a light weight backpack? I have a Kely 2500W in perfect condition. It was used once. I'm asking \$50.00 for it (purchased for \$85.00).

My number is í í í í if anyone is interested.
Thank you for your time. Happy hiking!

Date: Thu, 10 Jan 2008
Subject: Invitation to MA PowerShift

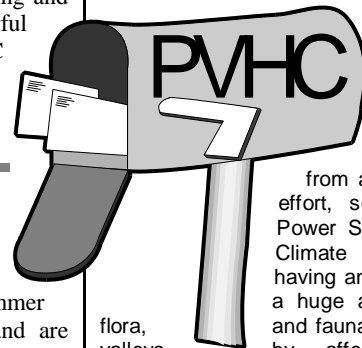
Hello members the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club,

My name is Rouwenna Lamm and I am a student at Smith College. I am writing to you as a member of the Planning Committee for Massachusetts Power Shift. This weekend-long summit on April 11-14 is modeled after Power Shift 2007, a national event that drew over 5,500 students to Washington, DC November 2-5th to bring about strong solutions to the climate problem and poverty. A network of students from across Massachusetts has decided to replicate the success of Power Shift, and hold a weekend-long summit in downtown Boston, complete with workshops, a march, a rally, and a lobby day.

The goals of Massachusetts Power Shift (MAPS) are the following:

- (1) To educate & train leaders for action for solutions strong enough to solve the climate problem while addressing social issues connected to poverty and environmental justice;
- (2) To build relationships & alliances between and among concerned students and community members across MA; and
- (3) To engage and pressure elected officials to pass strong legislation to combat climate change (specifically, the Global Warming Solutions Act).

There is one unique difference between Power Shift 2007 and Massachusetts Power Shift. Power Shift 2007 was a youth-focused event. Massachusetts Power Shift recognizes that the youth climate movement is just one piece of the larger Climate Movement, and it is time that we students join with our natural community allies. That is where you come in.



I am a member of the Partnerships Committee. It's my job to cast as wide a net as possible, and to involve dozens of groups

from across the state in this effort, so that Massachusetts Power Shift is a true success. Climate change is already having and will continue to have a huge affect on the habitats, and fauna of our mountains and valleys by affecting the seasons, temperatures, and precipitation patterns. If we continue on our current path, it is predicted that we will lose much of the ecological diversity we all appreciate each time we step into the outdoors. We would like to invite you, hikers and outdoors lovers, to join with us in our efforts to educate the wider population about climate change and to work together to curb our state's contributions to this devastating trend. We hope you will consider adding yourselves as a co-sponsor and/or

organizer of this event, and help us spread the word in your circles and beyond.

Specifically, we are hoping you might get involved in one or more of the following:

Advisory Board . We are forming an Advisory Board whose wisdom we will draw on from time to time. Ideally, this would be comprised of the directors/heads of organizations.

Participation in the Planning Process . We have several active subcommittees that are doing the bulk of the planning, and we would be happy to have any of your members join any of our committees.

Workshops Development . We plan on having a number of workshops focused on building relevant skills. If you or any of your members would be interested in developing and potentially leading a workshop, we would be eager to hear your ideas. Also, if your members have specific skills that they would like to acquire at our conference, please let us know that as well.

Participation in Workshops-Rally-March-Lobbying Effort . As mentioned above, we want this event to be as inclusive as possible, stretching across race, ethnicity, age, gender, socioeconomic status, and geography (though MA residents are preferred). Thus we would welcome the active and involved participation of your members in every part of the conference, from the trainings to the march to the rally and the lobbying effort.

Publicize/Advertise . Somewhat related to the step above, we would love it if you could publicize this event to your membership, and help us think of and implement creative ways to get the word out to the larger community.

Financial Contribution . It costs money to run a conference. We are doing everything possible to keep costs down, but the bottom line is that it's going to be a huge event, and as students we have few personal resources at our disposal. Any financial assistance you can provide would be much appreciated.

Job Fair . We are considering have a job fair as part of the conference, and if we do and you are hiring, we would welcome representatives from your organization at the fair.

Thanks so much for taking the time to read this. Our website, <http://www.gomyca.org/maps/> should be up and running soon and will include more detailed information about MAPS. I hope you are as excited about this as we are! Please let me know how your organization might like to get involved. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely, Rouwenna Lamm

Co-chair of MAPS Partnerships Committee
Massachusetts Youth Climate Action (MYCA) email: rouwenna@gmail.com

Membership Directory

I have a few membership directories left. If you are a new member who did not receive one at the beginning of the year and would like a copy let me know. I have a limit supply of extras that I would be happy to mail you. John Klebes (j.klebes@ieee.org)

Mass Wildlife



Sitting here at the PVHC booth at the Springfield Camping Show we

were approached by Marion Larson, the outreach coordinator, for Mass. Wildlife. She introduced herself and wanted to let us know that there were opportunities available on Mass Wildlife Land for hiking. Typically there are not marked trails to hike but there are old roads that can be hiked or walked for those looking for a bit more adventure off the beaten path. On the Mass Wildlife website there are topographical maps some of which show you where to park and the old roads on the land. She suggested contacting the local ranger for the District to find out if there are any restrictions to the area you may be interested in hiking.

She also talked about a program for Becoming an Outdoors woman, sorry guys. The Schedule of events coming up this year includes activities, ranging from Maple sugaring and woodlot management to hunting, fishing and SurvivorsqRetreat.

There are also volunteer opportunities that may be of interest to our members. An upcoming event is the Atlantic Salmon Fry stock in April. Mass. Volunteers will be given a bucket of fry fish, Marion assured me they were very small, and waiters and you cross streams stocking it at designated intervals. She suggested bringing a change of clothes and lunch.

You may want to familiarize yourself with the Wildlife Management Area Regulations before using the lands and please remember to wear an orange hat or vest especially during hunting season if you are not hiking on a Sunday.

For more information on all of these opportunities you can visit their website at www.mass.gov/wildlife. For the hiking and walking areas once on the site go to the recreation, then wildlife management areas and pick the district your interested in. The information for the outdoors woman

can be found under the Education tab and the Fry stock info can be found under the Fisheries tab. There is also a free on line newsletter that can keep you informed about the upcoming events and current topics for the state.

You may want to consider a donation to Mass Wildlife as well, which Marion assured me would be welcome and appreciated. All land acquisitions are made possible through licensing fees and donations. You can get more information on the website.

~Marie Babbitt

PVHC Merchandise

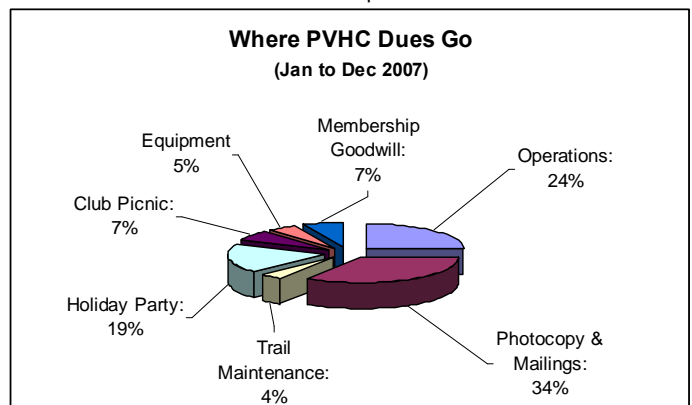
To show your club spirit we offer a small selection of t-shirts, patches, and decals with the club logo. This is a courtesy and goodwill gesture and not a fundraiser. Short sleeve performance shirts are available for \$20.00, \$22 for long sleeves. Patches are available for \$2.00 and a limited supply of car window decals for \$1.00. They can be purchased before and after club meetings.

PVHC Scholarship Policy

In the past, we have offered reimbursement of up to \$25 for those active Club members who wish to partake in pre-approved leadership or outdoor skill training courses that directly benefit the good of the Club. In 2008 we plan to continue to offer this benefit to our members. If there is an interest in a particular activity, enough notice should be given for the Board to briefly review the course, and perhaps offer the opportunity to other club members. Once approved, a receipt of payment is required -to our treasurer- who will reimburse the appropriate amount up to a maximum of \$25.00.

Where your PVHC Dues went in 2007

The attached pie chart represents a summary of how your dues contributed to the many activities that the club supported in the year 2007. The club provides our members with a subsidized summer picnic, holiday party, and liability insurance to hike leaders each year. In addition we have an active trail maintenance program that promotes conservation and land stewardship. Your dues also make it possible for you to receive new activity schedules by mail, if you cannot attend a meeting, and provide for publishing our club newsletter "*Footprints*". Volunteers run all the executive board positions and the clubs activities.



Operations:	Liability insurance, meeting expenses, office equipment & supplies, guest speaker gratuity T-shirts, web site maintenance, etc.
Photocopy & Mailings:	Meeting agendas, schedules, newsletters, club brochures, membership kits, labels, postage, etc.
Trail Maintenance:	Support for trail maintenance, purchasing trail maps & Guide books, etc.
Holiday Party:	Includes food, hall rental, door prizes, & entertainment
Club Picnic:	Includes food & misc. expenses
Equipment	Purchase of screen house in 2007
Membership Goodwill:	Special awards, leadership training, scholarships, and membership goodwill.

Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

March Renewals:

Bill & Donna Allard
 Kay Byington
 Suzanne Carey
 Mike & Gail Carrier
 Susan DeMaria
 Sean Dugre
 Alan Goodhind
 John Gorey
 Frank Grabinski
 John Klebes & Family
 Michele Lloyd
 Patrice Pare

April Renewals:

Jacki Barden
 Christina Bianca & Family
 Nancy Bigos
 Mary Brown
 Dianne Chiba
 Bruce & Patricia Gardner
 Jane Glushik
 Bryan Goodwin & Joan DelPlato
 Mike & Monica Gross
 Lynne Hartwell
 Penny Katimenos
 Susan McGurk
 Robert Morgan
 Terry O'Conner
 Mike Rattelle
 Warner Robinson
 Lynne Shapiro
 Jacqueline Sheehan
 Carolyn Smith
 Jonathan & Kimberly Stevens
 Carolyn Stewart
 Judy Treu
 Charles Williams

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 Deb Gebo,
 81 Roseland Terrace, Longmeadow, MA 01106

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

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees

Ann Marie Visconti, President
Marcia Kelly, Vice President
Gail Carrier, Secretary
Deb Gebo, Treasurer
Scott Cook, Wilderness Experiences
Ray Tibbetts, Founder

Standing Committee Chairs

Hike Plan:	Sue Forest & AnnMarie Visconti
Backpacking Coordinator:	Ed Laroche
Trail Maint:	Ed Laroche & Rob Schechtman
Web Page Editor:	Dick Forrest
Email Correspondent:	Rob Schechtman
Email Distribution 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@ieee.org (Email) or by USmail to John Klebes, P.O. Box 51385, Indian Orchard, MA 01151.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:
April 1, 2008, 7pm at **FBC**
May 6, 2008, 7pm at **FBC**
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: April 23, 2008

FBC . First Baptist Church, West Springfield

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

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

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