

BOOTPRINTS

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JANUARY 2010

Newport, Rhode Island Cliff Walk

By Cindy & Gary Dolgoff

Al Goodhind led his Christmas in Newport trip on Saturday, December 5th 2009. Around 40 hikers were in attendance. Some of us carpoled there early Saturday morning, while others arrived the night before and made it a weekend getaway. (We recommend the weekend getaway: We stayed at the Newport Beach Motel it was nice to wake up in the morning, right across the street from the beach, with the meeting spot basically down the block from where we were staying. Mike Carrier discovered this wonderful hotel.)

We met at First Beach at 9:00 a.m., as the rain started to fall. After everyone had assembled, we headed out on the Cliff Walk. This partially paved trail provides dazzling views of the ocean to the left and glimpses of the Newport mansions to the right. As the weather was unsettled, so was the sea. The waves and sea birds were awesome to watch. It felt like we were looking out at the Pacific Ocean.

We walked along at a comfortable pace, stopping occasionally to take photos and admire the views, on both sides. Unfortunately, it started to rain harder - yet we persevered, of course, like the hikers that we are.

It goes without saying that those of us with raingear were infinitely more comfortable in the rainy weather. (After the hike, Cindy readily agreed to get rain pants for the upcoming Ireland hiking week.)

We came upon a tunnel throughway, which was very dark and had been flooded with large puddles. Luckily, some of the hikers had headlamps to illuminate our way. This demonstrates that it is always a good

idea to carry a headlamp or flashlight on a hike, even if you think you definitely won't need it.

The Cliff Walk that started out as pavement, turned into a path and then to rocks. There were slippery areas that we had to carefully pick our way across, which made our outing more like a hike, and of course more of an interesting & memorable outing.

We completed most of the walk, although we did have to divert exit onto Bellevue Avenue in order to arrive at the Astor & Beechwood Mansion on time for the Victorian Christmas Tour. This tour included local actors dressed in period (1890s?) attire and scrupulously acting their parts as Astor & Roosevelt. At the end of the tour, we were treated to a 15- to 20-minute presentation in the mansion's gilded ballroom. It was a re-enactment of holiday celebrations of yore. The actors/actresses sang us Christmas

Carols and more light-hearted fare, and engaged us in dancing and parlor games. (When the actors invited us to dance with them, some of the more daring in our Club did so.) There were no TVs or videogames to entertain themselves back then.

After the tour, most of us split up into small groups. It was still raining hard as we walked back to the parking lot. Some of the group who arrived at the meeting place first hopped into their cars and offered rides to those still in transit.

Gary and I were quite soaked when we got back to the car. We changed at our hotel room and went to downtown Newport. We had a nice late lunch at the Red Parrot, where we were joined by Kim and Brenda. The place was quite lively, and the menu varied (just what we were looking for!) Afterwards, we did some window shopping and eventually returned to our hotel. We had a short get-together with some of the other hikers staying there that

evening. It was nice having that downtime to hang out with our fellow PVHC-ers...

We stayed until Sunday, enjoying our second Cliff Walk this time in the sun!

Thank you, Al - for another great trip. We always enjoy your early December outings, as well as your White Mountain Sampler in June!

New Club Website

The club's website has been changed to: www.pioneervalleyhikingclub.org. If you have the address bookmarked, don't forget to change it. If you have any of the old business cards, pick up some new ones at the next meeting.

New Members

Christine Blacke	October
Beth Jedziniak & Family	October
James Kmiecik	October
Jeff Knox	October
Marie Despres	November
Cathy Sena	November
Joyce Berg	December

Holiday Party

By Marie Babbitt

Another year has passed and with it, another club holiday party. I arrived late this year, so I cannot comment on the appetizer part of the festivities, except to say there were pretty slim pick-ins left on the table.

However, there were enough main course dishes on hand to have a hearty meal, and I even met a few of you at the table when I went up for seconds. That's what I like about being a member of this club, we are never shy about food. The dessert
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Holiday Party from page 1

table was full of lots of goodies as well. And, although I passed on this part of the meal, there were a few of you I noticed going up a couple of times.

This year, awards were presented for the best dessert and best appetizer or side dish. With all the choices we had, it was tough to narrow down the selections to just one for each category. But our club met the challenge.

The club awards this year were as follows: Chip Pray lead 56 day hikes this year, Marcia Kelly led 73 Night hikes/events, Mike Reed lead 13 weekend day hikes, and John Klebes lead three backpacking or special events. Lisa & Rob Schechtman were given the Volunteer of the Year award for their various backpacking events and for organizing the PVHC picnic for the last two years. The club had a total of 407 hikes this year, lead by 38 different club members. Thanks to all of those that lead hikes. If it were not for you we wouldn't be a hiking club.

This year, awards were presented for the best dessert and best appetizer or side dish.

After that, the DJ started playing and all hell broke loose, so to speak. It's hard to keep us all quiet though, we do like to socialize. Some of us headed for the dance floor and others caught up with other club members. Still others pitched in and started cleaning up as well.

It was another fun night with the club, and if you were unable to attend this year, I do hope to see you next year.

Thanks to Gary and Cindy for all your hard work in organizing this event, and to all those that volunteered.

Windsor Jamb

By John Klebes

The Sunday after Christmas turned out to be warm and sunny despite the heavy rains that fell while we were grouping up in the parking lot in Holyoke for Norm's Windsor

On the way into the trailhead we passed a massive ice flow roaring down the Westfield River.

Jamb Hike. Norm said a few people canceled because of the weather and they sure missed out on a

beautiful day in the Berkshires! Norm, Marie, Ken, Glen and I headed up to Windsor where we met up with Deb and Mike for our hike. On the way into the trailhead we

section and fell on his hiking pole snapping it in half. Ouch! Where's your stabilizers Norm? "Right here in my backpack, he says, and that's where they stayed for the rest of the hike. Due to what I believe is some mystical power that emanates from deep in the rolling hills of the Berkshire highlands a hypnotic force overtook Norm and would not let him put on his stabilizers. After several more slips and slides the final tally was SNOW six and NORM zero. The rest of the group survived the hike without falling. This was not an easy feat since we found our snow covered trek crossing numerous wet areas and criss-crossing the Windsor Jamb Brook several times. During several of the stream crossings we had to search hard for a safe spot to cross and I'm sure more than a few of us finished with

wet boots. Still, as everyone knows from my own hikes, stream crossing always make the hike more

interesting!

We climbed up to upper falls and hiked the loop down around



Ann Marie presented the club's annual slide show. Thanks to all that sent pictures in. It was nice to be a part of your hikes, even if I was unable to participate in them. Ann Marie, how do you know about all these places? Have you been to all of them?

Oh, almost forgot to tell you: Gary presented the food awards as follows: Al and Martha Roman won for best Dessert with an entry of "Toffee Bars", and Marty and Meg Schoenemann won for best Side Dish, with an entry of "Sweet Potato Casserole. +

passed a massive ice flow roaring down the Westfield River. An ice dam must have broken loose and the turbulent flow of water mixed with large chunks of ice was an amazing sight. Sure glad we didn't have to cross that river during our hike.

The ground was covered in wet snow which was slippery in spots but, heeding our trusty leader, "Norm's", advice almost everyone had stabilizers on their boots to get good traction. Everyone that is but, NORM! Within the first mile Norm slipped on a steep

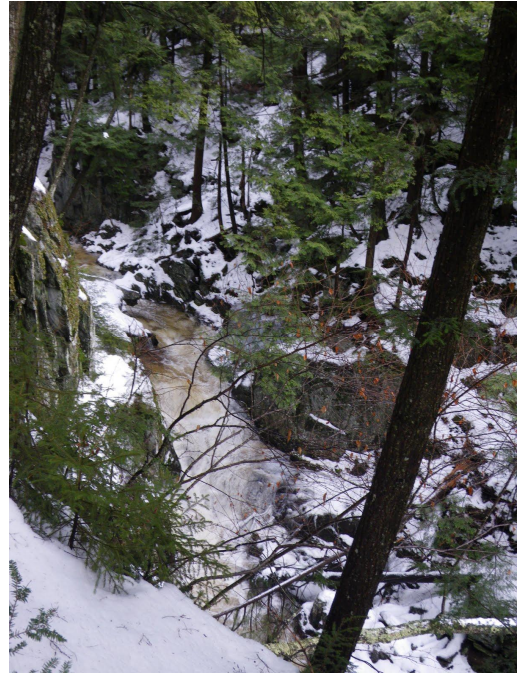
lower falls enjoying the spectacular beauty of the cascading waterfalls in winter splendor. Ice flows along the Windsor Jamb Brook as it plunges through the 25-foot wide gorge, and icicles hanging on the 80-foot high granite walls rising on either side were full of color and the sound of crashing water.

On the way home we stopped for a nice lunch at the Cummington Creamery enjoying the beautiful blue sky. Thanks for a great hike Norm!

Standing Committee Chairs

Hike Plan:	<i>Sue Forest & AnnMarie Visconti</i>
Backpacking Coordinator:	<i>Rick Briggs</i>
Trail Maint.:	<i>Glenn Ewing & Rob Schechtman</i>
Web Page Editor:	<i>Ron Morrisette</i>
Email Correspondent:	<i>Rob Schechtman</i>
Email List:	<i>John Klebes</i>
Quartermaster:	<i>Mike Carrier</i>
Bootprints Co- Editors:	<i>Marie Babbitt) and Mike Reed</i>

Bootprints is a publication of the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club. Send your story contributions to the editor at: marie_babbitt@hotmail.com



Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

January Renewals:

Sheila Croteau
 Thomas Harrington
 Ann Wood
 Kathleen Damon
 DianeCrowell
 Eleaine Tryjankowski
 Helen Bowers
 Bill & Heather Nelson
 Louis Arasate
 Carole DuPont
 John O'Brien
 Gary & Cindy Dolgoff
 Sheila Croteau

Febuary Renewals:

Carol Vanderheiden
 Paul & Maxine Lessard
 Karen Charbonneau
 Ruth Wade
 Harry (Chip) Pray
 Joan Holmes
 Christina Calabrese
 Donna Dreyer
 Richard Harrington
 Daniel Koehne
 Michael Catalano
 J. Danusia Lokii-Braese
 Sharon Meaney
 Chris & Shari Petrucci

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees

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



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & THE USUALS

- Jan 9 - Fun (MA) WEU Potluck & Movie (limit 35)
- Jan 16 - (MA) Mass MoCA Museum & Natural Bridges State Park
- Jan 23 - (MA) Robert Frost Trail
- Jan 30-31 - (NH) Lonesome Lake Backpack
- Feb 6 - (CT) Metacomet Rt. 72 . Rt. 6 Pinnacle Rock & Will Warren Den
- Feb 26 - Full moon - (CT) East Granby Rail Trail
- Mar 7 - (MA) Bear Hole Watershed W. Spfld. Snowshoe/hike
- Mar 28 - (MA) Maple Corner Farm Breakfast & XC ski
- Apr 10 - (MA) Barthomew Cobble work day
- Every Monday - Morning hikes, various locations
- Every Wednesday - Evening walks
- Every Thursday - Afternoon hikes

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:
Feb 2, 2010, 7pm at **FBC**
March 2, 2010, 7pm at **FBC**
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: Feb15, 2010

FBC . First Baptist Church, West Springfield

***** Check out our web page at:**
www.pioneervalleyhikingclub.org.

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

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