

BOOTPRINTS

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Congratulations Papa Smurf

By Marie Babbitt

John Klebes, aka Papa Smurf, has successfully completed both the Appalachian trail this year and has joined the ranks of the 46ers Club completing the Adirondacks high peaks. As many of you know, or maybe don't know, John began his Appalachian trail hike in May of this year and Completed it on September . All while looking for a job, how did you do it John? John completed the Trail in 4 months which is a pretty good pace especially when you factor in John got off the trail for days at a time for job seeking meetings, family or club events. John even hiked in excess of 40 miles one day to meet someone, talk about a death march.

The trail was rugged in some places with a bit of rock scrambling.

Mt Ascutney

By Marie Babbitt

Bob Morgan led a band of eleven merry hikers to Mt. Ascutney and I was lucky to be counted among them. We met in Holyoke and got a bit of a late start but the day was clear and the sky was blue. We were going to hike up the Brownsville trail and down the Weathersfield Trail so spotting cars was required. This would be my 1st hike after the Adirondacks and so I was feeling pretty confident in my abilities.

We arrived at the Weathersfield trail head to drop off two cars and then headed off to the Brownsville trail. After taking the required before picture we headed up the trail and that is what the trail was UP, with no let up. The elevation gain for the hike was 2,400 ft so slow and steady is a good way to go. We took a break at the old granite quarry, where Bob told us that the pillars for the Library at Columbia University were harvested from. Due to the amount of lead in the granite the quarry was ultimately abandon. The view from this vantage point was clear and far.

We broke off into smaller groups and continued our way up the mountain. The trail was rugged in some places with a bit of rock scrambling but mostly pretty well marked and a typical hike. In the cover of the trees all one could see was up, is there no end I thought? I stopped after branch jabbed into the back of my hand and dug into my backpack for that First aid kit that I always carry. Do you have a band aid my fellow hikers inquired and when I told them yes they continued on. I think this is the first time I ever had to use anything out of my kit for myself. After patching myself up I continued up the mountain and caught up with my fellow hikers at an overlook. We all continued on and summited shortly thereafter. There is a tower on the summit and I dropped my pack and walked up. The view was incredible, 360 degrees and clear as a bell. I just took in the views, I was in no rush to go down to eat lunch. We met a hiker we saw at the Weathersfield trailhead when we dropped our cars off and struck up a conversation with him.

After lunch we headed down the Weathersfield trail and walked out to where gliders sometimes take off. There were 3 gliders set up and the guys were packing up their gear getting ready to launch. They were hoping they could stay up at least an hour before landing. The trail down was pretty and totally different from the other side of the mountain. We hiked along the side of the stream a lot of the way and saw some really nice views of falls tucked into the rocks just a bit off the trails in a
See Ascutney on page 2 for continuation



Annual Holiday Party

Saturday December 11,
2010 - 5:30 to 11:30 p.m. at
Springfield College

It is hard to believe that another year has gone by and the Holiday Party is upcoming.

Once again, the party will take

place at The Pueblo on the grounds of Springfield College. There will be catered food, potluck food, the slide show of the year's hikes, door prizes, and of course, a D.J. with dancing!

By popular demand, we will once again have the cooking competition. Dust off your cookbooks and try out that recipe. You may win a \$25 gift certificate to Eastern Mountain Sports! We had some delicious entries last year and it was a close race, but everyone is a winner with the tasty dishes.

Ron Morrissette will be organizing this year's slide show. It is a wonderful time to sit back and share the memories of the hikes of the year.

Then of course, we will be dancing away to the DJ's beat. Our energetic DJ keeps everyone lively, and takes requests. Get out those dancing shoes!

The party is free to members and you may bring a guest for \$5.00. We will have sign up sheets for volunteers at November meeting. Helpers will be needed for set up, table decorating, purchasing door prizes, picking up the catered food, and clean up.

Hope you can attend this fun event! Any questions - call Cindy and Gary Dolgoff at 413-584-8564/413-575-0305, or Jeanne Kaiser at 732-3975.

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couple of places. Close to the end we hit an open vista on a rock and we all just sat down and soaked in the warmth of the sun.



Some of us went for ice cream after the hike and others headed straight back. It was another great day hiking with the club. Thanks Bob for putting this all together.

Annual Club Picnic

By Marie Babbitt

The annual club picnic was another great success this year thanks to all the hard work by Rob & Lisa in preparing food, organizing it and all the volunteers who helped shop, set up and clean up. It was a beautiful day the set up crew showed up about 11am. We cleaned tables, unloaded Rob truck with every imaginable item one could need for the picnic, well except for the utensils, and set up the tables, loaded the grill with charcoal and sliced veggies. A couple of early birds showed up and went hiking after offering to give a hand.

Rob was in charge of the grilling and grilling he did. There were ribs, two kinds of chicken, sausage and peppers, salmon burgers, veggies burgers, hot dogs and hamburgers. Rob gave me a corner of the grill so I could cook up the veggies I had brought.

Others began to show up, must have smelled all that good cookin, and loaded up the table with salads, fruit, desserts too numerous to mention.

By the time all was said and done there was not much table cloth showing if any. You know what came next, yep the feasting.

I sat down met and talked with some new people I hadn't met before and with some seasoned friends as well. After our lunch some people went for walks and another group played croquet. I did not get all the details but there were some pretty hard knocks going on over there and I believe Mike was the winner of the game. The day was winding down and I wanted to enjoy the park so I coerced my friend Ann to go for a walk with me. We walked down the road to Bray lake and back up to

the lovely peace and quiet was shattered by the hordes of college freshman!

the picnic area. By the time we returned the place was pretty much cleaned up and a few club members were sitting around taking inventory of the day to see what could have been done differently and hopefully better for next year.

Spending the day with fellow club members is always a special time and I look forward to it each year. Thank you Rob and Lisa Schechtman for another fantastic day and all your preparations to make the day a huge success.

PVHC Directory

It's that time again to put together our PVHC Membership Directory for 2011 which we hand out at the Holiday Party in December. Please take a look at this year's directory and let me know if you would like us to make any changes. The following options are available:

NO - only name will be printed

YES - print all - name, address, phone, email

EMAIL - print only name and email

PHONE - print only name and phone

TELCOM - Telecommunications, print only name, phone and email

If you have not given us permission to include all information, only your name will be printed. If you have any questions or need verification of information, please let me know by email (dmgebo@comcast.net) or give me a call at (413) 567-6703. The cutoff day for information is November 12.

Thanks,

Deb Gebo - PVHC Treasurer

Labor Day Greylock Hike

By Lori Tisdell

With the long Labor Day weekend coming up I was thinking it would be a perfect time to have a nice long hike somewhere with views. My first choice was Mt Mansfield in VT but that wasn't working out so I started thinking about a closer location. I remembered how much fun many of us had had on my Memorial Day hike at Greylock and thought why not revisit that beautiful mountain. Greylock the sequel! You know, sequels are never as good as the original.

This hike was going to be a bit less strenuous at 9 miles and 2,000 feet elevation gain than the first one in May. That one had been a training hike for Mt Washington of 10 miles and 2900+ feet elevation gain. I'd been very nervous the first time at Greylock as it was the biggest hike I'd ever done. Since that time I've had lots of fun doing more challenging hikes including an Eisenhower/Pierce traverse and Bob Morgan's Mt. Race and Everett hike in July. The forecast was perfect for hiking . sunny, clear

See *Greylock* on page 3 for continuation

New members

August

Lee Daniel & Family

Mark Pocsik
Mary Walters

September

Susan & Timothy
Goodchild
Rebecca Mason
Ned Schwartz
Peter Wagner
Lynne Wolak

October

Kent & Janet Beach
Robert Maselek

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skies, breezy and 70°. Wow! There were 13 of us! Same as in May. It had been a lucky number that time. Would it be so again? We all headed out from Westfield to meet up with two other hikers at the Greylock Visitor Center.

There's a long story but here's the short version! On the way to the hike I got a flat tire in Lee. Ron and Dave got the tire changed in record time (racing pit crew) but we elected to leave my car in Lee (donut) and piled into Ron's van. It was a tight fit with one more person than seats available!

We ended up on trail less than 30 minutes later than I'd intended. I asked Allison and Beth to lead so I could do sweep since it was a largish group with varying degrees of ability and I didn't want to lose anyone. We started out on Old Adams Road which has several water crossings on bridges that were sadly dry. It was a nice trail, wide and rambling with soft ups and downs, a few of us thought it would make a very nice snowshoe hike. It was peaceful, pretty and quiet.

Then we turned on Cheshire Harbor Trail. The lovely peace and quiet was shattered by the hordes of college freshman! Hundreds of students were making their way up the 2.5 miles to the summit. I've never seen so many people on a trail. And so unprepared! One girl was wearing pointy toed cowboy boots, another was wearing a strapless top (can anyone say wardrobe malfunction) and nary a hiking pole among them. There were a few backpacks but precious little water. The trail up was accompanied by Hip Hop, Rap, cell phone calls and conversation suited to 18 year old kids. A few students were quite polite but the one who called us 'old timers'? Not so much. Hey these old timers were still moving up the mountain while you had your ass on a rock looking as though you were breathing your last! Old timers? Ha!

We arrived at the summit to find crowds of people out enjoying the holiday and the perfect day for views and drives. A nice spot overlooking Adams for our lunchtime view and we were golden. Refueled, rested and recharged we gathered for a summit picture before heading back down. We returned to our starting point via the Appalachian Trail and Jones Nose. The route took

us over Saddle Ball, the second highest point in MA! It was agreed this part of the hike, on the sunlit forested trail, was really very nice especially with the usual peace and quiet restored. Along the way we saw The Catskill Mountains and looking back from Saddle Ball a nice view of Greylock Summit with the War Memorial Tower. The end part of the Jones Nose trail walking through the field with the mountain vistas all around was a perfect way to end the hike.

However, there was one more surprise in store for this hike. Being sweep I finished a bit later than the majority. As the last two of us arrived back at the parking lot I was informed that one of the drivers couldn't find his car keys! However, after he and another driver headed back up to the summit in search of said keys via car, they were found. It seems a passing Good Samaritan found them and put them on his car. Whew, disaster averted.

I'd like to thank all the PVHC members who hiked that day. Even with all the snags we encountered at the end we all sat on the grass laughing about each problem and enjoying the beautiful day. Everyone was kind enough to tell me it was a 'great hike' and you know what? It was because of all terrific people I hike with!

Club Elections

By Marie Babbitt

Club elections are just around the corner and that means we need you. If you were not at our last meeting Ann Marie and Gail wanted to let us know that they will not be accepting nominations for President and Secretary in the upcoming year. If you have been thinking about giving back to the club this could be the opportunity you have been looking for.

My experience as Bootprints Co-Editor is that there have been people who just stepped up and offered to help. And when I wasn't sure what to do people were here to give me guidance. I have found that people's 'good hearts' have helped me whenever the need arises. I would encourage you to step up and throw your name into the hat this year. Good Luck!

Monadnock Adventure: Part Deux

by Lori Tisdell

Earlier this year I wrote about an adventure I experienced on the annual winter Monadnock hike led by Dick and Sue Forest. Apparently adventures and Monadnock go together for me or those hiking with me.

Columbus Day weekend was forecasted to have near perfect weather. So I wanted to be out on trail doing something that would be at least moderately challenging and with lots of autumn views. Monadnock seemed to fit the bill perfectly with a decent elevation gain and 360 degree spectacular views.

There were four of us Anne Abert, Heather Wyman, Sean St. Marie and myself. To avoid 'the Monadnock Express' I mapped out a route that would keep us away See *Part Deux* for continuation on page 4

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Part Deux continued from page 3

from the worst of the crowds. The views from Cliff Walk were just wonderful. The hike up was uneventful but for the spectacular views.

The summit was a circus, normal on a fall day. It was so clear we were able to see both the Boston skyline and Mt Washington in the far distance. After enjoying our lunch in a sheltered but sunny area it was time to head on down. Sean and Heather suggested we head down the Smith Summit Trail to avoid the crowds. This is a great trail and no more difficult than White Arrow with the added bonus of few other hikers.

A few minutes down the trail I heard a thud following by a loud and painful sounding "ow." That is never a good sound to hear. Anne had stepped in a hole, twisted her ankle and was on the ground. We grouped up to check out Anne's ankle. There was immediate swelling and bruising. Damn. I carry an ankle support so on it went. The boot will not come off again in case there is more swelling. Heather also gives Anne Ibuprofen to help with the pain and swelling. We all stay together as Anne cannot walk without aid.

We continue on down the mountain assessing each area as we come to it. We had to be careful to find the best way for Anne to get down and over all the rocks and ledges that make up Monadnock's upper section. Well, most of the lower section too. It is slow going as some areas are very steep, with tall step like sections that Anne must get down without causing further injury. Anne does quite a bit of sliding on her butt. Heather, Sean and I support Anne - side, front and behind - as we maneuver through each section.

We headed towards the Old Toll Road where we started. I realize that it can be driven on by unauthorized vehicles. So we call the park rangers to see if they can pick Anne up at the end of the road. The first call results in "We've heard that story before" after I identified myself and the club I am affiliated with. Wow. After several more phone calls over the course of the next hour, while we continue on down, it is agreed that there will be someone to meet us. Excellent!

At one point we came to a steep longish section that presented a safety problem. A rope would help Anne in a controlled slide to the bottom. And guess what? I have a rope I have kept in my pack since an interesting bush whack with Bob Morgan. But that's another story. As Anne arrived at the bottom of the rock slide two hikers inquired if she needed help as one was a nurse. How fortuitous. This kind and helpful couple stayed with us for some time while the woman checked and tended to Anne's ankle.

A while later we were met by two park rangers who assessed our situation. Seeing that Anne was mobile with help they told us to continue on our course. They

also authorized us to use our own car. So we sent Sean ahead while Anne, Heather and I continued on hoping we'd all meet back up pretty quickly. Well, that was wishful thinking. We got to Fairy Springs Trail and found continuing steep rocky sections. Then there was that pesky spring crossing. It's a lovely trail but not great for an injured person. But, we got through it with great humor, calm thinking and support from each other.

In the meantime, we received a message from Sean that he wasn't going to be able to meet us as only 4 wheel drive vehicles are allowed on the Toll Road. The good news is ranger Jeff would be meeting us.

At the Halfway House Site the sky was reddening with the lowering of the sun and we were treated to a spectacular sunset. What a lovely reward for all our hard work! Heather had said she wanted to see a sunset at Monadnock to bookend the sunrise hike she'd done. And a glorious one she got!

We saw ranger Jeff, at the end of the Toll Road waiting patiently for us. With the tailgate down. Hmmm. Apparently we weren't going to be riding in comfort. As there was a cover over the bed we stowed our gear and clambered onto the 12 inch tailgate. And held on for dear life as a wild ride down the winding dirt road ensued. Good thing the road was so well graded; one pothole and we'd have been bumped off the truck in a tangled heap! Jeff said he never went over 20 MPH. Yeah, right.

Though Anne was injured it was not serious and she is currently starting to hike again. This hike really brought home to all of us why we carry the extra gear just in case. And I am proud to say we were prepared, we all pulled together, no one panicked, there was no whining or complaining and we completed the hike with good cheer and fun despite the unexpected problem. Kudos to Anne for remaining positive throughout and laughing at her predicament in spite of the pain her ankle was causing her. Thanks to Sean and Heather. I'm sure when they signed onto this hike they didn't expect quite such an adventure!



Midstate trail

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees

Ann Marie Visconti, President
 Marcia Kelly, Vice President
 Gail Carrier, Secretary
 Deb Gebo, Treasurer
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 Quartermaster: *Mike Carrier*
 Bootprints Editors: *Marie Babbitt and Mike Reed*

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



Mt Ascutney

Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

November Renewals:

Marie Babbitt
 John Paul Boisvert
 Marie Despres
 Lynn Gebo
 Kathy Gray
 Richard Harris
 Donna Ketschek
 Edward Laroche
 Enola Nelson
 Bill Packard
 Cathy Sena
 Chuck Serafin
 Diane Sullivan
 Peter Thieme
 Lori Tisdell & Family
 Mimi Watroba
 Edward Welsh

December Renewals:

Joyce Berg
 Deborah Gebo
 Frank Kamlowski
 Lillian Orozco
 David Pierrepont
 Ruth Preston
 Wayne Rodrigues &
 Janice Doubleday

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)

Thanksgiving

DIRECTIONS TO PVHC'S HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 11, from 5:30 p.m. until 11:30 p.m

The Pueblo - Springfield College, East Campus (701 Wilbraham Rd., Springfield, Ma)

From the East or West

Mass Pike Rt. 90, to Exit 6. Take 291 West for one mile to Exit 5 (East Springfield/Indian Orchard) Turn right onto route 20A, then immediately move into the left lane. Turn left at the first light onto Roosevelt Avenue. Proceed three miles to Alden Street and take a left. Proceed down Alden St. to first light and take a right at the light onto Wilbraham Rd. East Campus is the first driveway on the right. Follow driveway to parking lot.

From the North

Take Interstate 91 South to Interstate 291. Proceed four miles to Exit 5B, East Springfield/ Indian Orchard. Turn right at the end of the exit ramp onto Route 20A, then immediately move into the left lane. Turn left at the first light onto Roosevelt Avenue. Proceed three miles to Alden Street and take a left. Proceed down Alden St. to first light and take a right at the light onto Wilbraham Rd. East Campus is the first driveway on the right. Follow driveway to parking lot.

From the South

From CT take Interstate 91 North to Mass Exit 2, Route 83. Proceed on Route 83 to the second traffic light and turn right onto Sumner Avenue. After two miles, turn left onto Roosevelt Avenue. Continue through two traffic lights, then bear left at the stop sign. Half a mile after the stop sign, cross a bridge and turn right onto Alden Street. Proceed down Alden St. to first light and take a right at the light onto Wilbraham Rd. East Campus is the first driveway on the right. Follow driveway to parking lot.

seasons
greetings



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & THE USUALS

- Nov 6 - (NY) NYC Bus Trip
- Nov 14 - (MA) M & M Trail Maintenance
- Dec. 4-5 - (NH) Strawberry Banke, Day or Overnight
- Dec 11 - (MA) PVHC Holiday Party @ The Pueblo
- Dec 17 -19 . (CT) Northwest Cabin Weekend
- Dec 26 . (MA) Mittineague Park W. Spfld
- Dec 28- 30 - (NH) Carter Notch Hut
- Dec 31 - NEW YEAR\$ EVE (MA) Dinner and hike
- Jan 2 - (MA) Quabbin w/ snowshoes
- Jan 7-9 (NH) Radake Cabin on Kacamagus Highway
- Jan 8 - (NH) Mt. Monadnock
- Every Monday - Morning hikes, various locations
- Every Wednesday - Evening walks
- Every Thursday - Afternoon hikes

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:
Dec 7, 2010, 7pm at **FBC**
Jan 4, 2011, 7pm at **FBC**
- ❑ Submission deadline for next
Footprints is: Dec 18, 2010

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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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