

BOOTPRINTS

Volume 15 Issue 3

May 2011



PVHC PICNIC SUNDAY JUNE 5, 2011

By Rob Schechtman

Hold the date, the PVHC picnic is set for June 5 at Mt Tom. It will happen rain or shine, as we have the covered pavilion. There will be lots of good food and some hiking to our nearby favorite spots. We have a field near-by for some Frisbee and other games. And bring a chair for relaxing and visiting.

It is free to club members, except for the park entrance fee. Guests will be welcome for a \$5 fee. The club will provide the main courses from the grill, drinks and chips. We ask all participating to bring an appetizer, or side dish (except chips) or desert. If you want to bring a cup, plate or silverware it helps to be green, but we will have paper goods as well.

If you missed the meeting, Please call for sign-up so we have a good count. Call Lisa or Rob at 786-4198.

Directions to Mt. Tom Pavillion: From Rt 5 take Reservation Rd into the park and go past Bray lake up the hill and the pavilion is on the right near the junction with Christopher Clark Rd and the visitor center. From Rt 141 take Christopher Clark Rd to the visitor center, and take a right on Reservation Rd pavilion is immediately to the left.



SPRING FEVER HIKES

By Cindy and Gary Dolgoff

Did you have a tough winter? We did. There was no hiking in the cards for us. We did get plenty of exercise, but it wasn't fun - roof raking, chopping ice, clearing the driveway, and our least favorite - digging a snow moat around the house. We couldn't wait for the snow to finally melt; which of course did eventually happen.

Our first hike this year was on Saturday, March 26, which was Carol Vanderheiden's hike from The Notch to Mount Hitchcock. It was still cold out (upper 30s starting out), but sunny. I think others were anxious to start spring hiking, because there were 24 people on the hike. The trail conditions were such that there was still some snow remaining, but not much, and the ground was still frozen with some slippery spots. We started up the M & M, steep, over Bare Mountain, continuing on to Mount Hitchcock. We continued on the North side trail and ate lunch in front of a pond. Went back through to a military road where supposedly the town of Amherst stores its records underground. Kind of scary looking. Some of the hikers stopped at Atkins on the way home. Thank you Carol - a great first hike of the season. From our hiking journal: "Things we enjoyed most - just being out in the fresh air after a long winter inside."

lots of rocks that people had a great time clambering up onto.

Next hike - Sunday April 3. Karen Markham led a hike at the Rock House Reservation in West Brookfield, MA. This was another popular hike, again with 24 hikers in attendance. The weather is now warming up with temperatures in the upper 50s. It was sunny and windy. This was a fairly easy hike - some hills but not too steep, lots of rocks that people had a great time clambering up onto. We went into a small cave and stopped at an area with a cabin and bird feeders. Lots of water views to enjoy. Most (all?) of us stopped at Janine's Restaurant for ice cream and/or snacks on the way home.

It was great to see our fellow PVHC members on the trail once again. We know that there was a core group of hikers who hiked/snowshoed all winter, in the snowiest of conditions. We admire your fortitude.

MIKE'S MIDSTATE TRAIL FINALE

By Lori Tisdell

I was fortunate to be present when Mike Reed completed his Midstate Trail series on April 10, 2011. The Midstate Trail is a 92 mile scenic trail that
See Midstate page 2 for continuation

Midstate continued from page 1

runs from Rhode Island to New Hampshire and includes the summits of Mt Wachusett, Mt Watatic and other interesting geologic, historic and natural features. The last leg includes Mt Watatic, the southern end of the Wapack range, with its rocky summit and far reaching views. This was where we were going to be hiking, over and beyond the summit to the NH border.

We were blessed with a beautiful day of 60 degree temperatures and sunny blue skies for the completion of the series. There were 12 of us joining Mike including Deb Gebo and Norm Plante who, along with Mike, were about to celebrate hiking the entire Midstate Trail. In fact, Mike and Deb did the trail twice as they did the scouting hikes as well as the official club hikes.

The trail starts up pretty quickly with a nice climb. There was still some snow and a bit of ice in some areas to beware of. Before too long we were on the summit of Watatic and enjoying a wonderful nearly 360 degree view of the surrounding countryside. Many of us had our picture taken standing on the summit cairn, Chip, our new club president, along with Norm, ~~the~~ the Enforcer, included!

The section past Mt Watatic had quite a bit of ice and snow on the downhill but no one put traction on their feet. It worked out fine though as no one fell though several of us had some nice slides! We came across a nice rocky area where we stopped for an impromptu lunch. It was a perfect spot with sun warmed boulders to sit on and a view to enjoy. Then we were off to New Hampshire!

Soon after lunch we arrived at the MA-NH border with the Midstate Trail marker. We all cheered for Mike, Deb and Norm. Mike presented Deb and Norm with Midstate Trail patches to note their accomplishment and Norm received a Midstate Trail book as well. It was so nice to be present at and to be able to join in the celebration. Then we were off back to the summit of Watatic for another sunny break. Yep, we had a lot of down time enjoying the beautiful spring day!

Congratulations to Mike, Deb and Norm on completing the Midstate Trail!



Deb Gebo, Mike Reed and Norm Plante all completed the mid-state trail series hikes

COMMITMENT

Until one is committed there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation), there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: That the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would otherwise never have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamt would have come his way.

I have learned a deep respect for one of Goethe's couplets: "Whatever you can do, or dream you can -- begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it."

--- W.N. Murray from The Scottish Himalayan Expedition, 1951

NEW BOOTS

By Chuck O'Connor

I'm a new member who needed a new pair of hiking boots. After checking out EMS and LL Bean, we went to Sears in Holyoke and got a pair of Rockport boots for 49.00. These are made of soft, water resistant leather, and originally sold for 110.00. They took 15% off at the register, then asked if we had a Sears card. When we agreed to get one, they took another 15.00 off.. How great is that? I don't work for Sears....just an old retiree trying to live on a fixed budget...

OUR NEW ADDRESS

By Marie Babbitt

Our mailing address has changed, so if you still use the mail to send us information please note the change. Thank you Wilderness Experience for your service in forwarding our mail.

HAWAII ISLANDS

By Arline Ely

Russell Seelig and Arline Ely visited the big Island of Hawaii and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. We chose a spectacular hike on the Kilauea Iki Overlook Rim Trail and a descent on to the crater floor. An *See Hawaii page 3 for continuation*

Hawaii continued from page 2

eruption occurred in 1959 when a curtain of lava burst from a half-mile long fissure or crack, in the crater wall. Fountains of lava gushed from the vent creating a lake of lava.

Our next hiking adventure took us to the island of Maui and Haleakala National Park.

House of the Sun+It took us an hour to drive to the very top at 10,023 ft. We could choose from a number of trails at the summit area, which gave us a good view of the enormous crater.

PATRIOT'S DAY HIKE

(aka Monday Morning Hike)

By Lori Tisdell



Chip Pray, our newly and duly elected club president, has been leading Monday morning hikes for quite a while now. Those of us who have that minor little thing called a job are usually not able to participate. When a Monday holiday comes around I've been able to join Chip on some of his Monday morning forays. I've found the hikes are always fun and adventurous and the Patriots Day hike was no exception! We were going to be hiking on the Robert Frost Trail in the North Leverett area. Even the description sounded fun! Two hills+to climb, a river, a brook, a natural stone amphitheater, rock ledges (woo hoo) and a place called The Pigpen+ And what sounded very interesting would be a silent part of the hike in the hopes of not scaring the wildlife away with our chatter and seeing some larger wild animals in their natural habitat. .

The day dawned bright and sunny with 60 degree temps forecast for the day. Perfect! There were 14 of us hiking and as usual a cheerful and happy group we made, especially those of us hiking instead of working. The trail started right off going uphill to the summit of Stoddard Hill. It was a heart pumping climb for the first few minutes, for some of us anyway, before we settled into a rhythm for the short ascent. Soon we arrived at the summit and were rewarded with a nice view of Mt Toby. A brief stop and we were on our way. Heading back down the other side of the hill we found lots of debris on the trail left over from the winter. A bit of trail maintenance was called for.

Approaching a road crossing we found a lovely view of the Saw Mill River before heading back into the forest. Al Shane gave us a bit of historical information before we began the silent+portion of the hike. This area of the trail has lots of large and small wild life as evidenced by the amount of scat that was seen on and about the trail. We all did our best Natty Bumppo imitation hiking as quietly as possible but to no avail. No sightings of bear, deer, porcupine, or even squirrel were to be had save the turkey vulture's flying above us and one brief flurry of a hawk's wings taking off with lunch clutched tightly in its

We all did our best Natty Bumppo imitation hiking as quietly as possible but to no avail

talons. Well, you know maybe I didn't really want to see a bear anyway. Hiking without speaking and stepping as softly and quietly as possible was a very interesting experience. It made me so aware of the other forest sounds surrounding us, the small cracking of a twig, the breeze running through the trees, the flutter of wings above, the knock of a woodpecker, the movement of the water from Spaulding Brook as we hiked along and over its tumbling path. I would relish experiencing it again on a future hike.

The next encounter was a natural stone amphitheater. We went down a short, steep decline between two very large rock formations and found ourselves surrounded by rock and earth. The rock formations were set perpendicular to one another forming a roughly oval shaped area. The ground rose up opposite the large formations nearly closing the area in and leaving a 20 by 30 foot seating+area. We lunched here and enjoyed exploring the niches and unusual shape of the rocks. Some people basked in the sun completely enjoying the perfect sunny spring day.

It was time to move on to the next attraction+Chip had on his agenda. We were greeted by a classical Greek or Roman mask in a niche at the entrance to a natural rock enclosure called The Pigpen+ High falutin' stuff here. Once again we were surrounded by rock. I heard some one say farmers used to corral their pigs there and so the name was born. I don't know if that is true but it sure was a cool place to explore. Then I noticed the blazes marking the trail which was pointing us up the steep ledges! Fun! The other way to ascend to the second ledge was through a narrow cave. We all passed except Al who crawled through and was standing above us in no time. There were five ledges in all leading to the summit of Dry Hill. Each ledge held a surprised for us, one a lovely embedded quartz rock, another a shelf of layered rock looking like a chocolate layer cake, more niches and small caves and one ledge with a tree whose long flexible branch grew downward and looped back upon itself. More views awaited us on the summit where we rested awhile continuing to delight in the perfect day.

Then it was time to go back . down the ledges we went. Brenda elected to slide through the cave on the final ledge. I have decided her trail name should be Brenda the Brave as she is fearless in her quest to explore nature. Back at Spaulding Brook we lost the original crossing and jumped and made our way across wider areas, several of us through ankle deep water. Thank goodness for Gore-Tex. Past Sawmill River with its fast flowing white water and small waterfall we hiked and finally back up and over Stoddard Hill to our starting point.

It was an absolutely perfect way to spend the holiday. Chip's great planning and leadership and the company of friends and fellow hikers made the day one to remember and look back upon fondly for a long time to come.

AT SERIES HIKE

By Marie Babbitt

I was fortunate enough to be able to go on the 1st of a series of hikes on the AT that Cindy Hibert and Jeanne Kaiser are leading. The hike was listed as difficult and started at the CT boarder. We met at the Westfield meeting place at 7AM after a week of uncertainty about the hike due to weather conditions. I was wearing my peddle pusher, bet some of you remember what they are, since I figured my winter pants would be too warm. I forgot to figure in the 10 degree swing between here and the Berkshires not to mention not looking at the forecast which said temp in the 40s. It was sounding like a cold day ahead.

We got off in good time and made it to the 1st car spotting trailhead in good time and half of us jumped into other cars to get to the trailhead to begin the hike. We were greeted by the sound of woodpeckers as we piled out of the cars. It sure was nice that I had my gaitors as the weather was cooler and the wind had picked up. Cindy reminded those of us who left cars at the 1st drop off area to make sure we had our keys, which I had nearly forgotten.

This hike was a joint hike with the PVHC and AMC. We had our usual circle of introductions, Cindy and Jeanne told us where our turn around point was if we did not get there by a certain time and then off we went. We started off at a pretty quick pace and it's a good thing it was all flat or I would have been in real trouble. We arrived at the water crossing that Cindy and Jeanne had prepared us for and Rick found the best route across and so the rest of us followed. A couple of our group changed shoes to cross but the majority of us were fine with just our boots. Poles were key to crossing without falling in and Shari shared one of her poles with a member who did not have any. After we had all crossed and were back into our hiking boots we were off. Up, up and away was where we were headed. Slow and steady is my motto, I just try and keep going no matter how slow I go. With the wind and terrain it was hard to gauge when to shed clothes. We arrived at our 1st vista and although the day was overcast we still had a fairly good view which was really comforting. We were not sure exactly what we were looking at but it didn't really matter to me. A couple of people were coming off the ridge from the opposite direction and said the wind was pretty strong. After we all gather together as a single group again we were off to tackle the top of Race. As we walked along the ridge the wind was pushing some of us off balance. It was a good thing the wind was blowing into the mountain or some of us would have been blown over the edge. The view was great if you were brave enough to stop looking where you were going to put your feet. We all met up again at the top of Race with a 360 degree view of the surrounding area. It is beautiful country in that part of the state if you have never seen it.

We headed down the mountain to our lunch spot. We were ahead of schedule so we had plenty of time to continue the hike. After having our lunch by the brook we started up the mountain to the top of Everette. It was

pretty much straight up and all I could think of was doing the Annie dance at the top. I was hoping I could get the rest of the hikers to join me, would they, I wondered, be willing??? After arriving at the top I asked everyone if they would like to join me in the Annie dance. I have to tell you that it was our very own Ann Mundy that inspired the dance. She actually did the dance in the back of the car on the way to the trailhead she was so excited to be doing the hike. One of AMCers said he did not want to do it but after we all lined up and did the little dance he graciously did an abbreviated version. I think he really liked it. After the dance we headed down the mountain.

The trail was full of leaves and the going was slow. The last three of us stopped ever so briefly at the top of St. Jeanne Ann Marie mountain to take in the view before continuing down the mountain. We started getting little sprits of rain now and then and at one point it started coming down pretty steady so Ann and I stopped to put on our raincoats.

Shari hiked with Ann and I towards the end of the hike and we caught up with the group one final time. It is interesting to note every time we would catch up to the group they requested the Annie dance and I would oblige. I think they wanted to join in but were too shy. As we were emerging from the forest I could hear the call of the birds saying goodbye to us. As sweet as that was the sight of our cars was even sweeter. I was tired but happy that I had completed this section of the AT. How our friends Shari and John did this hike with 40lbs on their backs when doing the AT is amazing to me. We carpoled back to the trailhead to pick up cars and a small contingency of our group held up the PVHC eating tradition by going out to eat. It was a wonderful day and a wonderful hike. If you have never had the opportunity to hike with Cindy or Jeanne as hike leaders you are in for something special when you do. They are both great hike leaders and this series is going to fun to do with them. Thanks Cindy and Jeanne for a great hike.



Sages Ravine – AT Series Hike

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

March

Kathleen Blanchard
Stephanie Bustos
Edmund Marrone
Christine Enz
Chuck O'Connor

April

Suzan Anderson
Carla LeCompte
Louis Pilegi
William Driscoll
Elsa Rosenak

WILDERNESS SNOWSHOE

Snowshoeing into Grizzle Pond shelter.
 What kind of name is that?
 Not a bear track yet.
 The pond, not quite safe,
 still white with Winter's snow.

A Bard owl
 beginning a far-off hoot
 another answers.....

Geese solemnly honk
 as dusk settles.

Green blazes dance,
 illuminating the camp.

The forest,
 filtering moonlight.
 Sleeping snug beside my Love.

Awaken to a snow flurry.....
 hot tea and oatmeal....
 onward to Pharaoh Pond.

Trudging through woods of tall Pine and Hemlock.
 The snow changing with each degree of warmth.
 Softened by sun, water beneath....
 searching for safe passage.

Weaving around pond and stream,
 sliding over rock,
 meandering through rock

crevice.
 As water, making it's way to the lake.

Here, spacious skies clear the mind,
 Snow and sun capture our bodies...stretching out on the
 rocks.

Split-rock lean-to...no one ...
 succumb to wilderness

no footsteps to remain
 here and gone
 like melted ice on the shoreline.

Janice Doubleday



Our New Officers from left to right Deb Gebo, Cindy Hibert, Chip Pray, Cindy Dolgoff and Marcia Kelly

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees

Chip Pray, President
 Marcia Kelly, Vice President
 Cindy Hibert, Co-Secretary
 Cindy Dolgoff, Co-Secretary
 Deb Gebo, Treasurer
 Scott Cook, Wilderness Experiences
 Ray Tibbetts, Founder

Standing Committee Chairs

Hike Plan:	Sue Forest & Chip Pray
Backpacking Coordinator:	Rick Briggs
Trail Maint:	Chip Pray & Rob Schechtman
Web Page Editor:	Ron Morrisette
Non Member Email Coordinator:	Rob Schechtman
Club E-mail Coordinator:	Mike Reed
Quartermaster:	Mike Carrier
Bootprints Editors:	Marie Babbitt & Mike Reed

Bootprints is a publication of the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club. Send your story contributions to the editor at: marie_babbitt@hotmail.com, or 21 1/2 New Ludlow Rd., Granby, MA 01033

Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

May Renewals:

Betsy Loughran
 Michael Reed
 Janice Webb
 Celeste Ziemba
 Karen Giard
 Crystal Nepus
 Joe Zawrotny & Family
 Icelene Campbell
 Brenda Doucette
 David Herships
 Ron Morrisette & Family
 Sean St. Marie
 Robert & Georgene Trombley
 David Vibber
 Bruce & Jennifer Wade
 Steven and Amy Dane
 Jeffrey Kern
 Eleanor Chase
 Karen M. Piepho Markham
 Peggy McLennan
 Susan Stockman
 Emmah Wanjiru
 Dianne Chiba
 Edward Kleciak

June Renewals:

Bill Burgart
 Allison Cook
 Sonja Goodwin
 Bill Grygiel
 Cindy Hibert
 Eva Kealey
 Claire Norton
 Christine Ventulett & Jay Buckley
 Lirong Wen
 Gina Geck
 Paige Darden
 Ron & Sandy Kistner
 Marianne Swiatek
 Joseph Coffey
 Matt Dickinson
 Mary Paine
 Margeret Pegoraro
 Bea Robinson
 Albert Shane
 Susan McGurk
 Mike Rattelle

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
 PO Box 225
 West Springfield MA 01090-0225
 (Dues are \$25 member, \$40 family, and \$15 for students)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND THE USUALS

Every Mon.	(MA) Morning Hike . various locations
Every Tues	(MA) Tuesday evening hikes with Carol
Every Wed.	(MA) Wednesday Evening Walks+
May 7	(MA) Bash Bish Falls via S. Taconic Trail
May 14	(MA) AT in MA series-Sheffield to Monterey
May 28	(MA) Tree Identification Hike
May 29 Sun	(MA) Mt. Greylock Traverse (4 summits)
June 5	(MA) PVHC Summer Picnic . Mt. Tom Pavilion
June 11 Sat	(CT) Sleeping Giant
June 10-12	(NY) Battenkill canoe/kayak car camping
June 17-19	(NH) White Mt. Sampler
June 23 Thurs.	(MA) Northampton Dinner & Walk
June 26 Sun	(MA) AT Series- Tyringham Cobble to Becket
July 15-17	(NY) Adirondack Heart Lake Car Camp & Hike
Aug 20-22	(NY) Taughanock Falls Park Cabins/ Finger Lakes
Sept. 10 Sat	(MA) PVHC 20 th Anniversary Summer Party
Sept 16-18	(NY) Adirondack JBL Lodge Backpack

Just a reminder it is the beginning of Tick season so keep those pants tucked in and don't forget to check yourself after the hike.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:
June 7, 2011, 7pm at **FBC**
July 5, 2011, 7pm at **FBC**
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: June 18, 2011

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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A publication of the
Pioneer Valley Hiking Club
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