

BOOTPRINTS

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January 2012

THOUGHTS ABOUT CLIMBING ALL 46 ADIRONDACK HIGH PEAKS

By Dick Forrest

In reflecting on finishing the 46 high peaks in the Adirondacks, there were many unexpected and positive things that happened:

1) Ann Mundy (aka, Adirondack Annie) was a terrific mentor, helper, encourager, and cheerleader. After climbing 18 high peaks, and after all of the many trips she has taken PVHC, including my wife, Sue, and me, to the Adirondacks, I caught her enthusiasm for and understood her love for the Adirondack mountains. My 46er Club Correspondent, Bob Ciecierrega, assigned to me by the 46er Club Historian, also inspired and encouraged me to continue climbing all 46 peaks. My wife, Sue Forrest, was an enthusiastic encourager and participant. She has completed exactly half (23) of the 46 peaks.

2) I was only able to achieve climbing all 46 high peaks with a little help from my friends in PVHC, and relatives. And as an added benefit, I got to know a number of people better.

3) I lost a lot of weight, which was a by-product of peak bagging and not an intentional goal.

4) The weather during the summer and fall of 2011 was favorable for hiking, since, during that time, I was able to climb 28 Adirondack high peaks.

5) It was serendipitous that I met aspiring 46ers Meg Higgerson and Grace McNasser at the trail junction of Cliff and Redfield, and weeks later, at another trail junction, Seymour Brook and the Ward Brook Trail, while climbing Seymour. It was also serendipitous that Meg and Grace were able to finish their final two peaks, Haystack and Basin, while joining PVHC at Johns Brook Lodge. Sue and I joined them in climbing Haystack, and they did Basin on their own with PVHC member Bill Bates, completing their 46 peaks.

6) It was serendipitous that Paul Greenberg finished on the same two mountains, on the same day, with the same 46er correspondent, 5 minutes behind me. As my 46er correspondent wrote, "What a million to one shot."

7) Some of the Adirondack 46, I would never want to do again, since, in my mind, many of the Adirondack high peaks weren't interesting enough to do over. It's especially true of many of the so-called "tail less" peaks, unless it is to help someone else get to the top. My cousin, John Baldwin, has completed 39 of the 46 high peaks, and I intend to help him finish his last seven mountains.

8) My favorite Adirondack high peaks were: Dix via the Beckhorn Trail, Algonquin and Iroquois (although both

Sue and my knees hurt after climbing both of them together), Haystack, and Sawteeth. It helped that during each of these hikes, the weather was exceptional. The most difficult high peak for me, by far, was Allen - I have Rick Briggs, Shari Cox and John Klebes to thank for that one.

9) I found a great B&B, Trail's End, and restaurant, The Great Range, in Keene Valley.

10) Even though I consider my achievement to be a great accomplishment, it wasn't as difficult as you might think. So, with a little help from your friends, I have every confidence that you could do the same thing, if you have the desire to do it. Talk to Adirondack Annie.

PVHC 20TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

By Lee Dawn Daniel

Back in January of this year, a day to celebrate the club, our camaraderie, and our founder, Raymond Tibbetts, was set aside for Saturday, September 10th. Month by month the day loomed closer yet no plan for the day had really formalized in my head, no menu had been contemplated other than that there would be good old southern barbeque and lots of it, no preparations had been made, and the pots remained cold. On Monday, September 5th, I gulped and said, "Yikes, time to get this party started!"

I made the shopping list, and food miraculously appeared on the table at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday the 10th with the help of elves and magic. A blessing from the heavens was conferred in the form of a brilliant and temperate late summer day, as well as the fact that I did not receive any calls from the local ER questioning what sanitary code violations were present in my kitchen. I hope that the 55 club members who attended had fun equal to the pleasure that I had in seeing everyone visiting, eating, and enjoying a restful day. After the remainder of the barbeque was put away, about 33 of us (plus Gracie the Corgi!) had a relatively pleasant walk through my lower fields despite a few detours occasioned by some muddy areas. Everyone was very gracious not to comment on the mud, which I so appreciated!

Perhaps no one had the thoughts that I had during the week of preparation while I was rubbing, smoking, pulling and saucing 60 pounds of barbeque, two turkeys, three sides of salmon, and

See Party continued on page 2

"Yikes, time to get this party started!"

Party continued from page 1

10 gallons of ranch beans. (I wasn't thinking that I was nuts!) I was thinking that this was a true labor of love to thank all who have welcomed me and been so kind to me since I joined the club in 2010. I thought that week of how I came into the club through a long term club member (Ann Mundy) last August right after I had returned from a month-long trip hiking out west with my kids. I kept bumping into Ann on the trails of Western MA and she finally convinced me that I could do more with the club then on my own, so I joined and the rest, as they say, is truly history. You all cannot imagine the profound change that joining your club has affected in my life. I used to be the solitary hiker, and in fact, all my life had been pretty much a solitary person who disappeared from the world into the woods. The wonderful people of the club welcomed me and my 14 year old daughter, Jess, with open arms and hearts and I have hiked with the club virtually every weekend since I joined a little over a year ago, in addition to taking the annual trip to the Whites, Heart Lake, and Ireland. Jess has been on many club hikes and events and has also met many people she likes in the club, and I have made some great friends. Two months after I joined last summer I led my first trip (to Buttermilk Falls in CT) and had over 20 people come, I led another hike this June to Little Monadnock in NH, did a couple moonlight hikes this Spring, and this August I brought 29 club members to the Finger Lakes for a week and we explored the beautiful waterfalls and gorges of the region. I like you people!



During the week of party preparation, I also thought of the genesis of the party---last November while on a hike on the Mid-State Trail with Mike Reed, I asked when the club was started and learned that Raymond Tibbetts had founded the club in 1991. I then asked a couple board members and veteran club members on the hike if the club was having an anniversary party. Not hearing a resounding "yes", I said that I was going to give a great "thank you" party in the club's and Raymond Tibbetts' honor at my farm in the summer. While stirring and cooking, smoking and burning, I thought a lot about a man

who I have never met nor laid eyes on ---Raymond Tibbetts ---- who probably had no idea of how many people he had touched with his club. I emailed him that week to introduce myself, to thank him for all he had done, and to wish that he could be with us on the 10th. I told him that I would have been so remiss not to express my greatest and sincerest thanks to him for founding this club. Consistent with what I had heard about Raymond Tibbetts, he sent me back such a genuine and sweet reply that whatever effort and emotion I had put into the party was returned to me tenfold. He told me of the reasons that he had started the club (to share friendship, knowledge and hiking experience, to take care of the trails, for safety, and to encourage others to join in a healthy activity), his love of hiking, and of the challenges with his health which prevent him from presently doing so. Of all that he expressed, I would like to share with you all something Mr. Tibbetts said which truly touched my heart: %like to think that I am hiking through you and all the great people in the club, which is just one more reason why you have to keep the club up and running.+

I want to let Mr. Tibbetts know that he planted a wonderful seed 20 years ago which has germinated into not only great friendships, relationships, marriages, and memories, but also great deeds as well. Not just the trail maintenance performed by the club, but the not so little things that may go unnoticedō the help that a club member may give another when there is a health issue, the supportive word given from one to another on a hike which may be the kindest word heard during a hectic week, seeing a member reach for and attain a hiking goal who is cheered by many as if they had achieved it themselves. I remember Lori Tisdell telling me that she, Dave Vibber, Beth Case, Tom Pedersen, and Linda W. went up to the Whites on the day of the 20th anniversary party to place an American flag at the summit of one of the Osceolas as a memorial to 9-11, and being moved to tears when she encountered a group of young Boy Scouts hauling a large flag up the mountain for the same reason. Those people who ventured to the Whites on September 10th all met in the club, and that tribute and Lori's experience that day would most likely not have occurred if it were not for Raymond Tibbetts. What a tremendous legacy to leave in your life, Mr. Tibbetts, and we should all be inspired to do a little more, a little better, because of the effort you took twenty years ago.

HOLIDAY PARTY

By Marie Babbitt

This year the holiday party was a catered event. It felt funny to attend without bringing
See Holiday Party continued on page 3

Holiday Party continued from page 2

a dish to share and at the same time a relief. I arrived close to 5:30pm and the parking lot by the Pueblo was already full so I had to park down the hill. I met Jeanne and her husband in the parking lot and we bushwhacked thru the brush and trees behind the building to the road. It was a good thing, Joe, a golfer, had a flashlight with him or we would have been sunk.

2011 award winners for the past year are:

Most overall hikes/activities led Marcia Kelly
 Most weekend hikes led Chip Pray
 Special events award winner Al Goodhind
 Honorable Mention for Hikes leadership to Cindy Hibert, Jeanne Kaiser, Lori Tisdell, and Harry Allen
 Volunteer Of the Year Award Cindy and Gary Dolgoff.
 Service Awards Ann Marie Visconti, Gail Carrier

The turn out this year was bigger than I can recall in the past, which was nice. There were still people I did not make it around to talk with. I did have the opportunity to meet and talk with one new club member from Greenfield.

Most people were very happy with the food selections and the flavor of the food. Apparently the fish was exceptional. The highlight of the evening for me is the slide show, which Stephanie did a great job on. Chip was great describing the pictures and the added comments from the club members was welcome.

Lots of goodies were available on the gift table for the raffle, thanks in part to Wilderness Experiences and then it was time for dancing.

It looked like everyone had a good time. Thanks Gary and Cindy for another successful Holiday Party.

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 Schedule:	Sue Forest & Chip Pray
Backpacking Coordinator:	Rick Briggs
Trail Maint:	Chip Pray & Rob Schechtman
Web Page Editor:	Dick Forest
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,

BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE WORK DAY

By Marie Babbitt

Bartholomew's cobble work day has been an annual event for the hiking club since I originally joined the club back in the late 90's. Frank Kamlowksi has been running the workday for at least that long. He is stepping down this year and we are looking for a new leader to run the workday. If you have any interest please let us know. Frank will lend his guidance and support to whomever steps up.

CLUB ELECTIONS

By Marie Babbitt

Just a reminder that Club elections are coming up in February and Nominations are made at the January meeting. You might want to consider throwing your hat into the ring. Thanks to the new board members from last year's election, you are all doing a great job.

UPCOMING CLINICS

January – Scott Cook: “Hike Leadership”

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

October

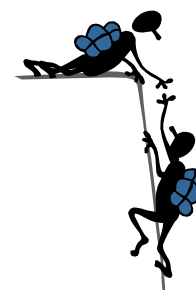
Lucille Boudreau
 Marlene Cannon
 Dennis Dowling
 Joshua Epstein
 Susan Ferraro
 John Fortune
 George & Magda Galiatsos
 Jane Garb
 Lori Hennessey
 Bernadette Johnson
 Brenda May
 Wallis
 Tonianne Paquette
 Maria Rocco
 Kelly Trim
 Brenda May
 Susan Ferraro

November

Eliza D'Agostino
 Ludmile Dibble
 Cybele Kilby
 Mary Moriarty

December

Robert Rich
 Daniel O'Brien
 Judy Gamble
 Rick & Sandy



Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

January Renewals:

Margaret Conklin
Sharon Connor
Diane Crowell
Kathleen Damon
Gary & Cindy Dolgoff
Carole DuPont
Krystyna Galipeau
Thomas Harrington
Henry & Carla Lafleur
Richard McMahon
Diane Moriarty
Elaine Tryjankowski
Ann Wood

Feburary Renewals:

Christina Calabrese
Richard Harrington
Joan Holmes
Daniel Koehne
Paul & Maxine Lessard
J. Danusia Lokii-Braese
Lewis Popper
Harry (Chip) Pray
Carol Vanderheiden

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)



Honorable Mention for Hikes Leadership Cindy and Jeanne



Honorable Mention for Hikes Leadership Harry



Getting into the Spirit of the Season



Dancing the Night away

**TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 2011**

	2011	2010	Diff
Beginning Balance:	\$5,899.05	\$5,024.00	\$875.05
Deposits:			
Equipment Rentals	\$18.00	\$10.00	\$8.00
New Members	\$1,745.00	\$1,520.00	\$225.00
Renewals	\$4,425.00	\$4,040.00	\$385.00
Clothing/Patches	\$50.00	\$20.00	\$30.00
Total Inflows	\$6,238.00	\$5,590.00	\$648.00
Expenses:			
Operations	\$914.68	\$448.24	\$466.44 (1)
Insurance	\$1,061.00	\$936.00	\$125.00
Directories, Bootprints & Postage	\$1,022.48	\$814.74	\$207.74 (2)
Trail Maintenance	\$439.94	\$187.98	\$251.96 (3)
Club Picnic	\$481.43	\$465.30	\$16.13
Holiday Party	\$2,570.31	\$1,646.97	\$923.34 (4)
Miscellaneous	\$274.64	\$215.72	\$58.92
Total Outflows	\$6,764.48	\$4,714.95	\$2,049.53
 Net Inflows/Outflows	 <u>(\$526.48)</u>	 <u>\$875.05</u>	 <u>(\$1,401.53)</u>
 Ending Bank Balance	 <u><u>\$5,372.57</u></u>	 <u><u>\$5,899.05</u></u>	 <u><u>(\$526.48)</u></u>

Variances:

- (1) Post office box, Digital Picture frame, New business cards
- (2) Printed additional directories - more members along with extras; postage to mail all
- (3) Additional trail maintenance day - more workers; more food
- (4) Springfield College +\$200; Caterer ~ 30 more guests +\$500; Cake - \$85

New Member Recap:

2009	20
2010	44
2011	66

WELCOME 2012

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 hikes with Marcia
- Jan. 7 (NH) Mt. Monadnock (\$, crampons required)
- Jan. 14 (MA) Wendall State Forest . Snowshoe
- Jan. 22 (MA) Becket Snowshoe
- Jan. 30 (MA) Northampton Dinner & Walk
- Feb. 4 (CT) Penwood State Forest
- Feb. 11 (MA) Mass MOCA & Natural Bridge St. Park
- Feb. 19 (MA) Southwick Bike path snowshoe (can rent \$5 if needed)
- Feb. 26 (MA) WEU Annual Pot Luck & Movie (must sign up)
- Mar. 3 (MA) Bikepath & park from Bea's house
- Mar. 4 (MA) Maple Sugar Breakfast & Quabbin Gate 28
- Mar. 10 (VT) Annual Stratton Pond Backpack
- Mar. 11 (NY) Howe Caverns (\$)
- Mar. 18 (MA) WEU Kayak Demo in pool (free)

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:
February 7 , 2012 7pm at **FBC**
March 6, 2012, 7pm at **FBC**
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for the next BootPrints is February 18, 2012

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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