

BOOTPRINTS

Volume 17, Issue 6

November 2013



Annual Holiday

Party Saturday December 7, 2013, 5:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Where: The Pueblo, Springfield College, East Campus, 701 Wilbraham Rd. in Springfield. Alternate parking and SHUTTLES will be available next door (to the left) at 715 Wilbraham Rd.

Attendees: All club members are welcome with R.S.V.P. ONLY by November 30th, at no charge! Please, no walk-ins; be sure to RSVP! There's a \$10 fee for non-member guests. Please indicate the number of people who will be attending (e.g., John Hiker and one non-member guest). Non-member guests can pay the \$10 fee to the Greeters when you arrive.

Food: The main entrees will be provided by a caterer. The choices of entree include a vegetarian offering as well as chicken, pork, beef, and fish. This year we have decided that attendees can bring either an appetizer or dessert. A prize will be offered for the best dessert or appetizer, as voted on by the club members attending. Please indicate what you will be bringing in your RSVP. Note that coolers with ice are needed.

Slide Show: Like last year, the slide show highlighting PVHC events is being done by Lori Tisdell. Please submit PVHC event photographs to her no later than November 30th.

Music: Will be provided again this year, for our dancing enjoyment, by DJ Mike Mahan, who rocked the house last year!

Volunteers: Please also indicate if you will be available for set-up and or cleanup, and if you will be bringing an appetizer or desert.

Contact: Brenda Doucette by e-mail at b.doucette@yahoo.com, or Marie Bienvenue by e-mail at macb38@aol.com. If you don't have e-mail capability, call 413-783-5658 to RSVP! Various sign-up sheets will also be available at the Nov. 5th regular meeting. A friendly reminder: The PVHC Holiday Party is an alcohol-free event.

Join us in enjoying the dancing and our fellow hiking friends! We hope to see you all there!

Becoming a 46er has been more of an adventure than I ever could have dreamed!

By Al Roman

My first glimpses of the Adirondacks were in the 90s, when I rode past them on Route 73, first in a bus, then

in a car a few years later. I remember wondering what it would be like hiking those tall remote mountains. Little did I know then that I would soon embark on an amazing adventure climbing them.

Fast forward to the summer of 2002 when I planned a backpack trip with my son. He cancelled at the last minute leaving me hanging. So, I started to call a few hiking club friends to see if they wanted to join me, or at least help me by spotting a car. Ann Mundy was almost ready to help me spot my car when she mentioned she was going to the Adirondacks and asked if I'd rather join her. The more she talked about the mountains, the more I became interested in her offer and decided to join her. She picked me up the next morning and off we went for 4 days to the Adirondack - Heart Lake area. The first day she led me up Mt. Joe. What a view of the high peaks! This short hike only made me want to climb the others. I was like a kid in a candy store. All those mountains looked inviting, begging me to climb them.

The following morning we started a bit late for Mt. Colden, via Avalanche Pass and Colden Lake. I had no idea of the difficulty, or of how long it would take but I was ready for the



adventure. And an adventure it was: getting to the peak took much longer than anticipated, with many challenges along the way. We pushed on and were determined to complete the hike no matter what. We arrived back to camp, by headlamp, around 10pm, very hungry and exhausted. but I was hooked! This first taste of Adirondack hiking made me want to hike other peaks before returning home and we did; I think we summited four or five total that first trip.

Over the next several years I joined Ann on many hiking club trips and summited many more, with several repeat climbs leading groups to the summits. I hadn't realized how many I had done until Ann helped me record the summits and dates in early 2010. I had no idea that I had climbed 28 of the 46! With Ann's love of the Adirondacks, that is quite contagious, I decided to become a 46-er, though I had no idea with who or how I would ever hike many of the trail-less and more remote peaks.

See 46er continued on page 3

NET (aka M & M) Series

By Jeanne Kaiser

On Sunday, September 8th, Lori Tisdell and I kicked off our series of hikes on the NET (formerly known as the M & M Trail) on a picture perfect day. Our plan is to continue from the Connecticut border, where we started our first hike, and work our way to the top of Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire, where the trail ends. Many parts of this trail are quite familiar to our club members because it traverses both Mt. Tom and the Notch area, the site of many club hikes. But there are large parts of the trail to the north, which are on our schedule less frequently, and which Lori and I have yet to explore.

We are hoping that many club members will join us in exploring (or re-exploring) this Western Massachusetts trail. These hikes might prove especially helpful for those who feel ready to move from easy to moderate or moderate-plus hikes. Most of them will be of medium length and include some challenging terrain, including steep climbs and lots of rocks. But elevation gain will be fairly reasonable and the hikes will usually be quite scenic. And if that's not enough there will be M&M's!

One of my motivations for leading this series is to have an excuse for trying the vast variety of M&M candies now available. It's no longer just plain and peanut. M&M's now come in raspberry, almond, peanut butter, coconut, pretzel, you name it. We plan to experience them all.

And if that's not enough there will be M&M's!



For our inaugural hike, we started with the classics-plain and peanut. We had fourteen total hikers join us for Sections 1 and 2 of the trail. It was fitting to start there because that is the section of the trail that our club maintains. Speaking of maintenance, our hike was enormously benefitted by the fact that Chip, Harry, and Paul had been out working on the bog bridges several days before our hike. Because of their efforts, no one started the day by slipping off a bridge into that prehistoric looking bog.

Sections 1 and 2 really create a perfect, moderate hike. After passing over the bog bridges, there were two climbs that are more than steep enough to get the heart pumping, but which are separated by long stretches of flat ridge walking. The hike also included a stretch through an open meadow with the hills as a backdrop. Finally, there are two very lovely viewpoints, one which we used for snacking and one for lunch (the peanut M&M's were a big hit). We also extended the hike at both ends. We backtracked a short distance at the beginning so we could start right at the Connecticut border. At the end, we ventured into the start of Section 3, which goes down to the Westfield River.

By the time *Footprints* goes to press, we will have already completed Sections 3 and 4 of the trail. I know I have to bring a particularly delicious variety of M&M's with me for that one. When planning the series, Lori and I realized that neither of us had ever hiked those sections, and couldn't even remember them being on the schedule. So we scouted them out. Now we know why they don't make the schedule too often. Section 3 in particular is a bit short of scenery and long on obstacle climbing, aggressive prickly bushes, and graffiti. Hopefully, the M&M's will have placated our hikers.

We will be covering up to Section 9 of the trail between now and the beginning of December, before taking a break until the spring. Please join us for the scenery, the company, the challenge and the excitement of each new variety of M&M.

AMC's New England Hundred Highest

By R. Morgan

AMC's Four Thousand Footer Club recognizes three lists of peaks, the White Mountain Four Thousand Footers, the New England Four Thousand Footers, and the New England Hundred Highest. To qualify for any of these clubs a hiker must climb on foot to the summit and descend from each peak on the list

without the aid of quads, mountain bikes, ski lifts, or cog rails for all or any part of the ascent or descent, other than what could be driven to in a normal automobile. Ascents may be made at any time during a hiker's lifetime and any combination of two or more peaks may be made on one continuous trip. Once the peaks on each list are completed, an application available at AMC's Four Thousand Footer web site is submitted listing the peaks and dates climbed, as well as a short note on impressions, weather conditions, fellow hikers, etc. Once the application is processed and accepted you may attend the awards banquet in March and receive your certificate and patch, or have it sent to you if you will not be attending the banquet.



After finishing the White Mountain (48) Four Thousand Footer list in the fall of 2006, I decided that I would try to complete the (19) remaining New England Four Thousand Footers. This made a total of (67) peaks over 4000 feet in the New England area. These additional peaks over 4000 feet are located in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. I completed this list in 2007 and attended the banquet pizza party in March 2008, as I had with other PVHC members in March of 2007 to receive my certificates and patches for the White Mountain 48's.

See *New England* on page 3 for continuation



I am at the top of Santanoni Peak, the last of my 46 high peaks in the Adirondacks. I summited the mountain at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 24, 2013, and the weather for hiking was absolutely perfect." -- Sue Forrest

New England continued from page 2

I had heard about the New England Hundred Highest list while doing the New England Four Thousand Footers and ordered the maps and literature the Four Thousand Footer Committee supplies at a nominal fee. The literature outlines the traditional routes taken to these peaks as well as providing reproduced quad maps of some of the less accessible peaks. I supplemented these with trip reports found on *Views From The Top* and *New England Trails Conditions*. The nice thing about the Four Thousand Footer Club lists is that once you have finished one list you already have that many done on the next list. You can also work on more than one list at a time, so that if Hundred Highest Peaks are in the vicinity of the list you are working on, you can incorporate them into your hike route and complete them at the same time. An example of this is that if you were hiking Mt. Cabot, you could do a loop route up Unknown Pond Trail, pick up the Killkenny Ridge Trail, which heads over the Bulge and the Horn (Hundred Highest peaks) and finally over Mt Cabot, a White Mountain 4000 Footer. With good hike planning you can do this for several other peaks on the lists mentioned, as well as others, and work on more than one list at a time.

Many of the peaks on the Hundred Highest List do not have the views that we associate with what a mountain summit should have, even though they may be close to 4000 feet. The remaining 33 peaks beyond the 67 New England Four Thousand Footer list, and on the Hundred Highest List, were selected to teach navigational skills using a map and compass, and more recently the GPS. For this reason most of the peaks do not have officially marked trails. They are mainly bushwhacks and use the existing fire and logging trails that may be in the area, as well as herd paths created by animals and other hikers.

On the summits of most of the peaks is a sign-in canister where you can leave a brief note about your hike. It is frowned upon to place surveyors tape or to mark a trail and thereby diminish another hiker's wilderness experience. Placing small cairns at critical road junctions or where a herd path leaves a road is considered allowable. I can tell you from experience it is also very reassuring that you are probably heading in the right

direction, or at least someone else had the same idea. I have also followed footprints that I thought were going in the right direction, only to find that someone else had made the same mistake I was making.

Most of the peaks have some type of unmarked trail or herd path. These are formed by large game as they move through an area as well by other hikers. They are often broken fragments that seemingly just disappear as fast as they appeared. They certainly make your heart sing after pushing through thick spruce and being discouraged at how tough the going is, but then they disappear again in an instant. In general, I found that if the going was unreasonably tough or unsafe, then I had misread the trip reports and was not on the correct route to the summit. Bushwhacking is very leg tiring. You can never hit stride as on a normal open path hike. It is continual hazard avoidance and leg lifting to step over obstacles.

On Elephant Mountain in ME, with a map, compass, and GPS, I became disoriented in very heavy spruce cover. The canopy was so thick, the GPS direction indicator on the track I was putting down was unreliable as to which direction I was moving in. I had to push 10-15 feet through the spruce to see which way my track was being laid down to tell which way I was heading. This took me by total surprise. You will never feel more alone, full of self doubt, and totally dependent on yourself until you find yourself in this situation. Whenever you can, practice your map and compass skills until they are second nature. Eventually in a clearing I saw the sun and reoriented myself and found my ascent track and way out. This in an area that 35 minutes earlier on my ascent I had moved through easily. Many of the trail heads and peaks, particularly in Maine, are very remote and difficult to get to. Some are located in Baxter State Park where trail heads have daily quotas. Then there is the infamous six pack clustered around Rangely, ME, that are located 20 miles or more off the main roads, on log landings and dirt roads barely drivable with a normal vehicle. One of this group, Boundary, sits on the International Boundary with Canada, where it is possible to be detained if caught by the border patrol crossing from one side to the other.

On most of the peaks in Vermont and New Hampshire, I had company from other club members that were adventurous and wanted to attempt some peaks but who did not necessarily want to do the whole list. Most of the more distant and difficult peaks in Maine I did solo. I did my homework and hiked peaks that I felt were easier and more defined. As my confidence and familiarity with an area grew, I tackled the more difficult peaks. It would have been nice to have shared more of these experiences with other club members. Someone to discuss routes and share ideas with and get their perspective, but others were uninterested and those doing the more difficult peaks were working on other lists.

Completing the Hundred Highest has given me the satisfaction of knowing that I was able to find my way in unfamiliar surroundings. Not always directly or with great confidence, or the first time or by the best route, but I did find the way to all the peaks. Regardless, I will admit that it would take many more outings before I felt I was totally comfortable with striking out with just a map and compass as my guide. Any member that has an interest in pursuing the above mentioned lists and feels that I might be of assistance in helping them, please inquire. I am more than willing to share what I have learned and where to find information and directions for the routes to these peaks.

You will never feel more alone, full of self doubt, and totally dependent on yourself until you find yourself in this situation

46er continued from page 1

Then as life would have it, my life changed drastically at the end of 2010 going into 2011. I would have heart surgery and get divorced. I started wondering if I would be able to complete them all. Well, I made a speedy recovery and started hiking again in the spring! Then I got hooked up with Karen Markham, who had the bug to complete all 46 too. Now I knew who I'd hike those trail-less peaks with!!! I ended up repeating many of the peaks as Karen only had completed eight peaks at that point. You could say we had 46-er fever . and we had it bad! Karen even hiked ten mountains solo so I would not have to repeat them. We had hoped to finish them all in 2012, except life once again got in the way and we ended 2012 still needing to climb nine more: Santanoni Range (3), Dix Range (5) & Allen.

We had not been so thoroughly soaked since playing in the rain as children.

Originally we planned Allen to be our last climb, then we heard there were no views so we decided to hike the Dix Range last. So, off we went to backpack the Santanoni's first, though someone didn't inform Mother Nature about our plan because our first attempt on Memorial Day weekend was a bust when she dumped 12+ of wet snow on the mountain and we couldn't find the trail to the ridgeline off Panther Brook. We planned to go back in early July to do all

See 46er on page 4 for continuation

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three Santanoni's in one day, then Allen the next; although once again Mother Nature would have a say in it as we hiked the Santanoni's in the pouring rain for 13 hours. Talk about MUDD!!! We saw one guy literally go up to his knee in mudd!!! We had not been so thoroughly soaked since playing in the rain as children. We laughed and kidded each other as we walked across the last river crossing in our boots then splashed down the trail to the parking lot, soaked to the bone! We decided to skip Allen because of one river crossing and the slippery-when-wet red moss which might be too dangerous under these conditions. Come mid-July we hiked the Dix Range, backpacking into the shelter late afternoon and hiking all five of them the next day, with Mother Nature's cooperation. Perfect weather for a change! So, back to our original plan of hiking Allen last, which many hikers consider to be one of the hardest of the 46. We planned an overnight trip in mid-August to become 46-ers on August 18th!

While hiking to the base of Allen and our camp site late in the day, life threw another one of those twists at us. Literally a twist of my left ankle! As I laid there in pain I never once thought of turning back, because I was determined and committed to summiting Allen the next morning no matter what obstacles were tossed at me. We arrived a little after dark and quickly set up our tent. I took an Ibuprofen but got little sleep that night for obvious reasons. Early the next morning we hit the trail to the peak! Climbing Allen in late summer with dry weather proved to be perfect because the river crossings and red moss on the rocks were not as bad as many hikers had told us it could be. With my ankle hurting I was climbing slower than normal and fell behind Karen. She followed the main herd path to the left and summited while I took a smaller path to the right heading to the ridgeline. Upon reaching the top and not finding Karen I realized I was on an old herd path when I heard her howling her infamous howl!!! She was quite a distance to the left. (If you've never hiked with us, howling to each other has become both our way of keeping track of each other and then celebrating our summiting a peak!) After about 15 minutes of pushing through underbrush and following this small path when possible, I reached the summit of Allen completing my 46-peak quest shortly after Karen did. Karen had snuck a small bottle of champagne and glasses into my pack that morning after chilling it in a brook near our tent.

We took pictures, toasted our success, and ate an early lunch. It was now time to reveal my other determination, commitment, and second reason to peak Allen that day. I got my sitting pad, placed it on the ground near Karen, dropped to one knee and proposed to her while holding the ring I had hidden in my pack the day before. I wish I could have taken a picture of her expression as she realized what I was doing. It seemed very fitting to propose to the woman I have come to love on the top of a mountain named Allen at the end of one journey and the beginning of another, that will last the rest of our lives. I guess she thought so too as she said yes without hesitation!

To unofficially/officially complete the High Peaks we climbed MacNaughton in early September. Though not on the official list, most hikers consider this peak to be part of the High Peaks quest. We bushwhacked to the summit from Wallface Pond . the easy way!!! Then in mid-September we joined Ann Mundy and others on Ann's annual JBL trip, where she recognized and awarded us and Sue Forrest with 46-er patches!!! Thank you Ann!!! Not only for the recognition but for your love of those mountains that is so contagious!

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees

- Chip Pray, President
- Marcia Kelly, Vice President
- Lori Tisdell, Secretary
- Carol Vanderheiden, Treasurer
- Scott Cook, Wilderness Experiences
- Ray Tibbetts, Founder

Standing Committee Chairs

- Hike Schedule:** Sue Forest & Chip Pray
- Backpacking Coordinator:** Rick Briggs
- Trail Maintenance:** Chip Pray & Rob Schechtman
- Web Page Editor:** Dick Forrest
- Non-Member Email Coordinator:** Rob Schechtman
- Club E-mail Coordinator:** Chip Pray
- Quartermaster:** Mike Carrier
- Bootprints Editors:** Marie Babbitt & Mike Reed

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

| <u>September</u> | <u>October</u> |
|---|---|
| Krystyna Galipeau Celeste Chickering Deborah Haas-Wilson Carol Parent Amber Welch | David & Diane Crevier Charlie Lieson |

SEASONS GREETINGS

DIRECTIONS TO PVHC'S HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 7, 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 (Rte. 90) to Exit 6. Take Rte. 291 West for one mile to Exit 5 (East Springfield/Indian Orchard). Turn right onto Rte. 20A, then immediately move into the left lane. Turn left at the first light onto Roosevelt Avenue. Proceed 2.5 miles and take a left onto Wilbraham Rd. Proceed ½ mile the East Campus entrance is the first driveway on the right approximately 100 yards after Alden St. Follow the longish driveway to the parking lot. If full, additional parking and shuttles will be waiting next door, at 715 Wilbraham Rd.

From the North

Take Interstate 91 South to Rte. 291. Proceed four miles to Exit 5B, East Springfield/ Indian Orchard. Turn right at the end of the exit ramp onto Rte. 20A, then immediately move into the left lane. Turn left at the first light onto Roosevelt Avenue. Proceed 2.5 miles and take a left onto Wilbraham Rd. Proceed ½ mile the East Campus entrance is the first driveway on the right approximately 100 yards after Alden St. Follow the longish driveway to the parking lot. If full, additional parking and shuttles will be waiting next door, at 715 Wilbraham Rd.

From the South

From CT take Interstate 91 North to Mass Exit #6/Springfield Center onto E Columbus Ave go approx. 0.5 miles and take a right onto State St. Proceed 1.5 miles and bear right onto Wilbraham Road, go approx. 1.5 miles. The East Campus entrance is the first driveway on the right approximately 100 yards after Alden St. Follow the longish driveway to the parking lot. If full, additional parking and shuttles will be waiting next door, at 715 Wilbraham Rd.

Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

November Renewals: December Renewals:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Marie Babbitt | Sheila Croteau |
| Eliza D'Agostino | Deborah Gebo |
| Ludmile Dibble | Steve Goluchowski |
| Donna Diduk | Frank Kamowski |
| Marian Forrest | David & Theresa Pierrepont |
| Lynn Gebo | Ruth Preston |
| Richard Harris | Rick & Sandy Wallis |
| Mary Moriarty | Jake Krainson |
| Enola Nelson | |
| Bill Packard | |
| Jeffrey & Marian Parentela | |
| Cathy Sena | |
| Peter Thieme | |
| Lori Tisdell | |

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)

HAPPY NEW YEAR

CONGRATULATIONS, PAPA SMURF!

John Klebes, aka Papa Smurf, completed the Continental Divide Trail on September 17, 2013. If you have not checked out his blog spot, the address is johnklebes.blogspot.com. We are all rooting for you John!



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
- Every Thurs (MA) Morning hike
- Nov 9 (NY) NYC Car-pool (\$)
- Nov. 16 (MA) Northfield Mtn
- Dec 7 (MA) PVHC Holiday Party at the Pueblo
- Dec 14 (VT) Christmas in Vermont+. day or overnight
- Dec. 20 (MA) Ashley Reservoir Moonlight hike
- Dec. 21 (CT) NET - Tarriffville Gorge to Rt. 20
- Dec. 31 New Year's Eve (MA) Yarde Tavern . S. Hadley
- Jan. 4 (NH) Mt. Monadnock
- Jan 11 (MA) Sect. 9 NET (M&M Series)
- Jan. 12 (MA) Quabbin Gate 28
- Jan. 18 (MA) Goshen
- Jan. 19 (CT) Tunis Trail . Barkhamsted



IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:
December 3, 2013, 7 pm at **FBC**
January 7, 2014, 7 pm at **FBC**
- ❑ Deadline for submissions to the next BootPrints is December 20th, 2013

FBC - First Baptist Church, 337 Piper Road, 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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