

# BOOTPRINTS

Volume 18, Issue 2

March 2014

## Ashley Reservoir

By Marie Babbitt

I have not had the opportunity to go hiking alot with the club this past year but was able to go on the Valentine's Day moonlight hike at Ashley Reservoir. If you have never been there you might want to treat yourself sometime. The evening was cold, but not the Arctic-blast cold that we have been experiencing so far this Winter. There were five of us and it proved to be a most enjoyable hike.

Lori started the hike an hour earlier than usual, and it worked out fine; giving us all time to still be able to do things after the hike. The sky was clear and the moon was beautiful. The road around the reservoir was plowed, so the walking was pretty good. There were some icy patches but only one of us put on foot traction.

We stopped several times to gaze at the moon and take in the landscape from the recent snow storm we had; it was quite lovely. On the final leg of the hike the moon was hidden behind some clouds for a bit, but when the moon came out from behind the clouds it was as if someone turned on a floodlight, it was so bright.

I learned that people from the area used to come to the reservoir during the winter to play hockey.

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## ELECTION RESULTS

Our annual election was held at the club's February meeting and our new Board Members are as follows:

**President:** *Chip Pray*  
**Vice President:** *Marcia Kelly*  
**Secretary:** *Lori Tisdell*  
**Treasurer:** *Paul Kozikowski*

**Thank you** Chip, Marcia, Lori, and Carol for your service on the Board during the past year, and Welcome! to *Paul* as our club's new Treasurer. Also, a big **Thank You!** to *Sue Forrest* who recently stepped down from hiking schedule coordinator and a hearty Welcome to *Jeanne Kaiser* for stepping forward. Our club would not work without volunteers like you.

## Our Founder Ray Tibbetts

**R**ay Tibbetts our club founder had major surgery on January 28. His family asks that you please keep

him in your thoughts and prayers. Ray's home address is 1325 Coventry Circle, West Melbourne, Florida 32904.

## Monday Morning PVHC Hike In Deep Snow

By Chip Pray

On February 24th six club members met at The CVS Plaza (formerly Hawley's) at 151 North Main St Belchertown. We drove a few miles north on Rt. 202 to gate 10 of the Quabbin Reservoir.

Lately, on Monday mornings we've been attempting to achieve a dual purpose of hiking while seeking a new loop hike in the Quabbin gate 10 area.

Upon arrival at gate 10 we unanimously decided that snowshoes were needed because of the 24 inch to 34 inch snow pack presently on the ground.

We began hiking by 9:35 A.M. and became immediately aware, judging from the loud clatter of snowshoes in the deep crusty snow; that we were not going to be sneaking up on most wildlife. Conversation between hike members by necessity was also loud.

As we walked along; we clip-clopped; and sometimes one foot broke through the crust and sinking while the other shoe most often did not break the crust. A very energy expending way to hike; but we were glad for the exertion.

On our trail on the unplowed, unused since the early 1940's Davis Rd., we observed two sets of coyote tracks one large and one small, also following the old road. Later, we observed a set of tracks we later attributed to a very large moose. Further along, we saw a hollow area under some stone on the side of the trail. From a distance of about 20 feet we could see a set of eyes with a whitish face peering from the hole. We guessed that the face and eyes and hollow belonged to a raccoon.

A few of us had GPS machines and we were keeping track of our mileage. We had intended to hike for about five miles. When we reached 2.6 miles; we were talking about retracing our steps back to gate 10. We were within sight of the old Packard Rd. which is now the gate 8 Rd. that leads to the gate eight boat launch. So we decided to go there. Packard road was plowed and we took off our snow shoes to walk to the next turn in the road. On the way to the next turn in the road a Quabbin

See DEEP continued on page 2

we could see a set of eyes with a whitish face peering from the hole

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*DEEP continued from page 1*

Forest ranger, apparently on his rounds, drove up the road and stopped to speak to us. He told us that it was perhaps a half mile to the gate 8 boat launch. We wished him well and as a group decided to once again extend our hike as far as the boat launch.

We enjoyed a pleasant lunch at the picnic table near the small cabin located at gate 8. As the wind chill picked up; we started back from our adventure. The return trek took a lot less time and proved uneventful.

We had hoped to hike only five miles this day; but our collective curiosity resulted in a six mile snowshoe coupled with a two mile road walk to the boat launch. Another splendid day spent hiking with friends from the PVHC!

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### **Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees**

Chip Pray, President  
Marcia Kelly, Vice President  
Lori Tisdell, Secretary  
Paul Kozikowski, Treasurer  
Ray Tibbetts, Founder

### **Standing Committee Chairs**

**Hike Schedule:** Jeanne Kaiser & Chip Pray  
**Backpacking Coordinator:** Rick Briggs  
**Trail Maintenance:** Chip Pray & Rob Schechtman  
**Web Page Editor:** Dick Forrest  
**Non-Member E-mail 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.*

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### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>
Katherine Campbell	Dawn Allen
Carol Fox	Ali Baldwin
Steve Henderson	Susan Jones
Mady Schorsch	Ellen Petersen
	Jane & Rick Ricci
	Helaine Selin
	Carolyn Young

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### **Klumping Kahtoola's**

By Lori Tisdell

**B**ack in January, before all the snowstorms left snow deep enough to snowshoe in, Paul Kozikowski led a hike on the Tunxis Trail and to the Indian Council Caves, in Connecticut. Snow showers the night before had left an inch or two of fresh snow that blanketed the woods and trail.

There were about 14 of us that decided to join Paul that Sunday. It was a cold day with clouds and blue sky above, and the sun peeking out occasionally. After spotting cars at Sundown ski area, we headed to the trailhead. A highlight for me was that my daughter, Jocelyn, was joining us for this hike. She is a member and has hiked with PVHC in the past, but not for several years.

As we headed in, the trees, shrubs, and grasses on either side of the trail were lightly covered with snow. It was a lovely winter wonderland beginning to the hike. We soon arrived at the Indian Council Caves, which are rumored to have been a meeting place for Native Americans; a very interesting spot indeed. These caves appear to be spaces between huge boulders that the trail ascends to the top of, with a couple of accessible caves at the bottom that the more adventuresome could explore. The trail up is steep and the snow and ice made it a bit tricky, but all made it safely to the top to enjoy a very nice view.

Within a short period of time all of us who wore foot traction, and that would be all but one or two hikers, noticed the snow clumping up on the bottoms of our Kahtoola's! We'd go 10 or 20 feet and have to smack the bottoms of our boots with our hiking poles, or stamp on the ground hard, to loosen the snow building up. Sometimes we'd pick up chunks of ice, which didn't make the slippery footing any better, I must say. Occasionally we'd have up to six-inch thick balls of snow clumped up on our foot traction! We'd be going along and all of a sudden someone would stop, letting out a minor (sometimes not so minor) expletive, as they stood smacking the bottoms of their spikes. This went on for most of the 7 or so miles we hiked that day. We all worked hard to laugh and make fun of the whole thing, which is where the "klumping Kahtoola's" title of the article was born.

We persevered as the trail meandered up and down over some steep rocky areas, as well as more gentle ones, and over streams and wetlands as well. A major highlight of the hike was a long section of trail that was bordered by Mt. Laurel. The ends of the branches were tipped with small balls of snow giving us a preview of what they will look like come spring when the flowers are

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blooming. The only problem was that these flowers would fall onto, and into, some of the hiker's clothes. I think it was Mike Reed who got it the worst when snow fell down the back of his shirt while passing under a particularly heavy laden branch. Even so, we all exclaimed at how beautiful this section of trail was, while also thinking, because of all the mountain laurel present, that it would make a great hike in late spring when the laurels are blooming. What do you say, Paul?

Anyhow, it was a great day to be on the trail, with the freshly fallen snow making everything brighter. Winter hiking is so different from the other seasons. Without snow cover the forest has a stark, somewhat lifeless feel to it, *See KLUMPING continued on page 3*



*KLUMPING continued from page 2*

which has its own beauty, certainly. But when the snows come the leafless hibernating trees coated with snow lose the lifeless look of winter, the shrubs are renewed, and the rock and dirt trail looks fresh and clean. And when the sky is blue and the sun is shining, the day seems blindingly bright and alive, and I feel that way too. I guess that's why I love winter hiking best of all.

Thanks Paul for a great day on trail and for showing us what Connecticut has to offer!

## Snowshoe Rentals:

The club has snowshoes available for rent at a nominal rate. Contact Mike Carrier, our Quartermaster, for help with rentals.



By Lori Tisdell



By Lori Tisdell

## Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

### March Renewals:

Debbie Bombard &  
Cheryl Stevens  
Stephanie Bustos  
Suzanne Carey  
Mike & Gail Carrier  
Norma Casillas  
Shari Dorman  
Howard Eldridge  
Alan Goodhind  
John Gorey  
Bill Grygiel  
John Klebes  
Kate Lee  
Donna Mages  
Edmund Marrone  
Denise Matthews  
Chuck O'Connor  
Richard Perreault  
Lorraine Plasse  
Linda Quesnel  
Susan Wills  
Kevin & Robin Withers

### April Renewals:

Jacki Barden  
John Bien  
Virginia Brown  
Anne Burinskas  
Dianne Carey  
Donna Crabtree  
Gail & Mike Cuccovia  
William Driscoll  
Arline Ely  
Jane Glushik  
Bryan Goodwin/Joan DelPlato  
Mike Gross  
Alice & Dan Hackett  
Cindy Kennedy  
Susan McGurk  
Lori McMahon  
Jackie Miles  
Robert Morgan  
Brian Pentman  
Louise Pilegi  
Mike Rattelle  
Heather Rienti  
Bea Robinson  
Elsa Rosenak  
Albert Shane  
Lynne Shapiro  
Jacqueline Sheehan  
Ed Watson

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)



By Paul Kozikowski

## 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
- Mar. 8 (MA) Mt. Greylock/Maple lunch
- Mar. 14 (MA) Ashley Reservoir Moonlight Hike
- Mar. 15-16 (VT) Stratton Pond Fondue Backpack
- Mar. 29 (MA) M and M (NET) Section 9
- Apr. 5 (NH) Mt. Monadnock
- Apr. 12 (NY) NYC Bus Trip
- Apr. 19 (MA) Brooks Woodland Preserve
- Apr. 26 (NY) Breakneck Ridge
- Late April Ireland
- April 26 Pioneer Valley Outdoor fair
- May 3 (MA) Trail Maintenance
- May.10 (MA) Race Brook Falls/Mt. Everett
- May 17 (MA) Bartholomew Cobble Work Day & Hike
- May 16-17 (NH) Galehead Hut backpack
- June 20-22 (NH) White Mountain Sampler



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## IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:  
April 1, 2014, 7 pm at **FBC**  
May 6, 2014, 7 pm at **FBC**
- ❑ Deadline for submissions to the next BootPrints is April 18th, 2014

**FBC - First Baptist Church, 337 Piper Road, West Springfield**

**\*\* Check out our web page at:**  
[www.pioneervalleyhikingclub.org](http://www.pioneervalleyhikingclub.org)

Members may join the PVHC Email List by sending a message to:  
[pvhc.hikingclub@gmail.com](mailto:pvhc.hikingclub@gmail.com)



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