

BOOTPRINTS

Karen & Al's hike, potluck, and camp fire...

By Karen Markham

The day called for rain allllllllllll day!!! So 3 of the 10 cancelled the hike part that morning though said they'd still join us at the house for the potluck and fire. Cindy, Gary, Mike, Tina, Lori, Al and myself ventured out around 1pm on the Robert Frost Trail off Mountain Harris Rd doing a loop. As we got started Tina stated she'd never hiked in the rain before, wellllllllllllll, she still really hasn't as we had a break from it for the full 2+ hours we hiked! It was great!!! and it turned out to be an amazing day hiking! First, several of us walked right under a very unusual widow maker without realizing we did. Then once we gained a little elevation the trees were all frozen over, some even sparkling!!! It was absolutely beautiful! And the best part was that it was so unexpected making it a great day to be alive and outside despite the gloominess of a cloudy, mostly rainy day! WoW!

Then once we gained a little elevation the trees were all frozen over, some even sparkling!!!

It started to sprinkle as we made our way to our house. Perfect timing!!! We got a fire started inside and skipped the camp fire outside. The food got heated up as Rob, Lisa, Marcia, Rick, and Gina trickled in. After some really good eats and conversations we played Guesstures and what a hoot that was. The ladies versus the boys and guess who kicked butt. Yup, the Ladies!!! Rick says we cheated because we picked our cards to act out! Hmllllllllllllll. I don't think that's really cheating, well maybe a little. A fun time was had by all!!! Looking forward to doing it again!



Photo Karen Markham

Christmas in Salem

By Al Goodhind

We had 30 signed up and 28 showed up for this holiday tour of homes. This was the 35th Annual Christmas in Salem Tour. This year's tour observed the 100th anniversary of the June 25, 1914 fire. Some of the homes survived and others were rebuilt.

The Great Salem Fire of 1914 broke out at the Korn leather factory. Flames carried by the wind wrought havoc across 253 acres of the city. More than 18,000 people were left homeless and 10,000 were left jobless. Of the 5,826 buildings in Salem 1,376 were destroyed. Nearly 15 hours after it began, the fire expired on Salem's waterfront. By 2 am, June 26th, the fire was brought under control.

The group met in the lobby of the Salem Waterfront Hotel and Marina. Some stayed Friday night, most Saturday night and some were day-trippers. Some of the group went to an architectural tour which was separate from our itinerary and met us later. The rest of us proceeded to Saltonstall School where we picked up our tour book/ticket. In the school were crafts, wreaths and a bake sale in which we took an active part. We decided to start at the farthest point and work our way back. It was hoped that this would keep the crowd down. The rain also helped.

The eclectic collection of homes was outstanding and unique. It included all of the period styles: Greek Revival, Colonial Revival, Federal, Queen Ann Victorian and Stick-style Victorian. Each home was an adventure in architecture and design. Many are inhabited by local artists whose collections were on display. Some of the homes displayed

They had trays of samples for the taking...and we did!

Oriental collections while others were more modern art style. One home was of a retired fire fighter who would collect items from fire scenes to make usable art objects. Tour guides in each house outlined the history of each property. Some of the larger houses were actually separated into condos. Very few times did we have to wait to enter each home. Once the tour of the homes was complete we headed for Harbor Sweets. The famous candy company had a delicious array of their line of quality chocolates including almond buttercrunch toffee and sea salted chocolates. They had trays of samples for the taking...and we did! It was a buffet one couldn't resist. We all had our fill.

The Salem Trolley provided our transportation back. See Salem continued on page 2

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to the hotel. From there a small group of us toured the famous House of Seven Gables. After that we went to the Ye Olde Pepper Companie to see candy canes being made. They had a delicious selection of chocolates as well. The final stop down the street was a pasta shop. The French-born owner makes his own pasta and sauce. The unusual variety of pastas included "chocolate pasta." I'm not kidding!

There were about 14 who had dinner at Victoria Station and Vic's Boathouse. I arranged for a private dining room for our group. Good thing as they stopped taking walk-ins that evening. This waterfront dining restaurant serves a complete menu with beef, fish, pub food and unlimited salad bar. I had the lobster mac n' cheese which was outstanding. Dessert was a huge piece of "mud pie." I ordered 7 spoons to share it. You know our club motto..."We hike to eat!"

The following morning many of the group had breakfast at Red's Sandwich Shop. It is Salem's most popular restaurant. It was crowded but the wait was short. Breakfast in our group included eggs benedict with corned beef hash and home fries, cinnamon french toast and blueberry pancakes. It was a good start for the drive home.

I appreciated the history of the tour and the magnificently decorated homes. We may do this again in the future. Thanks to all who participated. Merry Christmas!

Book Review: Up: A Mother and Daughter's Peakbagging Adventure, by Patricia Ellis Herr

By Dick Forrest

This book was written from a blog of hiking experiences from a mother/author, Patricia Ellis Herr, primarily about her relationship with her daughter, Alex, when Alex was five and six years old. A peakbagging+ adventure? Yes, a mother peakbagging with her five, and then six, year-old daughter. How high are the peaks they are peakbagging? Oh, 4,000 feet and above in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

This leads to an interesting set of questions: So what is a mother doing taking her daughter, Alex, peakbagging in the Whites when Alex is five years old? Is it the daughter or the mother that wants to do this, or is the child just trying to please the mother? Why would a mother jeopardize the safety of her child in the mountains?

This book is filled with dialogue between a mother and her five/six year-old daughter, and it seems like no one else is even in the picture. Alex has a younger sister, named Sage, who is a three-year old. Both of the children are homeschooled. The father is a professor at MIT, a man who lost both legs below the knee in a climbing accident on Mt. Washington, in the same mountains. The mother, the author, to the consternation of friends who

called her %antifeminist,+left a Harvard Ph.D. program to become a full-time mother.

This leads to an interesting set of questions: Why is the mother neglecting to parent Sage when she is doing all that climbing in the mountains with Alex? Why isn't there any dialogue with the father? Why is there so little dialogue with anyone, except between mother and daughter?

Patricia Herr writes very well, and attempts to answer some of these questions. Since the book started as a blog, she is also aware of criticism, and tries to counter any negative words from her critics.

Instead of *Up: A Mother and Daughter's Peakbagging Adventure*, the book might be entitled, *The Education of My Daughter, Alex, as a Young Peakbagger*. There are fifteen chapters which Patricia Herr calls %Lessons.+The book reads easily and can be read in one sitting.

Alex becomes a successful peakbagger, thanks to her mom. But at what price? Patricia often treats Alex like an adult. But Alex's words and actions are often from the perspective of a child, which she is. Is the child growing up too fast, and are the expectations of the mother too great? There are many unanswered questions in this book, especially the motivations of the mother, who obviously, from this book, wants the best for her daughter.

PVHC HOLIDAY PARTY 2014

By Chip Pray

On Saturday December 13 more than one hundred Pioneer Valley Hiking Club members and their guests celebrated at our annual holiday party at the East Campus facility of Springfield College located at 701 Wilbraham Rd. Springfield, MA.

The Club offered prizes to members presenting the %best appetizer+and also for the %best dessert+. Perhaps because of the contest; there was no shortage of either appetizer or dessert! The eventual winners as voted on by fellow Club members were Paul Kozikowski for %best appetizer+; and Marie Bienvenue for %best dessert+!

After an hour of appetizers and mingling provided by Club members; we were treated to entrees provided by our caterer consisting of roast pork, roast turkey, fresh fish, and a vegetable stir-fry with tofu.

After dinner, we recognized and publicly thanked many of our Leaders for their contributions and dedicated service provided in the name of the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club throughout the past year. Specific acknowledgement went to the following individuals: Marie Babbitt and Mike Reed for Bootprints; Dick Forrest Webmaster; Hike Scheduling and Meeting Agenda Jeanne Kaiser; Membership Greeting Table hosts Cindy and Gary Dolgoff, Tina Garde, Mike Gross, Lori McMahan, and Angela Whittaker; Rob Schechtman Non-member e-mail and Maintenance; Backpack coordinator Rick Briggs; and Quartermaster Mike Carrier; PVHC coordinator for the Pioneer Valley Outdoor Fair Kevin Withers; PVHC statistician Cindy Hibert; 2014 Holiday Party coordinators
See Party continued on Page 3

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Brenda Doucette and Marie Bienvenue. PVHC Secretary Lori Tisdell; PVHC Treasurer Paul Kozikowski; and PVHC Vice President Marcia Kelly.

Special thanks went to the fifty-one Hike Leaders who generated a total of 469 PVHC exercise based events throughout the calendar year of 2014!

Awards went to the following individuals for their contributions throughout the year: Shari Cox Most Biking activities; Al Roman and Karen Markham most Backpacking; Most Kayaking Marcia Kelly; Most Special Events Marcia Kelly; Most Weekend Hikes Lori Tisdell; Most overall hikes Chip Pray. There were many more individual Leaders given Honorable Mention; some of them having led as many as 55 hikes.

The 2014 Volunteer of the Year Award+ was bestowed upon the very whole hearted and deserving Lori Tisdell.



The slide show+ Produced again this year by Lori Tisdell was as always a huge favorite; its funny and often emotional to see and share all of our PVHC hiking moments together in the pictures presented during the show!

The evening was wrapped up by a live performance from the band The Claudia Malibu+ provided by the Club for our dancing and listening pleasure.

A very Special thank you to all the members who participated in set-up and cleanup; you were most cooperative and enthusiastic and we are all very appreciative of your efforts in making our annual Holiday Party a huge success!

Save the date! The next Holiday Party has already been scheduled for Saturday December 12, 2015!



Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

January Renewals:

Katherine Campbell
 Diane Crowell
 Kathleen Damon
 Gary & Cindy Dolgoff
 Carole DuPont
 Carol Fox
 Steve Henderson
 Janet Howard
 Ted Jarowski
 Jenna Krzanik
 Diane Moriarty
 Harry (Chip) Pray
 Mady Schorsch
 Elaine Tryjankowski
 Christa Winter
 Ann Wood

Feburary Renewals:

Dawn Allen
 Ali Baldwin
 Amy Cohen
 Steve Daly
 Misa Dargie
 Richard Harrington
 Jeannie Jones
 Susan Jones
 Pat Jorczak
 Paul Kozikowski
 Paul & Maxine Lessard
 David MacPhaul
 Paul Plasse
 Lewis Popper
 Jane & Rick Ricci
 Helaine Selin
 Carol Vanderheiden
 Carolyn Young

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)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Terry L. Champiney	Debbie Mac Neal
Barbara Considine	Wendy Eaton
Tracy Harrity	Steven Fox
Traci Hopkins	Jim Corker
Jill Keene	Kim Lange
Warren Wilkinson	Kim & Ken Carson
	Jeanne & Michael Kiendzior

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.



Photo by Chip Pray



Photo by Chip Pray



Photo by Chip Pray



Photo by Chip Pray



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 Thur. (MA) Morning hike
- Jan. 9 (MA) Ashley Reservoir-Full Moon
- Jan. 16-18 (NH) Bonds Traverse-Zealand hut
- Jan. 18 (MA) Pleasant Valley
- Jan. 24 (MA)DAR Forest-Snowshoe
- Feb. 7-8 (MA) Tully Lake Backpack
- Feb. 14 (MA) Mt. Alander snowshoe
- Feb. 21 (NH) Mt. Tecumseh
- Feb. 28 (MA) MassMoca and Natural Bridge Park
- Mar 7 (MA) Sugar House/Ashfield Trails
- Mar. 14-15 (VT)Little Rock Pond Fondue Backpack
- Mar. 15 (CT) Farmington Heritage Trail
- Mar. 15 (MA)Ioka Farms Maple Lunch/Mt. Greylock



IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:
February 3 , 2015, 7 pm at **FBC**
March 3, 2015, 7 pm at **FBC**
- ❑ Deadline for submissions to the next BootPrints is February 20th, 2015

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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