



Bootprints

The Bimonthly Newsletter of the
Pioneer Valley Hiking Club

My 48-4,000 Footer Journey in the Whites

by Carol Vanderheiden

My journey to complete the 48-four thousand footers in New Hampshire began in the year 2000 during the White Mountain Sampler weekend. Mike and Monica were leading a hike to Mount Adams, and I decided to join them. This hike has the most elevation gain of any of the 4000 footers. When I reached a junction 0.5 miles from the summit, I asked Mike if I could head over to Madison Hut to wait for them rather than summiting, since I was totally exhausted. He agreed, I waited, and we all hiked down as a group. In the meantime, I relaxed, enjoyed the scenery, and talked with other hikers. Little did I know that this was the beginning of sixteen years of fun, friendships and challenging hikes.

The following year, Rob Schechtman led my first official 4000 footer to Mount Lafayette, with a group of us staying at Greenleaf Hut. Great fun with a great group! *See Journey in the Whites continued on page 4*

Top Notch Weekend

by Cindy Dolgoff

One thing I have never experienced is staying in a hostel. That changed the weekend of August 5-7, when Gary and I participated in the Notch Hostel weekend.

We drove up to North Woodstock, New Hampshire, on Friday afternoon, with Terry Champigny ridesharing with us. The Notch Hostel opened about a year ago under the friendly ownership of Serena and Justin. The lodge appears to be geared towards hikers, and is a thoughtful alternative to camping or staying overnight in an expensive hotel.

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Featured Club Member: My Journey with the PVHC

by Shari Cox

When Dick Forrest asked me to write an article about my journey with the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club, I felt honored and immediately said "yes." Now I am asking myself, "What do I write about? How do I write two pages that are interesting and funny." Well, I can't say that it will be interesting or funny. It is just my journey through the years of being a member of the PVHC. This journey started in 1994.

A few years before this, I had recently found out a little about hiking and had done some weekend trips with an organization out of Vermont that organized walking and hiking trips. I realized that I liked it and wanted to do more. I didn't know where to go to find out about a group, and I probably didn't know about the World Wide

See *My Journey with the PVHC* continued on page 10

Using Electronic Devices to Navigate in the Woods

by Dick Forrest

"Once a new technology rolls over you, if you're not part of the steamroller, you're part of the road."

~ Stewart Brand

There are several members in PVHC who are using GPS's and/or smart phone apps with maps to help navigate in the woods and/or in the wilderness. However, I'm a person who is not a rapid adaptor of new technology, but I intend to be one of them in the near future. Why? Well, I'm a believer now - I've seen firsthand and have heard from others of the effectiveness of these, not brand-new, but relatively new, technologies.

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Guest Article/Contributor:

Geocaching

by John A. Baldwin (caching name: Episodad)

"Predating Pokémon-Go by 16 years, world-wide geocaching has enticed several million people outdoors to explore, seek, exercise and find adventure."

~John A. Baldwin

Predating Pokémon-Go by 16 years, world-wide geocaching has enticed several million people outdoors to explore, seek, exercise and find adventure. Geocaching is a high-tech "treasure hunt" utilizing a hand-held GPS (Global Positioning System) unit, or a cell phone app. Geocaching began as a hobby shortly after the U.S. Government removed blocking devices from U.S. satellites in 2000, making it possible for people with GPS units to pinpoint locations anywhere in the world within 10-15 feet. In May, 2000, David Ulmer hid a black bucket, filled with videos, books and software in the woods near Beaver Creek, Oregon. He then posted its coordinates (longitude and latitude) online. Within 3 days, two different readers learned about his stash on the Internet, used their own GPS units to find the container, and shared their experiences online. Others, excited by the prospect of hiding and finding "caches," began hiding their own containers and posting coordinates. Like many new and innovative ideas on the Internet, the concept spread quickly.

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The Adventures of Peakbagger: Another Two Bushwhacks from Hell

by Peakbagger

In the last edition of the "Adventures of Peakbagger" (<http://pioneervalleyhikingclub.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/bp2016july.pdf> - page 4), Peakbagger wrote about his bushwhacking experiences, hiking off trail, on three different occasions, and posited three general principles related to bushwhacking. This article by Peakbagger will continue with the same general theme: bushwhacking.

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Journey in the Whites continued from page 1

That same year, I led a hike up Mount Washington with two friends and their teenage sons. I made sure they ate and hydrated enough, but forgot to take care of myself. I had not been drinking or using electrolytes for myself, and almost had to take the Cog Railway down,

but recovered after lunch with lots of water and electrolytes.

Over the years I have followed Rob Schechtman,



John Klebes, Shari Cox, Bob Morgan, Tom Pederson, Richard Harris, Dick Forrest, Rick Briggs, Lori Tisdell, and Karen Markham.

In 2014, Dick Forrest and Tom Pederson brought me along on several of Dick's hikes. Lori Tisdell "adopted" my quest to finish the four thousand footers. Shortly after, Karen Markham joined her.

In 2015, Cheryl, Eunice, David and I decided to hike Mt. Moriah and Isolation (Gina joined us for this one) on our own, since we knew we were capable. After all, I had hiked from rim- to-rim in the Grand Canyon earlier in the summer.

In the fall of 2015, Lori told me she had already set up hut reservations for 2016 for me to climb the last ten mountains that I needed to complete my list.

This year, I completed some of the more difficult peaks. Lori, Karen and Al led the trip where we stayed at Carter Notch Hut the first

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"Over the years I have followed Rob Schechtman, John Klebes, Shari Cox, Bob Morgan, Tom Pederson, Richard Harris, Dick Forrest, Rick Briggs, Lori Tisdell, and Karen Markham."

~ Carol Vanderheiden





Journey in the Whites continued from page 4

night, and we hiked Carter Dome, Middle Carter, and South Carter the following day. Two weeks later, Karen and Al led a backpacking trip to Zealand, West Bond, Bond, and Bondcliff, with an overnight at Guyot Shelter.

Then, three weeks later, the plan was to hike Mts. Madison, Adams, and Jefferson. However, that was not to be. We hiked Mount Madison on



the first day, and stayed at Madison Spring Hut. The next morning we headed to Mount Adams. Shortly into the hike, it began raining. We managed to summit Adams, but with many miles ahead of us and the threat of thunderstorms on an exposed ridgeline, in order to finish the hike to Jefferson, we opted, instead, to backtrack. We headed back to Madison Spring Hut and down to our cars. It was a great trip anyway, with some more peaks bagged. And lucky for cell phones - four people (Shari, Rick, Mark, and Ron) were waiting atop Mt. Jefferson. They had hiked up carrying balloons to congratulate me on finishing. Eva was waiting at the hut for me when we arrived; nevertheless, there was a party to celebrate my "almost" final mountain.

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"We managed to summit Adams, but with many miles ahead of us and the threat of thunderstorms on an exposed ridgeline, in order to finish the hike to Jefferson, we opted, instead, to backtrack."

~Carol Vanderheiden

Journey in the Whites continued from page 5

So we tried again...four weeks later. Lori had organized this trip for people to hike to Owl's Head. She rescheduled the hike so I could finish my 48 on Mt. Jefferson. Unfortunately, Lori could not be there with us. She WAS there in spirit, though. Around 30 PVHC members stayed at the Notch Hostel for two nights. We originally planned several hikes for Saturday...Mt Jefferson, Isolation, and Welch Dickey. As it turned out, thunderstorms were predicted again, so people split off and hiked Tecumseh, Cabot, Isolation and Indian Head, which were not above tree line. The weather looked better on Sunday, but most of the group had to return home. Sandy, Teri, Dave and I hiked the Jewel Trail to Mt Jefferson.

As we started up Mt. Jefferson, Rob and Lisa were hiking down, since Lisa was working on her 48. This was unexpected - they thought I



had already completed Jefferson the prior day. Since my first hike was led by Rob, and he was there for my last one, I really felt as though I had come full circle.

Harry and Mark hiked the Caps Ridge Trail and met us when we arrived at the summit. I felt as though everyone who had been with me this year and prior years were all there as I summited Mount Jefferson. Although it was cloudy for most of the hike, the sun came

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Journey in the Whites continued from page 6

out as we were hiking up, and we had phenomenal views from the top.

"In 2016, I completed ten of the four thousand footers in three trips and over 50 miles of hiking thanks to Lori, Karen and Al."

~ Carol Vanderheiden



In 2016, I completed ten of the four thousand footers in three trips and over 50 miles of hiking thanks to Lori, Karen and Al. Also, I felt the support of all my other friends, too numerous to mention by name, who had previously supported me on these hikes, since that is how we hike, making sure everyone is doing alright, sharing the gorgeous views and the camaraderie.

I have to give credit to many of the earlier hike leaders: Rob, John, Shari, Bob, Tom, Richard, Rick. And also credit to the more recent ones, to Dick, Tom, Karen, and especially to Lori, who kept encouraging me not to give up.

I feel as though I have finally finished the large, challenging mountains. Finally, "THERE ARE NO MORE!...What's that you say, Bob?...52 With a View?"

-- Carol Vanderheiden

Top Notch continued from page 1

Our first sight was Deb Bombard lounging in a hammock with a book. Sure looks like a restful place to stay!

After a yummy meal at the Woodstock Inn, we settled into our "home away from home." It's quite comfortable. There are bunk rooms on each of the three floors, as well as a few private rooms and a communal kitchen/living room on the second floor. That's where we congregated each evening.

Before the weekend began, I was asked to select a moderate hike to lead. Karen told me that at least two other people would be joining me and Gary. Since I was familiar with the Welch-Dickey hike, that's what I picked, with Mt. Pemigewasset as a rain alternative, as the Welch-Dickey trail has open areas with slate rocks that can be slippery and hazardous when wet.

There was much debate Friday night about the weather. It appeared that thunderstorms, perhaps severe, were a potential in most of the area forecasts. We checked weather.com and mountain-forecast.com, and decided to make final decisions in the morning. Of utmost importance was Carol Vanderheiden's final, 4,000-foot hike to the summit of Mt. Jefferson. We were closely monitoring the weather.

Saturday morning arrived. Based on weather forecasts, the consensus was to scrap the Welch-Dickey hike, and postpone Mt. Jefferson until Sunday. Therefore, I was going to lead a hike on Mt. Pemigewasset. I was surprised to see that now I had ten hikers signed on.



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"Based on weather forecasts, the consensus was to scrap the Welch-Dickey hike, and postpone Mt. Jefferson until Sunday. Therefore, I was going to lead a hike on Mt. Pemigewasset."

~Cindy Dolgoff



Top Notch *continued from page 8*

Mt. Pemigewasset turned out to be a lovely hike. The weather was warm and muggy, but we were mostly under tree cover. We started out on a flat trail and walked under three tunnels. The trail crossed several streams, with an ascent to the summit, which was 2,557 feet high. What a view – we could see Mt. Moosilauke, Mounts Flume and Liberty, and the villages of Lincoln and North Woodstock. Note: the hike distance was 3.6 miles round trip and the elevation gain was 1,300 feet.

Down we came, and we finished the hike shortly after noon. We mulled over what to do next, and we split into three groups – one went to the Highland Center and one went back to home base. Gary and Terry and I opted to visit The Flume Gorge, since we were already in its parking lot. It was a pleasant visit, but rather crowded with tourists. Not really a hike, although we did end up walking an additional two miles through the park.

Back to the hostel, tired, hungry, and in dire need of a shower. Thereafter, we relaxed and later enjoyed a sumptuous feast. All participants brought along a pot luck dish, and we had barbecued food, as well. What a treat!

After a delicious breakfast the next morning (directed by Chef Angela and her helpers), everyone hurried out to their respective Sunday hikes (or for some, back home). Gary, Terry, Rick, Marie and I decided to check out nearby Georgiana Falls. It was a picturesque hike along a roaring brook with several waterfalls. Equally interesting were the mushrooms we spotted along the way – a variety of sizes, colors and shapes. We marveled at their uniqueness.

As always, the day ended and we drove back to the Pioneer Valley.

EPILOGUE:

We got home and Gary said he would do a load of laundry. I looked for my suitcase – where was it? That was when I realized – I left it at the Notch Hostel! Luckily, I remembered that a few people were returning to the hostel that evening, so I made a few hasty calls (in-

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"After a delicious breakfast the next morning (directed by Chef Angela and her helpers), everyone hurried out to their respective Sunday hikes (or for some, back home)."

~ Cindy Dolgoff

Top Notch *continued from page 9*

between laughing at my predicament), and thankfully, Harry picked up my suitcase. It was then that I heard the wonderful news that Carol had successfully completed her 48th 4,000-footer that day. Congratulations, Carol! We all knew that you could do it.

Thank you everyone who made the weekend as successful and fun as it was – the organizers, drivers, hike leaders, everyone who cooked and cleaned up and participated in the hikes. PVHC is truly a wonderful hiking club.

-- Cindy Dolgoff

My Journey with the PVHC *continued from page 2*

Web, nor was the PVHC even on there. Luckily, there was a little 3-line blurb in the local *Reminder* about a group doing a hike. I thought it was just a onetime thing, but I called the number and spoke to a man named Ray. Ray was the owner of Backpacking Etc. I told him I was looking for a group of people to hike with, and he said that I called the right place because there was such a group.

I went to my first meeting at the *Backpacking Etc.* store in West Springfield. It was in a very small store, and there were about 25 people at the meeting. They talked about trips and backpacking trips that they had taken, and I was excited. I couldn't wait to start buying gear so I could go on these trips.

My first hike with the club was with Al Goodhind, who was the president at the time, up to Alander Mountain. I remember a few people on that hike and they are still members today. Dick Forrest and Sue Holt (now known as Sue Forrest). It was a great hike with great views and a way to meet great people, plus, we went out for pizza afterwards. What could beat that? It was a way to get out, be active, explore new places and make friends. After that hike, I was out every weekend with the group. Al led many hikes then. They didn't have many leaders and who knows how many members they had, but it probably wasn't even 100.

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"It was then that I heard the wonderful news that Carol had successfully completed her 48th 4,000-footer that day. Congratulations, Carol! We all knew that you could do it."
~Cindy Dolgoff

"My first hike with the club was with Al Goodhind, who was the president at the time, up to Alander Mountain."

~ Shari Cox

My Journey with the PVHC continued from page 10

My first PVHC Holiday party was at a little church in Wyben. I had never heard of Wyben, but it is part of Westfield. There was a couple, Sandy and Bill Locke, at the party and they were talking about getting prepared for a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail. I really didn't know about the Appalachian Trail - I was just a newbie. I thought it sounded fascinating; though, I really didn't think it would be something I would want to do. I like adventure, but no beds and no bathrooms didn't sound like an adventure I would like. They headed out in the winter of 1995. We heard a little of their adventure while they were hiking. And I continued to hike regularly.

My first big hike was Mt. Katahdin. I didn't know anything about it, or how difficult it could be. It was on Labor Day weekend, and a long drive up. We carpoled and it was a great way to get to know some of the people. We were camping quite a ways from Baxter State Park. We had to get up so early to get in line at the gate. I think the gate opened at six a.m. back in those days. We needed to make sure that we got in line to the gate early enough to get in - they only let so many cars in. We met the group at Roaring Brook Campground where people were camping. It was still dark out. We got on the trail and I was feeling happy and looking for an adventure. I had a big backpack because I wanted to make sure I had everything I needed - I was scared into not being prepared. We probably had a group of 15 or so. We hiked into Chimney Pond, and from there, took a break.

When we were ready, we headed up the Dudley Trail. (I didn't know anything about anything, I was so green.) We started up the Dudley trail and we started going up a rock, boulder trail. I mean BOULDERS! At first I thought it was fun. Soon I was in tears and said to myself, "What did I get myself into?" It was HARD. I was struggling. I had a heavy pack, I was slow, and I was miserable. I just didn't know how I was going to get up these boulders. My stomach was in knots and getting cramps; I think from the anxiety I felt. There weren't any trees up there. There were Just boulders and boulders, and nowhere to relieve myself. I thought, "What am I going to do?" I was finally able to go around a side in-between some boulders. I felt a little better, but was still miserable. I got up to the top of Pamola and I couldn't even enjoy the views. I was a little light-headed and needed to sit down and figure out what I was going to do. I just wanted to get off the mountain. I could see people over on some rocks on the other side and wondered how they got there. That was where the chimney was. "@#%!" is what I said. I thought that there has to be a way for me to get off of this mountain; though, I knew I couldn't go down what I just came up. Luckily, there was another

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trail to take down. I was holding people up and I was a basket case. I knew for me and the others it would be best if I went down another trail. Come to find out, several others wanted to turn and go down the other trail. We went down the Helon Taylor Trail. We were down about 6:00 p.m. It was long struggle. I was tired, my feet were hurting, and I was probably out of steam. We got in the cars and went to go eat. Just sitting down, knowing that I was safe - I was a new person. The next day we were packing up to take that long drive home. I still felt like a new person, and I wanted to go back and conquer that mountain. The unknown, the difficulty, the lack of being physically prepared, and lack of confidence were my downfalls. The good thing was that I was able to bounce back and know that I was ready to take it on again. It could have gone the other way where I just said, "NO WAY, NO HOW, would I do that again."



That was in 1995, just one year after the joining the club. The highest peak I had done before that was Mt. Greylock. The club didn't do a lot of hiking in the Whites back then. In 1996, Al led his first White Mountain Sampler, and I climbed Mt. Washington - another long day of hiking. I was so lucky to have such a beautiful day up there, and it was an accomplishment to finish it.

I continued to hike regularly and tried a little backpacking. Another couple from the club set out to
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My Journey with the PVHC *continued from page 12*

hike the AT in 1998. The beginning of 1999, I had a bad day at work, and I made the decision that I was going to hike the AT the next year. People say it must have been a really bad day of work. Really, I just think I was ready for an adventure and something exciting and challenging in my life.

The AT was a challenge, and I still wonder what kept me going. I know in the first month I said to myself, "Well, if I quit now, I have to go back to work." I kept walking. It was an experience, and I still think about heading back to do it again. It certainly isn't easy. You are dirty, smelly, sore, tired, wet, and sweaty, either all at different times, or all at the same time. It isn't because I like hiking; it was just because it was a challenge and an adventure. There were some beautiful areas, and at times I just felt so lucky. I met all kinds of people, and many people would help you along the way. I went through little trail towns that everyone talked about, which I thought were going to be big towns.

As most of you know the rest of the story. I met DreamCatcher (aka, Laurie Mahoney) on the trail. We walked for five months together to Katahdin. A few years after that, we traveled the world for a year together. We are still friends and continue to do more adventures with others.

The club has given me so much more than I have given back. In the beginning, it was my savior. It opened up a whole new world to me. The hiking got me outside, challenging myself, meeting people and having great fun. I got the courage to try and succeed in hiking the AT. From there, I got more confidence to go outside of my comfort zone and safety net to leave my job and travel for a year. I have made some of the best friends and companions because of this club and hiking.

The club has grown so much in the last 22 years. The club has great leaders, who continue to put themselves out there. They bring the joy of hiking, challenge of the peak, the beauty of the mountains to us all. Now, instead of just having hikes on the weekends, you can find something almost every day. The membership has probably more than doubled. The club provided me the start to my adventure, and from that, I have created a life of adventure and friendships. Thank you, PVHC! It has been a great journey. And, as it is often said, "It is about the journey, not the destination."

-- Shari Cox



Electronic Devices *continued from page 2*

Let me give you some examples of how these technologies are being used by some of our PVHC members.

Bob Morgan completed the "100 Highest in New England" using a Garmin GPS, which is a handheld (and now also in a wristwatch form) topographic mapping device used primarily for land navigation. Amazingly, Bob navigated to a large number of peaks requiring bushwhacks using his Garmin, and he did it by himself, often with no help. For various reasons, he didn't always find the peaks the first time – he had to come back to get a few of them – but eventually he got all of those peaks. Bob often had companions on his bushwhacks, but he also often didn't, which is amazing, in itself. And just finding the trailheads sometimes added to his navigation problems.

Mike Gross is another person who is proficient with his Garmin. He is working on completing his "100 Highest in New England." On a recent hike, we were looking for a trailhead to climb Snow Mt. (Chain of Ponds), a peak on the "100 Highest" list in western Maine. We followed what we thought were some online directions to our trailhead. Using his Garmin, Mike determined that we were on a dirt logging road about 200 feet above our trailhead. We went down the road and around the corner to our trailhead. Mike directed us to the trailhead with his Garmin, and we finally arrived there after about 1 1/2 hours of looking for it.

Rick Ricci (aka, "Smart Phone Man" - see Lori Tisdell's article: <http://pioneervalleyhikingclub.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/bp2016july.pdf>) used his smart phone to pull up a map of a trail they were hiking on in the NET/M&M in CT series, led by Lori Tisdell and Jeanne Kaiser. Smart Phone Man used his smart phone app to pull up his map of the trail, and determined that the entire hiking group missed a turn, and instructed the group to backtrack to the point on the trail where they missed that turn. On another occasion, Harry Allen related a story of how Rick Ricci pulled up a previous track from a Chesterfield Gorge hike, which Harry was redoing. Harry was wondering why he wasn't at a certain location, which he remembered from his previous hike. Smart Phone Man, with his smart phone app, came to the rescue again by determining where they went wrong on the trail, and where to go to get to that same location from the previous hike.

Electronic Devices *continued from page 14*

Al Roman is becoming proficient with his relatively inexpensive (by comparison) Garmin. Initially, without totally understanding how to use his Garmin, he started laying down waypoints on his device, which are especially helpful to get back to your starting location. After using his Garmin a little more, he learned to read the maps on his smaller screen, and get his hiking group to the summits. Al, Karen, and I have been on several bushwhacks together in pursuit of the "100 Highest in New England," and he is becoming a master pathfinder. Karen and I have followed Al everywhere, like lemmings (as Karen has said), but not over a cliff, mind you. Holding and correctly reading a Garmin on a wilderness bushwhack is power, and Al has become powerful.



A few others in our club are also using electronic devices for pathfinding. These devices can also tell you your elevation, lay down a real-time track of your hike, allow you to set way points along your path to enable you to get back to them (as Al Roman did), provide a elevation profile of your hike, and to archive your hike once you've completed it (as Smart Phone Man did), among other features. We met a couple of women on a hike who said that they were using someone else's tracks, or possibly GPS, to find their way to complete their "100 Highest in New England." I would recommend that you go online and find a list of all of the things that modern GPS's and topographic map smart phone apps can do for you – you'd be amazed.

-- Dick Forrest



Geocaching *continued from page 3*

Today there are over 2 million geocaches hidden in all 50 states, and over 200 countries, including Antarctica, and even one on the Space Station! Geocaches range in size from ammo boxes and Tupperware containers to 35mm film canisters (and even smaller). The larger ones contain small items for trade under an honor system. If you take something, you replace it with something of comparable value. The smaller ones may contain only a log sheet to sign when you find the cache. When the geocache has been found, it is returned to its hiding place for someone else to discover. Geocaches are hidden by participants in the hobby. I've placed over a hundred geocaches, myself. They can be found in such diverse locations as mountaintops, beaches, parks, even parking lots, and quiet suburban settings.

In September, 2000, a hobby site for the activity www.geocaching.com was developed. It is a fascinating website enabling interested geocachers to access the coordinates for any geocache that is close to where they may be, record the finds that each person makes, and read about the experiences of other geocachers. The websites include maps, hints, and descriptions of the area where the cache is hidden. Some geocaches involve puzzles which must be solved before the cache coordinates are revealed. Others can only be reached by watercraft, or are most easily accessed by biking. A newly opened rail-trail in my home state, stretching 50 miles from Jamestown to Richmond, Virginia, has a geocache every tenth of a mile (nearly 500 geocaches).



International
Geocaching
Logo

The ranks of geocachers now include individuals, couples, families and groups from all walks of life. The excitement of the hunt and search appeals not only to children and youth, but also to the inner child of adults. I've been geocaching for the past 11 years and have found over 20,000 caches, in 38 states and 5 European countries. I've also met a whole host of interesting folks on the trails, as well as attended monthly meet and greets, as well as annual geocaching events across the country. The social component to geocaching is also one of its joys.

-- John A. Baldwin

(Ed. note: John, who is obviously passionate about geocaching, is my first cousin, and lives in Virginia Beach, Virginia. With his over 20,000 geocache finds, he is listed on www.geocaching.com as #6 on the list with the most geocache finds in his home state of Virginia. – Dick Forrest)



The Adventures of Peakbagger continued from page 3

Peakbagger climbed Scar Ridge, just south of Loon Mt. in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and also climbed Fort Mt., just northeast of North Brother Mt. in Baxter State Park in the Longfellow Mts. of Maine. Were they bushwhacks from hell? It's all relative; it all depends upon how much discomfort/pain you can endure hiking off trail.

To climb Scar Ridge, you need to, first, climb the Northeast Peak of Loon Mt. via a couple of black diamond ski trails, then you go into the woods on a herd path close to the summit to the east and hike about 0.6 mile, and then you start your bushwhack of just less than a mile to the summit of Scar Ridge. So what's so difficult about bushwhacking, hiking off trail? Well, mostly blowdowns, or fallen trees, present problems. You either go over them, under them, or around them. Having to lift your legs an uncountable number of times on a hike can be both frustrating and painful, especially if you experience cramps. Vegetation also impedes your progress, so it's often slow going. And, of course, elevation, going uphill, is always a factor in slowing you down to your destination.

To climb Fort Mt., you need to, first, climb North Brother Mt., a 4,000 footer. From there, you start your bushwhack. Rock cairns mark your way down the mountain from the summit. So, on this mountain, unlike Scar Ridge, there is a herd path all of the way to the summit of Fort Mt. But the herd path is narrow most of the way, and is overgrown with spruce or balsam fir trees. It's easy to lose your way, and sometimes you have to backtrack to find the herd path. On this occasion, a previous hiker had flagged the trail with orange tape. If you remember, Peakbagger is not fond of bushwhacking. He is not a purist, that is, someone who would take down that orange tape because it is cheating. Peakbagger likes a previous hiker's orange tape to find the trail.

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The Adventures of Peakbagger continued from page 17

It's about a mile bushwhack from North Brother Mt. to Fort Mt. You drop down about 500 feet in elevation to a col between the two peaks, and climb about 250 feet in elevation to the summit of Fort Mt. Larger rocks present a problem close to the summit of Fort Mt., and many blowdowns have fallen on most of the trail. The total hiking time, which includes the bushwhack, was about 12 hours, and the distance was about 11.2 miles. The moral of the story: bushwhacks slow you down.

Were they bushwhacks from hell? To some degree, they were. If you are trying to complete hiking lists of peaks, which require bushwhacks, then bushwhacking is a necessary evil. However, there are also roses among thorns. Peakbagger was out of water coming back down from North Brother. A trail angel, an Appalachian thru-hiker who just recently finished the AT, by the trail name of "L.L. Retro," gave him a spare liter of water. And, at the base of Loon Mt., another trail angel by the name of Tina Garde, provided water and ice cream to all of the hikers, including Peakbagger, who completed the Scar Ridge bushwhack. In both cases, it was a little slice of heaven, not hell.

-- Peakbagger



PVHC Holiday Party Slideshow

We know it's hot out now - but before you know it, the Holiday Party will be just around the corner. Please don't wait until November to submit your photos. Cindy Dolgoff is coordinating the slide show, and you can contact her at 413-244-4814 or gnilrets55@aol.com if you need further information on submitting photos. Please note, individual photos are welcomed also. If you have a few key photos from a hike, send them along in an email. Just be sure to indicate the date and the place of the hike.

Thanks to everyone who has been submitting photos and we look forward to future photos.
 - - Cindy Dolgoff



Amazing and incredible progress has been made on building the bog bridge near Rising Corner on Section 1 of the New England Trail in Massachusetts (PVHC's adopted trail). Thank you, President Chip Pray and many other PVHC volunteers (along with the AMC's Pro Crew), for your countless hours of hard work on this complex project.



Al Roman and Karen Markham complete their "100 Highest in New England" achievements on Goose Eye Mountain in the Mahoosuc Range in Maine. Rick Briggs (left) accompanied them on their final hike.

Important Membership Renewal Notices

The following memberships are up for renewal:

Sept. Renewals

Eileen Bryson
 Carol Carrington
 Shari Cox
 Lucie Devries
 Krystyna Galipeau
 JoAnne Gebski
 Devora Jacobson
 Carolyn Keeffe
 Laurie Mahoney
 Sheila Messer
 Marty & Meg Schoenemann
 Gail Schoonover
 Lynne Wolak

October Renewals

Janet Beach
 Dona Burdick
 Eliza Dagostino
 Donna Dunn
 Donna Fleury
 John & Regina Fortune
 Jane Garb
 Barbara Graf
 Lori Hennessey
 Margot Lacey
 Charlie Lieson
 Karen Markham
 Dori Neuwirth
 Thomas Pedersen
 Pennington C. Pitts
 Maria Rocco
 Al Roman
 Annie Schultz

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)

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers

Chip Pray, President
 Lori Tisdell, Vice President
 Paul Kozikowski, Treasurer
 Gina Geck, Secretary
 Ray Tibbetts, Founder

Standing Committee Chairs

Hike Schedule: Jeanne Kaiser & Chip Pray
 Backpacking Coordinator: Rick Briggs
 Trail Maintenance: Chip Pray & Rob Schechtman
 Club Website Editor: Dick Forrest
 Non-Member E-mail Coordinator: Rob Schechtman
 Club E-mail Coordinator: Chip Pray
 Quartermaster: Mike Carrier
Bootprints Newsletter Editor: Dick Forrest

Bootprints is a publication of the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club. Please email your story/event contributions to Dick Forrest at: dforrest@charter.net.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

July

Kathy Brown
 Janice & David Fedor
 Ravi & Rushmi Kulkarni
 Nancy Rose
 Stephanie Vignone
 Carolyn Young

August

Rex Dewberry
 J C Parker
 Joe & Noel Stella



UPCOMING EVENTS AND THE USUALS

- Every Mon. (MA) Mornings w/ Chip
- Every Wed. (MA) Evening hikes w/ Marcia
- Every Thurs. (MA) Bike Path Rides w/ Jane and Afternoon walks w/ Ruth
- Every Thurs. (MA) Mornings w/ Harry & Ashley Reservoir evenings w/ Erin
- Sept 11 (MA) Boston Emerald Necklace - Part 2
- Sept 17 (MA) NET Sections 1 & 2
- Sept 24 (MA) AT - Section 4
- Oct 1 (MA) Robert Frost Trail - Section 1
- Oct 8 (MA) Sugarloaf & Mike's Maze
- Oct 15 (MA) High Ledges
- Oct 22 (CT) NET - Section 6
- Oct 29 (CT) Steep Rock Preserve
- Nov 5 (CT) NET Hike – Section 7
- Nov 12 (MA) Quabbin Loop

IMPORTANT NOTICES

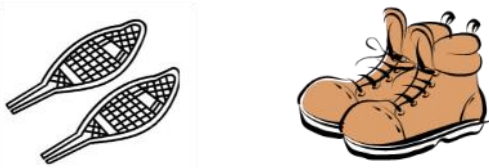
Next Club Meetings:
 September 6, 2016, 7 pm at **FBC**
 October 4, 2016, 7 pm at **FBC**

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

Deadline for submissions to the next *Footprints* is October 20, 2016

**** Check out our club website at:**
www.pioneervalleyhikingclub.org

Members may join the PVHC Email List by sending a message to:
pvhc.hikingclub@gmail.com



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Pioneer Valley Hiking Club
P.O. Box 225
West Springfield, MA 01090-0225

