



BooTprints

The Bimonthly Newsletter of the
Pioneer Valley Hiking Club

The Case of the Lost Phone

by Lori Tisdell

After missing several months of Harry Allen's Thursday morning hikes, I finally got to go out again in early November. It was a perfect fall day with cooler temps and beautiful, blue skies. It was nice to be out once again and see the Thursday "crew." But there was an adventure in store for three of us that day....

The hike was quite nice, starting with a steep climb up from Judd Park on the Robert Frost Trail to just below the Bare Mt. summit. We continued over to Mt. Hitchcock for a break and views before heading to our lunch spot at Lithia Springs. It is a pretty, peaceful place to have lunch with trees to lean against, while looking at the reflection of clouds and trees on the water.

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Hike Local/Eat International

by Cindy Dolgoff

When I woke up this morning, December 17, the snow was already flying. By lunchtime, the last of the people who had called earlier in the week about our event had called and cancelled. No matter. It was a successful year for our new event, with nine dinners and walks, most of them taking place on Sunday evenings.

Sometime around 1999, Gary instituted monthly Northampton Dinner and Walks. They were quite popular, but, for whatever reason, they had pretty much fizzled out a couple of years ago. We continued to have them on a sporadic basis, but they needed a new twist. The perfect idea was originated by fellow PVHC club member Lori Tisdell. She noted that Northampton

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Photos at the Memorial Service and Burial Ceremony Commemorating PVHC Founder Ray Tibbetts

by Dick Forrest

On Thursday, November 3, 2016, there was a service in memory of PVHC Founder Ray Tibbetts at Old Post Chapel at Fort Myer, Virginia, which was followed by a ceremony of the interment of Ray Tibbett's ashes at Arlington National Cemetery.



Prior to the memorial service for PVHC founder Ray Tibbetts at Old Post Chapel, Fort Myer, Virginia. Left to Right: Jeff Tibbetts, Ann Marie Brighenti Tibbetts, Sandy Tibbetts, Susan Forrest, Dick Forrest

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The Confessions of Peakbagger

by Peakbagger

Definition of the word: obsession

· 1 : a persistent disturbing preoccupation with an often unreasonable idea or feeling; broadly : compelling motivation <an obsession with profits>

· 2 : something that causes an obsession

~ Merriam-Webster

Rick Briggs, the incomparable, the nay saying, the “don’t call me a peak bagger” contrarian, warned of this calamity - he calls peak bagging “a disease.” Well, Rick was right. It’s an obsession - I have it. Yes, I’ve got this overpowering disease. I’ve got peak bagging on my mind, constantly. Can you help me get rid of this persistent and unreasonable affliction?

“Why, I asked, are we going all the way to the Whites for this peak when there are so many other better ones?”

~ John “PaPa Smurf” Klebes

When I think of other PVHC peak baggers, John “PaPa Smurf” Klebes (<http://pioneervalleyhikingclub.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/bp2016jan.pdf> , page 2) comes to mind. PaPa Smurf wrote:

Why, I asked, are we going all the way to the Whites for this peak when there are so many other better ones? It’s on the list I was told. I laughed at how silly this seemed, but despite my reluctance to embrace the lists, someone finally pointed out that, without trying, I had already climbed most of the NH 4000. I joined the bandwagon and started finishing up that list. At first reluctant, I soon realized that the list had me hiking out to other locations that seeded my plans for more hikes.

PaPa Smurf goes further: “Once bitten, it’s easy to get sucked into the lists.” Other lists that John got sucked into were: the Catskill 3500 list, the Adirondack 46er list, the New England 4000-footers list, the Northeast 111 list, and the New England 100 Highest list. After a while, PaPa Smurf moved from peak bagging to thru hiking, starting. *See Confessions on page 10*

The Climb

Song/Lyrics by Miley Cyrus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NG2zyeVRcbs>

I can almost see it.
 That dream I'm dreaming,
 But there's a voice inside my head say-
 ing,
 "You'll never reach it."
 Every step I'm takin'
 Every move I make feels lost with no di-
 rection,
 My faith is shakin'
 But I, I gotta keep tryin'
 Gotta keep my head held high
 There's always gonna be another moun-
 tain
 I'm always gonna wanna make it move
 Always gonna be an uphill battle
 Sometimes I'm gonna have to lose
 Ain't about how fast I get there
 Ain't about what's waitin' on the other
 side
 It's the climb
 The struggles I'm facing
 The chances I'm taking
 Sometimes might knock me down,
 But no, I'm not breaking
 I may not know it,
 But these are the moments
 That I'm gonna remember most, yeah
 Just gotta keep goin',

And I, I gotta be strong
 Just keep pushing on,
 'Cause, there's always gonna be another
 mountain
 I'm always gonna wanna make it move
 Always gonna be a uphill battle
 Sometimes I'm gonna have to lose
 Ain't about how fast I get there
 Ain't about what's waiting on the other
 side
 It's the climb, yeah!
 There's always gonna be another moun-
 tain
 I'm always gonna wanna make it move
 Always gonna be an uphill battle
 Somebody's gonna have to lose
 Ain't about how fast I get there
 Ain't about what's waiting on the other
 side
 It's the climb, yeah!
 Keep on moving, keep climbing
 Keep the faith, baby
 It's all about, it's all about the climb
 Keep the faith, keep your faith, whoa

*"Keep on moving, keep
 climbing*

Keep the faith, baby

*It's all about, it's all about
 the climb"*

~ Miley Cyrus



"We both managed to stay upright clutching each other for dear life. Whew, it was a close call and no harm to either of us."

~ Lori Tisdell

Lost Phone *continued from page 1*

As we got ready to leave, I noticed that Gina put her phone under the hip belt of her backpack. I thought it rather strange to put it there, but figured she knew what she was doing. Now for a bit of advice - if you think something is strange, it probably is, so tell the person. Well, that doesn't work in every case, but it would have in this one!

We went on our way continuing to enjoy the hike as we traveled the almost three miles back to the cars. At one point, Gina and I were side by side approaching a slab of rock, Gina went high and I went low. I saw her lose her footing out of the corner of my eye and turned just in time to steady myself and "catch" her as she barreled down the rock! We both managed to stay upright clutching each other for dear life. Whew, it was a close call and no harm to either of us. Gina said I was softer than a tree. :-0

As we were putting our gear in the trunk, Gina realized her phone was missing. She looked everywhere, but to no avail. Then I remembered seeing her put it under her hip belt, and we realized it must have fallen out. Oh no! At this point, all the other cars and hikers, except Harry's, had left, including Lorraine, with whom Gina had carpooled. So we asked Harry to tell Lorraine (she didn't have her phone with her) that we were going to look for Gina's phone and that I would bring Gina home. We headed out thinking that it might have fallen loose when we had the minor misadventure at the rock slab.

A little while later, Harry called me. He never did make contact with Lorraine, though not for want of trying. On the way up to the Notch parking lot (we had all met there and carpooled to Judd Park), he saw Lorraine heading down. So he turned around and headed down

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Lost Phone continued from page 5

and there was Lorraine heading back up. So he turned around again and headed back up and.....you guessed it, there was Lorraine heading back down again! By the time Harry got back to Judd Park, Lorraine was nowhere to be seen, so we all figured she went home. In fact, she had gone to the end of the road where the trail goes in hoping to see us before leaving.

Meanwhile, Gina and I continued to search the trail for her phone, without luck. The crash area, which was much further along the trail than I remembered, yielded nothing. Harry and I were in contact often keeping track of each other. Then Harry had a brilliant idea! He would go over to Lithia Springs Road, which is much closer to the junction Gina and I were headed to, and hike into the lunch spot. Perfect, then Gina and I wouldn't have to hoof it back to the car - that would have made our total mileage about 13 miles. Instead, we topped out at about 10 miles. Since I was breaking in new boots (my first wearing), this was much appreciated!

The next call I got from Harry was to let us know that two women had asked if he had lost a phone. The women hadn't found it, but a man who did find the phone (and who had passed Harry) asked the women if they had. So we figured at least the phone had been found. Harry was going to wait for us to meet up with him, and we continued on. During the next conversation with Harry, he excitedly exclaimed something I don't exactly remember, and suddenly the phone disconnected! What! I called back several times before finally getting through. Harry had gotten a call from Gina Geck! Huh? Apparently the women he had passed earlier got back to their car and drove home. When they got there, they found Gina's phone on the

See Lost Phone continued on page 7

*"Harry had gotten
a call from Gina
Geck! Huh?"
~ Lori Tisdell*



"The lovely and gracious women offered to bring the phone back to the trailhead to return it to Gina. How nice was that?"
~ Lori Tisdell

"In subsequent months, we ate at restaurants representing Thailand, Vietnam, Tibet, China, the Middle East, India, and Greece."
~ Cindy Dolgoff

Lost Phone *continued from page 6*

top of their car - it never fell off the whole drive home. What are the odds? The lovely and gracious women offered to bring the phone back to the trailhead to return it to Gina. How nice was that?

Within a few minutes, Gina and I joined up with Harry and headed to the trailhead on Lithia Springs Road. We all thought what a strange series of circumstances transpired to bring Gina's phone back to her. When we arrived at the car, there were Ashlee and Judy waiting with the phone. Gina gave Ashlee a hug and kissed her phone! We chatted with the two women for a time, and thanked them profusely before leaving. During this time, I got a call from Lorraine, who had returned home to find a message from Ashlee asking if she knew someone who had lost a phone. I explained all that had happened, and we both thought the odds were slim that this would have happened.

In the end, Harry, Gina and I all got in a longer hike and had a mini-adventure that ended well. And with a story to tell...and isn't that the way it is so often in hiking?

-- Lori Tisdell

Hike Local *continued from page 1*

has many different ethnic restaurants - maybe we could eat our way around the world? Thus, Hike Local/Eat International was born.

During our first event, we walked the streets of Northampton and dined in Japan. Well, not the REAL Japan, but "Taipei and Tokyo," a Japanese restaurant. We are working our way westward across the globe. In subsequent months, we ate at restaurants representing Thailand, Vietnam, Tibet, China, the Middle East, India, and Greece. Last month, a record (for this series) twenty hikers signed up, and we ate in Morocco. Well, not the REAL Morocco, but "Amanouz," a Moroccan restaurant. We've walked mostly along the Mill River and through the Smith College campus.

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Hike Local *continued from page 7*

I am happy to report that so far all of the chosen eateries have been able to accommodate our group, which is usually around 12 people. Sometimes it's hard to get a table for that many people, but we've been lucky so far.

Our hikes are fairly short; two to three miles. On a couple of the hikes, we split into two groups at different paces and met up at the end. It worked quite well when it was still light out, and we're going to try that again next year.

Well, we're on hiatus for the months of January and February, but we'll be back to monthly hikes in March, and we'll be taking up where we left off - Italy. Well, not the REAL Italy, but a Northampton Italian restaurant. Stay tuned! We hope to see some new faces in 2017.

-- Cindy Dolgoff

"Well, we're on hiatus for the months of January and February, but we'll be back to monthly hikes in March, and we'll be taking up where we left off - Italy."

~ Cindy Dolgoff



Photos continued from page 2



Sandy Tibbetts, wife of PVHC founder Ray Tibbetts, receiving a folded American flag during the flag ceremony conducted by the U.S. Marines at Arlington National Cemetery



Sandy Tibbetts carrying PVHC founder Ray' Tibbett's ashes and the folded American flag at Ray's interment at Arlington National Cemetery



Peakbagger continued from page 3

with his insane "Summer Solstice Death March Hikes," the M&M Trail (now the New England Scenic Trail), the Long Trail, and the New Hampshire Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway (SRKG) Loop. Here's a club member who has thru hiked the Appalachian Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail, and the Continental Divide Trail, and so achieved his "Triple Crown," becoming the ultimate peak bagger.

PaPa Smurf was infected with the peak bagging bug to the most obsessive of degrees; although, as a result, I'll have to say that he has led one of the most interesting of lives. And like PaPa Smurf, I, too, joined the bandwagon and started finishing up the NH 4000 footers, after getting the peak bagging bug in the Adirondacks. I guess that there must be some mysterious pathogen lurking in those mountain airs.

Anyway, back to my disease. In reference to peak bagging, and to quote country singer Tug McGraw: "But I like it, I love it, I want some more of it, I try so hard, I can't rise above it." Admittedly, I confess that I need help with my own "persistent, disturbing pre-occupation" with peak bagging.

-- Peakbagger

*"Admittedly, I confess that I need help with my own 'persistent, disturbing preoccupation' with peak bagging."
~ Peakbagger*



2016 Volunteer of the Year Award

PVHC President Chip Pray spoke at the 2016 Holiday Party:

"Now for my sixth time I get to enjoy the privilege of introducing an award recipient. A person who despite their short time in the club has stepped up whenever called upon to fill wholeheartedly various roles within our beloved PVHC. First, as a Club member attending many functions and continually demonstrating a real interest and helpfulness to member's enjoyment during Club activities. Then this person became a regular hike Leader as well as a very helpful participant in Club Maintenance. Still later, this person filled a Club E Board vacancy with great competency. I'm sure everybody is thinking well that's great. But this person's valuable contributions continue. His expertise proved vital and invaluable to the piecing together of our new bridge and its parts and the mechanical adaptation and repair of misfit parts without the benefit of coherent written directions. This man also serves as our PVHC Treasurer, and on behalf and with deep gratitude from all the members of the PVHC, we now do hereby award the 2016 Volunteer of The Year Award in this our 25th anniversary year to Mr. Paul Kozikowski."



Important Membership Renewal Notices

The following memberships are up for renewal:

Jan. Renewals

Joyce Berg
Katherine Campbell
Paula Christian
Marie Clark
Kathleen Damon
Gary & Cindy Dolgoff
Carole DuPont
Carol Fox
Steve Henderson
Ted Jarowski
Elena & Michael Lamontagne
Diane Moriarty
Elaine Tryjankowski
Patricia Watson
Ann Wood

Feb. Renewals

Natali Adams
Ali Baldwin
Lisa Brault
Amy & Len Cohen
Kim Couture
Steve Daly
Misa Dargie
Hugh Friel
Richard Harrington
Jeannie Jones
Susan Jones
Pat Jorczak
Andrea Kalifa
Paul Kozikowski
Paul & Maxine Lessard
Lori Martin
Joseph Mercer
Paul Plasse
Jane & Rick Ricci
Helaine Selin
Mary Van Leeuwen
Carol Vanderheiden
Mary Walters

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

November

Donna Barr
Claire Norton
Karen Chaffee
Mary Fitzpatrick
Felicia Kleciak
Charles & Wendy Bernstein
Phyllis Levenson

December

Max Caldwell
Sherry Goyette
Renae Giefer



UPCOMING EVENTS AND THE USUALS

- Every Mon. (MA) Mornings w/ Chip
- Every Thurs. (MA) Mornings w/ Harry
- Every Thurs. (MA) Ashley Reservoir evenings w/ Erin
- Every Sat. (MA) Afternoon walks w/ Ruth, starting Jan. 21
- Jan. 7 (NH) Mt. Monadnock
- Jan. 14 (CT) Penwood St. Forest
- Jan. 21 (CT) Tariffville Gorge/NET
- Jan. 28 (MA) Mt. Greylock
- Feb. 4 (MA) Becket Land Trust
- Feb. 11 (CT) Steep Rock Preserve
- Feb. 18 (MA) Northfield Mt.
- Feb. 25 (MA) Mt. Norwottuck
- Mar. 4 (CT) Bear Mt.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

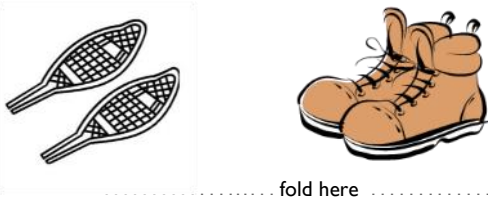
Next Club Meetings:
 January 3, 2017, 7 pm at **FBC**
 February 7, 2017, 7 pm at **FBC**

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

Deadline for submissions to the next *Footprints* is February 20, 2017

**** 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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