



# Bootprints

The Bimonthly Newsletter of the  
Pioneer Valley Hiking Club

President's Corner:

## Our 32nd Year of Adventure

by President Lori Tisdell

Happy New Year Pioneer Valley Hiking Club! I'd like to start by thanking you all for joining in on our 32<sup>nd</sup> year of outdoor adventure in 2023! We had another great year – and it is because of so many members who volunteer their time and effort that makes us the great club that we are.

I'd like to start by sharing some of the highlights in 2023.

Officer elections were held in February. All the officers were reelected to the board. It was a hard-fought win for all of us! I'd like to thank my fellow board members for their service to PVHC – Vice President Erin Squires, Treasurer Peggy Tibbitt, and Secretary Lani Giguere. As you know, Erin and Peggy will be retiring from their board positions in February after the three-year term limits are up. Thanks to both for your service to PVHC.

We continued in-Person meetings, along with Zoom, in-person was mainly when we presented clinics. Thank you to those who participated in the clinics sharing their expertise and experiences to help other club members. We had clinics on Staying Warm in Winter, Winter hiking Safety & Gear, Leave no Trace, a round table discussion about where we want to be in 5-10 years – out of that came the Leader's Guide we recently sent to members and published on the PVHC website. Al Shane hosted a clinic on the history of cellar holes, stone walls, and mill sites that we see so many of on our hikes. And Debbie Bombard, Cheryl Stevens, Karen Markham, and Al Roman hosted a clinic about their experience walking the Camino that was a great hit with members. And We had a very fun and spirited game night in June.

In November, we voted to resume monthly meetings alternating clinics and hike planning as we had been prior to 2020.

*President's Corner continued on page 2*

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Jan, 2024

### Inside this issue:

Important Renewal and Member- 19

Upcoming Events And The Usuals 20

Important Notices 20

### Special points of interest:

- Lori Tisdell's President's Corner article on page 1
- PaPa Smurf's 1st article on page 7
- Dick Forrest's 1st book review on page 13
- Dick Forrest's 2nd book review on page 15
- Future Events on page 17



*“We had a very good year in continuing to grow our club membership.”*

*~ President Lori Tisdell*

**President’s Corner** continued from page 1

We had a very good year in continuing to grow our club membership. Last year at this time we had 267 memberships. We now have 292 - An increase of just under 10%.

In November, under Chip Pray and Rob Schechtman’s direction as maintenance coordinators, we constructed a new side trail off the NET – a lovely walk beside a stone fence. Many PVHC members volunteered, and the work was completed in the morning. This was along with the regular maintenance in April and many other times in-between. Including Chip and Rob regularly keeping the trailhead mowed and walking the trail to check where maintenance is needed. Thanks to Chip, Rob and all the volunteers. None of this would happen without all of you.

Also related to maintenance. This year we formed a maintenance partnership with Quabbin Park under the DCR. Jim Brown is serving as liaison between PVHC and Quabbin Park. He organized two maintenance days – one in June and another in September. We will continue the partnership into 2024. Thank you, Jim!

August was the annual club picnic at Mt Tom. It was a beautiful day with lots of fun, games, and socializing. Many thanks to organizer Pat Davison and her committee – Cheryl Stevens, Debbie Bombard, Marsha Hertel, Celeste Roselli, Amy Cohen and grillers Rob Schechtman, Rick Briggs, Chip Pray and Peter Squires!



See President’s Corner continued on page 3

**President's Corner** *continued from page 2*

And of course, Karen Markham, Al Roman, and Lani Giguere who organized this year's holiday party, which was a rousing success! Thank you for stepping up once again. And thanks to Debbie Bombard, Cheryl Stevens and Marie Holmes as committee members who helped with all the prep work. And also, the members who came to set up and clean up tonight. This is one of the most, if not the most, anticipated social events on the club calendar.

Speaking of the club calendar....The PVHC calendar was pretty full, with over 400 scheduled activities. It was filled with day hikes, bike rides, kayaking, and walks nearly every day and many days with more than one activity! There were only 33 days that did not have an activity scheduled! 90% of the days in the year had an activity! A huge thanks to all the PVHC hike leaders!

The multi-day calendar had many memorable trips with both new ones and the regularly anticipated ones. Some braved the cold of Vermont in March to stay at Merck Forest and have fondue with Karen Markham and company. Which started Karen's year of overnight trips segueing into the annual spring White Mt Hut trip, to Greenleaf this year, along with her Lily Bay and ADK Johns Brooks Lodge in September, and Taft Lodge on Mt Mansfield in November. We had Al Goodhind's ever popular June White Mt Sampler, Dick, and Sue Forrest leading ADK Heart Lake in July again and Jim Brown leading a September biking trip once more and adding to his 52 WAV hike series with trips in April and August. Several members added new trips to our calendar. Susan Young organized a mid-week August trip to her family cabin on Lake Winnepesaukee that was great fun. Cheryl Stevens and Debbie Bombard organized a 5-day Cape Cod October trip for more than 40 club members that was so successful they immediately put out another one for October 2024!

These trips are so special, creating lasting bonds of friendship between club members. They are so very important, and I thank all of you for leading them. And so many thanks to all of our hike leaders - you are the backbone and mainstay of our club.

See *President's Corner* continued on page 4

*"The PVHC calendar was pretty full, with over 400 scheduled activities."*

*~ President Lori Tisdell*

*"These trips are so special, creating lasting bonds of friendship between club members."*

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*“You are the unsung  
heroes of our club.”  
~ President Lori  
Tisdell*

***President’s Corner*** continued from page 3

I’d like to acknowledge those who work behind the scenes. You are the unsung heroes of our club. You continue to work and support the club but without all the glory those hike leaders get!

Fellow board members, Erin Squires, Lani Giguere and Peggy Tibbitt for all of your hard work, input, help and dedication to PVHC. Your voices, ideas and support are greatly appreciated.

PVHC Standing Committee Chairs –

Hike Scheduler – Jos Brannan

Backpacking Advisor - Rick Briggs

Trail Maintenance Coordinators - Chip Pray & Rob Schechtman

Web Page and Bootprints Editor - Dick Forrest

Non-Member Email Coordinator - Rob Schechtman

Quartermaster - Mike Carrier

Greeter Table Volunteers - Debbie Bombard, Cheryl Stevens, and Pat Davison

They all deserve our thanks for keeping PVHC running smoothly year after year.

Many thanks to all Pioneer Valley Club Members for your support, volunteerism, participation, and generosity. Every single one of you makes an impact on our club and helps to make it better. Without all of you we would not have lasted these 32 years!

There were six members of PVHC the board voted to recognize with awards this year for all their hard volunteer work for PVHC.

We had three Special Recognition Awards recipients.

For their leadership in the club and their years of hard work in coordinating trail maintenance we recognized Chip Pray and Rob Schechtman.

See *President’s Corner* continued on page 5

**President's Corner** *continued from page 4*

For his years of dedicated service as both Webpage and Bootprints editor – especially rebuilding our webpage this year when the server lost it - Dick Forrest

New volunteer for volunteering for the first time in 2023 and taking on the scheduler duties - Jos Brannan

Our Final Award was for **The Volunteer of the Year**

The recipient, or is that recipients, of the Volunteer of the Year award. I won't be coy – it was a twofer this year. Because their names go together automatically, and it is not that often we see one without the other.

If you've been paying any attention at all, you will have a clue about who the recipients are by the number of times I have mentioned so far.

They joined the club in 2012, and it wasn't all that long before they started volunteering in a number of ways. Over the years they have served, either together or separately, on both the picnic and holiday party committees as well as the Outreach Program committee. They took committee position to heart and PVHC flyers and business cards were plastered all over the Pioneer Valley....and beyond!

They both serve as greeters at monthly meetings and kindly store the supplies. They lead a weekday hike in a category that was sorely needed in the club and grew a dedicated following – but I'm not sure if it's for the hike or the many different lunch spots after!

They were part of the July clinic sharing their experiences on the Camino along with spectacular photos on Facebook for the rest of us to enjoy. And speaking of Facebook, one of them is a regular contributor whose photos were a large part of the annual slideshow.

And finally, they organized an enormously fun 5-day trip to Cape Cod in October that had more than 40 participants! That takes some real organizational skills!

See *President's Corner* continued on page 6

*"The recipient, or is that recipients, of the Volunteer of the Year award. I won't be coy – it was a twofer this year."*

*~ President Lori Tisdell*



***President's Corner*** continued from page 5

They have done so much for PVHC....and I'm sure I've missed something. They are PVHC personified – welcoming, supportive, encouraging, generous and compassionate.

I was so pleased and honored to present the **2023 Volunteers of the Year award to Debbie Bombard & Cheryl Stevens!**



Congratulations to all of the 2023 award recipients! And thanks to all PVHC members for supporting our club year after year.

--President Lori Tisdell

Smurfy advice for the trail...

## **Unexpected Ice and Snow**

by John "PaPa Smurf" Klebes

The air is cold and crisp, the sun is shining, and the roads and landscape look free of ice and snow. Great day for a hike. But then part way through your hike you encounter snow and ice. You know this time of year you should be prepared with traction devices, crampons, or even snowshoes or an ice ax. But, you thought it was so nice looking by the road that you wouldn't need them. Now you are stuck with a dilemma. Should you continue on or turn back?

Depending on your skills and confidence level it may be OK to continue but it's a very personal decision. If you are not comfortable, or the conditions get worse, don't be afraid to turn around and head back. And don't let another person talk you into continuing if you are uncomfortable and don't feel safe. Better safe than sorry. That said, there are a lot of tricks to help you continue under snow and icy conditions if you take it carefully.

Number one is to keep assessing what you are crossing with the realization that you may have to return the way you came. Even if it's a loop hike it's possible conditions are worse ahead so you always must be prepared to retreat the way you came. If you are not comfortable returning back through the spot you are crossing then don't attempt going forward. Keep in mind that it can be significantly more difficult going downhill versus uphill on snow and ice. Keep this in mind when assessing if you can down climb the section you are going up.

### **Hiking on Snow**

If the snow is only a few inches deep you can usually get away without snowshoes. As the snow rises above your boot it can wick into your footwear. It helps to have good waterproof winter boots. Keep this in mind if you have lightweight hikers or sneakers as the snow will melt from your body heat and wick into your socks. There is  
See *Unexpected Ice and Snow* continued on page 8

*"Now you are stuck with a dilemma. Should you continue on or turn back?"*

*~ PaPa Smurf*

*"...there are a lot of tricks to help you continue under snow and icy conditions if you take it carefully."*

*~ PaPa Smurf*



***Unexpected Ice and Snow*** continued from page 7

nothing worse than wet cold feet. You can slip a plastic bag over your socks before slipping your feet into your boots as a waterproof layer and to keep you warmer - but this would be a good time to turn around.

If the snow is deeper and you are hiking with a larger group where some have snowshoes you can follow behind the group. Those with snowshoes take turns breaking trail and packing the trail down while those without snowshoes follow in the snowshoe-packed footprints.

If you do find yourself in deeper snow and post-holing (when your legs are sinking deep into the snow with every step) you will find that each step robs you of mobility. Having to step up and out of a hole each time can

make even walking a short distance exhausting. This can be made even worse if there is enough



firmness to sometimes hold your weight than unexpectedly punching through. Take turns breaking trail as the most work is done by the lead hiker and the others can follow in his footprints. You will only be able to lead for a short way so trade places in the front often and remember you will make very little progress while using lots of energy. This may only be appropriate if you have encountered a short wind-blown section of deep snow. Do not attempt to post-hole for long distances without overnight equipment..

*“Take turns breaking trail as the most work is done by the lead hiker and the others can follow in his footprints.”*

*~ PaPa Smurf*

See *Unexpected Ice and Snow* continued on page 9



**Unexpected Ice and Snow** *continued from page 8*

Below I've put together some tips for different snow and ice conditions:

**Old soft snow with footprints** – Many times the old footprints have packed down the snow and/or may have crusted over making it possible to place your foot in the old footprint and avoiding post-holing. The edges of the footprints make it less likely you will slip as well if you don't have traction devices on your boots. If you find the footprints slippery on a steeper slope you can try placing your foot half in and half out of the footprint so you compress a little extra snow to maximize grip.

**Old soft snow without footprints** –

Many times the soft snow gives you traction. If you are not post-holing the soft snow allows your boots to grip as it compresses underfoot. On steeper angles it helps to plunge your toe forward into the slope



when hiking uphill. Conversely, when hiking downhill plunge your heel down firmly to make a step as you descend. Remember kick toes in to the hill on the up and plunge heel down into the snow on the downhill.

**Old hard snow with footprints** – Old hard snow can be icy and slippery. By placing your foot into existing footprints the edges of the See *Unexpected Ice and Snow continued on page 10*

*“Below I've put together some tips for different snow and ice conditions.”*

*~ PaPa Smurf*

*“Remember kick toes in to the hill on the up and plunge heel down into the snow on the downhill.”*

*~ PaPa Smurf*



*"Try to have three points of contact if it's slippery...."*  
~ PaPa Smurf

***Unexpected Ice and Snow*** continued from page 9

hard snow will limit your foot from slipping. Be very careful and place one foot at a time while putting some weight on your hiking poles. Try to have three points of contact if it's slippery (plant two hiking poles and one foot before moving the other foot – then repeat, moving only one pole or foot at a time). If it's too slippery in the footprint try plunging your foot down hard to create new footprints. If you break the crust of snow the new footprints will give you a hold on the slope.

**Old hard snow without footprints** - Without footprints in hard snow

it can be very easy to slip. Try plunging your feet into the hard snow. Sometimes kicking with your toe, plunging your heel, or stepping sideways, or using a duck-walk pattern gives better traction.



**New soft snow over existing packed trails** - This can be misleading.

If you step on new snow over a well-packed trail you may only sink in a few inches and the new snow gives you some area to compress underfoot to give traction. Be careful to try and stay on the packed

See *Unexpected Ice and Snow* continued on page 11

***Unexpected Ice and Snow*** continued from page 10

trail. In deeper snow, if you step off the area of the trail that has packed footprints underneath you will post-hole unexpectedly, perhaps into deep snow. Depending on how well and how wide the packed footprints are underneath it may be difficult to avoid stepping off the packed sections since the new snow hides where it is packed down.

**Deep soft snow –**

Sometimes it's difficult to climb in deep snow because with each footstep the snow sloughs off the slope



or you post-hole back down to where you started. To keep from post-holing or having the snow sloughing off try to gently place your foot down, then tamp it down two or three more times to bind the snow into a step. By gently packing the snow down you can usually get it to hold your weight. It's time-consuming but works well in short difficult sections and those behind you can follow in your tamped footprints.

Along with the previous advice on post-hole hiking, deep snow brings a navigation issue. It can be difficult to find the actual trail in new snow. Look for the slight indentation that the trail may leave in the surface of the snow. You can also look for trail markers, cut marks on branches, man-made features, worn marks on rocks or tree trunks to indicate where the trail is. It is very typical to trim any branches  
See *Unexpected Ice and Snow* continued on page 12

*“Along with the previous advice on post-hole hiking, deep snow brings a navigation issue.”*

*~ PaPa Smurf*



PaPa Smurf

*"Icy conditions on a steep slope are nearly impossible without good foot gear and traction equipment."  
~ PaPa Smurf*

### ***Unexpected Ice and Snow*** continued from page 11

that face into the trail to about six to eight foot above the ground. Look to see if there's an alley in the trees with only the branches missing on the corridor where the trail may be. Keep in mind that in deep snow you might be above the area that is trimmed back and hiking in the branches that are not trimmed. In deep snow the higher branches that are not trimmed back can look like they are straight across the trail because the snow has put you higher than when hiking at ground level.

**Icy Conditions** – Icy conditions on a steep slope are nearly impossible without good foot gear and traction equipment. Turn back if you must traverse in such conditions. There are a few tricks to get past a short section that is icy. While it's best from a conservation perspective to always stay on trail stepping off trail may be safer. Try stepping slightly off the packed icy trail onto softer virgin snow that lets you punch a new footprint that grips. Trying to continue on a slippery packed trail can be dangerous but many times you can step just a little off trail and make a fresh, gripping footstep. You can also take advantage of tree limbs and trunks for safety handles. But remember that you might have to down climb back the way you came so keep that in mind as you make your way around icy obstacles.

Depending entirely on the conditions of the snow and kind of trail it may be doable to continue hiking without snowshoes and traction. If the ground isn't too steep and the snow isn't either too deep or too hard, you may be find good hiking in good hiking shoes. But know when to turn back and stay safe.

--PaPa Smurf

(If you have a suggestion for future topics or a hike-related question you would like covered in this column send a note to:

[john.klebes@gmail.com](mailto:john.klebes@gmail.com))

Book Review by Dick Forrest:

## **Lost & Found**

by Jacqueline Sheehan

One of the members of our hiking club is a talented and an accomplished author. Her name is Jacqueline Sheehan. Her book, Lost & Found, published in 2007, is a great read and a rapid, page turner of a book. It's a fictional story about a woman who lost her husband and embarks on an adventurous, new chapter in her life. The first chapter of the book explains her loss – her husband dies. Chapter one grabs your attention to read more; the rest of the book is about what she finds.

Lost & Found made the *New York Times Bestseller* list. To make the list "requires an author to make a minimum of 5,000 book sales in a single week across diverse retailers and from multiple geographic locations." (from Google) One of the ways, I'm certain, that helped the book make the list was having the big eyes of a Labrador retriever/ or chocolate lab staring you right in the face on the front cover of the paperback (the version I read). I have a friend who worked as a bookseller for publishers told me that one of the best ways to help generate sales is to put a dog on the front cover of a book.

The main character in the book is a woman named "Rocky," not a traditional name for a woman. That confused me because I thought it would be a perfect name for a dog, and in fact, my uncle owned a springer spaniel named Rocky. Well, to make a new life for herself, Rocky leaves her home in western Massachusetts and travels up to the Portland area on the coast of Maine. There she goes to an actual island off of Portland, called Peak's Island, to get away from it all. On the island she sees an ad for "Animal Control Warden," and takes the job. In the course of her work Rocky comes across a black Labrador retriever that has been impaled by a hunter's arrow. A vet on the island helps to save the dog's life, and they called the dog, Lloyd. Rocky did some investigative work and found out that the dog was owned by a woman who had recently committed suicide, and the See *Lost & Found* continued on page 14



*"Lost & Found made the New York Times Bestseller list."*

*~ Dick Forrest*



*“This book becomes a mystery, a whodunit, a thriller,....”*

*~ Dick Forrest*

*“This is the type of book that you take to the beach or tropical paradise for a quick read.”*

*~ Dick Forrest*

**Lost & Found** *continued from page 13*

dog’s name was actually, Cooper. Rocky falls in love with Cooper, and wants him as her own pet. In the book there were other people who also want Cooper, and Rocky finds ways to get him back to her – hence, after the denouement, “Found.”

This book becomes a mystery, a whodunit, a thriller, with various characters coming in and out of Rocky’s life. For instance, Rocky takes up archery with a longbow. Her instructor is a suspicious guy, since Cooper was shot by an arrow from a longbow. The most well-developed character is, of course, Rocky. Rocky was lost without her husband after he died and lost without Cooper after he was taken away from her. With Cooper, not only was Cooper found, but Rocky’s life took on new meaning.

I am not used to reviewing fiction, which this book is. My preference is reading nonfiction in the adventure genre. To me, fiction is more about feelings than facts. It’s not that I’m a less feeling person, it’s more that I’m a male who likes more factual material to read. This is the type of book that you take to the beach or tropical paradise for a quick read. Jacqueline Sheehan, I’ll say it again, is a very talented writer who can spin out a story like the best of them and keep you enthralled.

--Dick Forrest

Below is a link to Jacqueline’s other works:

<https://www.jacquelinesheehan.com>

Book Review by Dick Forrest:

## **My Girl Vaida (An Adventurous Hiker, Her Big Yellow Dog and Their Everlasting Bond)**

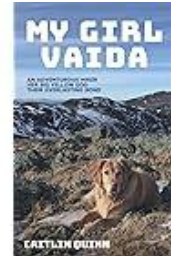
by Caitlin Quinn

This book is a love story between a woman named Caitlin Quinn, who loved to hike, and her dog, Vaida, who hiked with her. In the book, Caitlin lived and worked in Vermont. She adopted her dog, Vaida, a yellow, female rescue dog, Labrador retriever mix, from Arkansas. Vaida became Caitlin's best friend, and as she wrote, "my constant companion."

Caitlin went to the University of Vermont on a softball scholarship and while still in school, got an internship at a music concert venue in Burlington, Vermont, named Higher Ground. After her internship she continued to work there for several years and during that time she adopted her dog, Vaida, and started to take her dog to work. Later, Caitlin found a dog-centric, dog-friendly, hiking clothing business named Ibex where she could take her dog to work and decided to work for them in their warehouse. Caitlin was instrumental in getting Ibex an award for being "the most pet-friendly workplace in the country."

Caitlin freely admits that she was rather shy around people and that hiking with Vaida enabled her to come out of her shell. Vaida would go up to people on the trail and the dog's presence became a natural icebreaker for her to talk to strangers. Caitlin started hiking in Vermont – there are five 4,000 footers and The Long Trail in Vermont. While working at Ibex, during vacation, Caitlin attempted the 270-mile Long Trail and she made it as far as Mt. Killington until her blistering feet caused her to quit the trail. She had to finish the rest of the trail in sections on various weekends at later times.

Initially more interested in only hiking in Vermont Caitlin discovered hiking in New Hampshire at the invitation of friends. So Caitlin and Vaida climbed Mt. Moosilauke in winter with them. She decided to See *My Girl Vaida* continued on page 16



*"She (Caitlin) adopted her dog, Vaida, a yellow, female rescue dog, Labrador retriever mix, from Arkansas."*

*~ Dick Forrest*



***My Girl Vaida*** continued from page 15

take on the 48-4,000 footers in New Hampshire and climb them all in one year. And after completing the New Hampshire 48 Caitlin decided to take on the New England 67 (all of the 4,000 footers in New England). And since dogs are prohibited from being in Baxter State Park in Maine, Vaida could not climb Mts. Katahdin, Hamlin Peak, and North Brother. So she started calling Vaida's list the "Doggy 64."

Various thoughts about this book: This book was published recently in 2023. Many of the hiking adventures in the book transpired in the years 2015/2016. Caitlin hiked the Appalachian Trail in 2019. Caitlin and Vaida became well-known in the White Mountains hiking community. Caitlin discovered The Notch Hostel in North Woodstock, New Hampshire, and has spent much time there. Members of Pioneer Valley Hiking Club (PVHC) have stayed there many times and also know the owners, Justin and Serena personally. And I wouldn't be surprised if Caitlin has met some of our PVHC members.

Overall impression: Caitlin writes very well. Her book is an enjoyable read. I would consider Caitlin to be an uber-hiker. Her love and devotion to her dog, her constant companion, who has since died of old age, is heartwarming. This book is also a tell-all - it talks about her various relationships in the midst of her main passion, which is hiking with her dog. Reading this book I now understand why people hike with their dogs, and how life-affirming it can be.

--Dick Forrest

Below is a link for more information about Caitlin Quinn's book:  
[mygirlvaida.com](http://mygirlvaida.com)

*"Reading this book I now understand why people hike with their dogs, and how life-affirming it can be."*

*~ Dick Forrest*





## **Future Events in 2024**

**May 24-26** – (NH) Mispah White Mountain Hut Trip organized by Karen Markham

**June 21-23** - (NH) White Mountain Sampler organized by Al Goodhind

**August 12-16** - (VT) Mad River Valley organized by Erin Squires & Lori Tisdell

**October 21-25** - (MA) Orleans, MA - organized by Cheryl Stevens & Debbie Bombard

## PVHC 2022-2023 Executive Board



Left to Right: Lori Tisdell, President; Erin Squires, Vice President; Peggy Tibbitt, Treasurer; Lani Giguere, Secretary

## Important Membership Renewal Notices

The following memberships are up for renewal:

### Jan Renewals

Rebekah Anderson &  
Rich Baker  
Joanie Bowen  
Paula Christian  
Gary Dolgoff  
John & Sara Donaruma  
Paul & Christine Duval  
Judy Fogg  
Linda & Steve Jones  
Phyllis Keenan  
Jessica LaCroix  
Susie Macrae  
Liz Massa  
Diane Moriarty  
Deb Neubauer & Doug  
Donnell  
Elizabeth Weiss Ozorak  
Harry (Chip) Pray &  
Brenda Doucette  
Melanie Sarna  
Karen Scagnelli  
Pat Wadsworth  
Steven Whitaker  
Ann Wood  
Isaac Yglesias

### Feb Renewals

Maria Copoulos  
Susan Crim  
Maria Davis  
Tanya Dragan  
Kay Flatten  
Katherine Hall & Jonathan  
Jay  
Charlotte Hansen  
Brigitte Holt  
Andrea Kalifa  
Jim Katz & Geri Kleinman  
Charlotte Lee  
Nancy Mangari  
Lori Martin  
Pamela Mays & Donald  
DeCain  
Therese Moriarty  
Susan Myers  
Lisa O'Brien  
Christine Overstreet  
Christine Pinney  
Joanne Powers  
Nancy Rapisarda  
Suzanne Roberts  
Jane & Rick Ricci  
Nancy Seguin  
Glen Shalan  
Patty Shillington  
Carol Vanderheiden  
David Vivian  
Eileen & Robin Wood

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:

Peggy Tibbitt  
413 South Gulf Rd.  
Belchertown, MA 01007  
(Dues are: \$20 individual member,  
\$35 family, and \$10 for students)

## Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers

Lori Tisdell, President  
Erin Squires, Vice President  
Peggy Tibbitt, Treasurer  
Lani Giguere, Secretary  
Ray Tibbetts, Founder

## Standing Committee Chairs

Hike Schedule: Jos Brannan & Lori Tisdell  
Backpacking Advisor: Rick Briggs  
Trail Maintenance: Chip Pray & Rob Schechtman  
Club Website Editor: Dick Forrest  
Non-Member E-mail Coordinator: Rob Schechtman  
Club E-mail Coordinator: Lori Tisdell  
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](mailto:dforrest@charter.net)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### Nov

Joanne Campbell  
Mary Heaner  
Rebecca Hegstetter  
Kent Johnson  
Christine O'Malley  
Debra Roberts  
Mark L. Smith & Barbara Veale  
Kathleen Stewart  
Paul Weaver  
Phyllis Wheeler

### Dec

Christine Hunter  
Thomas Martin  
Jean Zimmer



### UPCOMING EVENTS AND THE USUALS

- Mondays Morning hike
- Tuesdays Morning hike, evening hike
- Wednesdays Morning hike
- Thursdays Morning hike
- Fridays Morning hike
- Saturdays Morning hike
- Sundays Morning hike
- Jan 2 Club Meeting
- Feb 6 Club Meeting
  
- PVHC <https://teamup.com/ksz8qkbizhndt3qjt7>
- Schedule of Events

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

### Next Club Meetings

Jan 2, 7 p.m. at **ROC (2024)**  
 Feb 6, 7 p.m. at **ROC**

**ROC - Red Oak Church, 337 Piper Road, West Springfield**

Deadline for submissions to the next *Footprints* is February 20, 2024

**\*\* Check out our club website 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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