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Introduction from the editor.

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Try this delicious recipe for your next dayhike or backpacking trip.

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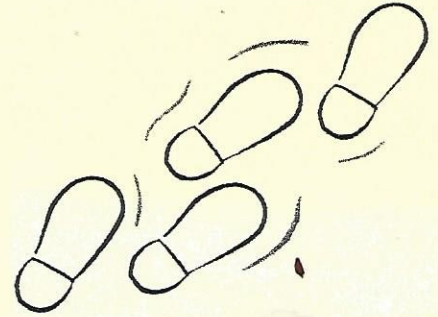
\*Bruce Tingle writes about the Mt. Alander backpacking trip.

\*Terry Cripps tells us about the January trip to the Savoy cabins.

### backpacking, ect.

In this section you can find out about new equipment and other offers at Backpacking Ect.

CT. 06082 or Email me at Elden2 @ Juno. com.



**BOOT PRINTS:** Thank you to Ron Gaudreau for coming up with the clever title of our newsletter.

Around the Club

Congratulations to Marcel and Collen Borque on the birth of a bouncing baby boy. Ryan Thomas was born on November 19th. The newest club member is healthy and ready to keep Mom and Dad busy.

## Ray's Trail Cookie's

3 Eggs

1 Cup of White Sugar

1/2 Cup of Brown Sugar

1/4 Tablespoon Karo Syrup

2 Tablespoons Baking Soda

3/4 Tablespoon Vanilla

1/4 Pound Margine

3/4 Pound Peanut Butter

Peanuts (optional)

4 1/2 Cups of Oatmeal

1/2 Pound of M&M's

**Mix** then bake cookies for 12 minutes at 350 Degrees. Feel free to add your own "special ingredients".

## Welcome to our Newsletter

Hello fellow Club Members and friends ! This is our first news letter in a long time. Our club used to have a newsletter a few years back and we have decided to revive the idea.

Our objective is to make this an additional source of information and enjoyment for all to delight in. Like everything else in our club *your* involvement, suggestions, comments and aid are always appreciated. We would love for anyone who wants to write a short article to come forward. For example, If you went on a hike and had a particularly nice time or had a funny experience write a few paragraphs and get them to me.

Any articles you would like to include in the newsletter can be given to Ray at the store or if you prefer to mail it you can send it to me, Joe Zawrotny, 263 Abbe Road, Enfield,

BOOT PRINTS

# Mt. Alander Backpacking Trip

By Bruce Tingle



View from the summit of Mt. Alander.

On January 11th, Cheryl Biglow, daughter Tiffany, David Rotondo and I left Agawam and headed west for a mid-winter backpacking trip to Alander Mountain in the Mt. Washington State Forest. In the southwestern corner of the state, Alander Mountain provides an unbelievable view of the surrounding New York, Connecticut, and Western Massachusetts countryside. Given the right weather, which we had, you can even see the Catskills. Since the anticipated snow failed to appear, the day was bright and brisk, I, of course, had my normal what-did-I-forget-to-bring panic attack and we took off.

Although we had thought snowshoes would be the order of the day, when we got there we found only an inch or three on the ground and left the snowshoes to morn their miserable lives alone in the car. So, we paid homage to the great hiking gods (the porta-potties), saddled up, and we were off (some might say we were off just by being there, but that is a separate story).

The trail was easy, quiet, and fundamentally beautiful - long flat

stretches with cathedral-like pines sheltering us from the wind, gently crunching snow hardly protesting our passage a bit - simply peaceful. To this quite solitude we added our quiet murmurings of good conversation and companionship - a mix not to be forgotten any time soon. About a mile and a half in we crossed a small frozen stream we would come to appreciate more the next day. 'nuff said for now.

Continuing on the trek, the trail became somewhat more steep as we got closer to the cabin. Actually, the last half mile was a pain. Whether because of the eight pound cot I brought, the firelogs Cheryl made us carry, or my generally elderly condition was hard to tell, maybe all three.



Bruce and Cheryl in front of the cabin.

When we got to the cabin, a lovely tribute to Frank Lloyd Wright's brother (Not Quite Wright), the thermometer inside, graciously left by a local hiker we met the next morning, read 16 degrees. Using the Cheryl Bigelow Memorial Firelogs and some scraps left by previous occupants, no doubt evicted for failing to perform small maintenance tasks, we quickly got a fire going in the woodstove and headed out to collect firewood for the night.

Needless to say, the immediate area was picked clean of downed wood,

so we did our desert bedouin routine and ranged far and wide collecting burnable wood. After a couple of hours (under the supervision of Cheryl's whip), we had a supply which satisfied us (we where easily satisfied anyway by then).

Another threesome came mid-afternoon. We tried to get them to share the cabin, but they wanted to do the tent thing. The young lady with them, on her first backpacking trip, had that "rescue me they are crazy and I'm being held hostage" look about her, but they headed out and set up there tent. We did see at least one of them walking around in the morning so it appeared they didn't succumb.

After wood duty, we did a quick trip to the summit of Alander Mountain and took in the breath-taking views. Oohs and aahs were in abundance. We did think briefly of sacrificing Dave to the mountain fairies, but changed our minds as he had one set of the keys for the trip back home.

The remainder of the day was spent heating the cabin (up to 62 degrees by nightfall) listening to good stories, and sharing the warm glow of being with good friends. All in all, things were pretty quiet until about 3AM when the Indians attacked. Oops, sorry, wrong story. Actually, at 3AM the fire went out. Fortunately for the lame and the useless (me), Cheryl got up and got it going again. There was certain amount of banging about, shuffling of dainty feet, and muttering about the overall uselessness of men, but I chose to think it was just a bad dream. Being more intelligent than courageous, you see, I simply threw small looks of gratitude her way (never make jokes when someone else is trying to get a woodstove going at three in the morning -- *trust me*). In the morning we had a visit from a hiker couple who lived

nearby. He has been visiting and semi-watching over the cabin for a few years. Very nice people and an interesting encounter.

After breakfast and packing, we headed out for the cars. Downhill was much easier than uphill (less food, fewer firelogs helped too). The trip out was uneventful until we got to the stream. Dave and Tiffany got across just fine. I was within a step of crossing successfully when I went in up to mid-thigh. I scrambled out (in a manly way of course) and we all gave Cheryl our combined and conflicting advice on how to cross. Fortunately Cheryl only went in to her knees.



David and Tiffany on the Ice

Make a note. We SHOULD have taken a rope for added security. Hindsight. It came out OK, but could have been deadly. But, with no one injured, we squished squished the last mile to the cars. We quickly changed clothes and headed for a great lunch.

Summing it all up, the weekend was one of the best times I've had in years!

If you haven't tried a backpacking trip, in winter or summer, try it! It isn't hard and you'll be proud of yourself for doing it. It might lead to better things in the future. It has for me.

Well, time to scoot. See you all soon!!

## Savoy State Forest Weekend

*By Terry Cripps*

I hope that all who attended the annual Savoy State Forest weekend had as good a time as we did. We all carried pounds and pounds of supplies and goodies to the cabins. Many of us carried an equal amount out (all the food relocated to certain areas of our bodies). Never have I seen so much food and goodies disappear so fast!

A quote overheard in Cabin Two, "This is the first outhouse I've used with a wind-chill factor!". A quote overheard at the Charlemont Inn while discussing the availability of rooms, "Do they rent by the hour?". Shivering ladies were wandering around to other cabins saying, "Do you have any heat *here*?". With a little coaching, Jay did a super job of fire control. An additional quote from Cabin One was, "What was all that moaning about?". MMMMM? Cabin Two was the center for activity and socializing. Also, that's where all the extra food stuffs were left. MMMM Good! Cabin Two was well mannered and quiet. Cabin Three on the other hand, WHEW! Men coming and going in the dark of night...and what about those loud party noises until after midnight?

Hiking was great as usual. The South Pond loop was hiked on Saturday in the morning and again on Saturday night. Sunday saw some people leaving in the morning and others planning to hike Spruce Hill. Sandy and I would like to thank all who attended and hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

*Super Trooper & Chuck Wagon*

## P.V.H.C. Up Coming Events

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### February 11 - Trail Committee Meeting.

Everyone is invited to come out and assist in the planning and coordination of our hikes. Your ideas and input are essential to the club's success.

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### February 21 to 22 - Mt. Washington Backpacking Trip.

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### March 1 - Suffield Cross Country Ski Outing

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### March 4 - Monthly Club Meeting

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### May 31 - Trail Maintenance & Picnic at Beartown State Forest

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### June 14 to 15 - Battenkill River Canoe & Car Camping Trip

If you are coordinating a special event and would like to place some detailed information in the newsletter, please contact Joe Zawrotny at the address on the front page.

## Did You Know?

Did you know that eggs will last four to five days without refrigeration? They must be small or medium eggs though. A large egg will not hold without refrigeration because the shell is too thin. So, there is no reason to settle for oatmeal alone on your next backpacking excursion.

excursion.

# backpacking, ect.

In this section you will be able to find items being sold at Ray's store. As we all know, Ray has extremely competitive prices and simply one of the largest selections of equipment you will find anywhere !

Here are some special offers being made to the club:

## Great Daypacks

\$85 to \$90 Values

MEI Nightstand I - \$45.95

MEI Nightstand II - \$50.95

These are in LIMITED quantities due to a special purchase. These prices are only available until the current inventory is sold. So....Act *quick* !

## Daypack Package Deal

Get your self this "starter" package and all you need to add is your water and lunch for your next dayhike.

MEI Daypack (1275 cu. in.)

50' Paracord

Wind & Waterproof Matches

Water Tablets

32oz Wide-mouth Nalgine Water  
Bottle

Waterproof Flashlight with batteries

Emergency Whistle

Dayhiker First Aid Kit

Compass

This \$110.00 value is **only** \$85.00 + tax. You save over 25 dollars !

For any information on these daypacks or any of your hiking and backpacking needs see Ray at **backpacking, ect.**, Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, MA. 01089. (413) 781 - 0388.

## Classifieds

In This area of our newsletter we will publish any backpacking or hiking equipment that **Club Members** wish to sell or any other information pertaining to backpacking or hiking. Again you will need to forward this information to my home address. Please include a brief description, price, phone number or other pertinent information.

### Backpacking in Europe

John Simmonette is planning a trip in July of 1998 to Europe. This is not a club trip , but John is looking for interested club members to join him. Paris, Venice, and Germany are a few of the places that he plans on taking a train to during a two week excursion. Planning your own side trips is involved. If you are interested contact John @ 413 - 739 - 9128.

### Mountain Smith Bugaboo Daypack

A good winter daypack or ultra-light summer pack. 2200 cu. in. \$100. Contact Jay at (413) 786 - 6912.

786 - 6912.

