

BOOTPRINTS

Volume 10 Issue 3

May 2006

Cannon Mountain

By Richard Harris

Bob and I did Cannon today, April 1st, forecast for rain and 3 straight days of 50-70 degree days (Wed through Friday) made us decide that the ice bridges and water levels would not be conducive to hiking Mt. Isolation.

Cannon is not a hike to scoff at - Bob and I know very well now how much to appreciate the hike. When we changed plans, we kinda thought this is a relatively easy White Mtns 4000 footer - well our opinion of Cannon changed, especially doing it this time of year.

Went up Hi-Cannon, attempted to come down Kinnsman Ridge Trail, but too much ice after .25 miles to consider continuing. So, we came down Hi-Cannon (I hate ladders and ledges, but really ladders) to Dodge Cut off and then down Lonesome Lake Trail. Saw the Caretaker of 2 weeks ago on the way down, Heidi - very nice young lady.

It started raining as we were going down Kinnsman Ridge Trail, so we had some really nice views going up Hi Cannon and on the top. Terrific views of Lafayette and Lincoln and the Lafayette campground from the Rim Ridge trail. As we were going towards the ladder and ledge on the way down, the rain and wind was quite intense, but eased as we approached the ledge. Twelve-point crampons (Grivel) worked wonderfully as did the rope I used to traverse from the ladder across the ledge - no hand holds, so we made one for me - the rope.

-Richard Harris



Moose on side of road
Sphinx Col Hike (Briggs)



The Great Gulf Wilderness (Klebes)

Attempt on Sphinx Col

By John Klebes

Last year Ed Laroche came up with this crazy idea to camp high on the ridge just off the Sphinx Col at the border to the Great Gulf Wilderness. Located just north of the summit of Mt Washington the Sphinx Col is the very exposed low spot on the ridge between Mt Clay and Mt Jefferson.



So, when Rick Briggs and I took Ed up on this crazy idea it's surprising that the master of the Deathmarch came up with an excuse to miss out on this adventure. Could Ed be getting soft in his old age?

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BROOKLYN EXTRAVAGANZA!

by Cindy Taylor & Gary Dolgoff

On Saturday, April 15, six of us (Joanne Miller, Norm Plante, Marcia Kelly, Carolyn Smith, and us two) - had a 'boss' Brooklyn adventure, led by Gary Dolgoff. (By the way, a little background on our trip: Gary knows a fella from the NY-AMC, by the name of Frank Bamburger - a fella with a real 'esprit de core', who delites in leading folks around NYC - including groups of Europeans - for the City itself!... Gary asked the always-lively Mr. Bamburger, if he could offer-up some friendly advice on where to go, both for our walking tour/interaction, and for the all-important lunch and dinner!

What follows, is largely a result of Frank B's sagely & hearty advice...)

-Our first stop was Brighton Beach, where we had lunch in an old-world Russian restaurant (The Primorski Restaurant, is its' name...spacious it was...)

Joanne amazed us by communicating with our Russian waiter in fluent Polish! (I think Joanne took delite in having us witness this...and was very proud of her roots, and quite pleased with meeting folks she could communicate with, this way...)

We had a filling and inexpensive dining experience (\$5.95 a plate), so then we had to walk off the meal, with Marsha promising that she was going to check out the interesting ethnic shops that were all around us, as we exited the restaurant...

We ambled over a couple of blocks to the boardwalk at Brighton Beach; a couple of our members

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Attempt on Sphinx Col

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Rick Briggs took the lead and Dan (a friend of Rick's) and I followed Rick's plans to hike in the Great Gulf Wilderness Trail and up the Sphinx trail to the col. Our plan was to camp in the col and hike out via Mt Washington and the Lion's Head trail.

Keep in mind that even though winter is officially over this is the White Mountains and home of the worst weather ever recorded. The Great Gulf side is known for it's snow and due to it's remote approach is not very



popular this time of year. Starting out at the lower elevations there was no snow and bridges over most of the stream crossings, including a neat suspension bridge. But as we climbed higher the snow became deep. We switched to snowshoes and it became increasingly difficult to pick out the trail through the snow, ice, and difficult terrain. And the STREAM CROSSINGS, "my favorite part", got more and more, shall I say, interesting!

The river views and waterfalls were fantastic and the iceflows on the headwall were unbelievable. During a traverse out to look at Wetamoo Cascade I had a snow-bridge cave-in and got a little wet. It was like riding a bike through the air – a section of the snow bridge fell into the water and I scrambled to the next section, which fell and I scrambled to the next, and the next. Rick Briggs said it was the funniest thing he ever watched. Wish he had his camera out.

We had trouble following the Sphinx trail and finally started bushwhacking up toward the headwall on steep angled snow. I don't think anyone else is silly enough to try hiking this trail this winter? It was very hard work on snowshoes and full winter backpacks. We ended up carving a shelf on the slope of Mt Clay and setting up camp below about the 5000 feet level. Good thing I brought snow shovel!

We had thought that Sunday would be the better day and had hoped to try bushwhacking back toward the headwall but it started snowing during the night

and never stopped all morning Sunday until we hiked out. Not a lot, about three inches, but constantly coming down so no views to guide us to a climbable route. And you don't want to wander around for too many hours bushwhacking on the rugged spruce and rocks on the Gulf side of Washington!

Saturday night the snow started as freezing rain that stuck like glue to the tent - then the snow stuck to the frozen rain. I had to carry most of the snow and ice out with the tent when we packed up Sunday morning.

Sunday we hiked out the bushwack on snowshoes but had to switch to crampons on the Great Gulf Trail due to the ice. We are planning on trying again next year.

Oh, almost forgot, we saw a moose on the drive in.

~John Klebes

BROOKLYN EXTRAVAGANZA!

{continued from page 1}

said that they didn't associate NYC with beaches and sand...yet there it was!

Brighton Beach and Coney Island (actually one long continuous boardwalk) was wonderful, and the weather was perfect for a stroll along the ocean (83 degrees). We reveled in the warm sun, looking at the water and the other casual strollers, plus the various food-places and rides along the boardwalk- the rides appearing on our right as we approached the historic Coney Island (Wow...I haven't been here since I was a little kid...never looked better!-GD-)

Cindy & Joanne decided to brave the historic, wooden roller coaster ride,

The Cyclone; they decided that the Coaster ride was a not-to-be missed experience. The view at the top of the first hill was awesome- overlooking the ocean, but we only got to enjoy it for a few seconds before we were plunging down the first hill...yes, we screamed real loud!

After walking on the boardwalk for a while (and three of us going on a wide wooden pier that brought us right to the ocean...ahh, the sights, the ocean smell, that warm summer oceangoing feeling...), we went back to our cars, and

we drove over to Brooklyn Heights (but not before strolling the ethnic streets near Brighton Beach, where several of us ogled at all there was to look at, plus buying all manner of fresh fruits...).

-Arriving at Brooklyn Heights in the late afternoon, we strolled down the Heights' main tourist street, the interesting Montegue street- we did a bit more shopping, looking at all of the interesting restaurants, and ogling at the real estate agents' listings of houses and condos (how's a condo for over 1 million dollars, with a \$1,600+ monthly maintenance fee? My personal favorite was a house listed on the window of this place, for almost 12 million dollars!)- Makes you glad you live here in Western Mass, where prices of houses and so forth, are still relatively reasonable, for the most part...

Anyway, after doing a little shopping, we walked down the nearby Promenade, which overlooked Manhattan and the Brooklyn Bridge (which the Club loves to walk across, on some of our yearly NYC fall bus-trip adventures...). Great video and photo opportunities, from these viewpoints, as well as on the promenade itself...

Our Brooklyn Adventure concluded with dinner outside at La Travita, whose meal even got the glowing endorsement of Norm, who commented that 'The food was great!', or some such thing...

Our thanks to Gary's friend Frank Bamburger, for his recommendations of places to visit & eat...(perhaps Frank can co-lead part of the NYC bus- fall trip?)

Also, honorary mention for one Cindy Taylor...although not a 'grizzled long-standing member', she takes delight in scouting and attending various hikes at different levels, plus tackling Bootprints articles...her adventuresome spirit, good nature, and camaraderie is very much alive! (as is the case with our Club, in general...'wotta group!'...)

We got back to our starting spot in Mass after 11pm...a bit tired, but happy from our New York adventure together...

~Cindy Taylor & Gary Dolgoff

Upcoming Events

From: "Sheila Croteau"
Subject: Thimble Island Cruise

Thimble Island Cruise - Sunday May 28th, Branford, Ct & Hike (easy) @ Stony Creek Quarry Preserve & Dinner at Chowder Pot Restaurant. Time: 8:00 a.m. Enfield Commuter Lot. The boat cruise is a 45 minute narrated tour of the many small Islands & their history in Long Island Sound. The cost is \$9-10 depending on which tour we arrive in time for. Sheila Croteau 732-7254

From: "Marcia Kelly"
 Subject: Stuff for morocco
 Date: Monday, March 27, 2006

This is the email I received from Mohamed, which is probably what is the thank you as he is the most educated and fluent in English. I know from seeing their homes and what the little ones had on in the summer that what we sent is really appreciated. Which is why I thought it was a great idea to send all we sent. I really thank all of you who contributed. I hope to go back there someday and will ask to take photos of the children who a lot of you so generously contributed to with hats gloves, mittens, pencils and money for postage. Also put in some little stuffed animals.

Hi: Kelly

All 3 Box are arrived 3 or 4 weeks before and they comes in the coldist times . the children very please to it (hat ,glofse and soxes). thanks very much.
 the Best regarde.
 thanks.



Hunting for Treasure

Looking for a new hobby to get you out into the great outdoors? How about trying out Letterboxing, or the high-tech version Geocaching? Both combine elements of a scavenger hunt, hiking, orienteering, map reading, puzzle solving and creative expression in a unique activity that's growing in popularity.

Geocaching is an outdoor activity that involves the use of a Global Positioning System ("GPS") receiver to find a "geocache" placed anywhere in the world. A typical cache is a small, waterproof container containing a logbook and "treasure". Participants are called geocachers. For more information check out: www.geocaching.com

Geocaching is similar to a much older activity called letterboxing. The major difference is its use of the GPS and the Internet. There are also nearly 20,000 letterboxes hidden in the U.S. today, but you'll only find them if you can correctly follow the clues. Once you've found a letterbox, record your discovery in its log using your personal rubber stamp, and stamp the

letterbox's stamp in your personal journal. For more information see: www.letterboxing.org

Thanks to Ann Marie Higgins for passing on the websites.

Important Notice

Last Chance: We want you to remain members and will be sorry to see you go:

<u>Past Members</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>
Samuel Armstrong	200603
Betsy Atkins	200603
John Gorey	200603
Ray Manniello & Family	200603
Terry Murphy	200603
Kathy Nothe	200603
Robert Ring	200603
Jennifer Sagan	200603
Mary Walters	200603
Bill Bartsch	200604
Terri Brusseau	200604
Ann Burnham	200604
Parker Cleveland	200604
Ron Gaudreau	200604
Jane Glushik	200604
Bryan Goodwin & Family	200604
Sheila Harrington	200604
Charlotte Lee	200604
Chris Lenox	200604
Donna & Daniel Liese	200604
Robert Morgan	200604
Sybille Nickel	200604
Jacqueline Sheehan	200604
Mary Taylor	200604
Patricia Tinervia	200604
Judy Treu	200604

The following memberships are up for renewal:

May Renewals:

Stephanie Bustos
 Maggie Hodges
 Debra Jacobson
 Ravi Kulkarni
 Carla LeCompte
 Betsy Loughran
 Michael Reed
 Michael Stanley
 Janice Webb & Family
 Joe & Carol-Anne Zawrotny
 Celeste Ziemba & Family

June Renewals:

Bill Burgart
 Karen & Mike Cardoza
 Allison Cook
 Margaret Curtiss
 Lisa Edson
 Arline Ely
 Kerry Frechette
 Karen Gallik
 Marion Germino
 Beth Harmon
 Mark Henke & Family
 Edward Kleciak
 Shirley Mitchell
 Janice Pellitier
 Eve Perry
 Dot Pulowski
 Beth Reneris
 Helaine Selin

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
 c/o Wilderness Experiences
 P.O. Box 265
 Southwick, MA 01077

(Dues are \$25 member, \$40 family, and \$15 for students)

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees

Ann Marie Visconti, President (413) 547-2729
 Mike Carrier, Vice President (413) 532-2990
 Monica Gross, Secretary (413) 536-6611
 Mike Gross, Treasurer (413) 536-6611
 Scott Cook, Wilderness Experiences Unlimited
 Ray Tibbetts, Founder

Standing Committee Chairs

Hike Planning Coordinator: *Sue Forest & AnnMarie Visconti*
 Backpacking Coordinator: *Ed Laroche & Mike Rattelle*
 Trail Maintenance: *Ed Laroche & Rob Schechtman*
 Web Page Editor: *Dick Forrest*
 Email Correspondent: *Rob Schechtman*
 Email List: *John Klebes*
 Quartermaster: *Jack Leary*
 Bootprints Editor: *John Klebes*

Bootprints is a publication of the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club. Send your story contributions to the editor at: j.klebes@ieee.org (Email) or by USmail to John Klebes, P.O. Box 51385, Indian Orchard, MA 01151.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:
 June 6, 2006, 7pm at **FBC**
 July 11, 2006, 7pm at **FBC**
 (2nd Tuesday due to 4th of July)
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: June 29, 2006
- ❑ PVHC Summer Picnic, Sept 17th
 Nonotuck Park, Easthampton, MA

FBC – First Baptist Church, West Springfield

*** Check out our web page at:

<http://www.geocities.com/pvhcweb>

Join the PVHC Email List by sending a message to: pvhc2000@hotmail.com

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