

BOOTPRINTS

Volume 11 Issue 1

January 2007



4,000 Footers Update

by Richard Harris

Over the past 2 months, there have been 3 more hikes in the 4,000 footer series: Mt. Passaconaway and Mt. Whiteface; the Carter Range (Middle and South peaks); and the Hancocks (north and south summits). Bob Morgan completed his 4,000 footers of New Hampshire by summiting South Carter. As of December 18, 2006, I have 42 completed with 6 left to go.

Mt Passaconaway-Mt. Whiteface

A lovely fall day, November 11, 2006 was not the weather which had been forecasted, but then, Bob Morgan and I were hiking with Tom "fair weather omen" Pederson. The weather forecast foretold mostly cloudy conditions with a 30-40% chance of precipitation in the morning and increasing during the day. But, to our benefit, the weather was delightful throughout the hike.

We stayed at a hostel in Conway and meandered the along the roads to the trailhead. We set out early in the morning with the intent of being on the trail by 7:30 – which we achieved. As we walked towards the mountains, we found a beautiful vista of

the summits which we were to ascend. A gate labeled "private" blocked the roadway, but it also said "hikers welcome", so we proceeded around the gate – it is always nice to be welcomed onto the property.

Due to the weather forecast, we decided it was best to avoid the "blueberry ledge" ascent up to Mt. Whiteface and decided we would ascend Passaconaway and then Mt. Whiteface and return the way we went. The trail to Passaconaway was a moderate trail (possibly considered easy by the White Mountain standards). We reached the summit around 10:00 and then proceeded back down to the junction with the Rollins Trail and our slog towards Mt. Whiteface.

We had reached Passaconaway fairly quickly as compared to the time estimate given in the White Mountains Trail Guide. This gave us a really good

{4,000 Footers –cont' on page 2}

2006 Holiday Party

Wow, another fantastic year of great hikes, trips, and friendships made and cherished in 2006. At this years holiday party we acknowledging the over 48 Event Coordinators and many Standing Committee Chair people who volunteered their leadership over the past year to put on over

270 plus events. That's almost 25% of the club leading at least one hike or event! Can any other club claim such an achievement?

Special recognition was given to our top four leaders Norm Plante, Gary Dolgoff, Marcia Kelly and Carol Vanderheiden. In addition, this year's "Volunteer of the Year" Award was given to Sheila Croteau. Sheila has brought to the club a variety of exciting activities from the Mystic Whaler Windjammer Cruises and Thimble Island dinner cruise to many Canoe and Kayak trips on the Farmington River and Retreat Meadows. She has never failed to step forward when there is an open date on our schedule to fill it with some new and different day trips in our own backyard, such as Stump Sprouts, Simsbury & Canton land trusts, Tolland State forest, Mary Edwards Mt and Goddard Preserve. And let's not forget her many snowshoe hikes in Mittineague Park. It is a great honor to award Sheila with this year's "Volunteer of the Year" Award.

Thanks to all of you that volunteer your time to make this club the valley's best. As we move into 2007 how about adding your name to this list by becoming more active in the leadership of the club?

~The Pioneer Valley Hiking Club



{4000 Footers – cont' from page 1}

feeling of optimism. But, the Rollins Trail – a seemingly endless and tiresome slog was to prove more tedious than we anticipated. As we went up and down this “path”, we encountered a few nice views and were thankful for the mild weather. We encountered several dozen groups of hikers as three AMC chapters were also doing hikes on the same summits – but they approached it from the Blueberry Ledge Trail – the more typical route.

Upon reaching “viewless” summit of Mt. Whiteface, Tom decided he wanted to descend along the Blueberry Ledge Trail. Bob and I stuck with the original plan. (Tom was back at the car a good 45 minutes before us.) Bob and I stopped at a lovely vista for lunch along Rollins Trail and then proceeded down to the main trail. We encountered one of the AMC groups and descended at a brisk pace.

Carter Range

Another lovely fall day, November 18, 2006, found Bob Morgan and I a bit apprehensive about this hike – the “fair weather omen” was not hiking with us and the weather forecast was really good. But, joined by Gary Tompkins, we proceeded up the Imp Trail (northern leg) to Imp Face – the vista from this vantage point was more enjoyable than described in the books. The stream crossings on the way up to the Imp Face was fairly easy – not the challenge which we had anticipated.

Congratulations – Bob Morgan completed his quest to hike all of the NH 4000 footers after summiting South Carter on November 18th, 2006

We proceeded to the Carter Ridge. Given that we were there by 10:00, at Bob’s urging we proceeded to North Carter (even though it does not count as a 4,000 footer and added approximately 3/4 mile to the hike). The view from the vista on the way, made the short side trek worthwhile. Backtracking, we proceeded towards Middle Carter.

The trek to Middle Carter was fairly quick with some nice vistas. It was nice to have the vistas along the ridge as Middle Carter’s summit is another one lacking in views. But, the wind was a bit breezy on the ridge line. So, we stopped below one of the vistas to have a lunch. And then proceeded to the culmination of Bob’s quest for the 48 4,000 footers – South Carter. Trekking up and down along the ridge line, we soon reached the South Carter summit – another viewless summit. Without natural views, we proceeded to take pictures of Bob celebrating the culmination of one quest – the New Hampshire 4,000 footers and another step towards another quest for Bob – the Northeast 100.

Given the time, it was decided not to try to hike Mt. Height, but to descend the Carter Dome Trail to Nineteen Mile Brook Trail and the trailhead along Route 16.

The hike was a really nice trek with lovely weather, some nice views and easy water crossings.

The Hancocks

Well, another hike without our “fair weather omen”, but the forecast showed only partly cloudy, mostly sunny and only a 10% chance of precipitation by 8:00. So, on December 16, 2006, after a nice rest at the hostel in Conway, we proceeded to the trailhead with the idea of beginning the hike by 7:30. We got there in time, but the weather was not as forecasted – it was cloudy and a little precipitation was coming down. After waiting 20 minutes, we decided to proceed.

Not knowing what the conditions would be on the trails, much less the summits, we brought stabilicers and crampons, plus the other winter apparel. As we set out, we were shortly passed by two younger guys and a dog - whom we did not see again all day.

Upon completing the last stream crossing on the way to North Hancock, we (I decided, and Bob reluctantly agreed) decided it was time to put on some more traction as the snow was an inch or so and covering some ice on the trail. After putting on the stabilicers, we proceeded to ascend North Hancock. We had hoped for some views, but it was not looking good as the sky was overcast. After a steady, not overly steep, but steep enough, climb to the summit of North Hancock, we took the side trail to the vista – it was a gorgeous view of clouds – no view. It was also a bit windy and cold for me, so off went the vest and on went the parka – if really warmed up the core and than warmed the rest of me.

After an enjoyable trek along the ridge, a few ups and downs, we found ourselves on another viewless summit at South Hancock. Knowing that the “vista” would not have any views due to the clouds, we skipped the side trip to the outlook and carefully worked our way down the trail to proceed back to the trailhead.

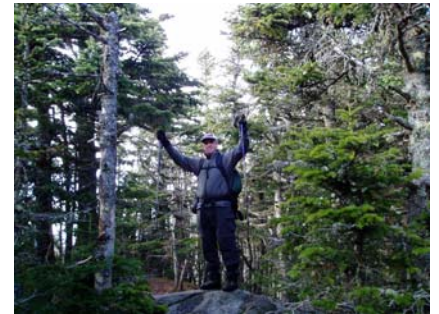
All day I kept thinking I heard voices, but never saw anyone. Well, as we were proceeding down Cedar Brook Trail, we were passed by another couple who had been behind us for several hours – it wasn’t voices in my head. Also, about that time, the sun started shining – an hour after we had descended the summit of South Hancock.

In spite of the lack of views, the day was a good hike. Knowing John Klebes love of stream crossings, this hike had 10 in each direction, however, they were pretty easy and not of the kind that John would enjoy. Even that, on the way back to the trailhead, Bob insisted that we take a bushwack to avoid 2

of the crossings – I thought the practice would help us.

All of these hikes are worthy of repeating – on a good weather day as none of the 4,000 footers have summits with views. But, the outlooks off from the summits and the ridge lines have some nice views.

~Richard Harris



"George and Friends", Celebration on S. Carter

Just a quick note to tell you that I have completed the NH 48 4000 footers. What started as an idea while on vacation in the "Whites" in 1984 became a reality this past weekend on the Carter Moriah Ridge with the completion of my 48th 4000 foot peak. We summited N. Carter, and completed the list on Middle Carter and S. Carter. In 1984 I had no idea that there was a NH 48 4000 foot list. All I knew was that I wanted to learn about this area. I had no idea there was an AMC guide book or even where to start and had never taken more than a walk in the woods since boy scouts. I completed several hikes in this area over the last 3-4 yrs. with friends from Pioneer Valley Hiking Club on our annual "White Mt. Sampler" I decided this year to get serious. I did not set out to finish this year but when Richard Harris began to lead club hikes in the "Whites" it made the peaks more attainable and safer to pursue. Thank you Richard and those that have joined me and that I have met along the way. Don't give up the dream, persistence pays off!!

~Bob Morgan



North & Middle Tripyramids

By Richard Harris

Club members missed a beautiful day to hike in the Whites - Christmas Eve. I went to Lincoln and stayed the 23rd - in a motel that John suggested and got a terrific deal (under 50 with taxes included, a queen bed, color tv and private bath and fairly close to some good restaurants). Well, on the 24th, I set out at 7:30 for the 43rd and 44th of my 4,000 footers. The forecast (according to the bartenders the night before) was for rain - oh where was the "fair weather omen", when I left Westfield on the 23rd, the forecast was terrific. So, I kinda expected to be turning around due to rain, there were some clouds and a few sprinkles on the way to the trailhead. I hiked the first 2.5 miles bare boot - then the ice on the rocks (about 1/4 inch or more thick) became typical. So, after I struggled to find a place to sit without sliding, I put on the stabilizers (brought those and crampons - don't know what conditions would be). From there on, I dealt with ice and not much snow. Once on North Tripyramid and along the ridge to/from Middle Tripyramid, I had generally only partly cloudy to sunny skies and about a half hour of snow flurries. The ascents were slow and tedious while the descents were slow and cautious. I had a wonderful snack of homemade (I baked them) brownies after descending towards Middle Tripyramid and enjoyed a lunch and some enjoyed rest and gorgeous sunshine when I returned to North Tripyramid.

I ended up hiking out the last 2 miles and 35 minutes in the dark, but for my headlamp. Tip: If you want to be confident that you will have light, be sure to pack an extra battery for your headlamp. While mine did not expire, this was a constant thought as I was totally blocked from any night sky illumination by the very dense evergreen forest. Another tip: Don't count on seeing anyone on a trail in the Whites on Christmas Eve - even if the weather is gorgeous - I had the trail and mountains of the Tripyramids to myself - sometimes a good thing, but usually not.

I have four left to go: Mt. Cabot, Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Flume, and Mt. Carrigan.

~Richard Harris

Holiday Party Hikes

by Richard Harris



Mt. Tom

In a bid to make room to consume food at the Holiday Party, 7 of us joined Juliana on a wonderful hike over parts of Mt. Tom. The weather was gorgeous and the views were delightful. Juliana led us in some parts of the area which some of us have not seen before. It was terrific that Juliana was leading the hike with her knowledge of the Mt. Tom area as I had never been on several of the trails which led to or from the M-M Trail. Ed Laroche took us on several slight detours one of which provided a wonderful perch from which to view the area and another provided a secluded place to enjoy lunch without any signs of the nearby urban environment. Thank you Juliana for this wonderful hike. I hope to join you on it again.



Mt. Toby

Well, Juliana's hike was not enough for some of us who over consumed the wonderful foods including the "no-calorie" desserts. So, a group of twelve were led by Shari Cox up Mt. Toby. (There would have been fourteen, but the club president and past-president apparently missed the meeting time; although they did hike Mt. Toby - they just followed us up and then came down a different route



from the rest of us.) Again, the weather was wonderful and there was a terrific time had by all. Ed Laroche and Rick Briggs took a side trip to investigate the falls and reported that they were quite nice. Most of the group undertook an additional hike after this hike – a lot of energy, huh. For those who are familiar with the White Mountain Sampler's "LL Bean" hike, well this group took an "EMS" hike in Hadley on the way home. Thanks Shari for putting together another enjoyable hike.

~Richard Harris

REMINGTON LODGE – April 7th

Now called 'Brennon's Inn', after the owner(s)...A 'Happening Event'!...

...So, this is a yearly, traditional Club event...& with good reason!...

-The Inn is located about 45 minutes northeast from Northampton, right off rt. 9...very pretty country....

The former owners (who hosted our Club yearly, for 'many a year'), have sold the business- which caters to individuals as well as groups- and they are extending an invitation to us...

The place was always rustic, comfy, with good atmosphere- plus many nice trails nearby; I myself lead a walk for the Club, leaving right from the lodge- we walk on an un-traveled super-rural (and real pretty) road, for as long as company wants to walk (we typically go for hours, but folks are free to 'turn back' early).

The new owner, Maureen Brennon- who seems quite enthusiastic on her new endeavor- says she's tastefully updated the place somewhat, but she still wanted to keep the place's rural flavor, from what she's said...

Lunch (a cold-cut spread), will be served from 12 noon till 1:30pm, & costs only \$5 per person...

Dinner- \$25 plus tip...a multi-course affair: Homemade soup, nice mesclun salad, main entree (she says portions are nice), beverage, and dessert (you cannot bring your own wine, beer, etc- but, they will have a full-service 'libations place', for those interested...

Each Club member's choice of:

- 1) Baked Stuffed Sole w/spinach crabmeat stuffing
- 2) Filet Mignon
- 3) Chicken Oscar (in wine & lemon, topped w/asparagus & crabmeat)

- 4) Spinach Fettuccini (w/sundried tomatoes, Black Olives, Pine Nuts, & parm. cheese in a roasted garlic sauce)
In between meals, we will do a nice hike, a beautiful road-walk, etc...

-After dinner, we typically play Guesstures; Norm presides, and the game is animated & hilarious...great camaraderie, & lots o' fun...

Now, you can either go home that evening/night, **OR** stay overnight...

-I've gotten reduced room rated from them- \$60 for the night, sleeps two folks, only 3 rooms in the place); and plus downstairs there are the bunk beds (with new mattresses), for \$30/night...

WE NEED 30 guaranteed for lunch, and 40 guaranteed for dinner- in order for them to have the place exclusively for us, for our entire stay...

We've never had trouble exceeding that quota- but the sooner we reach that w/paid reservation. the better...it's a great 'Club time' for all, so...give me the checks at the January Club meeting, the more the better (I'll be passing 'round the ol' clipboard there- wherein interested folks can register for lunch, dinner, or preferably, both- plus 'checkmark' what of the 'above 4 meals' you each want, so's we can give our hosts advance 'prep notice'...

(Note: **If you can't make it to the mtg.**, feel free to mail me a check (w/return phone #, plus above food choices noted) make out checks to me, Gary Dolgoff)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! Gary Dolgoff

Winter in Vermont Merck Forest, Rupert, VT March 10-11th, 2007

Join the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club on a trip to the Merck Forest in Rupert, VT. Our destination, Ned's Place, is located at the edge of a field with outstanding views of Bear Mt. and Mt. Equinox. Approximate distance from the Visitor Center is 2.25 miles.



Ned's Place is fully enclosed and equipped with a wood burning stove and firewood. It sports bunk and loft space for up to 10 people. Maximum capacity: 10 people. One tent site is available for up to 4 additional people. The cost for the cabin (\$60) will be split evenly between those camping (usually about \$10 each including a group dinner & breakfast). Merck Forest has an extensive network of hiking trails (bring your snow shoes and cross-country skis) and for those more ambitious Mt. Equinox is nearby for a Sunday hike.
John Klebes



Upcoming Hikes:

Jan 13th 2007 Hike/Snowshoe/Pot Luck and Sleigh Ride

The hike/snowshoe/supper/sleigh ride scheduled for Jan 13 will start by meeting at the Westfield carpool meeting place at 1:00. We will continue on to the home of Phyllis Dassatti in Worthington. There will be the option of an easy 3 mile hike or hopefully, snowshoeing. There will be a "true" potluck supper and then the Belgian horse driven sleigh ride. A cash charge for the optional sleigh ride will be collected that night and will depend on how many people participate. This is a great time to relax and enjoy the company of others. Please call Phyllis 238-5962 or email pdassatti@grsd.org

Sat. Feb. 4th 2007 Mt. Monadnock via Pumpelly Trail

This is the longest, (9 miles round trip), most strenuous and most scenic direct route to the summit of Mt. Monadnock. We will travel over many open ledges and there will be a lot of exposure above tree-line. Requirements: Adventurous Spirit, good physical conditioning, winter day-pack, snowshoes, crampons and hiking poles. Call or leader: Wayne Rodrigues 572-2511, or email: wrodrigu@spfldcol.edu

Fri – Sun. March 16 – 18, 2007 Backcountry Ski to AMC Zealand Falls Hut, NH

We will dine and lodge at the AMC Highland Center on Friday evening. (Lodging includes dinner and breakfast). Ski to and lodge at Zealand Falls Hut (Self Service) on Saturday. Ski out on Sunday. Backcountry ski experience with winter back-pack required. Total cost for lodging both nights is \$108.00 for AMC members. Payment due January 18th. Call Wayne Rodrigues 572-2511 or email wrodrigu@spfldcol.edu

AUG 25th – 3 DAY WINDJAMMER CRUISE

An invitation to sail on the "AMERICAN EAGLE" a 92' Schooner out of Rockland Maine into Penobscot Bay with Captain John Foss. It will be a full moon trip! Destinations depend on the winds & tides & are determined by the Captain each day. Downeast meals are cooked up on the wood stove including roast beef, hearty soups, salads, fruit, fresh-baked breads, muffins, cakes & pies. Snacks are available all day, as are coffee, tea & hot chocolate. Even the 3-day cruise includes a lobster bake & picnic on a secluded island & time to explore its coves. They sail rain or shine-so come prepared with sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, & raincoats-just in case. Take a turn at the wheel, bring binoculars & keep watch for birds & other wildlife along the way-or just sit back & relax. You may have a chance to row the dingy ashore in the morning before we set sail or after we anchor for the night. Accommodations for up to 26 voyagers in 14 cabins. Cabins are small but have hot/cold running fresh water. There is a hot-shower cubicle off the galley & 2 modern sanitary heads. Linens, pillows & blankets are provided-you can bring along a sleeping bag & spend the night on deck under the stars. We board after 6:00 p.m. on Saturday set sail in the morning - when we dock in the late afternoon there will be time for a walk into town or along the shore. Our 3rd port of call may be a quiet island & time for beachcombing. We arrive back in Rockland on Tuesday before noon. Cost is \$525. Step back in time...there is nothing like a leisurely sail along the evergreen & rock studded coastline enjoying the harbors, lighthouses, wildlife & unspoiled scenery under full sails. I have a DVD you can borrow and watch or you can ask for your own phone 1-800-648-4544, on the web: www.schooneramericaneagle.com or Sheila Croteau 732-7254.

March 10/11 – Winter in Vermont (Merck Forest)

Our destination, Ned's Place in Merck Forest, is located at the edge of a field with outstanding views of Bear Mt. and Mt. Equinox. Approximate distance from the Visitor Center is 2.25 miles. Ned's Place is fully enclosed and equipped with a wood burning stove and firewood. It sports bunk and loft space for up to 10 people. One tent site is available for up to 4 additional people. The cost for the cabin (\$60) will be split evenly between those camping (usually about \$10 each including a group dinner & breakfast). Merck Forest has an extensive network of hiking trails (bring your snow shoes and cross-country skis) and for those more ambitious Mt. Equinox is nearby for a Sunday hike. John Klebes

Membership Directory

Membership Directories were distributed at the Holiday Party. Those who didn't pick them up got them mailed in December. The membership directory, in addition to being a great resource for staying in touch with club friends, contains a large reference section. Be sure to look through the back appendix and take full advantage of the many benefits of club membership. If you are a new member and would like a copy or did not receive your copy by January let me know. I have a limit supply of extras that I would be happy to mail you. John Klebes (j.klebes@ieee.org, 413.519.1859)

Snowshoe Rentals:

The club has snowshoes and backpacking tents available for rent at a nominal cost. The clubs screen house, trail maintenance tools, hand held radios, and in-step crampons are also available to club event leaders without fees. Contact Jack Leary (413) 562-0264, our Quartermaster, for help with rentals.

Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

January Renewals:

Jan Barlow
Stefanie Capite
Sheila Croteau
Diane Crowell
Kathleen Damon
Gary Dolgoff
Barbara Goldstein
Thomas Harrington
Rene Houde
Judith Koretz
Michael Kurowski
Theresa Marshall & Family
Karen Savoy
Cynthia Taylor & Family
Ann Wood

February Renewals:

William & Suzanne Cichaski
Cynthia Dirico
Cathy Durie
Roger Jones
Paul & Maxine Lessard
Denise Matthews
Thomas McBride
Harry Pray
Edmund Sullivan
Carol Vanderheiden
Ruth Wade

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)



Christmas at
Strawbery
Banke



Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees

Ann Marie Visconti, President (413) 547-2729
 Mike Carrier, Vice President (413) 331-0338
 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:
February 6, 2007, 7pm at **FBC**
March 6, 2007, 7pm at **FBC**
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: February 21, 2007
- ❑ Club Election will be held at the Feb 6th Meeting

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: pvhc.hikingclub@gmail.com

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