

# BOOTPRINTS

Volume 11 Issue 5

September 2007



View of Ausable Lake from Indian Head (Adirondacks, NY) - photo by Cindy Hibert

## The Waterfalls Hike And More

~ Mike Reed

I arrived at the ADK campground around 4:00; Adirondack Anny and Donna Fleury were there to greet me. Five tents were already up, so we weren't the only three that arrived early. Whilst I was deciding whether to pitch my EMS Escape 2 home-away-from-home in the light rain that was falling, new member Cyndi Hibert arrived on the scene and we decided that there was no time like the present to get this essential step done and behind us. Besides, I already had my eye on the best remaining tent spot that was still free for the taking. Meanwhile, Ann and Donna were unpacking the club's new tent house (aka Camp Central) when Kay Byington returned to join in the confusion. Soon thereafter, all five of us were on it like yellow jackets on a jar of honey, and after futzing with it for awhile, uprightness was achieved, mostly by trial and error.

After a bit of chit-chat, we headed to Lake Placid for some chow and ended up at Mr. Mike's Pizza Restaurant—where else? After fine meals had by all, Cyndi, Kay & I

acquainted ourselves with downtown Lake Placid, passed by the Olympic rink and hung out awhile at Ironman central, thought about buying Ironman shirts or caps but didn't, then headed back. The evening was cool but pleasant. The rain had passed and thankfully didn't return for the rest of the weekend. Adirondacks sans rain. A first for me. Nice!

{Waterfalls – continued on page 2}

## Soapstone Hill

Quabbin MDC Gate #35

Lead by Mike Reed

14 July 2007

Trail notes and photos by Steve Fratoni

It was a dark and stormy night. Well actual no, it wasn't. It was a warm and sunny day; a bit humid in keeping with the season. Mike Reed collected 10 hearty souls into two vehicles (either he is a good environmentalist or he just likes the party car concept). We met at Hawley's in Belchertown and drove north on Rt. 202 affording some spectacular views of the Quabbin and a fore taste of our hiking experience.

The car pool arrangement also provides the means of exchanging information and insect repellent samples between occupants, if you know what I mean. The most popular choice of the day came about later on the trail when Bob Church shared his mosquito switch concept (patent applied for no doubt). He cut a thin flexible branch of maple about 24 inches long, took off the bottom few leaves and left those at the middle and tip. Held in one free hand, a right left slap of each shoulder cleared the back of insects both small and large.

{Soapstone – continued on page 3}



Deerfield River Tubing with Norm Plante – July 29, 2007 (photo by John Klebes)

**{Waterfalls - Continued from page 1}**

Returning campside, I hooked up with Ann, Mike, Monica, Lucy & Dave at Camp Central, who were all in hike planning mode. M&M were up for doing Mount Colvin, ADK Anny had her heart set on doing Dial Mtn., if only her knee would let her, and Dave was up for doing Dial and Nippletop, with Al et al. There was talk of a waterfalls hike, which Lucy was interested in, with Rainbow Falls being the highlight of this trek. When I asked about it and was shown the trail map, I noticed there were two high points nearby, Fish Hawk Cliffs and Indian Head, which upon further scrutiny appeared to make a nice loop, versus the somewhat less interesting and (should I say it?) wimpish up-and-back of the original waterfalls-only route. Of course, as is typically the case when one shows more than just a passing interest in a proposed hike route with a yet-to-be-designated leader, Ann promptly asked when I wanted those interested in my hike to meet the following morning?!

Others passed in and out of tent house as each new car-pooling group arrived, some long after I had packed it in for the night, and by morning there were nine hikers committing to taking on the rigors of my modified waterfalls hike; including one hiking gent who kept his options open until my hike was the only option left! (hmm, who could that person be?) and two who still hadn't made any plans whatsoever within 5 minutes of my original 7:30 AM departure time (we ended up leaving at 8:00)—ya gotta love it! After a stop-and-go trip to the trailhead by one carload traveling swiftly and the other more slowly, we eventually hooked up and debarked onto the eastern access road to the Ausable Club, a throughway for most of the hikes being done that Saturday. Passing by the club's golf course and tennis courts, and a sampling of their members and guests, and their casual glances, we arrived at the gatehouse guarding the entrance to the Club's private road to Ausable Lake, to sign the log book. Here we were greeted by an octogenarian outfitted in what someone described as Cuban revolutionary garb. A Cuban connection in the Adirondacks? Hmm.

Passing under the rustically ornate, open-gated archway of intricate branch-work, the "Gates of Hell" Norm called it, we traveled this shady lane paralleling Gill Brook for nearly 2 miles, before peeling off to left onto the footpath to Fish Hawk Cliffs, Mount Colvin, Nippletop, etc., again paralleling the brook for most of the way. The company was cheery, and the bugs and mud were minimal. What more can you hope for in a hike?—other than good views, that is, and we had those certainly. Although the trail ascended a tad above 1,000 feet over the next 2 miles or so, the overall slope was moderate. Along the way we ran across the first two of the five waterfalls we would

encounter: Angel? Falls (dang, I threw Ann's waterfalls excerpts away that named this one!) and a taller, unnamed, bifurcated falls, which someone named Twin but which I named Deceit (forked tongue). It's the same falls that shows up prominently in a number of shots from John's recent, on-line, "Ironman Weekend" journal.

Next came the rugged ascent to Fish Hawk Cliffs—hey now, it was sort of rugged—I distinctly remember sweating at some point along this stretch. Right. So, after that arduous ¼-mile climb, we broke through the trees out onto the Cliffs, and got that visual rush most of us get when, after just a few quick steps, you pass from an insular wooded trail environment to the wide-open vista of a bare rocky plateau. The Cliffs directly overlook Lower Ausable Lake, framed by Mounts Colvin and Sawteeth, with Upper Lake Ausable shimmering in the distance. Scattered about the lake were some of the Club's well-tended-to drifting along in row boats. We had our trail lunch here, under a puffy-white-cloud blue sky, with a gentle breeze caressing—summer in the 'dacks doesn't get much finer than this. Then it was on to Indian Head, and pretty much the same views, where a pleasant, white-haired couple took some very nice shots of us, and a somewhat reclusive fellow returned directly to his rocky perch off to the side to guard his paints and easel.

Descending another quarter mile or so, we crossed Ausable River just upstream of the lake's dam; took some more fun shots passing over the bridge, then made our way along Cascade Brook to Rainbow Falls. This waterfall was the most impressive of those we saw and elicited lots of oohs and ahhs from the troop. Unfortunately, we arrived at what I estimated to be about an hour to an hour-and-a-half too early for the sunlight to hit the copious spray from this waterfall's tumbling descent down a nearly vertical rock face and form what would most likely would have been a profusion of rainbows. (Mental note: visit this falls mid-afternoon, 3:00-ish.)

After this, the return trail parallels Ausable River fairly closely, presenting the hiker with a nice variation in riverside environs and flora—but not much fauna this time out. Next came Beaver Meadow Falls, sans the beavers, conveniently

displayed along the trail. I say "conveniently" because, by the time the next falls viewing opportunity presented itself—little more than a hope, skip, and a jump uphill to the left—only Cindy H and I had the gumption (and energy?) left to check it out. (It was only Mile 8 or so; geesh.) This being the last waterfall to espy, the rest of the hike went pleasantly uneventfully. Crossing Ausable River and passing through the Gates of Hell again, we signed out on the log, made some small talk with the Cuban national at the gatehouse, and made our way back to our two cars, slowly. Yes, friends, I must admit, Miles 10 to 11 went fairly slowly for us all. On my part, although most of me is good for at least 15 miles of mountain hiking, my hips are only good for about 10. It really doesn't matter though, as it was all good. We returned campside pleasantly hiked out and ready for a shower. Not a bad way to end a day, no? Happy trails, all.

~ Mike Reed

**{Soapstone – continued from pg 1}**

Personally, having recently had a bone graft that was derived from bovine sources, the whole technique seemed to come naturally to me. (Think about it)

Gate 35 is just to the east of the northern tip of the Quabbin. From Rt. 202 a quick minute east on Rt. 122 brings you to North Dana Road, which leads to the MDC gate and for us the trailhead. The trail leads through tall oak-pine woods to the waters edge and provides the edge of the reservoir for almost a mile. The cool water kept the sunny hiking conditions just right. North Dana was bustling intersection of road and railroad at one point in its history. By the time the fateful date approached very little of the community remained. In 1900 the entire town of Dana numbered 790 according to the State census. By 1935 only 387 residents were listed. The Town was officially closed in 1938.

As a trail the road was wide and clean until it slowly took on a declining grade and peacefully



**flora:** *Rudbeckia hirta*, our native Black-eyed Susan is a biennial. The seeds gemanate in the fall and form a small rosette of leaves. In the second year the flowers appear, seeds are formed and the parent plant dies off.





**fauna:** Our turn around spot on the road to what was once North Dana.

slipped beneath the water as the entire town and its way had decades before. The hike then turned into the woods on Dike Trail and despite gaining elevation quickly increased in pace more as self-defense than hiking strategy.

Protected from the sun and the wind and stimulated by the warm humid atmosphere insects of all size shape and description made their appearance and introduced themselves to the hikers.



**fearless:** Our fearless leader, Mike Reed on the north edge of the Quabbin reservoir.



**vista:** Looking south toward the tower on Quabbin Hill.

A handshake or a kiss on the cheek would my preference but these things were crawlin', buzzzzin', and bitin' right through my summer hiking kit. My can of Cutter's insect repellent worked but only if I was able to hit the bug squarely between the eyes. Fortunately, the Church mosquito switch (and a few insect repellent towellets buried deep in the backpack) came to the rescue. After a while either we got too numb to notice them or they realized the PVHC is no

group to trifle with. I did happen to observe that the person who said, "just eat lots of garlic the day before" seemed to be bothered the least. The remainder of the hike was remarkably insect free.

We gained elevation to a vista atop Soapstone Hill that afforded a clear view to the south. The reservoir from this point looks different, like several interconnected water bodies with islands or ridges in between. Mike set a good course leading us to a picnic area with tables and open lawn just as we were getting hungry. We were even able to convince the teenagers mowing and weed whacking that they should break for lunch too and we had a comfortable and peaceful

respite in the middle of the woods.

The final leg included the mandatory short cut. "You can see the road from here, its just on the other side of this tall grass."

(Which is hiker talk for "don't look down because the path is under water.") Mike lived up to his leadership responsibilities an offered an alternate, albeit much much longer, way around and then courageously lead the way across the mire. Boots got wet but not much else and we did pop out on the road as promised. We finished with our backs to the afternoon sun and a steady pace along the edge of the reservoir. The car pool returned to Hawley's and celebrated in traditional club style. A pleasant summer adventure had by all. Our thanks to our leader Mike Reed.

~ Steve Fratoni



**fungi:** *Monotropa uniflora*, or Indian Pipe. Not a true fungus itself but it relies on fungi for its nutrients. Uniflora means one flower per stem. This solitary specimen was at the picnic area. Several more clusters of many stems were seen along the trail.



**fruit:** A rare sight in the plant world. A deep true blue color. "Clintonia borealis, sometimes called Bead Berry for its highly colored blue berries (non-edible) seen in summer/fall. Member of the lily family. Flowers in spring, 1/2 inch yellow-greenish flowers in a small cluster. Makes a great ground cover under deciduous trees." Thanks for the identification to Valerie Allgrove, Conservation Chairperson for the Connecticut Orchid Society



**flood:** The short cut. "It was completely dry this spring when I scouted the trail." How many times have we heard that before? Oh yea, it must be the beavers! A likely story.



**Salute:** A toast to another happy day on the trail.





## Mt. Holyoke

21 August 2007

Lead by Don Leis

Photos and Story by Steve Fratoni

It was a splendid hike! Cool air so the exercise did not overheat. Calm air so the wind did not over chill. Just enough clouds to sensationalize the sunset. Just enough sunlight to see us safely off the mountain. Just enough old friends and new acquaintances to enliven the conversation. Just short enough duration to make us all eager for our next outing together.

### Mt Holyoke group photo:

Back Row: Don Leis, Karen Gallik, Bob Church, Chuck Bray

Front Row: Ted Barlow, Margo Normoyle, Lucie Devries, Dave Williams, Christine Ventulett, Fran Detoma

Behind the camera: Steve Fratoni

## 4,000 Footer Series Update

by Richard Harris

Over the past two months, the 4,000 footer series has repeated hikes in Vermont (Monroe Skyline) and New Hampshire (Mt. Madison and Mt. Adams), traversed Mt. Killington in Vermont and expanded into Maine (Bigelow Range).

### Mount Killington (number 3 of the 5 peaks)

On a beautiful, sunny July 14th, nine of us ventured up to Vermont to hike Mt. Killington. The adventure began with a "short cut" to the trailhead suggested by one of the group. As with most short-cuts, we got off onto the wrong road and ended up at the trailhead later than planned. But, all were in good spirits.



The hike involved about 2,500 of elevation gain, but good footing. After 2 hours of nice hiking, we reached the summit to find a wonderful ledge to enjoy lunch and views. The sun was nice, but it was a little breezy. One of the group emptied his pack to unload a fairly rock which he had intentionally carried to the top – this was neither

John nor Rick (the two likely suspects). No, it was a new person to the group who has been named "He who carries rocks".

Apparently, the young hiker wanted to improve his conditioning.

After nearly an hour on the summit, 8 of us ventured down. What about the ninth you may ask? Well, by rounding, a loss of 1 would be approximately 10% which is within the clubs loss margin – right? Actually, Rob Schectman knew that John was staying over at a festival, so he incorporated a 12 mile back pack into the trip for Sunday.

Less than 1-1/2 hours after leaving the summit, 8 of us were back at the trailhead having left Rob on the summit to enjoy the views and great weather.

### Monroe Skyline (Repeat of Mt. Abraham and Mt. Ellen)

Ann-Marie was unable to join the group which hiked this ridge line in May. Since I love the ridge (not the last 2 miles though) and Ann-Marie needed these two peaks to complete the five 4,000 footers in Vermont, on Saturday July 21st, we drove up to the trailhead. However, given the time of day, we planned to hike up to the shelter or (if possible) the ridgeline itself.

We started hiking around 7:10 p.m. and reached the shelter (1.9 miles along the trail) around 8:30. Having seen quite a few cars at both trailheads (Appalachian Gap and Lincoln Gap), we expected the shelter to be full. Well, it was just us, another hiker and her dog. This was to foretell the traffic we would see on the trail on Sunday.

After dinner, we settled in to a chilly, but restful night in the shelter.

Sunday morning we met the caretaker (who also had a dog with him) and proceeded to hike to the summit of Mt. Abraham. It was a beautiful, sunny day. The weather was mild and the views outstanding. We stopped for a breakfast of muffins and fruit and then proceeded along the ridge line. While there was a little bit of snow (it is always relative) in May, we found the trail to be dry and clear on this traverse.



The wildflowers were in blossom at several locations along the ridge. So, we took our time to enjoy the views and the vegetation. There were signs that people had stayed up on the ridgeline (that would explain all the cars and so few people).

Did I mention that we saw a hiker with a dog Saturday night in the shelter and a caretaker with a dog? Well, we found this ridge hike to be one for the dogs as we would encounter 14 dogs with no more than 16 hikers between Mt. Abraham and Glen Ellen.

We stopped and had lunch at the top of the ski lift at Mt. Ellen while noticing there were lots of flies in the little building – not a good place to seek shelter from the wind.

It was a beautiful weekend to be on the Monroe Skyline.

### Mt. Madison/Mt. Adams (Repeat of the rocks hike)

Always wanting to encourage others to hike the 4,000 footers and looking for a

good training hike for Mt. Whitney, I decided to go back to the piles of rocks and put this hike on the schedule. Fortunately, several people wanted to join me. With a beautiful forecast for August 11th, Norma, Burt, and I went up to Gorham, NH on Friday, August 10th and stayed in the "Hikers Paradise". Well, the hostel was a little smokey from the smokers outside and some people did not exactly find it to be a paradise. I think it is more of a paradise if you had been hiking the AT like "Butter Cup" (a through hiker we met at the hostel).

But, after a less than perfect night's sleep, we ventured to the trailhead. The target time was to be on the trail by 7:00 a.m. – we started at 6:55 a.m. – a good omen. After a nice hike up on Valley Way, we reached Madison Hut before 10:00 – in time to enjoy some pancakes left over from breakfast. We then hiked up to a gorgeous summit on Mt. Madison – footing was dry and the wind was breezy. We made sure we touched the summit (I insisted that one had to go to the point that looked to be the highest point).

After a nice break on the summit, where we could see miles and miles without any obstruction, we had to descend (it would have been a great day to stay on Mt. Madison – or at least it looked



like it would be). Reaching Madison Hut, we filled our water bottles and set out for Mt. Adams – not along the Star Lake Trail, but Gulfside to Airline – only 0.9 miles to the summit of Mt. Adams.

Shortly after setting out on the Gulfside Trail, I noticed clouds starting to move in. Remember, this is the Presidentials and weather conditions can change radically. In 20 minutes, the temperature dropped 30 degrees and the visibility declined from miles and miles to a matter of 10-20 feet. We encountered many people descending from Adams and a few people, like us, ascending. Shortly, we were on top of Mt. Adams with about a dozen or so other people seeking to find shelter from the wind. By this time, we had put on our jackets and some had gloves on. We had our



lunch, took the necessary photos and began the descent along Lowe's Path to Thunderstorm Junction – the adventure is about to begin.

After descending to Thunderstorm Junction, with visibility down to 10-20 feet, we decided not to climb Mt. Jefferson. We proceeded to follow the cairns which appeared to direct us to Gray Knob Cabin – always, ALWAYS, at Thunderstorm Junction, look at your map and compass. After hiking along this trail some time, we "decided" to continue to descend into King's Ravine along the Great Gully Trail (the trail that Wayne found himself on in January and rightly turned back) – not the Spur Trail or Lowe's Path as was intended. After descending steep and slippery rocks for 2-1/2 hours (we, especially me, were very cautious descending this trail which the guide books advise not to descend), we finally finished the 1 mile Great Gully Trail where we proceeded to hike down a portion of the King Ravine Trail until we met up with the Short Line Trail – finally there was dirt and not rock and moderate to flat and not steep trail.

At 7:00 p.m., we reached the trailhead where my car was parked. After reflection, we were quite pleased that we had "decided" to descend the Great Gully Trail. With the clouds lifting, we had great views down into the ravine and up the walls of the ravine. It was a terrific learning experience – always, know the trails and look at the map, take compass readings, etc.

After heading back to Gorham to take a shower (Hiker's Paradise owed us a shower as we had not used the showers Friday), we met up with Bob Morgan and Tom Pederson who were completing a 5-day, 8 summit hiking trip in Maine.

### Bigelow Range (Avery and West Peaks, and South Horn)

The 4,000 footer series is slowly moving into Maine. With rain forecast for Saturday, August 18th, Bob and I shifted the planned hike one day and drove up to Stratton, Maine on Saturday, August 18th.

On the morning of Sunday, August 19th, Bob and I headed out looking for the trailhead. We used his guidebook instructions and realized quickly that they were wrong. So, using another guidebook we reached what appeared to be the trailhead – a half dozen cars were parked there and the "road" looked rough after that. So, we got started on the "trail" shortly after 7:00 with a bit of a chill in the air.



A half mile later, we reached the actual trailhead – only vehicles with a high clearance can reach the actual trailhead, hence, the hike was a little bit longer than planned. With a promised steep ascent to the col between the two peaks, we felt we would warm up quickly. Well, we worked up a sweat quickly, but the wind brought a chill in the air.

After a nice, pleasant walk for nearly 2 miles, we were on the "stair master" otherwise known as the Firewarden's Trail heading up to the Bigelow Range col. The trail gains a substantial elevation in less than a mile through a repetitive series of rock steps. Reaching the col in a good time, we

immediately felt a wind blowing on the ridge and headed up to Avery Peak. The views were wonderful as the sky, though dotted with clouds above us, was fairly clear.

Due to the brisk wind, we chose not stay on the summit too long and headed down to the col for our lunch. Looking at the time and knowing we wanted to be back at the trailhead, we decided we would summit West Peak and decide whether to head back the way we came or continue the hike as we planned.

Shortly, we found ourselves on the West Peak wearing our jackets to protect from the chill caused by the wind. Atop West Peak, we met our first through hiker "Sheephead" who was a long way ahead of his brother "Dealer Dan" – two really nice older gentlemen. After enjoying the views and taking photos, not wanting to go back down the Fire Warden's Trail's stairmaster and wanting to see South Horn and the Horn Pond, we decided to continue the loop trail so we headed west toward South Horn.



Nearly the entire ridge we encountered a strong wind and off and on clouds which kept us a bit chilled. Some of the vegetation was already changing – it felt and at times looked like fall was just around the corner or on top of us.

Along the ridge we met 4 more through hikers and about 10 or so day hikers. The cooler temperatures apparently kept some of the hikers off the ridge.

Before long we were over South Horn and descended to Horn Pond. The view of the pond was refreshing – but the water was a bit cold (only put my hand in it). We later learned they reported a temperature of 34 degrees at the Horn Pond Lean To's that morning.

As we were hiking out, we met a local gentleman, Floyd. We learned Floyd drives a pick up truck with high clearance – he had driven to the trailhead. While we wanted to hike the additional half mile to Bob's car, we did not want to offend the local residents. So, when Floyd offered us a ride to Bob's car, we reluctantly accepted the offer.

Now, came the most difficult part of the entire hike and day – we had to drive back home (approximately 6-1/2 hours). Monday morning came way too early!!!!

More Maine 4,000 footer hikes are being planned – in fact a re-visit to the Bigelow Range is being planned for next year. It is a really nice range to hike.

~Richard Harris



## Upcoming Events

October 27-28, 2007

### Kaaterskill High Peak Wild Forest

I am planning a return to the Catskills to visit some of the scenic features that I missed during my climbs of the 3500 footers. This trip to the Kaaterskill High Peak Wild Forest crosses the 3655 foot Kaaterskill High Peak. Early settlers thought this to be the highest mountain in the Catskills, due to its prominence when seen from the Hudson River. Deep valleys, called "cloves" on two sides, abut the peak. It was a favorite subject of paintings by Thomas Cole.

The peak is surrounded on three sides by Hurricane Ledge and just south of the summit is an open viewpoint with great views of the Devil's Path range. There are also the remains of an old plane wreck on the summit. The area supports lots of wildlife including porcupines, deer, and bears.

The climb includes almost 3,000 vertical feet of elevation to the summit but we will have a nice diversion to Huckleberry Point along our way. (We can leave our packs and backpack over to the point 4 miles round trip) I have been told by David and Carol White (authors of the ADK's guidebook to the Catskills) that Huckleberry Point has magnificent views hundreds of feet straight down and out to the Hudson Valley and across Platte Clove to Indian Head Mountain.

After a long day, approximately fourteen miles (4 without packs), we will find a spot to camp near one of three waterfalls. We should be able to find good camping near the brink of one of these magnificent waterfalls but keep in mind this will be primitive camping with no facilities.

Our easy five-mile hike out will include a side hike to Poet's Ledge, which the White's tell me has views nice views up Kaaterskill Clove, and is pretty throughout.

~John Klebes

November 3, 2007

### Annual New York City Bus Trip and Hike

The annual New York trip has been scheduled for November 3, 2007. The cost will be \$40 up front, with \$ returned if we get a full bus.

The bus will leave at 7:45 a.m. from the Enfield Park & Ride (see page 40 of your PVHC membership directory or our clubs website). The bus will leave New York at 9:15 p.m.

You may reserve your seat(s) on a first come, first served, basis by mailing your check for \$40 to Jane Glushik at:

Jane Glushik  
59 St. James Avenue  
Westfield, MA 01085

The itinerary will include some options. Jane will be leading a group for the second leg of the Manhattan Greenway (a public pathway around Manhattan Island). Last year we walked from 120th St. down to 10th St., including side trips over every pedestrian bridge leading out of Manhattan along the way as well as a tour of the United Nations, which was also enroute. This year's hike will include the Brooklyn Bridge, as we will be rounding the southern tip of Manhattan and starting up the other side.

Gary's itinerary has not been finalized yet, but both itineraries will include a walk across the Brooklyn Bridge.

Although we have been extremely fortunate weather-wise, we will be developing a rainy day itinerary just in case.

~Jane Glushik ([jglushik@hotmail.com](mailto:jglushik@hotmail.com))

November 10-11, 2007

### Catskill Backpack to Echo Lake

During this trip in the Indian Head Wilderness we will see old mountain inn ruins, a climb up the fire tower on Overlook Mountain. , and a night at the lean-to or tenting at the secluded and picturesque Echo Lake before checking out the views on the side of Plattekill Mountain on our hike out. Echo Lake is a very popular area in the summer but I am hoping that late fall will be ideal to avoid the crowds.

The trail to the summit of Overlook Mountain, while steep, is mostly woods roads. Near the fire tower cabin is a short trail that leads to a scenic overlook with a grand view of the Hudson valley and the Ashokan reservoir. On a clear day rumor has it you can see seven states from the summit fire tower.

~John Klebes

December 1, 2007

### Christmas in Vermont

Al Goodhind is putting together a Christmas Trip to Vermont for December 1, 2007. The trip will include a tour of the Bennington Museum, docent-guided tours of local historic buildings, time to visit Manchester and Bennington attractions such as the Candle Mill Village Houses, Village Peddler & Bearatorium, Chocolate Barn, and a number of designer outlets from Adrienne Vittadini to Yankee Candle and everyone in between.

If you plan to stay overnight at the Weathervane Motel call early for reservations and mention you are with the "Goodhind Party." You will pay by credit card at our special discount rates below. We are getting a lower than normal "ski season" rates. Also we do not have the required two-night minimum stay for our group. Reserve early, limited numbers of rooms are available.

Weathervane Motel: 1-800-262-1317, Room Choices: large (King or 2 dbls with frig& large bath) \$119.90, small (queen or 2 dbls) \$98.10. Cancellation policy: 15 days prior! website: [www.weathervanemotel.com](http://www.weathervanemotel.com).

Let's pray for some snow for ambience. Hope you all enjoy Christmas in Vermont.

- Al Goodhind

## Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

### September Renewals:

Joyce Berg  
Melissa Conte  
Shari Cox  
Lucie Devries  
Sue Faucher  
Dick & Sue Forrest  
Steve Fratoni  
JoAnne Gebski  
AnnMarie Higgins  
Bryarly Lehmann  
Donald Leis  
Laurie Mahoney  
Eunice Marcelina  
Alicia McMaster  
Sheila Messer  
Bill Nickerson  
Bob O'Brien  
Thomas Pedersen  
Cynthia Roderick  
Marty & Meg Schoenemann  
Karen Siemering  
Christine Tetreault  
Margaret Trombley

### October Renewals:

Deborah Alberghini  
Dona Burdick  
Dianna Cizek  
Donna Fleury  
Barbara Graf  
Terry Leary  
Carol Letourneau  
Tracey McKethan  
Al & Martha Roman  
Chris & Nancy Sullivan  
Peggy Sullivan  
Gary Tompkins

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 Shari Cox  
223 Gifford Street  
Springfield, MA 01118

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

## Block Island Greenway

~ by Mike Reed

Ocean breezes, birds, hikers  
 New and well known, are my companions  
 Along trails winding through woods  
 In corridors arched and shrouded holy green  
 Or paved by glacial sands, gravels, cobbles  
 Shared by cyclists and equestrians  
 Or crowded by grasses knee high and swaying  
 It is late June on the Block Island Greenway

Passing through forest portals  
 Into protected open space of wooded hollow  
 Kettle pond, rolling meadow  
 The trail dotted left and right by trees  
 Too few for those too soon toiling  
 Under a midday sun  
 Only slightly lower in the sky  
 Than its high point just one week past

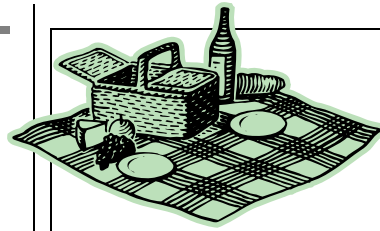
Ocean vistas plentiful  
 From hilltops in the interior  
 As the air is clear  
 From Black Rock Point  
 Prominent above the southern shore  
 Montauk Point seems too close  
 To really be part of New York  
 Perhaps these up-drafted birds have been there?

My companions, 31 in all  
 Are young and older  
 A diversity I welcome  
 From a bluff along the southern shore  
 The 20-somethings descend effortlessly  
 To the waters edge, dancing with the tide  
 As the 50-somethings look on from above  
 Then move on, conscious of their age

With the hard-taught patient impatience of maturity  
 We wait at the Point for the youth  
 To dry themselves, ascend  
 And return to the path  
 An hour later, halfway back to the harbor  
 Two of us, older  
 Wander from the trail unannounced  
 Anxious moments for this leader, unexpected

Later, all is well harborside  
 The two wanderers had been spotted  
 "Twas a great hike" many proclaimed  
 A thanks always welcomed  
 Followed by dinners for all overlooking the bay  
 The air balmy, the company fine  
 All aboard the ferry  
 We relish the sea, the air

And the freedom to enjoy all this



### Annual PVHC Club Picnic Sunday September 16, 2007 Northfield Mtn (Riverview Picnic Area )

**12 noon - 6 PM**

We are providing the main course, drinks (water, soda, tea & coffee) and the place to be. Please bring a dish to share.

All are encouraged to think GREEN and help out the environment by bringing your own plate, cup and utensils. Paper/plastic goods will be available for those that would like them.

You can socialize with old friends and new, hike a little and thanks to Frank Kamilowski take a ride on the Connecticut River for ~\$9pp. Pay Frank at the July or August meeting.

Make it easier for the organizers and sign up to help for a short time (sign up sheets will be at the next few meetings)

#### Directions to Northfield Mountain

99 Millers Falls Road (Route 63)  
 Northfield, MA 01360  
 (413) 659-3714 or (800) 859-2960

**Northfield Mtn. (Riverview Picnic Area) is located on Route 63, two miles north of Route 2, in Northfield, MA.**

#### TRAVELING NORTH ON I-91:

1. Travel Route 91 North to Exit 27.
2. Travel Route 2 East for seven miles.
3. Turn left onto Route 63 North. Travel two miles. Turn left onto Ferry Road following signs for the Riverview Picnic Pavilion.

#### TRAVELING SOUTH ON I-91:

1. Travel Route 91 South to Exit 28.
2. Turn left onto Route 10 North for five miles (heading toward Northfield).
3. Turn right onto Route 63 South for five miles. Turn left onto Ferry Road following signs for the Riverview Picnic Pavilion.

#### TRAVELING FROM THE EAST:

1. Take Route 2 West. Approximately 6.5 miles after the Erving Paper Mill, take a right onto Route 63 North.
2. Follow Route 63 for 2 miles. Turn left onto Ferry Road.

#### TRAVELING FROM THE WEST:

1. Take Route 2 East to Greenfield. Travel on Route 2 East/Route 91 north, getting off at Exit 27. Continue on Route 2 East for approximately 8 miles to Route 63 North.
2. Turn left onto Route 63 North. Follow Route 63 for 2 miles. Turn left onto Ferry Road and the Riverview Picnic Pavilion

## Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees

Ann Marie Visconti, President (413) 547-2729  
 Marcia Kelly, Vice President (413) 256-1063  
 Gail Carrier, Secretary (413) 331-0338  
 Shari Cox, Treasurer (413) 796-1326  
 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](mailto:j.klebes@ieee.org) (Email) or by USmail to John Klebes, P.O. Box 51385, Indian Orchard, MA 01151.***

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:  
 Oct 2, 2007, 7pm at **FBC**  
 Nov 6, 2007, 7pm at **FBC**
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: Oct 22, 2007

## Annual PVHC Club Picnic Sunday September 16, 2007

**FBC** – First Baptist Church, West Springfield

\*\*\* Check out our web page at:

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

Members may join the PVHC Email List by sending a

fold here



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 P.O. Box 265  
 Southwick, MA 01077

