



Pimiteoui Trail Association Hiking Club July – Sept 2017

President – Mike Bohn – 309-657-4557
Vice President – Bonnie Jackson -
Secretary – Angie Madison, 309-453-2097
Treasurer – Linda Kent – 309-263-8500
Newsletter Editor – Jerry Gegel – 309-266-7533

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NOTICES

Reminder

It's that time again. If you haven't yet paid your annual dues, please send or give your \$6.00 to either Linda Kent or Bonnie Jackson.

Gear Swap Site

Check the PTA website (ptahike.org) for hiking or camping gear offered for sale by fellow PTA members. If you would like to sell something, submit a short description, price, your name and contact number to John Jackson at j.jackson1954@yahoo.com. The PTA reserves the right to reject or edit all listings.

PTA Hiking Club

1. Hikes shall start promptly with no more than a 10-minute grace period for late arrivals.
2. The newsletter will be "published" quarterly. Hike leaders; please email your Event Reports to geraldgegel@comcast.net within two weeks after completion of your scheduled events. A single photo (jpeg file format) for inclusion in the Newsletter may be attached to your report.
3. Hike Leaders are to register all attendees for a hike/bike/paddle event using the "official" Pimiteoui Trail Association Liability Waiver form. These may be obtained on our website at WWW.PTAHIKE.ORG.
4. If an area allows dogs, they must be on a leash at all times. Also, please be prepared to pick up and dispose of pet excrement
5. In case of bad weather, contact the hike leader to see if the hike/event has been cancelled.

3rd QUARTER CSE (COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT) SCHEDULE

Rock Island Greenway (Bike Trail) – Monthly Clean Ups for 3rd Quarter

The Peoria Park District now manages the Rock Island Greenway Adopt-A-Trail program. Their guidelines are that we do monthly visits to our section of the trail and do visible litter pick up, check the general condition of the trail, and advise park district staff on any needed repairs or maintenance. Two annual broader clean ups are to include the entire width of the trail corridor including beyond the trail pavement and shoulders. For the Rock Island Greenway clean up events of our club's adopted trail section we will meet in the Heritage

Square parking lot facing Prospect Avenue. Many of the cleanups will likely end with a trip to Trefzgers. Our clubs adopted section of the Rock Island Greenway starts at Prospect Avenue and goes south to Miller Avenue. For the 3rd quarter, all are light clean-ups. The dates are:

[Thursday, July 20 2017, 6 pm – 7 pm](#)

[Thursday, Aug 17, 2017, 6 pm – 7 pm](#)

[Thursday, Sept 14, 6 pm – 7 pm](#)

3rd QUARTER EVENT SCHEDULE

2017-13, July 8, 2017, Saturday, 9:00 am, Black Partridge Park, Metamora

Black Partridge park is located on the Northwest side of Metamora. This trail system was built by PAMBA and volunteers working with the Metamora Park District and is designed for hiking and biking use. The trails are forested, winding, slightly rolling and single file with very nice bridge crossings over the creek. Join us for a 2-hour hike (a shorter option is available). Wear hiking boots, carry water and be prepared with insect spray. Porta-potties are located across a field from the trailhead, or consider stopping in Metamora. Group consensus will determine where we stop for refreshment after the hike...maybe Eli's Coffee Shop on the Metamora Square or the Germantown Grille.

Directions: Driving from East Peoria towards Metamora on 116 East, watch on your left for Comtech Industries with a yard filled with large aluminum culverts...just after Comtech, turn left on **Susan Lane**. (If you miss it, make the next available left turn.) Turn left again on Progress Street. Make a right at Coal Bank Road, and look for the park entrance. Drive back past the Lee log cabin to park near the trailhead.

Hike Leader: Susan Hood 309-648-2771

2017-14, July 22, 2017. 9:00 am - River Bluff/Pimiteoui Trail from Detweiller Park.

Meet at the parking lot at the trailhead. To get to the trailhead, enter Detweiller Park and go past the first parking lot (it has a huge tree trunk there). Stay to the right and go to the second parking lot which is near a playground, shelter and restroom. Do not go to the soccer fields. A map is on the Detweiller Park website. We can go to lunch at the No Wake Zone after.

Hike Leader: Angie Madison, (309) 453-2097

2017-15, July 27, 5:30 pm – Club Social at Kelleher's Irish Pub

Join your fellow hikers for an evening of dinner and fellowship at Kelleher's Irish Pub 619, Southwest Water Street, Peoria, on Thursday, July 27 at 5:30 pm. The street will be blocked off that night so that patrons can enjoy dining al fresco. In the event of rain, tables will be reserved inside. Please **RSVP no later that Monday, July 24th**, so that we can reserve enough seats for our group.

Hosts: Bonnie & John Jackson

RSVP at bon1jon2@yahoo.com or 696-1955

2017-16, August 5 – 11, Camping Trip; Thomson Causeway State Park

Join Bonnie & John Jackson for another week long camping adventure. This time we are visiting beautiful Thomson Causeway, located right on the Mississippi River. Sites have beautiful views of the river, and the campground has all amenities, including concrete pads,

showers, and electricity. Activities include fishing, hiking, biking (the 62 mile Great River Trail runs right through the park, as well as excellent road riding), kayaking, wine tasting at 3 local wineries, and more. Kayaks can be rented at nearby Morrison Rockwood State Park. If none of that appeals to you, Galena is nearby as well as downtown Clinton Iowa, with the Showboat Theater along the river and a trail that runs along the river. If you are interested in joining us, we are in site 34. Make your reservation near us by going to Recreation.gov as early as possible. Sites fill up fast. If you have questions contact us at 309-696-1955 or bon1jon2@yahoo.com. Let us know if you intend to join us.

Organizers: Bonnie & John Jackson; 309-696-1955 or bon1jon2@yahoo.com

2017-17, August 27, Sunday, 2:00 pm, Independence Park, Marquette Heights

Independence Park is wild and forested with a vast number of paths shared with mountain bikers. We'll hike at least 2 hours/4 miles with a shorter return option available. The terrain is rolling with a few steep hills and minor creek crossings. Wear hiking boots, bring trekking pole(s), carry a cell phone, bug spray is recommended, and have water. Dogs are okay on leashes, but most trails are single file and narrow. Indoor restrooms are at the beginning/end. Drive there directly. Independence is off of Route 29. Turn south onto LaSalle Blvd, which is at the closest stop light south of the I474 exit. Drive on LaSalle up the hill 1.1 miles and turn left (no turn lane, just a median separation) between a pavilion and the main baseball diamonds. Move forward into the paved lane and back to the parking area. After the hike, we shall likely eat together in the East Peoria levee district.

Hike Leader: Jay Meinrich 309-472-0165 (call/text), email: jmeinrich@comcast.net

2017-18, September 13, Wednesday, 5:30 pm, Grandview Drive/Rock Island Trail Hike.

Meet at 5:30 pm in Peoria Heights at the Tower Park on Prospect Rd. We will do a loop down Grandview Drive returning on the Rock Island Trail. There will be an option of an ice cream stop at the end of the hike.

Hike Leaders: Hike leaders Roger John & Judy Bartow, 309-231-1898 or 630-347-1898

PTA Board Meeting, Sept. 20, 2017, Wednesday, 6:00 pm, Morton Public Library, 315 W. Pershing, Morton, IL

2017-19, Saturday, 9:00 am, September 23, Dirksen Park, North Pekin

Dirksen Park is a hilly area with a combination of hiking paths and mountain bike trails. We'll walk around the perimeter on this challenging 2.5-3 hour hike. A shorter return option is available. Wear hiking shoes, bring staff(s) and carry water. Dogs are okay on leashes. Drive there directly. There are no restrooms, so stop on the way if needed (Casey's is near the park). We'll plan to eat together afterward in the East Peoria levee district. Dirksen is located north off of RTE 98 just east of N. Parkway Drive. Park at the archery range.

Hike Leader: Jay Meinrich, 309-472-0165 (call/text), email: jmeinrich@comcast.net

EVENT REPORTS

CSE 2017-1, Saturday, April 1, 2017 12 pm - PPD Rock Island Greenway – Pimiteoui Trail Club Section Clean Up.

After non-stop rain during the week leading up to this event, the day of the event turned out to be perfect weather. However, there were no “dusty boots” on this day but there were extremely “muddy boots”. Five volunteers met at Heritage Square in Peoria Heights for this community service event to remove litter and branch piles from and near the PTA adopted section of the RIG trail. The primary section of the club’s trail section, which is mostly fenced in on both sides, continues to remain in great condition with very little litter. However, despite a number of periodic cleanings over the years much litter has continued to be in the ditches and ravines outside the fences, likely because it’s very difficult and muddy to clean. Our work on this day focused on the most littered ditch on the south side of the RIG which adjoins the Trefzger’s Bakery and neighboring auto body shop properties. The end result of our labor was very satisfying. The teamwork and dedication of the volunteers was an example to be admired by all. Susan, Les and Jay spent two solid hours in the ravines climbing and handing out buckets full of litter. Brian and Dave kept empty buckets going to the ditch crew along with disposing of the large branch piles. Ten full garbage bags were collected in addition to 3 tires, various portions of wrecked car parts and a battery. Much appreciation goes to this hard working crew. It really made a very visible improvement.

Volunteers: Susan Hood, Les Hensley, Jay Meinrich and Dave Grebner
Event Organizer: Brian Cunningham

[2017-07, April 9, Sunday, 2:00 pm, Springdale Cemetery, Peoria](#)

Springdale Cemetery lovingly provided the club with an excellent early spring hike. We started along the road with a descent to the old gatehouse area, climbed the ancient sidewalk to an outer portion, and continued a counter clockwise perimeter route that included several prairie and wooded cut throughs and an out-and-back along a future Rock Island Greenway extension. Some people went about half way before intrepidly returning on their own. Nine of us met post hike for brews and dinner at Obed & Issac’s near downtown Peoria. We will return to Springdale in the future, hopefully alive.

Hiking Members: Jerry Gegel, Joyce Gegel, Roger John, Judy Bartow, Brian Cunnighham, Susan Hood, Les Hensley, Tom Hieser, Pam Brandt, Connie Tumminelli, Rob Alexander, Maggie Ambrose, Cherie Shull, Andy Shull, Eric Hutchison, Mareike Kraatz, Mary Greenwood, Dave Grebner. Scooby Grebner, Laverne Wilson, Ellen Vosberg, Arthur Ching

Guest: Angie Nicoli

Hiking Dogs: Scooby (Dave), Solana (Mareike), Copper & Charlie (Mary)

Hike Leader: Jay Meinrich

[2017-08, April 22, Saturday, 6:00 am, Lake Geneva, WI Shore Path.](#)

We car pooled up to Lake Geneva from Morton and met fellow hikers at Gordy’s Boat House Bar and Restaurant in Fontana WI on the western point of the lake. We were fortunate to have perfect cloud free blue skies, blue water, perfect temperatures and a calm breeze. We hiked on the north shore going east. We passed by and gawked at the many beautiful lakeshore homes. Many of the uniform white piers that were removed from the lake in the fall, to prevent winter ice damage, continued to be stacked on the ground along the path. However, the crews were actively working on the small barges with cranes picking the pier pieces up and putting them together like Lincoln Logs in the lake. We spoke to one crew working and they indicated that they are contracted to erect 120 of the approximate 1000 piers on Lake Geneva.

A few miles up the path after passing by George Williams College of Aurora University we took a path going north off of the lake to the Yerkes Observatory. It was built in 1897 and is

owned by the University of Chicago. We went on a 1 hour guided tour of the inside and outside of the large and ornate observatory building. The tour guides were full of interesting and fun stories of the buildings history and architecture. Yerkes was initially and continues to be the largest refractory telescope in the world. George Ellery Hale and Carl Sagan are among many astronomers who studied and researched at the Yerkes Observatory. We then returned to the lakeshore path and hiked a few miles to the small town of Williams Bay where we enjoyed lunch on the sunny outside deck of Skip's A'La Mode restaurant. After lunch we continued hiking eastward on the path toward the town of Lake Geneva WI. We arrived at about 5:15pm after hiking nearly 14 miles. Congratulations to both Mareika and Mike who both hiked the entire 26 mile path around the lake on the trip by hiking the southern shore either on Friday or Sunday.

Hiking Members: Mareike Kraatz, Eric Hutchison, Arthur Ching, Karen Decker and Paula Kestner

Hiking Guests: Mike Kern and Po Chao Wen

Leader: Brian Cunningham

2017-09, May 6, Saturday, 9:00 am, Marquis Oak Ridge Trail Hike,

9 hikers enjoyed a great experience and beautiful day. The hike started at the new Marquis Oak Ridge Trail at TWI's Dixon Waterfowl Refuge at Hennepin & Hopper Lakes. The trail is a 2.7 mile crushed-gravel path designed for hiking. Completion of the new trail opened the Refuge's interior to public access for the first time. The Refuge's other public trails only skirt the eastern boundary of the 3,000-acre site. We were able to get into the middle and have a 360-degree experience of the Refuge without needing a canoe or kayak. The Marquis Oak Ridge Trail took us through, or close to, a wide range of habitat, including wet and mesic prairie and globally rare oak savanna. Hikers who complete the trip were rewarded with a scenic view over the restored marsh from a low wooden viewing platform situated among the savanna trees. It's one of the best spots for viewing migrating waterfowl at the Refuge. Lunch after the hike at the Pizza Peel in Lacon was, as always, great.

Hiking Members: Pam Brandt, Arthur Ching, Michael Emanuels, Jerry Gegel, John Jackson, and Paula Kestner

Hiking Guest: Lisa Hines

Hike Leaders: Roger John and Judy Bartow

2017-10, May 21, Sunday, 1:30 pm, Funks Grove, McLean, IL

The club ventured to Funks Gove on a cool, overcast Sunday. After recent rains, the south and middle trails were grass covered and very passable, while the north portion—although muddy and puddle restricted in places—provided no real barrier to enjoying the hike. A small rat snake was encountered, and no one freaked out. Several people walked sections and opted out of the entire course. On returning to Morton, the great majority of us stopped for dinner at Busy Corner restaurant in Goodfield. After a lengthy wait, we enjoyed eating, including their excellent desserts.

Hiking Members: Jerry Gegel, Joyce Gegel, Roger John, Judy Bartow, Brian Cunnigham, Les Hensley, Susan Hood, Brenda Meinrich, Sandy Burrier, George Burrier, Mike Bohn, Arthur Ching, Paula Lewis, Mary Greenwood, Dave Grebner.

Hiking Guest: Angie Nicoli, Paul Frisk

Hiking Dogs: Scooby (Dave); Copper, Charlie & Lindy (Mary)

Hike Leader: Jay Meinrich

2017-11, June 10, 2017, Saturday, 10:00 am, Bike Ride on E. Peoria Bike Trail

Six members rode from Fondulac Park District to the new Morton Plaza and back.. Then some of us rode, and some drove, to the Slim Chicken (near E. Peoria Wal-Mart) for lunch. Even though it was windy, and we always seemed to have a headwind, we had a fun adventure. The path was not too crowded and not too long.

Bikers: Angie Madison (Coordinator), Brian Cunningham, Arthur Ching, John and Bonnie Jackson, and Kathy Jones

Hike Leader: Angie Madison

PTA Board Meeting, June 12, 2017, Monday, 6:00 pm, Morton Public Library, 315 W. Pershing, Morton, IL

The Board is looking into what to do with the donations made on behalf of Cindy Alexander. There are a number of possibilities that are being reviewed and will be reported on in future meetings.

A sub team of members, some on the board some not, will be looking into the possibility of using the Meet-Up forum to announce club related impromptu club hikes. Their proposal will be shared at the next Board meeting.

PTA President: Mike Bohn

2017-12, June 24, 2017, Saturday, 8:00 am, Matthiessen State Park, Oglesby/Utica IL

The day was picture perfect and Matthiessen Park was as well. The crowds were large—even upon arrival at 9:30. We started at the lower dell and marveled at the waterfall and overall lushness. The upper dell was officially closed (not sure why) but we went down anyway as did others. The waterfall at the lake was spectacular. Although mud was a minor issue, water was high everywhere, making frequent water crossings harder. Dogs seemed to be everywhere, and numerous photographers shrugged off those who crossed their view paths. The after hike meal was at Duffy’s, which seems to cater to patrons well regardless of crowds.

Hiking Members: Roger John, Judy Bartow, Dave Grebner.

Hiking Guest: Diane Rock

Hiking Dogs: Scooby (Dave)

Hike Leader: Jay Meinrich

Treasurer’s Report

	<u>Balance as of 05/12/2017</u>
Checking Account	\$1357.68
Savings Account	<u>\$2148.53</u>
Total	\$3506.21