



Pimiteoui Trail Association

Hiking Club

Apr – Jun 2019

President – Dave Grebner – 309-222-7941
Vice President – Bonnie Jackson – 309-676-1955
Secretary – Angie Madison - 309-453-2097
Treasurer – Carol Raines
Newsletter Editor – Jerry Gegel – 309-266-7533

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NOTICES

Reminders

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.

Group Trip

We are considering a 6 day hiking adventure through Road Scholar Travel Service and are sending out feelers to see if any of our members would be interested in joining us. The trip consists of hiking a stretch of the Appalachian Trail in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. We can hike at our own pace each day and learn about the region’s history from a local historian or park ranger. Road Scholar will arrange lodging, meals, and experienced guides. The cost is \$979 plus transportation to Pennsylvania. This hike is offered on various dates between April and November, and we are looking to book in 2020. If this idea appeals to you, Contact **Bonnie and John Jackson** at bon1jon2@yahoo.com or **309-696-1955**.

Road Scholar is a travel organization that provides top-notch educational tours in the U.S. and around the world. To learn more about this trip, visit roadscholar.com and search trip #14629FNS or search “choose your own pace: a hiking adventure on the Appalachian Trail.”

For Your Information, the Peoria Park District is holding the following hikes at the locations indicated below:

Camp Wokonda

Spring Twilight Hike - Friday 06/07; 7 to 8:30 pm

Full Moon Stroll* – Saturday 06/15 & Friday 08/16 from 9 to 10 pm

Forest Park Nature Center

Spring Twilight Hike – Wed 05/29; 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Lightning Bugs* – Fri 06/21 & 07/05; 8 to 8:45 pm or 9 – 9:45 pm

Full Moon Stroll* – Th 07/18; 9 – 10 pm

Tawny Oaks Field Station

Constellation Hike – Friday 06/14, 07/02 & 08/23; 9:30 to 10:30 pm

*** Reservations required. For more information and reservations contact the Forest Park Nature Center at 309-686-3360.**

2nd Quarter Event Schedule

2019-06, April 13, Sat, 9:00 a.m., Independence Park, Marquette Heights

Independence Park is wild, forested area with a vast number of paths shared with mountain bikers. The terrain is rolling with a few steep hills and minor creek crossings. Our hike includes several trails that the club has not gone on before. The full distance measures about 6 miles; two shorter options of around 3.2 miles and 4.6 miles will be available. (Note that if it is too muddy, these routes and distances will change). Wear hiking boots, bring trekking pole(s), carry a cell phone, and have water. Dogs are okay on leashes. Indoor restrooms are at the beginning/end (hopefully they will be open). 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. Optionally after the hike, we will likely eat lunch together at Jason's Deli in the East Peoria levee district.

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

2019-07, April 27, Saturday, 9:00AM, Camp Wokonda Pancake Breakfast & Hike.

Meet at the rest rooms in the parking lot at 620 E. Boy Scout Road Chillicothe, IL. Breakfast at 9:00AM and the hike will follow at 10:30AM. The breakfast will feature maple syrup made at the camp by one of our members, Rob Alexander being one of a crew making the syrup. Following breakfast we will hit the trail going south towards Detweiller. This will be a two-hour hike. Directions: begin at the junction of US 150 and IL29 on the West side of the Illinois River. From there, head North on IL29 toward Chillicothe for 7.2 miles. Turn left onto N Old Galena Rd. In about 0.5 mile you will come to a roundabout. Turn right to continue onto N. Old Galena Rd. In 0.3 mi turn left onto E Neal Lane. In 0.6 mi. you will arrive at your destination.

Hike Leader: John Jackson, Phone & Text: 309-645-0263

[2019-08, May 19, Sunday, 2:00 pm, Farmdale Reservoir, East Peoria](#)

Farmdale Reservoir is a terrific area to walk or mountain bike. The terrain is rolling with a few steep hills and creek crossings. Barring mud, our hike will cover about 4 miles on reservoir roads and paths and be a new trail combination for the club. There are no shorter options. Wear hiking boots, bring trekking pole(s), and carry water. Wearing shorts is iffy. Dogs are okay on leashes. Outdoor restrooms should be near the beginning/end. Drive there directly and park at the main lot on Bittersweet Rd. To get to Farmdale: 1) From RTE 8 in Sunnyland, turn south onto Summit, which becomes Bittersweet Rd. OR 2) From RTE 8 in East Peoria, turn onto Farmdale, turn onto Bittersweet Rd. Optionally afterward, we may eat dinner together at Jason's Deli in the East Peoria levee district.

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

[2019-09, May 29, Wednesday, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, Forest Park Nature Center](#)

We are trying something a little different with this hike in that we will join Forest Park Nature Center on their Spring Twilight Hike. This is a beautiful evening hike led by one of the Nature Center's professional staff. Free to Nature Center members, they ask for a donation of \$1.00 for nonmembers. We will meet in the Nature Center building and will leave promptly at 7:00 PM, so **don't be late!! Feel free to call, text or email with any questions.**

Contact person: Bonnie Jackson, 309-696-1955, email: bon1jon2@yahoo.com

[2019-09, June 1, Saturday, carpool 8:30 am \(Cracker Barrel in Morton\), Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet](#)

A new place for the club to hike is Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve just off Interstate 74 at Mahomet west of Champaign. The hike is in two sections: the first is about 2.5+ miles of grassy and dirt trails through prairie and some woods, while the second is also around 2.5 miles of grass and pavement in a conventional park setting which includes a lake and crossing several magnificent bridges. The terrain is a little rolling on both, and the first section can be muddy. Both sections are sunny. For carpooling, meet at the Cracker Barrel back parking lot in Morton at 8:30 am. Plan to start hiking by 10:00. If you drive on your own, contact the hike leader beforehand. Wear hiking boots for the first section; you may switch to canvas shoes for the second section. Shorts are fine. Bring trekking poles especially if recent rains occurred. Carry water. Dogs on leashes are welcome. Indoor bathrooms are available at the beginning/end and halfway thru the hike.

Directions: take I74 east to exit 172 at Mahomet. Turn left (north) onto RTE 47. At ½ mile, turn left into a small parking area that has one restroom building. This is our starting point. Optionally afterward, we will lunch in Mahomet at JT Walkers or the Hen House. The return to Cracker Barrel is approximately 2:15 for those not staying for lunch, 3:45 for those eating lunch. There is also a free prairie museum tour on the grounds after 1:00 PM that we may consider, which would further delay return.

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

[Wednesday June 12, 2:00 PM, Board Meeting, Jackson's Home](#)

Come share your ideas about hiking locations, social and service events, and club business. Volunteer to lead a hike or be on the Board. Our event schedule for July, August & September will be created at this meeting. If you are unable to attend, pass your ideas on to a board member before the meeting.

Leader: Dave Grebner; 309-222-7941

[2019-10, Sunday, June 23, 2019, 2 pm, Black Partridge Park, Metamora](#)

Hi All! It's hike time again. Black Partridge Park offers some excellent hiking on forested trails and rolling hills. Mountain bikers designed the trails and share them with hikers. We will plan to hike for about 2 hours. There are several options available. Wear hiking boots and be prepared with drinking water and insect spray. Porta-potties are located across the field from the trailhead. Group consensus will determine where we might stop for refreshment after the hike; possibly Germantown Grille.

Directions: Driving east on 116 as you enter Metamora you will pass Contact Industries (steel culverts) on the left. Take the next left on Susan Ln. then another left on Progress St. Take a right on Coal Bank Rd. and look for the park entrance on your left. Drive back past the Lee log cabin to park near the trailhead.

Hike Leader: Les Hensley; 309 360-0743; les_hensley@yahoo.com

EVENT REPORTS

[2019-1, Saturday, Jan. 19, Eagle Days @ Starved Rock](#)

Cancelled due to bad weather.

[2019-2, Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019, 2:00 PM, E. Peoria River Trail](#)

The weather was cold and the trail snow-covered in spots, but eight people and at least one dog showed up for a brisk hike. We hiked for about 90 minutes while enjoying the winter scenery and engaging in great conversation, then returned to our homes to reward ourselves with some hot tea and cocoa.

Hike Leader: Dave Grebner

Hiking Members: Eric Hutchison, John Jackson, Connie Tumminelli, Carol Haines, Dave Grebner, Cherie Shull, Andy Shull.

Hiking Guests: Sandy McDermott

Hiking Dogs: Scooby (Dave Grebner), don't recall any others.

[Annual Meeting, Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019, 5:30 PM, Lariat Club Restaurant, Peoria, IL](#)

Our annual meeting was held in the evening of February 16 at The Lariat Club Restaurant. Our speaker, Preska Lauber, gave a wonderful presentation of her hikes at Yosemite National Park and King Park. We gave out Dusty Boots awards for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place. (The Dusty Boot award is given each year to individuals who attend the most hikes.) We also elected officers for the following Board positions: President, Dave Grebner; vice President, Bonnie Jackson; Secretary, Angie Madison; Treasurer, Carol Raines. John Jackson will continue to serve as Webmaster.

[2019-03, March 10, Sunday, 2:00 PM, Rock Island Trail Greenway, Peoria](#)

We met behind Bushwackers in Junction City and walked the Rock Island Greenway Trail SE to Bishop Ave and returned—about 4 miles in 2 hours. Weather was reasonably comfortable relative to the cold winter we've experienced. Most hikers dined at Brasky's afterwards.

Hiking Members: Eric Hutchison, Judy Bartow, Roger John, John Jackson, Andy Shull, Joyce Gegel, and Jerry Gegel

Hike Leader: Jay Meinrich

Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 2:00 PM, Board Meeting

Minutes from last December's Board Meeting were accepted. The Lariat Club, the 2019 Annual meeting location, did not get good reviews from the Board. Other possible locations for next year's meeting were discussed. Bonnie will look into the Fellowship Hall at her church as a possible location for next year's annual meeting. This would be a potluck dinner. Other options suggested included Avanti's and One World Café. The Board agreed to a limit of \$100 for payment for a room at a restaurant. Next year's Annual Meeting will be Saturday, February 22, 2020. For the next Board meeting, Board members should come prepared to discuss ideas for donations to organization's that support Trails. There was discussion of possibly offering a Road Scholar trip sometime next year. Bonnie will research this option. The next Pimiteoui Board meeting will be on Wednesday, June 12th at 2:00 PM at John & Bonnie Jackson's home.

Attendees: John & Bonnie Jackson, Jerry Gegel, Jay Meinrich, Rob Alexander, Mike Bohn, and Dave Grebner

2019-04, March 27, Wednesday, 5:00 p.m., Grandview Drive, Peoria

Everyone seemed ready to get outside, and accordingly some hiking club members enjoyed a good day to descend and ascend Grandview Dr. Most of us walked from Tower Park to Grandview Park and back—a distance of four miles. Afterward, some ate together at Oliver's in Peoria Heights.

Hiking Members: John Jackson, Dave Grebner, Scooby Grebner, Rob Alexander, Eric Hutchinson, Kathy Jones, Cherie Shull, Andy Shull, Donna Ward

Hiking Dogs: Scooby (Dave)

Hike Leader: Jay Meinrich