



Trail Crew Association Update

Updates for alumni and current crew.

March 2018

AMC TC Centennial Celebration Update



Greetings to all TC alum and current crew!

The 100th anniversary of the founding of the AMC Trail Crew is just around the corner - **August 23-25, 2019**. You, your spouse or significant other and children are invited. **We hope you mark your calendars and reserve the weekend to gather with your former crew mates to celebrate this occasion!** There will be an agenda of activities with ample free time to reminisce with former crew mates or share stories with crews of different years.

A group including - Craig Whiton (1968-71), Rachel Wheeler (1992-95, First Woman Trail Master, '95), Lee Burnett (1972-75), Peter S. Jensen (1976-79, Trail Master '79), Bob White (1975-77, Shelter Coordinator 1978), Bruce Davis (1971-74, Cabin & guitar builder 1975-76), Barbara Whiton (Publisher, Chips & Clippings, Association Board Communications Director), 'Bobe Watson', also know as Bob Proudman (undercover trail agent of the TFC, 1965-68, Trail Master 1968, later Trails Supervisor AMC in 1971-79), and me are actively planning the weekend's activities. In the time ahead, this newsletter will keep you abreast of how the Centennial celebration is shaping up. Below is a list of activities being planned.

- **100th Anniversary Celebration Memorial Building Projects:** There are 3 projects to be based at Camp Dodge, soon to be the new home of the AMC Trail Crew (patio, firepit and sitting wall at the new Hutton Lodge; CCC era chimney and fireplace at the pavilion; and history tablets telling the story of trail construction in the White Mountains). These are currently awaiting approval from the AMC and the Forest Service.
- **Fundraising for the Memorial Building Projects** (awaiting approval for the 3 projects before we start the campaign): A pamphlet is being designed with pictures and drawings of these projects to share with you. We have included the Memorial building projects in the 100th anniversary celebration because it offers the TCA an opportunity to

support the current crew in their move to Camp Dodge, and it allows TCA to support trail work in general by enhancing the educational setting at Camp Dodge. Our contribution to these projects will create a lasting legacy of support for trails in the White Mountains and beyond.

- **Events:** Includes:
 - TC Olympics;
 - Mark Dannenhauer film on TC with interviews of Al Thorndike and others (see *The Making of a Film* below);
 - Slide show of Shelburne Cabin construction and recent renovations; field trip to Shelburne Cabin for those who have never seen it or want to visit. You will recall the January enewsletter talked about the cabin. If you missed it, [click here](#) to learn more about the plan. Again, feel free to be in touch with Bruce Davis (1971-74; cabin builder 1975) with ideas or if you want to join the Facility Committee - bruce.davis21@yahoo.com - Phone 207.756.0185.
 - And more... If you have other ideas to add to this category, please let us know.
- **Commemorative Products:** There will be hats and T-shirts displaying a Centennial logo (still being designed) available for purchase. We also would like to publish a Yearbook and book of Centennial weekend photographs. Whether they can attend or not, you will have the opportunity to order these items. Once we have the logo we'll share it with you. We need volunteers to lead the Commemorative Products "section" and others to lead the Yearbook idea and the Centennial photos book projects. Are you interested?
- **Publications and TC History Projects:** We are planning a writing piece for *Appalachia* (scope of piece still under discussion with the editor of *Appalachia*-are you interested in contributing?). Perhaps there are stories you'd like to write for the Centennial. Let us know. We are also looking for you to plan your own writing project. Have you been waiting for a deadline or motivation to record your trail crew experience? I have always wanted to capture in writing the experience that Trail Crew gave me, but have put it off. The coming Centennial offers the perfect opportunity/deadline to reflect on my own experience. You can too! But where to start? There are so many interesting stories to tell, but I will think about the essence of the gift of the experience of trail crew. What did it give me that I've carried throughout my life? How about you? Can you do it in a page? Our desire is to collect the writings and, if you agree, make them available in one of our projects. Are you interested?
- **Outreach and Communication:** One of the biggest challenges for the Centennial Planning group is being able to reach all lost alum. Our database of contact information is incomplete. We are actively working to fill in the gaps, but you can help us out. If you know of any alum that are not receiving communications from the TCA, but would like to, please let us know.

We need volunteers! If you are interested in helping to organize... or if you have creative ideas for marking this event-please contact me at bruce.jacobson.42@gmail.com.

We'd like to hear from you.

Best,
 Jake (Bruce Jacobson)
 TC 1975-77, TM 1977, Virgin Island Service Trip 1986

My First Black Bear Sighting...

Whenever we were headed from Hutton Lodge in Whitefield to the Northern Peaks, Pinkham, the Carters, the Mahoosucs, or the Baldfaces, (or return), we always used the same route. From Whitefield, we drove eastward on Rte. 116 to Turnpike Road (gravel) to Rte. 116A. At the junction of Valley Road (gravel), our route took us along that road (some pavement) to Rte. 2 in Randolph. Using Rte. 2, we continued to our destination.

On July 27, 1957, Warren Lightfoot, Tom Lisco (I think), and I left Whitefield in the 1947 Willys Jeep headed for the Success Pond Road and the start of the Notch Trail (which leads up to the Mahoosuc Trail). Warren was driving, I was in the passenger seat, and Tom was in the back with three backboards, tools, and umpteen beer boxes full of food, the pot kit, and our personals. Also stuffed in the back of the Jeep were our sleeping bags and a tent. (Tom, if you read this, please let me know if you were on this trip.) As you may remember, doors made of canvas stretched on a steel frame were supplied with the purchase of a Jeep. However, we never used the doors...they were stored somewhere in the barn at Hutton Lodge.

The Valley Road is about one and one-half cars wide. When two vehicles met, they both needed to slow way down and crawl past each other. As we were cruising along the gravel section, we spied a black bear standing in the road, about 100 feet ahead of us. Warren slowed us down to about 10 miles per hour.

The bear was still occupying the center of the road. Warren, being the driver, decided to veer over to the left side of the road. This would place him on the side away from the bear, and it put me next to the bear, if the bear stayed in the middle of the road. At that moment, I wished that we had a passenger door on the old Jeep.



When the Jeep was about 30 feet from the bear, the old brute decided to move a little to the right, and we squeezed by safely with the bear about 10 feet from me. I am sure that we laughed and howled about that incident for the next mile or two. Likely, Warren had some comment about it being perfectly sensible to have a Donkey Killer next to a bear.

My first time seeing a black bear is firmly and vividly imprinted in my brain.

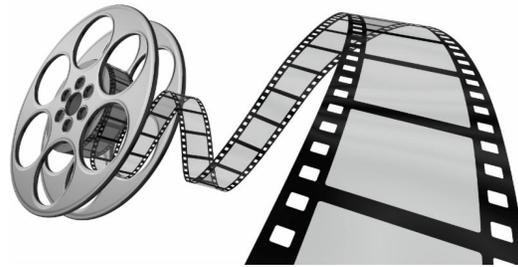
Carry on and Foo,
 Moses the Donkey Killer
 (Ben English)
 Trail Crew 1956-58

The Making of a Film...

for the Centennial of the AMC Trail Crew: 1919 to 2019

The Beginning

This film started with casual conversation among alums at the 2014 Reunion. The Club had a series of videos with hut crews. Some alums thought there should be videos of the Crew. Then someone mentioned that way out in 2019, it'd be the Centennial year. So the film idea moved quickly from short videos about current crew to a longer piece on the history and current practices of the Crew.

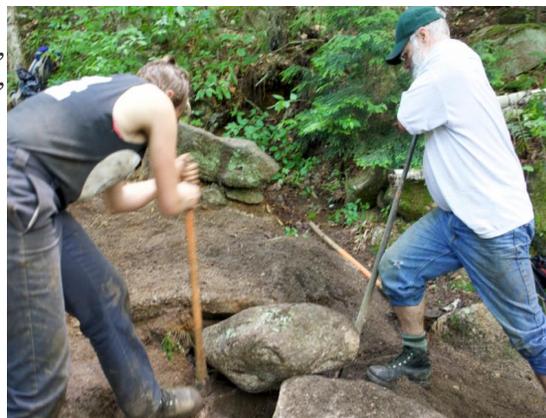


I'd been doing oral histories with photography and audio recordings for a while. Someone mentioned that there were newfangled devices that recorded the image and the sound together, and moving pictures to boot. Gee, I said, maybe I should make a movie.

The Middle, so far

Since the summer of 2015 I've been working on a film for the 2019 Centennial. Each summer I've shot a little more, hopefully a little better. My basic idea is to tell a story of the Crew as much as possible in the Crew's own words.

- I've filmed more than 30 alum interviews, from Ted Brown of the 40s to the present, plus all of the last 3 summer Crew members. Some have been on the site of past trail work, many others have been off-trail.
- I've filmed the Crew and/or alums at work on Crawford Path, Twinway, and Centennial, Notch, Sabbaday Brook, Eisenhower Loop, and 19 Mile Brook Trails.
- I filmed some trails that people mentioned in their interviews: Garfield and Garfield Cut off, Fishin Jimmy, Edmands Path, Greenleaf, Old Bridle Path, Jackson part of Webster/Jackson.
- Recent summer crews have taken great footage of the Crew in action. Although they're usually going too fast to shoot very much, it's been great stuff.
- Smokey and Tyla offered research from their must-read Trail Crew book, *One Hundred Summers* (order at <http://www.hosacfarm.com/one-hundred-summers-1/>) That research included recordings from the 75th Reunion in 1994.
- Stretch Hayes and Bob Watts compiled a set of Crew-related *Appalachia* articles. Bob compiled an archive of historic photos.
- I've been using my own cameras, audio gear and computer gear. Buying multiple hard drives to store and archive footage. I bought a GoPro 5 and an Olympus TG-5, both action cams, for the Crew to use.
- I showed working cuts at each of the last three Bashes and the last two November Reunions. If you want to see these cuts, the best hosting option I currently have is Dropbox. To see them, please contact me so that I can send you a Dropbox notification.



The Middle, to come in summer 2018



I want to shoot more in the summer of 2018, last chance before the Centennial Year.

Hopefully, some Crew members will be billing to take more great 'Crew In Action' footage. I'd like to do more alum interview, preferably on the sites of related past work.

And, I hope to get out to more sites tat people reference in interviews.

I'll be around the Whites from May to September, though I live in Shutesbury, Mass. **Let me know if you're interested in sharing your experiences and we can figure out when and where to get together.**

NEW! If any of you TCA members want to shoot your own interviews at your own sites or if you have Crew stories, photos, or film footage to share, I've created a TCA gallery on my web site. Here's how to use it:

- Type or copy this link into your browser:
<https://ninots.smugmug.com/upload/xPLx8K/TCAupload>
- If you get stopped by the need for a password, try 'foo' (without the quotations).

You should be able to upload HD video up to 20 minutes in length and 3GB in size.

If you do your own interviews, please answer these standard questions:

- With whom are we speaking
- When were you on crew and what special jobs did you do
- What's your favorite trail tool and describe a great example of its use
- What do you find significant about crew

Then, feel free to add your own two cents. Details and specifics are great. Keep in mind that the footage may be used in a movie for the general public. Some exploits are best left to be the stuff of legends around a campfire.



End of Year 2017

You should be able to upload photos too. Please take the time to enter relevant info in the Title and Caption areas. While boring to do, having info about who, what, when, where, why, and how can be really helpful to future viewers.

The End

The end result of all this should be a film for the Centennial in 2019. I'm hoping it will be finished early in 2019 so that it can be used throughout the year. I aim to show a next to final cut at the Reunion in 2018 so that I can get feedback before doing the final cut. And, then in spring of 2019, I hope there'll be a full-length movie suitable for big screen, broadcast, or small group and home showing. Early feedback fro TCA folks and the general public about my early cuts have been quite positive, or too polite to say anything to the contrary.

Assuming the final cut to be worthwhile:

- **Would you be willing to host a screening for a small group in your house or for a small group in your neighborhood?** The screening could be with or without the filmmaker (extra cost).
- **Would you be willing to organize a screening at your local movie house?** New online organizations such as Tugg make this possible. But I'd need local folks to do local leg work. See <http://resources.tugg.com/faq/>

- **Do you have connections to media outlets - public tv stations or networks, to film festivals, other outlets - that you'd be willing to share?**
- **Can you think of other ways to distribute the film?**
- **Would you sit through a feature-length film at the upcoming centennial Days Celebration in August 2019?**

Films can be compared to climbing. Hollywood feature films can be compared to old school expeditions: lots of people, lots of hierarchy, lots of money. Indie films can be compared to alpine climbs by small, self-contained teams: many fewer people, much less hierarchy, much less money. Then there are solo climbs, ranging from your local boulder to Goran Kropp taking on Everest. At this point this film is a mostly solo project bigger than a boulder, smaller than Everest. I may have to take on additional crew in post-production. But the digital film world is evolving so quickly that more and more aspects of finishing a film can be done in a home studio. It's just not guaranteed those tasks will be done as proficiently as by specialists.

I've been doing the work to date on my own dime. I'm running out of dimes. So here's a survey to help me figure out my fundraising approach: **If people were inclined to donate to this film, would they prefer to donate to-**

- A tax deductible umbrella organization like the Independent Film Project's fiscal sponsorship, <http://www.ifp.org/programs/fiscal-sponsorship/#.Wr2RYHeZNSM>,
- A hosted fund-raising site like Indiegogo which would not be tax deductible, or
- Just send a check to my business entity Onalotamedia, LLC, 16 Wilson Road, Shutesbury, MA 01072

Thanks for reading,

-Mark Dannenhauer, Onalotamedia LLC
Trail Crew 1966-1969
Home phone 413-259-1096
Cell, text or voice mail 617-939-1925
Email: ninots@crocker.com
Web site: ninots.smugmug.com

**Annual Reunion -
Mark your Calendar!
Saturday, November 12th, 2018**

For reservations a Joe Dodge Lodge:
**Call AMC Reservations at
603-466-2727 (Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm)**

Ask to reserve for the Trail Crew
Reunion, Reservation #393326

Rates: \$69/pp (family room, shared bath) or \$60/pp (bunk room, shared bath), includes dinner and breakfast



**Stay connected--If your address or email changes...
please email bhwhiton@maine.rr.com**



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