



Trail Crew Association Update

Updates for alumni and current crew.

November 2015

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What Ho and Foo !

Those calls echo through the great White Hills yet again early this November with a well attended Trail Crew Reunion at Pinkham Notch Camp (11/7) with alumni/ae from the 1950's, 60's, 70's and forward to current Trail Crew. Also,

- presentation of the Golden Ax Award
- a slide show presentation about exploring remote Labrador by TFC canoeists, the Voyageurs
- report from AMC on a new potential TC quarters at Camp Dodge, and
- a concurrent major reroofing project at the Shelburne Cabin.

Your Board met behind the scenes as well for its annual face to face meeting.

In other cabin news, John Lamanna (603) 662-4357 was appointed Shelburne Caretaker by TFA president Craig Whiton. Please take care of our cabin, leave it BETTER than it was found, and let John know when you're up north or at the cabin!

In 2016, we hope to write you at least quarterly with this kind of newsletter,

Signed, with a hearty What Ho, and Foo,

-Your Trail Crew Association Board

Craig Whiton, President; Peter Jensen, Treasurer; Bob Proudman, Secretary; Trailmasters *ex officio* Switchback (Ashlie Fife), Romney (Daniel Shay) and

Trail Supervisor *ex officio* Zack Urgese; Tom Woods, Bob Watts, John Lamanna, and Don Stevens.

Trail Crew Reunion and Golden Axe

Trail Crews visited for Happy Hour at the Joe Dodge Lodge. Then they enjoyed a ham dinner in the Trading Post. Afterwards, TC Association History & Archives Chair Bob Watts shared Sherman Adam's stories from letters to his mom almost 100 years ago, in 1919 and 20, when times were so different, but that's when the spirit of the Trail Crew-walking far and wide across our great White Mountains, and building the arteries and sinews of AMC's ridge-top trail system-was born.

After Watts spoke, Andrew Norkin, AMC Director of Trails and Recreation Management, presented the second ever Golden Ax Award to three of Sherman Adam's grandchildren.



Shown (L to R): 1919 AMC Trailmaster Sherman Adams' grandchildren Tom Freese, Karen Martel and Jonathan Adams, incoming 1016 Trailmaster Switchback (aka Ashley Fife), and outgoing 2015 Trailmaster Romney (aka Daniel Shay), first Golden Ax Award recipient J. Joe May, Archives and History Chair Bob Watts, and AMC Trails Director Andrew Norkin.

You have to realize that the Golden Ax Award, while new in AMC annals, may become quite rare, sort of like sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church, or return of the 17-year locust. Recall also that Joe and Sally May-Trail Crew Supervisor and cook, mom and nurse from 1961-71 (respectively) -were the first recipients in 2014.

Annual Meeting

After a briefing by Andrew Norkin on the development and progress of the new AMC Trail Crew quarters to Camp Dodge a few miles north of Wildcat Mountain on Rt. 16, Lee Burnett and the 70's Voyageurs made a presentation with beautiful slide show from their week by canoe in Labrador in the Northern Latitudes, so remote they were flown in by seaplane.



Voyageurs celebrate with cookies. (L to R) Marc Lacroix, Bruce Davis, Lee Burnett and Jon Vara. Dog's name is Lucy. Photo by David Bayne.

Mark Dannenhauer described his projected **feature-length film for the Crew's centennial in 2019**. If you have ideas for the film, please contact Mark at ninots@crocker.com. Though not ready for public distribution, see his tryout film here: <https://vimeo.com/146147880> (password = foo).

See Mark's images of recent TC interviews here: <https://ninots.smugmug.com/Events/Trail-Crew-2015>. Again, to download images, password is the usual Foo.

Cabin Repairs



Bruce Davis, the cabin's original master builder 1975-76, had told the association earlier this year that repair and reroofing of the cabin are a **MUST DO** to stem a major leak and repair a soft spot in the porch roof! Years of melting water had refrozen

over the too shallow-angled porch leading to ice-cycle formation on the porch that actually blocks entry in mid-winter! Chopping ice to get home at 0° F is *not* fun.

The Fall Crew and Craig Whiton packed-in 24 bundles of shingles, nails, lumber and ice & water shield delivered by White Mountain Lumber Co. After evaluation, Bruce tore out the damaged rafters and the crew humped in a second order of six sheets, 3/4" PT plywood and nine 2 x 6 rafters.

Special thanks to Romney, Molly, and Ethan on the Fall Crew; and 1970's crew members Bruce Davis, Mark "Bones" Bromley, Marc Lacroix and Jon Vara who did the roofing with Jim "Riley" Ludwig (1966-67) providing ground support. Three major donors contributed to what now totals about \$1,800 in materials cost. Three donors contributed; the association's share is \$375 so far. **To contribute, send a check to TCA, PO Box 101, Gorham, NH 03581. Or pay on-line at: <http://www.amctca.com/DuesDonations.html>**

More than half the roof is now done, and the crew will gather again next April or May. Bruce has prepared a list of additional cabin improvements on deck including the concept of LED battery-powered lighting for safety, and to replace the 40 year old gas appliances. If you would like to get involved, to learn roofing and get up north next spring, watch this newsletter for announcements.

TCA Web site - amctca.org!

Be sure to visit the site see interesting new information.

