



Trail Crew Association eNewsletter

Updates for alumni and current crew.

July 2018

Annual Reunion - Mark your calendar! Plan to attend! Saturday, November 10th, 2018

An opportunity to see friends,
reminisce and get caught up on the
latest life adventures!



Following dinner, Bruce Davis will be making a presentation
about the building of the Alumni Trail Crew cabin in Shelburne
(1974-5).

**Call Today to make your dinner/lodging reservations -
Call AMC Reservations at
603-466-2727 (Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm)
Trail Crew Reunion, Group #393326**

For dinner reservations (needed 1 week in advance): \$20/pp

For reservations a Joe Dodge Lodge:

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

For more information, visit the TCA website at:

<http://www.amctca.com/news--information.html>

Breaking Trail

Forgotten stories from the rich history of trail development in the

White Mountains on the eve of AMC Trail Crew's Centennial in 2019.

These stories may become historical scholarship, a web resource, a book, or even part of an interpretive installation at Camp Dodge. The crack team of researchers and writers includes Lee Burnett, Bob Proudman, Bob Watts and Tim Davis, PhD. [This month's installment:](#)

1924 Crew

Work week: Six days

Pay: Starting at \$6/week

Tools: Axes, long-handle clippers, cross-cut saws, scythes, machetes

Typical tasks: Chopping out blow-downs; cutting back brush to a standard trail width

Coveted job: Accompanying older men on a "trail spree," locating and clearing new trail.

Unsung work: "A roll of roofing is about as mean a baby to carry as there is, but each shelter has to be re-roofed every two or three years." - Charles W. Blood (Councillor of Trails 1914-1916 and Old Master)

Daily wear: wool flannel shirt, khaki trousers, hobnail boots, (waist-long oil slicker for rain)

Bug protection: bandanna

Training: "Training was very simple. If we were unskilled as axemen, we soon learned." - Fred Fish (1924)

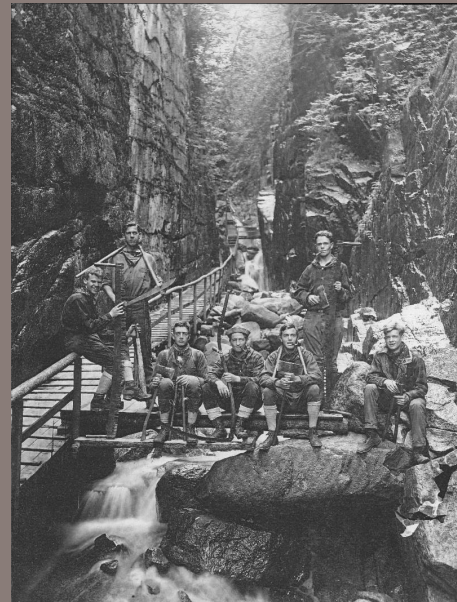
Base of operations: Whitefield, in a third-floor garret of a farmhouse outbuilding

Transportation: The crew's first car - a 1917 Reo - broke down midsummer, so crew went back to relying on hired cars and trains (from Whitefield, rail lines ran east to Gorham, south to the head of Franconia Notch and southwest to Twin Mountain and through Crawford Notch to Jackson.)

How got job: By being a family friend of a trail committee member

Off-season: College (Harvard, Dartmouth, Wesleyan)

Story behind the photo: As the crew was hiking down Flume Trail at the end of the day, an independent photographer asked to take a photo, "apparently amazed at the number of tools we were carrying through a tourist attraction ... Two weeks later the photo appeared in the roto-gravure section of Boston Herald and NY Herald Tribune." - Bill "Hix" Henrich (1924-1927)



2017 Crew

Work week: Five days

Pay: Starting at \$423/week

Tools: Axes, rock bars, pick mattock, Pulaski, cable rigging, grip hoists

Typical tasks: Building rock steps, replacing wooden drainage systems with rock water bars, building bog bridges. Chopping out blow-downs takes a week at the beginning of summer.

Coveted job: Shelter assembly, carpentry, participating in an airlift, especially

as "top crew"

Unsung work: quarrying rock

Daily wear: T-shirt, Dickie's pants, Limmer boots, hard hat.

Bug protection: none

Training: Usually lasts a week, includes wilderness first-aid, axe care and maintenance, practice in chopping and other tool use.

Base of operations: Pinkham Notch Camp, second-floor bunkhouse on top of garage

Transportation: Crew-cab trucks.

How got job: On-line application, then telephone or in-person interview. Helps to be a hiker or athlete.

Off-season: College

C Trail Crew and Camp Dodge

As Jake mentions in his Celebration Update, the AMC Pro Crew will be moving to Camp Dodge in 2019! Our newest home, and on our 100th birthday!

AMC has been planning this facility upgrade and consolidation of field programs for some years now. The Pro-Crew will join AMC's volunteer trail crews, campsite and shelter caretakers, trail adopters, research scientists, and others of the club's field stewardship and conservation programs, many of which were started by the Pro-crew, next year.

Over the past 99 years, the Trail Crew has had a number of homes, including the first Hutton Lodge in Whitefield, N.H., 1940-71, and the Hutton II at Pinkham (1972-present).



AMC plans to break ground this fall, renovating the main hall, kitchen, and constructing new bunkhouses for volunteers and staff, a training pavilion, a new bathhouse and - for the Pro crew- the new Hutton Lodge facing the

most gorgeous view of the Great Gulf!

-Bob Proudman, TCA President

AMC TC Centennial Celebration Update

August 23-25, 2019



Greetings TC and Caretaker alumni and welcome to the monthly update on the planning for the AMC Trail Crew 100th anniversary celebration. This newsletter will keep you abreast of the developments in the planning for the Centennial and encourage your participation in whatever way or level you choose. Please contact us with any ideas you might have that would enhance the 100th reunion. I will share your ideas (or mine if I don't hear from you) in this newsletter under the heading: Centennial Idea of the Month.

Centennial Idea of the Month: Not all alumni who would like to attend the reunion are able, but maybe they'd like to be there in spirit. How do we make

this happen? If you aren't able to join us, perhaps you could send some pictures (from when you were on TC and now) and a message to share. We'll mount these items on poster board at the reunion for others to enjoy -and thus your presence will be felt. Let me know what you think.

The Centennial offers an opportunity for us as alumni to build on our legacy as leaders and innovators in trail construction and maintenance. This involves sharing our wealth of knowledge, experience and resources to work with the AMC to transform Camp Dodge from a former Civilian Conservation Corps site to a center for education in the techniques of trail design, construction, and history as well as fostering the spirit of engagement and stewardship of trails.

The AMC has received the building permit to begin improving the Camp Dodge site for their trails volunteer program, and to be the new home of the Professional Trail Crew (see above). A new Hutton Lodge will be built, apart from the other structures, and oriented to have a facade of glass facing the Great Gulf. The new Hutton Lodge should be ready for occupancy sometime in 2019. Our vision for participating in the transformation of Camp Dodge begins with funding and managing the construction of a variety of elements that support the current and future TC, and enhance the educational mission of the camp.

We propose:

- Funding the construction of a stone patio and sitting wall located outside the new Hutton, a lovely, outdoor gathering place for the TC on their days off.
- Designing and funding the construction of 5-6 interpretive panels that tell the history of trail construction, and the Trail Crew in the White Mountains. These panels are to be mounted under the pavilion and will offer the public an opportunity to learn the history of trails and trail work in the region, while taking in views of the Great Gulf Wilderness. Lee Burnett and Bob White are heading up this effort. Please contact them if you'd like to help.
- Funding and recreating examples of TC construction techniques through the ages: e.g. split log bog bridges, or the Barney rubble rock staircase. The plan is to engage alumni who had experience with these techniques to reconstruct these elements, and then organize them into a timeline line walking tour. This display will be located between the TC tool shed and the pavilion. Are you interested in participating? Let us know!

We have received approval to fund and manage the construction of these projects and the AMC is thrilled to have our participation. These projects offer an opportunity for us as a community of alumni to give back to the incredible opportunities and life changing experiences that the AMC TC provided us. The TC move to Camp Dodge and the upcoming Centennial are the right moments to make this happen. Our goal is to fully fund and have these enhancements in place by the time of the Centennial celebration (August 23-25, 2019). We will have a brochure with drawings and more detailed descriptions of these projects in the near future for you to appreciate. Bob Proudman is gathering a team of alumni to begin a fundraising campaign for these projects. We hope you'll support them in any way you can.

Best,

Looking for a few good people!

How can you assist with the Centennial Celebration...

We are looking for **Coordinators of...**

- **Gastronomics** - working with AMC, plan food and beverage for the weekend
- **Musical Chairs** - be the logistics king/queen, making sure Camp Dodge is set up with what is needed for a smooth running event
- **Loud Mouths and Snake Oil** - entice speakers and vendors to participate
- **Mattresses and Therma-rests** - make the contacts to secure blocks of rooms or camping space to be sure everyone has a place to stay; these reservations are needed now!
- **Excitement** - reach out to alumni of all generations for maximum participation in this important event

You'll have plenty of support from the Centennial Celebration committee but we need people to take the lead on these items. PLEASE HELP! Contact 'Jake' at bruce.jacobson.42@gmail.com

**Stay connected--If your address or email changes...
please email barbarah.whiton@gmail.com**