



Steps & Scree

E-news from the Trail Crew Association

June 2019

AMC starts new trails fund to solidify funding picture

AMC is excited to announce that as part of AMC's recent Leadership Giving Initiative capital campaign, which concluded on December 31, 2018, AMC created a new Trails Endowment Fund with a remarkable \$900,000 to primarily benefit the Club's trails operations in the White Mountains. Funding for the Pro Crew has historically come mostly from the U.S. Forest Service, however this funding source has become increasingly unpredictable. A portion of the new trails endowment fund will play an important role in helping ensure support is available for AMC to field a pro crew each summer. This fund will be filled over the next few years as pledge payments to the campaign are received. When complete, the Trails Endowment Fund will generate nearly \$40,000 annually to benefit AMC's trails operations. -- Gary Gresh, AMC major gifts officer

Centennial Reunion

[Registration and event details click here](#)

Lodging options

We've gotten a few inquiries about lodging for the Aug 24 reunion. For early birds, a block of 30 rooms has been reserved at [Town & Country Inn and Resort](#) in Gorham, NH for both Friday August 23 and Saturday August 24. Beyond that, you're on your own.

The nearest, least expensive options are:

[Dolly Copp Campground](#) 4.1 miles and [Moose Brook State Park](#) 10.7 miles

East of Gorham on Route 2 are private campgrounds [White Birches Camping Park](#) 9.6 miles and [Timberland Campground](#) 12.6 miles.

South on Route 16 are private campgrounds [Green Meadow Camping Area](#) 14.8 miles and [Glen Ellis Family Campground](#) 15.4 miles

The [AMC's Joe Dodge Lodge](#) is just 3 miles away, but it tends to fill up, so book early. [Hub North](#) 11.1 miles is a low-key off-the-grid glamping option near Moose Brook State Park. If none of these options appeal, Google around for a B & B, Airbnb, hotel or hostel.

[Write a few short sentences here](#) about your post-crew life. Your friends will thank you! In the meantime, read some Centennial news flashes below:

Name: Brooke Farquhar

Name: Seth Green

Current hometown: Clarksville, MD and

Current hometown: San Rafael, CA

Current hometown: Clarksville, MD and Thetford, VT

Years on crew:

Caretaker 1975 - Ethan Pond Summer, Garfield Fall; Volunteer Service Trips Coordinator 1983 Tetons and Wind Rivers, WY, 1984 Wind Rivers and White Mtns, NM, 1985 Kenai Peninsula, AK.

Career: Outdoor Education, Landscape Architecture, Teambuilding and Leadership, Park and Trail Planning



Brooke Farquhar in Norway

How did crew affect your career choice/approach to work?

It helped convince me to spend as much of my life in the outdoors as possible and to find a career that enabled others to do so as well. The last 10 years of my career, as Supervisor of Parks and Trails Planning for M-NCPPC Montgomery County, MD allowed me to combine the love of outdoors with a clear sense of teamwork.

How to you use trails in your life today?

I go hiking and backcountry skiing as much as possible.

How often do you get together with crew friends and what do you do?

Several times a year, adventuring on foot, skis, bikes and boats. Cribbage, although I usually lose.

Most vivid crew memory? Best not to repeat. Goofing around on days off and narrowly avoiding getting in trouble.

What life lessons did you learn from crew? The joy of hard work and the reward of feeling strong, the satisfaction at being part of a focused team, the necessity of levity to get through.

Current hometown: San Rafael, CA
Years on crew: 1993-1994, 2 yrs Vol, 3 yrs TFC, 2 yrs Dodge

Career: Canine care business owner



Seth Green, fiancée Sari and their dog Arlo

How did crew affect your career choice/approach to work?

I worked outside then, I still do now.

How do you use trails in your life today? I utilize trails on public land every day to walk my and other dogs. California's climate doesn't lend itself to needing the extensive regular trail maintenance as in the Whites, but I love to see crews working on the bigger projects. There's some incredible rock work out here.

How often do you get together with crew friends and what do you do?

Although I rarely see TFC friends, Flyboy Dan Sheehan TFC 92-94 (?) visited recently, and I got to meet his wife and 2 awesome kids. I regularly stay in touch with a few of my lifetime best friends from years leading crews at Camp Dodge. We tend to veer into the Sierra high country for fast-packing and fishing adventures.

Most vivid crew memory?

I remember bonking --or nearly so-- under my first packboard load. As a first year I remember feeling absolutely and utterly alone, pressured into a semi-fraternal fold while doing my best to just survive. Honestly the hazing (forced feeding was the least of it) left its mark and I try my best to lead crews without this kind of BS needed by some to bring a crew together. I remember huge projects undertaken and completed within one crew week. I remember getting caught making out with my hut croo gf deep in the Madison Gulf by Salz, Carl, and Cunga TOGETHER. When I focus on memories of TFC summers the more I recall how much we DID rather than however much I missed out on doing.

What life lessons did you learn from crew? You can be great friends with persons who, without context, you might be there opposite. Thus it's worth it to establish context. And build from there.

Before crew

The interconnected White Mountain trail system that we know today did not exist before 1930. Beginning about 1910, four men led a 20-year trail cutting blitz to stitch together many local trail clusters into a single unified system. In their other lives, the men were all coat-and-tie professionals, but in the Whites, they were revered as The Old Masters: Paul Jenks, Charles Blood, Nate Goodrich and Karl Harrington.

(The text and photos below are drawn from the White Mountain trail building history exhibit to be permanently installed at Camp Dodge. A mock up of the exhibit will be ready for display at Centennial Reunion Aug 24.)



Old Masters as young men In 1906, Paul Jenks, George Blaney, Charles Blood, Albert Kent and Nate Goodrich pose for a photo near the base of Mount Carrigain. Jenks and Goodrich were instrumental in hiring the first paid AMC trail crew in 1919, which was drawn from students at Flushing NY High School, where Jenks was a Latin teacher, and Dartmouth College, where Goodrich was librarian.



Riding the rails Before 1923, trail crew traveled to work by rail. Sometimes it was scheduled train service and sometimes it was by pumping a hand car, as pictured above. The only identified person in this photo is Dana Backus, on right, who was on trail crew in 1923, 1924 and 1926.



Rocking a tank top, Pete Maker hefts his ax while cutting Dream Lake Trail in 1926. The primary task of early trail crews was keeping trails cleared of brush and blowdowns. It was a high honor to be invited by an Old Master to accompany them on a trail cutting expedition, known as a "trail spree."

How are your tech skills? Are you handy with editing, web development or data base management? Apply here

for a trail cutting crew

for a top-tier volunteer role.

**And meanwhile, stay connected--If your address or email
changes...**

please email leeburnett_maine@hotmail.com