



Trail Crew Alumni Association Update

Updates for alumni and current crew.

November/December 2016

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Jack Hutton

Reunion Recap...

Golden Axe Award. On November 12, 2016, the third Golden Axe Award was presented posthumously to Lt. John Hutton of the AMC Trail Crew (1933-36, Trail Master and Supervisor 1937, and occasionally until 1943). "Jack" was that TC titan for which Trail Crew's headquarters in Whitefield (1940-1971), at Pinkham Notch Camp (1971-2017), and we presume- at Camp Dodge (2017-Second Century) have been named.

Jack Hutton died at the Battle of Iwo Jima on Feb. 21, 1945 at 29 years old leading a Marine platoon of seventy-two men. His first Trail Master Austin C. Chase in *Appalachia* wrote this obituary in 1945 that concludes by saying "Those of us who ever worked, packed, and camped with Jack in rough country and in fair or foul weather can well believe a superior officer's testimony that he was a good leader and well-liked by his men."

On what may have been Jack's last trip in the White Mountains in 1943, he trained a sub-draft age trail crew in trail work that worked through most of WWII. This crew included Ted Brown, who graciously received the Golden Axe Award in Jack's behalf as one of two known survivors from that era in front of his home in Jackson, N.H. earlier that Saturday morning. At dinner that evening at Pinkham, incoming Trail Master Archie Kilburn accepted the award from History & Archives Chair Robert Watts in behalf of a



Sam Kilburn, TM
2017, accepting
Golden Axe Award
from Bob Watts



Golden Axe Award that
hangs in Pinkham Base
Camp

grateful association. The Golden Axe Award Plaque hangs in the Teepee building at Pinkham.

Men of Trail: Before dinner that evening, Judith Felsen, Ph.D., presented this poem to the assembled Trail Crew Alums and guests gathered for supper at Pinkham Notch Camp.

*There is a strength behind the men who make the trail
that is composed of more than brawn and brain.
It is a mighty synthesis of deep connection with these hills
and passion for the misery of grueling toil,
enmeshed with deepened satisfaction for a job well done.
A hiker's eye perceives a path in wooded lands,
the men of trail look on a piece of engineering left in nature.
Good company and well-constructed strategies ensure that
by the dimming of day's light
a section of the wild will be surely tamed.
We welcome you, o men of trail, to celebrate
another year of work and memories recounting
trails now gone and since returned to wilderness,
trails that now remain and trails of futures yet to be
presenting footprints for cartographers to draw
and many grateful trekkers to enjoy.*

Thank you Men of Trail.

(Note: The Trail Crew has been co-ed since 1977.)

Board Meeting: Your board met that afternoon, and tackled a full agenda of items including **finances***, Pro Crew move to Camp Dodge, history and archives updates, 2017 crew hiring, Shelburne Cabin, newsletters, Web site, finding 'lost' members, Golden Axe Award criteria, 100th Anniversary, One Hundred Summers, Mark Dannenhauer's film and more.

**More below.*

Annual Meeting: Amid refreshments and November-cooled beverages from the back porch, about 40 members in good standing unanimously elected four new members of your Board:

John "Washburn" Connolly
2014-2016

Mark Dannenhauer
1966-1969

Bruce "Jake" Jacobson
1974-1977

Rachel "Trail Mama" Wheeler
1991-1995

The board now totals 11 members.

Bobe

--Robert Proudman, TCA Secretary
1965-68, Trail Supervisor 1971-79

Treasurer's Report

Greetings to all TCA alumni!

This is my annual note to all of you regarding the financial health of the Trail Crew Association. As you are aware, the association board meets on a quarterly basis and as needed in the event of additional board tasks. As your treasurer I need to make sure that the funds that you send in as dues or donations get accounted for. Here are some general trends (I should note that I am comparing the calendar years 2015 and 2016 to date):

Income

Our Income went up this year with the majority of the change in life members. We had 5 new life members this year versus 2 in 2015. What does the association do with those dues? They get deposited in our savings account as a reserve. We do not want to spend all those funds in one year. In theory, we should be amortizing those life member dues over 10 years. We have not gotten to that point yet (we need more regular membership dues income!) but hope to get there in a few years. We also saw a slight increase in regular membership dues this year over 2015 - this is a good sign. There has also been an increase in the general contributions to the association - those of you who send in \$50 as your dues payment get accounted with \$15 going to the general contributions category and \$35 to your membership dues. The dues paying members are, in general, paying more than the \$35 membership. Thank you to all who are contributing more!

So in total, our income in 2016 is \$5,408. We can increase our income if when you pay your dues, make an additional donation, or pay dues for someone else during your crew years (yes, this has happened!). **Funds can be sent to me at PO Box 100, Washington, VT 05675.** We have set this PO Box up so that I can efficiently get your dues into our bank account in Berlin, NH. As an alternative, you can pay online through our website via paypal (they take a small bite out of the total).

Expenses

On the expense side we have three main categories of expense: General operations, Chips and Clippings, and Shelburne Lodge. General operations for 2016 includes association registration fee (State of NH), PO Box rentals (our main address in Gorham, NH and our VT address (dues)), TCA support of the AMC trail crew, paypal fees, and the cost of the website. In 2016 our total General operations expenses is \$1,790.60. The website was the most expensive (\$1,257.88) due to a change in site hosting and web design. The board decided to take this expense this year (and there were several donations to support this from board members) so that the cost will be significantly lower next year.

The production and mailing of Chips and Clippings has not changed much from last year (\$640). At this time I have yet to receive the bill for the printing of Chips. Shelburne Lodge expenses are holding steady at about \$2,600 per year average over the past several years. Of note here is roof maintenance that has occurred the past 2 years. We have also received several specific donations toward cabin maintenance which is much appreciated.

Bottom Line

To date, we have a modest gain of \$760 for this year but this helps offset the larger \$3,500 deficit from last year.

So where do we go from here?

Our strength is in our membership - all our funds come from you. We need more alumni to join in to pay their dues every January so that we can continue to exist, at a minimum, and improve our output. I thoroughly enjoyed this year's Chips and Clippings as I believe it is the

best one that we have produced in many years. Member engagement is one reason that it was so well done - the content!

We have a pool of 344 known alumni on our Chips & Clippings list, yet this year we had only 36 alumni who paid dues, slightly more than 10-percent! We also had 4 alumni join as life members. Our budget on average over the past several years has been about \$5,000. **At \$35/year that means we need 143 members to pay dues or about a four-fold increase in dues payers. Will you be one of the POTENTIAL NEW 107 alumni to join the current 36?**

In 2019 we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of Trail Crew. It will be a great time to celebrate and the board has begun working on this event. We will need financial assistance to make this a celebration to remember - You can be a part of that by joining us at \$35 per year.

Until next year...

Foo,
-Peter Jensen- 1976-1979 TM '79
TCA Treasurer

Annual Reunion 2017 - Mark your Calendar! Saturday, November 11th



Visit TCA Web site - amctca.org!

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

**Please note our new address
P.O. Box 100
Washington, VT 05675
Please pay your dues today!
If you have already sent your dues or paid on-line, Thank you!**



AMC Trail Crew | P.O. Box 100 | Washington | VT | 05675