



Trail Crew Alumni Association Update

Updates for alumni and current crew.

April 2016

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Sally and Joe May



Hutton Lodge
Whitefield, NH - 1942

Hutton Lodge

A New Hampshire State Trooper helping Sally and I gave me an idea.

He heard we were struggling to meet our needs and were new to NH. He told me about the AMC and they hire a lot of people to work for them in many ways. He also found out the fact that we were teachers and had lots of time during the summer, when the AMC needed people. With his help, he arranged to have me meet George Hamilton, manager of the AMC operation. He was great help in having me meet Sam Goodhue, the Councilor of Trails for the Club (1959-1961). I was nervous when I went for an interview. We got the job(s)! Sally and I were thrilled. She would cook for the crew and I would be the Trail Supervisor. We would be working at Hutton Lodge. The term lodge intrigued me and conjured up images of a fireplace, logs, forest, etc.

We went up to Whitefield and asked at the local drugstore, "Where is Hutton Lodge located?" The drugstore owner said, "it's right beside my house." "It's a house. I didn't know it was a Lodge," says 'Hutch.'

We found Hutton Lodge. It was cold and damp, plain and simple. It was no special place at the time, but it became a very special place indeed. As you will read below, we learned about John Hutton and how to work with the crew.

We stayed 10 years. Sally and I had a life changing experience, in this very special place- Hutton Lodge-with a many great and special crews of young men.

--Joe May, Trail
Supervisor
Trail Crew 1961-1971

Hutton Lodge?

We spotted the trail-like sign on the mantel, plain and simple, Hutton Lodge. Who was Hutton? Why did this sign in this house have his name on it? Maybe he was a past Councilor or benefactor, or maybe past trail man?

Hutch, the drugstore owner and neighbor stopped by to welcome us and filled Sally and me in on the story...

John Hutton, a crew member (1933-35), Trail Master (1936) and Supervisor of Trails (1937) years back left to become a Marine, and paid the supreme price young men and women do who lose their lives for our country. 2nd Lt Hutton was killed during World War II at Iwo Jima, February 21, 1945. Coincidentally and surprising to Sally when she heard this was that her sister, a nurse, went into Iwo Jima shortly after the first wave of marines stormed ashore. She was sent in to help with the wounded. The stories she had shared with Sally and me shocked and amazed us.

Now, the mystery of "Hutton Lodge" was solved. I realized then that this place was truly something special and so was John Hutton.

Hutton Lodge in Action

Sally and I moved to Hutton Lodge. We took a room downstairs next to the kitchen and set up housekeeping. Sally with a new baby on her hip and cleaning rags in the other hand. The kitchen was like any kitchen in any house and it would become the hub of activity.

About mid-June, a group of nine young men showed up. Well-dressed, neat and clean, polished behavior and polite. Some new guys and a few experienced guys. Nine guys, all at once, here and hungry.

Then, the reality hit me! I was responsible for the safety, management and well-being for these very special guys.

Well, we all set out to make ready for the groups starting for the woods in a few days. Thank God for the experienced guys! We all went about cleaning the house, the grounds and the barn. Tools prepared and repaired, sharpening axes, food for the woods, food for the lodge, vehicles and many other assorted chores.

The experienced and the beginners all started our plans for the upcoming week. Patrolling, menus, transportation, assigning new members to returning guys and trying to match up good balanced crews. Safety and timing were crucial.

All this time Sally and a few members sat down and planned how they would help her in the kitchen, doing dishes and serving regular meals. We decided to eat all our meals outside on the deck. We ate out there like a regular family. Truly, the food was really great; well prepared, served well and many choices.

Our manner and behavior were great for Sally and the first 'Mayling.'

Sally gave me an assuring look, as if to say, "Everything will be fine for us."

We had many visitors; old crew members, AMC Club Executives, and other dignitaries. No matter who they were, they all ate the same food and sat right alongside the crew. Crew guys and myself were courteous to all visitors (but especially to the mountain people).

Annual Reunion - Mark your Calendar!

Saturday, November 12th

**Attend to hear about planning for
the 100th Anniversary of Trail Crew (2019)!**

Visit the Web site soon for complete information.



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!