



# Chips & Clippings

Dedicated to the activities and history of the AMC Trail Crew

Fall 2015



## Message from the President...

Fresh out of the woods from helping build (or rebuild) a water bar on Centennial Trail, which is part of the AT and an absolute ‘gem’ – carefully laid out (by Trail Master Mark Morrow and Bob Proudman in 1975-76), it was built to last. It’s also the trail Trail Crew Alumni adopted three years ago and is responsible for maintaining.

This, of course, gave me an opportunity to swing my 1969 Snow and Nealley ax, use a grub hoe and roll some pretty big rocks. I’m reporting to you that swinging an axe and making perfect cuts is not like riding a bicycle. The event was complete because I remembered...

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## Secretary’s Report -

The Trail Crew Association met for the TCA Annual Meeting on November 7, 2014 at AMC Pinkham Notch Camp, at which time a quorum was achieved. About twenty-five former and current TFC attended the reunion activities with the highlight of the evening being (drumroll please) **the presentation of the first ever Golden Ax Award to Joe and Sally May.** Joe was in attendance to receive this award.

Joe was the Trails Supervisor for AMC from 1961-1971 the last decade that the Trail Crew was still headquartered in Whitefield; and Sally was the Trail Crew’s cook, counselor, and occasional mom. As a successful teacher and later school principal, Joe’s job as Trail Supervisor was seasonal, during June-August. He was supervised by the AMC’s Councilor of Trails, a volunteer officer on the Club’s Council. As an expert educator, Joe was a motivator who encouraged an age of innovation and trail development that led to tremendous growth in AMC’s Trails Program from the late 60’s to this day. For these reasons, Joe and Sally are the first recipients of this highest honor of the Trail Crew Association.

The TFC members present that November ’14 evening elected Tom Woods as a new member of the Board. With both the current AMC Trail Master and Trails Supervisor serving full capacity, ex officio, the current board is as follows:

- President: Craig Whiton, Portland, ME
- Trail Master 2015: Romney aka Daniel Shay (ex officio)
- Treasurer: Peter S. Jensen, Washington, VT
- Secretary: Bob Proudman, Shelburne, WV
- History & Archives Chair: Bob Watts, Portsmouth, RI
- Shelburne Caretaker: John Lamanna, Glen, NH
- Marc Lacroix, E. Charleston, VT
- Ben Read, Wilson, WY
- Don Stevens, Whittier, AK
- Tom Woods, Jefferson, NH
- Zak Urgese, AMC Trails Supervisor (ex officio)

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## President's Message continued from Page 1

my roll of tape, cherry life savers, a Hershey's bar, and an orange, all skillfully rolled up in my Vermont flannel shirt. I was happy.

Looking forward, I'm happy to say that **Our reunion on November 7<sup>th</sup> is being held at Pinkham Notch** for its sixth year straight. This year, we have several exciting topics to discuss and a host of presenters!

Andrew Norkin, AMC Director of Trails and Recreation Management, will be our keynote speaker, talking about what is known so far about moving the Professional Crew from Pinkham to Camp Dodge. (See Ben Chase's letter later in Chips') There will be a comment, question and answer period. You many have valuable input to this process – please participate.

As Bob reports, last year the "Golden Ax Award" was initiated. This award is presented to an individual(s) who had a profound impact on Trail Crew. The award's first recipients were Joe and Sally May, Supervisor of Trails 1961-1971. Joe will be attending this year's reunion with his children, who were toddlers when Crew lived at Hutton Lodge in Whitefield. They look forward to seeing their pseudo big brothers.



This year's Golden Axe Award will be presented by Andrew Norkin to the heirs of Sherman Adams, who was the very first Trail Crew Trail Master.

The AMC has identified a spot for the official 'Golden Axe' plaque within Pinkham Notch Visitor's Center, to help draw attention to the Professional Trail Crew.

Mark Dannenhauer, Trail Crew 1966-69, will present a 'draft' version of a film he has begun working on, which chronicles the Trail Crew work by decades and will bring you images of 'cutting edge' trail work that you may not be aware of or yet seen. This is not to be missed.

There will be more presenters, information on TCA Board activities and lots to talk – including the planning for our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Dinner and Lodging Reservation information can be found later in Chips'. I look forward to seeing all of you.

-“Foo”

Craig Whiton, Trail Crew 1967,'69-’71

## Secretaries Report continued from Page 1

Bob Proudman then gave a presentation about new trail development in Lake Hovsgol National Park, in north-central Mongolia where he was invited by Bob McIntosh (OH ± 1963-67) to traverse 250 miles of nomadic paths near this almost pristine wilderness lake with interns, guides, translator and ten horses—the 2014 Mongol Crew.

The Board met three times in 2015 by conference call in February, May and August, and will hold another

### \*\*\* NEWS FLASH \*\*\*

**The 2015 Mongol Crew was led by David “Salz” Salisbury** (TFC 1981-84, later AMC Trails Supervisor) As Mongolian Ambassador in 2015, he has just returned from three weeks in the Hovsgol outback. Maybe he can give us a verbal update in November!

meeting this October. Their primary initiatives in 2015 have been:

**Camp Dodge Trail Crew Quarters:** The big news addressed by the board in 2015 was AMC's approaching TCA Board Member Bob Watts regarding its proposal that the Trail Crew move to Camp Dodge, the Forest Service's work camp that has been the location of AMC's volunteer trail crew programs for a number of years. This project is now in planning, and will require a major \$1 million renovation at Camp Dodge. Watts met with AMC last December that led to Watts's drafting a letter-of-concern to AMC regarding the unfortunate “low profile” of the Professional Trail Crew in AMC's hierarchy, as well as its headquarters requirements. More than a dozen past members of the Board and Trail Crew signed onto that letter by Watts to AMC President John Judge, which led to a constructive response in February, and then a face-to-face meeting at the AMC's Joy Street headquarters in May. The TCA Board formed a Camp Dodge Advisory Committee and will continue to monitor the need for stronger AMC support of the Crew, and adequate facilities at Camp Dodge. See 2014 Trail Master Ben “Scrubby” Chase's superb article on the needs of current Crew. AMC Trails Director Andrew Norkin will speak to the Association at the Annual Meeting in November.

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## PAY YOUR DUES TODAY!

Without your dues, we can't fulfill our mission!

One Year Membership .....\$35.00

Life Membership.....\$350.00

Comes with Certificate and TCA baseball hat.

Current Crew and Students...\$25.00

Mail your dues to:

P.O. Box 101  
Gorham, NH 03581

Or pay on-line at:

[www.amctca.com](http://www.amctca.com)

**Strongly consider making a donation too!**

## Treasurer's Report –

This year's Treasurer's report begins on September 1, 2014 and ends on August 31, 2015.

### In this time span we received:

Donations	\$1,430.64
Dues Income	\$1,690.00

Donations were received from 15 members and ranged from \$15 to \$215. \$840 was received from 24 members and \$850 for three life members. Life members now include two from the 1950's, three from the 1960's, five from the 1970's, two from the 1980's, and three from the 1990's. I based the decade on the first year that they were on TFC. We have a total of 15 life members.

Shelburne Lodge Fund: We do not have such a fund yet; however we should set one up to take in monies specifically ear-marked for cabin maintenance.

### As of 9/1/2015 our bank account balances are:

Checking account	\$1,807.57
Savings account	<u>\$5,011.10</u>
	<u>\$6,818.67</u>

Our major expenses during this time frame are:

Shelburne Lodge	\$1,766.00
(Lease, real estate taxes, and insurance)	
Annual Meeting/Reunion	\$98.78
AMC Trail Crew Bash donation	\$400.00
TCA Operations Support	\$1,376.85
(Hats \$729, Website \$539.94, the rest is miscellaneous)	
Chips & Clippings	\$550.80

Of note, in this period we had a deficit of \$1,066.65. **We need to boost income or reduce expenses.** During this financial period we had to transfer \$2,000 from our savings into the checking to cover expenses (life member dues are deposited in the savings as they should be drawn off over a period of years and not considered annual income).

Please let me know if you have any questions.

See you at the reunion!

Peter Jensen – “76 - “79 TM 79  
TCA Treasurer

## Secretaries Report, continued from Page 2

**Golden Ax Award:** The other major work of the Board in 2015 is the adoption of five criteria for guiding the Board's selection of future Golden Ax Award recipients, and the nomination and unanimous support for **Sherman Adams as the second recipient of the Trail Crew Association's Golden Ax Award.**

Sherman Adams was the Trail Crew's **First Trail Master in 1919-20**, a forester and founder of Loon Ski Area, later governor of New Hampshire and following his managing the campaign, President Eisenhower's chief of staff. “Sherm” was an occasional attendee at Trail Crew Reunions in the 1970's decked out in his three-piece suit.

Bob Proudman –  
TCA Secretary  
1965-68 TM, Supervisor of Trails 1971-79  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy 1981-2015, now retired,  
TFC's First “Half-Century Man”

## Trailmaster's Report-

The 2015 season opened up with a new spin on crewleader training, the upper years and a few second years headed up to Gorman Chairback Lodge in Maine for a two day rigging training with Jed Talbot, complements of the new crew working up there. The second years hung around for chainsaw training and the rest of us drove back down to Pinkham to prep for orientation week and the beginning of patrols. This season we took last year's drainage filled schedule to its logical conclusion and cleaned drains on 100% of our patrols, to the delight of all involved parties. Blowdowns ran very heavy in the Mahoosucs with crews staggering in after dark on almost all routes north of the notches and fair to middling elsewhere. Once the major outlying districts were redlined we converged on 'Lakes' for the BPE on a gorgeous Thursday, a fitting end to the bulk of the patrolling season which might have been said to have gone off "without a hitch", as it were, had one crews senior member not blundered clueless into a backcountry medical training session and unwittingly treated the actor for a broken arm. I'm real sorry about that one guys, your competency and professionalism in that situation remain one of my proudest memories of the season. Lingering effects of the 2013 hiring pinch (caused by the crews undue reliance on feral funding) forced my hand in employing second years as crew leaders this season, and they impressed us all starting during patrols with their teamwork and drive.

Woods weeks opened up on Osceola and Champney Falls, with crews setting rock right out of the gate on both projects while the second years and later 'Tod' (aka Six-Four) finished off patrol mop-ups and the Tucks water pump with our new first year, 'Aesop.' After Six-Four established a beachhead in the arctic climes of Osceola, the project was handed over to the second year crew leading team of 'Smathers' and 'Napoleon,' whose effectiveness and creativity proved more than a match for the thick quarrying and frankly horrendous erosion. Meanwhile 'Switchbacks' project on Champney Falls devolved into an infuriating battle of wits with a persistent ursine thief who stole said intrepid crew leaders backpack for personal use, but not before removing the radio, iPhone, wallet and double bitted axe and considerately leaving them in camp. The Hut Traverse was wonderful, 'Uni,' 'Beau' and 'Smathers' put down respectable times while the rest of us succumbed to

injuries, weather, and unsuitably slow paces. Ben English made an appearance out past Zealand Falls with a jug of gatorade and a frighteningly convincing goofer costume.

The frigid Osceola project tied up in time for All Crew Days on Nineteen Mile (with only a few incidents of hypothermia-induced insanity!). Mark Dannenhauer stopped by the trail relocation to conduct some interviews for his film project while the crew ran a highline and hardened tread at the manic pace typical of that lovely tradition. Long Days went off with barely a hitch and some enterprising fools drove to North Carolina and back for some of that southland BBQ in Asheville and a funk show. When the crew returned for the second half of the summer they were delightfully surprised by the return of dark horse Crew Leader candidate 'Stitch,' back for his 8 ½ th season to rescue the Fishin Jimmy project from inexperienced power tool use, any excess mayon-naise and silence in general. The crew packed in all manner of timberworking gear, the generator, rock saw, HILTI rock drill and a comfortable surplus of rock hammers for a bonanza of granite cutting, splitting and setting in the relentless slab and duff of that moist and braided section of the AT known as Squishin' Jimmy. Meanwhile the Crew on Champney Falls continued to hammer their way up the trail setting waterbars and staircases in what seemed to be ever-improving quarry zones with the bear nuisance seemingly thwarted. On Nineteen Mile, 'Tod' moved off the relo and commenced work on some enormous and confusingly planned bridge abutments with his typical highball pace and calm demeanor. The social schedule posted on the back door of Hutton Lodge at this point reached full saturation and the second half of the season found us out at Shelburne, on the seacoast of New Hampshire, at the Oxford County Bluegrass Festival, Madfest, The RMC softball game and typically all together and in high spirits every weekend. We mashed it out to the cabin for Shelburne Work Weekend, loaded the woodshed, patched the roof and prepared that hallowed hall for the Bash in good time, finished off the projects and got the real drudgery of promoting the first years and jamming with the band done in proper TFC style. It bears mentioning that once all four first years received their double bits 'Switchback' took the helm as the 2016 TrailMaster.

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## **Trailmaster Report, continued from page 4**

The crew is in a strong position for next year with her leadership and a good balance of skills across all known aspects of trailwork with strong experience in trail cutting, rigging, rock breaking and of course setting. Up here in the notch 'Goldrush,' 'Supertramp,' me and the usual crowd of randos are settled in for another month or so of Fall Crew, and in Woodchuck the plans are being laid for another successful summer.

Keep in touch and don't be afraid to send a first year our way.

Foo!

Romney, TM 2015

## **Trail Crew Move to Dodge Camp... to create and re-create Trail Crew culture by Ben "Scrubby" Chase**

The following letter was sent to the TCA Board and AMC Executives prior to a meeting held at Joy Street in Boston.

Hello to the TCA and AMC folks,

My name is Ben Chase, or Scrubby if you know me from crew, and I was Trail Master the summer of 2014. Unfortunately, I could not attend the meeting today in person or via phone.

At the 2013 TCA reunion that some attendees here may recall, I gave a presentation on what brings people back to the Professional Trail Crew for two, three, and four years. To give this talk, I asked some members of the then current crew what makes Trail Crew meaningful to them. Everyone's answer boiled down to the same thing, community. No one is here just for the work. It is much too grueling, the living conditions in the woods far too uncomfortable, and the pay too low for it to be the reason to return.

I have a very specific memory from my first year of sitting at the Hutton Lodge kitchen table with several upper-years whose closeness was undeniable, and it was the first moment I started to feel like I was getting close to them too. Like many who find Trail Crew to be a home, I was someone who hadn't really fit in anywhere. As the weeks of my first year went on, I began to realize more and more that these were the people I had been

looking for. People who had been shaped by the Trail Crew into not only great workers, but also into fun, kind, and thoughtful friends.

It is by no accident that so many first years fall in love with the Trail Crew. Going into the 2015 season, it's clear that love is in the air once again. Although now one of them has decided not to return at the last minute, the other eight first year crewmen who finished last summer will be coming back. As their Trail Master, I can only take some credit for this feat of employee retention. But I can say that the other upper-years and I created an intentional living environment, community, and Trail Crew culture this past year, just as the upper-years do every year, in order to provide the most meaningful experience possible to the new crew members. It is only possible to create this incredible experience with our own living and work space.

Therefore, what I am advocating for is separate housing and workshop, or bay, for the Pro Trail Crew. Separate housing will ensure that Trail Crew will be able to intentionally create and re-create the Trail Crew culture that has produced the hardest working and most thoughtful people I have been around in my life. The reason to have a Pro Crew-only shop, should be obvious – it's nice when your tools work and are left in the right spot. Additionally, the Trail Crew bay becomes a place where relationships between crewmembers are formed on an individual basis. The Sundays and late nights spent working on axes and talking with new or old buddies are some of the special times of the TFC. With anyone else in that room, those moments are lost.

It is these moments that are not only beneficial to the crewmembers but also to the Appalachian Mountain Club. Because our Trail Crew culture has the power to make such a physically uncomfortable job so meaningful in so many ways, experienced trail workers come back year after year to work unreasonably hard on trails in the White Mountains. By the time someone is a third or fourth year, they have become a professional not only in spirit, but also in skill. With trail conditions continuously worsening, the AMC needs the best Pro Crew they can hire, which should be easy because the elite force is already there, and will be, as long as its members are able to keep its unique culture that not only teaches new hires the right way to do things but also inspires them to stick around.

## **View from AMC –**

### **We Need Trails – and the Trails Need Us**

**By AMC President John D. Judge**

As printed in *AMC Outdoors*, May/June 2015

It may be hard to imagine using grub hoes, rock bars, and loppers to build and maintain a hiking trail from Boston to Denver, but that distance – about 1800 miles as the crow flies – is equivalent to the number of trail miles AMC volunteers and staff maintain every year.

Think about that: all the way from the Bay State to the edge of the Rockies! I'm not proposing we create another long-distance hiking trail. Our organization's focus is on the Northeast and the Mid-Atlantic regions, after all. I'm just trying out a bigger-than-a breadbox comparison.

Throughout our history, AMC's accomplishments on behalf of the trails we cherish have been impressive. Trail stewardship is in our DNA. Just look at the legacy of such early AMC luminaries as J. Rayner Edmands, whose Edmands Path remains a shining example of exquisite trail construction in the White Mountains. Or the work of Warren Hart and volunteer crews, whose trails were more ruggedly constructed but provided new access to spectacular places.

We can also look to our current trail adopters and volunteer trail crew members who have had a hand in maintaining trails all around our region: stellar resources such as the Grafton Loop Trail in Maine and the Bay Circuit Trail outside Boston, the New England Trail, and the Appalachian Trail, to name just a few.

We're excited to be building new trails near our Maine Wilderness Lodges, working with partner organizations and community members to provide more opportunities for hiking, cross-country skiing, and mountain biking in the 100-Mile Wilderness region.

Our pro trail crew will have its hands full this summer, repairing extensive damage to the Nineteen-Mile Brook Trail wrought by Tropical Storm Irene, and rebuilding sections of the Fishin' Jimmy Trail and the Osceola Trail in the White Mountains.

They also have their sights set on trail work elsewhere in the Whites and in Massachusetts – but those projects are contingent on our receiving adequate funding.

The trails you count on for trips to summits, family outings, weekend escapes, and countless other journeys

rely on your support. Trails always need maintenance, and AMC crews need dollars to make the work happen. With limits on federal, state, and municipal resources, the role of organization like ours becomes ever more critical as we work to maintain the trails that connect people to the outdoors, I thank all of you who support the trails, whether as a volunteer or through a gift to our annual trails campaign, It helps us, year after year, serve our mission by providing stewardship to the trails we all love.

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**Your donation to AMC can be earmarked specifically for the Pro Crew – be sure to mark your check accordingly!**

### **Working together for more connecting trails in York County**

**By Deirdre Fleming, Maine Sunday Telegram**

This article appeared on August 9, 2015

Many of the Trail Crew Alumni remain involved in trail building professionally or as a pastime. In this article you will read about our own Lee Burnett, Trail Crew 1974-1976, who has been the impetus behind a trail system in York County, Maine. Lee is the Project Director at Forest Works!, which conserves forestland in York County, and began to examine the possibility of a large, interconnecting trail network. You will enjoy reading this Q&A article at:

<http://www.pressherald.com/2015/08/09/in-from-the-outdoors-qa-with-paul-schumacher-and-lee-burnett-trail-advocates/>



**Lee Burnett, right, with Paul Schumacher, the director of the Southern Maine Planning and Economic Development Commission**

If you continue to be involved in trail building, please pass along your story to Bob Proudman, TCA Secretary, at [robertdproudman@gmail.com](mailto:robertdproudman@gmail.com).

# REUNION 2015

## REUNION 2015

This should be your year to attend!

Attend to...

Reminisce.

Visit with people that changed your life.

Share new stories and adventures.

**SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>  
PINKHAM NOTCH**

1pm-4pm     Annual Board  
                 Meeting  
4pm-6pm     Social Time  
                 (beverages/munchies to share welcomed)  
6pm             Dinner  
7:30pm-9pm   Presentations and  
                 Camaraderie

Dinner Reservations should be made by November 1<sup>st</sup> -  
Cost \$19.60 per person  
Call 603-477-2727 (Mon-Sat, 9-5)

**Make it a weekend!**

Stay at Joe Dodge  
at our special group rate!  
\$50.00/per person (plus taxes)\*  
Includes breakfast and dinner  
(including the reunion dinner)  
Use Group Reservation #285243  
Call 603-477-2727 (Mon-Sat, 9-5)  
Call TODAY as space is limited!

\*Bunk Room; Rate assumes a minimum of two people per room.

What happened during Crew,  
Stays with Crew,  
Unless it is shared at Reunion!

## **NEW! Shelburne Cabin 'Caretaker' – John Lamanna**

In this issue you are reading a lot about taking care of our trails and shelters. That's no different than our need to take care of our own – Shelburne Cabin! If we all adopt the attitude of 'leave it better than you found it,' it will go a long way towards keeping the cabin clean, tidy and in good repair. In August, in conjunction with the annual Shelburne Cabin clean up party, John Lamanna agreed to take responsibility for the oversight and coordination of maintaining the cabin. Lots of work was accomplished during the work party, including the annual bringing in of firewood. There are some pressing needs however, chief among them being:

Repairs to the porch roof (work trip in planning)  
Raking out near cabin to prevent foundation rot  
Firewood gathering – As always

*Walk away quietly in any direction and taste the freedom of the mountaineer. Camp out among the grasses and gentians of glacial meadows, in craggy garden nooks full of nature's darlings. Climb the mountains and get their good tidings, Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves. As age comes on, one source of enjoyment after another is closed, but nature's sources never fail.*

**-John Muir, 1901**

## Other Memories of the Jeep

By Ben English

This is a continuation of Ben's *The Trail Crew Jeep* article from *Chips & Clippings* 2014.

The Jeep was used on Fridays to run errands in Lancaster, Littleton, and downtown Whitefield. It lugged us to the movies and to Chase Barn Playhouse (a summer stock theater in Whitefield).

Ken Jordan operated the Gulf station in Whitefield. We bought gas there and Ken did mechanical work on our vehicles. A few times, we'd go in for an oil change or a repair and Ken used to say to us, "I keep your Jeep in good repair, and you return here a week later with several problems. Where do you go, and what do you do during your week in the woods?!!!"

We did use the Jeep, but we did not abuse it.

A few times on a Friday, a couple of us would drive the Jeep downtown and pull into one of the diagonal parking lots by the sidewalk along Main Street. Then we'd flop the windshield down onto the hood, lean back in the front seats, put one foot up on the dashboard and the other foot on the sill of the doorway, maybe smoke a pipe (which I could never keep lighted), and think we were very cool. We'd watch the people walk by and hope that they, in return, would notice us.

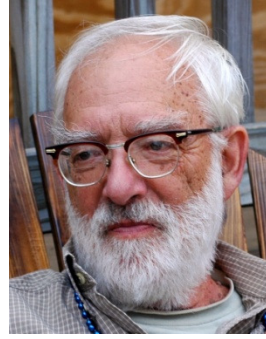
The N.H. registration plate on the Jeep was OJ419. Back then, plates were issued according to the county of the owner, and all plates began with letters. Plates in Grafton County began with a G, Carroll with a C, Merrimack with an M, etc. Whitefield is in Coos County. Since Carroll already had the C, and since Coos had a double O, all Coos plates began with an O. I remember the OJ 419 because that is the first time that I noted a Coos County plate.

The AMC had twelve miles of trail at Katahdin to maintain. Each year, three of the Trail Crew spent a week over there. In 1956, I was one of the three to go. We chewed tobacco along the way. When the passenger spat, the juice often did not clear the right side of the Jeep. You remember that the spare tire was mounted on the right rear. By the time we arrived in Millinocket, Maine, the front of the spare tire had quite a buildup of crud.

That's about the end of my Jeep memories. *Chips & Clippings* would like to receive some more stories of our beloved, old Jeep (or that '38 Ford wagon...or anything else). Send them in to the editors for the 2016 issue.

## In Memoriam...

### Douglas Rankin, Trail Crew 1949-1952



On February 25, 2015 the Trail Crew lost a prominent alumnus when, at the age of 83, Doug (Doogle) Rankin passed away. Doug served on the crew for 5 years, starting after his junior year at Colgate in 1949, and serving as Trail Master in 1952 and 1953. He

was an extraordinary leader, and possessed of a limitless reservoir of energy and perseverance – and woe be to the first-year man who brought him an even damp piece of firewood from which he won the nick name of “The Sniffer” which was his acid test for perfect firewood for his cooking fire!

While he made many substantive contributions to the crew during his five year tenure his favorite accomplishments were cutting the Boott Spur Trail in 1952 and building the original Great Gulf Suspension Bridge in 1953 in just six weeks – a bridge designed by his father.

Doug met his future wife Mary at Pinkham Notch in 1953 and as history's twists will turn Mary is the daughter of Dana Backus, who was hired by Paul Jenks a founder of the trail crew from among his students at White Plains High School in New York. Dana served on the trail crew in 1923, 24 and 26.

A geology major at Colgate, Doug went on to earn his doctorate at Harvard University in 1961, having completed five years of research for his dissertation studying the bedrock geology of the northern portion of Maine's Baxter State Park. After a few years teaching geology he began his long career with the U.S. Geological Survey, becoming one of the pre-eminent and most highly regarded experts on the genesis of the Appalachian Mountain chain from Maine to North Carolina. Even in retirement he continued his field research mapping and analyzing the upper Connecticut River Valley for 23 years, of which the last 19 were in retirement as a Scientist Emeritus. During his era on the trail crew there were three other crewmen...

(continued on page 9)



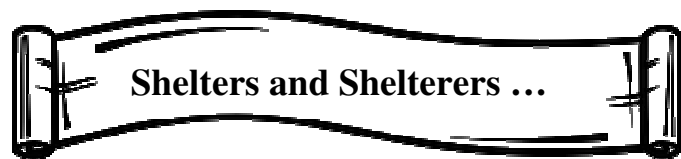
## Douglas Rankin, continued from page 8

...who earned doctorates in geology – Roy Bailey at Cornell, Bob Willard at Boston University and Bob Scott at Rice. Clearly there must have been some mutual inspiration afoot in that field of science!

His memorial service was held in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, May 3, 2015. The majority of the very large audience of friends and colleagues in attendance were from the geology profession and local neighbors and friends. But present from his first “career” on the AMC Trail Crew – were Dobie Jenkins and Bob Watts who were invited to recount their years working with Doug on the crew. To acknowledge Doug & Mary’s decades of substantial support to the AMC also in attendance were AMC President John Judge and Major Gifts Officer Gary Gresh. With them to honor Doug’s memory was our eminent TCA Secretary Bob Proudman, who supervised construction of the Garfield Campsite in 1971 – that campsite built as a memorial to Anne Backus, a younger sister of Doug’s wife Mary.



Left is a photo of Doug taken at Lakes of the Clouds about to leave on a patrol of the Davis Path in 1953. The photo above was taken 57 years later in 2010 when he and Mary joined a few of his 1953 crew colleagues at Lonesome Lake Hut for a reunion weekend.



## or, Before there were Caretakers

By Victor J. A. Martinek

Reprinted by permission of the Appalachian Mountain Club's *Appalachia* journal, where this article first appeared in June 1953.

DURING THE LAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS I have done a great deal of roughing and sheltering in the White Mountains and as I am not a member of the A.M.C., I have always felt that I was its guest while

staying at one of its shelters. I am constantly aware that I owe a great measure of joy to the use of the host’s trails and shelters. I have always felt that one way to requite myself for this is to make repairs and improvements, and I devote many hours to this during my three weeks’ trip. That there are more of such hours than would be possible for other persons is due to my mode of travel. In the belief that I save time and walk better, I walk on an empty stomach. Thus I reach the next shelter in the early afternoon. Traveling alone, my schedule is flexible; if it suit my fancy to stay in one place two to four days. Therefore, there is time to do things.

Among the many chores which campers of good will can do to keep shelters livable, I would like to suggest these: sweep floors and grounds inside and outside of shelters; bury unburnable refuse and dispose of it some distance away; leave much dry wood and bedding; gather firewood upon arrival, for sudden bad weather might make this impossible later; leave fireplace clean’ remove rotting debris from flooring; mend damaged pails, cans and broken window panes with adhesive tape; deepen and clean silted up and stagnant water holes; make brooms, firehooks, and other gadgets; “recane” shelves and tables the tops of which have been burned by vandals; fix roof-covering broken by having been walked upon; repair floors; care for mutilated trail signs; cover with tin from cans beams which have been dangerously weakened by porcupines chewing them; chink walls; and finally catch mice – it is a good sport. Leave the shelter as you would leave your room in your host’s house.

For the great convenience they offer, my own efforts have gone towards building shelves, these later furnishing firewood for certain persons. To have a level place for sun bathing at Guyot Shelter, I leveled a room sized spot, at least, it was level two years ago.

Occasionally the shelters are in commendably neat order, but frequently, and especially in recent years, there is neither firewood nor a twig of bedding. Sometimes there is a good supply of green saplings or punk wood, and under these conditions some inconsiderates resort to burning any loose part of the shelter;’ bench, shelf, sticks forming table tops, window frames, bedding boughs.

It is quite understandable that the Club cannot keep the shelters in constant repair.

(Continued on page 10)

## Shelters and Shelterers, from page 9

Much depends upon the cooperation of the guests; but they should be prodded into what is really, in the longer perspective, self help. I have tried in my small way to do something about it, but of late found that the indifference is too great and widespread for one man. Let me illustrate. I had chinked one wall of Kinsman Pond Shelter in addition to other work, and left a great amount of chinking moss in one corner with a written invitation to the next-comers to chink the other wall, or a portion of it. Twelve months later I found the same heap of moss and the invitation.

What has happened to our give and take, and sense of fair play? Are the mountains finally to lose the tradition of the golden rule? Is it the influx of boys' groups that calls the turn on the lack of shelter care? I don't know much about hunters and fishermen from personal experience, although I have seen many shot up signs, but I have witnessed some of the boys' groups to be collectively pests, and the White Mountains are becoming more and more popular with these groups. I found every youngster to be likeable, but many leaders adolescent, little trail-Napoleons lacking campcraft, leadership, and sense of responsibility toward others. Perhaps local boy scout organizations and boys' camps could be circularized to inform the leaders with more knowledge and sense of responsibility. If there is anything that can make ten boys appear to be a hundred boys, it is another ten boys. Bless them, anyway?

At the peak season many shelters are overcrowded, and groups of ten to eighteen often have to sleep in the open. Is there any way of spreading out this locust invasion? Could a per capita fee be charged for the peak weeks? Should the camps at least pay a fee if they stay longer than one day? One boys' camp made the Great Gulf Shelter its headquarters, and even used a photo of the shelter in its prospectus.

I have been trying for years to awaken a consciousness among shelterers of being guests of the Club, of being considerate and neat, and of giving ten minutes of their time towards shelter improvement. This seems such an easy way of keeping shelters livable. To stimulate cooperation I often glued on or near each of my chores a piece of paper with the legend "VJAM did this" or "repaired" it. I was hoping for imitation. Perhaps this sort of thing was overdone, as a year later I found some of these credit stickers removed or scraped

off. I also placed in each shelter a Photostat of my own "Decalogue" of behavior protected by an acetate sheet. I was careful to act on my own, and expressly disassociated myself from the A.M.C. I did not seek any glory, nobody knew me, or had any idea what the initials stood for. It was done with the hope that somehow this visible expression of care and affection for the shelters might get through to those lacking in the understanding that a little could mean so much for the next overnight party.

The first time I went into the mountains I read the "do" and "don't" list that appeared in most shelters. The sameness of these drab bits of cotton did not invite rereading, and I soon forgot the text. This list was given a new face a few years ago, but now needs revision again to include some of the "do's" mentioned above. Some advertising technique, a new shape, new color, new words, might perhaps make them more readable, more eye-arresting, and more stimulating so that, I hope, is still the natural human urge for clean and neat surroundings.

In some manner trampers should be made to understand that the use of trails and shelters is a privilege, not a right. Legally it is probably the latter, but for the handful of inconsiderates the truth should be stretched. I would like to see it brought home to the trampers that the A.M.C. and other organizations maintain trails, trail signs, shelters, and remove blow-downs and brambles at considerable cost. Having said this to them one might add: "we say this solely to the few who are disposed to be destructive and careless. We ask them to cooperate with us." It would help if boys' organizations and boys' camps could be warned that upon justifiable complaints the groups will be run out of the woods and their names blacklisted. This would result in leaders receiving more careful instruction from their superiors, which in many cases, they need. These leaders should be required to read the "do's" and "don'ts" to their charges, to be responsible for maintaining order at all times, to be courteous and hospitable, and to share the premises willingly with others.

I wonder if the hut boys could make an occasional spot check at nearby shelters. They are official representatives of the A.M.C., and as such could be given at least the authority for inspection. Members of the trail crew could also act in the same capacity and report their findings. Camping groups will soon get to

(Continued to page 11)

## Shelters and Shelterers, from page 10

know that instead of there being no control at any time, and no limit for time spent at a shelter, inspectors from the A.M. C. and W.M.N.F., or other organization may put in an appearance.

I believe the time has perhaps come for shelter permits to be required, just as fire permits are now, and I understand that this practice is in use in some sections of the southern portion of the Appalachian Trail. Something should be worked out for the individual camper and the small groups of two and there, while still making it possible for the larger organizations to share the various shelters. Certainly, should the present growing wave of carelessness continue the U.S. Forest Service and the many organizations which maintain trails and shelters will be forced to take restrictive measures which can only be annoying to all. Let us hope that such a situation will never arise, but that this article and the efforts of those interested in the preservation of the American heritage will convert the thoughtlessness of the few into a more considerate attitude toward the many.

*VICTOR J.A. MARTINEK was a man who vacationed each summer on the trails and in the various shelters of the White Mountains. He believed, as did other observers, that the temperament of many day campers at that time was a challenge to the A.M.C. in its field of shelter maintenance. Although not a club member, he made frequent financial contributions as a gesture of appreciation and to help the Committee on Trails. The A.M.C. thanked Mr. Martinek, a commercial artist by profession, for writing the article and bringing this problem to their attention.*

C&C ED. NOTE: Trail Crews in the 1930's through mid-60's would meet "V.J.A.M.", a handsome, fit man who would arrive by bus from New York City to vacation at the shelters by hiking AMC trails for two-three-weeks every summer. V.J.A.M. would build little shelves in the shelters for hikers to use, carrying the boards in but cutting spruce or fir for framing or supports. He marked them by carving his distinctive initials into the finished products. A fulltime resident of New York City, we trail crew guys thought he was a plumber to pay the bills, but also an artist (Google his name to see one watercolor by Victor at the N.Y. Historical Society Museum.)

When Bob Proudman was raising money for the cabin in 1974, V.J.A.M. couldn't contribute cash, but he *did* send an original watercolor of Cannon Cliff as viewed from Franconia Ridge that hangs right next to the bookshelf to this day, near the Ashley Woodstove outside the kitchen. Note the initials, "V.J.A.M."

## Caretaking ... a duty to hikers

By Stephen Grant, Liberty Springs Caretaker

Caretaking is a multifaceted and unique job in the White Mountains. It is difficult to have a job where your personal life is so interwoven with your professional life. The only other job with such permeation into my personal life was my position as a student to student mentor at SUNY ESF in Syracuse, New York. I would regularly sacrifice my own personal time and wants to assist my charges, but it was because I wanted to. I wanted to help, to ease their concern, to share, to teach.

Caretaking however, goes deeper. There is a more of a sense of duty, to the hikers and to the mountains. It's also not something that you can turn off, it integrates itself into every aspect of your day. You hike out for trail work not even thinking as you stoop, scoop, and swing the trash into your pocket. You get almost an itch as you hike out and try to tell yourself you've done enough, your pack is full and heavy you don't have to do more. But you can't let that last piece of trash go that you just noticed and tried to walk by. You have to scratch the itch, and the only way is to go back and grab that trash.

That is just a fragment, a single facet of how this job shapes and changes you. I work at the Liberty Springs Tent site located in Franconia Notch off of U.S. 93, which has arguably the best sunset in the White Mountains. It has an attractive location, being so close to the highway and access to the rest of the summits of Franconia Ridge while being situated on the Appalachian Trail. It also has the appeal, as one hiker put it, of "having to earn every step" up the Liberty Springs Trail from the Whitehouse Trailhead, due to the seemingly endless rock staircase that is the last obstacle before the tent site.

These factors lead to Liberty's popularity among hikers with a wide range of experience, who inevitably will want to stay the night and fully appreciate the site. Liberty Springs has not had a shelter since 1970, and as the day wears on it becomes my job to fit 50 strangers together in a mishmash of hammocks and tents commonly referred to as 'Tentris' by caretakers. While a significant portion of my day is dedicated to maintaining the trails and beauty of the White Mountains, organizing 50 tired and hungry strangers in a way that everyone is equally miserable is really the shining moment of my day. Their misery is often short lived, ...

(Continued on page 12)

## Caretaking, Continued from page 11

and a hot meal in the woods has a remarkable way of perking even the most disillusioned back up to full strength. Then I have 50 new stories I'm dying to hear that night. Everyone has a unique story on the trail that I haven't heard before, or a different view I haven't thought of.

What is the most difficult, for me at least, is that it is only ever just one night. Not the trailwork, not emptying the privy, or happily placating a grump. It's that everyone I see, or friend it seems I made, it's almost always just a night. Every camper seems to be ephemeral, while I am the only constant beside the mountain itself. Eleven days can be a long time for a social creature, no matter the amount of work or books I used to try to distract myself. Then I hike out and see that the world continued to move with a blatant disregard for me, and those I left behind in the front country. All the memories they made are, inevitably and irrevocably separate from my own. It's like being written into a story, and every so often, I fall through the pages into another story set beside my own, equally fascinating but fleeting.

The trick I found to caretaking was realizing that isn't just okay to be in a separate story. It's actually phenomenal. All the new things I've seen, the hikes I've gone on and even the weird things that are always discovered upon emptying the privy make for a unique and fun story. Most importantly, are the people I met and the friends that I made and that I will remember long after this particular story is bound. The hikers that took more than a passing interest, and the coworkers I came to rely on, I owe you my sanity and because of you I am far more than I came in with. None of you have a bit part in this story, and thank you all for helping me to write it.

REUNION  
PINKHAM  
NOTCH  
2015

## REUNION 2015

This is your year to attend!

## PINKHAM NOTCH

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>**

Dinner 6pm

Reservations should be made by November 1<sup>st</sup>

Cost \$19.60 per person

Call 603-477-2727 (Mon-Sat, 9-5)

## Join us on Facebook...

Did you know that the Trail Crew Alumni has a Facebook group, with almost 70 members! Please ask to join, and then don't forget to share your 'adventure' posts from your own Facebook pages.

You would be amazed (or maybe not) at the very cool (in some cases bordering on insane) and interesting adventures, professions and passions our fellow crew members are pursuing. Also, some of the very exotic places some live. And, most importantly, it's an opportunity to reengage with the Trail Crew community!

If you are not Facebook Group savvy (don't feel bad) – Log In to your Facebook page, then look on the left (down below FAVORITES and APPS) and you will see GROUPS. Click on **New Groups**. Then in the Search, type in **AMC Trail Crew Alumni**. That will open the Group page and you will see a **“Join Group”** button under the banner. Click on that and ask to join. You will receive a speedy response and that will allow you access.

## TCA Archives -



The University of New Hampshire, in Durham, is home to the AMC Trail Crew Association Papers. The collection includes administrative and hiring documents, work reports from the trails, publications, correspondence, slides and photographs, maps, and even a few artifacts, audio

cassettes, and CDs. The collection is divided into seven main series, with the first three containing documents that describe the three functions of the Trail Crew Association: administration, labor, and alumni relations. Learn more at:

<https://www.library.unh.edu/find/archives/collections/amc-trail-crew-association-papers-1914-2009>

**Most importantly**, if you have any documents, photographs, etc. that you would be willing to donate or share for copying to this archive, please contact our historian, Bob Watts at:

[voltsxamps@icloud.com](mailto:voltsxamps@icloud.com)

## Honoring Crew...

### 75 Years Ago (1940)

**Councillor** – Henry Cross

**Supervisor** – Jack Hutton

**Trailmaster** – Joe Illick

**Members:**

David Lovejoy (3)                      Malcolm Raworth (3)

Phillip Bauldry (2)                      Linc Clark (2)

Haven Fifield (2)                      “Cabin” House (1)

Joe Bailey (1)                              James Gilbert (1)

### 50 Years Ago (1965)

**Councillor** – Brent Bullock

**Supervisor** – Joe and Sally May

**Trailmaster** – Alan Thorndike

**Members:**

Duncan Lewis (3)                      Garvin Morris (3)

Peter Baker (2)                              Arnold Devlin (2)

Jay Green (2)                              Carol Jagodzki (2)

James Robjent (2)                      Graham Smith (2)

Jeffrey Higgins (1)                      William Phillips (1)

Bob Proudman (1)                      Nick Sacco (1)

### 25 Years Ago (1990)

**Trails Supervisor** – Reuben Rajala

**Trails Assistant** – Peter Williams

**Trailmaster** – Bennett Schmidt

**Shelter Coordinator** – Moses Daly

**Camp Dodge Coordinator** – Randy Noring

**Members:**

Jim Frimel (4)                              Matt Corbett(3)

Rowland Keith (3)                      Tom Trainor (3)

Deacon Warner (3)                      Erica Goetza (2)

Jim Gunning (2)                              Sam Hodder (2)

Brendan Jackson (2)                      Jim Anderson (1)

William Deleo (1)                              Jeff Greilsheimer (1)

Lynn McNutt (1)                              Paul Medeiros (1)

Michelle Ray (1)                              Steve Trafton (1)

Diane Hebert (2)(Camp Dodge)      Mike Cody (2)(Fall)

Michael Lane (1)(Camp Dodge)      Jeff Chapman (2)(Fall)

Bennett Pollack (1)(Camp Dodge)      Don Persons (1)(Fall)

Wayne Buschmann (3) (Rotator)      Chris Cote (2) (Rotator)

Jonathan Tauer (2)(Speck)              Kai Allen (2) (Imp)

Gerry LaPointe (1)(Guyot)              Chris Jooson (2)(Garfield)

Mark Lucas (2)(Nauman)              Sandi Pounder (1)(13 Falls)

### Current Crew (2015)

**Trailmaster** – Daniel Shea ‘Romney’

**Crew Leaders:**

Evan McManamy ‘Tod the 6’4”

Ashley Fife ‘Switchback’

Christopher Hyman ‘Stitch’

**Members:**

Elijah Ober ‘Nomar’ (2)

John Connoly ‘Washburn’ (2)

Marshall Pontrelli ‘Smathers’ (2)

Maggie Lacwasan ‘Thor’ (2)

Sam Kilburn ‘Archie’ (2)

Ben Huber ‘Napoleon’ (2)

Alex Milde ‘Nova’ (2)

Alex MacMillan ‘Supertramp’ (2)

Danny Walsh ‘Uni’ (1)

Hanna Mellor ‘Penny’ (1)

Abigail Lown ‘Eugene Beauharnais Cook ‘Beau’’ (1)

Silas Fox ‘Aesop’ (1)

## White Mountain Workforce

By Danny Walsh

White Mountain workforce, we toil on trails

Carpenters of sort, just without the hammer and nails

Annihilating annoying arbor with alpine axe blows

Demolishing drains daily, miles of moving mighty packs fro’

Patrolling perilous peaks through torrential thunder and turmoil

No legacy left, just soluble [foot]steps where soles sunk into soil

Swallowed pride, like lunch salmon that was sealed in a pouch

Conventional consumables and comforts condemned,

the valiant can vouch

Earnings ephemeral, but TFC traditions endures eternally

2019 commemorates a century of Crews, fortified fraternally

Giving immensely for the cause, living intently

Through a means of life simply, living in tent(-ly)

How will such a backbreaking, pack-breaking, labor be known?

Legacies lives through mountain masonry, manifested in stone

## Help identify these trail crew...



So far we have (need full names)...

**1<sup>st</sup> Row**-Jake, Nik, Al, Pete, ?1 ?2 ?3

**2<sup>nd</sup> Row**-Mike, Roger, Mark Delaney, ?4 ?5, Avery Jenkins, Reuben Rajala

**3<sup>rd</sup> Row**-Bob Proudman, Bob Leone, Bob White, ?8 ?9 ?10 ?11

Thank you to Mark Delaney for posting this on the Facebook group. This is a great way to share your Crew photos!

There are some other photos on the Facebook group that also need assistance with identification. **Please join in!**

*High quality trail design is primarily a balance between beauty and function. Natural features and scenery exist ideally in creative juxtaposition with the continuity, efficiency, and durability of a proposed route.*

—**ROBERT PROUDMAN**

**& RUEBEN RAJALA,**

*Trail Building and Maintenance, 1981*



Do you have a new address?



New email address?



Join the Facebook Group?

Please help us keep our records current!

Email [bhwhiton@maine.rr.com](mailto:bhwhiton@maine.rr.com)



### Half-Century Man

Bob Proudman (TCA Secretary) literally wrote the book of standards for the A.T.—*Appalachian Trail Design, Construction, and*

*Maintenance*—and other trail manuals. And, for the last 50, yes **FIFTY years**, he has been dedicated to the Trail! This year, Bob retired from a life of managing that “simple footpath” as it winds through 14 states and numerous federal, state, and local jurisdictions. It has required the partnership and cooperation of many people—volunteers, federal, state, and local agency personnel, Trail neighbors, and the ATC. It required cooperative agreements, policies, meetings, conference calls, and informal discussions. Bob worked closely with the NPS-Appalachian Trail Park Office, the U.S. Forest Service, Trail club leaders, and other partners to manage the Trail. He may have retired from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy but likely will still be dedicated to trail construction and management. More on this later. In the meantime, **please launch Bob onto his next new adventures with your well wishes!**

Bob Proudman

Box 990

Shephardstown, WV 25443

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