



# Steps & Scree

E-news from the Trail Crew Association

April 2019

## The 101st Summer: three big projects; eight new hires

We're less than a month away from the first day of crew leader training, but the deep drifts still on the ground in most of the Whites would indicate otherwise! After finishing patrols (which weather would suggest may go more slowly than usual this year), we have three main projects slated for the season and 8 first-year hires to be put to the test.

Our projects for the summer will be:

- Continuing work on the Crawford Path, thanks to a hefty REI grant.
- Rock work and general reconstruction on the Osgood Trail (AT), and the heavily-used Webster-Cliff Trail (AT).
- We will also work on the Mt. Willard Trail, which got particularly washed out by a storm last year.



2019 Trailmaster Abby "Eugene" Lown

Our mighty crew leaders for the summer are Laura "Hazel" McManamy, Ben "BFG" Church, and Finn "Wrench" Mahoney. Our stellar returning second years are: Cora "The Firm" Honigford, Sam "Sammy Bananas" Norton, Katie "Crush" McCahan, Ally "Sousa" Scholtz, and Becky "Misty".

We have hired eight new people, two of whom are offspring of former mutants. Can you guess which?

Mae Hartwell, Oakland CA; Adam Sperlonga, Adams MA; Oliver Van Everen, Whitefish MT; Annie Dumais, Burrillville, RI; Nickie Morris, Kinnelon NJ; Jeevan Phadke, Naperville IL; Amelia Rieser, Narberth PA; Helen Rhines, Lincoln MA

We're gearing up for another great season in the Whites, full of whap, wonder, and hard work.

FOO!

Eugene, TM '19

**The latest Centennial Reunion details are below.**

Volunteers are still needed for more assistance and

Volunteers are still needed for pre-registration and event-day tasks. If you can help, contact Bruce "Jake" Jacobson. [bruce.jacobson42@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.jacobson42@gmail.com)

### Everything You Need to Know About the AMC Trail Crew Centennial Reunion

**When:** Saturday, August 24, 2019: **9 AM 'til End of Day**  
**Where:** Mt Washington Auto Rd Field (MWAR)



**Why:** The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the AMC Trail Crew is not to be missed! TC and Caretakers hop off the fence, find the time, implore your crewmates to come and get yourself down to the MWAR field for a once-in-a-lifetime reunion of this storied organization that has given us so much. *We want to see you there!*

#### Registration

**Discounted Early Bird:** May 24- June 30<sup>th</sup>  
 Registration will go out via US Mail end of May as well as online: electronic registration will be via Eventbrite.

#### Woodbelly Catering

**Lunch:** 11:30 – 2:30 pm  
 • Pizza & Salad  
 • Pressed Vegetable or Italian Sandwiches  
**Dinner:** 4:30 – 7 pm  
 • Pulled Pork BBQ Pie  
 • Fresh Tomato Pie  
 • Peaches and Blue  
 • Pesto Pizza  
 • Classic Combos – Kid and Adult friendly  
**Risotto Station:** 5:30 – 7 pm  
 • Summer Risotto (Meat or Vegetarian)  
 • Big Beautiful Organic Salads  
**Meat Station:** 5- 7 pm  
 • Pork Roast (whole pig and shoulders)  
 Watermelon  
 Coffee and Tea Service 11:30 – 5 pm  
 Cash Bar TBD



#### Evolving Program

Welcome, & pick up materials 9 am  
 Socializing throughout the day, 9 am til ...  
 TC Olympics 10 – 10:45 am  
 \*Small/Big Tent Programs 10 am – 4:30 pm  
 Tricky Britches band : 3:30-6:30 pm  
 TCA – Election of new Board Members 5 pm  
 Bob Proudman: A Retrospective 6:30 – 7 pm  
 Awards: Golden Ax, etc, Open Mike 7- 8 pm  
 Odds Bodkin Story Teller 8 – 9 pm  
 Camp fire (portable fire pits) 9 pm til-closing  
 \*Program Tent and Big Tent Table  
 Discussions: Slide show presentations:  
 Shelburne Cabin, History of Women on Crew, History of Camp Dodge, Trail Crew Film, (Evolving programming in both tents.  
 Watch the eNewsletter and website  
[amctca@org](mailto:amctca@org) for new details.

#### Memorabilia

T-shirts  
 Patches  
 Hats  
 Posters



Are you coming to the Centennial reunion? Yay. Will you miss it? Boo. Either way, tell us where you are by writing [by writing a few short sentences here](#) Your friends will thank you.

### In the meantime, read some Centennial news flashes:

**Name:** Cristin Bailey  
**Current hometown:** Sandwich, NH  
**Years on crew:** 1997-88 volunteer, 1999 Dodge Leader/Fall Crew, 2000 Projects Coordinator/Fall Crew, 2000-2006 Trails Supervisor  
**Career:** US Forest Service, White Mountain National Forest, Saco Ranger District Forestry Technician-Trails Manager



**Name:** Robert B. (Bob) Watts  
**Current hometown:** Portsmouth, RI  
**Years on crew:** 1952-55  
**Career:** 30 year career as a Naval Officer and Carrier-based aviator



How did crew affect your career

### **How did crew affect your career choice/approach to**

**work?** In every way. I studied Outdoor Recreation Leadership in college but until I did trail work I hadn't quite found my passion. Now I have the best job in the world.

How do you use trails in your life today? Every day I am either on a trail analyzing, planning and costing or in the office

scheming on how to get work on the trail

implemented and by whom.

**How often do you get together with crew friends and what do you do?** As much as possible! Some are far away but we connect by phone or social media often. We always pick right up where we left off and talk about the days on the trail we had together. When we are together there's usually some kind of hike or ski involved. Lots of us have families so kids are often the focus of our adventures.

**Most vivid crew memory?** First week of training on Valley Way in 1999. There were about 50 of us from trail crew, Dodge and shelters doing rock work training. It was muddy and tough but I loved every part of it. I'll never forget the lunch foo. I was about in the middle of the line of some 50 trails folks spanning a few miles and hearing the foo travel that distance and go right through us and up the trail was truly amazing. I knew I was right where I was supposed to be in life.

**What life lessons did you learn from crew?** So many. Don't try to do everything by yourself. Work smarter, not harder or you won't have the energy to keep going. It's ok to ask for help. Don't question your abilities; everyone believes in you even when you doubt yourself. You are the only one who can decide if you are capable or not. This quote has stayed with me and guides me every day, "No one can offend you without your permission" Eleanor Roosevelt. It's easy to think that others are judging you but be careful, it might just be you judging yourself.

### **How did crew affect your career**

**choice/approach to work?** It quickly and clearly showed that prior, youthful estimates, of what one could achieve by hard work, were significantly underestimated. Similarly, I learned that fatigue is a relative, not an absolute, factor.

**How do you use trails in your life today?** Though during my Navy career I was never proximate to New England, or had the time to get to the White Mountains, I've kept my hiking spirit alive after retirement by scheduling and enjoying hikes there most summers with children and grand-children, often joined by former crew mates and their families. I attended the 75th anniversary of Madison Hut in 1963, the 100th in 1988 (both with my Dad), and the 125th in 2013 at 78!

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

Have remained in close correspondence with former crew mates over the years as our paths have enabled crossings with one another.

Frequency - every few years.

**Most vivid crew memory?** Spending 6 continuous weeks (minus days off) during my 2nd year on crew at the Great Gulf Bridge building the first suspension bridge there (it lasted about 40 years). We expended 24 sticks of dynamite eliminating a huge erratic boulder from the stream bed - 22 sticks on an unsuccessful "mud pack" detonation, and 2 sticks in the bottom of a 4' x 1" hole which vaporized it!).

**What life lessons did you learn from crew?**

Perseverance: rain, bugs or shine. Sharp axes, among other things, are always safer and more effective!

## **Monster storms are devouring long stretches of trail, driving up the backlog of deferred maintenance**

Check out the Spring 2019 issue of *AMC Outdoors* magazine for a story about how trail crew is coping with monster storms, such as Tropical Storm Irene (2011), Hurricane Sandy (2012) and Halloween Storm (2017). It's a whole new era you'll be hearing more about. Among non-AMC trails, Dry River Trail and Rocky Branch Trail have suffered the worst damage. Photos below were provided by Cristin Bailey, US Forest Service.







Twice since 2011 Dry River Suspension Bridge has been repaired because of flooding damage. Usually, the river is 15 below the bridge deck.



Rocky Branch Trail was so dismembered by Irene that more than a dozen trail relocations had to be cut. In some places, relocation was impractical and the stream bed became the de facto trail.



"Mass wasting" along Rocky Branch, where steep, over-saturated soils collapsed during Irene.



Hole left in Rocky Branch Trail following 2017 Halloween Storm. The cost of reconstructing trails in the White Mountain National Forest has swelled to \$20 million, according to the US Forest Service.



Groundbreaking soon for upgrades at Camp Dodge. Plans include construction of a new Hutton Lodge, allowing relocation of crew from Pinkham Notch. In this photo from April 30, 2016, trail crew alumni begin planning enhancements to the site, which include a trail demonstration project and history panels, just to the left of this frame. Behind the photographer will be Hutton Lodge with TCA-developed seating wall and stone patio with views into Great Gulf. Stayed tune for fundraising updates from Steve Rice, chair of Centennial Capital Campaign.

**How are your tech skills? Are you handy with editing, web development or data base management? Apply here for a top-tier volunteer role.**  
**And meanwhile, stay connected--If your address or email changes...**  
**please email [leeburnett\\_maine@hotmail.com](mailto:leeburnett_maine@hotmail.com)**