



## Trail Crew Alumni Association Update

Updates for alumni and current crew.

January 2018

### **1950's Crews Lead the Way in Funding Cabin Projects...**

This past fall, new stoves for the Shelburne Cabin were funded to honor the memory of [Douglas W. Rankin](#), 1949-53, TM 1952 & 53 and all deceased alumni of the AMC White Mountain Professional Trail Crew.

Funds for the stoves replacement were provided by the following four members of Doug Rankin's crews, as underlined in the photo of the 1953 Trail Crew:

**David (Stretch) Hayes** 1952-1955 (TM)

**Dobie Jenkins** 1952-1955 & 1960

**Josef Orosz** 1951-1954 (TM)

**Bob Watts** 1952-1955 and Member of the  
Trail Crew Association Board

**AMC Trail Crew 1953**  
Hutton Lodge - Whitefield, New Hampshire



Crew members (L to R) with years on crew; donors are underlined. Front Row: Josef Orosz 3rd Year TM '54, Dobie Jenkins 2nd Year, Doug Rankin TM '52 & '53, David "Stretch" Hayes 2nd Year, TM '55. Second Row: Bob Watts (2nd), Don Sessions (1st), Bob Scott (1st), Phil Bender (1st), Joel Nichols (1st), Phil Beauchamp (1st).

\$4,250 in donated funds have been restricted for fire-safety improvements. One of three old stoves has already been removed from the site. Bruce Davis is planning and designing modern thermostatically controlled stoves, and code compliant shielding, and installations (more below). Finally, before the road washed out, mason and former Board member Marc Lacroix already mocked-up and tested masonry and -steel improvements to the fireplace with Bruce.

Bob Watts, in helping prepare this newsletter, noted that, *We need everyone's support and dedication to aid current and future crews and to maintain our Cabin, which has become a major facet of life on current-day crews. As we begin our Second Century of service, we hope alumni/ae from other decades will accept this as a challenge to get behind the Shelburne Cabin upgrade and restoration project - we hope each decade of alumni will try to beat the gift level of our very small and ancient 50's cohort -*  
**YOU CAN DO IT!**

## Cabin Update January 2018

Hi all,

I am using this forum to bring TCA members up to speed on the Trail Crew's cabin at Shelburne - recent developments as well as ideas about looking to it's future. As the designer / crew head for the original log construction in 1975, I have maintained an ongoing interest in stewarding the cabin all these years (hard to believe it's been 42 years now!). I've become more actively involved over the past five years, heading up roofing and repair projects, mostly working

informally with Bob Proudman who has been excellent with facilitating a number of improvements and repairs. During past years I've also been talking to various cabin users and developing planning ideas for the future.

I joined the TCA board this past November, specifically to take on cabin stewardship, and at that meeting, found the board encouraging and supportive to my taking a more formal leadership role. While I'm willing to lead, I think it's important to establish a process for including all interested stakeholders in the design and financial decision-making with stewarding the cabin.

I'm willing to coordinate a TCA facility committee and I am hoping others will want to participate with this at varying levels of involvement. This could mean joining the facility committee, or simply responding to Cabin Updates on this forum when you want to provide input. Ultimately, the best outcome will be for all interested TCA members to participate in cabin stewardship and current crew should annually designate a Shelburne coordinator. I plan to continue informing TCA membership through this forum, so hopefully this Cabin Update will be the first of many in upcoming years.

**Cabin Road Access:** There were washouts on Hogan Road in October 2017 that have left the road impassable for vehicles, and it's not clear when/if repairs to make it passable will occur. This is especially unfortunate in light of needing to move heavy items - several new woodstoves and a gas range to the site, as well as fireplace hearth improvement materials, just to name the more pressing safety items. If the road looks unlikely to be repaired in 2018, we may need to find ways to access ATVs to move heavy materials. We'll keep you updated as we get road intel.

There have been numerous concerns about fire safety at the cabin for many years. Besides safety upgrades there are several decayed log areas to be repaired.

The cabin is clearly getting much more intensive use by current crews than during the years after we built it. Inside spaces are currently too cramped to be functional for larger groups. I have been spending more time at the cabin the last few years, and talking to current / recent crew members, including Romney, Stitch, Switchback and Smathers about what works and what doesn't for larger groups with summer crew use. Many of the interior elements of the cabin, such as interior walls and wood stoves, were added ad hoc over the years. Aspects of the current configuration have ended up being somewhat haphazard, at the cost of functionality and usability.

Thus, now appears to be a good time to assess the entire facility, and to look at how the cabin could function in the years ahead, with an overall plan. [Please click here to learn more about the entire plan.](#)

Again, feel free to be in touch with me with ideas or if you want to join the Facility Committee.

-Bruce Davis (1971-74; cabin builder 1975)  
bruce.davis21@yahoo.com  
Phone 207 756-0185  
New Member of the TCA Board

## **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 2016 and 2017).

### **Income**

- Our Income went up this year with the majority of the change in life members. We had 11 new life members this year versus 7 in 2015. We now have a total of 35 life members!
- We also saw a slight increase in 2017 regular membership dues over 2016 - this is a good sign. We had a total of 34 dues paying members for 2017.
- We already have 24 dues paying members for 2018.
- There has also been an increase in overall income to the association in 2017 of 71 percent. This increase is largely due to the special funding efforts of Bob Watts and other 1950's alums. Excluding this special funding the association had a 5 percent increase in overall income in 2017.

### **Thank you to all who are stepping up to pay dues, provide additional contributions, and new life members!**

We can continue to increase our income when you pay your dues, make an additional donation, or if you pay dues for someone else you served with 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).

In an effort to increase our revenue, the TCA Board has authorized the mailing of dues invoices to alumni. This will happen in January/February of 2018. Those of you who have paid for 2018 need not worry as your names will be removed from the list for 2018.

### **Expenses**

On the expense side we have three main categories of expense: General operations, Chips and Clippings, and Shelburne Lodge.

### **Bottom Line**

To date, we have a modest gain for 2017.

(For additional detail on income and expenses, click [here](#).)

We have a pool of over 300 known alumni on our US Postal address mailing list. As I reported last year our budget on average over the past several years has been about \$5,000. At \$35/year that means we need 143 alumni to pay dues which equates to about 41 percent of our gang. Currently we only have

about 10 percent of our alums paying dues. How does the TCA make up the difference currently? Board member contributions and other member general contributions! We have choices to make - if we raise the annual dues to \$50 we could reduce the needed alumni to about 100.

**Do you want to see an increase in dues?**

Or will more alums step up to the plate and become dues paying members?

In 2019 we will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Trail Crew. It will be a great time to celebrate and the board is in the midst of planning 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 or more per year. Until next year...

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

**Visit TCA Web site - [amctca.org](http://amctca.org)!**

**Stay connected--If your address or email changes...  
please email [bhwhiton@maine.rr.com](mailto:bhwhiton@maine.rr.com)**

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