



Trail Crew Alumni Association Update

Updates for alumni and current crew.

November 2017

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Next month...

Treasurer Peter Jensen reports to the association on the true blood of our ongoing existence... Memories... err, I mean MONEY !

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Trail Crew Reunion, Veterans Day 2017 Pinkham Notch & Shelburne, N.H.

The Trail Crew Association met for about the ninth November in a row, at Pinkham Notch Camp on Veterans Day, 11/11/17, in this, our ninety-ninth year!

The TCA Board met at 1 p.m., and later, about 40 crewmembers showed up for the Annual Meeting at 4 pm, for refreshments, fellowship and voting in the 2018 board. Members present represented five decades, and included a father-daughter pair--Keith H. Mellor, 1969-70, and Hannah Mellor, aka, "Penny," 2015-17.



The 1 pm Board meeting opened with Craig Whiton confirming his retirement as TCA president, noting that "We've come a long way," and that "The Association will do well. I'm confident with new emerging leadership!" He plans to stay involved aiding Barbara, assisting the crew and trails department with sign-man projects, and for special projects for the association. Bob Proudman won't accept the presidency but volunteered as "convener" in addition to his continuing as secretary until a new president pulls the axe out of the stone.

Three new Board members were elected by the association members present, Bruce Davis (1971-74), original builder of the Trail Crew Cabin in 1975-76; Sam Kilburn aka "Archie" (2014-17, TM), and Barbara Whiton who we're happy to report that she succumbed and joined the Board! Indeed, she has done so much for us, improving communications and publishing for the association, she may someday be named an honorary member complete with golden double-bit!

Due to plunging temps and a snowsquall weighting limbs down with fresh snow, TFC Members Bobe and Marc cancelled the Friday patrol of the Centennial Trail and instead walked into the cabin.



The Hogan Road was recently made impassable at two locations. Here to the left you see the culvert has washed out. The bridge has also been washed out.

Several guys did get in and worked on removing hazardous gaslights. Bruce Davis and Marc Lacroix mocked up improvements to the fireplace

with fresh bricks brought in earlier to enhance safety and reduced fireplace smoking. They sketched out improvements, taking measurements for installing new shielding and new stoves (both wood and gas) in 2018, while Stich (Chris Hyman, 2005-08) removed and plugged gas lines in both cabins. Stay tuned for new Cabin Chair Bruce Davis' improvements plan in 2018.

This work has been funded by generous donations from the 1950's crews in honor of Dr. Douglas Rankin, Trailmaster, 1952-53. Three LED lights powered by D-Cells (including a box of 12 fresh batteries) have been left for you and are available there. But bring a good headlamp!

IMPORTANT NOTES:

The only propane left is the existing four tanks that are hooked-up. Use sparingly! We'll need delivery of another dozen full bombs next year, or revert to camp stove or campfire.

DO NOT attempt to drive the 0.7 miles into the first car park! With fresh snow, incoming 2018 Trailmaster Smathers strongly recommends walking in until we're completely snow free in May 2018, and the road is repaired by the owners.

-Bob Proudman, TCA Secretary bobp2@frontier.com

Fourth Golden Axe Award, November 2017

In an unexpected move*, the Trail Crew Association Board awarded Bob Proudman, aka Bobe, ("BOE-be") its Golden Axe Award for his inspiration and labors over a half-century of trail building.

Joining the crew 1965-68 and Trail Master '68, Bobe returned to the AMC in 1971 for its last year headquartered in Whitefield, N.H., as the club's first caretaker at Garfield Ridge, the relocated campsite that he built that year with the crew east of the Garfield's summit, replacing Garfield Pond Shelter west of the summit. The pond site was abandoned having been trampled by thousands of visitors over many decades, with peaty-mucky soils and a poor water supply.

That September '71, the crew moved "Hutton Lodge" from Whitefield to Pinkham Notch Camp, a historic relocation for the "TFC." Later that fall, AMC Associate Director Tom Deans hired Bob to manage the crew based at Pinkham as well as AMC's chapter-based and club-wide trail programs, 1971-79. There has been a succession of full-time AMC trail supervisors since Bob.

Author of AMC's Trail Building and Maintenance (1977 and '88 with Reuben Rajala), Bob went to work for the National Park Service-Appalachian Trail Park Office as an AMC contractor scoping relocations of the Appalachian Trail between older public-land units in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Virginia. This later led to his 34-year career with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, né A.T. Conference, 1981-2015, based in Harpers Ferry, W. Va., where he wrote ATC's Appalachian Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance (1981 and 2000). For ATC, he founded the Konnarock Trail Crew, Mid-Atlantic Trail Crew, and aided in forming Deep South crews in the Great Smoky Mountains, building the USA's first National Scenic Trail, helping to establish the A.T.-originally completed in Maine in 1937-as a national park from Georgia to Maine.

In addition to founding trail crews, Bob developed ridgerunners, caretakers and similar programs for people- and land-management including an extensive boundary survey program and park law-enforcement with Search & Rescue (SAR) capabilities along the Appalachian Range. Working with Trail Crew Alumni and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Bobe established the 55-mile Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway, a future link in the New England National Scenic Trail, as well as



Joe May presents Bob Proudman with Golden Axe Award

exporting trail programs and techniques internationally. Directly and indirectly, AMC and ATC trail programs have inspired hiking and trails in Canada, Ireland, Scotland, England, France, New Zealand, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, South Africa, Southeast Asia, China, Mongolia, Japan, Korea and elsewhere worldwide.

Please join us in recognition of Bob's extraordinary contribution!

-By Robert Watts & Barbara Whiton

* By policy, current TCA officers are exempt from being considered recipients of the Golden Axe Award. However, the association felt that-given Bob's lifetime of trail crew achievements, and still current role as association secretary and convener- they must act (and did so unanimously) to put Bobe "near the top of the plaque." The Golden Axe Award can be viewed in the lobby of Pinkham Notch Camp.

Visit TCA Web site - amctca.org!

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