

IAT Work Trip from Bowlin Camps, May 19 – 21, 2016

Thursday, May 19

Don Hudson arrived at Bowlin Camps before everyone else and rode his bike north on the IAT looking for blowdowns and clearing brush on the trail. Around noon, the rest of the work crew arrived: Dave Rand with his ATV, Julia Daly and two UMF students (Mike Paradis and Maria Noyola), Kirk and Cheryl St. Peter with an ATV, Lucy Leaf and Nancy Hathaway. We had the larger “No Aces” cabin for the women and the “Chapman 2” one room cabin for the guys. This had to be the first trail work trip ever where the women outnumbered the men!

Dave and Lucy, Kirk and Mike headed north from Bowlin on the two ATVs with chainsaws and loppers on the K-Comp Road to the Little Messer Pond Road, then to the intersection with the Old Telos Tote Road to and cut blowdowns and clear brush from there to Grand Pitch Lean-to. This route had them completely avoid the wet areas on the Old Telos Tote Road where the ATVs would’ve made ruts and had them quickly access the blowdowns in the trail north of Grand Pitch. It was the way to go for this work!



Left to Right Back: Don, Cheryl, Nancy, Kirk
Front: Dave, Maria, Julia, Lucy, Mike



Crew at Grand Pitch Lean-to

Cheryl, Julia, Maria and Nancy hiked north on the IAT from Bowlin with loppers to clear trail to Grand Pitch Lean-to. Except for a few blowdowns just north of Bowlin, there were no other blowdowns and very little needed to be cleared – the trail was in excellent condition! Everyone met at Grand Pitch Lean-to, except for Don, who had headed back to Bowlin. We removed some trash and brush at the lean-to, mineralized the area around the fire pit, and added a new logbook and pen.

The old logbook was damp, moldy and almost full. It had some interesting entries, including some from several thru-hikers heading north from Key West to Canada, and a most interesting entry dated May 29, 2011 from “Team Black Cat” (Ardie & Sherry) from Georgia, who were completing a “thru-paddle and hike” by paddling north on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, hiking south on the IAT from the Canadian border in Fort Fairfield to Baxter, then hiking home on the Appalachian Trail (AT) back to Georgia – what a trip!

After a group photo at Grand Pitch, Dave, Nancy and Lucy, Kirk and Mike headed back on the ATVs to cut the few blowdowns on the IAT just north of Bowlin, while Cheryl, Julia and Maria hiked the IAT back to Bowlin. Note: on the hike to and from Grand Pitch Lean-to, Julia and Maria led the way and wherever they had concerns as to which way the trail went, we added tags and arrows, which amounted to less than ten, so the trail should be easy for hikers to follow even without a map!



Crew at Grand Pitch

An “attitude adjustment” was held on the new, very nice porch at No Aces cabin, then we had Cross Lake fish chowder and some amazing adventure stories from Lucy Leaf, who told us about riding her horse across the U.S. and back with her dog, weeks-long dog sledding trips in Labrador, sailing, paddling trips, and her solo “walkabouts”!

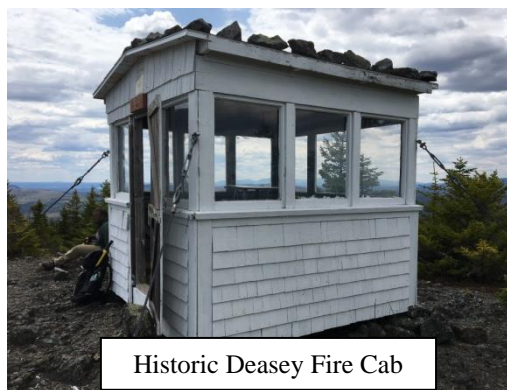
Friday, May 20



Julia, Maria, & Mike on Deasey Mtn. – Katahdin in back

After breakfast, everyone made their brown bag lunches, Don again rode his bike south and Kirk and Mike, Dave, Julia and Maria headed south on the ATVs to Lunksoos Lean-to to clear blowdowns. On the way to the lean-to, there were quite a few to be cleared and one IAT signpost was re-set. At the lean-to, Dave scythed the trail north of the lean-to, cleared brush around the lean-to and privy, and mineralized around the fire pit. A logbook was also added at this lean-to.

Kirk, Julia, Mike and Maria cleared the trail from the lean-to over Lunksoos Mountain through the col to the summit of Deasey. There were not a lot of blowdowns between Lunksoos Lean-to and Deasey’s summit, which was quite a change from last year. Again, tags and arrows were added wherever the newcomers thought it was difficult or confusing to follow the trail (~ 10 – 15). At the top of Deasey, the fire cab looked good – dry with no ants and the paint looked OK (it was last painted in October 2013). Kirk took photos and measurements of the metal table for installation of the new alidade that Earl Raymond had made and which will be installed during the upcoming June 2 – 4 work session out of Lunksoos Camps.



Historic Deasey Fire Cab

Cheryl, Nancy and Lucy hiked south with loppers to the turn west towards the Messer Pond – Orin Falls Road, but the trail needed very little clearing until close to the turn. They again added just a few tags where Nancy (who hadn’t hiked this section before) thought a hiker might be confused, mostly at intersections with older tote roads.

As soon as everyone arrived back at Bowlin (Don had to leave early), we enjoyed snacks while the trail conditions were discussed. After a lasagna dinner, it was Nancy’s turn to tell of her adventurous travels, then we enjoyed a campfire and s’mores.

Saturday, May 21

Nancy had to leave at 5 am and Julia, Mike and Maria left shortly after breakfast. Kirk, Cheryl, Dave and Lucy took both ATVs and headed south to see if any additional work needed to be completed. After lunch all four left for home. On the way home, Kirk and Cheryl took their ATV and gps’d the new “East Hersey” or “Shaw” ATV trail east of Route 11 that connects the Patten ATV Club trails from Shin Pond with the existing Island Falls Free-Wheelers ATV Club trails east of Route 11 for a potential IAT re-route.

It was a great work trip with much accomplished, even with the black flies, and many thanks to all who volunteered!