

Dec. 8, 1975

Dear WODC Members and Friends of the Sandwich Range

This Newsletter will be both long and brief! Long in respect to the numerous events and items of interest to members; brief in the sense that it will be necessary to devote only a few sentences to each subject.

During the summer months two official meetings of the Club were held, both in the Wonalancet Chapel. The first, on July 13th, consisted of a business meeting and a fine address by Paul D. Weingart, Supervisor of the White Mountain National Forest. Paul Weingart described to us the ten year land use planning study currently in progress. One region soon to come under study will be the "Wonalancet Unit." Part of this study will consist of public involvement through the formation of a Working Group. WODC will have the opportunity to express its views to and through the Working Group, as well as through direct response to suggestions put forth by White Mountain National Forest personnel.

George Zink described to members some of the land use decisions recommended by the Kancamagus Unit Working Group of which he was a member. So much interest was shown by those attending, that it was decided to hold a series of informal gatherings during the summer. These gatherings are noted briefly below.

The second summer meeting was held on August 24th. Highlights: (a) Betsy Loughran reported for the Map Committee that a new map is available--the charge will be 50 cents/map. (b) Donations were voted to the Society For The Protection of New Hampshire Forests, New England Trail Conference, Wonalancet Chapel Association, Environmental Coalition. (c) Dave Loughran gave a report from the Trails Committee. (d) John Chandler reported that a new set of by-laws has been drafted for adoption at the Annual Meeting in 1976. (e) Ralph Weymouth gave the Nominating Committee report; Officers for 1975-1976--President, George Zink, Secretary-Treasurer, Martha Chandler, Trails Committee Co-Chairman, Alan Purves and Ted Sidley. (f) It was voted (one nay) to express to the Supervisor of WMNF the decision of WODC that the Bowl Research Natural Area be increased to include the entire upper watershed of Wonalancet Brook. (g) Voted unanimously to express to the Supervisor of WMNF the Club's desire that the 30 day period for public comment on timber sales be extended to 60 days.

During the summer, as noted above, there were three informal meetings of WODC to discuss the long range planning program of WMNF. WODC will have the opportunity to influence decisions made by WMNF in its planning for the Wonalancet Unit. These meetings were an opportunity for us to learn--to learn about the WMNF and its problems without any pressure to make decisions. Twenty to thirty people attended each gathering. Members of the Chocorua Mountain Club and the Sandwich Conservation Commission were invited to participate. One meeting was held at the Chandler's where the topic was "The Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Allocation of Management Areas". Discussion was lively. George Zink described the decision of the Kancamagus Working Group on the topic of Wilderness designation. A second meeting was held at Zink's where the discussion was focused on timber management within WMNF. Professional foresters Arlyn Perkey (WMNF), Stan Coville, and Ed French gave us their personal thoughts on the subject. We learned a great deal from them. As a result of this gathering, Forester Perkey led a group of members in a visit to the Spring Brook Sale area in late August. The third meeting was held at the Sidley's, where the discussion was led by Gordon Mott, research forester from the Bartlett Experimental Forest, and the University of N.H. His talk centered on the Bowl Research Natural Area: its current use, its unique features, the problems in maintaining its integrity. Gordon showed some excellent slides taken of the area from an airplane as well as from the Bowl itself. The desire to expand the area is stated under the August Meeting.

During the latter part of August, Henry Lamb hiked to Camps Shehadi, Heermance, and Rich in order to prepare detailed maps as part of our application to WMNF for Special Use Permits. His excellent maps have been accepted by WMNF. We are indebted to "Hank" for his services.

George Zink met with Paul Weingart on November 28th, 1975 to state to him the decisions made by WODC at its annual meeting on the topics of expanding the Bowl Natural Area, and the extension of the 30 day period for public reaction to proposed timber sales. In the case of the former item, Paul Weingart needs to learn what types of research are to be done in the Bowl before making any decision. He agreed that recommendations from the Wonalancet Unit Working Group will play a role in the final decision. In the case of the latter, he does not recommend an across-the-board extension of the 30 day period. However, he agrees that we can get information on proposed sales well in advance of the 30 day period, and that we can request an extension of the 30 day period on any specific sale. He states that extensions of the 30 day period will be made at the request of the public unless there is some strong reason for not doing so.

At this meeting it was learned that the 1975 extension of the Bowl Research Natural Area has not been made official. The 1931 border was in effect as of November 28th. It is my belief that Supervisor Weingart will request immediate, the extension of the area to the 1975 bounds.

A word about a set of major decisions we must make within a year or two. The shelters we maintain on Whiteface and Passaconaway are in need of extensive repair (replacement?); the toilets at all three must be replaced with new, hygienic units; the trail at the Spring below Camp Rich should be rerouted. In addition, there is accumulating evidence that we should review our trail maintenance in the light of increased trail use, a greater concern for hiker safety, and environmental impact. May I suggest that we make a thorough study of these needs, that we recognize some professional help may be in order--e.g. experienced builders to repair the shelters--and that it may be necessary for us to raise monies for these purposes?

Season Greetings to you all from Wonalancet

George E. Zink  
President

From the Secretary-Treasurer

A newsletter and dues notice were to have been sent out shortly after the annual meeting. As you can see, we are running a bit late.

Dues for the year August 1975-August 1976 are now being accepted with gratitude by your Treasurer at 16 Orchard Street, Laconia, N.H. 03246. Memberships are still \$3.00 per person, \$5.00 per family with any additional contributions most welcome. All are welcome to join WODC.

I'd like to add a few words of Thanks to all of you who contributed so generously with time, ideas and effort in the past year. Our summer meetings were very successful. The maps are all printed (50¢ per copy now); and trails are cleared - it all happened because so many helped. We look forward to an equally vigorous 1976.

Season's greetings to you all