

WONALANCET OUTDOOR CLUB

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Best wishes for a happy new year 1989 from Wonalancet where deep wonderful snow abounds. The cheery greetings of neighbor to neighbor as they passed x-c skiing through the valley were a nice counterpoint to the sounds of various family Christmas celebrations. The valley seemed full of the nicest people whom it will ever be your pleasure to meet, and all right with the world. As always, the renewal of the spirit through contact with the forest and mountains momentarily obscured distant events, healing those close by and hopefully touching those not present. Truly a little piece of heaven, and at 4:30 p.m. in deep snow the real meaning of "purple mountains majesty" is glowingly evident.

The most important piece of news in the report is this: The White Mountain National Forest is in the process of drawing up a NEW ten year plan for us, and the area. The earliest pre-draft of its proposals will be available in March of 1982. The Executive Committee (translation: Officers) under the leadership of George Zink will do its best to read, digest, discuss and understand the document as rapidly as possible. They will then prepare a summary which will be sent to all members, with an URGENT REQUEST FOR INDIVIDUALS TO RESPOND DIRECTLY TO THE FOREST SERVICE within a time deadline so as broad a public participation as possible results. Given the new directions in Forest Service leadership and goals, if the media is correct, the importance of your help in this response should be obvious. We expect short response times, and cuts in Forest Service budgets mean they need our support to maintain past levels of excellence. If you can help the Executive Committee in March, or could work for a few hours at the Forest Service Offices in Laconia if needed, contact George Zink in Wonalancet now.

ANNUAL MEETING AUGUST 23, 1981

Thirty-one members were present for last summers' annual meeting. It was decided that 1982 mailings from the Club will include a check by your name if you are in arrears. However, arrears or no, mailings will be sent to all those interested in WODC. The Chandlers reported a \$58.00 profit on sales of WODC T-shirts, with nineteen still available. The Trails Report by Eugene Koch indicated a gradual response to the disaster of December, 1980. A May weekend of clearing, and work by young members of the Club over the summer as well as older ones, fixing specific complaints, meant we are almost back in passable shape. Mt. Katharine needs work, Tom Wiggins Trail needs paint, Bickford Trail needs a new sign, and some new tools were approved. Checking on safety equipment for the Club will be John Randall and Dave Bowles. No work-study students were available this year even after hard work by Ted Sidley to locate some. The Adopt-a-Trail idea is progressing.

Mt. Katharine:	Chandlers	Kelley Trail:	Helen Steele, Clara Read
Gordon Path:	Randalls	Blueberry Ledge Cut-off:	Cookes
McCrillis Trail:	Sidleys	Blackberry Trail:	Weymouth

George Zink, our liaison with the Forest Service, reported changes in the Forest Planning process. Unit planning has been cancelled. A ten-step process for the whole Forest has been instituted instead. Criteria are being developed, with analysis of management to follow. Our Forest Plan is due for completion in 1983. George Zink, Ralph Weymouth and Ted Sidley will continue being actively involved in the working groups and will keep the Club informed as planning proceeds. (Comment: Our group is without doubt incredibly lucky to have these three, as well as others, so willing to give of their time in this effort. Thank you.) Ted Sidley reported on a cooperators meeting. He feels we must stay abreast of the decisions on an ad hoc basis until the plans are firm.

Club support for other groups was voted as follows:

Wonalancet Chapel:	\$50.00
New England Trails Conference:	\$5.00
Society for Protection of NH Forests:	\$25.00

OTHER MEETINGS:

FOLK CONCERT: Eugene Koch and Nat Steele organized and ran a delightful concert in the Grove behind the Chapel with performers Peggy Loughran, Taylor Whiteside, the Tamworth Contraband and Daniel Harper. Eugene will try to do another next summer. The Chapel now needs a \$20.00 contribution per usage for such events to support its Johnny-on-the-spot. We attracted quite a crowd of 75 or so, many bringing their own food.

On August 11, Mr. Ed Brannon of White Mountain National Forest at Laconia spoke to WODC at the Chapel on the currently frozen status of wilderness legislation but pressure in the law to designate by 1985. The talk also discussed internal issues such as signs, the role of cooperators, fees to cover search and rescue, etc.

OTHER MEETINGS (continued)

On December 5 and 6, 1981, the Wilderness Society held a series of workshops in New England on responding to new planning by the Forest Service, as dictated by Washington. WODC was invited to co-sponsor, which we did and Ralph Weymouth and George Zink participated. This review focused on the planning for the entire eastern region.

Ralph participated in a panel on Forest Planning. He stressed to the participants various weaknesses in the recently released Draft Regional Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Participants were urged to respond to the Regional Forester with respect to the Draft Plan.

George participated in a panel on the status and policies of wilderness designation. There was little movement on wilderness designation in Congress during the 1981 session as a logical result of the over-riding emphasis upon the national economy.

There is much work to be done on trails as a result of high winds. I would like to hear from any young people who will Summer in Wonalancet, as I do want to organize some professionally led, but volunteer worker cleaning and maintenance groups.

The Executive Committee met over Christmas at the Sidleys, and determined much work will need to be done on the White Mountain plan this spring. Contact with other local groups needs to be established to present a consensus, our best hope to influence the plan toward our desires. The agenda was too long to be finished so more work will be done in early spring, as soon as schedules are available from the Forest Service on their planning process. Nat Steele reported that the Treasury now contains \$3,214.00 Savings and \$426.00 Checking, and it was determined to give Eugene Koch \$25.00 to prepare the 1982 concert.

Please mark your calendars: Next year's Annual Meeting August 22, 1982.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As George Zink has mentioned elsewhere in this NEWSLETTER, the Eastern Region of the Forest Service has put forth a "Draft Regional Plan" with an "Environmental Impact Statement".

George has responded to the Forest Service for the Club in a beautiful letter; Ralph Weymouth and I have responded as individuals. It is important to communicate with the Service for three reasons: 1. If an appeal is going to be made, comments must have been made previously. 2. The Service is not impervious to suggestions. Possibly if a good idea can be incorporated into their scheme they may well do so. 3. (Most important) The Forest Service, like any government agency, is a political beast and is sensitive to public pressure. If we want to have an influence on the shape of National Forest planning and to counterbalance the pressures to exploit and to cut down the Forests, we must be prepared to exert our own pressure.

It's maybe late at this moment to do something about the Regional Plan. However, it's not too late to try to influence what will happen on White Mountain National Forest, especially in our Wonalancet area. And we still have to push for our Sandwich Range Wilderness.

RECOMMENDATION: Write to White Mountain National Forest Planning Department and urge that all planning efforts include official designation as Wilderness of the Sandwich Range Area and that special efforts be made to preserve the visual, recreational, and ecological values of the Wonalancet area even if it be at the expense of some timber production. Let the emphasis in Wonalancet be on the broader more important forest values rather than on the more mundane timber commodity output.

Since the Christmas Executive Committee meeting, contact has been made with nearby Clubs and commissions to discuss at a joint meeting the WMNF 10 Year Plan in its pre-draft stage. Response has been excellent so far with a meeting scheduled for Tamworth sometime in mid-April.

2/22/82

The gathering of this information, as you can readily see, has taken a bit of time. For those of you away from the Wonalancet scene in winter, Denny Randall's reference to abundant "deep, wonderful snow" on New Year's Day is still true - only more so!!! Tracks of the winter sports enthusiast abound. For those eager to be out and trail-clearing in early spring, David Bowles reports plenty to do, thanks to heavy wet snow and periods of high wind. Just yesterday an occasional pussy willow was noted on those early bushes along the far side of Ned Behr's field. Spring, though not exactly around the corner, is coming.

OFFICERS FOR 1981-82

President:	Walden Randall	Vice-Presidents	Ralph Weymouth
Secretary:	Barbara Sidley		Ted Sidley
Treasurer:	Nat Steele	Inter Club coordinator	
Newsletter:	Martha Chandler	and Trail Chairman:	George Zink