

# WONALANCET OUT DOOR CLUB

Newsletter

December 1990

## ANNUAL MEETING

Prior to the Annual Meeting, a potluck supper was held in the picnic grove of the Chapel with 25 people attending. Weather was cooperative, the table displayed a variety of foods, and there was enjoyable conversation.

The 91st Annual Meeting was held on August 19, 1990 in the Wonalancet Chapel with Vice President John Mersfelder presiding. Thirty-three members were present.

A trails report by Dana Steele noted the two Trail Days, one in June and the other in August. (See Dana's letter, below). He reported the work accomplished by Nat Scrimshaw and the crew of the Sandwich Range Conservation Association (SRCA) crew in the three weeks they have worked on WODC trails. Their work has been wholly on renovation of the Lawrence Path on the west slope of Mt. Paugus. Emphasis was placed on the importance of clearing water bars, a fairly simple task that avoids later serious erosion. Next year SRCA plans to hold workshops in methods of basic trail maintenance and intends to write a Trail Adopter's manual.

John Mersfelder reported on a meeting he attended on trail blazing and signing. There should be uniformity in terms of sizes of blazes, frequency, and height from ground.

Mike Bromberg presented the draft of the new map, which includes the entire Sandwich Range Wilderness. Mike was commended for his work. It was voted that 1,000 maps be printed, with as many maps as possible sold in advance to WODC members.

It was recorded that ten persons had walked the traditional old Blueberry Ledge Trail this season.

Dues are presently \$8 for individuals and \$12 for families. A motion was moved, seconded and passed for a change in the Bylaws to accommodate three new categories of membership: institutional donors, patrons, and sponsors. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers for the following year: President, John Mersfelder; Vice President, Andy Thompson; Treasurer, Nat Steele; Recording Secretary, Barbara Sidley; Newsletter Secretaries, Sally Zink and

Catherine Mersfelder; Membership Chair, Paul King; Trails Chair, Dana Steele; Forest Service Liaison, George Zink; Timber Liaison, Ted Sidley. The slate was elected unanimously.

George Zink suggested a new effort be made regarding access to the Blueberry Ledge Trail. David Bowles stated that the old trail was preferable for rescues and fire fighting.

Since the Annual Meeting, two executive committee meetings have been held. At each meeting much time was spent discussing the consistency of signing, blazing, and clearing of trails. It indicates clearly the need of a manual for those involved in any of these activities.

Andy Thompson reports he is counting people using the trails, at the request of the Forest Service. From the period of June 11 to October 22, 1990, 2,900 people have used the combined Blueberry Ledge and Dickey's Mill Trails. Should you see a man standing by the Ferncroft Road as you go hiking, you can be assured it is not Andy counting the numbers. The Forest Service has photoelectric counters set at various locations along the trails. Andy collects the data twice a week and reports the information to a forest ranger at the Saco Ranger District.

## TRAIL NEWS

On October 20, five volunteers (John Mersfelder, Frank Kern, Chris Conrod, Dana Steele, and Paul King) ascended the Dickey's Mill Trail and effected some minor repairs on Camp Rich. Paul King earned his \*PCPE badge by distinguishing himself with a post-hole digger.

The Trails' Chairman would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers, especially the indefatigable Russ Kelly, for work done on our trails. Please call Dana Steele, Trails' Chairman, if you wish more details on the WODC Adopt-A-Trail program.

The many comments on the kiosk questionnaire indicate that, overall, our trails are in good shape.

\* Privy Cleaner Par Excellence

Dana Steele

## A COOPERATOR?

A Cooperator is an organization which has an agreement with the Forest Service to provide services of benefit to the Forest and its users. WODC is a Cooperator. The Club has a commitment to maintain trails and shelters within the Forest Service boundaries. It is our responsibility--and by itself

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## TRAIL ADOPTERS, 1990

Mt. Katherine  
Gordon Path  
Wiggin Trail  
McCrillis Path  
Bickford Path  
Wonalancet Range Trail  
Walden Trail  
Square Ledge Trail  
Old Mast Road  
Big Rock Cave Trail  
Brook Trail  
Bennett St. Trail  
Blueberry Ledge Trail  
Rollins Trail  
Lawrence Path  
Kelley Trail  
Dickey's Mill Trail  
Cabin Trail

John & Martha Chandler  
Denny Randall  
Ian Cook & Steve Harris  
Ted & Barbara Sidley  
Zink Family  
Russ Kelly  
Russ Kelly  
Mersfelder Family  
Russ Kelly  
Over the Hill Gang  
Roger & Susan Korpi  
Andy & Jackie Thompson  
Doug McVicar/Frumie Selchen  
Doug Mayer  
Chris Conrod  
Helen Steele  
Frank & Joe Feely  
Ralph Weymouth

justifies the existence of WODC. Of the eighteen cooperating organizations on the White Mountain National Forest, WODC, with 36.8 miles of trails on Forest land, ranks third in mileage; AMC has 271 miles of trails and Randolph Mountain Club 60 miles. Since several of our trails lie partially on private land, for instance Mt. Katherine and the Blueberry Ledge Trail, in actuality WODC has 47 miles of trails for which it is responsible.

A box of questionnaires is located in the kiosk at the parking lot off Ferncroft Road. Hikers are asked to make comments on trails, noting trails used, the number in the group, the amount of time/days hiked, and the condition of the trails. This information has been most helpful to the Club. Respondents to the questionnaire are appreciative of the work WODC does, and many would like to join the Club. Almost all replies indicate a positive experience while hiking. The trails are used continually. Though at times the parking lot is filled to capacity with hikers' autos, one can get on a trail and see few, if any, people.

Trail Adopter  
Needed!  
Blueberry Ledge  
Cut-Off

## FOREST SERVICE WITHDRAWS F M P DECISION

On November 8, 1990, WMNF Supervisor Rick Cables withdrew the February 14, 1990 decision to construct a road from Sandwich Notch Road to Flat Mountain Pond for motorized use by the mobility disabled. Part of his statement follows:

We have worked hard to find some middle ground on which we could resolve the appeals, but have not been able to do so. Because of this, and because of technical shortcomings in the documentation supporting the decision, I have decided to withdraw the decision.

WODC joined with several national and local groups and individuals (Conservation Law Foundation, Town of Sandwich Conservation Commission, Wilderness Inquiry, Sandwich Range Conservation Association, Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, and Dr. Nathan T. Sidley) in appealing the February decision.

For many years, members of WODC have supported efforts to protect Flat Mountain Pond from those who want to reach the remote area by means of motorized vehicles. Among Club members writing in opposition to the

road have been: Raphaelle Semmes, George Bates, Ted Sidley, Lou Flaccus, Ed Flaccus, Michael Purves, Doug McVicar, Alan Smith, Percy Olton, Fred Steele, Andy Thompson, Helen Steele, Joseph Feely, Ralph Weymouth, Claude Wintner, Alexander Lincoln, Ian Cooke, John Mersfelder, Jeff Zink, Donald Hight, Wm. Rogers Ellis, Tish and Rudy Mutter, Sally Flaccus, and John Breasted. Though our efforts were successful in this latest assault, there will in all likelihood be other proposals of a similar nature. "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance."

It is our current understanding that the Forest Service will initiate meetings with disabled and able people to consider the Forest resources, and how they might be made more readily available to individuals with disabilities. At an early December meeting of the WODC Executive Committee there was agreement that the Club should participate fully in the endeavour.

Dues Payable for  
1990-1991 Season:  
Individual...\$8  
Family...\$12 <sup>4/6</sup>  
To: Nat Steele  
Wonalancet, NH 03897