

1998 TRAILS COMMITTEE REPORT

This has been a unique year for WODC trails. The January ice storm caused damage rivaled only by the 1938 hurricane. Although damage in some areas was slight, other areas sustained heavy icing resulting in many lost branches, broken trunks, and even uprooted trees. In some areas, e.g. areas above the Dicey's Mill site, virtually all trees have lost their tops, suggesting that a major die-off will occur over the coming years.

Trail clearing activities began in January, shortly after the storm. Mild winter weather allowed considerable progress in clearing several trails. Despite these early efforts, it was apparent that the effects of the storm would be far reaching. To ensure that WODC trails would be reasonably clear for the summer hiking season, the decision was made to hire a crew of 3-4 people to supplement the usual volunteer effort. With cooperative funding available from the WMNF it appeared possible to conduct such a program within the existing trails budget.

With trail damage heavy throughout the state, qualified trail workers were unusually hard to find. However, the Trails Committee was fortunate to locate several individuals to serve on the so-called "light crew." The combined effort of volunteers and the light crew made excellent progress in re-opening WODC trails. By early June many trails had been cleared, and then the rains began.

Several days of continuous rain, combined with a lack of protective leaf cover, caused unprecedented erosion in many areas. Trails such as Old Mast Road, which have required few erosion control measures in the past, experienced significant rain damage that demanded prompt action. So, just as the basic trail clearing was coming to an end, it was decided to extend the light crew and utilize their efforts to restore the recent erosion damage. A second round of emergency funding from the WMNF made it possible to continue this effort within the existing budget.

Now renewed for an additional six weeks, the light crew moniker became a popular joke. With the comparatively easy trail clearing mostly complete, the crew's efforts now turned towards log water bars, rock steps, and other more substantial erosion-control measures. The goal was to halt the recent erosion in its tracks, before the new gullies grew to even more expensive proportions. Thanks largely to the energy and devotion of the light crew, most of these recent problems have been corrected, and hopefully won't become an ongoing problem. WODC volunteers put in a similar effort, rebuilding sections of heavily damaged trails, such as the steep portion of the Kelley Trail in the "plunge pool."

Of the total \$8500 payroll cost for the light crew, \$5500 is being covered under our cost share agreement with the WMNF. This WMNF contribution is made possible in part by the current fee pilot (parking fee) program. While this is a good financial deal for the WODC, the WMNF also benefits from over 2000 hours of WODC volunteer trail work. In fact, the volunteer effort is an integral part of the cost-share agreement, and is a major reason why the Trails Committee needs to maintain complete records of volunteers' efforts.

The 2000+ hours of volunteer work includes 1800 hours during scheduled work trips, such as the 30 people who turned out for the first trip on Bennett Street Trail. An additional 200 hours was reported by adopters, although many additional Adopter hours have not been reported or tallied. The light crew added another 766 hours to the effort, for a total of at least 2800 hours for the year. This is a truly impressive effort, exceeding our 1995 record of 2670 hours, which included the efforts of the Americorps and SRCA crews. These are actual trail times. Travel and administrative efforts are not included.

(Continued on Page 2)

NATIONAL PARK ?

In September, 1998, the New Hampshire Sierra Club announced that it would initiate a campaign to transfer the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) to the National Park Service (NPS). National Forests are managed by the Department of Agriculture, whereas National Parks are managed by the Department of Interior. This is not the first time such a transfer has been proposed, nor do we think it will be the last.

Both services are huge federal bureaucracies operating under regulations passed by Congress during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Basically, the governing principle of National Forests is to both protect and utilize the physical land resources under its jurisdiction. Of course these are often contradictory objectives. The resources to be protected and utilized are many: soils, minerals and rocks, water, wildlife — plant and animal —, recreational potentials, air, wildness, and historical features. Except for the last of these, Aldo Leopold coined the generic term "land." During any period of history one land resource is customarily used more than others. In the White Mountains, timber harvesting has always been a major activity; in recent years recreation has also been emphasized. To name but a few prominent recreational developments affected by WMNF management: Wildcat Mountain, Attitash Ski Area, Loon Mt. Ski Area, Waterville Valley Ski area, Kancamagus Highway, Sandwich Notch Road, Cog Railway, Mt. Washington Auto Road, campgrounds, picnic sites, Joe Dodge AMC Center at Pinkham Notch, and Tuckerman's Ravine.

In National Parks the governing principle of protecting and using natural resources is similar, but with the highest emphasis upon recreation in its broadest sense. That is, what a vacationing public wants. Automobile roads are built, as are hotels, cottages, restaurants, garages, food stores, clothing stores, photography shops, and gasoline stations. Not without reason is Yosemite Valley known as "Yosemite

(Continued on Page 3)



The *Newsletter* is published twice each year by the Wonalancet Out Door Club. The mailing address is:

WODC Newsletter Editor
HC 64 Box 5
Wonalancet, NH 03897

The Editor encourages members and interested readers to submit material for use in future issues. Articles, poems, drawings, comments, criticisms, suggestions, are welcomed.

The WODC Web site address is <http://www.wodc.org>

(Continued from Page 1)

1998 TRAILS REPORT

While we can justifiably be proud of our efforts, the net result is basically that we have broken even with the ice storm of 1998. For details on the season's work, see the WODC web site at <http://www.wodc.org>. While this is no minor accomplishment, it has caused a year's delay in other plans for WODC trails.

A major objective for 1998 was to continue the restoration of erosion damage on the Walden Trail. This project was strongly supported at the 1997 Annual Meeting by the approval of a significant budget for this project. This was augmented in April 1998, with the award of a \$9800 grant under the National Recreational Trails Act (NRTA). Unfortunately, due to the heavy demands of ice storm cleanup, we were not able to conduct the four weeks of work planned for Walden in 1998. Instead, we will need to complete the entire twelve week project in 1999, before the NRTA grant expires in the Fall.

The Trails Committee is currently seeking applicants for the 1999 crew, as described in the notice elsewhere in this *Newsletter*. If you or someone you know might be interested, you're encouraged to contact the Trails Committee as soon as possible. Additional information is also available on the WODC web site. See address under the *Newsletter* masthead.

Boy Scout Trail Workers:

Since the re-adoption of the Kate Sleeper trail in 1993, volunteers have

spent 3-4 days each year working on this remote trail. This year we enjoyed the assistance of James Duane, along with his family and fellow Boy Scouts from Marion, Mass. After learning of the maintenance challenges of this wonderful trail, James felt it would make a good Eagle Scout project. In addition to giving something back to the trails, it was a great opportunity for James to spread the word about low-impact techniques for hiking,

along the Old Mast Road. The first half mile of OMR is owned by the Smalley/Boettiger family, and sees moderate use as an unofficial road-side campground. Although the owners are glad to have others enjoy their property, the impact of campers has risen to the point that they decided to close the area to fires and overnight use. Employing techniques developed for restoring backcountry sites, WODC and Marion



James Duane (center) with family and fellow scouts after work on Sleeper Trail.

camping, and trail work.

After months of planning (and many long drives from Marion), the mid-August trip was underway. Saws, clippers, fire rakes, shovels, mattocks, and even crow bars were hauled up the Blueberry Ledge Trail along with the necessary overnight gear, food, and clothing. After a night's rest, work began with one party clearing the trail towards Tripyramid, while a second group worked to correct mud and erosion damage below Camp Shehadi. After five days of work the trail was clear and well brushed, and nearly half a mile of deteriorating trail was restored to a stable, passable condition. Nearly 400 hours of valuable work had been accomplished on this fragile and important trail.

A few days after returning from the Sleeper Trail, James began the final part of his project, restoring several campsites

volunteers worked to remove the traces of past overuse. Trash was gathered, sites were brushed in, and rocks and stumps were partially buried. These techniques discourage further camping in a natural, friendly manner, while permitting other low-impact activities. While the sites do have signs explaining the change in policy, the emphasis is on encouraging responsible use, rather than the unfriendly approach of standard no trespassing signs. To date the sites appear to be undisturbed, and none of the signs have been defaced.

A total of six camp sites and four fire rings were identified and removed. The access paths were also disguised to reduce the impact of casual visitors. To complete the general restoration of the area, John Boettiger has closed the old brush dump and sand pit, and plans to have these sites restored and revegetated. We salute John's efforts, and express our appreciation for

hosting this vital trailhead. With virtually all WODC trails beginning on private lands like the Smalley/Boettiger's, such cooperation is vital to the ongoing maintenance of our trails.

The Smalley/Boettiger property is also the site of the "Smalley Bridge". Built by the Club in 1993 to replace a decayed logging bridge, it is named in memory of the late "Red" Smalley, with whose cooperation the bridge was built.

Trail Tending Guide:

Finally, 1998 marks the long-awaited release of *Trail Tending - A Guide for WODC Trail Volunteers*. Written by Chris Conrod (with meddling by the Trails Committee), *Trail Tending* covers everything from trail clearing to signing, as well as USFS and landowner issues. Copies have been distributed to all WODC volunteers and trail partners. We'll be glad to provide a copy to anyone else upon request.

Peter Smart

Members of the Trails Committee

- Peter Smart, Chairman Chris Conrod
- Fred Lavigne Evelyn McKinnon
- Judith Reardon Larry Labrie

Summer Housing Wanted

The WODC is seeking accommodations for our 1999 Summer trail crew. If you have a cabin, a room, or even a tent site with facilities, please let us know. Accommodations are typically needed for 3-4 nights per week from mid-June to mid-August. Any housing options for one to four people are of interest, whether donated, rented, or exchanged for help around the house. Proximity to Wonalancet is preferable, but not essential. Please contact Peter Smart at 603-323-8827 (eves) or 603-323-8666 (days).

(Continued from Page 1)

NATIONAL PARK ?

City." At the popular tourist attractions such as the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, and Yellowstone, concessionaires play a major role in providing for the comforts of a vacationing public. Wildlife resources, water, air, trees, soils, minerals and Wilderness are all "protected," as far as feasible, but consistent with public demands. Customarily timber and minerals are not extracted as commodities. Roads are built to accommodate visitors, not timber trucks and mining machinery.

National Forests and National Parks have major management problems. Neither is insulated from the pressures of commercial interests that exploit natural resources, including the commercial pressures from an ever expanding recreation industry.

In the last 20 years, there has been increasing criticism of the WMNF's timber policies — too much road building, roads constructed to unnecessarily high standards, and to accommodate larger commercial harvesting equipment than necessary. Also, a sizeable and active segment of the public is distressed by what it perceives as an overuse of clear cutting, and the excessive size of clear cuts. In addition, there is the issue of below-cost timber sales — timber sales in which the income to the Forest Service from the sales is less than the cost to the Service of raising and preparing the product for sale. At one time the Forest Service denied this accusation, however, WMNF officials now acknowledge that such sales do take place. Many people see this as a further example of corporate welfare.

WMNF land managers have made efforts to deal with public criticisms, but are themselves limited in decision making by: Congressional regulations; a long tradition of operating National Forests as sources of commercial materials; strong national lobbies from the extractive industries of timber, minerals, and grazing; and more recently, the powerful recreation industries and organizations.

At this time, there is no clear picture as to how the Forest vs Park controversy will



Photo: Andrew Thompson

fare with the public. The WODC Executive Committee has not adopted a formal position. It is unlikely, however, that any transfer is in immediate prospect. The Society For the Protection of NH Forests opposes the change, as does the NH Audubon Society, and the NH Timberland Owners Association. Senator Gregg, the Congressman with the strongest environmental record, has expressed his opposition. In the New Hampshire political sphere, Sierra Club positions have previously exerted little influence.

The issue of the proper role of National Forests can be traced to the first piece of legislation passed by Congress in 1891 creating "forest reserves" — later renamed National Forests. The Forest Reserve Act empowered the President to withdraw land from the public domain, but failed to specify how the land would be managed. John Muir, President and Founder of the Sierra Club, thought the intention of the new Act was to preserve undeveloped forests in a manner similar to that of the legislation establishing National Parks. On the other hand, Gifford Pinchot, who became the Chief Forester of the US

Forest Service, believed the objective of the new Act was to assure that the nation's forests would be managed scientifically to obtain a steady supply of valuable materials. Debate between the disciples of John Muir and the disciples of Gifford Pinchot has not ceased.

Congressional passage of the Forest Management Act in 1897 made it clear that the primary purpose of the reserves is "to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of citizens of the United States." Not until 1964 did the disciples of Muir win a battle, when Congress passed The Wilderness Act. This Act allows Congress to mandate that portions of Federal land will be preserved in their natural states, and managed as Wilderness.

In present day parlance, disciples of Muir are known as "preservationists," whereas disciples of Pinchot are called "protectionists." Most Sierra Club members are preservationists, while most Society For the Protection of NH Forests members are protectionists.

The ultimate decision with respect to the present debate rests with a public that to date seems unconcerned with the issue. Both National Forests and National Parks are managed to serve the interests of the American public, and what the public wants is by no means clear. Joseph L. Sax writes about the ambivalence of the average American on the issue of preservation versus development within National Parks in his book *Mountains Without Handrails*. His comments apply equally well to National Forests.

"In urging that the national parks be devoted to affirming the symbolic meaning he attaches to them, the preservationist makes a very important assumption, routinely indulged but hardly ever explicit. The assumption is that the values he imputes to the parks (independence, self-reliance, self-restraint) are extremely widely shared by the American public. Though he knows that he is a member of a minority, he believes he speaks for values that are majoritarian. He is in fact, a prophet for a kind of secular religion. You would like to emulate the pioneer explorers, he says to the public; you would like independently

to raft down the wild Colorado as John Wesley Powell did a century ago. You would like to go it alone in the mountain wilderness as John Muir did. Indeed that is why you are stirred by the images of the great national parks and why you support the establishment of public Wilderness. But you are vulnerable; you allow entrepreneurs to coddle you and manage you. And you are fearful; you are afraid to get out of your recreational vehicle or your car and plunge into the woods on your own. Moreover you want to deceive yourself; you would like to believe that you are striking out into the wilderness, but you insist that the wilderness be tamed before you enter it. So, says the secular prophet, follow me and I will show you how to become the person you really want to be. Put aside for a while the plastic alligators of the amusement park, and I will show you that nature, taken on its own terms, has something to say that you will be glad to hear. This is the essence of the preservationist message."

Joseph Sax has it right. Those of us who want to retain natural ecosystems in our forests are preservationists. We recognize that forests undergo changes through the centuries by natural processes, and we welcome them. But we are opposed to many activities on the Forests that are products of man's activities. We preservationists are currently in the minority in a country where the dominant motives are development and growth.

Neither our National Parks nor National Forests will fare well until a majority of citizens demand some fundamental changes in management. Changes will not come by transfer from one government agency to another but only from public pressures. The public suffers from the "Pogo" syndrome: "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

George E. Zink

CLUB HOUSE ?

For as long as I've been a member of the WODC, I have heard the question "Should the WODC have a club house?". This past summer the question was asked in earnest when the former Wonalcet Post Office was offered for sale. We were unprepared for this event and before the WODC could even consider what to do the Post Office was sold. In order to be better prepared for making a fast but rational decision in the future, the Executive Committee (EC) was requested at the Annual Meeting to consider the pros and cons of a club house and report back at the next Annual Meeting.

Since Annual Meeting the topic of a club house has been discussed at several EC meetings. The purpose of this article is to summarize those discussions, and to request input from the general WODC membership.

The EC identified several strong reasons in support of a WODC club house. Such a building could serve as a:

- WODC meeting place
- Tool storage space
- Club library
- Museum for WODC historic artifacts
- Visitor center
- Community center
- Lodging for trail crew members
- Other uses might develop once we have a club house.

Some strong disadvantages were also cited. A club house would:

- Siphon money from the Club's trail efforts
- Require maintenance and property tax payments
- Require staffing.

These disadvantages would be mitigated if the club house were a joint effort with the Wonalcet Preservation Association. Also, a small lot, even ¼ acre, would be acceptable — although a septic system would be a necessity. Further reducing the cost would be the fact that volunteer help

would be available if a club house were to be constructed.

When considering that a club house requires financial and also volunteer support, keep in mind that this might not detract from trail funds and volunteer efforts since it could lead to a larger membership. Also, some people who are not able to volunteer for trail work might welcome a different type of volunteer opportunity.

At this time the EC is not prepared to make a recommendation either for or against a club house. However, if a club house site were offered as a donation (what a nice tax-write-off!), the decision would probably be "yes." In fact, a donation might be a necessity because the club house site should be in the Wonalancet area, and it would be difficult for the WODC club to pay the going local market price.

Opinions of the general membership, whether for, against, or mixed, are most welcome. To encourage feedback, a questionnaire will be posted on the WODC web site. To respond by letter, write to the address shown in the *Newsletter* masthead.

Dick Daniels

Winter Event

The Wonalancet Out Door Club has scheduled a combination winter outing and evening get-together for Saturday, February 6th. The outing will be in the afternoon and include cross country skiing, skating, or whatever the weather permits. If weather necessitates, it may be postponed until Feb. 13. The evening social will be a potluck supper starting at 5:30 (come help at 5:00 PM) followed by a show and tell. Please bring any memorabilia/artifacts that would be of interest to members of the Club. The evening get-together will be held without regard to the weather. See short article under **HIGHLIGHTS** in this issue for further and latest details.

Dick Daniels

FRIENDS OF THE SANDWICH RANGE

WODC members and Julie Wormser of the Wilderness Society met in April, 1998, to see if a "Friends of ..." group could be started for the Sandwich Range. WODC members and area friends active in the group include Bob Crowley, Pierce Beij, Peter Smart, Judy Reardon, Chris Conrod, John Cooley, Suzanne Weil, David & C.C. White, Ann Rogers, Fred Lavigne, Evelyn MacKinnon, John Enright, George Zink, Tish & Rudy Mutter, and Herb Greene. There are many other busy people who are interested and would like to be kept informed of our progress.

With the White Mountain National Forest Plan Revision stalled (see "Forest Plan Revision" in the November 1997 *Newsletter*), proposed timber sales and road building in Sandwich Notch, and possible salvage logging north of the Guinea Pond trail, it seemed important to gather support and ideas for more protection in the Sandwich Range.

The most exciting idea for more protection is to extend the Wilderness boundary in seven areas. This is a long term goal since it involves submitting a Wilderness Bill to Congress.

The seven areas are:

- **Black Mt. Pond Extension** includes the area from Black Mountain Pond to the Sandwich Notch Road and southeast to the Guinea Pond Trail. This would put Black Mtn. Pond well within the Wilderness boundary. Several historic sites and the Algonquin Trail would also be protected.

- **Lost Pass Extension** would widely separate Lost Pass from the construction of groomed cross-country ski trails.

- **Scar Ridge Extension** would connect the Greeley Pond Scenic area to the Sandwich Range Wilderness on the East, and to Scar Ridge on the West. This is by far the largest extension.

- **Square Ledge Extension** would move the Wilderness boundary North.

Mt. Passaconaway, Square Ledge, and the northern slopes of Mt. Paugus would be well within the Wilderness protection.

- **Mount Paugus Extension** would put the last remaining piece of the Whitin Brook watershed into Wilderness status. It would protect vistas seen from Mt. Paugus and Mt. Chocorua.

- **Wonalancet Extension** includes all of the remaining National Forest land that borders/faces Wonalancet. It would protect the Kelley Trail corridor, which is worthy of special protection due to the 200 year old Spruce trees, a spectacular brook, and glacial features.

- **Flat Mountain Extension** includes almost all of the National Forest to the south of Flat Mountain. The Wilderness boundary would be drawn to allow snowmobiling and mountain biking to Flat Mountain Pond. The lower Bennett St. Trail along with Great Falls on Pond Brook would be in Wilderness.

The second idea is to change the management area designations in some areas from 2.1 and 3.1 to 6.1. Areas designated 2.1 and 3.1 allow extensive timber harvesting, while 6.1 areas allow only incidental timber harvesting related to salvage operations and insect/disease control. No scheduled commercial timber harvesting would occur. The opportunity to accomplish this will be when the Forest Plan Revision starts up again and the **Friends of the Sandwich Range** will be participants.

A committee has been working on a slide show presentation to draw more support for Wilderness extensions and management area changes in the Sandwich Range. The committee was fortunate to have the opportunity to get aerial photographs of the various areas, through the generosity of a private pilot and photographer Andy Thompson.

We've been on some interesting field trips with Wilderness Society interns documenting some of the important places and taking slides for the show. We've also been on trips with people from the Society

for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the WMNF, and citizens interested in the projects.

Members of the Friends group are meeting in January with WMNF personnel to present these extension proposals.

The Friends of the Sandwich Range group wants this to be an enjoyable and positive campaign. For more information, or if you'd like to attend a meeting, or help in any way, please call Fred Lavigne (284-6919), Bob Crowley (536-1363), or Ann Rogers (323-7277).

Evelyn MacKinnon & Fred Lavigne

HIGHLIGHTS

Trail Crew Openings: The WODC is seeking applicants for the 1999 summer trail crew. Work will entail extensive restoration of the Walden Trail, including construction of water bars, retainers, steps, and other rock structures. Although the WODC is a volunteer based organization, the extensive nature of this project requires a fulltime crew. Job requirements include prior experience with trail work, backcountry camping, and first aid training.

The crew will operate from mid-June to mid-August, and will work and camp in the backcountry for four days per week. The WODC will help to arrange local accommodations for off days. This is a unique opportunity to make a significant contribution to maintenance of backcountry forest trails, and to work closely with devoted WODC volunteers. Pay is commensurate with experience. WODC is an equal opportunity employer. Applications should be submitted by early 1999. For further details please see the "jobs" page at www.wodc.org or contact Chris Conrod at 603-284-6686.

WODC Web Site Now Operating: The WODC web site at <http://www.wodc.org> is now operating; this address will be found under the masthead in this and future *Newsletter* issues. The site is updated regularly with information on WODC trails and shelters, plus club activities, membership information, a

merchandise order form, and links to other interesting outdoor sites. The site also contains the WODC Constitution and Bylaws, the results of last year's membership survey, photos of recent events, and e-mail addresses for contacting the Club. Please visit the site for the latest information on mid-winter activities and the new WODC T-Shirt.

Several photographs in this and recent issues of the *Newsletter* were taken by Andrew Thompson, who lives in the shadow of the Sandwich Range in Wonalancet. He is a WODC member, a trail adopter, a good neighbor, and a fine freelance photographer who captures the wildness and beauty of his surroundings. Andy may be reached at (603-323-8304).

WINTER EVENT latest details: The afternoon outing group will meet at the home of Dick Daniels at 1:00 PM. The supper will be held at the Benz Center. For further details, contact Dick Daniels at (284-7228, 284-6633, or ddi@lr.net) or Susan Bryant-Kimball (284-6506).



Photo by Andrew Thompson

GUIDE REVIEW

The WODC's main mission is to take care of its trail system in the Sandwich Range. To do so depends heavily on routine maintenance by trail adopters and other volunteers. But what is routine maintenance? Until recently, individual volunteers have followed a more or less common sense approach. Now, thanks to Chris Conrod, WODC's *secret treasure*, a 23 page booklet *TRAIL TENDING: A Guide for WODC Trail Volunteers* has been created. The guide is based on tried and true methods, scientific and technical principles, and, guess what? — common sense.

I have characterized Chris, as above, because many people in the Club probably wouldn't recognize him. But every once in a while a poem of his shows up in the *Newsletter*. Or you may remember his wry application in the T-shirt contest. Most of all, he doesn't putz around. If there's a job to be done, and he decides it's a worthy one, he does it — and it is done with class.

In writing *TRAIL TENDING*, Chris' goal was not to be original — there are plenty of trail guides out there — but to make it useful, applicable to our trail system, and most importantly, readable. He has succeeded in all respects. Now mind you, Chris would be the first to acknowledge that this guide is not a page turner except for the most devout, but every once in a while a bit of his natural levity is encountered as when describing the use of an axe where "carelessness can lead to footlessness" or the "blitzkrieg" as opposed to the "natural selection" theory of blazing. I hope your interest is piqued. Why should I bother to review this *Guide* if it's just meant for trail adopters, other than to once more remind our general membership that WODC is a functioning entity?

I bother because I think there is information in the *Guide*, both interesting and informative, with which all of us who use our trails should be acquainted. If we are WODC members, we are supporting the Club's mission, and we ought to be reasonably acquainted and appreciative of the care of trails: proper, safe and efficient

techniques of brushing, blowdown removal, drainage and erosion control, blazing and signing, and good relations with private landowners who grant access to most of our trails. We ought to be able to explain the rudiments to others we may meet on the trails.



One of many new rock water bars on the Kate Sleeper Trail, built during a mid-summer trip with scouts from Marion, MA.

TRAIL TENDING: A Guide for WODC Trail Volunteers delineates the above techniques and responsibilities in a direct and personal manner, with ample illustrations. It serves as a reference, but it is also something of a treatise. The guide describes the consequences of ill considered or careless maintenance. It discusses our relationship with the Forest Service and with Wilderness - but wait - I don't want to give away too much of the plot.

If you want to learn more, visit the WODC web site, or get a copy of the *Guide* by contacting Chris Conrod at Box 17, South Tamworth, NH 03883, or telephone him at (603)284-6686.

And thank him for his good works.

John Mersfelder

FINANCIAL REPORT

WODC Fundraiser:

Membership response to the fundraiser has been enthusiastic. We collected \$14,000 by Annual Meeting, and are approximately 70% toward our \$20,000 goal.

Current Financial Status (tentative) :

Year to Date Income — in Dollars

Contributions	11,651
Dues	6,746
Map sales	1,448
Trails Income*	5,500
Other income	854

Total Income 26,199

Year to Date Expenses —in Dollars

Trails	9,557
Clerical	1,410
Newsletter	488
Reduction in map assets . .	584
Other Expenses	490

Total Expenses 12,529

Net Income 13,670

*USFS contribution for Ice Storm Cleanup

Total Assets on 01/01/98 17,909

Total Assets on 12/31/98 32,711

Change in Assets** . . . 14,802

**Asset growth attributable to members' support of the fundraiser.

Tom Rogers

The purpose of the campaign was to achieve three objectives: open all trails damaged and blocked by the Ice Storm of '98; complete restoration work on all WODC trails, including the Walden; and add \$10,000 to the Edgar Rich Fund for future trail work.

The first objective has already been obtained — thanks to dedicated work by the Trails Committee, the paid crew, trail adopters, and other volunteers. Restoration of the Walden Trail is the top priority for our second objective. With luck, this work should be completed in 1999. Achieving our third objective rests upon raising the remaining \$6,000 of our \$20,000 target.

If you haven't yet contributed to the fundraiser, please consider doing so. On behalf of the Executive Committee, thank you for selecting the Club as a recipient of your charitable dollars.



Wonalancet Out Door Club

HC 64 Box 5

Wonalancet, NH 03897