

FIFTY - FIFTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER
APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

OCTOBER 25, 1975



APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB
NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER

REPORT OF THE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN

1. A VOTE OF THANKS

No AMC Chapter can run effectively without efficient teamwork between its officers, committee chairmen and committee members. We have been fortunate in having an efficient team and I would like to thank everyone of them for what they have done for the Chapter. My special thanks go to the members of the "executive committee"; that is, the officers and the committee chairmen who have met frequently during the year. Last but not least, special thanks are also due to Terry Frost who has been chairman of the nominating committee. It is hard to overestimate the amounts of time, effort and dedication which have been contributed by these individuals.

2. SPECIAL EVENTS

Those transactions and events which can be termed as "normal" are covered in the individual sections of the Annual Report. This gives your outgoing Chairman a chance to review the special interest items which have occurred and to describe the decisions which were taken on these items. I am sure that all the members of the "executive committee" have done their best to arrive at decisions which appeared to be sensible and which we hoped would represent the desires of the Chapter membership. Just the same, you never know for sure. For this reason we have included in the call to the Annual Meeting, a questionnaire asking the Chapter members to express their degree of agreement or disagreement with the management which has been provided by the "executive committee". We hope that we will get "passing" marks. In any case, the replies will indicate to the incoming officers and executive committee what the Chapter membership wants. At this point let's get back to the "special events".

3. CONSERVATION

There has been a great increase in interest and involvement in conservation. This involved not only the areas of mountains and trails, in which the AMC has been involved for generations, but also the protection of the seacoast, opposition to oil refineries, to Nuclear Power plants, such as Seabrook., etc. In view of the energy crisis, the case of the Nuclear Power plants is particularly interesting. It led to the conclusion that, while conservation should be given full consideration, it should not be permitted to override the needs of National Defense, National Health and equally important, National needs.

In dealing with the Nuclear Power plant problem, it was found that some of the statements which the environmentalists

believe to be true have their basis in sensationalism rather than in facts. To maintain the presently excellent credibility of the AMC, it appears that careful screening will continue to be needed to make sure that the public can expect that all AMC statements will be fully factual.

In the matter of greatly expanding the field of the AMC's conservation activities, some practical problems arise. The AMC has neither the manpower or the funds to "cover the water-front" and to acquire expertise in several new fields. Therefore, it was concluded that the AMC should give priority to those fields in which it has nationally recognized expertise; namely, the planning, building, maintenance and protection of mountain trails, the protection of mountain areas, and the operation of hut systems, mountaineering schools, etc. This should not prevent the AMC from giving assistance to other conservation activities where this is feasible.

4. LAND USE

Land use planning and legislation is a special aspect of the conservation issue. While many different ideas on this subject were in evidence, efforts in this field were somewhat hampered by the lack of a clear, concise and acceptable policy.

As a result of several discussions with Mr. Paul O. Bofinger, President of the Society for the Protection of N. H. Forests, a tentative basic policy was developed. It is hoped that this memorandum will be helpful in formulating the Chapter's future policy.

5. AMC OPERATIONS

In some of the interchapter meetings, complaints were voiced, particularly by the New York Chapter, that the problems in the Northern Regions, such as the White Mountain area, Bigelow, etc., and particularly Franconia Notch, were absorbing far too much of the AMC funding and its staff-manpower. Suggestions were made that the parent club efforts and expenses should be vestigial.

Your N. H. Chairman has argued repeatedly that the AMC should act as a Federation of Chapters who act independently within their local problem areas and are backed up by a strong headquarters organization. In this type of structure, the full power of all the Chapters can be brought to bear on crucial problems such as Franconia Notch, and others. This indeed means that one Chapter may get more manpower or funding than others in any particular year. However, without such an arrangement, it is dubious that the court action, leading to the injunction on Route I-93, could have been instituted.

6. FRANCONIA NOTCH - PRESENT

A few words of history are needed to understand the present situation:

In January, 1969, the White Mountain Environment Committee (WMEC) was formed to continue the opposition to any Interstate route in the Notch and to promote alternate routes and solutions. It is composed of organizations such as the Forest Society (SPNHF), AMC (parent organization), AMC (chapter), Audubon Society, Sierra Club and many others, as well as interested and informed individuals. In March, 1970, Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe decided to postpone any construction in the Notch indefinitely and in September, 1972, he reaffirmed this in a letter to the AMC stating that any new proposals in the North Woodstock-Franconia region would require a comprehensive impact statement and full consideration of alternatives. This is what the conservationists had been trying to achieve since 1966.

In 1973 the "Cotton Amendment" was adopted. It was proposed by N. H. Senator Norris Cotton. It permits the use of Interstate funds for building a parkway type road through the Notch without making it mandatory to do so, it permits exclusion of certain types of vehicles and it retains the mandatory comprehensive study of alternate solutions. For these reasons, the WMEC supported the Cotton Amendment. Several things have happened since.

The N. H. Highway Department has engaged the VTN consulting engineering firm to make comprehensive studies of the whole area. The WMEC is following their work closely and to provide them with professional competence in their work, they have engaged the well-known engineering firm of Clarke and Rapuano. Consulting firms are expensive (so are lawyers). To finance these professional charges and others resulting from printing informational bulletins, etc., the WMEC established the Franconia Notch Fund which is administered by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF). The AMC parent organization contributed \$5,000 to this fund and our N. H. AMC Chapter contributed \$500. Many other contributions were received. Even so, the expected total bills exceed the revenues by some \$15,000 and contributions are urgently requested. One way to help this fund is by attending the Tom Rush fund-raising concert on Sunday, November 9, 1975 at the Capitol Theater (Alosa Center) in Concord, New Hampshire.

Within this same period of time, the N. H. Highway Department continued its efforts to construct the N. H. section of I-93 from

Littleton, N. H. via Waterford to St. Johnsbury, Vermont. Construction of this section would limit the choices for alternate routings of I-93. However, the Highway Department filed an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which failed to consider the whole corridor from North Woodstock to Waterford. At this time, the AMC (parent organization) and the Society for the Protection of N. H. Forests (SPNHF) filed suit in the U.S. District Court in New Hampshire. Judge Hugh Bownes issued a temporary injunction ordering all action on this road to stop. The Notch was again saved for the time being, but this is only one phase of the continuing battle.

During this same period, and working closely with the engineering firm of Clarke and Rapuano, the WMEC continued its study of possible solutions for the Notch problem. For a long time, the impression had prevailed that a 4-lane Interstate Highway must be built in this area. This is simply not so and this fact leads to the possibility of considering the "no-build" or "modified no-build" alternatives. A strict "no-build" does not provide for the desirable improvements within the park, nor does it solve the problem of having through-traffic to the North Country "trapped" in a traffic jam. However, under a "modified no-build" program, signs could be installed at the approaches to Franconia Notch to warn the through-traffic that traffic in the Notch is congested and to suggest the use of the detour routes. This should be supplemented by improvements within the Park, by straightening out a few sharp curves in the detour routes and by bypassing the traffic light in North Woodstock. The WMEC prepared a "discussion paper" on this subject and submitted it to the Highway Department consultants (VTN) with the request that this possible solution to the problem be given full consideration.

7. FRANCONIA NOTCH - FUTURE

The WMEC and its member organizations will continue to work for the protection of the Notch and will take such actions as seem necessary. However, it may be possible to bring other helpful forces into play.

The WMEC information sheet ("Franconia Notch - A Notch in Trouble") stated "The ultimate decision on the fate of Franconia Notch will be a political decision. Political decisions depend to a large extent on public pressure." This pressure in turn depends on public awareness and education. It appears that relatively few people outside our area are aware of the potential dangers to the Notch. However, Franconia Notch is a national issue and it is therefore the right as well as the responsibility of the interested people throughout the United States to become both informed and involved and to exert such influence as they may have.

To promote involvement with the Notch on a National rather than Regional basis, a number of "friends of the Notch" (such as William A. King, former AMC president and John French, III) affiliated with the AMC, the Forest Society (SPNHF), the Sierra Club and the WMEC have incorporated the non-profit Committee for Franconia Notch, Inc. Its purpose is to secure support for the position that no four-lane route should be constructed in the Notch and to work for the preservation and enhancement of the Franconia Notch Park. This will be done by its own mailings and other publicity efforts and regional organizations. Funding will be through donations which will be used to support the Committee's own direct expenses and to support efforts by other organizations, such as the AMC, SPNHF, WMEC and any others which can effectively help the cause.

The new organization will have to borrow money to carry it until sufficient contributions are coming in and it has asked the AMC Board of Directors (The Council) to provide these funds; it has also asked them to be the administrator of the funds it receives. The AMC Board of Directors (The Council) has not made any decision on this request and it appears dubious that it will take action on it in its October meeting. Personally, I am fully confident that the AMC support will be forthcoming. After all, it would be utterly illogical for the AMC Board of Directors to consider supporting other environmental activities while at the same time neglecting an opportunity to help save Franconia Notch with which it has been concerned for generations.

In the highly improbable case that the AMC Board of Directors would turn down this attempt at getting nationwide attention and support for the Notch, I would reluctantly advise the Chapter members: "To Hell with the AMC Board or Council, let us in the N. H. Chapter roll up our sleeves and find others to help us get this project started. After all, it is OUR N. H. Notch which is at stake!"

8. CONCLUSION

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve as your Chairman for the last two years and I want to thank all those who have given me help, advice and encouragement.

It is a gratifying thing to see the Chairmanship pass into the hands of Ruth A. Houghton who is capable, level-headed and able to get things done. Best of luck!

E. H. B. Bartelink
October 1975

MINUTES OF THE 54th ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 26, 1974

The Fifty-fourth Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was held Saturday, October 26, 1974 at the King Ridge Ski Area, New London, New Hampshire. Following a formal greeting of the Chapter members, guests, and new members in the Chapter, the various officers and guests from other chapters were introduced.

The business meeting was opened by Henck Bartelink, Chapter Chairman. Attention was called to the 54th Annual Report and the Treasurer's report. There being no additions or corrections, the Annual Report and Treasurer's Report were accepted as presented.

The Nominating Committee, Terry Frost, Chairman, presented the following slate of officer and committee chairmen candidates:

Chairman	E. H. B. Bartelink	Concord
Vice Chairman	Paul S. Shaw	Concord
Secretary	Edward J. Creager	Merrimack
Treasurer	Kay Fuller	Jackson
Membership	Margaret L. Ensor	New London
Excursions	Wayne H. Huff	Manchester
Mountaineering	Brian K. Fowler	Gilford
Trails	William S. Nichols	Littleton
Canoeing	Roioli Schweiker	Concord
Program	John S. Ensor	New London
Conservation	Anne F. Millikin	E. Thetford, Vt.
Education	Ruth A. Houghton	Warner

Each candidate was introduced. There being no nominations from the floor, the motion was made and seconded to accept the candidates presented by the Nominating Committee. The vote was affirmative and the secretary was directed to cast one vote.

A request was made for further business. Being none, the motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the business meeting.

Tom Barringer, of AMC Northern New England Regional Staff, presented "The Ascent of 22,000 foot Mt. Huascaran, Central Peru", an account with slides of his personal experiences in this attempt.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Houghton, Secretary

Note: The pressure of business caused 'Joe' Creager to resign early in 1975, and Mrs. Houghton was asked to complete his term as secretary.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

In compliance with the New Hampshire Chapter By-laws which state that the Nominating Committee must "send the complete slate to the Chapter Secretary at least three weeks in advance of the date of the annual meeting. The names submitted by the Nominating Committee shall be made known to all the members of the Chapter at least ten days before the annual meeting." The following nominees have agreed to serve the Chapter for the club year 1975-76 if elected at the annual meeting:

Chairman:	Ruth A. Houghton 21 Piscataqua Street Concord, NH 03301	Vice Chairman:	Paul S. Shaw, M.D. 17 Washington Street Concord, NH 03301
Secretary:	Harry J. Reed 148 Mountain Road Concord, NH 03301	Treasurer:	Edwin E. Ricker Indian Ridge Road Contoocook, NH 03229
Membership:	Marjorie M. Kneeland Dolly Road Hopkinton, NH 03301	Excursions:	Marc A. Levesque 3 Morningside Drive Nashua, NH 03060
Mountain- eering :	Brian Fowler Box 409 Franklin, NH 03235	Trails:	William S. Nichols Pine Hill Road Littleton, NH 03561
Canoeing:	Wayne H. Huff 175 St. Anselm's Drive Manchester, NH 03102	Program:	Lloyd & Edna Heidgard 19 Emerson Road Durham, NH 03824
Education:	Marie S. Fitts Box A-384 Sunapee, NH 03782	Hospitality:	Bernice Johnson 111 Cedar Hill Drive Manchester, NH 03103
Conservation:	Robert H. Estabrook 20 Allison Street Concord, NH 03301		

Respectfully Submitted,
Terrence P. Frost, Chairman
Reverend Carleton Schaller
William R. Fuller
Nominating Committee

TREASURER'S REPORT
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

For the Twelve Months Ended September 30, 1975

CASH ON DEPOSIT September 30, 1974		
Savings Account	\$3,975.41	
Checking Account	26.65	\$4,002.06

RECEIPTS		
Interest on Savings	183.07	
Dinner Meeting Reservations	2,536.20	
Dues Allocation	3,476.50	
Total Receipts		<u>6,195.77</u>
TOTAL		<u>\$10,197.83</u>

DISBURSEMENTS		
Dinner Meeting Expenses	\$2,574.41	
Meetings Expenses	90.75	
Postage Permit (Postage)	187.76	
Printing (Secretarial Exp.)	846.56	
Officer and Committee Exp. travel, postage, phone	156.95	
Contributions (1)	700.00	
Education (2)	150.00	
Bank Charge (Stamp)	1.18	
Total Expenses		\$4,707.61

CASH ON DEPOSIT September 30, 1975		
Savings Account	\$5,465.98	
Checking Account	24.24	<u>\$5,490.22</u>
TOTAL		<u>\$10,197.83</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Fuller, Treasurer

(1) Includes \$500.00 to Franconia Notch Fund
\$100.00 to Society for Protection of N. H. Forests
\$100.00 to SPACE

(2) Includes \$130.00 for Mountain Leadership Scholarship
\$ 20.00 for First Aide Certification Scholarship

P R O G R A M C O M M I T T E E

Thanks to a lot of good tips from, and actual participation by my fellow committee members, the program committee presented the following programs during the current year:

Saturday, February 16, 1975 Winter Frolic at Pinkham Notch

80 members and guests attended the fine buffet dinner provided by the Pinkham crew, and heard Bob Kruszyna present his illustrated lecture entitled the "Alps from End to End". The event was preceded by a snowshoe hike partly up Wildcat " " on the Appalachian Trail participated in by a few hardy souls, and a social hour in the Joe Dodge Center with much higher attendance.

Saturday, March 22, 1975 The Chateau, Manchester, N.H.

118 members and friends came to hear our own Wayne Huff's illustrated talk entitled "A Float Trip Down the Grand Canyon of the Colorado". The social hour, dinner and talk provided a very memorable evening. This event was arranged entirely by committee member Wayne Huff working with Bernice Johnson as registrar.

Saturday, April 19, 1975 Memorial Union Building, UNH, Durham

A lecture by Paul Doscher, of the Human Environment Institute, Boston University, spoke to a dinner meeting of 40 persons on the subject of "Environmental Issues and Education in New Hampshire". This was a conservation-oriented meeting arranged by the Conservation Committee chairman, Anne Milliken.

Saturday, June 7, 1975 The Inn at Loon Mountain, Lincoln, N.H.

120 persons comfortably filled the fine facilities of the Inn at our annual "Loon in June" meeting to hear Marjorie Stafford Rowbotham of Boston, speak on a "Himalayan Adventure". This annual event, in a splendid mountain setting, should be a must for all who can make it from year to year. The affair was arranged entirely by committee member Lucie Strayer.

Saturday, October 25, 1975 Ramada Inn, Concord N.H.
55th Annual New Hampshire Chapter Meeting

Following the social hour, dinner and business meeting, Al Oxtton of the Mt. Washington Observatory staff will present a bouncing, rollicking history of the rise and fall of the 'white hills' entitled "From Waumbekmethna to Mt. Washington".

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Many thanks to all who helped in the above arrangements. Special thanks to Bernice Johnson who was present at all affairs and, as Hospitality Chairman, greeted all comers with jname tag and smile, and served as registrar in the chairman's absence.

Terry Frost, advisory
Wayne Huff
Anne Milliken
Lucie Strayer

John Ensor, Chairman

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS STUDY GROUP - an Ad Hoc Committee

The Wild and Scenic River Study group has been active since April 1975. We have held monthly meetings with a great deal of cooperation from all the members. We are using as our guide the existing "Pemi" study. Along with this study we have survey sheets that accompany us on both hikes and canoe trips on the various state rivers. The members contribute their ideas and work efforts jointly, gathering vital data about the rivers they have been assigned to. At this time we have three regional coordinators who have agreed to be responsible for a certain area of the state gathering both data and people to join them in their efforts.

All of us working on this project are thoroughly convinced of its importance. We look at the Pemi today, the clean and beautiful river it is, and compare it to the thoroughly polluted river it once was. We would like to see all our rivers protected so they too may be free of any pollution and alive with the life of a river.

We enjoy this project. It is fun, and important. We care. Do you care to join us?

Catherine Hood, Chairman

EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE

In the past year there has been a marked increase in both the number of trips and the variety of trips offered. In conjunction with the Granite State Wheelmen we have been able to offer a realistic bicycle program. The spring and summer hiking program was successful in both the number of trips and the turnout of participants. This winter holds promise of being active in both snowshoeing and ski-touring.

To make a point, now I must say that without the exceedingly expert help of the Education Committee the write-ups that have gone into the Bulletin would have been much less extensive. The variety of programs and increase in activities for the membership can be attributed to a strong working bond built between committees and the extensive lines of communications being kept open.

A special thanks to those people who chose in the last year to give me time and effort in building the program:

Robert Hansen, Tilton, Vice Chairman
Hal Graham, Laconia, Backpacking
Richard Perkins, Concord
Gene Daniell, Franklin
Walter & Anna Carlson, Bow
Ruth Houghton, Warner

Marc Levesque, Nashua, Leadership
Marjorie Kneeland, Hopkinton
Marie Fitts, Sunapee
Jane Hall, Conway
Daniel Doan, Sanbornton
Robert Doyle, E. Billrica, Mass.

Wayne H. Huff, Chairman

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The New Hampshire Chapter continues to grow rapidly at the rate of about twenty-five new members per month. The trend toward out-of-state membership continues, however, so that we have many members who are not available for participation in Chapter activities.

Last winter the Club records were computerized, allowing a more accurate accounting of the number and classes of members. As of September 15, 1975, the New Hampshire Chapter had 1807 active members, of whom 341 are juniors and 113 are Life Members; and 123 inactive members. This gives us a total of 1930. There are also 80 pending members, those whose applications are "in the works".

It is interesting to note that ten years ago, in 1965, the membership of the New Hampshire Chapter was only 555.

Margaret Ensor, Chairman

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

During the past year the Education Committee, working closely with the Excursions Committee, presented a series of workshops on various subjects related to the objectives of the AMC. One workshop per month is the Committee's goal; however, additional ideas and especially leaders, are needed to make this goal a reality.

85 people attended the open Introduction to Ski-Touring workshop held in Concord on December 11. Several of these participants have since become members. The Equipment Maintenance idea sharing session, held March 19, was attended by 10. 24 people, some from the Boston Chapter, attended the Map and Compass workshop, led by Dan Allen, on April 11-12. The Wildflower Photography workshop drew 13, and was led by Dr. John Branson on May 10. The Leadership Training Workshop, presented by the Excursions Committee in cooperation with Education at Cardigan Lodge on September 13, had 18 participants and leaders.

For the coming year, a Geology Field Day led by Brian Fowler, has been scheduled for November 8. A Ski-touring weekend with instruction is planned for January 24-25. Hopefully a Legislative Workshop will be held early in January. A snowshoe instruction field trip, date as yet unset, is also planned. Others will be scheduled as ideas are formulated and leaders recruited.

Marie Fitts, Chairman

AMC TRAIL REPORT

After my last year's report, about this time a year ago, Trail Crew Work Reports kept coming through until the end of November. This is the latest our Trail Crew has ever worked in the Fall. This trend will continue now and in the years to come now that 'crew' has become a year round job.

Throughout the year our crew makes use of many volunteers who can be trained on location by one, or a few of our crewmen. Some of this help comes from youth groups, and schools which have entered into outdoor programs. A fine example of the work that can be done by these people was on South Baldface last fall. Over and above work around the shelter, and trail construction, 1000 pounds of trash was packed out by thirty volunteers from the Habitat School.

Last November 30 the AMC Trail Committee met in Waltham, Massachusetts, with the leaders of the Trail Crew at which time plans for the coming summer were discussed. A twenty-man crew with nine caretakers was decided on for hire this past summer. These people must have special talents and interests in order to qualify for this job.

Plans continue for a Sunapee to Monadnock trail, a distance of about 48 miles. Most of the rights of way work is being done by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. It is felt that perhaps this southerly located trail might take some of the pressure off our White Mountain trails.

Our annual trails meeting was held at Pinkham Headquarters on August 23. This is the meeting the Committee holds to hear the gripes and suggestions of the entire crew. After an overnight stay, some of us hiked into Gentian Pond to view the new log shelter our crew built to replace the old one. It is beautifully done, and the area is being well kept now by the caretaker there.

Bill Nichols, chairman

CANOEING COMMITTEE

The canoeing program was designed to offer something for everybody. Trips were selected to be convenient to New Hampshire residents, including many rivers not scheduled by other AMC chapters. This made use of our natural resources while avoiding the congestion which is becoming common on popular rivers.

The spring white water program had over 80 participants with 19 days of canoeing on 16 different rivers. This does not include several bootleg trips not listed in the Bulletin run under the river scouting program. Trips ranged in difficulty from class 1, suitable for family excursions, nature study and practicing techniques, to class 4 rapids on some of the class 3 trips which were run by experts only.

The most popular trip was the white water instruction trip, with a total of 52 participants. This is provided as an educational service to improve the canoeing skill of the public at large, as many of the instructees have no intention of attending further AMC trips. For the fourth year in a row we accepted all registrations.

Due to lack of interest in previous years, specific flatwater trips were not scheduled. Coordinators were listed who ran trips as weather and demand warranted.

Canoe camping was also offered. A practice weekend was held Memorial Day, with longer trips later on the Saco and the upper Connecticut. There was another camping weekend in September. These trips were attended by 18 additional people.

In addition to holding outings, the committee worked on a file of river information for future trips. Some new rivers were run, and others scouted from the banks (in some cases this was combined with ski touring last winter), and information also collected from other boaters. This project was combined into helping prepare the new edition of the AMC Canoeing Guide. We also did some local lobbying to obtain better launching sites.

Roioli Schweiker, Chairman