

Interview with Walt Weber  
4rth Quarter Lets Go 2006  
By Stuart English

*Many CMC members own the book*

Trail Profiles: The Mountains to Sea

Trail. *Those that do not should consider*

*buying a copy (available by sending \$5 to*

*CMC, P.O. Box 68, Asheville, NC 28802).*

*It has a wealth of information about our*

*club, the building of the Mountains to the*

*Sea Trail, as well as an easy to understand*

*profile map of the trail as it follows*

*the Blue Ridge Parkway. Recently we interviewed the man who wrote the book and did a lot of the work on the trail.*

**How long have you been involved with trail maintenance?**

I can only guess, but I have been a member of CMC since around 1992, about the time that I started working with the Dick Roberts Monday work crew.

They were constructing the Pisgah Ledge section of the MTS at that time (the MST was then known as the MTS).

**What led to your work in measuring the MST?**

I started measuring hikes with a wheel

and an altimeter in the late 1980s for  
the purpose of determining accumulative  
elevation ascent and descent and  
percent of grade for our hikes as we had  
been using  
only net elevation  
change.

From the data  
gathered during  
these surveys

I started  
preparing trail  
profiles, which  
are quite  
similar to the  
Track Charts

with which I  
was familiar  
during my 33  
years with a  
railroad.

**When did you start on your first book?**

I started  
measuring the  
Pisgah Ledge section in 1994 during  
its construction period and after it was  
completed in 1996 I continued on north  
on the Shut-in Section and completed  
the entire survey in 1999. During 1997  
and 1998 I started researching the origin  
of the trails occupied by the MST and

began preparing the Trail Profiles book for the CMC. Through the energies of Howard MacDonald, the Club was able to bring it to publication in 1999.

**What do you remember most about the experience?**

The most memorable event during this survey was measuring from Mt. Mitchell down to Black Mountain Campground with Bob Johnson in a rainstorm. I discovered that my tape recorder had stopped recording and we had lost about 1500 trail feet of data. Fortunately I had a "Write in the Rain" notebook and we continued on with me calling out the numbers and Bob writing

them down. We returned  
later to pick up the missing  
1500' and also the  
Higgins Bald re-route of  
the MST.

### **What are your future plans?**

In 2005, I oiled up the  
wheel and as part of a  
joint CMC/Park Service  
GPS undertaking I have  
profiled our new section  
of the trail from Balsam  
Gap (South) to Beech  
Gap (NC Route 215),  
32.7 more miles, and have

now GPS'd all of our  
MST to Black Mountain  
Campground. Once completed,  
the 14 miles from Heintooga Road  
to Balsam Gap will also be measured and  
profiled. Who knows, we may end up with  
another Trail Profiles book for publication  
by CMC, complete with routing neatly  
laid out on topo fragments.

I have been blessed with the assistance  
of many, many CMC members and nonmembers  
through the years measuring  
all of the sections of our trail and I salute  
them for all of their efforts.

– *W. W. Weber, Jr.*