

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

Winter 2018

Volume XXXIII, No. 1

B2H Decision Called “Disaster”; Fight Continues



Simulation shows possible impact of powerlines on Trail viewsheds..

A Bureau of Land Management decision to allow the 300-mile Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) powerline project across Eastern Oregon from the Columbia River to west of Boise has been called an “absolute disaster”

for the Oregon Trail.

OCTA will continue to fight the powerline, an effort being led by the Northwest Chapter.

OCTA President Pat Traffas called it a slap in the face to thousands of emigrants who took the trail west between 1843 and 1863, founding the territory that became the State of Oregon.

The BLM’s Record of Decision issued on November 17 allows right-of-way to Idaho Power for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the B2H Project on BLM-administered land.

More than 85 percent of the route will parallel the trail and cross it as many as eight times. Construction of a parade of towers up to 195 feet tall will desecrate remains of the trail and compromise the viewsheds essential to the historic trails experience.

Critics note the BLM has authorized Idaho Power to dig up the landscape for a 250-foot wide clear-cut gouge along the route of the power line.

Visual damage is obvious, but the 400 miles of new roads needed for construction certainly will impact trail swales on the ground.

“Once it’s gone, historic trail cannot be re-created,” explains Traffas. “Congress mandated protection of our historic trails. We don’t see it in the Record of Decision.”

The project is headed by Idaho Power Company, with PacifiCorp and Bonneville Power paying most of the permitting costs. Construction has not yet been agreed to

by either of the other parties. Idaho Power does not need any new resources until 2029, according to their own data. OCTA said the \$1.2 billion project could well be obsolete before it is build and ratepayers in Oregon and Idaho will see major increases in their electric bills.

“The most important element of this publication, is that it starts the clock ticking for the three partners to come to several agreements,” said Gail Carbiener, one of the leaders in the Northwest Chapter’s fight against the project.

Within 60 days from November 17, Idaho Power will submit a bill to PacifiCorp and Bonneville Power for the costs of permitting. PacifiCorp and Bonneville then have 20 days to tell Idaho Power if they will pay.

“By the end of January we should know if all three continue with the project,” Carbiener said. “Those who continue have two negotiation periods of 180 days to two years to finalize Development and Construction Agreements. Either PacifiCorp or BPA can withdraw at any time for any reason.”

This may close the chapter for the BLM other than working with them on significant mitigation. Idaho Power has proposed only “Interpretive Signs” and publications for mitigation, Carbiener added.

The fight now moves to the Oregon Public Utilities Commission and the Energy Facilities Siting Council, with the help of the StopB2H Coalition.

“For the time being, we are trying to stop the power line completely in dealing with these Oregon State agencies,” Carbiener said.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Happy New Year to each of you! 2018 brings such promise of active progress for OCTA. We will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails Act and the 175th Anniversary of the Oregon Trail. Each chapter should be making plans to hold a special activity to commemorate these

events, and don't forget to publicize your activity. This will generate interest in your communities and perhaps increase your membership.

Your Board of Directors and Officers have been conducting business in regards to several important matters. It became necessary to request distributions from the Heritage Fund in order to settle many long standing liabilities of the Association. This was all done by email ballot in which a unanimous vote permitted this to proceed orderly. I am happy to report that for this first time in many years the Association is operating in the black. In addition, a grant application was approved to

provide legal representation in regards to the Boardman to Hemingway project. The funds were distributed from the Martin Fund.

John Winner, immediate Past President, was elected as National Preservation Officer, a position that had been most successfully filled by the late Jere Krakow. Jere had tendered his resignation in August, and we extend our sincere condolences to Jere's family upon learning of his passing in November 2017.

This officer wishes to thank you all for the many notes and acts of kindness during a long period of recuperation following major surgery. They brought me much comfort, and I certainly appreciate your thoughtfulness. In addition, your Officers were especially helpful and supportive. The Association is fortunate to have such competent persons working for the good of OCTA.

We look forward to seeing you at the Symposium at Gila Bend in March and at the Convention in Ogden in August. Please make plans to participate. We encourage your active participation in your Chapters as well. Best wishes for a most successful 2018! - Pat Traffas

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NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Published quarterly by the
Oregon-California Trails Association
(A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit)
P.O. Box 1019
Independence MO 64051

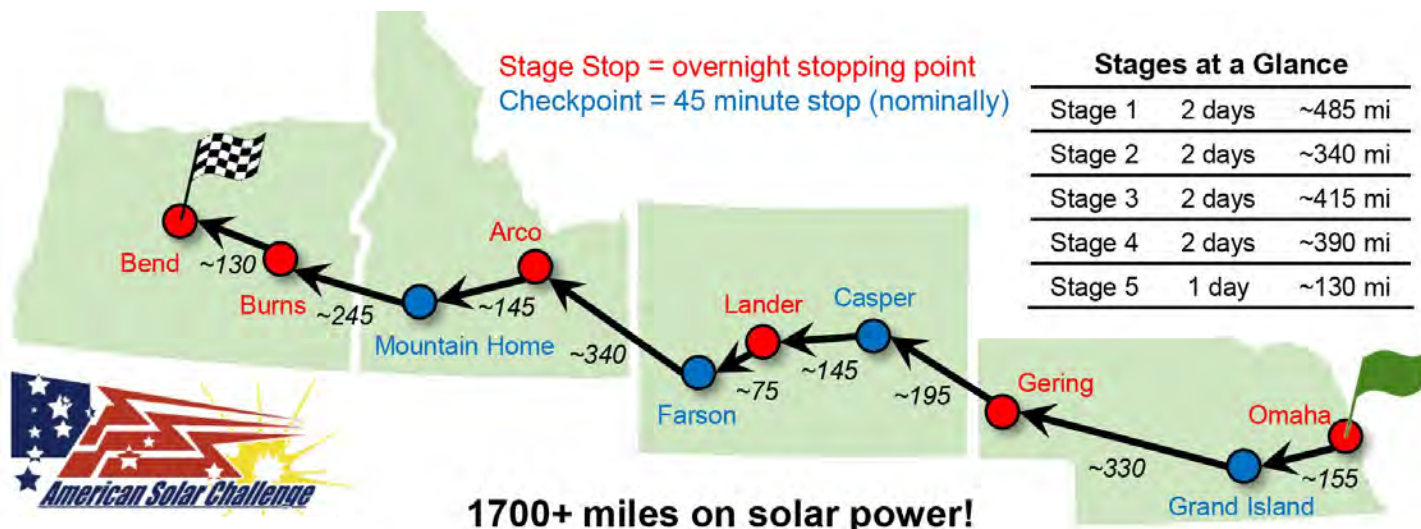
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Spring Issue Deadline
February 27, 2018

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Schedule Announced for Oregon Trail Solar Challenge



Chasing the sun on the Oregon Trail will have an entirely new meaning next July when teams participating in the Formula Sun Grand Prix and American Solar Challenge 2018 drive solar-powered vehicles from Omaha, Nebraska, to Bend, Oregon.

The race pits teams of collegiate-level students who design, build, test and then drive sun-powered cars on a 1,700-mile, two-week-long event that is part of the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System and the 175th anniversary of the Oregon Trail.

The race officially starts on July 14 at the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail headquarters in Omaha, preceded by a week of team meetings and trial runs.

Stage 1 of the race will cover 485 miles, with stops at the Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer in Grand Island and the Legacy of the Plains Museum in Gering.

Stage 2 will start at Scotts Bluff National Monument, check in at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming, and overnight at the Fremont County Pioneer Museum in Lander, completing a 340 miles trek.

Stage 3 will take the vehicles 415 miles from Lander to Arco High School in Idaho, with a checkpoint at Eden Valley Community Center in Farson, Wyoming.

Stage 4 starts at Crater of the Moon near Arco and ends 390 miles later in downtown Burns, Oregon, with a checkpoint at Mountain Home, Idaho, a total distance of 390 miles.



Teams with their solar cars before the start of the 2017 Solar Challenge.

The final stage is the shortest, traveling 130 miles from Burns to Central Oregon Community College in Bend, Oregon on Sunday, July 21.

OCTA is planning to organize a presence at each of the stage stops and check points. For information about how you can be involved, contacts Travis Boley at OCTA Headquarters tboley@indepmo.org.



Remembering Jere Krakow



National trails advocate and former OCTA Preservation Officer and Board member Jere Krakow is being remembered as a friend and mentor to many in the trails community.

Jere passed away at the age of 79 on November 3 at his home in Albuquerque.

A friend of the trails and a friend to all who knew him, Jere grew up on a farm near Davenport, Nebraska. A granite marker near his home that commemorated the Oregon Trail was the spark that ignited his life-long interest in the American West and historic trails.

He was a professor of history at Missouri State University in Springfield from 1967 to 1983 before moving from the classroom to the trails.

He began as a park historian for the National Park Service and in 1995 was named Superintendent of National Trails for the Intermountain Region that administered nine national historic trails and the Route 66 preservation program

He retired in 2007 and began two decades of volunteering with the trails organizations he loved, including the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA), the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS), the Camino Real Trail Association, and many others.

In 2017, he completed six years of service on the OCTA National Board and three years as the organization's National Trails Preservation Officer. He also was the OCTA liaison to the PNTS. At last summer's OCTA convention in Council Bluffs, Iowa, he received the Greg Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award, the organization's highest honor.

"His life was devoted to service in the National Park Service and the many communities in which he lived," his family said. "Jere loved the outdoors, whether camping, fishing, or hiking, and pursued knowledge and travel throughout his life. Jere had friends throughout the country and rarely met a stranger."

Here is a sampling of some of the tributes to Jere that followed his passing:

"Jere was a willing and enthusiastic mentor for me. He will be remembered for his passion and commitment to our nation's National Trail System." - Terry Heslin.

"He will greatly be missed - a good friend and so supportive of our emigrant trails." - Gail and Muriel Carbiener.

"Jere was a wonderful man. He will be greatly missed, not only in the Trails community but as a good friend." - Jean Coupal-Smith

"His faith was so apparent by how he lived his life. You could hang your hat on his word. OCTA and we will miss him sorely." - Carol Osborne

"A treasure has been lost." - Kay Wills Cooke

"Only the loss to Jere's family can exceed the loss the Trail world feels." - Mike Wollmer

"Jere was best of the best for the trails." - Candy Moulton

"Jere was a shining light and served as a true example of a life dedicated to public service." - Deborah Stewart-Kent

"The trails lost a great friend and so did all that knew him. Wonderful kindness and warm spirit - he will be missed!" - Barbara Netherland

"A hero to the National Park Service, and most of all, to the National Trails System. Pathways forward to you, Jere." - Rita Hennessy

"It has been such a privilege to work over the years on trails with this patient, kind, pragmatic, and caring man." - Steve Elkinton

"Jere gave much good thought and thoughtful deeds to help strengthen the stature of the National Trails System and the resources of several of the organizations, including the Partnership for the National Trails System, that support the trails." - Gary Werner

"He was amazingly knowledgeable as well as being the consummate gentleman." - Pam Schuler

"Jere and I worked together as fellow NPS superintendents for a number of years. I always had the utmost respect for him, his knowledge, and his gracious gentleman's demeanor." - John Hiscock

"His reach and impact was and is felt far and wide among the trails community. He was a steadfast and wonderful colleague, mentor, and friend to many." - Jaime Schmidt

"He had a such a big heart for trails ... I will remember him with great respect and fondness, always." - Deb Salt

He is survived by wife, Jan; sons Jeff and Joel; and granddaughter Moira. Donations in his memory can be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 2500, Albuquerque, NM 87125 or the Oregon California Trails Association, P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051.

Trails in the Classrooms

OCTA Education Committee co-chairs Audrey Elder and Matt Mallison attended the National Social Studies Conference in San Francisco, with the OCTA table attracting a steady flow of visitors.

Most left with OCTA pamphlets and brochures as well as information regarding the OCTA Educator of the Year, OCTA book information and Bill Hill's calendar art project.

Visitors were excited to point to where they lived on the banner map of the trails as well as where they have personally visited. We had several educators share that they had either heard of or had used "In Pursuit of a Dream" in the classroom.

Many teachers from the east coast shared concerns that their students don't have much understanding of westward expansion and they find it difficult to bring something into the classroom that allows those students to grasp/interact with that period of history.

A California teacher expressed that she has been frustrated by a lack of un-objective approaches in history education. A Virginia teacher shared that he had found "In Pursuit of a Dream" online and had



OCTA's Audrey Elder, left, and Matt Mallison with an educator at the National Social Studies Conference

played it last week in his classroom.

A teacher from Iowa purchased the full educator membership and stated that a recent overhaul of curriculum standards from the Iowa Board of Education requires primary resources be used in the classroom. She also stated she would like to connect with any OCTA members in her area and become involved in OCTA beyond our Educator resources.

We were also visited by a few current members who were very excited to hear that we are overhauling our website. Once the website is up and



Get Ready for Ogden 2018

Mark your calendars for OCTA's 36th Annual Convention hosted by the Utah Crossroads Chapter in Ogden's Eccles Convention Center, August 6-10, 2018.

The theme, "Rails and Trails- Confluence and Impacts at Crossroads of the West," will be explored through speaker presentation, field trips and activity/workshops across four general topics:

- Native American History – the earliest crossroads of the west
- The Transcontinental Railroad
- Mountain men
- Explorers and Emigrants pre 1847

The traditional book room, silent auction, raffles, awards & recognition evening and evening music groups will be enjoyed by all.

The Convention will focus on Northern Utah and will not repeat information covered in the prior OCTA Conventions held in Salt Lake City.

Much more detail and registration information will be in the Spring issue of *News From The Plains*.

running it will be critical to reach out to all of our educator members and let them know. A major benefit of having the new website will be the ability to see how many "hits" we are getting and when. It was made quickly obvious that OCTA's attendance in the conference over the last several years has paid off in driving educators to our website. Having the ability to see exactly how many and when they visited the website will create numerical data that otherwise is often impossible to determine.

The most effective thing we can do right now is create a follow-up plan with specific types of follow up and dates.

Many of these educators have very real concerns that changes to our state and federal education processes will result in their students having less opportunity for teaching history with critical thinking as its focus (as opposed to simply memorizing dates and names).

Many are wanting to include our program sooner than later as a means to ensure they have a primary resource curriculum in place. Some shared that their states are working to do the same.

-- Audrey L Elder

FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER



By Travis Boley

As we enter the celebratory 50th anniversary of the National Trails Act year, OCTA is poised to take advantage of myriad opportunities to expand our reach and bring our cause to the mainstream. We are putting into place new tools and events designed to get crowds to you, our chapters and members, so

that you can showcase the trails in your region.

There are many thanks to go around for setting OCTA up in such grand fashion. First and foremost, our long-time supporter the Malcolm E. Smith, Jr. Inc. Foundation stepped up to the plate this past autumn with two gifts to ensure that OCTA launches a fresh new website early in the new year and create a new regional brochure (with an online edition as well!). The Foundation provided \$12,500 for these two programs. The new website will be out in draft form for review amongst our leadership early in 2018, with a scheduled launch date shortly thereafter. The brochure program will touch upon each of our chapters individually and will feature a map with your key trail resources and a membership application page. The brochure information will also be included on our new website. These tools will be especially important as our chapters get out to celebrate both the National Trails Act anniversary and the 175th anniversary of the Oregon Trail.

One of our brightest opportunities will be the American Solar Challenge. College teams from around the world will race their solar-powered cars along our trail corridor, launching from Omaha on July 14 and finishing up in Bend, Oregon on July 22. There will be countless stops along the way and the National Office of OCTA will support each chapter along the way so that we have a presence at each stop. (See the story on page 3 of this issue.) Watch for more information in E-News, on our Facebook page, and on our website. You can also stay abreast of developments at americansolarchallenge.org.

There is also word of a wagon train coming together that will trek from Ogallala, Nebraska to Fort Hall, Idaho. The planned launch date is mid-May, finishing up in late June. We are looking to partner on this opportunity. Make plans to get out and support this wagon train in late spring 2018. More details will follow as plans come together.

Finally, we are excited to announce that the Partnership for the National Trails System recently awarded OCTA a \$10,000 grant for a new intern who will work with the city of St. Joseph, Missouri and our Gateway Chapter to assist in creating amazing new trail resources in northwest

Missouri and northeast Kansas. The grant was funded by the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service, and the city of St. Joseph matched this amount with \$11,700 of in-kind support. Once hired, the intern will work out of the city planner's office in St. Joseph City Hall.

St. Joseph is poised to make a great leap forward in the development of its trail resources, and our intern will work with the city planning department to consider new indoor and outdoor recreational and sporting opportunities to draw families year-round to the region.

Among other things, the intern will be tasked with finishing the auto tour route sign plan for St. Joseph and northeast Kansas, marking both the St. Joe Road and the Pony Express trail. The intern will research historic properties in the area between the Pony Express National Museum and the riverfront to develop a walking tour of St. Joseph that will include new interpretation in the form of wayside exhibits, brochures, and downloadable apps. We are also excited for our intern to work with the city on planning and promoting a future National Park Service charrette to help St. Joseph better capitalize on its unique historic trails resources and assisting our Gateway Chapter in finding new members to help implement these new projects.

Our Gateway Chapter, the city, and our intern will also work to obtain the wagons currently in storage at the St. Joseph Parks Department to be utilized in the development of for-credit courses via Missouri Western State University that will showcase historically-accurate depictions of 19th century trail life at the Whistle Creek Livestock Preserve, located a few miles outside of St. Joseph. We would also like our intern to outreach to surrounding communities and counties in both Missouri and Kansas, Missouri Western State University, local historic organizations, the National Pony Express Association, the Lewis & Clark Heritage Trail Foundation, and the National Park Service's Lewis & Clark office in Omaha to include them in the above planning processes.

This is just the tip of the iceberg for things to come in 2018. Watch our E-News, Facebook page, and website to learn more about these and other forthcoming programs, because we plan to celebrate our dual anniversaries of the National Trails Act and Oregon Trail in grand fashion!

Gila Bend Symposium Scheduled for March 2-4

Symposium Speakers

Friday

Dan Judkins - "Murderer's Camp"

In 1849, as a large emigrant party was encamped near Gila Bend, two men got into a fight which resulted in one of the men stabbing and killing the other. The emigrants decided to settle the matter by trying and then executing the perpetrator by firing squad. The two men were buried in adjacent graves near the trail.

David Miller - Oatman Site & Rare Indian Attacks

Emigrants and Indian attacks on the southern trails in Arizona, with a focus on the Oatman site. Indian attacks were very rare, with the most dangerous areas the Colorado River crossings at Yuma and upstream near the Mohave villages on the Beale Wagon Road.

Perry Randall - "Randall Grave Site"

Mr. Randall will discuss his ancestor's inscription scratched into the desert varnish in a ravine along the Gila just downstream from the Oatman massacre site. He will discuss how the Southern Trails Chapter's "Trail Turtles" located the site.

David Miller - "Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, Mountain Man and World Traveler"

The son of Toussaint Charbonneau and Sacagawea was born during the Lewis and Clark expedition. In 1846, he joined Philip St. George Cooke's infantry battalion at Bent's Forts as a guide. Thus began Charbonneau's adventures in the Southwest and in California.

Tom Jonas - "U. S. Boundary Commissioner John Russell Bartlett's Survey of the Gila from Yuma to Casa Grande"

Bartlett had no experience as a surveyor, but he was a skilled artist and kept an outstanding journal. George Paige, the commander of his escort, had completed the required course in drawing and sketching at West Point, and produced a series of sketches of the Pima and Maricopa villages which have never been published.

Reba Wells Grandrud - "Arizona's Independence Rock"

Named by Kit Carson as Arizona's version of the famous Independence Rock on the overland trail in Wyoming, Independence Rock on the Gila preserves at least forty names of overland travelers, the earliest being an 1828 inscription in Spanish. Many consider it to be the most significant historical site along the Gila trail.

Dr. Harry Hewitt - "The Mexican Boundary Survey of the Lower Gila River"

In late 1850, the Mexican and United States Boundary Commissions agreed to draw a new boundary in accordance with the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Efforts to complete the survey in 1851 and 1852 were fraught with disagreements and many difficult issues. Teams of surveyors were beset by starvation and deprivations.



The beautiful and historic Sonoran Desert will provide the backdrop for the Gila Bend, Arizona, Symposium sponsored by the Oregon-California Trails Association and the Southern Trails Chapter Friday, March 2 to Sunday, March 4.

Speakers at the symposium will highlight legendary gravesites and historical sites, as well as Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, the U.S. Boundary Commission Survey of the Gila River from Yuma to Casa Grande, the Mexican boundary survey, and Arizona's Independence Rock.

Field trips will visit the historic Gatlin Site and Butterfield Pass in the Maricopa Mountains.

All sessions will be held at the Elks Lodge in Gila Bend. A block of rooms has been reserved at the America's Choice Inn and Suites, with rates of \$67.50 per night for singles and \$76.50 for doubles. Call (877) 778-3789 to make reservations. Special rate not available online.

OCTA has also reserved 20 spots at the KOA Campground at 800 South Butterfield Trail. The rate is \$31.50/night (10 percent discount). Mention OCTA to get the discount. Call KOA at (928) 683-2850.

Register for the Gila Bend Symposium by using the form on Page 8 and returning it with your payment to OCTA Headquarters, P.O. Box 1019, Independence MO 64051.

Registration is also available online at

www.OCTA-trails.org

Gila Bend Symposium Schedule

(All events at Elks Lodge except as noted)

Thursday, March 1

7 p.m. - 9 p.m. - OCTA board workshop
Southern Trails Chapter leadership meeting

Friday, March 2

7 a.m. - 9 a.m. - Registration
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. OCTA Board Meeting
9 a.m. - 12 noon - Morning speakers
- Murderer's Camp - Dan Judkins
- Oatman Site and Indian Attacks - David Miller
- Randall Grave Site - Perry Randall
- Mapping/Marking the Southern Route - Trail Turtles
12 - 1 p.m. - Lunch
2 - 4 p.m. - TOUR Gatlin site, carpool departs Elks Lodge at
1:30 p.m. (archaeological site with Hohokam, platform
mounds, pit houses, ball courts, and prehistoric canal)
5 - 8 p.m. - Elks Lodge Fish, Steak, & Shrimp Fry
8:15 - 9 p.m. - Jean-Baptiste Charbonneau - Dave Miller

Saturday, March 3, 2018

8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - TOUR Painted Rock Petroglyph
Site Tour with archaeologist Aaron Wright (carpool;
includes box lunch)
1 - 3 p.m. - Afternoon Speakers
- John Russell Bartlett, U. S. Boundary
Commission - Tom Jonas
- Mexican Boundary Survey - Harry Hewitt
3:30 - 4:30 p.m. - Chapter membership meeting
5 - 7 p.m. - Cocktail hour and dinner
7 - 9 p.m. - Arizona's Independence Rock - Greg
McEachron, Dan Judkins, Dave Miller, and Reba Wells
Grandrud

Sunday, March 4, 2018

8:30 a.m. - TOUR East to Butterfield Pass in
Maricopa Mts. (4WD required) All day tour.
(Carry hats, windbreakers and sunscreen on tours
as weather may be unpredictable.)

REGISTRATION

(All registrations include speakers and meals except for Friday Dinner. All tours are free)

Individual	\$105.00 x _____ = _____
Family	\$165.00 x _____ = _____
Educator	\$ 50.00 x _____ = _____
Student	\$ 40.00 x _____ = _____

03/2/2018 (Friday): Lunch (includes chips and cookies)

Option #1 - Ham & Provolone cheese 9-inch sub _____
Option #2 - Roast Turkey 9-inch sub _____
Option #3 - Roast Beef 9-inch sub _____
Option #4 - Vegetarian 9-inch sub _____

03/02/2018 (Friday): Dinner

Option #1 - Fish, slaw, & fries	\$10.00 x _____ = _____
Option #2 - Steak, baked potato, cole slaw, & beans	\$21.00 x _____ = _____
Option #3 - Steak & shrimp, baked potato, cole slaw, & beans	\$26.00 x _____ = _____

03/03/2018 (Saturday): Dinner Number of buffets = _____

Traditional Mexican buffet (includes red chile/beef, green chile/pork,
chicken, carnitas, rice & beans, tortillas, green salad, and pasta salad)

Registration + Option Friday Dinner = TOTAL \$ _____

Options for dietary restrictions (such as vegetarian or gluten-free) are available. Please contact us at (816) 252-2276 or tboley@indepmo.org to reserve these options.

Number on tour

Friday, Gatlin Hohokam Archaeological Site tour (2WD) _____
Saturday, Painted Rocks Petroglyph Site Tour (2WD) (includes lunch) _____
Sunday, Butterfield Pass in Maricopa Mountains (4WD) (includes lunch) _____

Mail completed form with payment to: OCTA, P.O. Box 1019 Independence, MO 64051

Registration also available online at www.OCTA-trails.org

(Prior to January 31, 2018, the total will be refunded for cancellations. Beginning on February 1, 2018, no refund will be made, except for cases of extreme hardship. Hardship refunds must be applied for in writing. Send requests to Pat Traffas, OCTA President, 524 S. Osage St., Independence, MO 64050. If you have special needs, please attach a letter outlining your requirements and send it to Kathy Conway at the same address above.)

PRESERVATION



By John Winner

National Preservation Officer

One of OCTA's primary goals is to *Preserve the Historic Emigrant Trails*. Hardly a week goes by without hearing of a new threat or a potential activity that could compromise an emigrant trail location.

While OCTA's Chapter Preservation

Officers are vigilant in their monitoring, there are thousands of miles of mid-nineteenth century routes that are worthy of attention. Our concerns are for both direct impacts, physical alteration to a trail, and indirect impacts, alteration to the view shed.

OCTA's long standing policy has been to preserve. Pristine trail segments are not renewable resources; once gone, gone forever.

It is incumbent for all of us to participate in the monitoring of local affairs. If you see or hear of activities that may impact a historic route, bring it to the attention of OCTA, through your local chapter, or OCTA Headquarters.

Here are some of the preservation issues currently on the radar screen of OCTA. (Additionally, the National Park Service, is monitoring some trail activities through their National Trails Intermountain Region. For details, see the November 22 E-Blast from OCTA Headquarters; if you want to be added to the OCTA email mailing list, contact tboley@indepmo.org)

Wyoming

Lander Road: A roughly 200-foot section of the trail mistakenly damaged by Forest Service personnel.

Rocky Ridge: BLM monitoring of extensive use near South Pass.

North Savery Project: 6,670 acres of vegetation treatment including salvage logging near Encampment, WY. Potential impact to Cherokee Trail.

Landscape Vegetation Analysis Project: Proposal for treatment of up to 350,000 acres of beetle infested land on the Medicine Bow-Routt NF. Possible impact to Cherokee Trail.

Normally Press Lance Natural Gas Development Project: Proposal to drill approximately 3500 wells south of Pinedale, Wyoming.

Rock Springs Resource Management Plan Revision: Plans for federal lands to specify where development and use activities may occur.

Gateway West Transmission Line Project: 321 miles of 500kv transmission lines. <https://www.blm.gov/gatewaywest>

Continental Peak Grazing Allotment – Fencing Project: Proposal to install 26 miles of electric fence to separate

grazing allotments. Impact to Oregon-California, Mormon & Pony Express trails. Public and private parties including OCTA have agreed on several mitigation items.

Wheat Creek Meadows Habitat Management Enhancement: BLM proposal to improve wildlife habitat and rerouting traffic to avoid trail ruts on the Dempsey-Hockaday section of CNHT. Location is approximately 15 miles north of Kemmerer, Wyoming.

Blue Forest MOA: 10-year extension to Memorandum of Agreement between public and private parties including BLM, Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, National Park Service and OCTA for authorizing future projects.

Kansas

Proposed Cell Tower: Proposal for a 190-foot cell tower south of Eudora, Kansas roughly 1.5 miles south of the Oregon-California Trail.

Utah

Skull Valley Solar Farm: Proposal to construct a solar array on state school trust lands west of Salt Lake City which could impact the Hastings Cutoff.

Nevada

Rye Patch Gold US Inc. (Oreana Exploration Project).

Gold Bar Mine Project: Potential view shed impact on the Pony Express and Central Overland Trail.

Long Canyon Open Pit Mine: Open Pit Mine at Big Springs on the Hastings Cutoff. Mitigation in progress. The final EIS can be found here: <https://eplanning.blm.gov>

NDOT Maintenance Station: Nevada Department of Transportation Maintenance Station. This 20-acre site is directly on the Carson Route of the California National Historic Trail.

Oregon

Deschutes National Forest Ringo Project: USFS preparing Environmental Impact Statement on 30,000 acres to reduce tree density.

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line (B2H): A 305 mile 500kv transmission line through Eastern Oregon and Western Idaho directly and indirectly impacting the Oregon National Historic Trail. The BLM released its Record of Decision (ROD) on November 17th, 2017. The decision is a misfortune to OCTA and to the preservation of the Oregon National Historic Trail. (See more about B2H on Page 1.)

These are some of the known threats or activities that are impacting the trail system. No doubt there are others and we need to be proactive. Your keen awareness of activities in your region is greatly appreciated.

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA



Boy Scouts helping with trail marking on the Beckwourth Trail.

California-Nevada Chapter has had a busy fall. The chapter has completed the Fernley Swales cleanup and monitoring project, conducted a board meeting, and continued its mapping and monitoring functions on several historic

trails. Members have spoken at numerous civic and community service meetings, explaining the mission of OCTA as well as local history pertaining to the trails.

The Fernley Swales annual cleanup was conducted on September 30. Jon Nowlin continued as leader of a group of chapter members, along with Swales monitoring guru Tom Fee, and assisted by the local Rotary Club and Boy Scout troop. More than 60 community members, Scouts, Rotarians and BLM employees participated in the cleanup.

Sixty-two cubic yards of trash were removed from the Swales! Unfortunately, there is more to do, but it was a good start. It was noted the community was enthusiastic, and it appears we've been able to incorporate their local civic clubs and Boy Scout troops into becoming the lead members of this project.

A South Reno Boy Scout troop assisted the Beckwourth Trail Mapping Group on September 16, in the Lake Davis/Portola area. Twenty-one Scouts and adult leaders joined with the mapping group to install Carsonite markers, metal detect and explore possible routes up Grizzly Ridge. Chapter members made a campfire presentation one evening during the work days, including having the young men walk without shoes for a short distance to get the emigrant experience! The troop was hard working, interested and expressed the desire to help on other OCTA projects.

In October, the Chapter Board met in Dayton, Nevada, reputed to be the first site gold was discovered in the Silver State. The Board voted to contribute to OCTA National to assist in funding the Western Regional Representative, Sharon Brown. Sharon has proved to be an asset and has continued to help the CA-NV Chapter both keep informed and to move forward with several projects.

Board member Duane Jones reported that the September 2020 National Convention being organized in Elko, Nevada was progressing. A national chairman for the convention has already outlined significant dates, appointed Committee Chairmen, and the convention planners are pondering the entertainment, tours, and theme for the event. In November we toured the Elko convention facilities and met with the planning committee. The local planning committee is well on its way to hosting a great event!

Board member Steve Knight reported on the progress for the 2018 CA-NV Chapter Symposium to be held in Fernley and Fallon April 27-29, 2018. After the Board meeting and reception on Friday, a formal dedication will be held Saturday morning for the newly installed interpretive panels in Fernley. The symposium will continue that afternoon in Fallon at the Churchill County Museum where speakers and dinner will be held.

John Winner, preservation officer for both the chapter and the national organization, made a report on the activities occurring both across the nation and in our chapter. There is a great deal of focus in the northeastern Nevada area for our chapter due to the work occurring along the Hastings Cutoff. The Chapter is still waiting for progress on the John Marsh Historic House interpretive panel (Bidwell-Bartleson) and the Hwy 44 Bogart Rest Stop interpretive panel (Nobles) projects. Both projects have been delayed as members work with historic societies and state agencies. Laura Tennant, a historian and Dayton resident, encouraged the chapter to consider placing interpretive panels along a major street in Dayton. Pike Street is the actual California Trail as it passes through the area. Chapter Board member Steve Knight agreed to work with the community of Dayton to determine a location and cost, and to begin the process of having the panels designed and installed.

As is customary this time of year, many outside projects have slowed. However, the Elko/Hastings Trail mapping group met on November 8, and with the assistance of John Winner, had a field outing in the southern Ruby Valley area along the Hastings Cutoff. Members of the group were shown mapping techniques, how to use metal detectors, and proper documentation and interpretation of the artifacts found. Emphasis was placed on adhering to the MET manual.

- Dick Waugh

COLORADO-CHEROKEE

Last Fall, the Colorado Cherokee Chapter participated in a tour of Red Rocks Park and the Morrison CCC camp. The guided tour was led by Denver Mountain Parks Ranger Alan Churchill. Our group learned about the construction of the park by the CCC and the geology of the park. We concluded our tour at one of the last standing CCC camps, located in Morrison. This CCC camp housed the CCC unit which constructed Red Rocks amphitheater and park.

We conducted our annual board of directors meeting on November 21st at Camille Bradford's home, where we elected board members for a two year term beginning January 1, 2018. Our new leadership team includes; Camille Bradford - President and Membership; Mark Voth - Immediate Past President; Virginia Disette - Secretary; Peggy Watson - Treasurer; Berl Meyer - Webmaster and Newsletter; Richard Deisch - Mapping; Sharon Danhauer - Member at large.

- Mark Voth

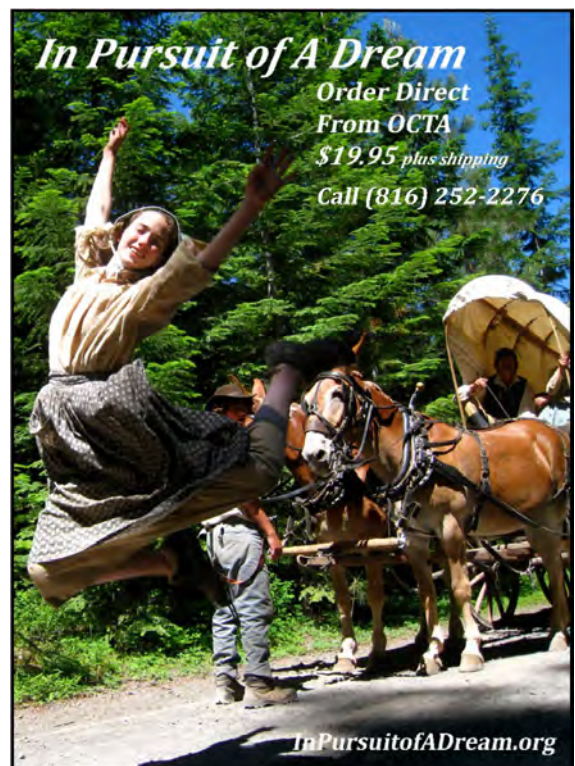


Colorado-Cherokee Chapter members and Ranger Alan Churchill at Red Rock Park (top photo) and the Morrison CCC Camp

NEBRASKA



Amanda Gibbs, Director of the Legacy of the Plains Museum in Gering, has been named President of the Nebraska chapter. She is shown above at the right sharing information with an out-of-state museum visitor. Photo from the Scottsbluff Star-Herald.



Save the Trail

UTAH CROSSROADS



We have had a very busy fall with field trips, post settings, membership meetings, and convention-planning updates.

First:

Crossroads member, Chuck Milliken, was elected to the National Board this year. We are proud and want to congratulate him.

We are saddened by the passing of two people--Jere Krakow and our own Gibbs Smith (book publisher and historian extraordinaire). OCTA will feel the loss. We wish the best for their families.

Early in October we set three posts (T-Rails) that mark trails into Utah – one at Weber River (Utah) Crossing, another at “Hogback Summit” (Heartbreak Ridge), and one at Big Mountain Summit. Much thanks to Jesse Petersen and his crews.

Our fall membership meeting was held on September 14 where we had a catered meal (Miers Chicken), and Beau Burgess spoke to us on the building and history of the Lucin Cutoff--the railroad trestle across the Great Salt Lake in 1903. About 40 people attended.

On October 21 we went on our fall field trip. We met in Bountiful and went north to Cache Valley, Utah, to visit (in Idaho) Red Rock Pass where the ancient Lake Bonneville spilled into the Snake River. Our Great Salt Lake is but a remnant of that lake. We also learned that Jefferson Hunt was buried there. (He certainly got around.) We also visited the Bear River Massacre of 1863 site as well as many Bartleson-Bidwell (1841) trail marker sites in Cache Valley, Utah. Lunch stop was in Preston, Idaho. About 20 people attended this well-planned trip. It was a nice day.

On November 16 we had our last meeting of the year at Fort Douglas. Marie Erickson from the LDS Church Trails Database spoke to us concerning early pioneer diaries that are now available and searchable online. About 30 people attended. At the meeting the entire board was re-elected except that Steve Allison replaces Marsha Buckalew on the board.

Much thanks to Terry Welch and Gar Elison for their leadership this year and to the Fort Douglas Museum for making us welcome to use their facility.

- A. Oscar Olson

TRAILSHEAD

Our Annual Meeting was held on November 4, 2017 at the Trailside Center, Kansas City, MO. Officers will remain as the past year: Jean Coupal-Smith, President; Dick Nelson, Vice President; Mary Conrad, Secretary; and Arnold Cole, Treasurer. Allen Wiechert has agreed and accepted to be our new Preservation Committee Chairman. This committee has been inactive for some time and we are happy to welcome and have him on board with us.

Our speaker was Aaron Barnhart, who gave a very interesting talk about how Kansas and Missouri were the Border States to the onset of the Civil War and how those rivals still exists to some degree. Our historic trails in this area brought settlers to this area that supported both sides and set the stage for what transpired.

Planning for spring and summer activities are in the works. We look forward to celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Trails Act as well as National Trails Day. As in the past we plan to partner with Missouri River Outfitters –SFTA, and Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association –KCAHTA for these activities.

I hope everyone has enjoyed their Holidays and time with family and friends, may 2018 bring new adventures to us all.

- Jean Coupal-Smith

The early years

Wales Bonney leaves his family to follow his cousins west and lands in more trouble than he bargains on.

Jane Bonney, left to die as a child after Indians attacked in 1812, manages to overcome her fears while on the trail west, despite the rigors faced by early pioneers.

The pioneer years

Real life people taken from the pages of history come alive in these historical fiction accounts.

Available on Amazon and the author's Website
www.westboundbonneys.com

GATEWAY

Gateway Chapter held a fall picnic in October at Whistle Creek Livestock Preserve with Cindy Weaver and Jim Yount as the hosts. Members took an educational hayride through the preserve and learned about the various breed of cattle and their uses to humans. The Preserve also has a team of oxen as were used by the overland emigrants.

The November 15 Annual Membership Meeting and dinner was at San Jose Steak House in St. Joseph with 20 members and friends in attendance. Pete Duncan and Corky Smith presented a program about the restoration of the 1856 Nelson Rogers House in Troy, Kansas. The house was on the route of many emigrants, the Pony Express and was the site of the 1859 speech of Abraham Lincoln during his visit to Kansas Territory.

Officers elected for 2018 are President Corky Smith, Vice-President Jackie Lewin, Secretary Sandy Smith, and Treasurer Fred Sawin.

-- Jackie Lewin

KANZA

KANZA has had a good year. Our main project for the year was restoring the 1941 Trail Junction Marker west of Marysville and adding a wayside exhibit to better tell the story of the junction of Independence Road and the St. Joe Road.

We helped celebrate the marking of the Cholera Cemetery at the crossing of the Vermillion by Randy Brown. Later we replaced a worn and faded wayside exhibit.

Plans for the upcoming year are to become more active and get greater participation from our membership. We would like to host more programs and bring greater awareness to OCTA, perhaps recruiting new members. We continue to work with the Pappan Ferry group in Topeka.

This November, we held our annual meeting at the Wagon Wheel in Marysville, an OCTA business sponsor. At our election, Duane Iles was elected president with Carolyn Iles joining the board of directors. Alicia Keegan is staying on as secretary and Arleta Martin will continue as treasurer.

On behalf of the chapter, I want to express our sincere gratitude for the long service of Pat Keegan as president. Alicia and Arleta have given of themselves for many, many years. We have been very fortunate to have such dedicated members.

- Duane Iles



Top photo: Gateway members on a hayride through the Whistle Creek Livestock Preserve. Bottom: Gateway members enjoying the fellowship of cooking over an open fire.



The path to Jere's Lookout at Alcove Spring, which was named in honor of longtime support Jere Krakow.

NORTHWEST

On the morning of April 11, 1906 Ezra Meeker and his assistant William Mardon left La Grande, Oregon carrying a 150-pound granite stone in the wagon. It was inscribed "Old Oregon Trail 1843-57." Eight miles out, at an intersection near the mouth of Ladd's Canyon, they stopped to set up the stone.

Several nearby residents and children from a local school, about thirty people in all, came to the impromptu dedication ceremony. It opened with the children singing "Columbia, The Gem of the Ocean." Meeker spoke for a while and then concluded with a chorus of "America." As was Meeker's custom, the children were encouraged to pile stones at the base of the monument.

A photograph of the scene was taken, after which Meeker continued up the canyon. In 1993 local resident Ed Counsell, whose brother and sisters were in attendance that day, stated that the monument disappeared sometime in the 1920s.

Now, nearly 100 years after it disappeared, the marker has been found. Ronnie Allen, a long-time La Grande resident and retired police officer, was doing research on historic property titles. Following tips, he tracked down an old marker that had been with a family for 90 years or more—they sold it to him for \$150. In those 90 years the stone had been used as a doorstep and later as a yard decoration. Mr. Allen recognized it as likely being the missing Ladd's Canyon marker and contacted Sarah LeCompte, manager of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (OTIC) in Baker City, who agreed.

Mr. Allen has generously donated the marker to the OTIC where it will be displayed with their text panel on Meeker. Discussions for reinstallation at the original site with an interpretive sign generated concerns about keeping it safe from future vandalism and theft, as the original location is quite rural. Other options are being considered.

The chapter's combined Fall Picnic/Annual Meeting was held on September 23 in Vancouver WA. Summaries of summer activities including mapping and marking outings, were recounted, and future projects discussed. Gail Carbiener requested funding for two projects related to the B2H Transmission Line including financial support for the StopB2H Coalition. He also requested that the chapter organize and sponsor a one-day symposium to



Ezra Meeker in 1906 near Ladd's Canyon placing a 150-pound granite marker. Inset shows the marker after it was recovered nearly 100 years later.

be held in May 2018 in La Grande, Oregon to help expand public awareness in eastern Oregon of OCTA's presence and its mission, and to ultimately grow our membership there.

This would complement plans for next summer's activities when NWOCTA will be celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Oregon Trail and the 50th anniversary of the National Trails Act. Preliminary contacts have been made with the End of the Oregon Trail Museum in Oregon City, Oregon and the Oregon Trail Heritage Society. The NW Chapter has volunteered to participate in community events in an effort to call attention to the importance of the Oregon Trail to local history and to make people aware of OCTA as an organization. Roger Blair proposed that the chapter take on the project of building a memorial bench dedicated to Greg Franzwa and is researching location and funding.

The gathering ended with Shirlee Evans discussing her two books of historical fiction based on her ancestors, the Bonney family, who traveled over the Oregon Trail.

The Linn County Historical Society is sponsoring a January 21, 2018 program about the Southern Trail to Oregon. Stafford Hazelett will speak about Levi Scott and his Oregon Trail experiences.

- Dennis Larsen

Save the Trail

IDAHO

We are saddened at the passing of our longtime member and friend, Peggy Cristobal, on September 22. Peggy was a great source of information about all things related to the history of southern Idaho and was always willing to share her knowledge and help others. She will be greatly missed.

An outing of the California Trail from Raft River to City of Rocks was held in September. It was a busy day as the chapter followed 85 miles of the California Trail. We were joined by Wallace Keck, City of Rocks Park Superintendent, who led us to some special sites in the City of Rocks reserve.

The fall chapter meeting was held on October 7 at AJ's Restaurant in Mountain Home.

Highlights of the meeting include

- Paula Davina is working with the NPS on a sign project for Ada County which is the Boise area,
- The chapter approved sending \$500 to the new OCTA Education Outreach fund,
- The chapter approved sending \$100 to the Rogerson School Restoration Fund in honor of Peggy Cristobal,
- Dave and Donna Newberry were re-elected as chapter Directors representing central Idaho,
- Don Wind is taking over for Lyle Lambert as eastern Idaho preservation officer.

After the meeting and lunch, the chapter traveled to the Canyon Creek stage station to view the progress made in the restoration of the station by the BLM. The front wall was rebuilt this year and the beams supporting the floor for the upstairs were installed. Plans are to install a roof next year if funding can be arranged. Anita Fickle, one of the owners of the small valley, shared a display of pieces of cloth and newspapers which were found in the walls as



IOCTA group at Parting of the Ways gravesite

they were taken down. We also visited a site to the east with a number of emigrant graves scattered along the Oregon Trail. Maria Belshaw referenced these graves in 1853 when she wrote "Passed 5 graves...".

A pair of Osher Lifetime Learning Institute classes with all-day bus tours in September and October were full of people interested in learning more about the Oregon Trail in southwest Idaho. The September bus tour dodged rain storms all day while the October tour enjoyed a beautiful fall day.

Chapter activities will resume in the spring with Boise Community Education classes in February, the annual spring byway tour in April, and the spring chapter meeting on May 19. Be sure to check the calendar page on the website, www.IdahoOCTA.org, for more information.

- Jerry Eichhorst

Virtual Trail A Cure For Wintertime Reality

Feeling homebound this winter? The National Park Service and the National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) can help with mobile apps that let people discover trail sites from any location.

The NPS Santa Fe National Historic Trail mobile website <https://safe.oncell.com/en/index.html> provides access to over 800 sites across 900 miles of trail. In northern Utah, from the Wyoming border to Salt Lake City, the NPS Utah National Historic Trails Guide mobile website <https://ntir.oncell.com/en/index.html> provides a digital version of the popular printed Auto Tour Route Guides for California, Pony Express, and Mormon Pioneer

NHT sites. More than 32 locations can be discovered with this tour.

Along the Oregon NHT, NTIR is in the process of developing a different type of digital experience with an Oregon Trail native app. The app will be available to the public in the summer of 2018 and can be used to navigate to over 80 sites from Independence, Missouri to Vancouver, Washington.

Unlike the Santa Fe and Utah products, this one will be available to download as well as view online. NTIR's plans to continue developing these digital trail experiences for all trails the office administers.

Life Insurance Can Mean A Legacy for the Trails

A relic of the days of the California gold rush has been presented to the Dakota Life of Watertown, S.D., by Thornt Babock in the form of policy No. 1379 in the United States Life of New York, which policy covered \$400 insurance on the life of his uncle, Zurial W. Babcock of Herman, N.Y. The annual premium was \$14 and the policy was nonparticipating. It was dated March 12, 1852 and on that date, was assigned to Mr. Babcock's brother, George Babcock to enable him to go to California during the gold rush.

This is one of the earliest recorded instances of the use of a life insurance policy in the form of collateral, as reported in *The Western Underwriter*, January 6, 1916.

Most of us have acquired life insurance in order to protect our family. As we have matured, smaller policies acquired early in our careers have been replaced by

policies of much higher death benefits. Some folks have begun to realize these smaller policies make wonderful gifting vehicles for charity.

As you take stock of your investments and estate, perhaps you too have a small policy. You aren't likely to head to California for the gold rush like Mr. Babcock, but your policy would be a bonanza to the preservation mission of OCTA.

As an example, a policy cash value of \$10,000 placed in OCTA's Heritage Endowment Fund could provide \$400 or more each year in income, allowing OCTA to educate all interested in their heritage and provide a wonderful legacy for future generations.

Please consider gifting a policy today. For additional information contact Melissa Shaw (949) 699-1660 x204 or Lee Black (505) 379-3737.

Will your grandchildren follow your footsteps on the trails?



Our irreplaceable historic trails are disappearing at an alarming rate.

Leaving a legacy for your grandchildren can help make sure the trails are always there for them to enjoy.

Join OCTA's Trails Legacy Society today.

Your gift to an OCTA Endowment fund through a bequest or estate gift will guarantee our ability to preserve and protect the trails.

The threats have never been greater. We need your help.

To learn more, visit octa-trails.org/preserve/trails-legacy-society

Save the Trail

AWARDS

Nominations are due June 1 for the annual OCTA awards to be presented at the 2018 Convention scheduled August 6-10 in Ogden, Utah.

Awards exclusively for OCTA members include the Greg Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award, OCTA's highest honor, and the Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award. Non-members are eligible for Distinguished Service Awards and Friend of the Trail Awards.

Awards nomination forms can be found on the OCTA website by visiting www.octa-trails.org/activity-forms.

Questions about the awards process should be addressed to Awards Committee Chair Dick Nelson at kcnelson42@sbcglobal.net

Visit OCTA on the Internet

OCTA-trails.org

OCTA-Journals.org

OCTA Volunteer Hours

octa-journals.org/octa-volunteer

Shop Amazon, Save The Trails!



OCTA is now part of the Amazon Smile program and each purchase made through Amazon will result in a donation to OCTA's trails preservation efforts. Just bookmark smile.amazon.com.

The first time you visit you will be asked to designate a charity. Follow the instructions and find OCTA. Then, each time you shop on Amazon, enter the storefront through Smile and your purchases will result in a donation.

There is no additional cost. Amazon will track OCTA spending and cut a check for us on a quarterly basis. It's an easy way to shop and benefit trails preservation at the same time.

Use Your Camera: Support the Trails; Win Prizes

OCTA members with a camera can help support the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System and win cool prizes through a photography contest being sponsored by the Partnership for the National Trails System.

Rules and information will be available on the www.trails50.org website shortly after the first of the year. It's a great opportunity to submit your best photo of the historic trails and share them with other trails supporters.

PUBLICATIONS

The coming year will bring new opportunities for our publications to expand our readership and to continue to educate our members and the public, both young and old.

In our effort to increase our audience, we asked all our chapters or members to consider giving a gift subscription for the Overland Journal to a local library. The cost of this special subscription is \$20. We ask that you notify both HQ and the Publication Committee when you make the gift. In late November we were notified that a gift subscription was given to Scottsbluff Public Library. We hope to hear from other chapters or members in the next few months.

Sales for our educational activity books continue. We will soon have to reprint our Lewis and Clark book. The deadline for the raffle for a class set of one of the activity books is February 1. All that is necessary is for an educator to mail a postcard with the teacher's name, school address, phone, title or subject of desired book and the number of students in the class. This is a great way for a school to receive free and useful material.

For our younger children our student calendar contest has been a big hit. It combines both the study of the western migration and art. The subject for the 2019 calendar is "Emigrant and Indian - Types of Dwellings." The contest is open to all children of elementary age. Each child whose artwork is selected will receive a check for fifty dollars. The deadline is April 15.

Information about the programs is available on OCTA's website. At the recent National Social Studies Conference, held in San Francisco, information about these two programs, and the Outstanding Educator Awards were provided to those attending. We are still seeking advertisers for both *News from the Plains* and the *Overland Journal*.

- Bill Hill, Publications Chair

FROM OCTA HEADQUARTERS

Thank You!

Thanks to many donors who support OCTA's preservation work through gifts to our annual fund drive and memorial gifts to those who have passed. Recent gifts include:

Eva Allen	Bernie Rhoades
Richard Bartke	Carole Sargent
Cecilia & John Bell	Bernadine Scoles
Margaret Bowen	Nancy Sicotte
Gail & Muriel Carbiener	Malcolm E Smith Jr.
Debora Champagne	Foundation, Inc.
Linda Evans	David and Shirley Smythe
Marilyn Gaddis & George	Richard & Anne Trussell
Carruthers	David & Wendy Welch
Sharon Hanson	Mary Ellen West
Richard Herman	Hank & Lynne Woodward
Carol Sue Ivory-Carline & Jan	Memorial Gifts
Carline	Bob Evanhoe
John & Kay Krizek	Dick Young
Ross & Shirley Marshall	David & Donna Newberry
Carolyn & Gordon McGregor	Phyllis Smith
NW OCTA Chapter	John & Susie Winner
Dick & Ruby Nelson	Gail & Muriel Carbiener
Judson Parsons & Diana	Bill & Jan Hill
Gardener	David & Wendy Welch
Susan Radke-Sproull	

Welcome New Members

Steven Allison, South Jordan UT
Janet Armstead, Wamego KS
Dennis Amaral, Pilot Hill CA
Woody Davidson, Tacoma WA
Richard Demarest, St Joseph MO
Brock Evans, La Grande OR
Linda Evans, Bend OR
Ted Harwood, El Sobrante CA
Jim & Fuji Kreider, La Grande OR
Kevin Lee, Spring Creek NV
Nancy Merrick, Bend OR
Brandon Metcalf, Salt Lake City UT
Christine Moody, Bend OR
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Christine Straton, San Diego CA
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Debra Wessler, Baker OR
Laura Wickman, Hanover MD
John G Wilder, Naples FL
Jimmy Williams, Union City TN
Paula Young, Saint Charles MO
Carol Zanker, Galva KS

Business Sponsors

For just \$50 a year, you can become an OCTA Business Sponsor. Business sponsors receive a listing on the OCTA website, a window decal, a framed wall certificate and an OCTA trail map. To learn more, contact OCTA headquarters at (816) 252-2276.

Current business sponsors include:

Blue Mountain Diagnostic Imaging, 1100 Southgate, Suite 700, Pendleton OR,
Jim Blau Insurance Agency, 2661 Hub Drive, Independence, MO.
Heritage Inn Express, 1155 Pony Express Hwy, Marysville, KS
Scotts Bluff Area Visitors Bureau, 2930 Old Oregon Trail Rd, Gering, NE
Wagon Wheel Café, 703 Broadway, Marysville, KS
Surveyor Scherbel, Ltd, P O Box 96, Big Piney, WY
State Bank of Blue Rapids, PO Box 157, Blue Rapids, KS
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(Or the USPS) Receive *News From The Plains* in a convenient email format, delivered directly to your computer mail box. To sign up, just send an email to octa@indepmo.org.

For OCTA Life Members

If you are an **Ezra Meeker Life Member** of OCTA, don't forget to renew chapter membership affiliations.

You can renew your chapter memberships by visiting OCTA-trails.org and click on the "Become a Member" section. You can also call headquarters at (816) 252-2276.

If you are not an Ezra Meeker Life Member, you can join at that level at any time. The cost is \$1,000, which can be spread over several regular payments.

Funds from Life memberships go directly to OCTA Endowments.

REMEMBRANCES

Tom Laidlaw



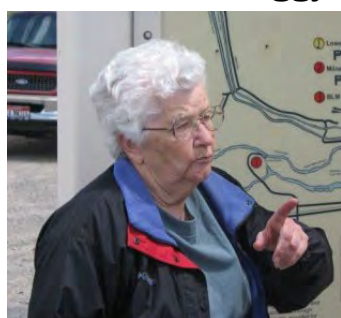
Longtime Northwest Chapter leader and historian **Tom Laidlaw** passed away in September at the age of 80 in Vancouver, Washington.

An electrician by trade, Tom devoted his later years to community theater, historical reenactment and education. He led tours at local historic sites, including many years with Road Scholar (former Elderhostel Travel Tours).

For many years he was a volunteer interpreter at Fort Vancouver, where he developed the character of William Cannon, first blacksmith, millwright and American at the British fur trading post. In addition, at various times he portrayed Peter Skene Ogden, George Abernethy, Columbia Lancaster, Meriwether Lewis, and George Robert Twelves Hewes

Tom is survived by four children and their spouses, plus ten grandchildren, to all of whom he passed on his love of woodworking, history, science and the written word. He will be remembered for his creativity, determination, and love of learning.

Peggy Cristobal



Margaret Ann "Peggy" Cristobal, a charter member of the Idaho OCTA Chapter, passed away in late September at the age of 82.

A native of Twin Falls, she grew up near Berger on the family's farm homestead.

After high school, she became a radiology technologist. She retired in 2011 as the oldest active x-ray technologist in Idaho.

She was very active in her community as a 4-H Club Leader, in school PTO activities and serving on the local planning board and library board. She had a passion for history, attending OCTA conventions and traveling many miles of trails.

She is survived by children Teresa Jensen, Anita Nowak and David Cristobal, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Gibbs Smith

Utah publisher and Crossroad Chapter member **Gibbs Morgan Smith** passed away in October at the age of 77.

Gibbs was the president and founder of Gibbs M. Smith Inc., a well-known publisher of books related to the Rocky Mountain West.

Born in Oakland, he moved with his family to Kaysville, Utah, in 1947. He later graduated from the University of Utah with a BS and MS in history.

While doing graduate work at the University of California-Santa Barbara, he and his wife, Catherine, started the publishing firm of Peregrine Smith. They moved the company to Utah in 1972 and later changed the company name to Gibbs Smith.

Part of his legacy will be The Mesa, a writer's retreat under construction near Zion National Park. He is survived by his wife and a daughter and son-in-law Jordan and Troy Johnson, as well as two grandchildren.



James Coder

Former OCTA member Rev. **James Floyd Coder** of Topeka, KS passed away in October at the age of 93. A native of Wambego, he earned degrees from Washburn University and the University of Kansas. He was an ordained Deacon for the United Methodist Church.

Professionally, he worked in many fields and retired as Director Guidance Services Topeka Public Schools in 1986. He also pastored several churches.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy, sons Tim and Terry, daughter Tammy, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial & Tribute

Gifts represent a wonderful way to recognize the contributions of loved ones to the legacy of the trails.

To learn more, visit

OCTA-trails.org/donate-online

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for new books and special
prices.



Discount for
OCTA members.

www.octa-trails.org/store

Your best stop for
books and more!



Find **YOUR** Trail
Discover. Connect.
Explore.



NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS MUSEUM

The **National Frontier Trails Museum** in Independence, Missouri brings the pioneer experience on the trails to life. The only museum in the nation certified to interpret the Lewis & Clark, Santa Fe, Oregon, California and Mormon Pioneer trails, the National Frontier Trails Museum offers:

- A unique collection of original artifacts and special exhibits
- Firsthand written accounts, travel diaries and journals
- Interactive displays, audio guides and gallery walks
- Children's programs and activities
- A robust research library
- A gift store with the region's largest selection of trails books and merchandise

Pack your provisions, circle the wagons and saddle up for a visit to the **National Frontier Trails Museum** where the West welcomes you, the journey begins and your adventure awaits.

318 W. Pacific • Independence, MO 64050 • www.FrontierTrailsMuseum.org