

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

Independence Rock, Wyoming

Summer 2023

Volume XXXVIII, No. 3

FROM THE PRESIDENT



The mid-year Board meeting was held in St. Joseph, Missouri courtesy of the Gateway Chapter. Several important decisions were made that you need to know. Significantly, although our balance sheet remains strong thanks to the endowment funds, we do have a financial problem at the operating level.

Our expenses exceed our income on a regular basis. That means we lose money and must supplement operations with cash from the Heritage Fund instead of building the endowment up to cover the future possibility of a cutback in federal funds. Accordingly, the Board approved a motion to increase membership fees. These have not increased since 2008. The new fees will become effective on October 1st, 2023, and are:

- Emigrant level, the basic membership for individuals, will be raised from \$50 to \$60.
- Pioneer level, the basic membership for families, will be raised from \$65 to \$75.
- Pathfinder level membership will be raised from \$90 to \$100.
- Lifetime membership will be raised from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

This was a decision that the board would rather not have had to make but which is appropriate as costs have risen. One of several cost-cutting measures discussed, and quickly rejected, was to reduce the number of issues of the Overland Journal. In fact, the Board agreed we need to turn our marketing skills into expanding efforts to promote this key offer.

The Board approved the work done by the Marketing/PR committee in the matter of the new brand book and storytelling guide. This included a new set of logos which have been developed as a progression from the old logos

of 1982. Like the old logos, the new ones make use of the wagon, mountains, and sunset but are three-dimensional in imagery and better suited to the video and web environments of today.

The Board also approved proposals from the NW and Southern Trails Chapters to hold the 2024 National Convention in Pendleton, Oregon, and the 2024 National Symposium in El Paso, Texas. Discussions are ongoing for 2025.

The report by John Winner on all the work being done by the National and Chapter Preservation officers referenced the problems faced with the expansion of wind farms, solar panels, transmission lines, and other developments that impact the trails directly and indirectly. As a matter arising from the discussion, it was agreed that an interactive map showing the locations of all these projects be developed with the help of NPS and included on our website.

Lee Black, Immediate Past President, conducted an overview of the Journey of a Lifetime (JoaL) project and the 'Network for Good' (NFG) donor database which we will also be able to use for improved membership management. With that in place, the JoaL fundraising efforts can begin.

Regarding membership, it was reported that there has been a stabilization, perhaps even a slight uptick, and is now at the same level that it was two years ago. It is still too early to claim final success, but the news is heartening. More work needs to be done to understand who is joining, why, for how long, and whether they are active! The NFG database will help with this analysis.

The work done by the Archaeological Committee was presented in detail. The resulting new section of the OCTA website should be available in early June. It will feature an index covering the Mattes collection. More details are available in this newsletter together with the recommendations that the Collections Committee presented to the Board.

On a personal note, here in Idaho, there was no Spring! On April 8th we were welcomed to December the 127th by the weather forecasters, having enjoyed a record 157 days since we had last seen 60°F. But I was able to get outside at last, thanks to the excellent symposium in St. Joseph. A day of interesting lectures, which can now be found on our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@octatrails>), was well attended at the Museum of the Pony Express. On the next day, I enjoyed touring the St. Joe Road, one of the important trails to be recognized in the proposed NPS 4 Trails legislation that we need to push forward.

The Idaho Chapter annual Backcountry Byway tour led by Jerry Eichhorst, was well attended with over 40 enthusiasts following the Main Oregon Trails and North Alternate in Elmore and Ada Counties. This April tour was set up for those who had attended the Community education classes (in Boise) about the Historic Trails. That activity is a good way to bring in new members.

In late April I was able to attend the outstanding CANVOCTA symposium which was held in Wheatland California at the Pioneer Hall. A highlight was the visit to

the Johnson Rancho, the 'end of the California Trail' and the cemetery, the swales, and the Bear River crossing there.

In May we returned to the City of Rocks and the Salt Lake Cutoff and California Trails. The videos taken there will be on our YouTube channel in the future. There was also an interesting discovery of what may be previously unrecognized ruts and swales of the California Trail in the eastern part of the National Reserve.

My term as President will end in Gering in July. The time has passed too quickly. It has been fulfilling and a major learning and energizing opportunity. I have been able to visit places on the Emigrant Trails I would otherwise never have known about. Travis, Kathy, and all our Volunteers have worked energetically, and much has been achieved. More remains to

be done and President-elect Steve Allison is well-equipped to continue the journey and bring focus to areas like education which are now in need of attention. Thanks to all who have contributed their valuable time and their treasure. Thanks for being a member. Keep up the good work of preserving our national treasure!

*John Briggs, President
Oregon-California Trails Association*



This is my parting shot in News from the Plains!

2022-2023 OCTA Officers

John Briggs, President

Boise, ID • johnxbriggs@msn.com

Steve Allison, Vice President

South Jordan, UT • sallison9999@gmail.com

Lee Black, Past President

Albuquerque, NM • leeblack1@hotmail.com

Jo Johnston, Secretary

Klamath Falls, OR • jojstn@gmail.com

Jerry Mogg, Treasurer

St. Joseph, MO • Jerry.mogg@gmail.com

John Winner, Preservation Officer

Placerville, CA • swinner@dataentree.com

OCTA Chapter Presidents

CA-NV - Dick Waugh

31 La Crescenta Dr., Oroville CA 95965
camalobo@comcast.net

Colorado-Cherokee - Camille Bradford

11515 Quivas Way, Denver CO 80234
bradford@usa.net

Gateway - Dave Berger

3003 A Hirter Dr., St. Joseph MO 64506
3003hirter@gmail.com

Idaho - Jerry Eichhorst

2013 S. Trapper Cove Ave.
Boise, ID 83709
jeichhotrails@gmail.com

KANZA - Duane Iles

PO Box 310, Holton, KS 66436
96cruisin@embarqmail.com

Nebraska - Vacant

Northwest - Sallie Riehl

3455 Countryman Cir NW
Albany, OR 97321
sallieriehl@comcast.net

Southern Trails - Mark Howe

P.O. Box 12521, El Paso, TX 79913
MIhowe1@hotmail.com

Trails Head - Jean Coupal-Smith

5410 Ash Drive
Roeland Park KS 66205
jcs1fun1@kc.rr.com

Utah Crossroads - Matt Ivory

242 Starboard Lane
Stansbury Park, UT 84074
flyfisherman5261@gmail.com

Wyoming - Tom Rea

1756 S. Chestnut
Casper, WY 82601
tomrea72@gmail.com

FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER



We are very excited to announce that two long-vacant positions are now filled. If you subscribe to our E-News, you will already know that in May, OCTA hired Ciara Galbraith from Provo, Utah to be our new Western Regional Representative and hired Colby Crabtree from Lexington, Missouri to be our new Digital

Media Intern. They join our Library and Archives Intern, Laura Theel of Independence, Missouri, who will be finishing up her internship later this summer.

Laura Theel completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Missouri – Kansas City, and in December, finished her master's degree in library science from Emporia State University in Kansas. She has spent her internship working with Mary Conrad of OCTA's Archaeology Committee and Gina Sifers of our Website Subcommittee to develop a new section of our website that will contain links to archaeological sites along the Oregon, California, and Santa Fe Trails. She has already completed the sections on Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska, with more to follow. She is also creating an index to the Merrill Mattes collection, which contains original trail diaries, his correspondence, his research notes, maps, and photographs. We have utilized numerous interns over the years to digitize some of that collection and we will continue digitizing his collection this summer with the goal of having all his materials available on our website with an easy-to-use index to get researchers right to the materials they want. We expect the archaeology section to begin coming online later this summer, with the Mattes material to follow in the next fiscal year. Laura was recently hired to work in the medical library at the University of Missouri – Kansas City but is staying on with OCTA long enough to finish her projects.

Ciara Galbraith recently graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in history. Her major areas of focus were family history, genealogy, public history, American Indian rights, and U.S. immigration history. She has worked

as a research assistant in the BYU Department of Religion, where she collected and analyzed survey data and assisted professors in proofreading and editing. She also completed an Archival and Oral History Internship with the LDS Church History Department, where she handled public relations, curated historical documents, and conducted interviews to gain historical information from church members. She was the editor of *The Thetean*, the undergraduate journal for the BYU History Department, and she does private contracting for genealogy researchers. Ciara spent two years living in Europe, where she learned to speak both Portuguese and Spanish. She joins OCTA as our newest Western Regional Representative, where she will work half-time outreaching to our five western chapters. Her email is ciarapanera@gmail.com if you want to reach her. Ciara is married and expecting her first child in July, but she will start off working closely with our Utah Crossroads Chapter to help develop new advocates for the trails.

Colby Crabtree will be starting her senior year at the University of Missouri – Columbia in the autumn, where she will be finishing up her degree in business administration. She helped found two nutrition supplements stores in Columbia and Lexington (MO) and has three years of experience with digital media marketing. Colby graduated as valedictorian from Lexington High School and will be working primarily with Gina Sifers and her Marketing/PR Committee to expand greatly on our social media outreach, Google Ads, YouTube offerings, print advertising, and web development. She has already been named to the Dean's List five times while at Mizzou and works with her sorority to volunteer at domestic violence shelters for women, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Women's Heart Health of America, the Wounded Warrior Foundation, and other philanthropic charities. She is very excited to begin working with OCTA, and many of you will have the opportunity to meet her at the Gering convention in late July.

It is very exciting times to be involved with OCTA. We've had fairly consistent growth in membership and online sales over the past few years, and we believe that this new team will help elevate us even further. Join me in welcoming and celebrating our new rut nuts!

Travis Boley, Association Manager



PRESERVATION



By John Winner

National Preservation Officer

OCTA's mission is to protect the **historic emigrant trails** legacy by promoting public awareness of the trails through research, education and **preservation activities**; by achieving organizational sustainability and by partnering with others.

I'll start with a brief update on a few of the projects that have potential impact to historic trails and sites. OCTA continues to request consulting party status whenever we become aware of threats to cultural resources associated with the mid-nineteenth century western migration. The goal is to first preserve and at times mitigate to preserve a part of history. With today's wants and needs for energy development and increased urbanization, trying to find a workable solution is challenging. What is important is that OCTA continues to be part of the process and hopefully part of the solution.

B2H Transmission Line: 300-mile Idaho Power project from Boardman, Oregon to Hemingway, Idaho. A 500kV transmission line crossing the Oregon National Historic Trail.

Dave Welch, Northwest Chapter interim Preservation Officer and Dave Price, Idaho Chapter Preservation Officer are continuing their review of the B2H project documents. They submitted comments a month or so ago and are still awaiting responses. Their comments included suggestions for mitigation, but no response on those items at this time. Although the BLM's target date to start construction is the fall of 2023 there are many pieces that must fall into place for this to happen.

R-Project: 225-mile Nebraska Public Power District 345 kV transmission line that crosses the Oregon-California and Mormon National Historic Trails.

As previously reported in NFP, a lawsuit was filed when U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issued an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) authorizing the project to move forward. On June 17, 2020, a U.S. District Judge vacated the ITP and remanded the matter back to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for further review to address the issues raised in the Judge's decision. FWS has filed a notice of intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the R-Project transmission line. To keep the plaintiffs informed as to the progress of the SEIS, a Freedom of Information Act request was submitted to FWS. Recently FWS responded with two more FOIA releases, one with 2635 pages and another with 954 pages keeping the attorney's busy digesting this information. More to come on this project.

TransWest Express Transmission Project: This project is a 500 kV transmission line system that will extend across four states from south-central Wyoming, southeast of Rawlins, to southern Nevada. The project will include approximately 735 miles of transmission line, two terminals located in Wyoming and Utah and, two substations located in Nevada.

The draft Historic Properties Treatment Plan for the Nevada and Utah portions have been distributed to consulting parties for review and comments.

Gerlach Geothermal Development Project: Impact to the Nobles Trail. This project proposed by Ormat Technologies Inc. includes leased and unleased BLM lands and privately leased land. The project includes building two new power plants that would each produce 2.4 megawatts of electricity, an electrical substation, up to 23 total geothermal production and injection wells, approximately 4.6 miles of above ground pipelines, access roads, an approximately 26-mile long 120 kilovolt overhead power line. OCTA has requested Consulting Party Status to review the environmental effect, including direct and indirect effects to the Nobles Trail. Currently working with NPS on issues of correct location of Nobles Trail in project area.

Lava Ridge-Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP North): Magic Valley Energy has submitted a proposal for a massive wind farm Northeast of Twin Falls, Idaho. The project would have up to 400 wind turbines on mostly public lands administered by BLM. Although the proposed project area is not in direct contact with the trail, indirect effects could be visible as the wind turbines generally reach Heights of 750 feet or more. An integral part of Lava Ridge is SWIP (North).

SWIP (North) is a 275-mile 500 kV transmission line in Idaho and Nevada. The line would run from the Midpoint substation, north of Twin Falls, Id. to Robinson Summit substation west of Ely, Nevada. This is the third phase of the SWIP project that continues on to southern Nevada. The SWIP (North) project will cross the Oregon NHT, Central Overland Trail, The Pony Express NHT, The Hastings Cutoff and the California NHT.

OCTA has been granted "Consulting Party" status as the process moves through its various stages. Idaho chapter Preservation Officers, Don Wind and Dave Price along with Kevin Lee from California-Nevada Chapter are monitoring this project.

Fernley Swales Saga: In 2001 a Historic Preservation and Access Easement for the Fernley Sand Swales was created with the intent to preserve and protect a segment of the California National Historic Trail (Truckee River Route) and a segment of the original roadbed of the 1868 to 1903 Central Pacific Railroad. The property owner entered into

the easement with the Department of Interior (BLM). The easement is approximately 130 acres and includes a 1-mile segment of pristine Class 1 trail swales at the west end of the infamous 40-mile desert. The Central Pacific Railroad roadbed runs parallel to the trail swales.

Each year since the creation of the easement OCTA has been active in trying to maintain the integrity of the Fernley Swales. Over the years different OCTA members have taken on a leadership role in working with the property owner, BLM, the city of Fernley, Nevada and many volunteer organizations “to clean up” dumped trash. Additionally, OCTA conducts an annual photo monitoring program.

The frustration is: Neither the Grantor (fee simple property owner of bare legal title of the land) or the Grantee, Department of Interior (BLM) owner of the Easement wants any responsibility. We recently met again with the BLM, including the State Director. There seems to be consensus to erect some fencing. Jon Nowlin, long time OCTA member, oversees OCTA’s interest in the Fernley Swales.

Greenlink North: 225 mile, Nevada Energy project from Ely, Nevada (Robinson Substation) to Yerington, Nevada (Fort Churchill Substation). A 525kV transmission line that follows US Highway 50 in part and the Pony Express NHT and Central Overland Trail, crossing in several locations. I have participated in a scoping sessions with BLM. In addition to the direct effects of trails, at issue is the effect to the “Loneliest Highway” designation.

Greenlink West Transmission Project: The project includes 525-kV, 345-kV, 230-kV, and 120-kV transmission facilities plus a series of substations. Most of the transmission line runs parallel to Nevada Hwy. 95 until it reaches an area north of Yerington, Nevada where the line branches to Alt. 95. with multiple smaller transmission lines. The lines will terminate at the Mira Loma Substation, southeast of Reno and Comstock Meadow Substation, on Hwy 439, the new parkway connecting I-80 and Hwy. 50.

A new Fort Church Substation will be built. Three new 345kV transmission lines from Fort Churchill Substation: Line 1, 36 miles to Comstock Meadows Substation; Line 2, 33 miles to Comstock Meadows Substation and Line 3, 44 miles to Mira Loma Substation.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) will include crossing the Pony Express NHT and the California NHT, Carson Route, both the Desert and River branches. The proposed Direct APE includes two segments of the California Trail and one segment of the Pony Express Trail, and the Indirect (visual) APE contains one segment of the Pony Express and three segments of the California. The draft Environmental Impact Statement was just release, now the real work begins.

There have been countless applications for wind and solar farms projects throughout the country and endless oil and gas projects in Wyoming.

All told, nearly 80 preservation reviews in the past seven years.

Now for a bit of success...

Long Canyon Open Pit Mine / Gravelly Ford

Conservation Easement and Virtual Tour: This has been over 10 years in the making. It started as a review of a permit for an open pit mine in Northeast Nevada that could have an effect on the Hasting Cutoff.

Briefly, little resulted regarding preservation at the Newmont Mining Company Long Canyon Open Pit Mine in the Goshute Valley in northeastern Nevada, mostly on BLM land. A few concessions were mitigated, but the real story lies in what transpired when the BLM insisted that there was no direct effect on cultural resources resulting from the mine, only indirect (visual) effects. Following that decision, BLM requested Consulting Parties submit indirect effect mitigation items. Several mitigation items were submitted by OCTA, including, but not limited to, conservation easements or similar protective provisions for trails and sites on Newmont owned land. Specific to this were the pristine Class 1 trail segments on the California National Historic Trail leading to the Humboldt River and the Unknown Emigrant Graves at Gravelly Ford located on Newmont’s Horseshoe Ranch, 120 miles west of the Long Canyon mine project. Also, an item of mitigation was a Virtual Tour (video) from Interstate 80 to Gravelly Ford, telling the emigrant story and preserving the trail. Well, we’re there. Nevada Gold Mine (NGM), the current owner of the Horseshoe Ranch, has agreed to a Conservation Easement (CE) granting the development rights to Nevada Land Trust (NLT) a nonprofit conservation land trust, working to protect key land, water, wildlife, recreation, historic, scenic, and agricultural resources in Nevada. NGM has prepared a Management Plan outlining how they will continue ranching operations adhering to the CE. NLT has prepared Baseline Reports as to how they will monitor and preserve the emigrant trail and sites. Permitted and prohibited uses are detailed within the Conservation Easement document. The easement provides protection for the California National Historic Trail, 60 meters on either side, on 5 Sections of NGM land and 100 meters around the Unknown Emigrant Graves at Gravelly Ford near the crossing of the Humboldt River.

Also, part of the Long Canyon Project mitigation included a Virtual Tour documentary film from Interstate 80 to Gravelly Ford telling the emigrant story and preserving the trail. The Virtual Tour (25-minute documentary film), Preserving Gravelly Ford, sponsored by NGM and OCTA and produced by Knowledge Tree Films is complete and available for showing at selected locations.

2nd Blaze: In 1848, when members of the Mormon Battalion discovered a west to east route over the Sierra Nevada (Carson Route) three of their members were killed and the site was named Tragedy Springs. To commemorate

the three Mormons, a blaze with their names was carved on a large tree. That blaze is currently on display at Marshall Gold Discovery State Park in Coloma, CA.

Based on a report *One Hundred Years at Silver Lake*, A second blaze was discovered a short distance from Tragedy Spring. The inscription reads **Aug XIX 1848; 2nd Co; PR Wright**. Phineas R. Wright was a member of the

Mormon Battalion. We have been successful in having the stump removed from the Eldorado National Forest, and...what seemed to be a protracted negotiation, the ENF has conveyed to OCTA this cultural resource to have curated and displayed.

Epilogue: *PRESERVATION... keeping safe from harm and destruction.* More to come...

Spring Fundraising Committee Report

The Fundraising Committee is pleased to report, this fiscal year-to-date (Oct 22- Mar-23), OCTA received \$41,560 in donations. The receipts include, \$11,000 in support for Journey of a Lifetime. Journey of a Lifetime receipts, from inception, total \$39,500. The total pledged to date is \$125,500 towards a six-hundred thousand goal.

During the past six months your committee has been devoted to defining opportunities to enhance membership communication capabilities. OCTA desires to improve donor and member relations beyond publications and infrequent gatherings. Many OCTA members do not live near defined routes used by our forefathers heading west and Chapters that meet on the trails. To achieve desired member relationships, a new digital communication system is being launched. Once the systems complete Beta testing, your committee believes you will be favorably impressed.

The Fundraising Committee presented the body of work completed for Journey of a Lifetime at the St. Joseph mid-year Board meeting. Two new and improved means of communicating with membership were reviewed. Network for Good, the new membership and donor relations program, will enable immediate gift acknowledgement for all donations made to OCTA through the Network for Good portal. Membership utilization of Network for Good will expedite gift acknowledgements and provide efficiencies in the Independence office.

You are encouraged to select Donate Now on the OCTA website. Presently one must scroll down on the Donate Now and Join OCTA page to select the Donate Now link. Once connected, a colorful scene of Courthouse Rock will appear along with gifting amount options. We hope you will use this option to accomplish your response to the OCTA Summer appeal letter which you should have received by the time you read this column. You may also have received an email from OCTA introducing you to Network for Good and it's features and benefits.

In the near future OCTA members will be introduced to an additional new educational feature. Benefits of the new program include articles of interest focusing on current events from Washington, tax savings ideas, family estate planning, and interactive Q&A's sessions. OCTA strives to improve member and donor relations through the two

new programs. Your donation, given during the Summer Appeal, is an investment in the enhancements OCTA seeks to offer you and future generations. Your donations help to meet the annual operating budget which provides for your Office Administrator, Preservation field expenses, Overland Journal/News from the Plains, Webpage and other means of communication and Western Regional Representative support. As everyone prepares for trail activities this year and trail preservation opportunities, why not consider how you can help your Chapter and OCTA nationally achieve OCTA strategic plan objectives.

Within OCTA membership there is a wealth of knowledge, professional experience and talent that could be employed to help achieve important OCTA goals. One example would be to use your ability to share fascinating history with friends, civic groups and senior centers using selections from our new video library. This may well lead to new members and friendships. New members may translate to greater financial funding in support of OCTA objectives. Please consider how you might use your talent to advance the OCTA Mission. The following Committee areas could use your help: Archaeology, Collections/Library, Preservation, PR and Marketing and Education. More information about these Committees can be found on the OCTA website. Each of the afore mentioned are included in Journey of a Lifetime funding.

How do I find more information about OCTA service opportunities? Go to octa-trails.org and select the Membership link at the top of the page. There you will find, under the sub-heading Useful Information and Resources, the President's Letter and a little further down the page the link to **OCTA Leadership Manual, Strategic Plan & Organization Chart**. Your Leadership Manual and Strategic Plan are available for you review. Please consider using your expertise to help move OCTA forward. Your experience and expertise are a valuable asset to the organization. Thank you for considering how you can help.

Fundraising Committee: Lee Black, Chairman, Steve Allison, John Briggs, Helen Hankins, Bill Martin, Pat Traffas and Dave Welch

*Lee Black, Fundraising Committee Chair
and OCTA Past President*

It's Almost Here!

By Bill Hill

Summer is here and it is the time for travel and fun. There is no better place to be than in Gering, Nebraska for OCTA's Convention, "Doing Old in A New Way." In the recent editions of the *News from the Plains*, you've read about Scotts Bluff National Monument, Legacy of the Plains, and Chimney Rock. You've seen many of the Landmarks and historic trail sites in the Nebraska Panhandle region and eastern Wyoming, and now you'll learn about the programs, speakers, and tours available during the convention, Sunday through Saturday, July 23-29. By now we hope you are all planning to register, if you haven't already. There is something for everyone including two pre-convention road trips. These, however, will each have room for a limited number of cars and are for early bird signups.

Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m., Randy Brown will lead a limited caravan west from Gering for those willing to rough it and sign up early. It could be hot & dusty in July, so think about what to bring. And, if you have a CB, it would be handy.

Participants will meet at the Gering Convention Center parking lot. Plan to arrive before starting time. One of the first stops will be at the Papin grave located near the mouth of Helvas Canyon. This is near the new 1849/50 site of the American Fur Company's recently moved Fort John. The sites are about 2.5 miles south off the trail. Returning to the route of the main trail in Gering Valley, the tour turns west paralleling and crossing the trail as it heads up to Robidoux Pass. With the exception of one or two very small sites in the valley, the trail succumbed to the plow and leveling for modern agriculture. However, about two miles from the pass near the locations of some emigrant graves and the first Robidoux post, the swales appear and become even more evident as the pass is approached and at the interpretative sign in the pass. The tour then continues to Horse Creek Crossing and the later site of the famous Horse Creek Treaty. The tour will follow local highways and country dirt roads near, parallel, or over the trail all the way to the approach to the Laramie River. Some of the other later stops include: the Henry Hill grave with its expansive and beautiful view of the countryside and trail, the Bishop gravesite at Hunton's Meadow described and drawn by J.G. Bruff in 1849, more swales and graves, Old Rock Ranch, the Grattan site Monument and fight, and then finally the well-marked swales as they approach the Laramie River and present-day Fort Laramie and the sites of old Fort John. Time will not allow for a tour of the fort, but it will be toured during the bus tours on Wednesday and Thursday

Monday is the Sutherland area tour led by Linda Tracy.

This also is a limited number of cars participation tour. It will start in the early morning in Sutherland, NE and focus on sites in the nearby area on both the northside and the southside trails. There are some dramatic swales and ruts on the northside of the North Platte, commonly called the Mormon Trail, but it was used by many others going west, that will be visited. On the southside trail, commonly known as the Oregon and Pony Express trails, can be found O'Fallon's Bluff. Since the South Platte River cut to the edge of these bluffs and the route along the river was often too marshy or wet, the trail also pulled up the hill and over the bluffs. Participants will be able to walk in the swales at the I-80 rest stop. This is also the area of preservation concern for OCTA since it may be impacted by power needs. Other sites to be pointed out will be some of the locations of the later road ranches and Pony Express station sites. Depending on conditions and obtaining permission, Alkali Lake Station, recently acquired by the Nebraska State Historical Society, will be pointed out and may be visited. Evidence of the military post and Pony Express and Stage stations appear as low mounds, and the trails and swales as depressions going east and west.

The Board Meeting will be held from the morning through the afternoon. That evening will be the welcome reception held at the Scotts Bluff Monument with a special program on William Henry Jackson, the famous trail artist.

Tuesday will begin with the official welcome and business meeting. It will be followed by various speakers. Starting with a look back at 40 years of conventions and then speaker programs on the Robidoux, the Mormons, the Lakota, and the Black emigrants. After the speakers there may be time for chapter meetings or one for new members. Beginning at 6:30 p.m. will be Authors Night and reception with also a chance to examine the items available for the auctions and the raffles.

Wednesday and Thursday will have three different bus tours available. Each bus will have a capacity of about 52 people. The three tours are described below. You are encouraged to sign up for one of the three on each of the two days. For those who choose to stay in Gering there should be a list of local sites to visit, or one can spend the time visiting the bookroom and vendors.

Keep in mind that the tours have many sites over long distances and will have tight schedules. Sometimes it may become necessary to skip a stop and just drive by because of longer than planned earlier stops.

Tour – East to the famous Ash Hollow The tour will head east viewing many of the sites on the northside trail along the Mormon National Historic Trail. Sites may include Rebecca Winters' grave, a Mormon camping area near Bridgeport, Ancient Bluffs Ruins, Lizard Head Bluff, Blue Water Creek, Fort Grattan site and then crossing over the North Platte to Ash Hollow and the southside trail. Lunch, a talk on the Battle of Blue Water, and a chance to hike up to the top of the ridge of the plateau for a breath-taking view of what the emigrants saw before they dropped down into the valley will be offered. To get to that point the emigrants had made the crossing of the South Platte, had climbed California Hill, and then crossed the waterless plateau to that ridge. The climb up might be hard, but for those who make it, they'll see, it is certainly worth the effort. Some of the other marked gravesites will be viewed or visited including the Rachel Pattison in Ash Hollow, and perhaps also, the A Kelly and John Hollman graves. The return to Gering will follow or parallel the southside route following the Oregon National Historic and Pony Express National Historic trails. It will provide great views of Courthouse and Jail Rock, Jackson's Panorama site, also sketched by James Wilkins, Chimney Rock, Castle Rock, Scotts Bluff and some Pony Express sites.

Tour – West to Fort Laramie & Guernsey Ruts This tour will follow or parallel the Oregon, Pony Express, and California Nation Historic trails west from Gering to Fort Laramie and then to Register Cliff and Guernsey Ruts. It will first pass through Scotts Bluff and Mitchell Pass, and the site of Fort Mitchell. Next the Horse Creek Treaty Marker and grounds will be noted and later the Grattan Fight monument and site and Fort Bernard's site. The area of forts William, John and Laramie will be a major stop allowing visits to the Sutler's store, Old Bedlam, the Barracks, Visitor Center, and more. Just walking the grounds gives one a great sense of history. The other major stop on this tour is Register Cliff and the Guernsey Ruts area. The flat area between the two was a major emigrant camping area and a later site of a pony express station. Trail swales are evident in the area and especially in the Guernsey Ruts area. This is where the trail climbed the limestone hills and were described in Wm. Clayton's Mormon guidebook as, "Steep hill to ascend...you will find the road rocky in places, and about halfway over there is a sudden turn in the road over rough rocks, which is dangerous to wagons, if care is not taken." You will be able to climb that hill and experience those rough rocks. Lunch will be had during the stop at Fort Laramie. Other stops will be made, and sites will be pointed out during the bus ride.

Tour – Morr – Bluffs Tour This tour will focus on the extended local areas centered on the area between Scotts Bluff and Chimney Rock and Court House and Jail Rock area. Pending the completion of the construction of the

road and bridge destroyed by last summer's fire and the condition of the dirt roads for heavy bus traffic, the sites of Robidoux Pass and the two trading posts may be viewed. Extensive trail swales can be seen in the pass area where all the southside emigrant traffic prior to 1851 was funneled. After 1851 Mitchell Pass in the Scotts Bluff National Monument grew in importance and soon became the main route. It will be visited, and members can also walk the route through it, or for those who don't wish to hike the route, they can take the bus to the top of Scotts Bluff for an expansive view of the area. After passing Fort Mitchell's site, the tour will head east to Chimney Rock. Leaving Scottsbluff, Rebecca Winter's grave may be visited, and other smaller sites will be noted. Chimney Rock will be the major stop and lunch will be had at the recently renovated visitor center. Work is also underway for a new walkway to take one closer to Chimney Rock. The next site will be Jackson's panorama and the Henderson's monuments. Then on to Court House and Jail Rock, two features that caused many an emigrant to leave the trail and hike to the formations. Many misjudged the distance and time it would take. You will be lucky and be on a bus. Other lesser-known sites will also be pointed out on your return to Gering.

Wednesday evening, dinner will be on your own, but we will have Movie Night in Gering's Midwest Theater with a special showing of OCTA's new video production *Preserving Gravelly Ford* and four new short productions through Western Writers of America, Standing Bear which is about his trial and Indian rights and Louise Clappe which is about the California Gold Rush and perhaps another on William Bent, Jim Bridger, or Nat Love. The evening will also be open to the public.

Thursday evening, after the bus tours is dinner with the silent and live auctions. Please come prepared to bid and show your support for "Saving the Trails."

Friday we are back to our speaker programs focused on Indian captives, the Pony Express, the Fur Trade, a map presentation, and the local trails. Finishing out the evening is the Awards Dinner and presentations and a chance to congratulate and thank those recipients.

Saturday morning there is a special program and chance to visit the Sunrise Mine near Guernsey, WY. There is presently no tour bus transportation so members will have to drive or double up. (We are checking into the possible availability of a school bus.) The Farewell BBQ will be held at Sunrise that afternoon. That will be the final event of the Gering Convention. The committee hopes that everyone will have enjoyed, "**We Do Old in a New Way.**" All of us look forward to meeting with each other again next summer in Pendleton, Oregon.

See you there in Gering! - Happy Trails!



"We Do Old in a New Way"

Oregon-California Trails Association 41st Annual Convention
Gering, Nebraska – July 25-29, 2023

Gering Civic Center - 1050 M St. - Gering, NE 69341

Full convention schedule and details are at www.octa-trails.org

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

(Please Print)

Registration (covers speakers and some receptions)

Individual (before June 25) @ \$95.00	\$ _____
Family (before June 25) @ \$145.00	\$ _____
Individual (June 25 - July 17) @ \$105.00	\$ _____
Family (June 25 - July 17) @ \$155.00	\$ _____
Individual (after July 17) @ \$115.00	\$ _____
Family (after July 17) @ \$165.00	\$ _____
Educator @ \$75.00	\$ _____
Student @ \$50.00	\$ _____

or **SINGLE DAY Registration** for those unable to attend the full program:

Tuesday _____	Individual @ \$50.00/Family @ \$80.00	\$ _____
Friday _____	Individual @ \$50.00/Family @ \$80.00	\$ _____

Sunday, July 23	Pre-Convention Tour Gering to Ft. Laramie, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm	@ \$10.00/person x _____	\$ _____
Monday, July 24	Pre-Convention Tour Sutherland, NE Area, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm	@ \$10.00/person x _____	\$ _____
	Opening reception and dinner		
	Scotts Bluff National Monument, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	@ \$25.00/person x _____	\$ _____
Tuesday, July 25	Lasagna luncheon 11:45 am - 1:00 pm	@ \$20.00/person x _____	\$ _____
	Author's Night 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	@ \$0.00/person x _____	\$ _____
Wednesday, July 26	Bus Tour: Ash Hollow 8:00 am - 5:00 pm	@ \$65.00/person x _____	\$ _____
	Bus Tour: Historic Morrill and Scottsbluff County 8:00 am - 5:00 pm	@ \$65.00/person x _____	\$ _____
	Bus Tour: Ft. Laramie/Guernsey 8:00 am - 5:00 pm	@ \$65.00/person x _____	\$ _____
	Movie Night Preserving Gravelly Ford/Educational Shorts, 7 - 9 pm	@ \$10.00/person x _____	\$ _____
Thursday, July 27	Bus Tour: Ash Hollow 8:00 am - 5:00 pm	@ \$65.00/person x _____	\$ _____
	Bus Tour: Historic Morrill and Scottsbluff County 8:00 am - 5:00 pm	@ \$65.00/person x _____	\$ _____
	Bus Tour: Ft. Laramie/Guernsey 8:00 am - 5:00 pm	@ \$65.00/person x _____	\$ _____
	Roast Beef dinner plus Live & Silent Auction 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	@ \$30.00/person x _____	\$ _____
Friday, July 28	Baked potato bar luncheon 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	@ \$20.00/person x _____	\$ _____
	Awards Banquet Western Buffet		
	featuring Smoked Brisket & Broasted Chicken, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	@ \$30.00/person x _____	\$ _____
Saturday, July 29	Sunrise Mine Tour (includes picnic lunch), 9:00 am - 2:00 pm	@ \$45.00/person x _____	\$ _____

Grand Total \$ _____

SPECIAL DIET REQUIREMENTS** PLEASE LET US KNOW: CONTACT INFO BELOW

Registrations - mailed or online having meals -- DEADLINE IS July 17, 2023

Mailed Registrations - Postmarked by 7-18-23

To register online and pay by Credit Card visit www.octa-trails.org

Mail registration form and check payable to: Oregon-California Trails Association • 524 S. Osage St. • Independence, MO 64050

CONTACT INFORMATION: Kathy Conway • kconway@indepmo.org • 816-252-2275 •

Full refunds available until June 25 • 50% refund from June 25 – July 17

No refunds on cancellations after July 17!

Attention! – Your help and participation are needed.

1) Books, articles and items of all kinds are needed for daily raffle prizes, the silent auction and the live auction. Please, sign up now. Auction Night is Thursday evening Please consider donating an object or items. Sign up and let headquarters know.

2) OCTA has many authors as members and Tuesday evening is Authors Night. Some “oldtimers” will be there, but also some of our newest ones. If you’re an author, please sign up by letting headquarters know you want to participate in it. Put the spotlight on your work.

3) Tuesday through Friday be sure to visit and support

the bookroom and the other vendors.

4) Originally it was hoped that the partial representation of Robidoux’s second trading post would be on the schedule for a stop and visitation. Unfortunately, due to safety concerns after its relocation and continued weathering and structural problems, it became evident that that would not be possible. The post has been dismantled and the solid salvaged logs stored. The city of Gering and the Friends of Robidoux have had to revise their plans. Look for an update on the post in your convention bag.

Publications

Both our editors, Bob Clark and Jay Lawrence continue to work to see that our members get the best information about what is happening at the local and state levels and the most interesting and informative writing and research articles about the trails. The committee's two major tasks now are the development of their proposed budget and the determination of the recipient of the Merrill Mattes Award. The budget was forwarded to the Budget Committee for their review and decision. Our editors have worked to keep the costs of printing down. Compared to a few years ago, our costs have been kept down and some aspects are even lower.

The Chimney Rock Visitor Center is the focus of the museums “We Do Old in a New Way”, the Gering Convention’s theme in this edition. This completes the review of the three visitor centers in the convention area. Be sure to stop in, even if you will see them during a tour. There is more to see than the tour allows.

The Education Publications’ student calendar

“Emigrant & Indian – Tools, Utensils & Equipment” is now complete. The student artists have been notified, and the Calendar printed. It is available through headquarters and will be on sale during the Gering Convention. The price is still only \$10.00.

The fourteen students whose artwork was selected are: Kate Massoth, John Paul II; Jane Jarman, Canyon Rim Academy; Cora Williams, Canyon Rim Academy; Lyla Lambert, Canyon Rim Academy; Ellie Neff, Canyon Rim Academy; Anthony Segura, John Paul II; Megan Schwartz, Canyon Rim Academy; Mason Brewer, Canyon Rim Academy; Milo Smith, John Paul II; Henry Astle, Canyon Rim Academy; Wyatt Lassen, Canyon Rim Academy; Xavier Rodriguez, John Paul II, Caleb Lichty, Canyon Rim Academy; and Ty Burbidge, Canyon Rim Academy.

Each student receives a copy of the calendar and a check for \$50.00. Their school also receives one copy of the calendar.

Bill Hill

Spring Cleaning

The love of history never gets old. Even as we get older, and look backwards, we see new things. Perspective is a gift that comes with time. Benjamin Franklin is quoted as saying “Life’s tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late.”

I’ve always enjoyed being with old people because they knew stuff! My own grandparents led by example and were always willing to bring us along or share their wisdom so we could learn. To this day, I think grandparents are incredibly important in the lives of grandchildren. It gives us someone to look up to and see our DNA in action. We model their behavior and emulate their actions. We admire the qualities they demonstrate and try to be better people as we represent the family name.

So many lives were lost on the trails, but we lift up their

spirits through the stories and efforts they left behind. We learn to tell about the famous Donner Party – and their travels, adventures and famous rescue and survival. There was more to the story than just being desperate in a lot of snow. This last winter gave us another chance to see what a lot of snow looks like!

We save a lot of old books and magazines in hopes we’ll revisit them again. The Chapters are happy to receive old materials from members, that we might recycle them, or market them at a symposium, or even work with local schools and libraries to make information available. Together we are stronger as the Oregon California Trails Association with eleven chapters along the trails. Thank you for being a part of the network that cares. *Melissa Shaw, CFP®*

Three Candidates Announce for Positions on the OCTA National Board of Directors

Three candidates have announced candidacies to serve on the OCTA National Board of Directors. The first is Pat Fletcher of Sequim, Washington, who is seeking a second three-year term. Additionally, Greg Hatten of St. Joseph, Missouri, and Jenny Miller of Hermiston, Oregon are seeking a three-year term.

OCTA members are asked to fill out the ballot found on page thirteen of this issue and return it to OCTA Headquarters at P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 60451 no later than July 15 or vote online at the link shown below the mail-in ballot. Below are the candidates' statement of qualifications and experience. Members should use this "clip and return" ballot for your voting convenience. Elected Directors will be seated at the end of the Annual meeting and serve three years.



Patricia K.A. Fletcher

Statement for OCTA National Board nomination

Just becoming an OCTA member in 1993 doesn't qualify me for anything much. We [husband Jack and I] had been researching a rather obscure and largely unknown trail to California for ten years – the Cherokee Trail. OCTA gave us our first opportunity to bring

that research to the attention of the public. Roy Tea, Utah chapter, befriended us, looked over our research and maps, especially across the Salt desert west of Salt Lake – the Hastings Cutoff, his specialty. The next year we gave our first presentation to OCTA at Salt Lake and found OCTA was a perfect match for our work. Since then, our knowledge of and participation in the many and varied activities of both chapters and the National has grown – in the field, in the boardroom, in meetings, at Headquarters, in mitigation. Joining with federal, state and local agencies and the many essential and enjoyable partners all over the western emigrant trail routes we have mutually benefitted from the contacts-and the friendships. OCTA has grown, not nearly as exponentially as the nation's needs to covet those hallowed historic routes as "perfect" places for energy companies-windfarms, gas drilling, fracking, transmission lines. Luckily, we have had protection from intrusion; but not enough, and not if we don't keep watch. The list of attempts increases. Brave and bold ancestors gave their all to find better opportunities for their families. Too many gave their last agonizing breaths to the dusty earth along the way. It is up to us in OCTA to change with the times, keep watch, and make sure those dangerous journeys were not made in vain. And to encourage those

who follow us to do the same. We need many others to join us, but we cannot wait for them or lament their absence. We must face outward and forward. *Endorsed by: Duane Iles, Chuck Hornbuckle, and Bruce Watson. Copies of recommendations in OCTA file*



Greg Hatten is a consumer products consultant and micro influencer in the Outdoor Adventure space. It's two lives, really... after twenty years with Hallmark Cards and a handful of years as a retailer out in Oregon, he combines that experience to help

companies and entrepreneurs think creatively, develop new product concepts, launch new products, build brands, and get products retail ready. It's work that requires "out of the box" thinking and problem solving experience and has many rewards. In the Outdoor Adventure space, Greg builds handcrafted wooden boats and runs them on wild and scenic rivers in some of the most remote and breathtaking places in North America. Those river adventures are described in feature articles, social media, blogs, instagram posts, podcasts, and on the speaking circuit where he combines his passion with a purpose - to remind people to keep the wild and scenic rivers "wild". He has retraced the bootprints and oar strokes of historic mountain men and explorers like Jim Bridger, John Day, Lewis and Clark, and John Wesley Powell exploring rivers like the Colorado through the Grand Canyon, the Middle Fork of the Salmon in Idaho, and most of the wild and scenic rivers in the Pacific Northwest. He has given presentations all over the world and has been featured on a PBS segment about wooden boats on wild rivers. Greg is always quick to point out that most of those historic rivers and trips involved St. Joseph in the 1800's – either as the launching pad, the supply hub, or the starting point for westward river travel. He lives in St. Joseph with his wife Janet, was educated at Missouri Western University and Northwest Missouri State University, and is currently working on some local projects in addition to his consumer products consulting and river running adventures.

From Greg: I would like to formally express my interest in serving on the OCTA Board and helping advance the cause of historic trails leading west. With St. Joseph as my home town and home base, I am at the “nerve center” of the westward migration of the 19th Century and positioned very well to work with local historians and museums to access information from that era. Of particular interest is the role the rivers played as the first highways “west” of the Mississippi - which led to all sorts of interesting boats and river adventures. In addition to writing and researching, I think I can help with marketing and branding and look forward to exploring ways I can help add value to the organization.

■ I would like to add my support to the nomination of Greg Hatten as a member of the OCTA Board of Directors. He has a keen interest and ability to work with Congressmen and has a desire to move the 4 Trails Initiative along to conclusion. He also has a career in marketing and branding which could be beneficial to OCTA. And, he is a very pleasant, congenial person to work with. *Jackie Lewin, Gateway Chapter*

■ It is a privilege to nominate Greg Hatten as a candidate for election to the Board of Directors of the Oregon-California Trails Association.

Greg is a member of Gateway Chapter, OCTA, in St. Joseph, MO. Greg is a well-known and respected member of his community.

A newspaper article written by Miles Ramsay described him:

CHARACTER TRAIT: Agile

DEFINITION: Mentally quick; also, moving quickly and lightly with grace.

“Curiosity might have killed the cat, but not Greg Hatten. This guy has lived nine lives - as a sales manager, brand developer, marketer, entrepreneur, and even as a professional wilderness guide in his handmade wooden boats. But all of Greg's adventures have deep roots right here in St. Joseph.”

My first introduction to Greg Hatten was at the National Frontier Trails Museum during an OCTA Symposium. Greg presented a most interesting program on wild, American river adventures, many of which have a direct association with national historic trails. Greg has homes at both ends of the Oregon-California Trail and has extensive knowledge of the water and land courses between. He builds his own boats, accepts the challenge to run wild and scenic rivers, encourages others to join him in the adventures, and shares his experiences with infectious enthusiasm. Greg is not content with simple Class I or II river rapids, but embraces the challenge of Class V and VI rapids which demand skill, knowledge, and bravery.

Aside from his adventurous nature, Greg has a vast business background and skillset which qualify him to be a true asset to the Board of Directors. As OCTA continues to expand its activity and focus on marketing, Greg would be a natural fit. He has engaged corporate sponsors over the years and would certainly provide insight into that arena.

OCTA will benefit from Greg Hatten's experience and contacts. It is a distinct privilege to recommend Greg Hatten, Gateway Chapter, as a candidate for election to the Board of Directors for the Oregon-California Trails Association.

Most sincerely, *Pat Traffas*

OCTA Past President, Member of Board of Directors

■ I have mainly been able to witness firsthand Greg Hatten as an excellent speaker at a number of our Symposia and have read some of his articles he has written for trails and other history groups, as well as Tuesday Night Talks for Pony Express Museum. He has lived in St Joseph for a number of years and we have had the opportunity to be able to spend time together, talk about history and his river adventures.

I would highly recommend him to be considered for being a member on OCTA National Board of Directors. He will be a real asset for us to be associated with and serve our interests in the future. Greg will help OCTA expand our circle of influence even further, I believe.

Jerry Mogg OCTA Board Member & Treasurer



Jenny Miller My name is Jenny Miller and I've been a member of OCTA since 1998. I have served on the Northwest chapter as a board member, and am currently the secretary. I've been active in many chapter activities including some mapping

and marking outings. I've been able to attend many of the conventions and love getting to see more of the many trails. As a teacher, I did my best to teach students and scouts about the trails and why they are so important to preserve. I love the trails and hope to do my best in protecting and educating people about the importance of our history. I like nothing better than to get myself and others out on the trail, to get them excited and hopefully involved in this amazing organization.

■ I'm writing to you today to recommend our Chapter Member, Jenny Miller, for Board membership. I have known Jenny since 2002, and have been very impressed with her knowledge of the Trail and her willingness to protect what is

left of it here in Oregon.

Jenny is a retired teacher and has involved her Eagle Scout Troupe in the Chapter's efforts to mark the Trail in Eastern Oregon with T-rail markers. She and her Troupe have placed a number of markers over the last four years. She is a vital part of her Hermiston community in Eastern Oregon and has encouraged many to join with us in protecting the Trail. She has good organizational skills and would be an active Board member.

Sallie K. Riehl, President, Northwest Chapter

■ I would like to endorse the candidacy of Jenny Miller for the OCTA Board of Directors. Jenny has contributed to a wide range of chapter activities for probably twenty years. She has supported conventions, auto tours, preservation work, trail marking, and trail research while

serving in a number of chapter leadership positions. She has also coordinated activities involving the Boy Scouts and trail work in the Pendleton area. She recently retired from teaching and will bring that perspective to the board.

Dave Welch

■ This email is in support of Jenny Miller's candidacy for a board position. She has been very active in NWOCTA meetings and outings. She currently is chapter secretary. Last summer she organized and led a group of Boy Scouts in placing rail markers in several locations in eastern Oregon. She participates in mapping efforts and is a dedicated convention attendee. She will bring youth and enthusiasm to the board. I support her enthusiastically.

Roger Blair

2023 Official Ballot for the Election of Directors to the National Board of the Oregon-California Trails Association

All current members are eligible to vote. Membership levels with two members listed have two votes. Contact Headquarters at 816-252-2276 for questions regarding voting.

Vote for no more than TWO Directors for three-year terms (2023-2026)

	Member 1 Vote	Member 2 Vote
Pat Fletcher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greg Hatten	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jenny Miller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-In Candidate	_____	_____

**(Please cast ballot before July 15, 2023 by mailing to Oregon-California Trails Association,
PO Box 1019, Independence, MO 64050)**

Online Voting

Voting this year can also be completed online and will take only a few minutes of your time.

Voting must be completed by July 15, 2023.

Please click the link below or type it into your web browser to vote:

<https://forms.gle/tJEUPys1es9cDteT6>

Thank you for your vote, OCTA Nominating Committee.

Marketing/PR Committee

The Marketing and PR committee continues to advance the marketing mission, goals, and objectives to make an impact for OCTA and reach a broader audience through many different media platforms, including our YouTube Channel, social channels, documentaries, Google Ads program, Search engines including, the #1, Google search engine/maps and we are soon to spark up the Podcast again. As part of our expansion the committee has also worked diligently on the newly approved OCTA Brand Guide and Logo versions. We are continuing to reach thousands of new readers and viewers with our new brand to guide us.

New OCTA Brand Guide and Logo Objectives

We are elated to report that the brand refresh project, which includes the new Brand Guide, Style Guide, and logos have been approved by the Board at the St. Joseph Gateway Symposium in February! The new branding is tying the organization together with a consistent brand identity. All materials created for OCTA will follow a general visual style that is overall simple, classic, and contemporary. So far, we have



connected the logo and brand colors to OCTA's media, including YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, E-News, some email signatures, News from the Plains, and soon to be displayed on our family of websites.

John Briggs will be requesting a meeting with chapter leaders soon to discuss how we can help the leaders incorporate the new branding on the local chapter level.

Each individual chapter of OCTA will have an opportunity to have its own logo mark featuring their chapter name, which will be provided in both dark and light monochrome for various uses. Below is an example of a Chapter logo. The chapter name appears in Optima Regular, sized to accommodate the space. The "Oregon-California Trails Association" is unchanging throughout the various chapter versions and appears in Optima Extra Black.

We encourage all the chapter leaders to utilize the new logos to their advantage. We greatly appreciate all the hard work by our committee and Knowledge Tree Films team. Thank you to the board for your support and approval.



YouTube Branding & Results - Feb 2023 – May 2023



Oregon-California Trails Association

@octatrails 1.45K subscribers 119 videos

The mission of the Oregon-California Trails Association is to protect the

Subscribed

Over the past 4-month period (2/1/22 - 5/23/23) has been an exciting time for efforts associated with OCTA Marketing to leverage the YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@octatrails>) with a continual focus on added content and presentation. As many know by now, the Committee published consistent video offerings beginning in October 2022 with a new feature video every Tuesday and Friday. We are still working consistently to broaden our audience and it is working to drive viewership and many new subscribers up in a short time. This report shows a major increase that nearly equals the views in our 6-month report published in February.



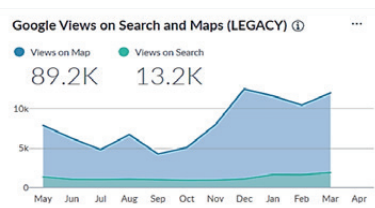
We were all hopping up and down beginning in late February 2023 when the Channel surpassed the threshold for revenue monetization with OCTA generating revenue from these publications with \$84.84 generating to date and ongoing. The more views/watch hours we continue to generate the more monetization will accumulate.

The results of these efforts produced 520+ new subscribers (note not all viewers are subscribers), and 44,300 views regarding videos watched and 3,900 watch hours. As of writing this article, the YouTube channel reached another significant milestone of over 100,000 views! The OCTA YouTube Channel Page was also updated with the new OCTA branding and looks incredibly beautiful on the channel as shown in the image.

Search Engine Results - May 2022 through May 2023

The marketing team continues to work together to get optimal OCTA Google search engine/maps results which can be the most favorable of all as they build naturally over time. Organic searches lead the way to understanding how people find us through online searches made by our members and the public. Search engine results are determined by how many people view or click after finding the octa-trails.org website from search engine results pages

(SERP) absent of clicking ads. The optimization of the octa-trails.org site with the power of search engine optimization has created an increasing number of views and clicks over the many years. OCTA continued to reach a record number of people this past year and continues that growth curve, is gaining momentum, and is seeing exciting, positive results. Making OCTA easy to find in online search results is just one of many efforts with the help of the dedicated marketing/pr team that help a record number of more people learn about OCTA through Google maps/search and over 50 other search engines.

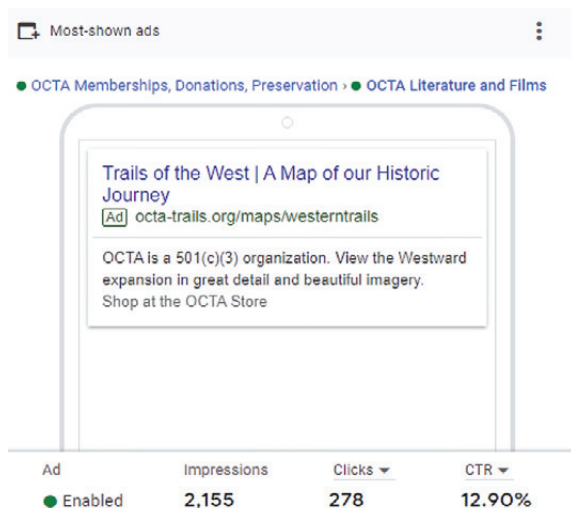


If any OCTA chapters are not included in the Google Map and Google Search Engine we encourage action by notifying the National Office, and you will be connected with help to get it accomplished. Google continues to rank as the #1 search engine in the United States and many other countries. The search engine program runs quietly in the background optimizing all listing results, including, Google user search/map results every day helping our members and the public easily find the OCTA websites.

Searches that lead specifically to octa-trails.org website – (Google Analytics GA4) Jan – May 2023

- 64,000 total Views of octa-trails.org website pages
- 28,337 Users/visitors to-date in 2023 - 5.9% increase over the same period in 2022
- 28,145 New Users/visitors to-date in 2023 – 4.9% increase over the same period in 2022

Google Ads Program Results One of the most-shown ads in 2023 on Google search and partner sites



We touched last time on how Google Ads gives OCTA in kind advertising to run ads on Google search and partner sites. We promote all of the segments of OCTA, including, preservation causes, westward migration history, store products, genealogy, media, events, donations and new

membership calls to action. All of the ads lead readers to various pages of octa-trails.org website to learn more about each of the segments. In 2023 through May 24th OCTA is running 37 ads with results generating 2,580 clicks and tracking with 37,900 impressions (people who viewed the ads and some people who viewed the ads more than once). See below the meanings of the report results.

Clicks	Impressions	Avg. CPC	Cost
2.58K	37.9K	\$1.93	\$4.99K

- Clicks: When someone clicks on an OCTA ad it will lead them to specific pages of the octa-trails.org website designated within the ad.
- Impressions: An impression is counted each time an ad is served and viewed. Impressions help one understand how often an ad is being seen.
- Avg. CPC/Cost: Google donates the cost per click (Avg. CPC) for the ads through the Google Ads Non-Profit Grant.

Archaeology Online Database Launch for octa-trails.org

Gina Sifers, Chairperson, and owner of Bella Media Services and her team have still been working on modifications to make the archaeology segment of the website even more refined and user-friendly. We are anticipating the launch by the first part of June. After the modules were nearly completed upon review navigational and other changes were requested and updated copyright laws were received from the OCTA attorneys. These changes and the bulk of the documents need another review to be certain that OCTA is abiding by all copyright laws. I'm glad to report that there should be no more delays.

Branding Incorporation on Websites Projects

Coming up this summer you will be seeing an entire new octa-trails.org home page with our dynamic, eye-catching branding and colors with a new user-friendly layout that will give the entire page a breathtaking appeal. After our committee has thoughtfully worked together on the design aspect and come to a consensus Bella Media Services team is thrilled to bring the new identity to life for all of OCTA to enjoy! At the same time the Bella Media team will also add all the design colors regarding accents, buttons, footer area and other elements, site wide to match the new branding. The next phase of the development will include the marketing/pr committee working with committees to help us rewrite or update the many other pages on the site. This project needs our immediate attention as the last redesign over 6 years ago included some updates but not as many as we will now need.

OCTA's online presence continues to expand profoundly and as we see our membership growth beginning to increase, we are eager to help all that we can to achieve the significant growth that we can successfully measure. We are excited

about what we have accomplished as a committee in 2023 so far and are confident that our efforts will continue to produce positive results that lead to substantial growth.

We are looking for volunteers to help us expand our efforts. If you are interested or know someone that finds delight in marketing/pr work, please send them our way! We are eternally thankful to all our members, partners,

subscribers, volunteers, donors and followers for all your support!

Marketing/PR Committee: John Briggs, Steven Allison, Travis Boley, Gina Sifers, Bill Martin, John Krizek, Richard Hunt, Kevin Marcus

Gina Sifers, OCTA Marketing/PR Chair

(816) 252-2276

ContactAboutMembersJoin OCTA?Virtual TrailSave the TrailVolunteer Hours SubmissionEvent FormMy account0 Items - \$0.00

OREGON-CALIFORNIA
TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Search...Search

Discover OCTA ▾Get Involved ▾Explore ▾Members ▾StoreMy accountCartJoin OCTADonate to OCTA



Creating an Account at OCTA-trails.org

By Gina Sifers, Webmaster, Bella Media Services

Why create An account at OCTA-trails.org?

By creating a new secure account at OCTA-trails.org you can purchase products, books, videos, and new memberships. You can also renew your memberships and view your recent store or membership orders, manage your shipping and billing addresses, and edit your password and account details as needed.

All Members need an account to purchase products or renew their OCTA membership subscriptions online and to have the option to activate or deactivate the auto-renewal process. Keep in mind that new memberships will be automatically registered with auto-renewal active upon purchase. All members will have the option to activate or de-activate the auto-renewal option

in their account on My Account > Subscriptions > <View Subscription> page. Auto-renewal makes it easy to renew your membership without entering your account to renew manually.

One thing to remember, check your account periodically to be certain your payment information is up to date to prevent a lapse in your auto-renewal process. Happy shopping and exploring at octa-trails.org this holiday season!

Lastly, if you update your address or email information online it does not automatically update your information in OCTA's membership program. We plan to update our programs in the future. Please call the office or send an email if you have a change of address or email so that we can update it in our in-house membership program.

Meet Our Members

In this edition four new members will be highlighted from Arizona, Missouri, Montana, and North Dakota. When I was a kid my parents taught me that the reputation you develop is very important. It travels with you wherever you go and for as long as you live and will remain in the minds of those who follow. That seems to be true for OCTA also.

Mike Martin from North Dakota has had a lifetime of interest in the West. He has owned horses, saddle mules, donkeys, wagons, buggies, a Hanson Cart and Carriage and even restored an Albany Cutter that had been in his family since the 1850's. He first heard of OCTA while reading an article in the magazine *Backwoodsman*, and, more recently, in Rinker Buck's Oregon Trail. What he read must have been pretty good because Susan, his wife, presented him with his membership as a birthday present. Over the years they have mostly traveled over "bits and pieces" of the trails between Missouri and Iowa west to the South Pass in Wyoming. When commenting about using modern highways or smaller roads, cars or four wheeling it, his reply was the "Shank's Mare is still the best" – the pioneer spirit comes through. Fort Laramie in Wyoming is their favorite site and notes that it defines the concept of "National Treasure." (That is something on which we all would probably agree.) One time they did take an Amtrak down the Columbia River traveling close to the river's edge but noted "You can't help but compare a glass-covered rail car whizzing at 60 MPH with a raft holding oxen and a family wagon and worried people who didn't know what a life jacket was. What a pampered people we have become." They would like to travel along the trail west of South Pass and to see Fort Bridger. Over the years thousands of emigrants died along the trails and learning more about their graves and the dealing with the discovered human remains and unmarked graves and what OCTA is doing is very commendable and is something he would like to learn more about. He and Susan look forward to being able to attend future gatherings, conventions, and tours. He looks forward to meeting and learning from some of the experts and authors and other like people who have traveled and are dedicated to saving "the original American road trip."

As it is true with others, people can have more than one passion. The Martins live on a farm, which as most know, is very time-consuming. Most of the time they raised cattle, but his present passion is mules and donkeys. He has raised horses but noted that "the dumbest mule is smarter than the smartest horse." All these animals are also associated with both the trails

and the west. They also have two dogs, Nelie, a herding dog, and Antonia, an English Setter. Both make life better. Mark Twain is credited with the saying, "You know you are in heaven when all your favorite dogs are there to greet you." Mike finishes with "I like that!" Most dog owners would understand that.

One of our newest members from Montana is **Charles E. Rankin**, but to those who attended the Casper convention and others, you may already have met him or know him. As you will note his interests and experience are wide. His comments about his OCTA tie and interests explain it best.

"I have had a long-time interest in the Overland trails and in western history, and I've been remiss for not joining OCTA sooner. Last year, I finally got to an OCTA conference—the meeting in Casper—where I presented a talk on the previously undiscovered Bozeman Trail diary of James H. Mills. I found the organization receptive and generous, and thought: why not join? I have known of OCTA and its special contributions to western history for some time, and I already had good friends in the organization, including Susan and Roger Doyle, Robert Clark, and Tom Rea. I had the pleasure to work with Susan in getting her classic compendium of civilian diaries from the Bozeman Trail published as the Journeys to the Land of Gold in 2000 when I was director of publications at the Montana Historical Society, and I had worked closely with Bob Clark for several years when I was editor-in-chief of the University of Oklahoma Press and OU Press had acquired the Arthur H. Clark Co. as a welcome western history imprint. As editor of Overland Journal, Bob is overseeing publication of a written version of the talk I gave last August in an upcoming issue of OJ. And I had the pleasure to work with Tom as OU Press acquiring editor for his book, Devil's Gate. I know there are other trail enthusiasts I've admired and with whom I've worked as well, including Candy Moulton and the late Will Bagley.

I have always been fascinated with the Overland trails—for many of the same reasons most people are intrigued; that is, because of the experience and saga of the story and the people who undertook transcontinental travel by wagon and on foot at a time that, to them at least, everything seemed new. I am also fascinated with the trails because of the larger American history contexts in which they loom so large. Those, of course, include the western gold rushes, Indian relations, western military history, environmental concerns, and, especially, the personal stories of individual emigrants. Thus, my interest is not limited to

any one trail or section of a trail, although I do confess an affinity for them in the regions west of Fort Laramie.

As for personal biography, my wife Diane and I live in Helena. We lived in the Helena area in the 1990s when I worked for the Montana Historical Society and Diane was a fitness instructor. We moved to Norman, Oklahoma, in 2000 when I went to work for the University of Oklahoma Press, and we moved back to Helena upon my retirement in 2016. While at OU, I also taught an upper-division course on the Vietnam War for the OU History Department for seven years. I have edited or co-edited four books, the most recent of which is *Toward a More Perfect Union: The Civil War Letters of Frederic and Elizabeth Lockley*, just out from the University of Nebraska Press. I am working on a second book dealing with Fred Lockley's post-Civil War western newspaper career, including his family's travel by wagon from Ogden, Utah, to Walla Walla, Washington, in 1880.

Diane and I have two sons—Nathan and Andrew. Nathan is a pilot for United Airlines and flies also for the U.S. Air Force Reserves, and Andrew, who served in the Peace Corps in China, is now working on his doctorate in Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia.”

Gil Storms is from Arizona and may be known to a number of our readers. He has been interested in western frontier history since his boyhood, but his serious research began in 2003 when he moved from Ohio to Tucson, Arizona. He started reading Arizona pioneer narratives and then began researching and writing about Arizona frontier history.

During the pandemic he was invited to make a zoom presentation to Southern Trails Chapter members by Doug Hocking, an OCTA member. The presentation was on Raphael Pumpelly's travels along the “Devil's Road” in 1861 when he and Charles Poston, a mining entrepreneur, were fleeing Apache depredations in southern Arizona and later on another trip in 1915. This led to his introduction to OCTA and recently, his membership. He wrote an article in the September 2022 issue of *Desert Tracks*, “Raphael Pumpelly Travels the Devil's Highway in 1861 and 1915.

On one of his outings on the Gila Trail, he visited the site of the Oatman murders, west of Yuma, AZ. It fascinated him and gave insight and a clearer sense of how difficult the trail was to travel in terms of the geography, the lack of water and other resources. He would like to return and follow other sections of it. He is presently planning a trip to Devil's Road this fall. He hopes that other OCTA members who may have traveled over this difficult road would contact him and

tell him of their experiences from where they started, which sections they traveled, the degree of difficulty, or anything that might be helpful.

He received his PhD in English from Rutgers, taught literature for 29 years at Miami University (Ohio) and is presently an independent historian. Currently single, he lives in Tucson, and enjoys hiking, biking, barbershop singing, and has written two books.



Our spotlight now shines on **Sarah Poff** from Missouri. Sarah received her bachelor's degree in art education, and served as an art teacher in a local elementary school in Blue Springs, MO. She later received her Master of Education in instructional technology. Like most teachers, she decided to take some more courses but thought it could be

beneficial to expand beyond her present interests. She had not been excessively interested in the emigrant trails, but she learned of a program offered at the National Frontier Trails Museum for teachers, and that's where it all began.

She soon became hooked on the trails and even joined the museum's Friends Board. Her travels over the trails so far have been limited to the greater Kansas City area and now looks for wider horizons. She wanted to continue learning about the trails so that she would be more historically accurate, and she felt OCTA could be an avenue for her to do so. She now has presented a number of programs throughout Missouri about the emigrants who traveled to Oregon and California. She is especially proud of the hands-on programs for children on Boone County History and Culture in Columbia, MO. As she expands her knowledge and travels over the trails, she looks forward to presenting similar programs in other places along the trails outside of the greater Kansas City area. In 2021 she completed her Storytelling Certification. Her signature programs are the result of her lifetime of experiences in education, a mixture of art, culture, costumes, music, dance history, and storytelling. It seems that Sarah and OCTA is a perfect match.

OCTA's reputation is part of the reason for our strength. These four members will only add to it. *Bill Hill*

Chimney Rock Museum and Visitor Center

As most OCTA members and trail “rut nuts” know, Chimney Rock was the emigrants’ most recorded and commented about landmark along on the Oregon, California, and Mormon trails. The landmark is located about 1.5 miles south of the Oregon-California trails on the south side of the Platte River, today near Bayard, NE, off US 26 / NE 92. Many curious emigrants walked off the trail to see the unusual formation and carved their names on the soft rock. Attendees to the Gering convention will be able to see this landmark during one of the bus tours. The land is owned by the state. However today the site is administered, operated, and maintained by History Nebraska (Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation) and the city of Bayard, with the assistance of the National Park Service. On August 9, 1956, Chimney Rock was designated as a National Historic Site.

Each visitor center has been an improvement over the previous one. The first visitor center was a seasonal small trailer with a picnic table and later an outhouse located along the highway. Only the very basic information was then available. The permanent Ethel and Christopher Visitor Center was first opened in 1994 by the NSHS. That was the one visited by many members during the earlier OCTA convention. In 2017 History Nebraska announced it planned a 1.7-million-dollar renovation and expansion with a more storm-resistant construction and expanded area

for additional displays. A few years later the center was temporarily closed and then reopened in July, 2020. The center now has with a new reception area, various new, improved, and updated displays with artifacts that tell the story of Chimney Rock from its geological formation to its history with emphasis on the 19th century and its emigration period. The popular postings of kids’ drawings and renditions of the rock as well as other hands-on activities are still to be found. The museum features displays about the story of the westward migration, transportation, packing of the wagon, needed equipment, and information about the emigrants and native Americans on and along the trail. It also has an expanded book and gift shop.

Improvements to the area are still being made. While construction is still occurring, the most recent project, “Walk to the Rock” is slated to open later this summer. This will allow visitors who wish to hike to near the base of the rock as many an earlier emigrant did. One will be able to hike from the visitor center, seen here in the distance, or to drive to another trailhead parking area located near Chimney Rock Cemetery which is much closer to the rock. A bridge is being constructed across the deep ravine there.

Snakes can still be encountered in the area along the path, so visitor and hikers must be vigilant.

Enjoy your visit.



News from the Chapters

COLORADO-CHEROKEE

Many thanks to Richard Hunt for spending a week in Colorado in May, filming videos of historic trail sites for OCTA's YouTube channel. Ethan Gannett chaired the planning committee for the project. The videos were filmed at sites from Bent's Fort, in southern Colorado, up the Front Range to the Virginia Dale Overland Stage Station in Larimer County, near the Wyoming border. The presenters were Jeff Broome, John Carson, Sharon Danhauer, Ethan Gannett, Ken Jessen, Larry Obermesik and Lee Whiteley.

Ethan is also the Chair of the chapter's Mapping Committee which recently planted multiple Cherokee and Cherokee/Overland Trail signs on Roberts Ranch in Larimer County. Some of the best rut and swale evidence of the two trails are on that ranch. Team members David May, Mark Serour, and Lori Vanagunas participated in the trail sign effort.

An ongoing effort was also launched in conjunction with the Northern Colorado Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society to perform an archaeological

dig at the base of Devil's Washboard to determine the provenance of two features said to be located there, a saloon and a blacksmith shop. The team is wrapping up trail mapping and marking on the ranch and will be submitting its final report to the National Park Service in the summer.

The chapter thanks Jerry Eichhorst, President of the Idaho Chapter, for his very interesting presentation on cadaver dogs on May 13, a joint event with the Northwest Chapter. Jerry described how the dogs are trained and how the Idaho chapter has used them to verify human burials along the emigrant trails across the state. If you missed the program and would like to view the recording, please email bradford@usa.net.

The chapter's next event is an outing on June 10 to Roberts Ranch and to the Virginia Dale Overland Stage Station, where the Virginia Dale Community Club's annual Open House & Craft Show will be taking place that day.

Camille Bradford

The Northern
Colorado OCTA
Team



Ethan Gannett

CROSSROADS

After a long, cold and snowy winter, spring has finally arrived here at Crossroads. While we should be looking forward to plans for future activities, Crossroads is still recovering from COVID.

We did have a very interesting gathering this spring. We were invited in mid-March to attend the showing of a movie made by OCTA on the preservation of Gravelly Ford on the Humboldt River in Nevada. According to

Dale Morgan in his book, "Humboldt, High Road to the West," Gravelly Ford was a very significant crossing on the Humboldt River because of its "gravelly" bottom. It is in a remote spot of Nevada, and the site is privately owned. With efforts by OCTA and, specifically, John Winner, this site is being preserved. The movie depicts the events that led up to this preservation. The showing was at the headquarters building of The Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City and was arranged by Steve Allison. Victor Heath and I attended along with about 40 other people. I saw a lot of old friends and a lot of people I didn't know. Travis Bowley was there, and it was good to see and re-acquaint with him. It was a very entertaining and well-spent evening.

Other matters:

- We are still hoping for a spring membership meeting.
- Victor Heath and I are planning a trip out to Lake Point, Utah, (in Tooele County) to see how the trails park is progressing. The community of Lake Point, including property owners, have agreed to preserve a site which has many pristine ruts of the California Trail. The site has been marked with one of our T post since 2000.

More on this later.

- OCTA member, Eli Anderson, in Tremonton, Utah, hosted the National Wagon and Carriage Association this spring for their national convention with over 200 people in attendance. Two OCTA members were part of the program. Steve Allison talked about Bartleson-Bidwell of 1841, and Terry Welch spoke on Samuel Hensley and the Hensley/Salt Lake Cutoff.
 - Recently five boxes of archives and records through the estate of Gar Elison were donated to Crossroads and will eventually be deposited in the Utah State archives.
 - Steve Allison will become National President in July.
- Signing off for now from Crossroads
Stay tuned until next time. Anton Oscar Olson.

SOUTHERN TRAILS

There is lots of activity along the Southern Trail with the recognition of the Butterfield National Historic Trail. We have added new chapter members from Arkansas and Oklahoma, and we continue to learn more about the historic Butterfield (Overland Mail) from our new board member Gerald Ahnert. There is a lot of activity in each State to get the signage correct as we work to identify the trail and the location of the Butterfield Stage stops. With all of the trails crossing, it's important to understand the time frames and the evolution of the technology as we moved from East to West.

We have a lot of activity in Arizona and New Mexico as we continue to build on the knowledge we accumulated in the January symposium in Tombstone, AZ.

We are publishing a monthly newsletter Trail Diary with Doug Hocking as the editor, and it is being distributed as an

attachment to our email list of members. If you would like to contribute an article, we encourage you to connect with Doug. The Desert Tracks magazine is under the direction of Dan Judkins and David Miller. It is distributed twice a year. The magazine is well written and every issue is a labor of love using Adobe InDesign. We would like to locate someone who might be willing to be the next editor if you feel so inclined to take on such a task.

Our website www.Southern-Trails.org has all our contact information as well as the invitation to our monthly Board Meetings done on Zoom. We are already planning our next Symposium for March 2024 in El Paso, TX and we can promise some amazing opportunities there! We hope you'll consider joining us and we'll reveal more information as it becomes available.

Melissa Shaw reporting for Mark Howe

NORTHWEST

Northwest held a successful meeting in person on March 18th. 23 of our members plus 4 interested parties attended. Our speaker, Jennifer Gobin Bailes gave an interesting talk about her ancestors, one of whom was Madame Marie Dorian. She also displayed several beadwork items that had come down through her family. The meeting was held at the END OF THE TRAIL museum in Oregon City.

Dave Welch has scheduled a Zoom meeting for June 10th about the Cowlitz Trail in Washington State. The trail is from Fort Vancouver to Tumwater and was marked by Chuck Hornbuckle in the late 1990's and early 2000s.

Northwest Chapter will be hosting the 2024 Annual Convention. Roger Blair will be the Convention Chair. Plans include the host hotel to be the Wildhorse Resort and

Casino in Pendleton. There are many interesting sites in this part of Oregon, and we plan to make the Convention as informative as we can. We haven't held a convention in this part of Oregon for a number of years.

Roger Blair and Susan Doyle attended the Mid-year Board Meeting in St. Joseph, Missouri as representatives of the Chapter. Roger was given a letter assigning a personal book collection to the Chapter from a person in Tumwater, Washington. We hope we can house the collection in our storage unit in Oregon City. Our unit is small, and we are working to get everything we now have listed.

We have a new Acting Vice President at long last. Wendell Baskins has agreed to fill the position. We are pleased to welcome him to the Board.

Sallie Riehl

KANZA

KANZA Chapter has had an active spring working with our partners Alcove Spring. After the tornado that damaged many trees last July, Alcove has received a grant to help in the clean-up of trails, sites, and waterways at the park. Chapter members have been involved from the beginning to get the clean-up done.

This summer Alcove did its biennial burn to clean up the pastures. It was an amazingly successful burn, hitting areas that had never burned before. There was some damage to bridges as a result. KANZA members helped in the replace of planks and bridge repair.

With the assistance of the NPS, all the wayside exhibit panels were re-designed. KANZA Chapters replaced them at the park. At the same time we placed carsonite markers in the trail sites that had gone missing. This will help visitors enjoy and appreciate the history of this iconic site. The panels now have a QR code that takes the visitor to the

National Park Service site.

KANZA co-sponsored a you tube video by Richard Hunt that has just aired. Narrators Don Musil and Duane Iles are both KANZA members. This was the first of three Alcove videos planned. More videos are planned for other sites in this area. *Duane Iles*



Carsonite marker placement



Musil and Keegan work on bridge

WYOMING

A smart-phone survey

OCTA volunteers to gather data on Wyoming trails

Last fall, Wyoming's OCTA chapter began collaborating with federal and state agencies and the Church of Latter-day Saints on a long-term project to improve interpretation and visitor experiences along our national historic trails. The effort arose out of an August 2019 meeting—before Covid—of public and private groups at the Martin's Cove visitor center near Devil's Gate, to begin looking at ways to redesign the visitor experience there.

The LDS-administered visitor center, on the site of the historic Sun Ranch, tells the stories of the suffering Mormon handcarters of 1856; the church owns the land. On federal BLM land on a bluff above the visitor center, with a spectacular view up the Sweetwater Valley, is a BLM pullout with a walking trail connecting five interpretive signs telling more of the history of that area, which is rich. A quarter mile to the northeast is the spot where all the trails narrowed to a single passage through a low notch--Rattlesnake Pass. Every emigrant who followed the Platte-Sweetwater route came through this single spot. Many pioneer names and dates are carved on granite outcrops, and an OCTA plaque at the fenced grave of young Frederick Fulkerson tells the story of his death in 1847. Rattlesnake Pass and the Fulkerson grave are on Wyoming state land.

In 2019, representatives of the LDS Church, the National Park Service, the BLM, Wyoming State Parks, OCTA and the Pony Express Association met for two days at the visitor center to brainstorm ways to integrate and redesign visitors' experiences to all the historic sites in the neighborhood to tell all the stories there in way that are aware of each other.

The meeting was facilitated by staff of the NPS trails office in Santa Fe. That fall, they completed an excellent report on the meetings.

Then covid happened, and nothing much happened for three more years. In 2022 it seemed it was time to get the group back together. In Zoom meetings since last fall, representatives of Wyoming OCTA, Wyoming State Parks, the NPS Trails Office in Santa Fe, the Lander, Wyoming, field office of the BLM, other Wyoming BLM offices, the history office of the LDS Church, and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office have started on a much larger, years-long project to streamline, standardize and improve signage and interpretation along all the Wyoming NHTs.

First step will be to gather data on what we actually have. Before the end of June, if all goes as planned, NPS staffers will host a Zoom training session for OCTA volunteers. We will learn how to use an NPS smart-phone app, Survey123, that allows people to visit a site, enter its latitude and longitude, take photos, add a sentence or two about the condition of the place and then upload the information to an NPS database.

The app may be used only by volunteers in organizations with established relations with the Park Service, of which OCTA is one. When I emailed out a call for volunteers to Wyoming chapter members, word circulated to other chapters as well and we got responses from 18 people.

We'll begin using the app this summer. In the fall, the Lander office of the BLM will add a new, full-time staffer to oversee the project. We're looking at all the National Historic Trails in Wyoming. But before too long, I hope, we'll be able to use Devil's Gate, Martin's Cove and Rattlesnake Pass as a pilot project for redesign. See you on the trails! *Tom Rea*

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

OCTA's California-Nevada Chapter hosted a very successful Spring symposium April 29-30, 2023 in Wheatland, California. Wheatland is the location of the Johnson Ranch, the end of the California Trail. We had 64 paid attendees plus assistance from members of the Wheatland Historical Society (WHS). Saturday we heard presentations on local history. We also toured the Durst Ranch, where in 1913 the Hop Riots, a labor uprising, took place and resulted in four deaths. Saturday night we were treated to a BBQ dinner prepared by the WHS. Sunday, we trekked out to Camp Far West, the farthest-west Army camp in the 1840s-50s, and finally we arrived at the Johnson Rancho, the End of the California Trail. The Johnson Rancho played a key role in westward overland



emigration. It was where the four Donner Party relief parties formed as they headed into the Sierra to provide rescue to the stranded party,

and it was where the survivors came out of the mountains in the winter and spring of 1847. There is



still clear evidence of the California Trail and where 100 wagons a day crossed the Bear River. Visiting the site was a powerful experience for aficionados of trail history. Several attendees had relatives who were camped at the rancho during the gold rush days! We have received a number of comments from attendees, all overwhelmingly positive. We also received national recognition of the importance of the area, as our National OCTA President John Briggs and Association Manager Travis Boley both attended the event.

The CA-NV Chapter held the Spring Board meeting Friday June 28th, 2023 before the symposium. Held at the Wheatland Elementary School District offices the meeting was attended, in person or by Zoom, by the full board and

it's officers. The Board heard presentations on membership, preservation issues ongoing trail work, upcoming outings and discussed the financial status of the chapter. The Board also discussed options to improve the website. Jon Nowlin asked to step away from the Board due to personal reasons and the Board appointed Jeanie Young of Carson City, NV to fill his position on the board.

California Nevada Chapter has begun presenting Zoom meetings on various topics. The second presentation on March 18th, 2023 by David Fullerton, was regarding a false story passed from emigrant to emigrant that the Humboldt Sink was near, when in reality it was many miles distant. David discussed why this rumor started, why it persisted for so long, and how the rumor was finally debunked. The presentation was well attended via zoom.

The CA-NV Chapter is involved in various work outings this summer. Workdays are being conducted on the Lassen Trail west of Lake Almanor (site of a May 5.5 earthquake). Salvage logging monitoring is continuing along the Beckwourth Trail north of Portola in the Grizzly Valley. A trail marking outing was held in May on the California Mormon/Carson Trail near Pollock Pines. A three-day outing on the Greenhorn Cut Off occurred on June 5-7, to help confirm the trail as it winds its way over mountains between Elko and Carlin, Nevada.

The Chapter also manned a booth at the California Trails Days annual event, June 3-4, 2023 at the BLM California Trail Interpretive Center just west of Elko, NV. Volunteers handed out information, interacted with the public and introduced a showing of the recent OCTA documentary "Preserving Gravelly Ford"

This summer's hard work and dedication of the CA-NV Chapter members continues to enhance and protect the Emigrant Trail heritage of California and Nevada.

Dick Waugh



Bill Holmes presenting at Camp Far West



IDAHO

The annual Main Oregon Trail Back Country Byway tour was Saturday, April 15. We had over 40 people and 20 vehicles on the tour. The group looked like a wagon train stretching across the Idaho desert. The potluck lunch at Springbriar Winery was very popular again.

We just concluded three days of special activities at the City of Rocks working with the park staff. The archaeological work did not yield the expected results but we enjoyed touring the many California Trail sites in the park as well as the Kelton Road station site. Based upon a compilation of emigrant diaries, we searched an area of the park and found excellent California Trail remnants in an area not known before. Future activities will hopefully include metal detecting this swale. Videos were taken of many of the activities to produce another OCTA video.

One of the things I have been doing for several years is to photograph the rock formations in the drawings and paintings of J. Goldsborough Bruff, a California Trail emigrant of 1849. I have found all of the objects except sarcophagus cave, although there is a possibility which has been located.

The chapter meeting was held in Burley on Saturday, May 20. Fourteen people attended to hear excellent reports from the chapter preservation officers, Don Wind

and Dave Price. There are many power projects potentially impacting trail resources across the state. John Briggs provided an excellent update of the recent Southern and CA-NV chapter symposiums and the work being done by the national organization. After lunch the group disbanded, ending a great four days of fun. If you did not attend the activities this year, I encourage you to mark your calendar for next year as we will plan on another several days of activities at City of Rocks in mid-May.

John Briggs is the first OCTA national President from Idaho and his term is about to expire. We are proud of the great work he has done for the organization. His business acumen and leadership skills have been important for the organization. He has laid an excellent foundation which should provide success for many years to come.

Work is continuing on the Lane's Grave, Fort Boise, and Ada County sign projects. In addition, we are moving forward on reprinting the Main Oregon Trail Back Country Byway booklet and updating the directional signs and interpretive displays along the byway.

Additional activities will be planned soon for the rest of the year. It seems that free time is at a premium this year for many people.

Jerry Eichhorst



Painting by J. Goldsborough Bruff, 1849



Emigrants names on Camp Rock at City of Rocks



Picture by Jerry Eichhorst, May 17, 2023.



Newly discovered California Trail remnant along Circle Creek in City of Rocks

GATEWAY

Summary of Gateway's St. Joseph Symposium 'Journey West' ■ April 31 to May 4, 2023

First I want to thank first of all the Gateway Chapter Board who were involved in the planning and doing various tasks for the success of this Symposium that took more than a year of their time. One of the ways to measure success is by the number of persons registered to attend – 79. Others helped as speakers, van tour guides and drivers. Thanks also for to those who shared their books and their talents, like the Iowa tribal dancers. An additional thanks goes to those helping with registration, name tags, tours of museums, and raffle ticket sales (which brought in about \$400 to support Gering convention), and meals like, Taste of St. Joseph. From this list you can see we had more than one hundred members and friends involved at the symposium.

The next measure of success is finances, with the Symposium having a net profit of \$4,552 (our budgeted net profit was \$3,000). Also at the Symposium, individuals joined OCTA, renewed memberships and became lifetime members which means the true financial impact for OCTA

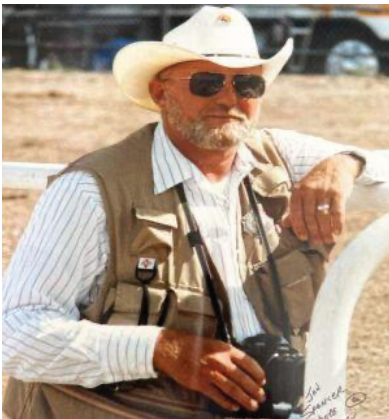
was around \$7,500. The last measure of success that I am going to mention is leadership development for Gateway board members. Gateway received support from other OCTA chapter members, and the national office staff and developed new friendships which will last for a lifetime in many cases.

We want to again acknowledge our sponsors of this symposium which was very necessary for us to achieve our financial success.

Platinum:	St. Joseph Convention & Visitors Bureau
Gold:	Lee and Sandi Black Gateway Chapter, OCTA
Silver:	Jerry and Sandra Mogg Dave and Linda Berger
Bronze:	Commerce Bank Deb Goodrich, Chair, Santa Fe Trail 200 Mallinson Winery/Matt Mallinson

Comments by Jerry Mogg. Symposium Coordinator

REMEMBRANCES



Randy Wagner 1934-2023
Randall (Randy) Wagner, 89, Past President of the Oregon-California Trails Association from 2001-2003 and the Cheyenne Frontier Days (CFD) longest tenured volunteer passed away on May 15, 2023, at the Davis Hospice Center in Cheyenne. He survived

his wife of 67 years Betty, she was 89. Wagner's 60-year association with CFDs is highlighted by his induction to the CFD Hall of Fame in 2012 and Cheyenne Frontier Days Heels in 1978. He was a charter member of the Public Relations Committee and an official photographer for over 30 years. In a 1994, Rocky Mountain News article on CFDs 100th birthday celebration, Wagner is singled out as a volunteer who gives his all," If organizers are looking for a model for the volunteer statue, they might consider Cheyenne writer-photographer Randy Wagner. Wagner photographs the rodeo from inside the arena, often finding himself within 15 feet of the bucking broncs and twirling bulls. He survived a savage goring by a bull in 1985. "Wagner is quoted in the article saying," It's going to be an exciting time. I couldn't imagine living in Cheyenne and not being part of Frontier Days. You have long days

and lot of work to do but I wouldn't have it any other way".

In addition to his enormous contribution to Frontier Days, Wagner also left his mark professionally with over 27 years of management and leadership with three agencies of the State of Wyoming, highlighted by 15 years with the Wyoming Travel Commission serving 10 of those years as the Director. During his tenure, he served on the Board of Directors of the Travel Industry Association of America and was named to that organization's Executive Committee and Corporate Strategic Task Force. He was elected Chairman of the National Council of State Travel Directors and was named the U.S. Travel Director of the Year in 1984.

Wagner also served with the Wyoming Recreation Commission, playing an instrumental role in adding Sinks Canyon and Curt Gowdy to the Wyoming State Parks system. In the late 60's, he produced an award-winning documentary film on the Oregon Trail through Wyoming from Fort Laramie to Fort Bridger. Prior to that, at Wyoming Fish and Game Department, he shot wildlife stills for Wyoming Wildlife Magazine and produced 16mm documentaries for the agency's education division. Following his career with the State, Wagner formed The Wagner Perspective, a travel industry consulting and freelance photography business. His clients included the Wyoming Division of Tourism and Nebraska's Great Platte River Road Memorial.

He planned and coordinated Wyoming's participation in the national sesquicentennial celebrations of the 1843 Oregon Trail, the 1847 Mormon Pioneer Trail, and the

1849 California Gold Rush. He also supported marketing efforts for a Wyoming Scenic Byway and Backway program. Wagner is a past president of both the Oregon-California Trails Association and the Lincoln Highway Association. A lifelong motorcycle enthusiast, his passion started when he was growing up in Lander, getting his first bike at age 14. Starting in the early 70's, he and Betty made trips with a group of local couples to places like the Black Hills, Cody, the Rocky Mountains and far off places like Nova Scotia. US Bankruptcy Judge Pete McNiff rode with Wagner for nearly forty years. "It is fascinating to travel with Wagner because he's so knowledgeable about Wyoming", McNiff says. Wagner can point out where battles occurred and where pioneers were caught in a blizzard, and he is especially well versed on the Oregon Trail", McNiff added. Wagner logged over 700,000 miles while traveling all 50 states (except Alaska and Hawaii) as well as tours of Europe, New Zealand, Mexico, Canada, and Switzerland. Wagner's collection of photographs and personal items reside at the University of Wyoming American Heritage Center in Laramie, and the Cheyenne Frontier Day's Old West Museum in Cheyenne.

Arnold L. Cole October 13, 1940 - April 10, 2023

Overland Park, Kansas - Arnold Lee Cole, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away at the age of 82 on April 10, 2023. He was born on October 13, 1940, in Louisville, Kentucky to Leonard and Molly Cole.

Arnold had a passion for learning and was a graduate of Washington University with a degree in American History. He was an entrepreneur who owned a couple of businesses with his beloved wife Merle. He was also an active member of the community, involved in various organizations such as the Kiwanis and the ROMEOS. He was a political activist and at one point even ran for Overland Park City Council.

Arnold was a lover of history, and his involvement with the Oregon-California Trails Association was a true testament to his passion. He served many years as their Trails Head Chapter Treasurer and took great pride in his contributions. He was also an avid collector and meticulously cataloged his matchbook collection, which was one of his cherished possessions.

Arnold had a zest for life and loved spending time with his wife Merle, his children, grandchildren, and close friends. He will be remembered for his warm smile and kind heart.

Arnold is survived by his loving wife Merle Cole, his son David (Judy) Cole, step-children Amy (Tim) and Greg (Brandi), daughter-in-law Beth Raymond, and his sister Alice Master. He will also be remembered by his grandchildren Seth, Jamie, Shoshana, and Jonathan, as well as numerous other family members and friends. Arnold was preceded in death by his brother Byron Cole, and step-son Jeffrey Raymond.

A private memorial for close friends and family was held on April 13th. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Arnold's memory to the Oregon-California Trails Association.

Dorothy Kroh We are saddened to report the passing of Ms. Dorothy Kroh, co-founder of the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association (KCAHTA). It was primarily through Dorothy's vision and initiative in the early 1990's that this organization was created.

In 1995 formal bylaws were adopted by KCAHTA, and in the same year became registered as a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization with the purpose to map, market, and promote the preservation of frontier historic trails in the greater Kansas City Area. In addition to Dorothy, current KCAHTA members Craig Crease and Ross Marshall were likewise part of that early group of KCAHTA leadership which set the course upon which our organization has flourished for over 25-years!

As we continue on our journey, Dorothy's legacy shall be a guiding light to mark the trail before us, as her vision, guidance, and leadership will continue to inspire and nurture us. Through Dorothy Kroh, our community and far beyond became educated and inspired by the heritage of the historic frontier trails in the greater Kansas City region, and beyond!

To the family of our beloved Ms. Dorothy Kroh we offer our heartfelt grief at her passing. She will be missed... yet so fondly remembered!



Welcome New Ezra Meeker Life Members

Matthew Mallinson • Laura Anderson • Craig Anderson

Welcome New Members

Scott Allen Fort Collins, CO	Robert Graves Sidney, NE	Kristen Phipps Las Vegas, NV
Craig Anderson Lake Point, UT	Randy Hays Lufkin, TX	Josie Reifschneider-Smith Chico, CA
Kara Bowers Pottsville, AR	Charles Hensley Fresno, CA	Michael Sellberg Ankeny, IA
Jack Campos Salt Lake City, UT	Margaret Holloway Salt Lake City, UT	Yvonne Swanstrom Boise, ID
Corinda Clements Pierre, SD	Spencer Jasper Independence, MO	Rae Todd Wellington, CO
Jim Cohee San Francisco, CA	Arl Raymond Kelso Ridgecrest, CA	Jeffrey and Diana Uhrich Ogallala, NE
Donna Covert Walnut Creek, CA	Katherine Lee Wasilla, AK	Rick Veatch Meridian, ID
Ed Cribari Columbia, CA	Steven Leonard Boise, ID	Lisa West Boise, ID
Emily Marie Crumpton-Deason Salt Lake City, UT	Adam Leroy Boise, ID	Ann White Cheyenne, WY
Patricia Cullinan Atascadero, CA	Marylee Levy Fresno, CA	Jay Woody Boise, ID
Theresa Ensign Boise, ID	Garry Penman Pottsville, AR	Nancy Zehler Huntington Beach, CA
Stacey Erickson Faragher Woodlawn, CA	Jack Phillips Littleton, CO	Kaiya Zimmerman Los Alamos, NM

New Corporate Members

Mallinson Manor Inc.

Emigrant Trails Hall of Fame

The Emigrant Trails Hall of Fame Committee welcomes nominations for new members to be inducted in 2023. The criteria for selection and the nomination form are on OCTA's website:

<https://www.octa-trails.org/emigrant-trails-hall-of-fame/>

The Committee particularly welcomes nominations of individuals whose achievements are less well-known to OCTA members. Please submit nominations by October 31 to: ETHoF1846@gmail.com

Thank You!

Thanks to the 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:

Michele Ament	Thomas Hoffman	Dr Shannon E Perry
Jim and Carol Barr	Julian and Diane Holt	Dick Peterson
Joseph Boyes	David R Hopper	Tedd Remm
Alan Bushbaum	Mark Howe	John T Riegleman
Don Clark	Rebecca Judd	Sue Sesnon Salt
Robert Clark	Robert King	Rollie Schafer
Linda and Craig Corwin	Ron Kribbs	Beth Ann Schumacher
Paula and Doug Davina	Charles and Harriet Lewis	Marley Shurtleff
Ray and Maura Egan	Nancy and Eric Lusignan	Marlene Smith-Baranzini
Stephen Fraser	Catherine MacMillan	Gilbert Storm
Thelma Fromm	Ginny Mapes	Peter Thomson
Craig Fuller	Helen Martin	Pat and Levi Traffas
Mary Gray	Judy McGhee	Herbert T Tweedie
Gregg and Jane Gropel	Mary Jo Meyer	Julie Videon
Bernadette Hammelman	Vern and Carol Osborne	Richard Wagner
Sharon Hanson	Patricia Packard	Lisa West
Richard Herman	Patrick Pelster	

Founding Members

When OCTA was founded in 1983, a group of men and women who believed in the mission and in the importance of trails preservation decided to join this brand new organization. Anyone who joined during that first year became a charter member, the rocks upon which OCTA was built. The last time we recognized them in these pages, the list had 136 names. Today's list is down to 55 names. If you see a charter member, thank them on behalf of OCTA.

Ruth Anderson	Dorothy Duffin	Lute Family Foundation	Randolph W. Seed
Todd & Betty Berens	Marshall A. Fey	Michael Luther	Art Siverling
Jo Ann Berkenbush	Michael D. Gibson	Anne Mallinson	John E. Stadler
Roger P. Blair, M.D.	Chris Hammond	Sharon & Hal Manhart	Leona Stovall
Joyce P. Bolerjack (Deceased)	Joanne Hammond	Ross & Shirley Marshall	Fran Taplin
Randy Brown	Norma Haner	Mary Ellen Martin	Frank & Mary Ann Tortorich
Don (Deceased) & Vilma Buck	Patrick A. Hearty	Kendall McNabney (Deceased)	Ann M. Van Hoff
James (Deceased) & Judy Budde	William & Jan Hill	Steve Moore	Ron Volk (Deceased)
Jude A. Carino	Jim & Alma Holcomb	Mary Mueller	Pennie Lynn Von Achen
Robert Clark	Thomas Hunt	Mary Olch	Theodore F. Votow
Laurie Davis	James & Margaret Jenks	Oregon Trail Museum Association	Edgar & Caroline Weber
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald O. Downs	Larry & Pat Jones	Betty J. Pfaff	Sandra & Allen (Deceased) Wiechert
	Milton A. Jones	Mrs. E. W. Puckett	Herman Zittel
	Polly N. Kennison	Raymond E. Schoch	
	John & Terry Latschar		

Special Thanks to OCTA's Life Members

OCTA is grateful for the support of many Life Members whose contributions mean so much to the organization. Life memberships are available for \$1,000 and credit card payments can be made in installments. Life Members receive an Ezra Meeker Life Member pin, and a 15 percent discount in the OCTA Bookstore. Plus, all revenues from Life Memberships go directly to OCTA's Heritage Endowments, so your purchase will have a long-term impact on trails preservation. For more information about becoming a Life member, contact OCTA headquarters at (816) 252-2276. Current and recently deceased Life Members include:

Lila Aamodt (<i>Deceased</i>)	Phillip L. Foremaster	Janet Kanter	M. Lethene Parks
Ivan Baker	Mrs. Kay Forsythe	Raymond Kanter	Mortimer Paulus
Dr Thomas R. Bales	Kathy Colyer Franzwa (<i>Deceased</i>)	M. F. Kiber	Betty J. Pfaff
Jacqueline Ball	Amanda Gibbs	James King	Mrs. E. W. Puckett
Wayne G. Basler	Frank Gifford	Ormie Lamson (<i>Deceased</i>)	Carlyle Jones Raine
Nick F. Behrens	Mrs. Billie Gray	Brian Larson	Donald & Dee Reinhold
Patrick Bernhardt	Jay Greene	Eric Lauha	Jack Root (<i>Deceased</i>)
Lee & Sandi Black	Randell & Mary Jane Guyer	Ross M. Leibold	Bill Rupp
Andrea Blair	Chris Hammond	William & Cynthia Leutzinger	Fred Sawin
Roger P. Blair, M.D.	Helen Hankins	Brenda Lozier	Ben S. Scherbel
Camille Q. Bradford	Koichiro Harada	Al Lustig	Warren Schmidgall
John & Nancy Briggs	Glenn & Carol Harrison	Lute Family Foundation	David & Kay Scott
James (<i>Deceased</i>) & Judy Budde	Mark Headley	Dr. Eugene I. Majerowicz	Randolph W. Seed
Marvin Burke (<i>Deceased</i>)	Warren R. Higgins	Ross & Shirley Marshall	Donald L. Siebert
Dr. & Mrs. B. R. Cahill	William & Jan Hill	Bill & Diana Martin	Calli Smith
Cheryl Cardoza	Elaine & Eugene Hill	Helen Martin	Judith Space
Thomas Cardoza	Cheryl & Gilbert Hoffman	Carolyn & Gordon McGregor	Leslie Joan Steuben
Lisa Carle	Chuck Hornbuckle (<i>Deceased</i>)	Kendall McNabney (<i>Deceased</i>)	Michael Strodman
Robert Clark	Mark Howe	John & Jacque McVey	William (Billy) Symms (<i>Deceased</i>)
Kay, Milt & Rylene Coffman	Thomas Hunt	Dan Miller	Kathryn Tanner
Laura Luack Cole	Idaho State Archives	Phil Miller	David & Sharon Taylor
Mary Conrad	Duane & Carolyn Iles	Margaret Morkowski	Kay Threlkeld
James & Kathy Conway	J. C. Isble	Candy & Steve Moulton	Frank & Mary Ann Tortorich
Dr. Vincent Correll	George H. Isted	Mary Mueller	Patricia & Levi Traffas
Laurie Davis	Robert A. Iverson	Paul Murphy	William L. Trogon
Douglas Co. Libraries:	Jan & Sets Iwashita	Joe Nardone (<i>Deceased</i>)	Dave & Karen Vixie
Shaun Boyd	Neal Johns (<i>Deceased</i>)	Dick & Ruby Nelson	Pennie Lynn Von Achen
Susan B Doyle	Rollie & Paula Johnson	Dave & Donna Newberry	Wanosik Family
Brian L Dukleth	Ken Jutzi	James Nici	Sandra Wiechert
Keith Fessenden	Beatrice Kabler (<i>Deceased</i>)	Bob Noll	John & Susie Winner
Jack & Pat K. A. Fletcher		Stanley W. Paher	

Thanks to Our Business Sponsors

For \$50 a year, OCTA Business Sponsors receive a listing on the OCTA website and in *News From the Plains*, 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:

Jim Blau Insurance Agency

2661 Hub Drive, Independence, MO (816) 833-1595

Bite Me Barbecue

1405 Center St., Marysville KS 66508 785-619-6110

Surveyor Scherbel, Ltd.

PO Box 96, Big Piney, WY (307) 276-3347

Low Printing

227-B East College St. Independence, MO (816) 836-0219

2022-2023 OCTA Board of Directors

Jean Coupal-Smith, Roeland Park, KS
jcs1fun1@kc.rr.com

Pat Fletcher, Sequim, WA
jpfletcher@wavecable.com

Helen Hankins, Spring Creek, NV
helenhankins@gmail.com

Mark Howe, Pueblo, CO
Mlhowe1@hotmail.com

Steve Knight, Carson City, NV
1knightsc@gmail.com

Chuck Milliken, West Jordan, UT
c-m.milliken@att.net

Jerry Mogg, St. Joseph, MO
Jerry.mogg@gmail.com

Michael Smith, Overland Park, KS
Michaeljohnsmith4@gmail.com

Pat Traffas, Overland Park, KS
traffasp@gmail.com

Important Dates and Deadlines

Award Nominations – June 1

Budget Development – Budget Request – May 23 (Per OCTA Procedural Manual)

News from the Plains material – Spring issue: February 25, Summer issue: May 25,
Fall issue: August 25, Winter issue: November 25

Nominating and Leadership – Announcement of election and number of vacancies on the Board of Directors: November 25 News from the Plains Deadline; Bio and ballot: April 1

Outstanding Educator Award Application – March 31

Calendar Art for Western Calendar – April 15

National Park Service Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) – October 1

Volunteer data (Hours, Expenses, Mileage) to Partnership – Report hours on the website at <https://www.octa-journals.org/octa-volunteer>. They can be reported as they are accumulated. If you track your hours on the paper form (available at <https://www.octa-trails.org/activity-forms/>), please report them to HQ by December 31.

Overland Journal – Spring issue to membership: approximately May 20,
Summer issue to membership: approximately August 20, Fall issue to membership:
approximately November 20, Winter issue to membership: approximately February 20

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
Phone: (816) 252-2276 • Fax: (816) 836-0989
Email: octa@indepmo.org

Jay Lawrence, Editor

530 Ohio Avenue, Long Beach CA 90814
Phone: (562) 760-1999

Fall 2023 Issue Deadline: August 25, 2023
Send materials to: jaylawrenceocta@gmail.com

Visit OCTA on the Internet

OCTA-trails.org

OCTA-Journals.org

Report OCTA
Volunteer Hours at
[octa-journals.org/
octa-volunteer](http://octa-journals.org/octa-volunteer)

Where Will Your Footprints Lead?

They don't have to disappear.

You can leave a legacy that will ensure that your footprints are never erased, while helping to protect emigrant trails from disappearing forever.



Consider joining

OCTA's Trails Legacy Society

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

Visit octa-trails.org/trails-legacy-society

You can make sure that ours are not the last footprints left on the trail.

A Reminder for Ezra Meeker Life Members

If you are an Ezra Meeker Life Member of OCTA and a member of one or more regional chapters, your chapter dues renew on January 1 each year.

For your convenience, you can renew your chapter memberships online by visiting octa-trails.org/why-join-octa/ and following the appropriate links for regional chapters.

You can also call headquarters at (816) 252-2276 for more information.

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.

Remember, funds from Meeker Life memberships go directly to OCTA Endowments, helping create a legacy of support for trails preservation and education.

Call headquarters to learn more.



P.O. Box 1019
Independence MO 64051

In this issue:

Gering Convention – It's Almost Here!

Gering Convention Registration

OCTA Board Nominees and Ballot

News from the Chapters



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