



Northwest Trails

Newsletter of the Northwest Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

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Spring 2016

Northwest Chapter 2016 Annual Meeting

The 2016 NW OCTA Annual Meeting in Troutdale on March 5 was a success. The event began with a business meeting, followed by buffet lunch. After lunch Chuck Hornbuckle presented a beautiful slideshow of Suzanne's Celebration of Life. The featured speaker was Melinda Marie Jette on the history of French Prairie. She is the author of *At the Hearth of the Crossed Races*. The day ended with the usual raffle and silent auction. Many of the items were contributed by longtime member Joyce Bolerjack.



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President's Message

Well, warm summer-like weather is finally here and we have many opportunities for our membership to be able to participate in. We started out with our Annual Meeting in Troutdale with a nice attendance of 40 members at the Holiday Inn Express. Our speaker was Melinda Jette who is the author of *At the Hearth of the Crossed Races*. Her book provides an insight into the settlement of French Prairie in the Willamette Valley, with emphasis on the lives of the biracial French-Indian families and the challenges they faced living among white American settlers. During our business meeting, the general membership voted to accept several revisions to the bylaws of the NW Chapter. Marley Shurtleff and Polly Jackson reviewed the existing document and suggested several revisions to include: making the Membership Chair responsible for keeping the membership roster, establishing a quorum for board members, and clarifying that voting by "mail" includes "postal service/paper or electronic mail." Their next project has been to update and correct the policy portion of the bylaws.

Our longtime and very active member, Joyce Bolerjack, has donated her extensive Oregon Trail collection of books and trail related memorabilia to our chapter. Lethene Parks has undertaken the responsibility of placing these books/treasures to their best use. The raffle was a lot of fun and brought in substantial income. Several of the books donated by Joyce were included in the silent auction.

Henry Pittock and Paul Masee are both busy making final arrangements to the activities and outings calendar, including a driving tour on the Barlow Road from Sandy to Brightwood to include Devil's Backbone and Marmot Road, The Lavender Farm Festival, and trail marking in the vicinity of the Lavender Farm. Gail Carbiener is coordinating a one day re-marking and documentation of the trail from Hilgard to Blue Mountain Crossing. This area is just west of La Grande, OR, and must not be missed if you are interested in walking several miles of pristine trail in a beautiful timber setting. Billy Symms and Gail are both continuing to be actively involved in monitoring and contributing their input to threats to the trail in eastern Oregon. The B2H power line and wind turbines continue to cause much concern.

Lethene Parks has taken the lead in organizing the 2017 National Board Meeting and Symposium, which the NW Chapter has offered to host in Vancouver, March 17-19, 2017. Yes, you read this correctly, we have committed to host a three day national event, which will be both a lot of work and a lot of fun. The goal of the event will be to highlight the historical significance of Fort Vancouver and feature the many layers of history in and around the Fort Vancouver location. We are now in preliminary planning with emphasis on locating and contracting with the event location. We will need a lot of volunteers to help put this event together, so

think of what you would be willing to participate in. This meeting is being held in conjunction with the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, which is also holding their national meeting at the same location as our meeting, and they will participate in planning and contribute to the program.

Paul Masee, Ray Egan and Chuck Hornbuckle are busy making plans for our annual picnic that will be held in the lower Puget Sound area of DuPont, Fort Nisqually, and Steilacoom. There is a lot of interesting end-of-the-Oregon-Trail history in this area that many of us in Oregon have not been exposed to.

And finally, I want to thank all our members for their participation in and contributions to chapter events. I will try to serve the chapter as best as I can, but I need each of you to participate, however you can, to make our chapter successful. Now, let's go out and have fun.

—*Rich Herman*

2016 NW OCTA Outings and Activities

Paul Masee, NW OCTA Vice President and Outings Coordinator has provided the following information about NW OCTA chapter outings this year.

- I. JUNE 11–12—Driving Tour starting in Sandy, OR, at their museum, then to Brightwood, and back to Sandy via Marmot Road and the Devil's Backbone with viewing ruts and Tollgate #2 site. Contact: Henry Pittock.
- II. JUNE 24–26—OHTAC outing to examine the Oregon Trail between Hermiston and Umatilla, OR. Trip leader is Jennifer Karson Engum. Contact: Glenn Harrison
- III. JULY Date TBD—South end of Hix Road, through Tygh Valley, ending at the Davis Ranch west of Wamic. The Klamath road to Tygh Valley, then Barlow road to the eastern border of Mt. Hood National Forest. Contact: Paul Masee.
- IV. JULY 9–10—The Lavender Farm and Lavender Festival east of Oregon City. We will examine Barlow Road ruts and possibly set some Carsonite markers next door to the Lavender Farm. Contact Henry Pittock.
- V. JULY 23–24—Hilgard to Meacham to see pristine Oregon Trail ruts and swales while setting new or cleaning old Carsonite markers in the Blue Mountains near La Grande, OR. Contact: Gail Carbiener.
- VI. SEPTEMBER 16–18—OHTAC outing to Baker City, OR to visit sites on the Oregon Trail affected by the proposed B2H transmission line project. Trip leader is Gail Carbiener. Contact: Glenn Harrison.

Connect with contacts to register or request more information:

Glenn Harrison: gr.harrison@comcast.net

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Gail Carbiener: mcccarb@bendbroadband.com

Henry Pittock: hpittock3@mac.com

July 23 NWOCTA Outing from Hilgard

By Gail Carbiener

The outing on the Oregon Trail has been set for Saturday, July 23. It will be a long one-day trail marking, but July should be warm and dry!

The objective is to mark and repair Carsonite posts on the Trail between Hilgard State Park and the Blue Mountain Interpretive Center. This is a total of 5.9 miles broken into two sections, with both the start and end of each section accessible by car. We will have at least one who will drive their car to the end of each section so they can transport the drivers back to the start and then leap-frog to the next section.

First section: 2.3 miles: Hilgard to FS Road 200 at Pelican Creek and RR crossing. We should start by 7:30 am!! Sun rise is 5:30 am. All gentle uphill via nice meadows, the only challenge will be the first 100 yards getting up from the paved road. No facilities at the creek, but maybe we can get a portable toilet!

Second section: 3.6 miles: Longer and more challenging, as right from the start we will cross Pelican Creek. I recommend that we all bring a pair of tennis shoes and socks for the crossing. We will wade across. We can toss our hiking boots and tennis shoes back and forth so we can continue with dry feet!! We then enter private property, climbing up and over a gentle, logged ridge and down to the emigrant campsite, all on the trail. A driver can meet us near the campsite with lunch and supplies. The emigrant campsite is on private ground, a new owner since we were last there. Mr. Young, who lives in Heppner, purchased the 240 acres 2/5/2009. He is a multi-generation Oregonian! From the campsite, we climb a small ridge and continue along the ridge crest to the Interpretive Center. Sunset is 8:30 pm.

This part of the Trail was marked about 6 years ago, when the late Vic Bolan lead our group. I expect the Carsonite posts to be in poor shape. This part of the Oregon Trail is all on National Forest except one 240 acre parcel. I believe we can get it all done in one day! This will be an official OCTA outing, so our liability insurance will be valid. Several of you are new to our group and will be welcomed. If any of you have friends who may be interested, please invite them and let me know.

La Grande is one of the few towns the Old Oregon Trail runs right through. When you drive along B Ave., you're driving the Oregon Trail! The community of Union sits on an alternate Trail route, and houses the Union County Museum, where you'll find lots of fascinating information about the area's history. For insight into the Oregon Trail experience, and to get a close-up look at trail ruts, visit the Oregon Trail Interpretive Park at Blue Mountain Crossing, open during months the trail was passable, April through September.

La Grande has a number of motels. Most raise their fee during the high summer tourist season. Please check the motel of your choice, but today I asked for check in on July 22 and out on the 23rd (just to see what the rate is for AARP):

Choice-Roadway	\$63.00
Americas Best Value	\$89.00
Super 8	\$93.00
Best Western	\$134.99
Royal Motel	(need to phone)

Please email Gail at: mcgccarb@bendbroadband.com ASAP if you are coming.

Applegate Trail Signs at Emigrant Lake

By Leta Neiderheiser

The Hugo Neighborhood Association Historical Trails Committee has been working with National Parks for the last two years on a project to place Applegate Trail signs in several significant places along the Applegate Trail in southern Oregon. We have completed our first project at Emigrant Lake: three signs-one Applegate Trail map and diary quotes, one detailing the 1851 donation land claim of Isaac Hill and one detailing the Hill-Dunn Cemetery that is on the Hill donation land claim and next to the Applegate Trail.

The third phase of the project involves a section of Applegate Trail ruts on the edge of Myrtle Creek just off Dole Road. The City of Myrtle Creek has been working for several years to secure and preserve these pristine Applegate Trail ruts going up the hill from the South Umpqua River. The elderly gentleman who owned the land for many years had not been interested in selling. However, with his passing, his sons were interested in selling the property and the City of Myrtle Creek, the historical society, and several southern Oregon historians began to work on putting together a coalition to secure the money needed to buy the section of property containing the Applegate Trail ruts.

After many long hours of dedicated work on the part of Sean Negherbon, Myrtle Creek City Manager and Todd Theiss, local realtor, a group of sixteen civic minded individuals came together and secured the needed funds to purchase the property for the City of Myrtle Creek. The city plans to protect the trail and work with National Parks to place some signs at the site commemorating the local Indian culture, the Applegate Trail, and the early settlers of the area. The groups and individuals that made the project possible were: the Cow Creek Umpqua Indians, Williams Pipeline, Tower Timber, Dean Logging, SA Schuler and Sons Logging, Ireland Trucking, Main Street Myrtle Creek Assoc., Myrtle Creek Historical Society, the four Faber brothers, Village Realty, Carolyn Fench, and Joe and Leta Neiderheiser.



Applegate Trail Ruts Preserved in Myrtle Creek

By Leta Neiderheiser

This site contains some of the best Applegate Trail ruts west of the Cascades. It was well worth the effort to protect it and now we are looking forward to the next phase of developing and placing the signs.



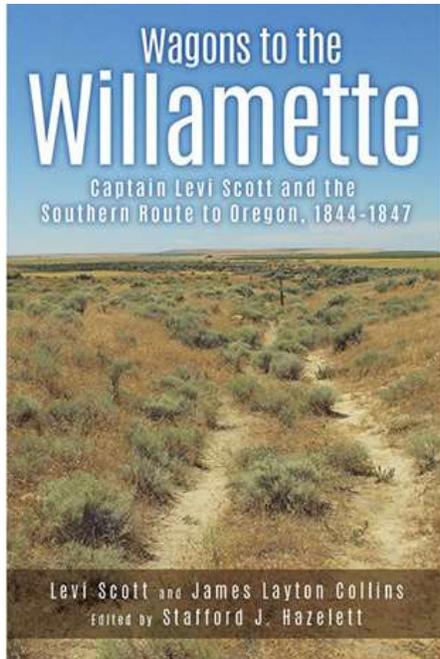
Center Applegate Trail sign at Emigrant Lake.

Wagons to the Willamette

Captain Levi Scott and the Southern Route to Oregon, 1844 – 1847

By Levi Scott and James Layton Collins
Edited by Stafford J. Hazelett

Pullman: Washington State University Press, 2015. \$29.95 paperback.



BOOK NOTE MODIFIED FROM OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY REVIEW:

In his early nineties, Captain Levi Scott employed his friend James Layton Collins to help him record his life story, but the memoir was never published. Now edited and extensively annotated by NW OCTA member Stafford Hazelett, Scott's autobiography has been published as *Wagons to the Willamette*.

An exceptional contribution to Oregon Trail history, Scott's reminiscence is the only first-hand account by someone who participated in the search for a southern route to the Willamette Valley in response to the plea of settlers and the provisional government for a better, safer way through the Cascades. Scott also recalls the harrowing first wagon train he led along the route, detailing long stretches of desert, soda plains, mirages, a heroic mother, dense timber, and steep canyons.

Excerpt from Stafford Hazelett's Introduction:

As a fast-paced tale of adventure and danger on the frontier based on the observations of a perceptive and friendly man, this original account has few peers. Scott's richly detailed stories of community and family life illuminate our understanding of communities and families in the middle to late 19th century. Scott's recollections of the emigration experiences of 1844 over the main Oregon Trail, opening the southern emigrant route into Oregon in 1846, and events surrounding the assault on the Whitman Mission add to our knowledge and understanding of the events and the people involved.

MANUSCRIPT NOTE: The complete manuscripts of both Collins [summarized in the book] and Scott can be accessed at the University of Oregon Knight Library Special Collections, where the full collection of archival materials related to the Scott reminiscence, received by Arlie Holt from the Collins family, were deposited.

More March Annual Meeting Photos



Stafford Hazelett



Paul Masee



Speaker Melinda Marie Jette and Chuck Hornbuckle.



Paul Masee drawing raffle tickets, and Rich Herman calling the numbers.

OHTAC Barlow Road Multimedia Educational Project

By Marley Shurtleff

Late in 2015, Glenn Harrison alerted chapter members to the OHTAC submission of a grant request—to the Oregon Community Foundation's Oregon Historic Trails Fund—for the Barlow Road multimedia educational project. The grant request with a matching requirement had been submitted for \$2,350, but it was instead funded for \$4000, \$1650 more than was expected.

Of course the additional grant dollars are good news, but receiving them means that additional matching donations are needed. At the time of the last notification to NW OCTA in 2015, \$1,297 more was still needed to fully match the new, larger-sized grant. Recently I was asked how the funding drive was going, and Glenn provided the following information: donations have reduced the matching shortfall to \$717, a reduction by \$580 of the total needed.

An educational project like the Barlow Road multimedia one is a valuable long-term resource for providing members of the public more information about the famous route from The Dalles to Oregon City, whether that grant is managed by NW OCTA or by OHTAC. It will certainly be appreciated if our chapter members can provide some additional donations to fully match the larger grant request. The draw on grant funds is expected to begin soon.

Any gift you make is tax deductible. Make your check out to **NW OCTA**, **noting that the contribution is for the Barlow Road project**. Glenn will ensure that your dollars get to the proper place.

Please send your contribution to:

Glenn Harrison
1132 30th Place SW
Albany, OR 97321-3419

NOTE FROM GLENN HARRISON ON MAY 5: The Northwest Chapter of OCTA has members and friends in other states. The last two donations were \$100 from Idaho and \$50 from California. That leaves only \$507.50 to go to meet the match of \$4,000.



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MASTHEAD: Replica of *The Old Oregon Trail* bronze relief sculpture created in 1924 by Avarð Fairbanks for Oregon Trail monuments.



Fort Hall: Cultures and Changes

**2016 OCTA Convention
Fort Hall, Idaho
August 1–5, 2016**