



Northwest Trails

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

Volume 33, No. 1

Winter 2018

Northwest Chapter 2018 Annual Meeting Saturday, March 17

Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & Museum The Dalles, OR

Please mark your calendars for the 2018 Annual Meeting of the NW OCTA Chapter, which will be held on Saturday, March 17, at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Museum, 5000 Discovery Drive, The Dalles, OR 97058, phone 541-296-8600. Preregistration is not necessary but be prepared to pay a minimal fee at the door to cover space rental and other picnic costs.

The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m., but come as early as 9:00 a.m. to socialize with a coffee hour and to bring in your raffle items before the meeting starts. The annual meeting will be from 10:00 a.m. until noon. We will include a chapter business meeting, a recap of this year's events, and discussion of other important issues for the coming year.

The restaurant at the Discovery Center has closed, and it is a long distance to drive into The Dalles, so we have decided to have everyone bring their own lunch and drinks (picnic style). We do not want to take more than 45 minutes for lunch because of time restraints for people who must drive long distances. We want people to stay on site and visit with each other. Bring a dessert for the dessert table to share with others as we do at our picnics.

After lunch at 1:00 p.m. we will have a guest speaker (yet to be determined) and then finish with the raffle. The raffle is always a great success, and we will also have a silent auction (for more valuable items). We welcome raffle items of books, artwork, jewelry, wine, or any other items that members would like.

Driving directions when traveling from the West or East: Take I-84 to Exit 82, turn right on the Historic Columbia River Highway (Hwy 30), follow Hwy 30 for 1.5 miles, turn right on Discovery Drive and follow to the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Museum.

Questions: email Rich Herman at buddy359@comcast.net or call 360-977-8184

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Save This Date: May 5, 2018

A special event in eastern Oregon re-introducing our chapter to the local community. This all-day event will be held at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande. As we all know, La Grande is where the organization StopB2H is located and where we are working on National Register status for a section of the Oregon Trail.

We anticipate over 100 members from the local community to visit with Ezra Meeker, hear about leaving behind their family, a video of the OCTA hike, seeing the long-lost Ladd Canyon Meeker Marker, hearing special quotes being read by local young adults, and more.

So, those of you on the “wet side” of Oregon and Washington, come on over and support OCTA. We will need your help with the many details that need be done on that day.

Election Results

NWOCTA members re-elected its leadership team to another term, as well as a new director. Re-elected were:

President	Rich Hermann
Vice-President	Paul Massee
Secretary	Polly Jackson
Treasurer	Glenn Harrison

Sallie Riehl was elected to fill the open position on the Board of Directors due to Lynne Alvord's completion of her term.

A total of forty-six ballots were returned. Approximately three-fourths were sent via email, a new procedure adopted by the membership. Considering that the chapter membership is over two hundred, the vote count is a disappointing return. Perhaps this is a reflection of the good job performed by this team, and the membership did not feel motivated to change or even vote to approve. But I fear this is a reflection of a growing apathy on the part of the membership. Getting volunteers to fill these leadership roles is getting more difficult every year. Please consider serving and volunteering for future openings.

—Roger Blair

President's Message

Happy New Year . . . and best wishes to all for good health and happiness. You are all important to the success of the NW chapter and your continued involvement in chapter activities, outings, and just your presence is valuable and appreciated.

We had a lot of fun last year with several events providing our members with varied opportunities to participate and get involved. Plans are also well underway for an event-filled 2018 with outing in trail ruts and 175th Anniversary celebrations.

We start off this year with an invitation to the State of Oregon's 159th birthday celebration, which will be held at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem, OR, on Saturday, February 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be held indoors, and OCTA will meet with the general public, hand out brochures, maps, and answer questions about the Oregon Trail and the pioneers of early Oregon. Dr. John McLoughlin will be there to meet with emigrants arriving on the Oregon Trail.

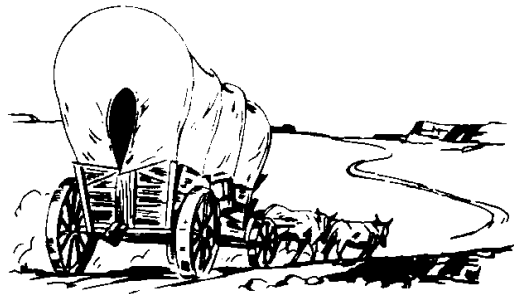
Due to a majority show of hands, the NW OCTA annual meeting will be held this year on the sunny side of the Cascades at The Dalles, OR. The meeting will be held at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & Museum on Saturday, March 17. Activities and details are coming together with Paul Massee VP leading the charge for the afternoon program and possible Sunday trail outing. Contact him with ideas you may have for the program and outing.

This year we will be participating in the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Oregon Trail/50th Anniversary of the National Trails Act. I have been working with Oregon City Heritage Coordinating Committee as they are planning all of the activities for this summer. I have committed our chapter to help celebrate the arrival of the pioneers on October 11, 12, and 13. This will be an indoor event at the Museum of the Oregon Trail and will initially involve our chapter having an information booth and answering questions of the public. We are encouraged to dress in period clothing. More details will be provided as they are worked out.

Gail Carbiener and the B2H/OCTA Symposium committee are busy planning for the May 5th event at La Grande, OR. Gail will report to the chapter at the annual meeting and provide details for membership involvement. Hats off to Gail for his countless hours and dedication to this project. Billy Symms continues to stay on top of threats to the trail and monitor wind energy projects.

Henry Pittock, Mapping and Marking, and Paul Massey, VP, are planning trail marking and hiking activities for this summer. If you have any ideas about an interesting trail outing you would like us to set up, or if you would like to lead an outing, please contact Paul as he is the outings and activities coordinator. Let's get out and have some fun.

—*Rich Herman*



Volunteer Time and Expenses Report

Chuck Hornbuckle reported the following 2017 volunteerism figures for the NW Chapter to OCTA Headquarters:

Hours: 20,035.5
Expenses: \$39,065.62
Miles: 81,824

B2H Today

By Gail Carbiener

On February 1 the Oregon Public Utilities Commission will hold a Commission Workshop, which is a public meeting. This meeting is in Salem, and a number of us will attend. I encourage any who can, to come to the meeting as it is an educational experience. Most of the discussion will be between the Staff and Commissioners, with some public comments.

OCTA continues to support the StopB2H Coalition, of which we are a member. They have secured transmission experts and have presented numerous inquiries to the OPUC, challenging the need for the Transmission Line. OCTA has awarded a \$20,000 grant to StopB2H to assist in their efforts. The Oregon Trail is an important component in stopping the project.

B2H is a difficult, confusing, and political battle. Wind energy, battery storage, coal generation, and environmental concerns all play a roll. As you can imagine there are powerful, well-funded groups on both side of the issue. No question, we are fighting an uphill battle, but we remain optimistic. Stay tuned.

2018 Spring Mapping and Marking

By Henry Pittock

The Mapping and Marking group will be out on the trails again before too long. Several of us

have been reviewing last season and discussing what specific areas we have questions about. For sure, we will be working in the Rhododendron to Barlow Pass area, but also along Marmot Road. There are a few property owners between Oregon City and Sandy who have asked us to come look at, or for, ruts—so we will be doing that.

Dave Welch has suggested having a mapping and marking meeting, most likely in the Portland-Vancouver area, and most likely in late April, which will be announced later.

If you think you would like to be involved, contact Henry Pittock at hpittock3@icloud.com.

In Memoriam



Arlie Holt

Arlie Holt died early on Christmas morning. He had been in severely declining health for several months. Arlie was a retired Oregon City High School drama teacher who took up the story of the early settlement of Polk County, Oregon, where he had lived as a young boy.

His research and contacts put him in touch with personal archives and led to the recovery of the Levi Scott manuscript reminiscence from a storage shed at Sitka, Alaska. He stirred up a renewed interest in the stories of the emigrants of 1846 and 1847 over the Southern Route to Oregon, now known as the Applegate Trail.

Scott's reminiscence was published in 2015 by the Washington State University Press as *Wagons to the Willamette: Captain Levi Scott and the Southern Route to Oregon, 1844–47*, edited by Stafford J. Hazelett.

*Memorial gathering for Arlie Holt,
Polk County Historical Society Museum,
Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, Oregon,
Tuesday, February 6,
2:00 to 5:00 p.m.*

175th anniversary of the Oregon Trail

By Sharon Brown

OCTA NW Chapter is invited to a birthday party! February 14 is the State of Oregon's 159th birthday and a celebration will be held at the Oregon State Capitol, 900 Court Street NE in Salem, Oregon, on Saturday February 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event is open to the public and will feature displays, covered wagons, and family activities. Dr. John McLoughlin will be there to meet overland emigrants arriving from the Oregon Trail. The 175th anniversary of the vote in Champoege to form the first provisional government will be observed. The original state constitution will be on display. And if that isn't enough, there will be birthday cake!

Learn more about the event on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/546175345726064>.

The National Trails System Act of 1968

The story of the creation of a national strategy to create and manage trails in modern America begins with President Lyndon Johnson's speech on the "Conservation and Preservation of Natural Beauty" in February 1965. In his address to Congress, President Johnson requested that "the Secretary of the Interior work with his colleagues in the Federal Government and with State and local leaders and recommend to me a cooperative program to encourage a national system of trails." In response, a committee prepared a report titled, *Trails for America*, which was published in December 1966.

The National Trails System Act of 1968 was the direct result of the *Trails for America* report. It established three different types of trails: National Scenic Trails, National Recreation Trails, and Connecting and Side Trails. Later, in 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed into law a bill that created an additional category of trails: National Historic Trails. Today the National Trails System (NTS) includes 11 National Scenic Trails and 19 National Historic Trails.

For more information, go to www.trails50.org



History Made at Historic Site

By Roger Blair



Many OCTA members have driven to Independence Rock, but how many have driven *up* this famous landmark on the Oregon Trail? I don't mean traveled up by foot, but rather up via automobile. I doubt anyone alive has accomplished this daredevil feat. I don't know how often this mode of ascent even has been attempted, but the rock *has* been conquered at least one by automobile. The *Casper Tribune-Herald* in 1928 reported what it purported to be the first such ascent, if not the only attempt. Following is a transcript of the paper's article.

Whippet Scales Famous Rock of Emigrant Days

Doud Drives Roadster Up Granite Pile on Sweetwater

Independence Rock "The Register of the Desert" probably the most interesting landmark on the Old Oregon Trail, has been scaled by an automobile for the first time in history.

Last Friday morning Lee Doud and Martin Sather drove a Whippet Six roadster out to this famous rock with the avowed intention of scaling this seemingly unsurmountable block of granite. So steep are the sides of the rock that Doud and Sather used rubber boots to climb over. The north side [was where] the Whippet would be sent over. The north side just inside the fence was decided on, as it offered the best approach and the smoothest surface. Mr. Doud eased his Whippet up to the base and then "opened her up." Slowly but surely the trim little roadster mounted the steep ascent while Mr. Sather snapped pictures of the progress. Because of the extreme roughness of the rock it was necessary to do considerable maneuvering before the top was reached.

The Whippet was put on top at exactly the same spot where on July 4, 1920, the Casper Masons held memorial services to commemorate the convening of Wyoming'[s] first lodge of Masons at the same place on July 4, 1862.

After taking a few more pictures, the car was headed down one of the steepest places, and the large four-wheel brakes held the Whippet at the intrepid driver's command.

Mokler's "History of Natrona County," gives the following dimensions of Independence Rock: 4,656 feet in circumference, 1,950 feet in length, 850 feet wide, 193 feet in height, and covering 27 acres. Names are inscribed bearing dates as far back as 1832, but it is known that as far back as 1812 Robert Stuart and his party passed by this great landmark.



Automobile performance reached high perfection in the feat illustrated above. Picture above shows Whippet scaling steep slope of Independence Rock. Below—Car perched on top after precarious [sic] ascent. Casper Tribune-Herald, October 7, 1928, Section 2, p 1, col 6–7.

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



**2018 OCTA Convention
Ogden, Utah**

**2019 OCTA Convention
Santa Fe, New Mexico**