



Northwest Trails

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

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Summer 2008

In Pursuit of a Dream

OCTA, in association with Boston Productions, is producing a one-hour broadcast television program, *In Pursuit of a Dream*. Candy Moulton has a Blog at octatrails.blogspot.com, on OCTA's website, that also has photographs of the wagon train. Here are two of Candy's entries at the end of filming.

Friday, July 11, 2008
Wrap Party

This evening we traveled by van and vehicle to Oregon City, where we had a wrap party at Clackamette Park. The Northwest Chapter of OCTA sponsored it for us—thank you NW Chapter!!! We pulled a last gag on the kids by having the meal on the table. Mr. Vixie, Mr. Merchant, and Mr. Noll went to the head of the table to reveal the food: Rice, Beans, and Oatmeal [their dinner food on the trip]! Arielle started crying, and Darla had the most horrified expression on her face I've ever seen. After we had them really going, we pulled out the turkey and beef, barbecue sauce, salad, potato salad, bread, and cookies.

At the end of the party Lincoln and Dan arrived. They had spent hours putting together a special slide show and they hung a wagon canvas from the edge of the park awning and we had "moving pictures," literally. It was so fun to see the early photos on the trail. Some of the kids said it seemed like months ago that they were in Wyoming. There was hooting and hollering, laughing, and a few tears at the end. Thank you Lincoln and Dan for all your hard work in putting the show together under difficult circumstances.

As the show wrapped, Matt, Jacqueline, and most of the rest of the crew and chaperones lit some sparklers. It was a GREAT end to a WONDERFUL ADVENTURE.

Saturday, July 12, 2008
On the Way Home

This morning we filmed at Foster Farm, placing an Oregon-California Trail marker with OCTA National Preservation Officer Dave Welch. Then we loaded the kids in the vans and they headed off to the Portland Airport. We gave the kids a trail marker as a souvenir. They have certainly earned the right to them, having lived on the trail for two weeks, and only two showers in all that time—the first a cold one in Montpelier and the second a hot one in a hotel in Oregon.

They are an awesome bunch of kids, I have fallen in love with all of them and will truly miss them. Our work is not done, though, as we still have a lot to complete before this film is ready for airing. But we have been Pursuing a Dream, and along the way we rolled with the punches, hugged, cried, laughed, got dirty, cold, tired, wet, and sweaty. And we became a very close trail family.

Eating trail dust with you, my friends, has been a joy and now we truly have merged our souls with the spirit of the trail.

—Candy Moulton

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President's Message

Most of my time devoted to OCTA of late—and all my worrying—has been devoted to the upcoming convention. Although my worrying tells me there will be several glitches, the convention promises to be a good one. One of the worries has been a concern about gas prices holding down attendance, and to a certain extent there appears to have been some impact. So let me remind you that there is still time to register and attend. Despite the high prices, this convention will be one of the least expensive for attendees. It certainly will be reasonable for NW Chapter members, since we can hardly attend one any closer without it actually being held in Oregon or Washington.

There is a good selection of tours, speakers, and workshops. You should enjoy all of them. If you haven't made plans yet, please do so. I will be taking attendance, and those who do not attend will be first in line for appointment to the next vacancy for a chapter position!

—Roger Blair

More from the OCTA Filming Wrap Party

By Jenny Miller

Friday, July 11, the NW Chapter was privileged to meet the cast and crew of *In Pursuit of a Dream*. Wendell Baskins did a great job making arrangements to welcome the group with great food from Busters. On hand to greet everyone was none other than Ezra Meeker himself who gave a great "welcome to Oregon City" and "take care of the trail" speech. The mayor of Oregon City and her husband also welcomed them and presented them with pins from the city. Glenn Harrison presented the group with a welcome letter from Gov. Kulongoski.

After the welcoming speeches, it was time for food! As a gag, three of the adult cast members (Dave Vixie was one) presented them with rice, beans, and oatmeal. The looks of horror and groans of disgust were too funny for words. After recovering from their shock, and realizing that they really were going to get real food, one boy grabbed the oatmeal and ceremoniously dumped it into the garbage can. After dinner, one of the photographers presented a slide show of pictures that had been taken during their trek.

Aurora Outing

By Jim Tompkins

The Aurora event on Saturday, May 17, was a resounding success, despite our chapter president's absence. Twenty-four participants met at the ox-barn museum, next to the Willie Keil wagon used in 1993, for an introduction by the man who drove the wagon from Missouri to Aurora. We then carpoled out to Hubbard to the 1860s farm built by a member of the Aurora Colony. Aurora curator, Patrick Harris, spoke in the old farmstead barn about the Aurora colony; the migration from Bethel, Missouri, to Willapa Bay, Washington, then later to Aurora, Oregon; the people Jane Kirkpatrick wrote about in her recent trilogy; the farm; and how the communal society changed. He then showed us the old log farm house. Afterward we sat around and asked many good questions. We then drove back to Aurora, picked up our lunches, and ate them in the courtyard behind the colony houses. Then we visited the cabin, barn, house, garden, and ox-barn of the Aurora Colony. Much new knowledge was gained and everyone left happy.

POSTSCRIPT: One participant, Ray Egan, who portrays Ezra Meeker, is interested in doing an “Ezra Meeker meets Dr. Keil” talk at Aurora someday. If we can get Jane Kirkpatrick to attend, I'm sure just about everyone in the chapter would be there.



OCTA Marker Installed at Butter Creek

An OCTA marker was installed at the Butter Creek Crossing near Echo, Oregon, on May 15 as part of the Echo School District's Clean-Up Day. High school students installed the marker, while more than 270 students participated in a community service day to clean up and perform other projects.



Senior Joey Middleton and freshman Sam Bitner install the OCTA marker at Butter Creek on May 15.

Oregon Trail Ruts on the Umatilla Army Depot

By Jenny Miller

On April 20, OHTAC members and a few NWOCTA members were able to see ruts on the Umatilla Army Depot, due largely to the efforts of Jeff Pardue. We met just past the main guard station and then carpooled to see various sites on the depot. We started first by going east on an old runway to where the trail comes onto the depot boundaries. We were able to walk in the ruts for a short portion. In some places the trail was clear to see, and in others, it disappears into sage or the buildings on the depot. Next, we piled back into the vans and traveled onto the other side of the major buildings to try to pick up the trail again.

Jeff explained that two trail segments crossed the depot, but one set was not able to be followed due to ongoing incineration at the

weapons disposal unit. We split into two groups, one group following west over the trail before it began a northward turn toward the town on Irrigon, and the other went back over the trail towards the main buildings. Next, we followed one of the depot roads near the depot's northern boundary and saw where the northern trail segment would have come out. This was the segment we could not see due to restrictions.

It was a great outing, even if it was more winter-like than spring. Wearing long underwear was a great option! Everyone seemed to enjoy the outing, and it was exciting to walk where trail exploration has not been allowed for about 70 years.

Voices from the Trail A New Newsletter Feature

After a time the hard traveling and worse roads told on our failing oxen, and one day my husband said to me, "Unless we can lighten the wagon we shall be obliged to drop out of the train, for the oxen are about to give out." So we looked over our load, and the only things we found we could do without were three sides of bacon and a very dirty calico apron, which we laid out by the roadside.

We remained all day in camp, and in the meantime I discovered my stock of lard was out. Without telling my husband, who was hard at work mending the wagon, I cut up the bacon, fried out the grease, and had my lard can full again. The apron I looked at twice and thought it would be of some use yet if clean, and with the aid of the Indian soap-root, growing around the camp, it became quite a respectable addition to my scanty wardrobe. The next day the teams, refreshed by a whole day's rest and good grazing, seemed as well as ever, and my husband told me several times what a "good thing it was we left those things; that the oxen seemed to travel as well again."

Long after we laughed over the remembrance of that day, and his belief that the absence of the three pieces of bacon and the dirty apron could work such a change.

—Luzena Stanley Wilson, 1849

Northwest Trails, Summer 2008

The Territorial Express Stagecoach Rides Again

For the second year, the Territorial Express Stagecoach will travel between Olympia and Longview, Washington. On September 19–21, 2008, the stage will run over 90 miles of road in three days, and will carry US mail, passengers, and express. Stage stops along the way will offer food, music, interpretive programs, souvenirs, commemorative envelopes with pictorial postmarks, and a chance to relive western history.

The stagecoach is an accurate reproduction of a Concord coach from the 1850s. It will be on display at Cabela's store in Lacey during the last two weekends of August.

To date, sponsors include City of Tumwater, Farmers Insurance, Great Wolf Lodge, Lewis County Commissioners, Olympia Heritage Commission, and Cabela's. Any funds raised by the event will once again benefit the Tumwater Middle School's Homesteader Program, an intensive hands-on history curriculum for eighth-graders.

Passenger tickets, souvenir pins, raffle tickets, and commemorative envelopes are on sale now.

Visit our website,
www.territorialexpress.com,
for more information.

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Annual Fall Picnic

The NWOCTA Annual Picnic will be held September 20 at Borst Park in Centralia, Washington, where we met in 2006. Many exciting events are planned. Living History performer Karen Haas will present “Narcissa Whitman: A Lady at the Crossroads.” As a missionary to the Cayuse Indians, Narcissa Whitman was at the center of a cultural intersection.

Using the text of Narcissa’s letters as well as portions of her beloved hymns, Karen portrays Narcissa Whitman as she shares her challenges, sorrows, and joys. Karen Haas’s website is www.karenstoryteller.com.

The stagecoach should be at Borst Park between noon and 1:00 p.m. The stop will give OCTA members an opportunity to purchase items that support the Tumwater Middle School’s Homesteader Program. Items for sale include commemorative tee-shirts, \$10.00; Territorial Express lapel pins, \$5.00; model stagecoaches; and a “Soldier’s Diary” that describes last year’s stagecoach escort by a military group. In addition, commemorative envelopes with a special USPS postmark will be available at \$5.00 each, or six for \$20, that will be carried on the stage to Longview post office and mailed on from there.

Chuck Hornbuckle describes this year’s run from Olympia to Longview as “marking the return trip after an extended delay due to uncertain road conditions.” This will be a unique and fun opportunity to see a Concord stagecoach trace the historic stage route to Puget Sound as closely as possible given modern development.

WATCH FOR THE FLYER IN EARLY SEPTEMBER
CARPOOLING CAN BE ARRANGED



Many Advantages, But Play by the Rules

by Glenn Harrison, OCTA President

The Oregon-California Trails Association is the preeminent guardian and promoter of the inspirational story of the 19th-century American westward migration. However, individuals and even chapters sometimes forget the benefits and requirements of membership. This is a reminder that OCTA provides many advantages to support chapters and members, but chapters and members must play by the rules.

OCTA's mission is to protect the historic emigrant trails legacy by promoting research, education, preservation activities, and public awareness of the trails, and to work with others to promote these causes. OCTA's mission of preservation, appreciation, and enjoyment of trails goes beyond any chapter. These issues must be dealt with in a consistent manner at the national level. To achieve its mission, OCTA's Strategic Plan lists four goals with appropriate objectives and implementation actions:

- 1 – Preserve the historic emigrant trails,
- 2 – Be an effective historic trails organization through appropriate partnerships,
- 3 – Improve organizational and management effectiveness, and
- 4 – Keep OCTA's base membership energized.

Key features of OCTA include:

- OCTA is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with affiliate chapters, and donations made to OCTA are tax deductible. However, the IRS requires an annual report from OCTA that includes financial information of the association and all of its affiliate chapters. If any chapter does not submit the necessary financial information on time, it could jeopardize OCTA's tax exempt status, thus affecting all its members.
- OCTA provides blanket liability insurance while on any OCTA or chapter outing or activity, but our insurance company requires that a waiver agreement be signed for each outing or field trip. If an outing occurs without

using the required signed waiver forms, the chapter, its officers and board, and the outing leader could be held liable for damages. Because there are legal and liability issues, only OCTA members and chapters that are in compliance may use the initials OCTA.

- OCTA conventions include speakers, tours, awards, and other activities. This year the convention will be held August 5–9 in Nampa.
- OCTA and its chapters hold symposiums and other gatherings in different parts of the country. OCTA is sponsoring a major symposium on trails in the Southwest to be held from Friday through Sunday, Jan. 16–18, 2009, in Yuma, AZ. It will involve members of OCTA and several other trails and historical organizations and will be open to the public with a different registration fee for members and non-OCTA members. The Mid-year OCTA Board meeting will be just prior to this symposium. All chapters put on quality symposiums or other events.
- OCTA recognizes the importance of all western migration trails. Articles on these trails and emigrants who used them appear in OCTA's *Overland Journal*. Speakers on a variety of trails have appeared at our national conventions. OCTA's map, made in cooperation with the National Park Service, includes nearly all of the historic western trails—far more than are recognized by federal legislation.
- OCTA members receive the *Overland Journal* and *News From the Plains*. In addition to the OCTA magazine and newsletter, members may receive e-mails from OCTA and have access to OCTA's website.
- OCTA Trail Preservation Workshops have been conducted in most chapter areas and were attended by many trail enthusiasts. OCTA's Mapping Emigrant Trails (MET) manual is now used by all agencies for recognizing and mapping trails. When OCTA chapters participate in mapping and marking activities, OCTA should be provided with a copy of the quad maps. This helps keep track of all emigrant trails and what has been mapped.
- The value of mapping and other volunteer hours and expenses recorded by OCTA members is used to match grant funding for trail

markers and cost-share grants for other OCTA projects. It is an important figure submitted to congress each year to support NPS funding. Your donated time is greatly appreciated as is your support through dues, special donations, and convention attendance. You might consider donating your tax refund or rebate to OCTA.

- Each chapter president or a representative is a nonvoting member of the OCTA board. We appreciate having most chapters represented at each meeting. This chapter representation at each meeting is important.

- By holding one board meeting at the convention site and the Mid-year Board meeting in a different part of the country, the OCTA board is more accessible to the members.

- Any OCTA member may be a candidate for the OCTA board.

- As an outgrowth of OCTA's Census of Overland Emigrant Documents (COED), Paper Trail is the expanded website database created by OCTA volunteers from thousands of 19th century trail-related documents. Paper Trail is at www.paper-trail.org. A committee is working on having this research information available as a member benefit.

- OCTA is developing *In Pursuit of a Dream*, an adventure video illustrating the difficulties and joys of the emigrant experience. It will be available for schools and television programs in 2009. Also, video clips will be available for educational opportunities as a part of this project. OCTA's earlier *Saving a Legacy* video illustrates what OCTA members do and may be used when addressing groups to talk about trails or emigrant migration.

- OCTA volunteers work with the U.S. Senate and House members in an effort to add migration trail routes and cutoffs to the existing National Historic Trails System. To increase our effectiveness, OCTA is part of the Partnership For The National Trail System, which is a coalition of historic and recreational trail organizations with similar interests.

- OCTA Members get a discount when purchasing at the OCTA store.

OCTA has granted charters to 14 chapters that agreed to fulfill the requirements of gaining and

maintaining chapter status. If a chapter does not remain in compliance with its charter and OCTA's policies and guidelines, it may be disbanded for failure to comply. Furthermore, OCTA's bylaws state, "Only a dues-paying member of the Association in good standing shall be eligible to become a member of a chapter."

If chapters adjust their membership year to coincide with the member's OCTA anniversary month, then it is easier for members to renew or join OCTA and chapters. Individuals may become a member of one or more chapters by paying the chapter membership dues and may remain a chapter member so long as his or her membership in OCTA is current and the chapter membership dues are paid. We encourage you to pay OCTA and chapter dues at the same time by sending a check or other form of payment to OCTA headquarters. This practice enables members to join multiple chapters. (See www.octa-trails.org and click on [Join OCTA](#).) When such payment is received, OCTA then sends chapter dues to the appropriate chapter.

Receiving a chapter newsletter shows interest, but is not membership. We need members who are willing to support OCTA's efforts by joining, even if they are no longer able to actively participate. When I was the Northwest Chapter president, we had a situation where a longtime member mailed in chapter dues but didn't include OCTA dues. Even though she was 102, I made the contact and she paid her dues.

Since all chapter members must be OCTA members, if anyone is not an OCTA member they are not chapter members, even if they paid dues to the chapter. If someone is not a chapter member, they are not eligible to be a chapter officer. We can do more together than any of us can do alone.

I hope that the individuals who have done good work over the years as part of OCTA and one or more chapters will continue to participate as members of OCTA and continue that effort. It is important for members to participate in OCTA and chapter activities whenever possible. Thank you for your continued support of OCTA.

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Pictures can be sent via email, on disk (JPG
format), or originals for scanning. Please send
pictures separately from text document.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Annual Fall Picnic

will be

Saturday, September 20

in

Centralia, Washington



This year includes
the Territorial Stage Coach coming
through the park
and a visit from Narcissa Whitman

A FLYER WILL BE SENT IN EARLY SEPTEMBER

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