



Northwest Trails

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

Volume 26, No. 2

Spring 2011

NW OCTA 2011 Outings

April

April 29-30, Friday/Saturday: Applegate Trail, centered in Cottage Grove, OR area, in conjunction with Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council (OHTAC). Contact Leta Neiderheiser, 541-862-9077, letan@oigp.net.

May

May 21, Saturday: Oregon Trail Hike and Outing. Start on south side of Boardman Bombing Range at Well Springs, proceed to Cecil, then to Four Mile Canyon as time allows. Short easy hikes with ruts close to the road on level ground. Contact Rich Herman, 360-977-8184, buddy359@comcast.net.

June

June 3-4, Friday/Saturday: (National Trail Day) Barlow Road Cutoff and Meek Cutoff, centered in The Dalles, in conjunction with OHTAC. Contact Glenn Harrison, 541-926-4680, gr.harrison@comcast.net.

June-August, TBA: Locating, Mapping, and Marking of the Oregon Trail south of Arlington. Sign up for field work as opportunities develop. Contact Henry Pittock, 541-752-6139, hpittock3@mac.com.

July

July 9, Saturday: Naches Pass Field Trip, meet at Greenwater, WA. (See article elsewhere in this newsletter.) Contact Dennis Larsen, 360-459-1110, dlandpz@earthlink.net.

August

August 8-13: National Convention, Rock Springs and Green River, WY.

September

September 10, Saturday: NW OCTA Annual Picnic and Fall Meeting, Centralia, WA. Contact Joyce Bolerjack, 425-454-7118, jpbolerjack@comcast.net.

Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Friday/Saturday: Barlow Road from White River to Oregon City. Centered in Oregon City, in conjunction with OHTAC. Contact Wendell Baskins, 502-655-0311, wbaskins@msn.com.

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President's Message

OCTA national conventions are always a lot of fun and very educational. By my best recollection I have attended sixteen since 1983, two before I was even a member (two in Missouri, one in Nebraska, two in Wyoming, one in Utah, one in Nevada, two in California, three in Idaho, one in Washington, and three in Oregon). That is about half of the opportunities I had to attend. I have been on the coordinating committees for three (Baker City 1993, Pendleton 1998, and Vancouver 2004). Surprisingly, being on the committee can be just as fun and educational as merely attending. I remember a practice bus tour in La Grande when four buses, all on the same route, met at the same intersection coming from four different directions.

In March NWOCTA's board of directors voted to bid on the 2013 national convention. The bid was accepted, which will mean a lot of work and a lot of fun. The working title for the 2013 convention is "Oregon City and Beyond." Possible themes might include wintering over in Oregon City, finding a farm, claiming the land, and building a family and a state.

Possible field trips would take attendees into the Willamette Valley looking at old houses and sites of the birth of our state at places such as Aurora Colony, Champoeg, French Prairie, Salem, and Oregon City. Hikes in the ruts of the Barlow Road might be offered as well as a possible trip to Forts Astoria, Clatsop, and Stevens at the coast. Oregon City has offered their three trolleys to tour the historic houses of their city.

Partnerships will be needed. The City of Oregon City and the Grand Ronde Indians have already shown interest. Other possible co-sponsors might include Clackamas and Marion Counties, Oregon Tourism, Oregon State Parks, the Oregon Genealogical Society, and Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers. Other ideas are to bring back Marv Ross's Trail Band for another concert, recreate an old-time baseball game like they do at Fort Vancouver, and hold an authentic Indian potlatch and salmon bake.

A coordinating committee is needed, and I encourage all of you to consider volunteering. We will need subcommittees to arrange sponsors, nail down a headquarters hotel, find speakers, design bus and hiking tours, coordinate events, and provide credit for teachers or students in attendance. Please consider how you can assist the chapter in putting on another great convention.

Did I mention it would be a lot of fun?

—Jim Tompkins



2011 Annual Meeting in Oregon City



A view of the meeting room .



Paul Masee, NW OCTA Director.



Pat and Margaret Davis accepting Friend of the Trail Award from Billy Symms.



Leta and Joe Neiderheiser accepting the Distinguished Service Award for the Hugo Neighborhood Association.



Chuck Hornbuckle presenting Distinguished Volunteer Award to Henry Pittock.



Jim Tompkins receiving the Ackerman Meritorious Achievement Award from Roger Blair.

Naches Pass Field Trip

Dennis Larsen will lead a NW OCTA field trip up the west side of Naches Pass on Saturday July 9, 2011. He led two trips to the pass last summer for the Naches Pass Coalition that were quite well attended and quite successful.

Dennis chose this date because the area is closed to ATV traffic until July 15, after which it's too crowded on a weekend. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. at Greenwater, Washington, in front of the store. (Where the gas station is. It's a small place, with only one store.) Greenwater is on US Highway 410 about 15 miles east of Enumclaw, WA.

The trip involves about three miles of walking, mostly on a jeep road. We may encounter some snow as the snowpack is very heavy this year. Please wear some type of hiking boot as tennis shoes are not a good idea. The hike is mostly level with a couple of minor ups and downs.

Bring a picnic lunch as we will tailgate at the conclusion of the hike, and in the afternoon visit a couple of other sites along the Naches trail such as the famous "Cliff" down which the covered wagons of 1853 were lowered with ropes.

Please sign up to participate via e-mail at dlandpz@earthlink.net.

Annual Meeting March 15

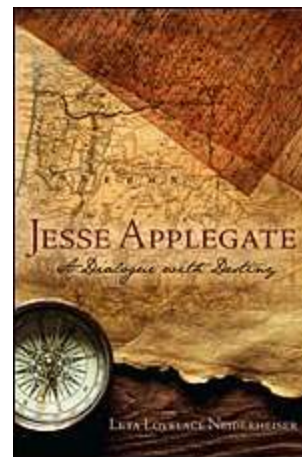
Another successful and well-attended Annual Meeting was held March 15 in Oregon City. Dennis Larsen gave an interesting program on 1852 emigrant Edward Jay Allen. The silent the auction netted \$175.00 and the raffle \$240.00. (Chuck and Suzanne Hornbuckle really know how to sell tickets!) After expenses, the net income for the event was \$344.47, thanks to Wendell Baskins and his hard work.

Chuck Hornbuckle announced that the chapter's 2010 volunteer hours and expenses were 11,439 hours, \$23,356.00, and 95,000 miles.

New Book by Chapter Member

Leta Lovelace Neiderheiser's book, *Jesse Applegate: A Dialog with Destiny*, is now available. Who better to write this biography than Leta, a great-great granddaughter of Jesse Applegate.

Best known for his reminiscence, *A Day with the Cow Column*, and his role in opening the Applegate Trail, Jesse Applegate was also an important figure in emerging Oregon society and politics.



In 1845 he was a delegate to the legislative assembly where he played a leading role in forming a provisional government for Oregon. The following year he was elected captain of the party that explored a southern route to Oregon that branched off the California Trail—now known as the Applegate Trail—and was instrumental in convincing a large number of emigrants to take the trail that year.

In 1849 he moved his family to the Umpqua Valley, settled on a donation land claim, and built a large home in a valley he called Yoncalla. He was widely known for his hospitality, variety of business interests, and the letters he wrote to newspaper editors and prominent political figures.

Misfortune befell him in the 1870s when the state confiscated all his land and his home to cover defaulted bonds he had signed for a politician who embezzled and left the state. He eventually repaid his debts but lived a frugal, quiet life until he died in 1888.

This fascinating, informative book is an important addition to northwest trails history. You may purchase it directly from Leta Neiderheiser for \$20.00 + \$2.89 postage. Contact her at 541-862-9077, letan@oigp.net. An eBook download is available online.

OCTA's 29th Annual Convention in Rock Springs, Wyoming

OCTA's 29th Annual Convention will be held August 8 through 13, 2011, in Rock Springs and Green River, Wyoming. This year's convention kicks off with incredible pre-convention tours along the Overland Trail, Cherokee Trail, Sublette Cutoff, Seminoe Trail, Lander Cutoff, and the Mormon-California Trail from Salt Lake City to Ft. Bridger. This year's convention schedule is different from past conventions.

CTA's Board of Directors meeting will be held on Monday, August 8, and registration will be open at Western Wyoming Community College. A welcoming reception will be held that night at the Holiday Inn in Rock Springs.

The General Membership Meeting officially kicks off the week on Tuesday morning, August 9. Several speakers, a panel discussion, and chapter meetings round out the day. More speakers and OCTA's annual awards banquet highlight Wednesday's activities.

All of Thursday and Friday are devoted to bus tours to South Pass, Pinedale, Browns Park, and Ft. Bridger. Thursday is Author's Night, and Friday highlights include a dedication of preserved Overland Trail ruts at an elementary school in Rock Springs, followed by a special screening of OCTA's multiple award-winning documentary, *In Pursuit of a Dream*.

Convention chair Fern Linton and her planning committee have created a Western History Day event at Expedition Island in Green River on Saturday. Both of John Wesley Powell's expeditions down the Green and Colorado Rivers left from this Island. A variety of special events are planned.

The convention registration books were mailed last week and should arrive soon. Online registration, on the other hand, is open now. There is only one bus going to each location each day, so slots will fill up fast! Don't delay and miss out. Register now!

Register online at www.octa-trails.org.

Covered Wagon Plaque

I am seeking information about this plaque. It measures 11 3/4 x 24 3/4 and weighs 35 lbs. It came from the area of Vale, Oregon. It has not, by my inspection, been mounted at any time. Its design style rings of early 20th century, in the arts and crafts mode. Certainly the greenery in the surround harkens to that time period. It's hard to say how old it is. There is some surface oxidation but not enough to indicate many years of outdoor exposure. If it had been stored in a sheltered, dry place, it could have some real age and not show it.

Kind regards,

George Crandall
503-999-7458

gecrandall@msn.com



Front of the plaque



Back of the plaque

NWOCTA COED Participation

By Marley Shurtleff,

With thanks to Sallie Riehl and Pat Fletcher for supplying much of the information.

The Northwest Chapter of OCTA has a long history of involvement with the national association's Census of Overland Emigrant Documents (COED). Individual chapter members have not only located diaries and completed surveys, but several have taken on leadership tasks in the unique committee that developed over the years.

The COED database was begun in the late 1980s. The original idea behind COED was to provide a research tool that would help people find locations, trail routes, and then names of people on the trail. Years went by as the project surveyed the many diaries that had been found. The collected information was funneled through a small computer transfer committee, usually two key individuals, and eventually those individuals became exhausted with the effort. By the late 1990's, progress on diary surveying and data entry had slowed to a trickle, and a renewed effort was needed.

Bob and Barbara Kabel worked with the original committee chair, obtaining the surveys already completed, and, along with Dave and Wendy Welch, they began the process of rejuvenating COED. Realizing the enormity of the task, another larger committee was formed to take the project to the next step, which was to produce something tangible that could be disseminated and used by the public.

During 1999 and 2000, the data from the many boxes was converted and entered into a Microsoft Access software database. Monitors checked the quality of the survey information. Others updated route coding and mapping for new surveys coming in. Bob and Barbara Kabel and Jim and Sallie Riehl scanned all of the available surveys as PDFs so they could be viewed on disc. The result of those efforts was *Emigrant Names*, a CD that allows the user to install a program used to search the 70,000 names of travelers between 1800 and 1899. By the time of the release of the second edition of *Emigrant Names*, the names search had become the foremost function of COED in most people's minds.



Around the time *Emigrant Names II* was released, the committee settled into its most recent configuration. Continuing tasks included searching for new documents online or in repositories, making copies to share in OCTA libraries, and getting the information gathered through the surveys entered into the database. NWOCTA provided several core members of that committee: Sallie Riehl, chair, surveyor, and data entry; Marley Shurtleff, a vice-chair, NPS Cost Share coordinator; Jim Riehl, data entry, surveyor, database manager; plus many who completed surveys, including (but not limited to) Lethene Parks, Glenn Harrison, and Pat and Jack Fletcher.

Over the last eight years, as the committee processed a large number of diaries, members began exploring options for web access. By 2008 information in the master database (still in Access) was



converted to a web product (*Paper Trail*: <http://www.paper-trail.org/>) that allows OCTA members and other subscribers to search for names of individuals on the Overland trails, titles of diaries, and the physical locations of diaries. The website leans heavily on name searches, like the discs, but also includes PDF copies of the original survey sheets so that searchers can see all the other data that is available.

Paper Trail now holds surveys and data from over 3,500 surveys.

Committee leadership recently concluded that most easily-accessible documents of the time and travel have been found and surveyed, so has worked closely with Pat Fletcher of the OCTA Board of

Directors to find a new home base for the COED Access database. The location chosen is the Merrill Mattes Library in the National Frontier Trails Museum in Independence, Missouri; management will transfer to that location by late 2011. There will be no change or disruption in services to web customers.

The real value of ensuring the long-term accessibility of COED on the Access database—as well as maintaining the web-based *Paper Trail* tool—is the flexibility the database gives to searching for all diaries that include specific locations or trail routes used at the time. Searches done by Jim Riehl for some researchers have helped them to complete books on the trail. Other searches have enabled NWOCTA members not only to develop wording for markers for the locations on the trail but also to define locations more specifically.

Convention Photos Online

Roger Blair is OCTA's photographer at conventions. He has made photos from the 2009 and 2010 conventions available online. The following article by Roger was printed in the recent News From the Plains, but it bears repeating.

Members can view and download images from <http://nwocta.dyndns-home.com/photo>. Click “Sign in” located in the upper right corner and then enter the user name (**octa**) and password (**octa-trails**). The OCTA logo will come up. Click on it and then click on the year you wish to review. Images are arranged by category, which you access by clicking on the appropriate folder. If you find an image you would like to have, you should be able to download it to your computer by right clicking on the image you want, select Save As and identify the Desktop or any folder that you wish to save it in. When finished, click on “Sign out” in the upper right corner.

These are relatively high resolution images, most being in the 1.5 to 3 MB range. This resolution allows good quality 4x6 to 8x10 inch prints. Please be cognizant that these are copyrighted images, but OCTA members are being permitted to retrieve any images they wish for their own personal use.

Future and some additional past conventions will be added in the future, but categorizing and naming hundreds of photos is time consuming, so additions will be slow in coming, especially for past conventions. If you have images that you would like to add, please send them digitally on CD to Roger Blair. Your contributed images will be credited. If you have any questions, or have difficulty accessing the site, please contact Roger Blair via email at rblair@oregontrail.net.

Some NW OCTA Faces at 2010 Convention



*Kathy Franzwa Wendy Welch,
And Jenny Miller.*



Wendy Welch and Jack Fletcher.



*Roger Blair and OCTA President
Bill Martin.*

Northwest Trails

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



OCTA's 29th Annual Convention

**August 8-13, 2011
Rock Springs, Wyoming**

**Online registration is open,
registration books have been mailed**

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