



# Northwest Trails

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

Volume 29, No. 1

Winter 2014

## Northwest Chapter 2014 Annual Meeting Saturday, March 8

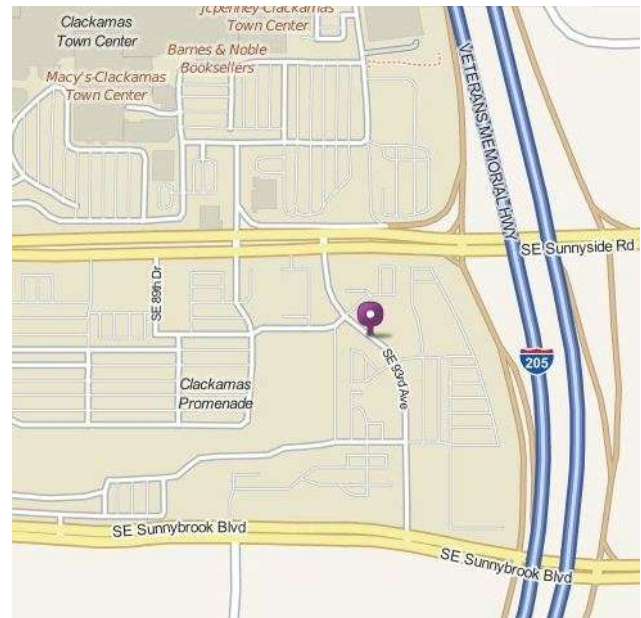
**Monarch Hotel**  
**12566 SE 93rd Ave.**  
**Clackamas, OR**

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Northwest Chapter will be held on Saturday, March 8, at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, OR. This is the same hotel where we held our convention last summer. Our meeting will be in the Columbia room, which was the convention book room. Please enter the hotel through the front entrance and use the elevator to the basement level.

Activities will include the annual meeting, no-host lunch, a program, and a silent auction and raffle. The program will be a presentation by Dave Welch outlining a Trail Inventory Project that the NPS has authorized. He will introduce an opportunity for members to get involved with trail preservation.

We will convene at 10:00 a.m., but come as early as 9:00 a.m. to socialize and bring in your raffle items before the meeting starts. The raffle is always a great success, and we will also have a silent auction. Please bundle issues of the same title of journals or magazines together. We welcome raffle items of books, artwork, glass items, jewelry, wine or food items, tools, plants, sewed items, or any other items members would value.

The annual business meeting will be from 10:00 a.m. until noon, at which time we will have a deli style salad and sandwich buffet. Please mark your calendars with this important date as we look forward to each other's presence in March.



*Take Exit 14 off I-205 and go west on Sunnyside Rd/Sunnybrook Blvd. The Monarch Hotel is on SE 93rd Ave. between Sunnyside Road and Sunnybrook Boulevard.*

*Directions are complicated, so it is best to consult a map or follow GPS instructions.*

A registration flyer will be mailed out in February

## NW Chapter Directory

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## President's Message

Saving what remains of the Oregon Trail and educating the public about our efforts are the two most important goals of OCTA. Although most of our physical activity along the trails is done in the warmer months, that does not mean we take time off from our efforts in the cooler months. Now is the time to be proactive in our more political efforts. The committees that work for the chapter need your support every month of the year. Here are four things to consider.

National OCTA is backing a petition effort to raise public knowledge of the damage to the Oregon Trail in Idaho by people using metal detectors and digging up the trail. The link to the petition and signing the petition is on the OCTA website.

Our preservation chairman, Billy Symms is currently working with an active group of members in reacting to the efforts of a power company to build a transmission line from Boardman, Oregon, to Hemingway, Idaho. Plans have been submitted to BLM for their consideration, and Billy has submitted NWOCTA's response. If left unchecked, sight lines of the Oregon Trail in eastern Oregon could be compromised. If you are interested in following this situation and commenting on BLM's response, contact Billy. Congratulations are also in order for Billy, who has become NWOCTA's most recent appointee to the governor's advisory council on trails, OHTAC.

In periods of economic downturns, heritage organizations are the first to be hit and the last to recover. Although the Great Recession appears to be in recovery, it is not over as witnessed by Oregon's governor's most recent budget proposal for the next two years. Specifically, the part of the budget to cut back the Oregon State Library has ramifications to NWOCTA. We have placed our chapter library in the Oregon State Library, and the new budget, if enacted as written, would limit access to it. I have asked the newsletter editor to print a letter asking support for the State Library.

Another possible way to become proactive is to attend the Oregon Heritage Conference, to be held in Albany, Oregon, on April 23–25, 2014. Information can be found at

[www.oregonheritage.org](http://www.oregonheritage.org) or  
[www.oregon.gov/oprd/HCD/OHC/Pages/Conference.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/HCD/OHC/Pages/Conference.aspx).

This is the same group that recognized OCTA for producing the *In Pursuit of a Dream* film. The conference offers heritage organization workshops, speaker sessions, and field trips.

—Jim Tompkins

# Trail Inventory Project Proposed

*By Dave Welch*

The NPS has made funds available for a survey of High Potential (HP) sites and segments of the Oregon Trail in Oregon as defined in the Comprehensive Management and Use plan (CMUP). The survey would involve visiting each HP site and segment to fill out a form describing its features and condition. Photos will provide additional documentation. This is a high priority need of the NPS since a general survey in Oregon has not been done since 1993 (if then).

At the same time we would make a section-by-section determination (to the degree possible) of the general trail condition using MET classes. For example, the trail would be described as being “generally Class 2” or “a combination of Class 2 and Class 4” in T3N, Range 23E, Section 5. We will not enter private property unless welcomed to do so by prior arrangement.

The work will be done by three- to four-person teams covering specific segments, with the lead being someone familiar with that area. The work would be done this spring and summer. We have funding of \$150/day each for up to 16 workers working five days each. The reimbursement should cover a major part of a participant’s expenses.

This is a good opportunity to get new people involved in trail field work, so I would like to emphasize the team aspect of the project. Workers other than the team leader do not need to have trail experience or be OCTA members. Training will be provided.

If you are interested in joining this project, please contact Dave Welch, email [welchdj@comcast.net](mailto:welchdj@comcast.net) or phone 360-923-0438. Gail Carbiener, Stafford Hazelett, Rich Herman and I have volunteered to be team leaders. One or two more leaders are needed, plus assistants.

## **2013 Volunteer Hours and Expenses**

Chuck Hornbuckle submitted the following figures for NW OCTA's 2013 volunteer efforts to Bill and Jeanne Watson: 19,204.5 hours, 88,989 miles, and expenses of \$55,780.44. If the government mileage rate is still \$0.48/mile, our expenses would add \$42,714.72 to the above, giving total expenses of \$98,495.16. A sizable and worthwhile investment.

It is very important that all volunteer hours and expenses are reported to ensure NPS funding for trails. Your volunteer efforts do not have to just be on the Oregon Trail. Any other trail related activities count. For example, attending a conference or outing, giving a presentation, or leading a tour on any historic trail.

Please keep track of your hours and expenses all year long, and at the end of the year tally them and report them to Chuck.

*Thank you everyone who reported!*

# Oregon State Library “Transformation”

Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber’s 2013–15 Budget includes a major reorganization of the Oregon State Library, proposing to “1) eliminate Government Research Services; 2) consolidate the State Library’s documents repository and reference services with the State Archives; and 3) reduce the costs . . . by implementing improvements that were identified by the 2011 Workgroup on Libraries and Archives.”

In addition, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) has been working on the transformation. On October 25, 2013, Senator Steiner Hayward and Representative Nathanson of the Joint Ways and Means Committee, Subcommittee on General Government, provided an outline for the transformation. Concerning historical, cultural, and genealogical materials that would not typically be used for research for state agencies, the report says:

**1) Oregon Genealogy: This function will fully shift to the Oregon Historical Society. OHS should then determine the best method of collaborating with outside genealogical groups, such as the Willamette Valley Genealogical Society;**

**2) State Documents: All required state documents will be consolidated with the Archives, and any materials that are not government records but should be kept for historical purposes will then be moved to the Oregon Historical Society;**

**3) State History: Similar to the State Documents, all required state documents will be consolidated with the Archives, and any materials that are not government records but should be kept for historical purposes will then be moved to the Oregon Historical Society.**

What does this mean to historians, genealogists, researchers, and Oregonians interested in history and culture?

- Oregon State Library currently has unique collections of Oregon history and culture, federal documents and collections, family histories, archives, and books purchased years ago by the OSL, such as a complete set of Massachusetts Vital Records, and Willamette Valley Genealogical Society’s collection of family histories, genealogical materials for the US and other countries, periodicals, CDs, and volunteer help. **All of this will be dismantled.**
- Limited access for research.

What does this mean to Oregon taxpayers?

- The Oregon State Archives and Oregon Historical Society do not have room for these materials. Money will have to be budgeted for moving and new spaces.
- The Oregon Historical Society is a private organization, which charges a fee. The Oregon State Library materials were purchased with taxpayer money or donated with the understanding that materials would be available to the public.
- DAS has not provided a financial cost analysis.
- Funding for the State Library can be restructured to include general fund money, rather than assessing other state agencies. It’s not necessary to dismantle Oregon’s state library.

What can be done?

- Contact members of the subcommittee or your legislator! (See the next page for information.)

Elizabeth Tice, President  
Willamette Valley Genealogical Society

# OSL Transformation Contacts

## Transformation Report

You can find the complete Transformation Report with recommendations, implementation plan, and dates on the Oregon State Library page at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/osl/Pages/OregonStateLibraryTransformation.aspx>

## Oregon State Legislature

You can still contact your legislators to let them know how you feel about limiting public access to Oregon State Library's collections. The Joint Ways and Means Committee, Subcommittee on General Government, is handling the transformation. For committee members and contact information see:

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2013I1/Committees/JWMGG/Overview>

Since bills will have to be submitted to the entire legislature, you can also contact your senator and representative. To find who represents you and/or get their contact information, go to the website to enter your address:

<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/FindYourLegislator/leg-districts.html>

## Facebook

Visit the Facebook page, "Save the Oregon State Library."

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## 2014 NW OCTA Election Results

The new year brings a "new" slate of officers and directors. Jim Riehl chose not to run for re-election and Ray Egan agreed to run for Jim's director position. A total of 132 ballots were received, with the following results:

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| President      | Jim Tompkins   |
| Vice President | Rich Herman    |
| Secretary      | Polly Jackson  |
| Treasurer      | Glenn Harrison |
| Director       | Ray Egan       |

Thank you to all who submitted ballots, and a special thank you to all the candidates who agreed to serve. The chapter would flounder without members willing to serve in leadership positions.

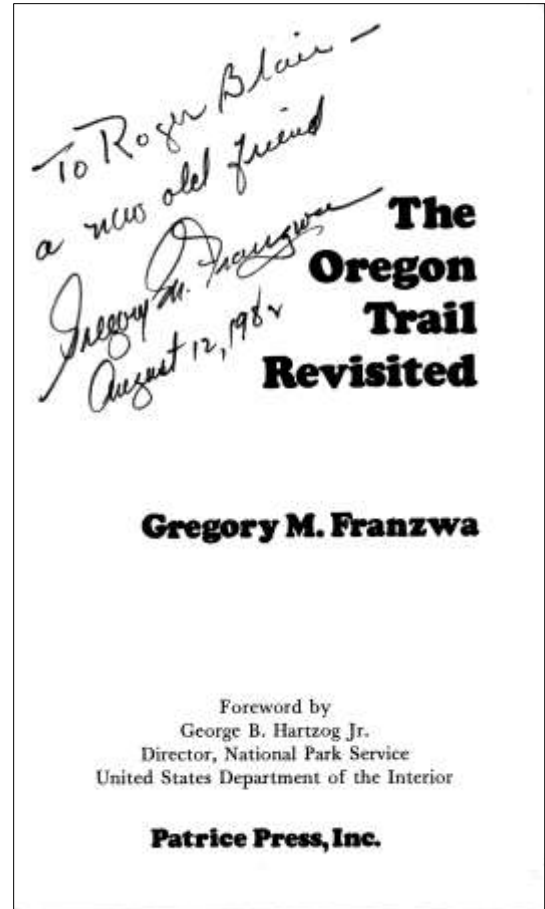
—Roger Blair, Past President

# Date of OCTA's Founding Rediscovered

By Roger Blair

Although little discussed of late, there was a lengthy period during which the date of OCTA's founding was confused and uncertain. This can be partly attributed to failing memories, but also in part to Ruth Anderson's misidentification of the founding date in her history of OCTA, *Preserving Our Historic Overland Trails, the Story of OCTA*. In that history, Ruth places the meeting on August 11, 1982. In a *News from the Plains* article in 2006, even Greg Franzwa incorrectly placed the meeting on August 14.

I have recently been organizing my library of trail books and now have definitive proof of the actual date. It was August 12, 1982. How can I be so sure? On that date, I took along my copy of Franzwa's *Oregon Trail Revisited* as well as a copy of Merrill Mattes' *The Great Platte River Road*. I had both sign their books. Mattes did not make a habit of dating his signings. However, Franzwa inscribed my copy and dated it—August 12, 1982. I had forgotten the inscription, since I subsequently purchased a second copy, which I used rather than the inscribed version. It sat on my bookshelf until I rediscovered it.



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*The trail elevates the commonplace to the extraordinary—and takes us with it. By following this basic line over the land, in our minds or on the ground, we can connect with men and women who accomplished something close to epic through the perfect metaphor for how each of us makes it though every day: by putting one foot in front of the other.*

—Elliott West, *Western Historian*

## *Northwest Trails*

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Material may be submitted via email, on disk, or as email attachment in Word or Text format. Pictures may 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 Avarð Fairbanks for Oregon Trail monuments.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**



**2014 OCTA Convention**  
Kearney, Nebraska  
August 5–9, 2014

**2015 OCTA Convention**  
South Lake Tahoe, California  
September 20–26, 2015

### *Northwest Trails*

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