



Northwest Trails

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

Volume 36, No. 4

Fall 2021

NW OCTA Annual Fall Meeting Fort Borst Park, Centralia, WA

The NW OCTA annual fall meeting was held October 9 in Kitchen #1 at Fort Borst Park in Centralia. Seventeen members attended in person, and five participated in the Zoom portion moderated by Dave Welch and Polly Jackson. Attendees spread out at round tables, and all wore masks except when eating lunch. Christopher Chapman gave an entertaining program with slides on his bicycle tour on the Oregon Trail. Following lunch and a board meeting that was viewed by the audience, the event ended with the always popular raffle.



President Sallie Riehl, speaker Christopher Chapman, meeting in Kitchen #1 at round tables.



Board meeting.



Jenny Miller drawing raffle tickets.

NW Chapter Directory

President
Sallie Riehl

Vice President
TBA

Treasurer
Glenn Harrison

Secretary
Jenny Miller

Directors
Roger Blair

Polly Jackson

Dave Welch

Chapter Website
Sharon Brown

Communications Chair
Marley Shurtleff

Mapping Chair
Robert Baker

Membership Chair
TBA

Preservation Officer
TBA



Northwest OCTA

President's Message

Our meeting in Centralia on October 9 brought together members we haven't seen in quite a while. Bernie Rhoads and Andy Anderson and his wife Ruth made it to the meeting, and we were glad to see them. Many thanks to Dave Welch and Polly Jackson for setting up the ZOOM section for members who could not attend in person. Our speaker, Christopher Chapman, gave a very good program about his bicycle trip along the Oregon Trail.

We also held a Board meeting that same day and discussed the very real problem that the chapter has of the loss of people willing to serve as officers. We will be developing a survey for our members asking for input on what the chapter should be and who would be willing to take an office. We usually have two major member meetings each year, and the board also meets twice a year with an occasional extra meeting. Our organization was founded to protect and publicize the Oregon-California Trail. The protection of what is left of the actual trail is especially necessary now that we are entering the era of changes in the way we receive power. The struggle to keep the B2H power lines off the existing Trail across two states is a case in point.

I am sure that we will be having more ZOOM meetings in the next several months due to the holidays and the probable rise in COVID cases. Our in-person meeting was very enjoyable, but we understand your reluctance to meet in person while this pandemic rages on.

Stay safe,
Sallie K. Riehl, Chapter President

More Photos from the Fall Meeting



Dave Welch on his laptop coordinating the Zoom meeting with Polly Jackson at her home.



Sharon Brown buying raffle tickets from Jenny Miller.

Finance Report

NW OCTA 10/1/2020 – 9/30/2021 Fiscal Year

Glenn Harrison, Treasurer

Beginning Balance	\$20,386.03
Income	\$8,435.00
Expenses	\$5,202.11
Ending Balance	\$23,618.92*

Income

Dues	\$2,235.00
OCF Grant	\$1,200.00
CP Donation	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
	\$8,435.00

Expenses

Preservation (B2H)	\$1,000.00
Mapping & Marking	\$79.99
Education (Scan slides)	\$297.07
Administration	\$970.05
Trail Markers (Use of OCF Grant)	\$1,505.00
(Match=Donated Time, Materials & Transportation= \$2,445.00)	
Donation to OCTA	\$1,000.00
Gift	\$200.00
Picnic	<u>\$150.00</u>
	\$5,202.11

*Since October 1, we paid \$88.69 for transporting T-rails for trail markers in late July. At the NW OCTA Picnic at Borst Park held on October 9, the chapter gained \$75 from the raffle and \$40 in donations. So, on October 12, 2021, we have \$23,645.24 in our account.

We are still looking for a place to store books and papers that were donated to NW OCTA and looking to the future with the possibility of other donations.



*Wagons at the National Historic Oregon Trail
Interpretive Center at Baker City, Oregon.*

Hermiston Scouts Do It Again!

By Jenny Miller

All pictures by Jenny Miller, except the group photo by Rachel Goller

Another summer and another Eagle Project has happened. Troop 654 was instrumental in placing more T-Rails on the trail under the leadership of Andrew Goller. Andrew was involved in last year's project and loved it so much that he also wanted to place more rails for his project. The work took place on July 29 and 30, 2021. Last summer, we faced a lot of heat. This summer had its own issues—a blown tire, a closed forest, and lots of rocks!

With the extreme heat this summer, the USFS decided to shut roads down, including the one we needed to travel on to get to private property. A couple of phone calls and a lot of patience led to permission to enter the forest as long as the 3-page documentation was present. The next issue came when Mike Nelson, a gentleman who volunteered to help us pick up and transport the t-rails, had a major blowout with his right front tire. He and his friend Janet was stranded in Arlington, so a quick trip down with Jenny's little pickup to get three of the seven rails. (Did I mention the tailgate was broken?!)

The rest of the day was spent dropping off the rails at their respective locations so everything would be ready for the next day. The next morning, we headed out. The first job was to relocate a marker that had been misplaced last year. It was a fairly easy job once we got the rail out of the ground. It had to be dug up the road approximately 400 yards and then placed next to the trail, much better than the former site. This site is above La Grande on the Horst property.

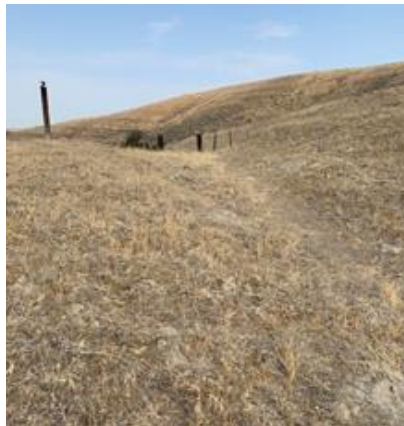
Then it was back on the road to do the two off of Summit Road/Mt Emily Rd. The next hole was ridiculously hard to dig. We all took turns and chipped away, finally resorting to a chisel and hammer to get through some of the rock. After 90 minutes, we called it good and used two bags of concrete instead of one! Thank you to Mr. Bruce Young for allowing us to place the marker. On a side note, our three markers that were placed are historic in their own right. They were all stamped with the year 1914.

After a well-deserved lunch in the shade, we put in our last one of the day. This one was far easier, and we were done in about 30 minutes. A quick hike on part of the trail to show a nice set of parallel swales was next and then it was off to Emigrant Springs for a welcomed shower. Thank you to Mr. Furst for this location.





Day two brought us to Corral Springs, outside of Echo, where we had to carry the rail up a small hill to get to the location because the scout in charge forgot a tire pump for the hand truck—NOT so prepared! However, the digging was the easiest yet. No rocks, just good dirt that took minutes before it was done. A great way to end! As it wasn't even noon, I convinced them to hike to the top of the property to get a good look at some great ruts. I used it as an educational opportunity, talking about how they needed to know about the trail because knowledge was necessary in order to protect their history and heritage. They all were appreciative and asked good questions.



Once down, we stopped off at the Koontz grave that is beside the highway, just before Echo. I told them about how this also was an Eagle project.

At last, we met back at the church so the boys could be picked up by their parents. A good time was had by all, and we got more rails in the ground. A big shout out to Gail Carbiener who did a lot of groundwork, the landowners who allowed us on their properties to place markers (Horsts, Bruce Young, Mr. Furst, and the Coke Ramos family), and especially Andrew, who persevered through some tough moments to lead the boys.





Left to right: Seth Reeve, Jase Richards, Eagle lead Andrew Goller, Jenny Miller, and Eric Pullen.

National Park Service Lists Oregon Trail Resources in the National Register of Historic Places

By Gail Carbiener

Two National Register nominations recommended by Oregon's State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation have been accepted by the National Park Service and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. I started this process back in April 2017! The property owners were very cooperative, and I hired an archaeologist that was qualified by SHPO to do an archaeological report. Funds came from NPS and both OCTA and local OCTA chapters.

La Grande to Hilgard Segment. The La Grande to Hilgard Segment is a well-preserved trace of emigrant wagon ruts, crossing a high plateau composed of three segments that is 3.66 miles long and is located between the cities of La Grande and Hilgard and includes one of the steepest climbs on the trail in Oregon. The La Grande to Hilgard trail segment was consistently used by overland emigrants, freighters, stage companies.

Oregon Trail, Oregon, 1840 to 1880 Multiple Property Document. This important document provides an overview of the history of the Oregon Trail, 1840 to 1880, through four different historical contexts and establishes a framework for identifying and listing Oregon Trail resources in the National Register of Historic Places. This thematic document provides resources and guidance for individuals interested in listing properties in the National Register.

OCTA 2021 Elko Convention

Originally scheduled for 2020, OCTA's 38th annual convention was held in September 2021 at Elko, Nevada. Some 200 members who were all vaccinated attended the convention, which included excellent speakers, tours, superb meals, entertainment, and an afternoon of activity stations with a wide variety of trail-related displays. It was a memorable return to an OCTA traditional event.



Helen Hankins, Elko convention co-chair.



John Briggs, current OCTA president.



All lunch meals were preselected and served in bags. Everyone wore masks except when eating.



Sallie Riehl accepting the Distinguished Volunteer Award for Dennis Larsen for trail books he's written.



Dr. Roger Blair as Dr. Phil De Grave, dispensing his trail medicine.



Basque dancers performed in the park at the Sunday evening opening reception.



The Period Clothing Parade at the End of the Trail banquet was a delightful success.

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



39th OCTA Convention

Leaving the Platte

**August 28–September 3
2022**

Casper, Wyoming

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