



Northwest Trails

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

Volume 34, No. 2

Spring 2019

Northwest Chapter 2019 Annual Meeting Saturday, June 1, Stevenson Community Library

Please mark your calendars for the 2019 NW OCTA Annual Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, June 1, at the Stevenson Community Library, 120 NW Vancouver Ave, Stevenson, WA 98648, phone 509-427-5471.

The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. but come as early as 9:00 a.m. to socialize at a coffee hour before the meeting starts. The annual meeting will be from 10:00 am 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.

We want everyone to bring their own lunch and drinks (picnic style). We do not want to take more than 45 minutes for lunch because of time restraints. We want people to stay on site and visit with each other. Bring a desert for the desert table to share with others as we have at previous meetings.

Preregistration is not necessary but be prepared to pay a minimal fee at the door to cover space rental and other picnic expenses. Some members, who are spending Friday night in Stevenson, have already reserved rooms at the Roadway Inn (509-427-5628). The only other motel is a Best Western located in Cascade Locks.

After lunch we will have a program by Paul Massee that will highlight OT era history in the vicinity of Stevenson to include details of portages used by the emigrants who followed the Columbia River route. Ray Egan also informed me that he has invited a special guest who wishes to have some of our time. We decided to finish our meeting with our traditional raffle, which is a primary source of funds for our chapter. The raffle is always a great success, a lot of fun, 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 members would value.

After we finish with the raffle, there will be an opportunity to visit the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum (next to the Skamania Lodge) or individually visit some of the historical Oregon Trail portage sites on the north side of the Columbia River. Details of each will be explained at the meeting.

Driving directions: The Stevenson Community Library is in downtown Stevenson, just off of Hwy 14. Turn north at Columbia Street, drive 2 blocks to Vancouver Street. The library is located on the NW corner of that intersection.

Questions: email Rich Herman at buddy359@comcast.net or call 360-977-8184,
or Sallie Riehl at salliek@comcast.net or call 541-990-0558

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Two NW OCTA Activities in June

By Henry Pittock

The Philip Foster Farm is having their annual "Opening Day Pioneer Food Celebration" on Saturday, June 15, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They are located at 22912 SE Hwy 211 in Eagle Creek. Their website is philipfosterfarm.com, if you would like to look for more information. We have had a table there for several years now, where we talk with people about the Barlow Road/Oregon Trail.

On June 29 and 30, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days, we will again have a booth at the Clackamas County Lavender Festival. I believe this is the fifth year for us. The Oregon Lavender Farm is at 20949 S Harris Road, east of Oregon City. For more information, go to their website at www.libertynatural.com. We probably get about 75 to 100 people stopping by to talk each day. A few more volunteers are needed. You can pick either day, or both days. And you don't have to be there the full 7 hours!

This winter, the mapping and marking group has met several times to talk about what was accomplished during the past year, what questions we still have, and some ideas for this year.

A few outings we talked about are mapping/marketing/hiking at the Boardman Bombing Range/Well Springs/Nature Conservancy area south of Boardman, mapping and marking at Pat Davis's Shaky Gate Ranch just east of Gate Creek (August?), and a hike on July 20 along the ridge of Laurel Hill from the Kiwanis Camp to the western base of the hill.

There are probably going to be several small mapping and marking outings mid-week and also some "explorations" in the Laurel Hill and Barlow Pass areas.

Also, the NW OCTA Chapter Mapping Committee will be meeting in Portland on May 23, where planning for future chapter mapping projects will be discussed.

I have decided that I need to step down as mapping and marking chairman. In the previous newsletter, it was announced that Robert Baker was going to take over, but he is not going to be able to do so. If you would like to take the job, know of someone who might want to, or can suggest anyone, please contact Rich Herman at buddy359@comcast.net or call him at (360) 977-8184. I'm not going to be leaving NW OCTA, but just need to not be so heavily involved.

For more information on any of these, or to volunteer for the Philip Foster Farm and/or the Lavender Festival, please contact Henry Pittock at hpittock3@icloud.com.

President's Message

By Rich Herman

It is finally starting to feel like spring is just around the corner, but it did not feel that way when I made the decision to postpone our annual meeting because of the nasty winter weather we were experiencing. Both Puget Sound and the lower valley had icy roads and were colder than usual, and Stevenson had extremely icy roads and heavy frost, so in the name of safety, I decided that we should have our meeting when the weather would hopefully be in our favor. Ray Egan is bringing a special guest to our meeting to help kick things up, and Paul Masee is going to give a historical overview of the Stevenson area. We have a nice facility reserved at the Stevenson Community Library, with some interesting discussions planned for our Annual Meeting, Saturday, June 1.

I am now taking applications for an excellent opportunity which will soon be available for someone interested in Oregon Trail Mapping and Marking. Henry Pittock has announced that he will soon be retiring from the lead of this position and will provide on-the-job training to anyone who wants to learn the details of this rewarding opportunity. He has a most excellent team of very knowledgeable volunteers who are technically advanced and enthusiastic. Please let Henry or me know if you may be interested so we can discuss the position to see if it is a fit for you.

Chuck Hornbuckle has accepted the position of Membership Chair, and Jenny Miller will take over as Chapter Secretary at the end of the year, both from Polly Jackson. Polly will continue her duties as chair of the Chapter Website. Polly has been handling all three of these activities, so now she will devote her attention to the website. Thank you, Polly.

I am happy to announce that our chapter will be soon be purchasing ten T-Rail markers, which will be installed at key remote locations along the trail over the next two summers. This project has been inspired by Gail Carbiener who has much experience with their use and confidence in their longevity and endurance against vandalism. The only hesitation has been the cost of purchasing them. Thanks to Sharon Brown, Western Regional Representative, for coming up with the idea of asking national OCTA for funding and to Dave Welch, OCTA Mapping and Marking Chair, for authorizing funding for the purchase of the rails. Thank you to both Sharon and David.

Sallie Riehl, chapter VP, is making plans for some interesting chapter outings and activities. She will discuss them at the annual meeting and ask for your input. Please contact her with your ideas or volunteer to help her make them happen.

It is with a heavy heart that we have learned of the recent passing of Joyce Bolerjack, longtime OCTA active member, longtime friend to all. Joyce's health has been in decline for several months, but she never lost her sense of humor and positive attitude. Whenever there was laughter on the trail or at a banquet table, you would usually find Joyce at the center of it all, usually as the instigator. Joyce, you will be missed.



Remembering Joyce Bolerjack

Joyce Bolerjack's family has notified us that Joyce died Saturday, April 6, of heart failure. Joyce was a long-time active member of OCTA and a charter member of the Northwest Chapter. She enjoyed convention activities, chapter outings, and served for many years as chapter treasurer and membership chair. In 2001 Joyce received the Northwest Chapter's Richard & Trudy Ackerman Meritorious Achievement Award. Joyce's daughter Claire Vorauer will arrange a memorial open house in May (no date set yet) in the Seattle area.

Send condolences to Claire Vorauer
333 106th Ave SE
Bellevue, WA 98004
claire@stackresources.com



Tom Laidlaw accepting a Certificate of Appreciation from Joyce Bolerjack at the NW OCTA Annual Meeting at The Dalles in March 2006.

Another Remembrance of Jim Tompkins

Wendy Tompkins Stimac, Jim Tompkins's daughter, provided this photo of Jim's gravestone on its way to Alpine cemetery on February 22.



Barlow Road Exploration

October 10, 2018

By Robin Baker

On Wednesday, October 10, 2018, Henry Pittock, Theresa Fisher, and Robin Baker met with Lloyd Musser, Curator of the Mount Hood Cultural Center & Museum, and explored three short sections of the Barlow Road in the Government Camp area.

We first visited a short section of road near Collins Lake and the Collins Lake Resort. This portion of the road is now mostly under resort buildings and roadways, but there is still a portion left near the southern tip of Collins Lake.

Next, we explored the remaining trail in the traffic “island” just north of the parking lot at Ski Bowl West. From there we went a short distance to the Nordic Sno-Park and followed another short section of road from there to Tyrolean Lane. Lloyd showed us the Everett Darr house and barn and pointed out where the road went into private land, headed east toward Collins Lake (across US 26).

This was an interesting trip, which tied together several short sections of Barlow Road that we hadn’t visited before.



Lloyd Musser, Theresa Fisher, and Henry Pittock on Barlow Road at Tyrolean Lane near Government Camp.

Barlow Road Exploration

October 12, 2018

By Robin Baker

On Friday, October 12, 2018, Henry Pittock, Theresa Fisher, Robin Baker, Steve Bingold, and Gerry King explored a section of the Barlow Road near the Trillium Lake Sno-Park on Mt. Hood. We started along Hwy 26, near the recently installed reader board just west of the Hwy 26/35 interchange, where we found a Forest Service sign indicating the Barlow Road. We walked west, following the road through timber and brush about ¼ mile to the Trillium Lake Sno-Park. This is a distinct though nondescript section of the Barlow Road that roughly connects the section near the Hwy 26/35 interchange with the section going west from the Sno-Park to Summit Meadows.



Barlow Road east of Trillium Lake Sno-Park.



Henry Pittock at east end of Barlow Road section east of Trillium Lake Sno-Park.

NW Chapter Mapping Training

May 23, 2019

There will be a meeting of the OCTA NW Chapter's mapping committee on May 23, 2019 – open to all with an interest in trail mapping.

Location: Taborspace, 5441 SE Belmont St., Portland, OR 97215. **Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The NW Chapter will conduct some basic training using Terrain Navigator Pro (TNP) mapping software and plan future chapter mapping projects. We need help with trail research, much of which is done from digital sources, GPS data collection, and use of mapping software like TNP. If you have a serious interest in mapping, please plan to attend even if you feel your skills are somewhat limited. Training is available.

Please RSVP to Dave Welch at welchdj@comcast.net.

Trail Marking on the Umatilla Army Depot

By Robin Baker

Thursday, January 17, 2019, at 5:30 a.m., Wendell Baskins, Rich Herman, and Robin Baker left Portland for the Umatilla Army Depot near Hermiston, Oregon. Our goal was to install white Carsonite Oregon Trail markers on the Oregon Trail where it crossed major roadways. The weather was cool, but luckily there was no rain or wind!

We met Michele Lanigan, the sole civilian army employee left on the depot, at the Headquarters Building. Soon Sam Pambrun arrived from Pendleton, and our party was complete. We started in the SE corner of the Depot in an area designated to be turned over to the Columbia Development Authority (CDA) for eventual development for industrial uses. Fifteen markers were placed in this area, which includes an old airstrip.

We then moved west to the SW corner of the depot, again in an area designated for the CDA, where we placed nine markers. The Oregon Trail here is pristine and can easily be seen stretching westward into the distance.

Lastly, we placed seven markers along a stretch of Oregon Trail near the mid-eastern edge of the depot, in an area designated for a CDA Wildlife Refuge. This was along an alternate route of the Oregon Trail, where this section headed NW toward the Columbia River.

It was a long but productive day of trail marking. We arrived back in Portland around 9:00 p.m.



Wendell Baskins and Rich Herman setting Oregon Trail marker on Umatilla Army Depot.



Oregon Trail and OCTA Trail marker on SE corner of Umatilla Army Depot.

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



2019 NW OCTA Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 1

Stevenson Community Library

Stevenson, WA