



Northwest Trails

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

Volume 34, No. 3

Summer 2019

2019 OCTA Convention in Santa Fe

OCTA's 37th Annual National Convention, *A Blending of the Trails*, will be held in New Mexico September 3–8, 2019. The Santa Fe area offers a combination of French, Spanish, and Native American culture and history, and convention organizers want to share as much of it as possible.

Additionally, it is the first OCTA convention held in the Southwest and the first to be hosted by the Southern Trails Chapter. Headquartered at the historic Hotel Santa Fe, the convention will feature a stellar cast of speakers offering their expertise on a wide range of New Mexico history and tours to nearby sites, including Santa Fe Trail ruts, Taos, Fort Union, Chimayo, and Albuquerque.

The first official convention event is the traditional Welcome Reception on Tuesday evening at the historic Palace of the Governors on the square in Santa Fe. Originally constructed in the early 17th century, it is now the oldest continuously occupied public building in the United States.

Convention activities during the day on Wednesday will be held at 200-acre El Rancho de las Golondrinas (The Ranch of the Swallows), just a few miles from Santa Fe. The historic location on the ancient Camino Real is now a living history museum, and convention guests will be treated to docent-guided tours and a catered lunch. OCTA's annual membership meeting will be held after lunch, followed by a keynote address from Dr. Carlos Herrera, a national expert on Juan Bautista de Anza, 18th-century governor of New Mexico and military leader.

Thursday and Saturday are tour days, featuring two full-day tours (Taos and Fort Union) and two half-day tours (to Chimayo and Albuquerque). Fourteen speakers are scheduled for Friday at the Hotel Santa Fe and the nearby Santa Fe Farmers Market. Also, on Friday, OCTA's traditional Live Auction and Authors' Night will be held at Farmer's Market, with a dinner featuring New Mexico cuisine. OCTA's annual Awards Banquet (with Native American cuisine) will be held on Wednesday evening at the Hotel Santa Fe, also the site of Saturday's closing barbecue dinner featuring entertainment by Red Steagall, a nationally known cowboy poet and entertainer and former poet laureate of Texas.

Save the Date!
September 28, 2019

Plans are being made to hold the annual Fall Picnic at the public library in La Grande, Oregon, on Saturday, September 28. You will receive an announcement flyer when plans are finalized.

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NW OCTA Summer Activities

By Henry Pittock

June 15 was the date for the Opening Day at the Philip Foster Farm in Eagle Creek. Rich Herman, Robin Baker, and Henry Pittock staffed the NWOCTA table this year. Thank you, Rich and Robin. Perhaps a couple of dozen people stopped by to learn more about the Oregon Trail and the Barlow Road. Alas, no new information came to us from landowners about possible ruts on their properties.

The 13th annual Clackamas County Lavender Festival was held at the Oregon Lavender Farm on June 29 and 30. I want to thank Robin, Steve Bingold, Ray and Maura Egan, and Sharon Brown for helping on Saturday. Drew Harvey, Bob Hill, Steve, and Sharon were there on Sunday, thank you. We met one landowner who had just moved to acreage on Springwater Road (which was an alternate Barlow Road route) who told us that there is a well on his property dating to 1875. He was very pleased to find out about us and what we do and is very likely to become a member. Another landowner told us about ruts on his property just off of Bradley Road, near Holcomb Blvd. These are quite likely Barlow Road related; several maps show it in this location. Also, see Sharon's article on this event.

Down the road a bit, on Saturday, September 21, there will be an outing at the Davis Ranch, which is a few miles west of Wamic. We installed about a dozen Carsonite markers here about 10 years ago, so we will be checking on their condition. It is about a 1¼-mile hike, each way. We will also look at some ruts the owner has found NE of his house and also some to the west of his house near Gate Creek. Participation will be limited in number, so let Henry Pittock know if you are interested as soon as possible: email Henry at hpittock3@icloud.com.

There will be also be a few opportunities for some small mapping and marking projects located between Rhododendron and Oregon City. They might be mid-week, instead of a Saturday, so please let Henry know if you are interested at hpittock3@icloud.com.

Finally, your new mapping and marking leader is going to be Drew Harvey. We have gotten together a couple of times to talk about the transition, which hopefully will be completed sometime in October.

President's Message

By Rich Herman

Summer is finally here, and we have a slate of activities that members can choose to attend. Henry Pittock and Sallie Riehl have put together some interesting opportunities, which are listed on page 2 in this newsletter. Those of you who attended our annual meeting in Stevenson were able to sign up for your choice of outings, and if you have any questions, please contact them directly. They can give you additional information. If you would like to volunteer to lead an outing to one of your favorite trail sites, please let them know.

Several of our members were able to attend the memorial for Joyce Bolerjack in Tacoma, WA, which was put together by her three children and attended by friends and relatives. Several people let me know how important OCTA was to Joyce and all the friends she made over the many years of her involvement. Joyce had a very large collection of pioneer, Oregon Trail, cowboy, and Native America keepsakes, which the family encouraged us to take with us as a remembrance of her life and her joy of American history. Joyce, you will be missed.

Our annual meeting in Stevenson on June 1 was a great success and offered members an opportunity to visit the lower section of the Columbia River gorge when there was no snow and ice to make driving challenging. I want to thank Leta Neiderheiser for a very informative report on the mapping and marking of the Applegate Trail in the southern Willamette Valley. Both Leta and her side kick Joe have been actively involved and spearheaded this project over the last several years. Their work has been a complement to the NW chapter. Ray Egan brought a special guest with him who, as usual, gave a very informative and interesting perspective of our northwest history. Paul Masee put together an interesting history of the Oregon Trail in the Stevenson area and of the water route emigrant experience on the north side of the Columbia River. Thank you all for your time and effort in preparing your presentations.

The annual Phillip Foster Farm celebration went very well with Henry Pittock, Robin Baker, and myself attending. We had a table set up with maps and trail information available for visitors to view and discuss with us. The farm is located on the Barlow Road segment of the Oregon Trail, and the event was attended by many local landowners who were very interested in discussing their historical location. Several of the visitors indicated that they were interested in joining OCTA.

Ten T-Rail trail markers have been purchased and are now ready to be installed as time allows. Thanks to both Sharon Brown, Western Regional Representative, for coming up with the idea of asking National OCTA for funding and to Dave Welch, National Mapping and Marking Chair, for authorizing funding for the purchase of the rails. Thank you to both Sharon and Dave.

The information plaques with trail locations and diary quotes for each marker need to be designed and ordered. This project is being coordinated by Gail Carbiener, Paul Masee, and Henry Pittock who will determine their location and the logistics for installation. These markers are more permanent than the currently used Carsonite markers and will be an asset to our trail marking mission.



Northwest Chapter 2019 Annual Meeting Photos

Stevenson Community Library, June 1



Glenn and Carol Harrison at the registration table.



Chuck Hornbuckle and Ray Egan.



Henry Pittock.



The business meeting.



Robin Baker (sitting on left) and Sharon Brown.



P. Jackson receiving the Ackerman Meritorious Achievement Award.



Gail Carbiener.



Wendell Baskins.



Sallie Riehl.



Leta and Joe Neiderheiser.



Paul Massee and Rich Herman calling raffle numbers.



At the raffle tables.

2019 Lavender Festival

By Sharon Brown

The weather was perfect and the smell of lavender was in the air as members of the OCTA NW Chapter participated in the Clackamas County Lavender Festival at the Oregon Lavender Farm on Saturday and Sunday, June 29 and 30. OCTA members shared trail history with festival goers as the farm is just off the Barlow Road east of Oregon City. Several people stopped at the OCTA table, said that the Barlow Road crossed their property, and they shared their family stories. Chapter members talked to approximately 85 people over the two days, including children who had learned about the Oregon Trail in school. They are OCTA's next generation!



Left to right: Steve Bingold, Henry Pittock, Robin Baker.



Recent Programs in Oregon by NW OCTA Members

Susan Butruille at Pendleton Public Library

Susan Butruille presented a fascinating program based on the new edition of her book, *Women's Voices from the Oregon Trail*, on June 10 to an enthusiastic audience at the Pendleton Public Library. Susan shared insights into women's experiences on the Oregon Trail and afterward signed books.



David Welch at Heritage Station Museum in Pendleton

Dave Welch presented a PowerPoint program on the original route of the Oregon Trail that went to Whitman Mission and then down the Columbia River to Fort Vancouver to an overflow audience at Heritage Station, the museum of the Umatilla County Historical Society. While the National Park Service has determined the primary route of the Oregon Trail to be the plateau route that went overland west from the base of the Blue Mountains to The Dalles, Dave and a dedicated group have worked for years exploring and researching the earlier Whitman Route and have finally determined the route as accurately as possible. Dave's program described and showed on maps the result of their work, which is an important asset to understanding this significant route.



Sam Pambrun introducing Dave Welch (who is setting up on the left).

Wendell Baskins at the Oregon Historical Society

Wendell Baskins was on a panel on July 14 at the Oregon Historical Society that discussed the history and controversial aspects of the statue *The Promised Land* in downtown Portland. The statue of a pioneer family was created for the 1993 Oregon Trail sesquicentennial and sparked controversy when outspoken Portlanders resisted honoring white settlers who took native lands. Today the statue stands amid increasing debate about the meaning of statues representing imperialism and slavery in America's past.



Please Help – Write a Response for B2H

Please, OCTA members, help save the Trail from the transmission line. Letters do count. Please identify yourself as a member of OCTA. The deadline has been extended to August 22, 2019.

Below are described several points that you can use as the basis for your objection. Also, the section in the Draft Project Order is identified so you can reference your objection. Most of you have been to National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center near Baker City, the power line will significantly impact the views from the picture window and Panorama Point. If any of you have relatives or friends that were affected by the California fires, you will find the fire prevention program is very inadequate for B2H.

Go to this website:

<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/B2H.aspx>

1. BB-6 3.4 Options for Undergrounding the Transmission Line: Look at this section, you will find a reference to *National Grid 2009* without any page location, and the paragraph talks about long-distance undergrounding, we only need about 2 miles.
2. On the same page BB-6 go down to the attachment BB-3 to the Overview. You can question that the pictures and information have little to do with B2H. They do not even refer to the Chino Hills 3.7 miles of 500-kV underground.
3. Additions to Complete Application at Exhibit BB Errata Info: A number of statements do not apply to B2H and some are incorrect, like the underground segment of the B2H Project would follow the existing overhead ROW. This is on page 7. The cost estimates of IPC do not compare with those of the *Edison Electric Institute*, January 2013 publication “Out of Sight, Out of Mind: An Updated Study of the Undergrounding of Power Lines.” This article suggests that for 2.5 miles of rural undergrounding, the cost will be \$67,500,000. This is almost half the IPC estimate.
4. Exhibit U, Public Services – look at 3.4.6.2. The Fire Plan is weak, reactive, and obviously the least costly attempt at compliance. I have suggested, and you might also, that Idaho Power replace the “watchman” who has a shovel and communications device, with a wildland fire truck!

You can email your response to: b2h.dpocomments@oregon.gov

Thank you. It has been a long battle.
Gail Carbiener

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Material may be submitted via email, on disk, or as email attachment in Word or Text format. Pictures (JPG format) may be sent via email, on disk, 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 Avard Fairbanks for Oregon Trail monuments.



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Santa Fe, New Mexico