



E-News

June 17, 2015

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Lake Tahoe Convention Chairman Dick Waugh Invites You to Join Him in the High Sierra This September

Don't let the start of summer get you side tracked (or side rutted). While it was shimmering hot in California, it was a pleasant 77 degrees in South Shore by Lake Tahoe. The lake was in all its glory, blue cool and inviting. The Convention Advisory Committee was hard at work putting the final touches on summer plans and details for the fall event. Registration is off to a great start. It looks like we have 17 first timers signed up so far! The Farewell Dinner is turning out to be very popular. The pre tours, bus tours and dinners are filling fast so I encourage everyone to check out the [program](#) and get [registered online today](#).

If you are a pet person, I checked with Harvey's and they do have rooms available that are pet friendly! They have reduced the rate so it will be the same for the regular rooms on our block (\$89/\$119 on Friday). There is usually \$50 a night pet fee but that has been reduced for our group to \$30 dollars. SO, if Fluffy is coming, let the online or phone registration know you would like a pet friendly room. (800) 455-4788 (800) 455-4770 by August 21 to get your exceedingly low hotel rates locked in!

Remember, August 30 is the late registration deadline when fees go up so [register now!](#)
See you at Tahoe!

My best,

Dick Waugh
Chairman
Convention Advisory Committee
California-Nevada Chapter/OCTA

Northwest Chapter's Fall Picnic/Symposium Moved to July: Base

O' Blue Mountains Oregon Trail Symposium

Saturday, July 25, 9:00 am-4:00 pm: presentations and buffet lunch. Presentations on the history of exploration and migration out of the Blue Mountains.

-Dennis Larsen, "Edward Jay Allen and the Opening of Naches Pass"

-Ray Egan, "On the Trail of a Legend"

-David J. Welch, "Trail Routes from the Blues to the Whitman Mission and the Columbia River"

-Sam Pambrun, "Frenchtown and Its Inhabitants"

-Bonnie Sager, "Marie Dorion"

-Roger Blair, "Walter Meacham, President Harding, and the 1923 Oregon Trail Pageant"

There will also be an "Early Fall" NWOCTA Chapter Meeting (in lieu of the usual picnic meeting since the national convention is in September) on Saturday evening July 25 from 6-8 PM. The meeting will be held over dinner in the pre-function area next to the Red Lion Restaurant in Pendleton. Dinner will be ordered individually from a limited menu and the meeting will be held between bites. All members and other interested people are invited. Board members attending the symposium are required to attend.

Sunday, July 26, 9:00 am-2:00 pm: bus tour of Frenchtown and a visit to Whitman Mission National Historic Site. A box lunch will be provided at Whitman Mission before returning to the Red Lion. Bus seating may be limited, so make your reservation early to ensure a spot. For those unfamiliar with Frenchtown, it was the community of French-Canadian employees of the Hudson Bay Company scattered along the Walla Walla River near Whitman Mission. Local historian and a descendant of Pierre Pambrun, HBC's Chief Factor at Fort Walla Walla, will give a talk on Frenchtown on Saturday and lead the bus tour on Sunday. The Sunday tour will include a stop at Whitman Mission for lunch and there will be an early return to Pendleton. Please note that hotel reservations must be made by July 3 to insure receiving the special rate.

Lodging:

Red Lion Hotel

304 SE Nye Ave (I-84, Exit 210)

(541) 276-6111

(541) 276-6111

The Red Lion is offering the special rate of \$89 per night for Friday, July 24 and Saturday July 25. To reserve your room at the special rate, make your registration and ask for the OCTA rate by July 3.

To register, please contact Roger Blair by July 3. Full registration is \$100. Saturday registration with lunch is \$75, without lunch is \$50. Sunday bus tour with box lunch is \$50. Make checks payable to NWOCTA and mail to:

Roger Blair
524 NW 3rd Street
Pendleton, OR 97801

For information, contact Roger Blair, (541) 966-8854, r541-966-885,
blair@oregontrail.net.

Orchestra on the Oregon Trail Set at Alcove Spring, Kansas for September 6



Tickets are on sale for Orchestra on the Oregon Trail, the outdoor concert which features the Topeka Symphony Orchestra. The event will be held Sunday, September 6, at Alcove Spring Historic Park located six miles south of Marysville, KS. Gates to the park open at 1:00 p.m. and the concert starts at 6:00 p.m. The Oregon-California Trails Association is sponsoring an "outdoor symposium" that begins as soon as the gates open (details below).

"I am delighted to get a chance to take the Topeka Symphony on the road to such a beautiful

setting," said Kyle Wiley Pickett, the music director and conductor for the orchestra. "I am also thrilled to really do a location performance: we will be playing music perfectly suited to its surroundings, which will make it very meaningful and special. It should really make the music of the frontier come to life to hear it out on the plains."

The outdoor concert kicks off the symphony's seventieth season. Pickett feels that performing in a natural, historical surrounding on a Kansas meadow is an appropriate way for the symphony to start their platinum season - it underscores their connection with the state.

"The Topeka Symphony Orchestra is a true-Kansas ensemble," he said. "Our players hail from our state capital, Manhattan, Kansas City, and other surrounding towns."

The symphony will play in a 246-acre largely undeveloped park. Located on the historic Oregon-California Trail, the site was the stopping place for many wagon trains, including the legendary Donner-Reed party. The name of the park comes from the Alcove Spring and Naomi Pike falls both located on the premises and accessible by walking trails. Wagon swales remain showing the mark the pioneers left on the land.

"It's hard to convey the beauty of the surroundings," explained John Schwartz, the producer for the event and one of the trustees for the Alcove Spring Historical Trust. "I think people will feel like they're leaving today to experience yesterday. The park is lush and basically untouched. There is a gorgeous limestone cliff that will serve as the backdrop for the concert. The setting certainly enhances the overall experience."

Gates to the park open at 1:00 p.m. Numerous afternoon activities sponsored as part of an Oregon-California Trails Association outdoor symposium will take place, including a pioneer encampment to view and other tableaux to set the stage for days of yore. Tour-guided or self-guided nature walks, wagon rides, other musical acts, speakers, and a cowboy poet will all be on hand before the main event. Following the concert, star-gazing, dancing, and ghost tours will occur.

"It's an all-day experience," Schwartz said. "Actually, it's an experience people won't want to miss. Although the concert isn't until Labor Day weekend, we expect to be sold out by early summer. I'm telling everyone to buy tickets now."

Tickets are \$55 for adults and \$15 for children twelve and under. Tickets may be purchased on-line at www.ooot.org or by calling (844) 252-6830. Tickets are also available at the Chamber of Commerce office, Marysville.

**Help OCTA Stock the *Overland Journal*
in Your Local Museums**



OCTA is now offering a 40% discount for any museum store that buys five or more copies of the *Overland Journal* for resale. Our retail rate is \$5, but we can sell them to museums for \$3 apiece. Please show your local store managers our [Overland Journal page](#) and have them contact OCTA HQ at kconway@indepmo.org or (888) 811-6282 for more information.

Help the National Park Service Complete Its Interactive Trails Map

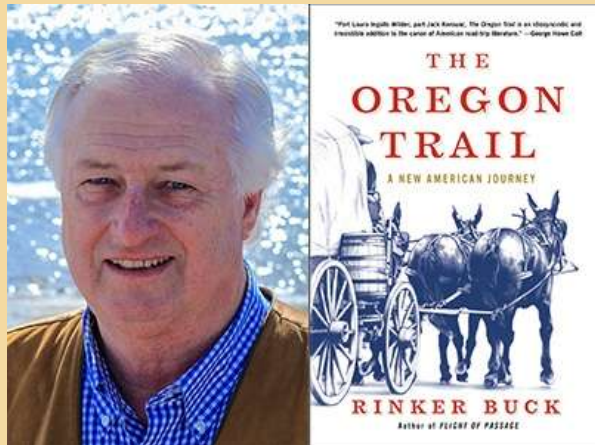
Recently, the National Park Service launched a new interactive map, one that OCTA incorporated into the bottom of the homepage at its new [OCTA Journals website](#). But its incomplete. Each site along the map is supposed to have an image, but not all sites have one yet. Specifically, the NPS is looking for labeled images that:

- highlight trail features accessible to the public at these sites - or - what the visitor may see on approach to the site
- have decent resolution
- do not have identifiable people or faces
- have good composition
- have dates/times associated with them

- people are willing to put into the public domain without restrictions

The complete list is too long to add here, but please email tboley@indepmo.org to obtain an Excel spreadsheet of the list. Thank you for your help as we attempt to finish an incredible tool for our trails!

**Join OCTA Member Rinker Buck in Kansas City
as he Discusses His New Adventure Book,
*The Oregon Trail: A New American Journey***



Rinker Buck will discuss his life and his new book *The Oregon Trail: A New American Journey*, accompanied by a multimedia presentation about his amazing true story.

DATE & TIME: Thursday, July 9, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

LOCATION: Unity Temple on The Plaza, Sanctuary, 707 W 47th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64112

EVENT FORMAT: Rinker Buck will discuss his new book and answer audience questions, accompanied by a multimedia presentation. A Book-signing follows the Presentation. A Stamped Admission Ticket is required for the Book-signing.

ADMISSION PACKAGE: \$28.00 plus Kansas Sales Tax includes One Autographed

Hardcover of The Oregon Trail, One Stamped Autographing Admission Ticket, and One Guest Admission Ticket (if needed). It's your choice for the same price.

PLEASE NOTE: The Publication Date for The Oregon Trail is June 30, 2015. All Orders will be processed immediately. Books and Tickets will be available for pickup beginning June 30, 2015.

Admission Packages are available for purchase by calling (913) 384-3126 to place a phone order. Please let them know that you saw the notice in OCTA's E-News.

Spanning two thousand miles and traversing six states from Missouri to the Pacific coast, the Oregon Trail is the route that made America. In the 15 years before the Civil War, when 400,000 pioneers used the trail to emigrate West-scholars still regard this as the largest land migration in history-it united the coasts, doubled the size of the country, and laid the groundwork for the railroads.

In 2011, writer Rinker Buck and his brother Nick set off to make an authentic covered wagon crossing of the 2,000-mile Oregon Trail. They knew that their chances of failure were high. "Even if your wheels break halfway across," his editor told him, "There's still a great book there." In fact, the Buck brothers' wheels did break, at South Pass on the continental divide in Wyoming; they flipped their provisions cart in Nebraska; and their axel snapped in two in eastern Oregon. But after making trailside repairs, the Bucks persevered to complete a crossing of the trail. Rinker tells the story of their epic adventure in *THE OREGON TRAIL: A New American Journey* (S&S; hardcover; June 30, 2015), a "romantic" (Library Journal), "astonishing" (Kirkus Reviews) and "masterful" (Publishers Weekly) book that illuminates the rich history of the great pioneer road, the people who made the migration, and the colorful state of the trail today.

The idea for the trip was born at a restored Pony Express station in Kansas, where an expert on the Oregon Trail practically dared Rinker to follow the road from Missouri to Oregon. Rinker was no stranger to such adventures. He and his older brother Kern flew across America in a Piper Cub at ages 15 and 17, a historic trip Rinker recounts in his 1997 memoir *Flight of Passage*.

This time, Buck teams up with his brother Nick - a horseman, carpenter and actor - three mules, and a filthy Jack Russell terrier named Olive Oyl, to travel from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Baker City, Oregon, over the course of four months. Along the way, the Buck brothers dodge thunderstorms in Nebraska, chase runaway mules across the Wyoming plains, scout more than 500 miles of nearly vanished trail on foot, cross the Rockies, and make desperate 50-mile forced marches for water. They travel alongside fleets of RVs

heading west; meet ranchers and Mormon re-enactors; see ethanol plants, massive wind farms, and huge data centers for Google and Microsoft; and observe the teen dating culture at western rodeo corrals.

But *The Oregon Trail* is much more than a travelogue. It is also a lively and essential work of history that shatters the comforting myths about the trail years passed down by generations of Americans. Buck introduces readers to the largely forgotten roles played by trailblazing evangelists, friendly Indian tribes, female pioneers, bumbling US Army cavalymen, and the scam artists who flocked to the frontier to fleece the overland emigrants. We also learn how the trail accelerated American economic development and the stories of the pioneers themselves - ordinary families whose extraordinary courage and sacrifice made this country what it is today.

At once a majestic American journey, a significant work of history, and a personal saga reminiscent of bestsellers by Bill Bryson and Cheryl Strayed, *THE OREGON TRAIL* is an ambitious work of participatory history with a heart as big as the country it crosses.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Rinker Buck began his career in journalism at the *Berkshire Eagle* and was a longtime staff writer for the *Hartford Courant*. He has written for *Vanity Fair*, *New York*, *Life*, and many other publications, and his stories have won the Eugene S. Pulliam National Journalism Writing Award and the Society of Professional Journalists Sigma Delta Chi Award. He is the author of *The Oregon Trail* as well as the acclaimed memoirs *Flight of Passage* and *First Job*. He lives in northwest Connecticut.

Kathy Buob of the California-Nevada Chapter of OCTA Extends Her Gratitude to our Members

OCTA member and website editor Kathy Buob recently lost her son in a horrific incident in San Diego. She wanted to acknowledge the numerous condolences she has from chapter and national OCTA members and asks if you would please extend her gratitude for the outpouring of kindness from OCTA members following the tragic death of her son, Zach Buob.

Zach was a Chief Special Warfare Boat Operator (SBC) Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewman (SWCC) stationed at Naval Special Warfare Advanced Training Command (ATC) in Coronado, CA. His [obituary](#) details his life, while [San Diego's NBC affiliate](#) details the circumstances of his death. OCTA National also extends our heartfelt sorrow to Kathy and her family during this difficult time. Kathy has always been a wonderful friend and colleague to all of OCTA.

OCTA Remembrances

OCTA has lost many valuable members and leaders this spring. In our last E-News, we reported on the passing of OCTA Board Member Doug Jenson of Idaho Falls, Idaho and longtime supporter Ed Lynch of Vancouver, Washington. We are also sad to report the following deaths:

-Earl Leggett, one of the few people to drive a wagon over the Oregon Trail in contemporary times, died April 8 in Aurora, Oregon. In 1993, as part of the Oregon Trail Sesquicentennial, he took a wagon sponsored by the History Oregon Colony Museum from Independence, Missouri to Independence, Oregon, one of eight people who made the entire journey.

-Jim Luckey died May 21 in Rock Springs, Wyoming, following a brief illness. A native of Iowa, he worked for the Iowa State Highway Department and retired from Stauffer/OCI Chemical Company in Rock Springs in 1993. In addition to OCTA, he was a member of the Sweetwater County Historical Society, the Lincoln Highway Association, Search and Rescue, and NRA. He was an expert woodworker and an avid hunter and fisherman.

-Lloyd Russell Johnson died on February 27. A 45-year employee with CalTrans, he was an avid snow skier, hiker, and explorer with emigrant trails groups in the El Dorado National Forest, finding evidence and mapping trails for the Forest Service. He was active in OCTA and the Lincoln Highway Association.

To make a memorial give in the name of any OCTA member, please visit our [online donations page](#).