

## **I-OCTA Board Meeting Minutes, March 21, 2009, Fairfield, ID**

1. **Call to Order 9:30 AM:** I-OCTA President, Doug Jenson (Idaho Falls) at Fairfield Ranger Station, Fairfield, Idaho; 12 attending: Lyle Lambert, Eastern VP (Pocatello); Jerry Eichhorst, Western VP & Web Master (Boise); Bill Wilson, Treasurer (Boise); Kay Coffman, Secretary (Boise); Amy Ballard, *Trail Dust* Editor (Fairfield). Board of Directors: Fred Dykes (Pocatello); Peg Cristobal, BOD & Historian (Filer); Dell Mangum (Blackfoot); Suzi Pengilly (Boise). Also: Mary Alice Wilson (Boise) and Lee Mangum, (Atomic City).
  
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Doug emailed the October 2008 Board Minutes for reading prior to the meeting. Peg asked for an amendment to the minutes on page one, second paragraph, to add "hay" before "pellets" to distinguish the type of pellets; page one, third paragraph, to add "by National" between "made" and "off of" to clarify that the \$26,000 or higher that was earned by the Convention belongs to National OCTA and not I-OCTA. Bill moved to accept the minutes as corrected, Dell seconded and it carried.
  
3. **Reports:**
  - A. **Treasurer Report:** Bill provided copies of the 2008 Treasurer's Reports for March 29, April 26, August 6, and October 4. He read the Treasurer's Report which shows a checking account balance of \$6,201.18 and CD balance of \$2,399.03. He also handed out the Paid Membership list as of March 17, 2009, showing 177 currently paid members with 43 new this fiscal year (indicated by an "N" after the due date), plus 11 *Trail Dust* only subscriptions (44 memberships expired). Bill asked if we need to change banks when someone else becomes the Chapter Treasurer. Following a discussion, it was decided that Bill will check out the features of US Bank and Wells Fargo, because they have branches located throughout the State, and report on his findings at the April 25 Membership Meeting. Bill showed a cartoon from the newspaper with a wagon train stopped at the edge of a bluff that said, "Yes, I did work at Wall Street, until I took this job!" Jerry moved to approve the treasurer's report as is, Peg seconded and it carried.
  
  - B. **National Board Meeting:** Bill reported on the meeting held during the Yuma Historic Trails Symposium: All Trails Lead to Yuma, January 16-18, 2009. He said that there was a large turnout at the Symposium and Idaho received many positive reports on the Convention. Among the many things covered in the Board meeting were the budget; membership; referral for study of the two liability insurance policies and the waiver, to be reported on at the August 2009 Board meeting; OCTA endorsement of the goals and objectives detailed in "A Decade for National Trails, Version 10", prepared by the National Trails System Organization; OCTA support of the "National History Day" program by offering volunteer and other support to encourage student achievement in the field of trail history; all Challenge Share projects will be within one co-op agreement with oversight by OCTA HQ; the movie project, *In Pursuit of a Dream*; passage of the S22 land bill by the Senate (which has since been passed by the House and is now back with the Senate for final vote); Idaho received many positive reports about the 2008 Convention and is glad to

have it behind them; the expected publication of Jim McGill's book on the Goodale Cutoff; Mary Ann Tortorich's selection as the new chair for the 2009 Planning Committee for the National Convention in Loveland, Colorado; the 2010 Convention to be held in Elko, Nevada, on August 8-15; no locations have been selected for the annual Conventions after 2010.

- C. Preservation: Jerry reported that he was contacted by Dean Shaw, BLM, to see if I-OCTA is interested in MET (Mapping Emigrant Trails) mapping the 60 mile trail section on public land from Glens Ferry to Boise. After a discussion, it was decided that the Chapter needs MET training now that we no longer have the expertise of Jim McGill working with the program. Jerry suggested that between now and the April meeting we work with Dean Shaw and Dave Welch on it. Dell will contact Dean to find out more from him. Dell stated that he is willing to take on the Preservation Officer duties whenever needed.
- D. Mapping: The National OCTA web site, <http://octa-trails.org/>, has information on MET in several locations, including manuals (<http://octa-trails.org/preserve/index.php>). Dell will contact Dave Welch, the National Mapping Chairman, to gain an understanding of the MET and GPS process and inquire about training for the Chapter. Suzi can also meet with Dave where he lives in Lacey, WA, on one of her trips to the area. She also stated that the State Historical Society has an Oregon Trail layer on their GIS database from Larry Jones' work on *Emigrant Trails of Idaho*. Amy indicated that she is interested in taking MET training when it's offered. Dell will let the Board members know about his findings before the April meeting so information can be presented to the members.
- E. Website: Jerry reported that the cost of the I-OCTA web site, <http://www.idahoocta.org/>, is \$12.95 per month. There are lots of things Jerry would like to add to it as time allows; Doug said that it looks so good right now that there's no hurry.

#### **4. Old Business:**

- A. People: Jim & Patti McGill are restricting their I-OCTA involvement at this time because of other priorities and concerns. Jerry will contact Jim about transferring materials and equipment to the I-OCTA members who will be taking over Jim's projects and responsibilities. Clair Ricketts, a founding member of I-OCTA, passed away recently; I-OCTA sent his widow, Virginia, a sympathy card. Peg will contact Virginia about the possibility of I-OCTA getting copies printed and digitized of the Ricketts' collection of trail maps. Suzi said that they have a large copier for maps at their library that we can use. Peg said that she took some old newspapers to their Boise Blueprint shop where they were copied and then put all together on a disc so copies can be made later; the prices were reasonable. This would work for the maps and allow for printing different sections of maps and different amounts of copies at any time.
- B. BLM Grants: Jerry reported that there is now an on-line submission process for grants, which is confusing and difficult. Jerry passed around two different grant applications that he's working on. He has submitted grants for FY 2009, \$23,000 for the scenic by-way signs

and \$4,100 for trail marking in Eastern Idaho. He's in the process of submitting grants for FY 2010 by the March 31 deadline; that includes a \$6,400 grant remaining for printing more of the Oregon Trail Scenic By-Way booklets. The multiple-year part of the Eastern Idaho trail marking grant was not on the FY 2010 list like planned, so Jerry is inquiring into that. Jerry would like to find someone else to help with the grant process, but will continue doing it for the time being; Doug asked Jerry to speak up if there's something we can do in a supporting role meanwhile. Jerry will document the process for grants so that he can refer to it next year and so that other's can assist with the process.

C. Scenic By-Ways: Jerry reported that Frank Jenks is transferring to Washington, DC, and Dean Shaw, who is an Archaeologist, is taking over Frank's position at the BLM. The next phase is signing of the By-Way route. Jerry is working with the Idaho Department of Transportation to obtain "official By-Way status"; the application is 30-40 pages long and among other things it requires support from local interest groups such as Mayors Offices, Chambers of Commerce, Highway Districts, historical societies, museums, Three Island Crossing, State Park Interpretive Center, Elmore County Historical Foundation, Mountain Home Historical Museum, Department of Economic Development, etc. Jerry has spent the last couple of weeks finding every group he can in Glenns Ferry and Mountain Home and the number of ones that he has contacted are excited and very supportive of the project and have provided letters to include with the application. One of the displays will be in the Tourism Building by McDonalds at the Mountain Home exit. The application deadline is the end of April; the application approval process is only handled every two years, on the odd years. A benefit of the official "Scenic By-Way" designation is being listed in the Idaho Department of Tourism Scenic By-Way booklet, on State and Federal web sites, and most importantly that 80% of the installation cost is provided by the Federal government and the Highway Districts have to install and maintain the signs. OCTA would have to do the signs if we don't get official Scenic By-Way status. The Mountain Home Highway Department had to change the By-Way route around Highway 20 because of traffic concerns, which isn't a problem except that maps and other things in the booklet have to be changed. The other thing that has to be changed is the title from "Oregon Trail Scenic By-Way" to "Oregon Trail Scenic Back Country By-Way". Jerry suggested that the title should actually be "*Main* Oregon Trail Scenic Back Country By-Way" to allow for future booklets on cutoffs and alternate routes of the trail and that was agreed upon after a discussion. The Blacks Creek rest area, the western end of the route, will add route information to the display cases that are already there. The center of the route, at Highway 20 where the Rattlesnake Station pull-out is, is proposed for a full map of the route; the location of the sign at the eastern end of the route at Glenn's Ferry will be determined later. The plan is still to use the concrete posts along the By-Way route. Jerry is working with the BLM on the signing and booklet changes. Jerry handed out copies of the By-Way booklet and also copies of the new NPS Auto Tour Route Interpretive Guide: Along the Snake River Plain through Idaho. Suzi said that there's a new archaeologist in Burley, Suzanne Hendrickson, who will be willing to work with us on trail things in her area. Suzi said it's her responsibility to do the signs so let her know if anyone sees signs along any of the routes that need repairs or replacement by IDT.

#### D. Additional Old Business:

1. Jerry turned in his Web Master Position Description to Doug and handed out copies to everyone. Doug reminded the rest of the officers to complete their position descriptions by the April meeting and submit them to him by email and/or hard copy.
2. Amy said she has been asked to give a presentation at a Historical Society meeting and Peg said that Larry & Wally used to have a good slide show presentation for that purpose.
3. The recently shown PBS program, *Pathways of Pioneers: Idaho's Oregon Trail Legacy*, in which Dell and his wagon train were featured was discussed and complimented.

#### 5. New Business:

- A. OCTA Virtual Trails: Jerry talked about a web site project, *Virtual Trail – Online adventures on the Oregon Trail; Virtual Tour on the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Trails*, which will feature the movie, “In Pursuit of a Dream”, along with points of interest on the trails. Reference [http://octa-trails.org/learn/virtual\\_trail/index.php](http://octa-trails.org/learn/virtual_trail/index.php) for information. Jerry has already submitted a list of 10-12 sites across Idaho for consideration. Amy asked if it includes the cutoffs and alternate trails and Bill said that National is focusing on the main trail right now. Jerry suggested that the Chapter form a committee to identify sites and compile information and data for submission to National to include on the web site. It was determined that Jerry would head the committee and Suzi and Amy will assist him with the project.
- B. Trail Dust Newsletter: Jerry provided a “*Trail Dust* Transition Spring 2009” handout, outlining the current status and future proposals for the Chapter’s newsletter, taking into consideration that most people now have internet access and making allowances for recipients of the newsletter who don’t. Jerry stated that the newsletter can be published paperless for free through an [IdahoOCTA@gmail.com](mailto:IdahoOCTA@gmail.com) account to recipients’ email inboxes with a link to the newsletter on the I-OCTA web site. The need was discussed for Regional Reporters to get people involved in reporting trail activities across the State for newsletter content. Send submissions for inclusion in the *Trail Dust* newsletter to the editor, Amy Ballard, at [amy@amyballard.com](mailto:amy@amyballard.com). Amy provided a sample handout of the next *Trail Dust* that is being worked on. It will be issued five times a year and limited to six front and back pages to minimize mailing costs of the hard copies. Mary Alice Wilson volunteered to print and mail the newsletter to the recipients who don’t have internet access.
- C. Energy Projects: Doug and Suzi discussed the various energy projects across Idaho. They discussed their role in cooperating with and informing the companies about the locations of the trail routes as representatives of OCTA and the Idaho Historical Society. The goal is the preservation of trail ruts and sites as power lines, wind turbines, gas lines, geo-thermal, and other forms of energy systems and transmission routes are installed throughout

Southern Idaho. Suzi talked about the different projects and routes and the State's involvement in the application approval process; she will copy Doug on their correspondence that involves activities connected with trail locations.

#### D. Schedule of Events:

1. Lander: Doug talked to Maury Young; most of the OCTA marking is done, except on the reservation. Doug will be driving the Lander Trail on July 18, 2009.
2. Meetings: It was proposed that the April 25 Membership Meeting be held at the Snake River Grill in Hagerman, starting at 10:00 am; Suzi will make the arrangements. It was also proposed that the fall Membership meeting be held October 10, 10:00 am, at the Jerome Library; Peg will make the arrangements. Another proposal was that instead of meeting in Fairfield in the spring, we switch to meeting there in the fall because of the likelihood of more favorable weather.
3. City of Rocks: Jerry received an email from Wallace Keck, City of Rocks NPS Manager, about clearing the trail across the park by removing sagebrush and other vegetation and debris to open it up for better viewing and a walking path. The discussion concluded that it was not feasible because of possible destruction of the ruts. Jerry will forward the email to Suzi and she will make the proper contacts about the issue. There was discussion about an I-OCTA trip in June, reserving the group campground, and getting Don Shannon to lead a tour. <http://www.nps.gov/ciro/index.htm>

#### E. Additional New Business:

1. Suzi offered to do a presentation on Fort Hall after the April 25 Membership meeting.
2. Suzi will attend the annual Stricker Homesite Mother's Day function. [http://www.octa-trails.org/learn/people\\_places/site\\_stricker\\_store.php](http://www.octa-trails.org/learn/people_places/site_stricker_store.php)
3. Jerry said that the Sun Valley Magazine will be doing an article on the California Trail.
4. Amy has been contacted about doing a tour about the Castle Rock murders.
5. Jerry has been asked to do a North Alternate tour of the Rye Grass graves area.
6. Fred talked about the errors on the map on page 10 of the NPS Auto Tour Guide: Along the Snake River Plain through Idaho; the map needs revising and updating for the next printing.
7. Jerry said that he got a call from a consultant who is working with Elmore County on a housing development project of 1,500 homes planned in the Mayfield area. The developers plan on preserving the Oregon Trail and historic buildings on the land. Jerry

will go out with him to identify what's remaining of the trail that hasn't been farmed over; Suzi would like to go out with Jerry because they've gotten some maps on the project.

8. Doug will contact new members to involve them in simple tasks out on the trail to introduce them to I-OCTA and spark their interest in becoming active with trail preservation. Peg mentioned that I-OCTA used to have an "Adopt-a-Trail" program and Doug said that's something he will think about, especially in getting teachers involved.

- 6. Closing the Meeting:** 12:55 pm, Jerry moved to adjourn, Amy seconded and it carried with the meeting adjourned by Doug. Nine members ate lunch next door at the Prairie Kitchen before returning home.

Side note: View Idaho Public Television's web site with photos and information about Dell Mangum's Nampa Convention Wagon Train:

<http://idahoptv.org/outdoors/shows/pathwaysofpioneers/DellMangumTrain.cfm>