

I-OCTA Chapter Meeting, August 6, 2008, Nampa, Idaho

1. Call to Order: By Doug Jenson at 4:25 pm, during the OCTA 26th Annual National Convention at the Nampa Civic Center, Nampa, Idaho. The 42 in attendance were: Doug Jenson, I-OCTA President (Idaho Falls); Jerry Eichhorst, Vice-President & Webmaster (Boise); Bill Wilson, Treasurer & Membership Chairman (Boise); Kay Coffman, Secretary (Boise); James McGill, Preservation Officer & Convention Co-Chair (Nampa); Peg Cristobal, BOD & Historian (Filer). Also attending were Glenn Harrison, OCTA President (Albany OR); Carol & Monty Shobe (Meridian); Dell Mangum (Blackfoot); Norma Dart & Ruth Flaming (Middleton); Brian Bean (Cary & San Francisco CA); Celia Quignon, Julie Baas, Molly Egbert, Thelma Allen, Worth Montgomery, Penny Wilkinson, Phil & Wendy Miller (Nampa); Jan Bowman (Spokane WA); Bonny Chohrach (Emmett); R.W. & Randy Seed (Lava Hot Springs); Don Shannon, Jim & Nathelle Oates, Sarah Despain (Caldwell); Fred & Julie Videon (Bozeman MT); Pat Rhodes & Jim Payne (McCall); Sharon Forrest (Alexandria VA); Marsha Weasma (Barstow CA); Suzi Pengilly, Joni Barry, George Shaber, Loyle Washam, Mary Alice Wilson (Boise); David Fairbanks (Bethesda MD); and Afton Patrick (Twin Falls)
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Doug dispensed with the reading of the minutes during this meeting.
3. Reports:
 - A. Treasurer: Bill read the treasurer's report which shows a CD balance of \$2,321.23 and a checking account balance of \$3,996.36. Bill reported that the Chapter currently has 199 members, 59 new this fiscal year (many of the new ones bought by Jim McGill), plus 11 *Trail Dust* only subscriptions; four memberships have expired. Bill provided handouts for the Treasurer's Report and Membership List to everyone. Bill stated that the large amount in the checking account is partly from the BLM money provided last February to reimburse members for expenses for trail work and the I-OCTA members donated it back to the Chapter, which is giving us a little cushion in the account above the amount provided by membership dues. MOTION by Peg to accept the treasurer's report, 2nd by Phil, carried.
 - B. Website: Jerry gave a short presentation on the website and provided the address for the new members, which is: <http://idahoocta.org/>. Jerry reported that he keeps it updated with the *Trail Dust* newsletters, driving guides for trail sites around the State, introductions to new trail related books recently published, etc. He said to check it out and let him know if there are things we want him to put on the web site. The cost is \$11.95 a month, which he pays and gets reimbursed. Doug and Bill brought up that there were some serious efforts about web sites discussed at the National Board Meeting.
4. Old Business:
 - A. BLM Scenic Byway Booklet & Interpretive Signing: Doug presented the published booklet that Jerry worked on for the last year and a half for which Jerry received a round of applause. Jerry accounted for the copies stating that we have 2,500; 50 contributed to the Owyhee County Historical Society, 800 at home, 1,100 to the BLM to use, and approximately 400 used for the convention. Jerry recommended that to see the trail ruts and sites from Glens Ferry to Bonneville Point, use the booklet which provides step-by-step and turn-by-turn guidance along the route. Jerry complimented the BLM for their contributions of maps and some photos and in piloting the project. Doug reported that the NPS's Idaho portion of the State-by-State guides of the trail is currently at the printer and they're now working on the Nevada guide. Jerry reported that the interpretive signing connected with the BLM Scenic-Byway Booklet will begin next spring

with big map signs at each end and interpretive signs along the route. BLM has about \$20,000 for the actual signs and I-OCTA's involvement will be to assist with the labor of installing them.

B. Preservation: Jim reported that the BLM is putting together some money to work on the Lander Project next July and that this year's grant is being extended to next year for reimbursement of some of the costs. The work will be done from the Wyoming border to Ft. Hall where it comes into the main trail. That will be our main project for next summer, but Jim will continue marking, mapping and rechecking throughout the season and would like input from the new members on their trail interests. Jim Palmer asked about trail access to the Ft. Hall Reservation and McGill stated that Lyle Lambert is working with the Tribal Council on it so that we can put up a few Carsonite markers with the Dept. of Interior sticker. Dell stated that when he came through there with the wagon train, he talked to Rusty Houghts who is now in charge and excited about possibly marking the trail; he has located a new map that shows where they actually crossed the Snake River between the old Ft. Hall and Springfield. Dell said that there will be some changes and that we might actually be able to put some markers up and Doug and Jim Palmer confirmed that also. Jerry stated that he has been out marking the newly discovered North Alternate Trail with the assistance of Bill and Bill commented on Jerry's cart that he uses to carry the markers and pounder. Jim said that people have commented that they haven't found any markers on the trail in the Bonneville Point area and that we need to work on a project to locate the new property owners to get permission for marking; apparently there's a few before the interpretative site but more marking needs to be done. Doug mentioned that there's a movement to buy more land in the City of Rocks and Wally Cox would like a letter of support from I-OCTA which Doug is working on. MOTION by Peg for Doug to write a letter of support from I-OCTA for City of Rocks to buy the land, 2nd by Bill, carried.

C. Elderhostel: Doug reported that the two Elderhostel tours have been cancelled due to high fuel prices but they hope to continue the tours again next year.

D. Report of Expenses and Hours: Doug reminded everyone to write down and submit all their time, mileage and expenses for anything they do in connection with OCTA. It was reported in the National Board Meeting that last year OCTA got credit for 1.75 million dollars of volunteer expenses and hours. It's extremely important because Congress determines trail-related budget allocations to land management agencies that help support OCTA work and projects based on the volunteer report.

E. Co-Ed Database, Paper Trail: Doug reported that the next *News from the Plains* newsletter will have information on how members can access the on-line database of names of emigrants appearing in trail diaries as a benefit of membership rather than being charged a fee. It is requested that we don't give our ID and password to non-OCTA members because it will be available to libraries and others as a commercial product.

F. Old Oregon Trail Fairbanks Medallion Dedication: David Fairbanks, whose father sculpted in 1924 a bronze medallion with counsel and encouragement from Ezra Meeker that depicts the trek of a pioneer family in a covered wagon, reported on the dedications of the placement of two medallions this week. A large historic medallion was placed on a huge sandstone rock on the Staples property at the corner of Eagle Road and Chinden Boulevard on Wednesday morning, August 5. A smaller medallion was placed at Canyon Creek Station on the trail in Elmore County with the arrival of the wagon train at the site on the way to the Convention. Both highly valued medallions were generously donated by the Fairbanks family with attendance at the dedications around 200 each. Mike Faircloth of E Clampus Vitus and their organization and Brian Cook, Staples Manager, were contributors of money and efforts in placing the markers. David said that Ezra Meeker told his father, "You are a fine young sculptor and you use your talent to

memorialize this trail” and that is why the slogan is Ezra Meeker’s old slogan, Old Oregon Trail. He said that Suzi Pengilly said there’s more interest at the Idaho State Historical Society for Fairbanks’ continuing efforts. There was a question by Jim and discussion about whether all the money put into the medallions could be included on the volunteer report along with the hours involved. MOTION by Jim for I-OCTA to pay for an OCTA and I-OCTA membership for a year for Brian Cook and an amendment to also send him a letter of appreciation, 2nd by Mary Alice, carried. MOTION by Suzi to also send a letter of appreciation to Stan Norstebon, owner of the Canyon Creek Station property, for their cooperation, 2nd by Jerry, carried. MOTION by Jerry for I-OCTA to pay for an OCTA and I-OCTA membership for a year for the family of Stan Norstebon, 2nd by Phil, carried.

5. New Business:

A. NPS GPS Machines and Windows Vista: Doug reported that there’s a compatibility problem between the GPS machines and Vista, but that our older ones will be replaced with a newer model that will be compatible with the Vista operating system.

B. I-OCTA Activities for Rest of 2008: Doug asked for suggestions for things to do trail-wise. Dell said that he noticed while making the wagon train trip around Big Butte that some of the BLM wooden signs have been shot up and some have the wrong trail names. Jim said we can contact BLM about it so they can fix them. Sarah Despain suggested we work with the 4th grade Idaho history classes to introduce them to the Oregon Trail. Jim replied that we have an NPS grant to print materials that will be donated to classrooms and we will find opportunities to take the youth on a trip on the trail. Glenn Harrison related a positive experience he had with children on the trail. Jim said that we had 11 teachers sign up for credits for attending the Convention. Afton said that as a long-term 4th grade teacher she suggests that the new teachers get the OCTA member address book and look up members in their area to contact about talking to their students about the trail. Jerry mentioned that a video will be available from Idaho Public Television about the wagon train on the Oregon Trail also; Suzi said that it will be an hour long documentary and Norma said they told her it will be available next March. Brian Bean asked if the Chapter has done a simple demographic analysis by county and asked if we could put something in the next newsletter to show how many members are in each county now that we have so many new members.

C. Combined Fall Board & General Membership Meetings: Doug asked if we want to continue having both of our fall meetings on the same day instead of separate days. Motion by Peg to hold the Fall Board and General Membership meetings on the same day and the same place, 2nd by Afton, carried. Bill mentioned to contact Jerry, the Election Officer, if anyone is interested in being Treasurer next year; election of officers will be held during the membership meeting. A meeting date of Saturday, October 4, was decided upon and Peg and Afton will locate a place in Twin Falls for the meetings; Jim will put the date and location in an issue of *Trail Dust*.

D. Introductions: Everyone in the room introduced themselves; their names are listed above in the Call to Order section of the minutes. Dell related that he got interested in crossing Idaho by wagon train while attending last year’s Convention in Gering, Nebraska. He wanted to drive through the parking lot with his team and wagon and since that didn’t happen, he decided to do it this year in Nampa; he just didn’t know that the parking lot was 456 miles long. He graciously acknowledged Norma Dart’s assistance with the arrangements and stated that he would like to make the trip again on a little different trail. Jim mentioned that Jan Bowman is a descendent of Tim and Jenny Goodale and three more descendants will be present at the Convention this evening.

6. Closing the Meeting: At 5:25 pm, Jim moved to adjourn, Peg seconded and it carried with the meeting adjourned by Doug.