

I-OCTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, APRIL 26, 2008, NAMPA, IDAHO

1. Call to Order: 10:00 AM by Doug Jenson, President (Idaho Falls) at the Dutch Inn/Quick Wok Restaurant, Nampa, Idaho. Doug asked everyone to introduce themselves; the 28 in attendance were: I-OCTA President, Doug Jenson (Idaho Falls); Lyle Lambert, Eastern VP (Pocatello); Jerry Eichhorst, Western VP & Web Master (Boise); Bill Wilson, Treasurer (Boise); Kay Coffman, Secretary (Boise); James McGill, Preservation Officer (Nampa); Board of Directors, Peg Cristobal, BOD & Historian (Filer), Norma Dart (Middleton), Dell Mangum (Blackfoot). Also: Patti McGill (Nampa), Wally Meyer (Eagle), Lynn Porter (Pocatello), Wendy Miller (Nampa), Gil & Jane Wyllie (Boise), Roger Blair (Pendleton OR), Larry & Pat Jones (Boise), Jim Payne & Pat Rhodes (McCall), Joyce Everett (Loomis CA), Mary Ann Tortorich (Pine Grove CA), Ray & Pati Sweet (Nampa), Phil & Marie Schnee (Nampa), Suzi Pengilly (Boise), and Bonny Chohrach (Emmett).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Doug emailed the minutes to be read prior to the meeting. Jerry asked that the minutes be sent to him to include on the web site; the abridged version to Jim for the *Trail Dust*. Motion by Peg to accept the minutes, 2nd by Bill, carried.

Aside: Jane Wyllie donated a number of cassette tapes for recording minutes of the meetings – our thanks to Jane & Gil.

3. Reports:

A. Treasurer: Bill read provided copies of the treasurer's reports for March 29 & April 26 and the membership list. Bill read the reports which show a checking account balance of \$4,822.85 and a CD balance of \$2,321.23. The Idaho Chapter has 186 members, many of the 51 new ones brought in by Jim McGill, plus 12 *Trail Dust* only subscriptions. Bill thanked the members who donated their reimbursed expenditures from BLM/OCTA to I-OCTA. Doug read a message from Mary Shurtliff about a new change that donations of reimbursements must first go to the individual from OCTA and then from the individual to I-OCTA (rather than direct from National to the Chapter). Motion by Peg to accept the treasurer's report, 2nd by Lyle, carried.

B. Website: Jerry reported that the web site is up to date with the convention information and links. He's adding driving guides across the state to help those coming to the convention and wanting to see the historical sites along the way. Mary Ann asked for our web site address so she can forward it to the CA-NV Chapter; Jerry replied that the URL is www.idahoocata.org.

An aside from Doug: Afton Patrick planned on attending today's meeting, but her mother passed away in Moscow last week and she is busy with that – our condolences to Afton.

C. Preservation: Jim reported that quite a bit has been done this summer with marking on the trail in the Wood River area, the Hudspeth/CA Trail, and in catching up with all the marking in time to go back and rechecking them. The BLM is working with us and we're looking at a probable 4-5 days on marking the Lander Trail; we're in contact with the FS on

that also. Jim said that this year's trips are being made as pre-runs for convention tours to provide maps for the buses. We're catching up on some of the mapping; Jerry is working on a new area of mapping for the North Alternate. Lyle reported that it's too muddy yet for the sign and grave fence repair at the parting of the ways area.

D. Convention: Jim reported that 99 people have registered for the convention to date. The comments are good about the programs, meal costs, and other offerings. He visited the McKellip Pond location and was impressed that it's a great place to hold the Saturday BBQ. There will be a trip out there this afternoon after the planning meeting; its north of the sugar factory, on Ustick Road a mile and a half east to Dean Lane. Doug asked Jim how Chapter members are supposed to be tied into doing convention things. Jim replied that names are needed to assist as tour guides; contact the tour guide listed in the convention book if you can help. For everyone attending the afternoon convention planning meeting, Jim will provide a handout showing the committees and subcommittees and will discuss where other help is needed.

E. National Board Meeting: Bill read the list of motions passed at the Sacramento meeting on March 7 & 8 which also included a CA-NV Chapter symposium about the old wagon at Sutter Fort. The motions will be published in the *Overland Journal*.

4. Old Business:

A. BLM Byway Progress & Plans: Jerry reported that on Wednesday he turned over the CD to the BLM that has the 32 pages of text to include with their maps for the booklet. The BLM will prepare it for publication and possibly offer it for free to the public. Wally said that Jerry has done 99% of the work on this and we'll all be pleased with the good job he's done on it; it should be out by the convention. Jim said that both the BLM & NPS will have tables at the convention with lots of publications. The signs will be worked on later with this year's BLM grant.

B. Montpelier Sign: Doug said plans are going ahead for the Ezra Meeker marker sign, as approved by Randy Brown, the National Sign Chairman; however, it will not be installed in time for the convention wagon train. Jim said that the NW Chapter is looking for other lost signs. Roger Blair explained that they are lead pipes from Ezra Meeker's 1910 marking trip and that he and Susan are assisting Dennis Larsen in locating them in the Pendleton area. Jim encouraged us to join the NW Chapter also.

C. Elderhostel: Doug reported that Elderhostel trips will be made in July & September and they need our help as tour guides through the state; apparently when they don't have our help they miss out on a lot of things, so it's good if we're available to help. Jerry is guiding the Glens Ferry to Boise section on July 20 & September 21; they don't have anyone across Wyoming or Idaho until they get to the part that Jerry is assisting with. Jim said that they also need someone to guide them through the Boise valley sites. Reimbursement for gas is available to anyone helping with the tours. Contact Doug or Travis Boley at National if you are available as a guide.

D. NPS Auto Tour Booklet: Doug reported that the Utah & Idaho Chapters received a copy of the booklet for review prior to publishing; it's supposed to be out before the convention. Wally asked who Cheryl Tussey is and Jim explained that she works for AARP and is serving as our publicist for the convention and for the wagon train; she a real professional and doing a good job with it. There was a question from Doug about the wagon train and Dell explained some things; they're leaving from Montpelier on July 9, traveling six days a week, resting on Sundays and arriving in Nampa on August 4.

5. New Business:

A. Lander Road Interest at Stump Creek; Documentation from ISU: This is the 150th anniversary of the Lander Road's construction. Maury Young of the FS in Montpelier has funding for it and is interested in marking and doing other things on it. Lynn Porter talked about the report containing an archaeological survey done by ISU on the road. Lynn provided two copies in binders to I-OCTA and Doug signed a confidentiality agreement for her to give to ISU. The copies were given to Jim and Jerry for the time being, since they've been the ones doing the research. Lynn will submit the bill for the copying to Bill for payment. Jim discussed plans for working on the Lander Road at the best time after the convention before it gets wet and the start of the fall hunting season; if not this year then next year. There was also discussion about getting access to portions of the road.

B. Trips – Convention Dry Runs: Jim reported that he and Jerry are working on the dry run trips for the convention. Jim is in contact with Tom Gray about the second part of the Utter tour and is contacting Gary Franklin about the Cambridge tour. The Owyhee County dry run has already been done. Let Jerry know if you want to go along on his two tour dry runs. Wally asked if the bus drivers will be on the dry runs and Jim said that the Caldwell Bus Company doesn't want to do that but will depend on our maps and our tour guides. Peg asked if the bus company has access to as many buses as we'll need on the tours and Jim said yes. Jim will send emails out as far ahead of the dry runs as possible to notify anyone interested in going on them.

C. Wind Turbines, Power Transmission Lines, Nuclear Power Plant: Suzi Pengilly reported on that there are five major power transmission lines proposed to go through southern Idaho. There is one from the Jim Bridger coal fired plant in Wyoming to Marsing to Umatilla that is being worked on right now; there are four others from N/S and E/W across southern Idaho. The purpose is to get power from the coal fields in Wyoming and Montana over to the coast and down to the Las Vegas area. The one coming from the Jim Bridger plant is Idaho Power's so we'll get some power from that; the others are taking the power across Idaho to other places. Suzi showed a BLM map of the proposed wind farms in Idaho. This is all part of the Federal Energy Law to develop more energy. It's something for I-OCTA to keep an eye on because all of them have potential for visual affects if not physical on the trails in Idaho. Roger seconded what Suzi said because Oregon is being inundated with these also. He suggested that the Chapter develop a policy basically stating that we are not opposed to these and therefore want to be involved in the initial siting and preparation work with both

the companies and the landowners to minimize the visual and physical impacts on the trails; Roger will send us a copy of the NW Chapter's policy. Suzi said I-OCTA can ask to be a consulting party early in the planning by sending a letter to the State of Idaho BLM Office, the FS Regional Office in Ogden, and to the SHIPO Office. She said that Wyoming is experiencing the same thing, so it's something that National OCTA should address. Jim and Wally talked about the new location for the nuclear power plant in Elmore County; will be visible but not near the South Alternate Trail, although power lines will cross the trail.

D. High-potential Sites & Segments: Suzi reported that the NPS management plan shows seven high potential trail segments and 20 other sites. Suzi hasn't had any communication about it; Doug said it was brought up at the National meeting in Sacramento. Roger explained the NW Chapter's involvement with it in Oregon and that they've identified a couple of additional areas to add to it. Doug asked what this means to OCTA and Suzi said that it gives a little more recognition to these areas when working on issues like with the power line routes, etc., although there's no legal protection. Suzi said that it's a good time to look at it and work on it, especially with all these energy projects coming up. Doug read some notes from Dave Welch at the Sacramento meeting stating that the management plan provides for a bi-annual review between NPS and OCTA of the sites and segments and the addition of new ones, but it was never implemented. However, now that we're aware we can get started and get somewhere with it.

E. Additional New Business:

1. Jim – BLM grant money: The grant manager for each grant will be trying to get the paperwork made out while on the projects for reimbursement of expenses so more money can come in. The grant money will be carried over to use next year.
2. Jim – E Clampus Vitus Medallions: Michael Faircloth asked Jim to report on the progress of their medallion that's going in at Staples on Chinden and Eagle Roads; Boise City is meeting on May 28 to consider the permit for that and Michael will be present. They will place a plaque and medallion at Canyon Creek Station also.
3. Jim – Business Fair at NCC: Travis Boley, National OCTA, bought I-OCTA a table (\$450) at the Nampa Convention Center for the May 13th Chamber of Commerce Business Fair. Helpers are needed to be at the table to give information about OCTA and the convention. Jim went to a Chamber meeting a week ago and got two members out of that; there might also be some potential for sponsorships.
4. Jim – Meridian Middle School Jamboree: Jim will set up at the Jamboree on May 16 next to Diane Aldrich's old wagon and talk to the children and parents about the trails; anyone is welcome to join Jim that day.
5. Jim – Colorado Chapter Mapping Training: Jim & Patti are flying to Colorado on June 14 & 15 to provide training on mapping and marking.

6. Wally – Flagstaff Hill Trip: Yesterday Wally accompanied children from Trail Winds School at Columbia Village on a tour to the Flagstaff Hill Oregon Trail Center out of Baker City. Trail Winds is situated on the Oregon Trail and the children enjoyed themselves at the Trail Center. Wally didn't see any OCTA membership brochures at the center; Jim said to let Travis know and he will mail some to them.

7. Jim Palmer – Rupertsland Study Convention: Jim is going to Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, on May 14-17 for the convention (they used to be called the Hudson Bay Company Library Association; they're out of University of Winnipeg). The convention is at the jumping off place for the Northwest Company, near Banff National Park, and it's now the 200th anniversary of David Thompson's travels over the Rockies. Jim would like to take some OCTA information with him in case there's some common interest with other's at the convention. Jim McGill mentioned that Jim Palmer and Norma Dart are doing a workshop at the OCTA convention on the fur traders. Bill mentioned that the Boise Public Library had 20-30 volumes on the Hudson Bay reports in their Idaho Room that Jim might like to look into for research.

8. Roger – OCTA Convention Room Sharing: Roger was notified that there's a single male in the NW Chapter who is willing to share the room cost with another single male at the convention; let Roger know if you know of anyone.

9. Roger – National Award Nominations: Roger is the National Awards Chairman and reminded everyone to get their nominations into him; the awards will be presented at the convention. Tell him who they are and why they deserve the award and Roger's committee will determine the category the nomination fits in. He encouraged us to recognize the local's while we're having the convention here.

10. Jerry – Convention Hats & T-Shirts: Jerry has the shirts and hats with him today; if anyone is interested in them, see him after the meeting.

11. Lyle – Land Donation, Montpelier: Dr. Dane's health has improved and there's a meeting with him and the Montpelier Trail Center next Tuesday about him donating some land at the bottom of Big Hill. Doug told Lyle to tell them we're interested and want to be involved and let us know what we can do to help with it. Jim said that Dave Welch has said that perhaps we can set up a partnership with the Trail Center to work on the land donation. Peg moved that Lyle contact the Trail Center to let them know that we're backing them on the land donation and to let us know what we can do to help, 2nd by Wally, carried.

F. Closing the Meeting: At 11:40 AM, Jerry moved to adjourn, 2nd by Mary Ann, carried with the meeting adjourned by Doug.