



# TRAIL DUST



Idaho Chapter  
Oregon-California Trails Association

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## I-OCTA Board Meeting and Field Trip

On March 27, 2004, The Board members of I-OCTA and other officers met at Filer, ID, hosted by Afton Patrick at the elementary school where she has worked for many years. Many items of business were transacted to begin the new year of activities for the membership. After the meeting most attendees followed Claire and Virginia Ricketts on a short field trip to view a newly discovered grave along the south side of the Snake River near the Oregon Trail route.



I-OCTA MEMBERS AND VISITORS NEAR THE GRAVE SITE  
Eleven members of I-OCTA, and two guests attended, and after the initial approval of minutes, etc. many items of business took the attention of the group. Reports on projects completed last year were accepted, including the finish of the Utter Project, the finished marking of the South Alternate, and the recently begun search for and mapping of the Goodale Cutoff extension to the north of Boise, which had been mentioned to members last year. Other portions of the Oregon Trail, North Alternate, Kelton Road, and the Lander Road were also marked.

The report was given of the contribution by volunteers of 1161 hours, \$1520 in expenditures, and 5795 miles driven to finish the work last year, which had been sent to OCTA for requesting part of OCTA's financial assistance from Congress.

The report of the combined meeting of BLM/I-OCTA representatives in January, and guest representing other preservation groups, set a good beginning for the work  
**RENEW I-OCTA MEMBERSHIP TODAY**  
**\$10 PERSON TO I-OCTA TREASURER**

to be done. The BLM has ordered materials for Trail marking for use across the State.

Other beginnings for the year included the planned renewal of the 1999, expired BLM/I-OCTA *Memo-randum of Agreement*, which details the responsibilities and cooperative efforts in Trail preservation/marketing. The MET Manual will be followed, and needed training is in the planning stages for members from all agencies that will be involved together in preservation.

The new WEB site, [IdahoOCTA.org](http://IdahoOCTA.org) was approved, payment authorized, and Jerry Eichhorst commended for his work on this much needed and valuable asset to I-OCTA. Jane Wylie and Peg Cristobal were appointed as Historians for the Chapter, and a Nominating Committee for arranging for fall officer elections was also then appointed--Wally Meyer, Peg Cristobal, and Doug Jensen from the 3 population centers across the State.

Some discussion and encouragement was offered to motivate the Trail marking groups from the 3 BLM Districts of the State to utilize marking days scheduled or reset days that worked for all when BLM supplies are received. The formerly discussed GIS training has been delayed by Natl. Park Service until basic Trail mapping is done for all routes, alternates, and cutoffs.

Your President will spend April 16-18 in Independence, MO, at the OCTA Board Meeting. Meetings will also occur with Kay Threlkeld of NPS, about training and the cooperative work, and with others in planning for the new position to which he has been appointed by the President of OCTA, National Trail Mapping Committee Chair. This time of information and planning should

give our I-OCTA, as well as other Chapters along the Trail routes, a better grasp of the work ahead in the *primary function* of OCTA, **Trails preservation.**

The summer I-OCTA Activities Schedule was approved with only slight modifications from that proposed and printed in the February *Trail Dust*. This is a very active and aggressive schedule, and demonstrates I-OCTA's level of commitment to the work ahead. We repeat, the *Trail marking day are goals for at least one time each month that marking will be attempted in each State area*, working with the appointed BLM field officers involved. There will be other days as well in some areas, and your President will attempt to assist all 3 groups at times.

After adjournment and lunch together in Buhl, members drove southerly to the Snake River canyon rim to see the new grave, an unknown person, identified in part by an area Canine Search and Rescue dog.

## **NEW TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATED** **Virginia Ricketts**

Some Idaho OCTA board members had the opportunity recently to watch a K9 Search and Rescue dog, trained in Human Remains Detection, verify a grave near the Oregon Trail in Twin Falls County Idaho.

Lynn Porter is a Search and Rescue Dog Handler/Trainer. Hannah, her 8 year old German Shepherd, is trained in Human Remains Detection. Lynn and Hannah have worked throughout south central Idaho alerting on graves. Their work has included working with the BLM in the Clover Creek cemeteries. Last year Lynn contacted IOCTA about a grave site located near the North Side Oregon Trail, Jerome County, requesting an IOCTA member to look at the site. Clair and Virginia Ricketts were to go with Lynn and Hannah to the site but extreme fire danger in the area precluded the trip.



RECENT FOUND ANCIENT GRAVE SOUTH OF BUHL, IDAHO  
The year before Clair Ricketts, while a guest of Scot and Margaret Horton, observed what appeared to be a grave near their home on their property. This grave is on the Snake River canyon rim in the Cedar Draw area, north of the main South Side Oregon Trail route. When the IOCTA spring Board meeting was scheduled in Filer Lynn was invited to bring Hannah to check the grave.

Lynn, and Hannah, provided an outdoor classroom at Scot's and Margaret's home, demonstrating Hannah's ability to identify the site as a grave. Lynn explained the training of K9 dogs with the Human Remains Detection expertise, and the procedures used in the process. Iron probes are also used to test the soil—if the soil has never been disturbed the probe can not be inserted into the ground at all. In this case the probes easily outlined the disturbed area around the collected rocks that mark the site. Outside the site the probes could not be inserted into the ground. Hannah verified the site as valid.

Lynn and Hannah and the Ricketts' are planning to go in the near future to check some other probable grave sites along the North Side Oregon Trail in Jerome County.

We sincerely appreciate the hospitality extended by Scot and Margaret Horton to the IOCTA Board members, and also for their interest in and protection of the grave at their home. The person(s) buried there in that final resting place, overlooking the Snake River and its awesome canyon, are of course unknown, but fortunately will be protected from disturbance.



LYNN PORTER'S HANNAH, NEAR THE VERIFIED GRAVE

## **RENEW MEMBERSHIPS IN APRIL FOR CONTINUAL *TRAIL DUST*, FIELD TRIP PRIVILEGES, AND OTHER BENEFITS! \$10 per person, to Bill Wilson, Treasurer, [5204 Waterwheel Dr, Boise, ID 83703-7301](mailto:5204WaterwheelDr@boiseid83703-7301) MAY FIELD TRIP-NORTH ALTERNATE**

This I-OCTA Field Trip will occur on May 22, 2004. (See the Activities Schedule) The group will **meet at King Hill, ID, at the intersection of Meridian and Old King Hill Rd.**, on the north side of the present King Hill Loop Highway. This is accessible from Exit 121 at Glens Ferry, from west, or Exit 129, just east of the Snake River bridge about 10 miles west of Bliss.

This is a driving tour, and will also be used as an **updating the carsonite markers** work day. We will travel following the route back to the area of Bennett Road, SE of Mountain Home, ID. Lunches and drinks necessary!

## 2004, I-OCTA Approved Schedule

**April 24**—Spring I-OCTA Membership meeting, at Burley, ID—10:00 AM – 1:00PM, Terry and Karla Barnes reserved Price's Café, south end of Overland. 2444 Overland Ave. 678-5149-**MARK CALENDARS!**  
----P.M., Milner ruts Field Trip [FT]

**May 8**—Trail ruts marking

**May 22**—North Alternate, King Hill to north FT and rut marking (See info last page)

**June 5**—Trail ruts marking

**June 19-20**—Big Hill FT, Montpelier, ID, FT and marking Georgetown area ruts

**July 10**—Trail ruts marking

**July 24**—Granite Pass FT, assistance of Gar Elison

**Aug. 9-14** OCTA Convention, Vancouver, WA

**Aug. 28**—Trail ruts marking (Hot weather?)

**Sept. 11**—Trail ruts marking

**Sept. 25**—North Alt. FT north of Bennett Road, **partial hike**, Teapot Dome FT, no marking

**Oct. 9**—Fall Members meeting, Mountain Home, ID--Danskin Peak-Goodale ruts FT

**Oct. 23-24**—Hudspeth Cutoff ruts marking trip

### Additional Related Activities:

Owyhee Co. HS Field Trip Schedule available! Planning in early part of June, pre-Granite Pass, planning trip with Gar Elison, Utah

**April 20** Goodale/Big Butte marking, planning trip with Del Mangum for Bingham Co. HS, including Trail marking from Springfield to near Big Butte

**June 5-6** Outpost Days, Murphy, Idaho

**June 24-25** Trail College Class, ISU, Hagerman and Glens Ferry, Jim and Patti McGill, instructors

**June 21-26** Del Mangum (Blackfoot) Wagon Trip, *requesting I-OCTA member presentations*

**August 21** All day activities/ memorial at the Ward Massacre site near Middleton, ID, (150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) by I-OCTA, Canyon Co. His. Soc., Can. Parks Dept., Can. Co. Commissioners, etc.

**September 18** Silver City, ID, Open House

**We will have other late and last minute trips to various areas in working with the BLM, which will be announced by email at times—soon the Goodale on north of Emmett, ID, exploration and mapping!**

**May 15, 2004, Owyhee County HS Field trip to Three Fingers Butte, Owyhee Mts. near Succor Creek Canyon, Oregon! Visitors welcome, information from 467 4853 or 495 2319, or [jwmcgill@pobox.com](mailto:jwmcgill@pobox.com)**

## APPOINTED HISTORIANS' REQUESTS

The two newly appointed Historians, Jane Wiley and Peg Cristobal, are requesting photos from others. They would like any historic photos from past field trips, with pictures identified, dated, places and identifiable people therein. Put return addresses on back of mailed photos,

or scan and send email: Peg at [crisp@mindspring.com](mailto:crisp@mindspring.com)

**Jane Wiley**  
306 Parkway Dr.  
Boise, ID 83706-4014  
208 343 7198

**Peg Cristobal**  
616 Midway Box 27  
Filer, ID 83328-0027  
208 326 4755

Send photos with a list of captions, and an address label on the captions too. Jane said, "People other than the photographers can write captions too. Information and/or personal impressions of the places would be good also."

Pictures can be made from slides also, at Cosco, or you can loan them to the ladies. Bring pictures to the Spring I-OCTA meeting at Burley, ID, April 24.

## WHAT IS A "GREENLINE?"

At a recent meeting that Wally Meyer and your President had with Dean Shaw, BLM contact in the Boise area, Wally reminded this writer that there was a section of Oregon Trail left unmarked from last year between two marked sections. The approximately 3 miles of Trail SE of Canyon Creek and north of Mountain Home, near Emigrant Road, had to be hiked through an almost impassible to vehicles rocky area.

Knowing that no carsonite post were yet available for the marking Wally asked about even a few markers for that strip of Trail. He was told that the only thing the BLM had was some of those "Greenline" markers that a group of Eagle Scouts attempted to use in rocky ground last year, on the Gabica Ranch route of the South Alt.



EMBOSSSED LETTERING READ "FRAZERS AXLE GREASE" ON THIS METAL CAN LID FROM THE OREGON TRAIL RUTS If one will imagine trying to drive a limp, wet noodle into hardpan, he gets the idea of what a Greenline marker can be like. They are concave in shape and much thinner than our good ribbed carsonite posts that we now use. They can whip to and fro, and often the heavy metal pounder finds nothing solid to bang on but the shin bone of the worker! This writer's right shin bone has two skin breaks scabbed over this very morning!

Yesterday, April 6, Wally, Bill Wilson, and this writer took a hike! Using some of the Greenlines, we placed 13 new markers on that section of Trail. Twelve more were placed on the connector that had been used by wagons from the Kelton Road to cross to the Trail before the Kelton had to pass through the difficult and rocky Canyon Creek ruts. We hope for carsonites very soon!



ROCKY RUTS, THE KELTON-OREGON TRAIL CONNECTOR, VIEW WEST AT THE TRAIL INTERSECTION IN THE BRUSH

**Last minute!! Trail marking—Goodale east end and McTucker Road—Meet Albertsons/McDonalds parking lot 8:30 AM, April 20, 2004, Blackfoot, ID. Long day--lunches, drinks, and Trail “fellowship!”**

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**

Ross Marshall, Chapters Committee Chair, and OCTA are requesting that I-OCTA appoint a Membership Chairman to communicate with Joyce Bolerjack, OCTA Membership Chair. She lives in Oregon. There have been many good methods accumulated on a list of

suggested ways to increase membership in local Chapters and OCTA, and this President has that list.

If any I-OCTA member would like to volunteer to take this position and obtain the list, please contact me through email or by phone. I will be communicating with some members to see if we can fill that needed position, with someone who had this kind of interest and would do this job for the benefit of the Association.

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**I-OCTA OFFICERS**

- James McGill** - - President/Editor, *Trail Dust*
- Douglas Jenson** - - Vice-President
- William Wilson** - - Treasurer
- Afton Patrick** - - Secretary
- Walter Meyer** - - Trail Preservation
- Jerry Eichhorst** - - Webmaster, [IdahoOCTA.org](http://IdahoOCTA.org)

**Board of Directors**

- Peggy Cristobal**, Filer, ID--**Fred Dykes**, Pocatello
- Don McCarter**, Boise--**Clair Rickets**, Jerome
- Gil Wyllie**, Boise

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**[VISIT SOON—IdahoOCTA.org](http://IdahoOCTA.org)**

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**[RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TIODAY](#)**

**CHECK YOUR *TRAIL DUST* LABEL TO SEE IF THE DATE INDICATED IS APRIL 2004!!**

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# Idaho Chapter - Oregon-California Trails Association

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

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5204 Waterwheel Drive

Boise, ID 83703-3130

208-343-7301

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership in I-OCTA brings you the newsletter, "TRAIL DUST", and you are encouraged to participate in Chapter activities, which include several field trips per year, as well as the opportunity to help with trail preservation and trail research and education. The membership year is April through March and annual dues are \$10.00 per person.

## OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION



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P.O. Box 1019 / Independence, MO 64051-0519  
Phone: 816/252-2276 FAX 816/836-0989 E-Mail: octahqts@gvi.net  
 Dr.  Mr.  Mrs.  Ms. (Please check)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Payments to OCTA are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### New Membership Application Membership Categories

- Individual \$35/year
- Family \$40/year
- Supporting \$60/year
- Patron \$100/year
- Institutional \$250/year
- Life \$750
- Corporate \$1,000/year
- Student\* \$15/year
- Gift

#### Payment Method:

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or

Visa  Mastercard

Charge # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*Memberships are available for full-time students at accredited colleges/universities, with verification. Student memberships are limited to four years.