



TRAIL DUST



Idaho Chapter
Oregon-California Trails Association

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MAPPING, MARKING, MONITORING TRAINING—AND NEW MEMBERS!

The April 14-16 training session at Mountain Home, ID, was a success even though this was the experimental attempt to the beginning of a program that will lead to all the OCTA Chapters being trained in a similar way. We record this idea of Chapter “training” with full knowledge that there are members of OCTA who have been doing the three M’s for a long time, and are proficient workers with skills and abilities that some of us trainers, at least *this writer*, are now learning. The planned workshops are useful for some participants to share their skills with others, to unify the way that all Chapters are carrying out this work and to update information for everyone involved. The *MET Manual* and other information sources are the important guidelines for this work. Some participants were new to OCTA, and are joining the Association.

McGill Photo



GAIL CARBIENER DISCUSSED MAPPING QUAD MAPS AND MARKING WITH (L TO R) SUSAN NORTHCUTT, ROSEMARY MOUSER AND JAN LIDBACK, ALL 3 NEW TO OCTA

Besides the staff that led the training there were fifteen participants. Four BLM officers attended—**Stan McDonald**, Idaho State Cultural Resources Officer, and **Brian Wallace**, both from Boise, **Jeff Ross**, Twin Falls, and **Bethany Crenshaw**, Idaho Falls. We appreciate these people and the good cooperative work that we have developed with the BLM in the past 2 years. **Dick Pingrey**, President of OCTA, also attended from Washington State.

Four new Mountain Home ladies, including **Elaine**

Rex and the three pictured above, began the training and an introduction to the work of OCTA. We hope for continued involvement by these new members.

Chuck Hornbuckle, very experienced NW OCTA Chapter Officer, came and assisted as well as participated in the training. Five members of I-OCTA attended for training, learned some new information and prepared for the summer MMM work ahead. All have been very involved in trail marking and activities participation in the past.

I-OCTA OFFICERS

Douglas Jenson - - President jensondd@ida.net
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Peg Cristobal & Jane Wyllie - - Historians (below)

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DEEP RUT & ROCKS, AT LEFT, MOVED BY EMIGRANTS FROM TRAIL OVER TIME —N. OF CANYON CR. STATION



LARGE ROCK, ONCE IN THE TRAIL BOTTOM & MOVED OUT, WITH WELL WORN WAGON WHEEL WEAR GROVE

(MMM Continued) **Dave Welch** Preservation Officer for OCTA and OCTA Board member, and his fully-involved-all-the-time-assistant **wife, Wendy**, worked to organize and get funding for the training, and led the same. **Leslie Fryman**, Calif-Nev OCTA Chapter, Citrus Heights, CA, **Gail Carbeiner**, NW-OCTA, Bend, OR, and this I-OCTA Preservation Officer, led in phases of the training. It can honestly be said that this writer learned at least as much as he trained others! McGill Photos



OREGON TRAIL ROUTE TRAVELED BY PARTICIPANTS NORTH OF TEAPOT DOME—AT RIGHT IN BACKGROUND

On the last day of training the skills learned were put into practice by participants as they traveled and hiked parts of the Oregon Trail, 6-7 miles north of Mountain Home, ID. The best weather day fell on that Saturday, and members of the training team, with *Certified Trail Preservation Specialist* diplomas in hand, practiced a little marking/mapping!

Besides the practice work on portions of the Oregon Trail, sights and scenes were enjoyed—some participants getting a real trail experience for the first time ever. Some spectacular rut-traces, left by historic wagon trains, mark the area of the outing.

Watch for MMM training to come to your state and Chapter, every Chapter of which will be the object of the training over the next 3 years. It is hoped that the training will be multiplied as trained members become trainers to other people in their Chapters who cannot attend the formal training, and that already proficient members can update their skills!

Doug Jenson Photo



JAN LIDBACK DROVE HER FIRST CARSONITE MARKER ON THE TRAIL AS PRES. DICK PINGREY ASSISTED(?)

I-OCTA Spring Member Meeting

Membership Meeting of IOCTA April 23, 2005
Jerome, Idaho [Edited Minute-Report]

The IOCTA Spring Membership meeting was called to order by President Doug Jenson, Idaho Falls, at 10:08 with twelve members and twelve guests present. OCTA president Richard Pingrey, Selah, WA, and OCTA preservation officer Dave Welsh and Wendy Welsh, Steilacoom, WA, were among the visiting guests.

Doug read a report from Web Master Jerry Eichhorst. The Web Site contains 72 pages with numerous web connections. It was suggested that we look into using National OCTA's server, which would not cost us for the site. National OCTA is linked to our site.

Wendy Miller, Nampa, IOCTA librarian reported that she has sent in a proposal to Jeanne Watson concerning a branch Merrill Mattes library, but has not heard back. Historians, Jane Wyllie, Boise, and Peg Cristobal reported that the history of the First Twenty Years of IOCTA, on a CD, is in the finishing stages.

Jim McGill, Nampa, reported on the Mapping Workshop held in April at Mountain Home. There were 20 people present for the three day training. Four BLM personnel were present. Jim reported that trail diary entries must be included on the quad maps. Jim reported there is still the GIS training in Salt Lake, May 11-13.

Howard Ross Cramer has a book of emigrant quotes out called Emigrant Trails of Southeastern Idaho. Wally reported that there is also a collection of diary entries compiled by Charla Meacham for the Salmon Falls Creek to Idaho/Oregon border. Jeff Ross, [BLM, is going to] to get us copies. Peg Cristobal made the motion to have Bill Wilson [Treasurer] buy or pay for copies of these reports/ books as soon as they are available. [The measure carried.]

Under OLD BUSINESS, Dick Pingrey explained the OCTA membership structure. He stressed the responsibilities of being a non-profit organization, *including insurance and liability considerations as well as financial reporting*. There has been an increase in all dues. New membership brochure forms will include a check-off for the Chapters. There are no voting rights in the local chapter unless a member belongs to OCTA.

Dick said there needs to be more input from chapters, by encouraging the National Board of Chapter presidents, making recommendations for improvements, coordinating outings with neighboring chapters, and OCTA creating a presidents' fund for travel to pay for chapter presidents' meetings. National is also looking for an

OCTA Historian. That job description is to collect and compile newsletters, photos, and information from the chapters at a central location.

[Dick announced that] Bill Wilson, Boise, is now chairman of the OCTA [Library] committee. Wally suggested that the National might consider creating displays with several components about the TRAIL. It might have the national information, state information and then the local information, to be easily displayed in museums, visitor centers and businesses along the trail.

Fred Dykes, Pocatello, asked if the national publication on Oregon Trail graves had been critiqued by the chapter presidents before publication. It was reported that it was not an official OCTA publication, but compiled by Randy Brown and sold through the OCTA book store as were many other books.

Dave Welsh gave a report on Monitoring, Mapping and Marking. The preservation structure is local people monitoring local areas. He recommends local visits to trails one to four times a year; report these visits to the state chapter preservation officer, watch newspapers for public notices, take pictures of six to ten spots from the same place each year, know the local BLM, Forest and Soil Conservation people; report on public lands, and educate the private sector. Mapping is continual. There needs to be more than one set of identical maps made by the chapter. Idaho's BLM would prefer that I-OCTA do the marking due to a shortage of personnel.

Jeanette Meyers from *Friends of Stricker* reported that they are still waiting for markers to be replaced at Rock Creek. Arrangements were made to have that done before their Mother's Day celebration. Afton Patrick, Twin Falls, gave a brief report on the North Rim Park complex. There is a BLM agreement to develop the area north of Shoshone Falls into a recreational area. The historic importance of the area needs to be monitored.

The possibility of Idaho hosting the 2007 convention was discussed. A vote of the membership was taken. The convention in Idaho for 2007 failed (11 no / 1 yes). Wally Meyer and Gil Wyllie, Boise, reported on the update of the by-laws. It will be ready for the fall membership meeting.

Dave Welsh explained the Cost-Share Program. Each needs a project leader, and then be signed by the chapter president. The paper work and documentation is the most important part of the project. Our current Cost Share project was for \$1800 [written and funded by the Idaho BLM] for markers, and has been completed.

Doug gave a brief report on the Denver meeting early

this spring. Every thing covered there had already been discussed at this meeting. The *revised calendar of events* was presented and amended [and approved by the body.]

Eulalie Langford of Montpelier presented a proposal to fund a sign explaining about [Whitman missionaries' trail passage] and Ezra Meeker's crossing in Montpelier. Wally Meyer made a motion to explore the possibilities of OCTA and IOCTA paying for a sign subject to wording approval. Don McCarter amended the motion to "pay for" the sign upon approval. Dave Welsh will notify the Meeker Foundation of OCTA's intentions.

Lunch followed at the Double-A Café in Jerome with an afternoon tour to the North Side Trail Recreation Area.

Submitted by:

Afton Patrick, I-OCTA Secretary

**After the spring meeting of 4/23/05, 15 members and guests toured part of the new [historic area] North Rim Park. This is a co-operative venture of BLM and Jerome County, to save the area. We started out on the Shoshone Falls Road just south of the Perrine Bridge. This road is just north of the North Side Trail, and along the way we stopped and viewed the Evil Knevil jump site, which is on the south side of the Snake River.

Then on to a north overlook of Shoshone Falls, which is almost dry due to the drought. We also viewed Preacher rock where some early religious revivals were held, and people from Twin Falls would come over on the ferry for an outing. Going on toward the east you could see marked trail to our left (North). When we came up to a rocky spot we stopped, and a talk was given by Donavon Yingst about growing up in the area. McGill



DONAVON & AFTON PRESENT HISTORY TO THE GROUP

Afton Patrick spoke on the Devil's Corral. The Indians would go there for water from many springs and water holes on the north side of the canyon in the early days. It became a horse thieves' corral for stolen horses and cattle, then it was a farm where the Kinsey family raised produce and would harvest it in the evenings, take it by wagon up to Shoshone City, and sell to the Railroads.

We had planned on proceeding up to Devils Corral

after rearranging the people into higher clearance vehicles, But looking to the west and the BIG Rain cloud approaching we had to high-tail it out. Peg Cristobal

"PARTING OF WAYS" WORK DAYS

On May 4, Lyle Lambert and your Preservation Officer scouted the Oregon Trail ruts west of the Parting of the Ways (California and Oregon Trails) near Raft River, in **preparing for a field trip two weeks later.** *A lot of work is going to be required* to reset the cement post markers that mark the 8 miles of Oregon Trail! We do want to make this an enjoyable trip, but will also need to set many posts along the route, cement the bases, and clean up broken posts and cement pieces litter.

Lyle Lambert has been appointed as the *outing leader.* The trip is scheduled for the weekend of **May 21-22,** requiring more than one day for those who can help for two days. There is a possibility, however, that some workers will begin **Friday, May 20, and do some of the preparation** and resetting of posts near the eastern end of the section of trail, nearest to the trails separation area.

With a little help that Friday we can be ready to move along more quickly the next day. For those who can attend only on Saturday or the weekend we can work from the southern access road intersection to the west along the trail. Then each one attending will see the whole area, with the exception of that mile or so that was covered during last year's field trip. McGill



LYLE LAMBERT--ONE OF MANY PRONE CEMENT POSTS

It is a spectacular route with well preserved trail ruts through canyons, over many basalt ridges that are much worn down by wagon wheels, and across a very scenic and green area. this spring! *These ruts are closed to vehicle use!* Thus only this working group will be able to follow the ruts with limited vehicles, and do the job that needs to be done for trail preservation and protections.

This is a trip that will need pre-notification by attendees, numbers with each group/vehicle and *a firm commitment to be there if you indicate you will give assistance.* We must do everything to *insure rut protection and still provide for adequate transportation* for all who can help without damaging the area by using excessive vehicles.

Please Notify Doug Jenson, Lyle Lambert, or this Editor/ Preservation officer, by email or phone, as soon as possible. We will be ride sharing from the parking area just off Yale Road, to the south of the trail ruts. We can use some extra post-hole diggers, filled water containers for cement mixing, and willing helpers!

Saturday, May 21, attendees will meet at the **Raft River Store road intersection with Yale Rd., on the south side of Exit 15 from I-86, at 9:00 a.m. If you can help on that prior Friday, let us know soon to find the meeting place.**

Overnight accommodations can be made in Burley, ID, (Motel 8), or in American Falls, both about the same distance from Raft River (25-30 miles).

Date Changed for California/Granite Pass

The scheduled field trip over Granite Pass, along the California Trail, led by Peg Cristobal, has been changed from **June 25-26 to June 18-19**. This two-day trip along the Trail from the area of the City of Rocks, over Granite Pass, and on across southern Idaho into and across part of Nevada, is a camp-out on that Saturday night.

“I [Peg] talked with Bill Wilson and we decided to meet just **west of the Yale Overpass (exit 237), at 10 a.m. on June 18**. This is the first overpass [SE] after the turnoff from I-86 to I-84, toward Salt Lake. This will take us on over to old highway 30, now known at 81.

Bring CB’s, quite necessary, and we will plan on camping out, but people can return to Burley for the night if they want. This will be a dry camp so bring water and food, and hope we have a good time. When we are finished on Sunday we will come out on highway 93 south of Jackpot. It should not be late when we get done, plenty of time for everyone to get home.” [Peg]

Many sites along the trail have been marked with the Trails West railroad iron marker posts and signs. And register cliff is found along the route where the emigrant names are disintegrating on the sandstone bluff. Viewing of this multi-named ridge shows fewer names each year!

IN ADDITION: -----

A planned, slower, **trail-marking group** had planned to be working on the same days, before this change. The trail marking group will now be working the trail the week following the *pleasure field trip*, **on June 23-24**.

James and Patti McGill and Lyle Lambert will be marking *only across the Idaho portion of the California Trail*. If others would like to help with this marking we will *need names of helpers soon*, because we will begin earlier, **during the week—June 23-24**. If others can help and go on those weekdays, we will be changing days for

the convenience of marking helpers. Let us know which would be best for you if you choose to assist this effort!

TRAIL DAMAGE—MOTORCYCLES!

In April, I-OCTA staff members were contacted by a conscientious Glens Ferry area rancher, with a BLM grazing right that had been in his family for 50 years. A person need only drive into Allen Thompson’s ranch, just south of the Paradise Valley exit from I-84, to begin to understand his concern about trail damage that is being done on both the Oregon Trail and the Kelton Freight Road ruts, SW of his ranch! His ranch is a beautiful place, neat and well kept, and reflects his pride in being one of the outstanding men who superbly represent his profession.

Allen and his family have also been some of the best stewards of the public land, and they have been fortunate to have range for cattle for the last half-century. When Allen drives his guests out to see the horrendous damage that is being done by hoards of motorcycles, relentlessly tearing up natural foliage, geographic splendor, **and historic trails** alike, it only takes a thimble full of shared sensitivity to empathically experience his deep pain!

McGill



AN EYESORE, WITHIN VIEW & SEVERAL TIMES ACROSS TRAIL RUTS—SPEAKING MORE THAN 1000 WORDS!

Patti and this Editor were privileged to ride along with Mr. Thompson on May 7, and see so much more that can be represented by photographs here. The BLM has been made aware, and two representatives have seen much of the damage, however little commitment has yet been assured for major intervention and prevention!



PATTI STOOD IN THE PRISTINE OREGON TRAIL RUTS (ARROW), MARKER AT LEFT, WHERE MOTORCYCLE-WORN SCARS (RIGHT) CUT THROUGH THE OLD TRAIL!

Four carsonite markers replaced prior broken markers on about one mile of the Oregon Trail, down from the high flat toward Rosevear Gulch and Three Island Crossing. This was done in hopes that immediate cycle riders, who may not have known that the trail route was so historic, might show respect and avoid further damage! However, the only insurance for protection for the trails here seems to be a complete ban on motorized vehicles, and the moving of *allowable use areas* far from the trail ruts!

Many years have passed since the whole area of trail routes, from the Fossil Beds at Hagerman to the south side of the Snake River, had been marked. Few markers remain. This is an important area that I-OCTA and the BLM need to make plans to remark, as soon as possible.

The Federal Trails Protection measures call for *not only the preservation of the trail ruts, but also the protection of the viewshed* along the trails from damage and clutter. Everyone with responsibility and influence needs to get involved and help put an end to this irresponsible harm. Allen Thompson needs to be commended/recognized for his tireless efforts to bring attention to this problem.

Goodale North, April 30th Field Trip!

The field trip that *initiated many others to come* along the 1862 Crane Creek miners' and emigrants' variant,

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north of Emmett, ID—which almost completely replaced Tim Goodale's route—allowed nearly 20 people to share, as a group, the newest discovered trail ruts near Haw Creek. The trip also followed the many miles of pristine ruts along the route, all the way to and across Little Willow Flat, and gave some participants their *first historic trail experience ever!* Some participants were like children at play in their pleasure and awe!

Many of these people are members of the Gem County Historical Society, and the introduction to this trail stimulated some to join our OCTA group, and others to subscribe to Trail Dust. Some enjoyed the ruts so much that they hiked sections, the first for about a mile across the Haw Creek area. This trip helped in the planning of the similar **I-OCTA field trip scheduled for July 30.**

RENEW I-OCTA MEMBERSHIP---NOW
Does the **blue date** on your label still read "Apr. 2005?"
Please send your \$10 (for individuals) to Bill Wilson, Treasurer, 5204 Waterwheel Drive, Boise, ID 83703-3130. Trail Dust subscribers, please send your \$10, your name, address, phone number, & email to Bill!

THANKS to you two for Trail Dust writing help!