

I-OCTA Members have Membership in National OCTA. All Dues Paid OCTA, Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519
XIX Issue 3 May 2007 James McGill, Editor jwmcgill@pobox.com
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CASTLE ROCKS ROUTE OF THE JEFFREY-GOODALE CUTOFF ED.

The 2008 trail season began with an April 14 trip to part of the route begun by John Jeffrey in 1852, and then followed by the Goodale Train in the fall of 1862. The route was sparsely used during the decade of years between, but then in 1863 and on that trail saw the numbers of emigrants increase dramatically. One area on that section marked this spring was quite impressive to those who went along, eight members of I-OCTA having the privilege of this early outing. Near the Castle Rocks pass the wagons had been forced to cross some mammoth sized granite boulders, one hanging over a ravine and sloped toward that deep wash.



NORMA DART, NEW I-OCTA/OCTA MEMBER, STANDS IN THIS DEEP-WORN WAGON TRACK

Parts of this trail section are covered by the present road, but almost a mile of the trail runs parallel to the road, and if ever marked before no sign of those

markers remained. Standing upon this section of the trail it was remembered that about 350 wagons of the Goodale Train passed over this boulder the same day,

probably requiring several hours to cross over and on down the grade ahead. The next boulder was also as impressive, having the row of heavy smaller boulders rolled to the ravine side to keep wagons from sliding sideways on the granite and off into its depth.



KAY COFFMAN LOOKS AT THE BOULDER WALL

Nearly 18 miles of the trail finished, a gap between two earlier marked trail sections was filled. The two other planned field trips for July 21, west of Arco and over Bradley Pass to the Picabo area, and October 20, Wood River to Fairfield, will finish the marking of the J-G from near the old Fort Hall site to Ditto Creek. A possible hike down Ditto Creek sometime during the summer could finish this first part of the route attributed to both Jeffrey and Tim Goodale across Idaho. (Anyone interesting in this **all downhill, once in a lifetime** hike to finish that trail route?)

The trail marking began by replacing three of the old decals with only the "Goodale" name with new ones that now give credit to both men. The old markers were on a bit of the trail near High Prairie Road, and the old decals will eventually be replaced on all of that part of Goodale's route. His new trail NW of Boise and across Oregon will eventually have only his name!



JIM VANCE BACK INTO THE TRAIL "SWING"

Jim Vance had gone on a Goodale tour to the north of Emmett a couple of years ago with the Editor, but then Hurricane Katrina interrupted his life for a long time. He is an insurance adjuster and had to go to the New

Orleans area. (No he is not with the rip-off company of crooks you have been hearing about in the news!) Jim got to pound some new markers on his first trip out on the trails since his return to Idaho.

Several trail sections that required short hikes, and some heavy brush driving was endured by every faithful rut-nut. The weather was a little windy but a good spring day for it was dry. On the drive along the road from Dixie Station, at the corner where the road intersects with Anderson Dam Rd., west for about 4.5 miles, a few new markers were placed on the present road that covers most of the trail. One section of the trail crosses SW on a section of BLM land, and then turns westerly on private range land. We are seeking permission to mark that 2 miles of trail when possible.

Other members that enjoyed the trail-day were Bill Wilson, Gil and Jane Wyllie and the McGill couple.

TRAVIS BOLEY, OCTA'S MANAGER

On April 27, Travis Boley, OCTA Manager from Independence, MO, Association headquarters, visited the Boise Valley to assist the Idaho Chapter and NWOCTA in some planning for the August 2008 Convention in Nampa. After an early visit to the Civic Center in Nampa, where the Convention will be held, and then the Chamber of Commerce to elicit some assistance for the advertising literature, he and three I-OCTA members also visited Caxton's Publishing in Caldwell. Caxton's will also assist with convention involvement and will have a table in the book room.

In the afternoon the group met in Boise with some of the State Tourism Development Office's personnel, and other related group representatives. The Tourism Office will be sending a representative, Cathy Bourner, to the 2007 Convention in NB, to assist in material dispersion and advertising for our Nampa Convention. She has been meeting prior with the Planning Committee, and has contributed much to the planning.

Several contacts were made by Travis, which will help in the continued work toward the 2008 Convention.

MAY 9, 2008, Next Convention Planning

At the Nampa Civic Center, 311 3rd St. South, on the above important date the Planning Committee with all Sub-committees for the 2008 OCTA Convention will again meet. Some added members from several cooperating history-related groups have planned to enrich the committee with their added talents, dedication and their offering for the total program related activities that their groups can add for the convention attendees. The whole plan is shaping up very nicely. Come along.

I-OCTA Spring Board Meeting, March 24, 2007, Twin Falls, Idaho

1. Call to Order: Doug Jensen at 10:07 am, Twin Falls, Idaho. 12 in attendance: Doug Jensen, I-OCTA Pres.; Lyle Lambert, V-P; Jerry Eichhorst, V-P & Webmaster; Bill Wilson, Treas. & Membership Chair; Kay Coffman, Sec.; James McGill, Preservation.; Virginia Ricketts; Jane Wyllie, Hist. and Board; Hist.--Peg Cristobal, Wally Meyer, Gil Wyllie, Clair Ricketts.
2. Minutes: Doug sent the I-OCTA Fall Board Meeting minutes out by email for reading prior to the meeting. Approved.
3. Reports.

Treasurer: Bill read the treasurer's report and a handout of paid members. Currently 110 members of I-OCTA, with 13 new this calendar year, 16 paid to receive *Trail Dust* only. Pres. Doug: Discussion at the National Board meeting about the software for keeping track of the membership information; it costs \$3,000. California & another chapter is considering providing OCTA with the finances for it. Jim: two Carters, new members, one the great-granddaughter and the other the g-g-granddaughter of Timothy & Jeannie Goodale. Report approved.

Preservation: Jim reported about talks to mark the Oregon Trail SE of Boise, and a group who is putting in a small Trail Head where the trail will be preserved through a housing development. Jim said a pyramid sign that was installed on *Goodale's Cutoff* on Hill Road in Boise was not designated as such and should be so named. Jim is working through all of Goodale's Cutoff, coordinating with the BLM in Baker to organize another Oregon outing. Wally said that on the Goodale Cutoff north of Eagle, he's been to a dozen meetings of various groups; there will be protection of the Goodale Cutoff on BLM land, and private as much as possible. Jerry reported that the Hot Springs ruts, east of Rattlesnake Creek, were obliterated by driving motorized vehicles over them when muddy.

Mapping: Jim will be in Lawrence KS the first weekend in May doing training for three chapters. The mapping here continues as new ruts are found on the Goodale Cutoff; Jim is waiting for feedback from the U. of Utah on GPS mapping that has already been done.

Website: Doug complimented Jerry on the I-OCTA web site. Doug suggested that Jerry discuss his questions and concerns with Travis next month about integrating our web site with the National web site. Jerry would like to do different areas of the trail with pictures and text in a way that people could print off. Jerry said he has about 10 year's worth of *Trail Dust* to scan and enter on the web site also.

National Board Meeting: Bill reported on the National Board meeting in Independence MO. Doug reported that OCTA's expenditures are exceeding income for the last three years, primarily because the national conventions aren't bringing in as much money as projected and from falling membership resulting in less dues. Discussion about reimbursement of National Board members and Chapter Presidents for attending the bi-annual National Board meetings.

2008 Convention: Jim reported on the planning; a few of the subcommittees are needing more help, but there's a number of outside people helping, some whom are also joining OCTA. A contract has been signed with the Nampa Civic Center; four motels are blocking rooms for us with only two of them requiring a contract. We're working on shuttle service and with bus companies on the tours. Wednesday, May 9 is the next planning meeting. With Cathy Bourner's help from Idaho Tourism we will have lots of handouts to take to the '07 convention; let Jim know if you can help at the table.

4. Old Business:

Elderhostel: Doug reported that a maximum of two Elderhostel tours are being planned again this year, providing enough people sign up; one in June and the other in August after the convention.

BLM/Diary Copies: Jerry reported that he has scanned all the BLM diary extracts that he got from Wally and will look into copying them onto DVD's. Jerry is going to have a complete repository of the main trail for Glenn's Ferry to the Oregon border section by including a mileage chart with creek and site references, satellite photos with trail marks, people, deaths, graves, etc.

Montpelier sign: Doug reported that Eulalie Langford called him a few weeks ago and wants to come to our membership meeting next month to talk about the sign. On May 18, 2006, Gil sent a condensed/revised version of her text for the sign to Doug to submit to Eulalie; Jerry moved for Doug to resubmit it to her, it carried.

I-OCTA Papers: No follow-through on archiving the papers to date; Virginia will send the name of the Idaho State Historical Library Archivist to Doug.

5. New Business:

Funding Schools: Doug reported that Bill Hill, Chairman of the OCTA Education Committee, is asking state chapters to contribute between \$50-\$100 to a program that donates a set of books titled "Reading, Writing and Riding Along the Oregon-California Trails" to a school in the convention area. Wally: Chapter contribute \$100, it carried.

Overland Journal Ad: Doug talked about the opportunity to buy space in the *Overland Journal*. Jerry suggested a ¼ page ad (\$85) for I-OCTA, will submit a draft at Membership meeting and next convention planning meeting.

Write Congress: Doug provided a handout about Senate Bill S-580 and House Bill HR-1336. Passage of the bills would authorize the study of the additional routes/cutoffs to see if they qualify for inclusion in the National Historic trails.

Insurance: Wally has concerns about OCTA's liability insurance and how it will interface with Idaho laws so that officers and board members cannot be personally sued by attendees for incidents during convention events. Doug read an email from Travis about it and further questions can be addressed to Travis when he is here next month for the convention planning meeting.

Membership Meeting – Details: It was discussed that we keep the meeting places as central as possible. Jerry will let us know if

either the Snake River Grill in Hagerman or the Oxbow Café in Bliss are available for the April 29 Membership meeting.

Trip Schedule: It was decided to have the Fall Board & Membership meetings at Fairfield on October 13; Board meeting from 9-10:30am and Membership meeting from 10:30am-Noon. Many other events/activities, marking/remarking trips and tours were discussed and some dates were set, which Jim included on page 5 of the March 2007 *Trail Dust*. Jim will possibly plan other trail maintenance & marking trips with notifications by email and postings about all activities in the *Trail Dust*.

6. Closing the Meeting: At 2:00 pm, meeting adjourned by Doug.

7. Post-meeting Tour: Peggy led a 5-mile loop tour of the trail and Meeker Marker on the S. and W. edges of Twin Falls.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING, APR. 28

On Saturday, **April 28, 2008**, I-OCTA had its spring Membership Meeting at a nearly central location in the state at **Hagerman, ID**. At the **Snake River Grill, 611 Frogs Landing** (south end of town on the west side of Highway 30). President Doug Jenson led the business meeting. Members finished the present business of the chapter and shared some good food! (For a trail **field trip on May 12, 2007**, we will be meeting at the same location, at 9:00 A. M.)

Two OCTA members from Utah, including President of OCTA, Vern Gorzitze, and two members from Oregon--the next President, Glenn Harrison, and his wife Carol--attended the meeting. Travis Boley also came to the meeting and brought copies of OCTA's new Strategic Plan for future developments and growth. Other relevant documents were shared, and communication between the chapter and OCTA were promoted and improved.

Reports were given by chapter officers, and reports on ongoing projects in Idaho were presented, which included some extensive improvements by Web Master, Jerry Eichhorst. An additional project that he has been doing in getting many Oregon Trail diaries/journals on a CD for the membership has been finished. He has been a busy contributor!

One important part of this meeting was the planning for the **I-OCTA Advertisement Table** at the 2007 Convention in Gering-Scotts Bluff, NB. Members of I-OCTA, NWOCTA and others who have volunteered will be at the table with treats, brochures, I-OCTA tee shirts and hats and other handouts encouraging all National OCTA members to come to our August 2008 Convention, all across the Snake River Valley—and centered in Nampa.

Other business finished was for the assurance of an I-OCTA add for our convention in the special summer issue of the *Overland Journal*, the continued cooperative effort for the O. T. related sign for Montpelier and the acceptance of an offer by the BLM to prepare an interpretative booklet for the section of the trail from Glenns ferry to Bonneville Point. Jerry Eichhorst and Wally Meyer will work with the BLM, Dean

Shaw, in Boise, to prepare information and photos for that booklet. Comprehensive Minutes of all the business will be printed in the next trails Dust.

Jerry has also been working with the Jack Simplot Corporation, for which he works, to arrange for some funding for sponsorship of the Nampa convention. This appears to be an offer for a sizeable sum of support. He led a field trip to several related trail sites and historic locations during the afternoon.

CASSIA GULCH--OREGON TRAIL

During the same afternoon of the I-OCTA Membership Meeting this Preservation Officer visited part of the Oregon Trail to the NW of Hagerman to prepare for the May 12 members' and visitors' field trip. One double section of the remaining trail that crosses a land section closer to Hagerman was accessed. Wally Meyer, past Preservation Officer had indicated that the swales found there were probably not before marked.

The deep swale across the most southern part of Section 24, T7S, R12E, were very apparent, but also filled with compacted tumble weeds and surrounded by very tall sage brush,. The northern remnant of the trail was clear of tumble weeds, but hidden by high brush. The difficulty of both accessing that land surrounded by private land, and crossing with all the tumble weeds was considered, and carsonite markers were installed.

The long section of trail, about 3.5 miles remaining without recent markers, which crosses parts of four land sections and follows Cassia Gulch about half of that distance was checked from the ends and access roads. Wally did mark that years ago, but it needs renewing now. Last marking season the Oregon Trail was finished all the way from Glenns Ferry to the east, and to the Trail's turn SE in Section 30, T6S, R12E. That included the many trail variants across the Big Pilgrim Gulch area.

For all who want to see some very original Class #1 Oregon Trail swales on **May 12, meet with us in Hagerman at 9:00 A.M.** that morning. Below is Jerry Eichhorst's directions to the **meeting place**, as he gave them for the Membership Meeting. Come and meet him, surely our present busiest member!!



DEEP SWALE AT THE BIG TURN IN THE TRAIL, AT THE NORTHERN END OF THE TRAIL SEGMENT NEEDING MARKING

Snake River Grill Hagerman, ID

Directions from west on I-84

1. Exit I-84 at exit 141 (Bliss 2nd exit)
2. Turn right (west) for 200 yards
3. Turn left (south) on Highway 30
4. Go through town to the south end of Hagerman.
Turn right at the US Bank sign. The Snake River Grill will be immediately on your left.

Directions from east on I-84

1. Exit I-84 at exit 155 (Wendell, second exit)
2. Turn left (west) for about 7.5 miles
3. Turn right (north) on Highway 30
4. Immediately upon entering Hagerman, turn left at the US Bank sign. The Snake River Grill will be immediately on your left.

Directions from southeast on Highway 30

1. Immediately upon entering Hagerman, turn left at the US Bank sign. The Snake River Grill will be immediately on your left.

2008 I-OCTA Events and Activities

- May 9** Convention Planning Meeting Nampa.
May 12 Field Trip/marketing Hagerman--Cassia Gulch.
May 19-20 Cambridge, ID, Goodale's Route.)
June 16 Massacre Rocks Trail Trip and marking.
July 21 Arco-Carey & Bradley Pass Tour/marketing.
August 6-11 Convention--Scotts Bluff/Gering, NB.
September 15 Hudspeth & California Trails Tour.
October 13 Fall I-OCTA Board/Member Meetings.
October 20 Jeffrey/Goodale-Wood River-Fairfield.

Other possible one-day trips for trail maintenance and marking will be planned by the Preservation Officer and others, with relatively

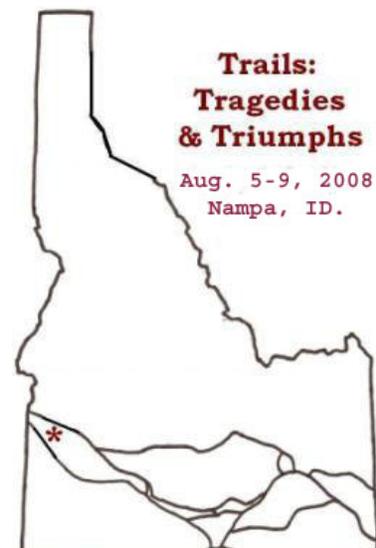
short term planning and notifications by email as cooperation with the BLM representatives can be obtained. Details about all activities will be offered in later *Trail Dust* issues and by email. If you do not have email and want to be notified please let this editor know and give a phone number.

NWOCTA & IOCTA Shared Tours

June 9-10 LaGrande, OR. Trail Tour—Paul Masee, pcmassee@comcast.net phone 253-265-3382

June 18-19 Alkali and Tubb Springs, north of Vale, OR--OCTA Signs & Fences—Bill Symms, wsymms@teleport.com 541-547-4489

June 29-30 Goodale's Cutoff, Pine to Baker, Jim McGill jwmcgill@pobox.com 208 467 4853



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I-OCTA BOARD MEMBERS needed for the fall elections. I-OCTA members, request info from any staff above and prepare an informal resume!

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Before legislation is passed by Congress allowing a feasibility study to determine which additional routes of the Oregon and California trails are eligible for inclusion in the National Trails System as national historic trails, I-OCTA should reach a consensus in regard to which trails we would like to see included in the study. Maybe that has already been decided by NPS.

The North Alternate Oregon Trail and the main routes of the Jeffrey-Goodale and Goodale's cutoffs are "no brainers" and should be studied. But how about the Goodale variants in eastern Idaho, the North Side Oregon Trail, the Goodale North [1863] Variant through Crane Creek, the original route of Goodale up Mann Creek, and those segments of the Kelton Road that were used by emigrants. There may be others.

This is something we should be thinking about for discussion at I-OCTA's fall meeting. Wally Meyer
