

# Arizona Trails

May 1988

NEWSLETTER - AZ CHAPTER - OCTA

Vol. 1 No. 2

President - Jack Root  
Vice-Pres.- Aubrey Haines  
Secretary - Susan Badger  
Treasurer - Sheri Lee

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm proud to report to you that the OCTA Board of Directors, meeting in Independence on March 19, voted unanimously to recognize us as the Arizona Chapter. So now we're legal.

By now members should have received Don Buck's letter re COED. I urge anyone interested to respond and participate in building this important research tool.

Those of us who made it to El Morro were well rewarded for our harrowing trip. It was yet another reminder that springtime in the mountains can be a fickle mistress!

Our Summer Social/Business meeting at the Tompkins' in Chandler is a most important one to the future of our chapter. We need to do some planning for future meetings, chapter growth, field trips, participation at St. Joe in August, a potential rendezvous in Arizona in '89 or '90; the list goes on. So do come with your thoughts and ideas, prepared to discuss all of the above as well as your own concerns. See you there.

On a sad note, we were informed of the sudden passing of California chapter member Buzz Eckenburg. He was a genuine original and will be much missed by his legion of trail compadres. We salute you Buzz, and may all your trails be smooth forevermore.

Jack Root

Sheri Lee reports that the treasury contains \$76.08. Postage for the various mailings have been our only expenses so far.



South wall of El Morro (Thayer, 1888)

## SUMMER PLANNING AND GOOD TIME SESSION

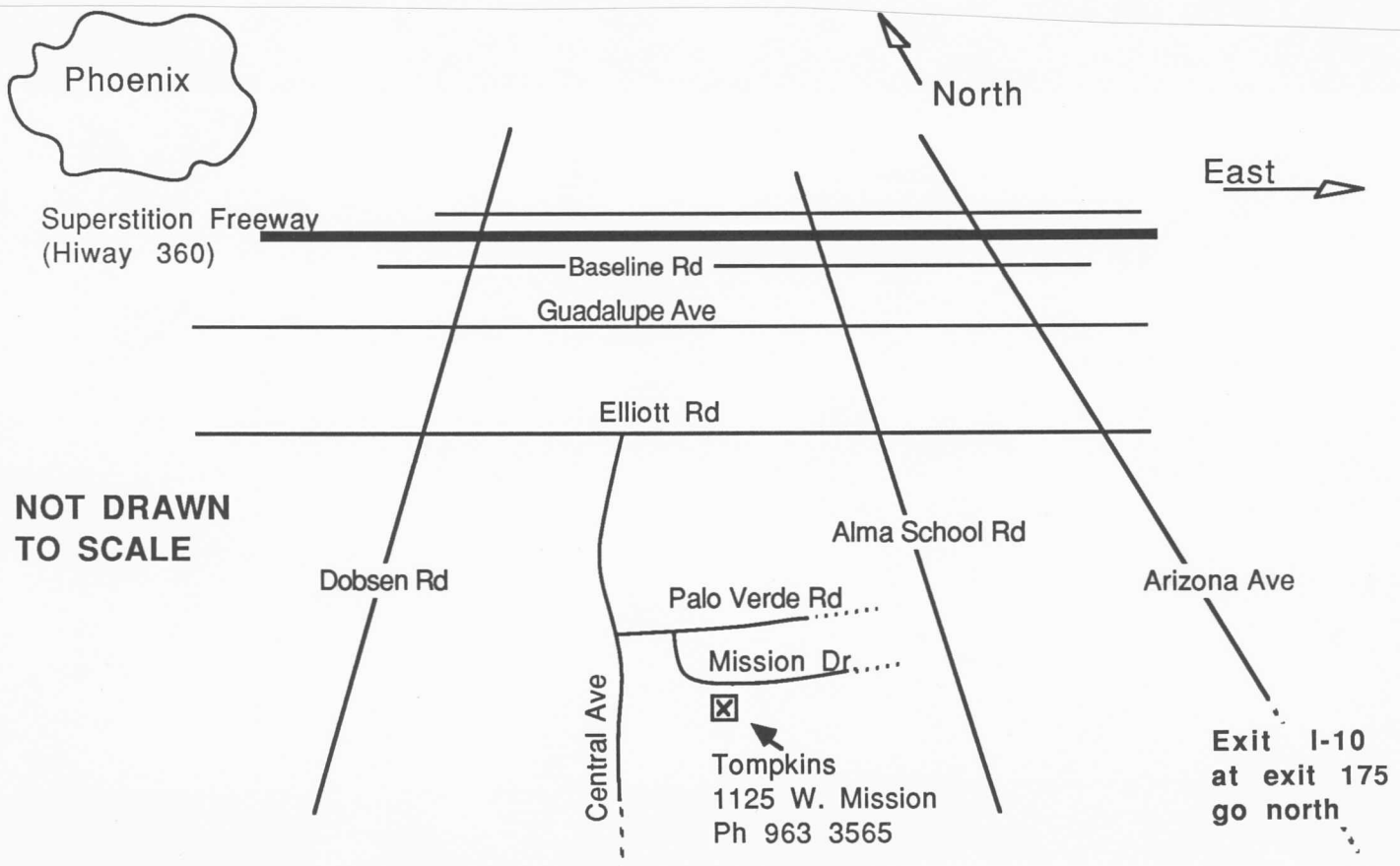
The next chapter meeting will be on Saturday, July 16. It will be at Harland and Rose Ann Tompkins' home, 1125 W. Mission Dr., Chandler, AZ. The meeting will BEGIN at 2 pm with the afternoon being used to plan the chapter focus and plans for the coming year. After a potluck dinner, there will be an evening program.

For this meeting, the members need to come with ideas about what they would like the chapter to do during the coming year. We have had several months now to take some trips, get to know each other, and begin to see what Arizona has to offer to trail buffs. Now we need to decide how to proceed in order to keep everyone interested and to further the goals of OCTA. Concerns have been voiced that we should try to have a calendar that looks further ahead than the next meeting. Are we ready to take on some long range projects such as organizing some sort of rendezvous like the recent Mojave trip in California; or researching, mapping, and marking the Beale Road across Arizona; or - - - -? We need input from all of you at this point.

Set aside July 16 and come to Chandler. The Tompkins will provide table service and a variety of beverages for the day, you bring a dish to share for the dinner. There will also be a pool available for cooling off after all those hot ideas have been tossed about.

The evening will be for sharing experiences. The Roots will tell us about RV travel on the Oregon Trail and Susan Badger will bring her video of the OCTA Mojave Road trip held recently. If you have pictures, slides or video of any of our field trips, plan to bring them along.

For those coming from outside the valley, the Tompkins invite you to stay over on Saturday night if you wish. They have available: space for two or three RV rigs, one regular guest room, 2 army cots, 2 thick foam pads and lots of floor space. Please let them know if you will be staying over and what kind of space you need, so they can plan accordingly.



Business Meeting - April 16, 1988 - El Morro, N.M.

Jack Root called the meeting to order with nine members present, and snow falling. We were cozy, however, in Bob and Betty Lee's RV.

Rose Ann Tompkins was complimented on the excellent newsletter she sent out. Jack announced three new members from California.

Jack reported on the board meeting held at his home on March 9. Tom Hunt has requested a liaison from each chapter for his Preservation Committee. This chapter will need to appoint one. Gary Keller was suggested; Jack will ask him.

Ideas for recruiting new members were discussed; brochures, the newsletter, or inserts in the newsletter. OCTA has same problem. Aubrey Haines suggested a program which would draw enough people who would be then interested in joining. Betty suggested a brochure with our local address as well, or an insert for OCTA's with our local information.

Programming is another area which needs work. The board should take responsibility for the ideas, but solicit suggestions from the whole group at one meeting a year, preferably the next meeting in July. At that meeting plans for the year should be made as to number of meetings, outings, etc. Raising funds needs to be discussed, such as asking for additional contributions from those who participate on field trips.

The next meeting will be in Chandler, a potluck at the Tompkins. Saturday, July 16 was suggested. A newsletter will be sent with the notice included and a followup post card sent. We'll start at 2 pm with the planning meeting, eat, then have the presentations in the evening, which will include Jack Root's slides on RV travel on the Oregon Trail, and Susan Badger's video of the OCTA Mojave Road trip this past April.

Jack and Ruth Root addended the OCTA board meeting in March on behalf of the chapter. Jack reported on the meetings. The Overland Journal has a new editor, Lois Daniel, and OCTA now has a paid parttime employee in the headquarters office.

Jack reported on discussions which came up on the Mojave Road Trip concerning a rendezvous in Arizona next year. Betty raised the issue of using such a trip as an opportunity to raise funds for the chapter. This will be discussed in July.

The meeting was ajourned.

Susan Badger, Secretary

## EL MORROW FIELD TRIP - APRIL 16 &amp; 17, 1988

Only nine hardy souls made it to El Morrow, New Mexico. Of course, we didn't realize when we started for the National Monument that we would have to be quite so hardy!

A cool and partly cloudy Saturday with rain and snow showers was only a minor inconvenience to those gathered. Two excursions onto the trail to see the inscriptions were interrupted by the worsening weather. The visitor center was well used and we had it pretty well to ourselves.

Eventually we all gathered at the small campground and got situated for the evening. As dusk fell, so did the snow, only this time it did not stop. It was fortunate we could all get into Lee's RV for the evening business meeting and program.

Aubrey Haines provided an intriguing look at Beale's Road with his program. He started with an overview on the development of early transportation routes in the Southwest. Then he moved into Beale's contribution to Kearny's army, the gold rush, and finally the wagon road along the 35th Parallel. This area had been explored in part by Lt. James Simpson in 1849, Capt. Lorenzo Sitgreaves in 1851, and Lt. Amiel Whipple in 1853. Edward F. Beale was ordered in 1857 to try to put a road through from Ft. Defiance to California along or near the 35th Parallel. In 1859 he covered the route again, improving the road.

Aubrey told us of the names left on the rocks at El Morro by these various exploration groups. He also told us of the immigrant train that first attempted to use the road in 1858, only to be attacked by the Mojave Indians when they reached the Colorado River. A number of names from these early immigrants are also inscribed at El Morro.

We all felt that we knew more about the early days and trails of our area after seeing El Morro and hearing Aubrey's discussion about the history that had passed through.

Sunday morning we woke to continued snow. It was beautiful to those of us that seldom see "winter wonderlands" anymore. The trees were beautifully covered; the quiet surrounded us. We did meet at the visitor center that morning for a time, but most opted to start for home rather than attempt to return to the trail around the rock. We experienced El Morro in a different way that we had anticipated, but no one felt cheated by not seeing all of the inscriptions or the Indian ruins on the top. We can always go back, armed with the knowledge we gained from this visit.

---

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD ENJOY BEING A MEMBER OF THE ARIZONA CHAPTER OF OCTA? MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION IS NECESSARY FIRST, BUT FOR \$5 A CALENDAR YEAR PER MAILING ADDRESS, ONE CAN ALSO BE A MEMBER OF THE ARIZONA CHAPTER. INCLUDE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER WITH PAYMENT TO SHERI LEE.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Sheri Lee  
5790 E. Territory Ave.  
Tucson, Az. 85715

(you may wish to memo the checks to OCTA, but do NOT make them out to OCTA)