

ARIZONA TRAILS



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ARIZONA CHAPTER
OF OCTA

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THE "PRES" SEZ

At the planning meeting in July, we discussed raising the dues from \$5 to \$10 for each mailing unit. I was one of the proponents of this change. Our treasury usually has between \$150 and \$200 in the Ziplock Bag. I felt that we should develop a larger amount to work from.

We have several different kinds of expenses. First, we have the postage and envelopes for the mailings. At present, I have been able to have most of the newsletter copy work done for free. That may not continue forever, however. Costs for our outings vary somewhat. When we ask someone from outside AZ OCTA to participate in leading an outing, the least we can do is to pay for their dinner. In some cases, we are asked to make a payment or donation for the use of meeting rooms. The symposium has some costs associated with the meeting and the proceedings.

It is my impression that there are expenses for outings which are being taken care of by the trailmaster rather than submitting them to the treasurer. In any event, I would like to see a little larger "kitty" to work from.

There was some concern expressed at the planning meeting that some of the absent members might have additional input on the decision to raise the dues. Although it is my opinion that the way to give input to decisions is to attend the meetings, I agreed to publicize in the newsletter the fact that we were considering this change and to indicate that we would make the decision at the next meeting. The last newsletter carried this information along with the suggestion that anyone not planning to attend the next meeting who had input in the matter should communicate that input to me. I received only one response, it was favorable. Correspondingly, at the Flagstaff meeting, the group voted to make this change.

In that rather lengthy discourse on raising the dues,

there is a thread of another concern which I would like to share with you. On our roster, we have 35 mailing units or approximately 52 people. On paper, this looks terrific. The essence of our chapter, however, is our activities. Our activities consist of the annual OCTA Convention, our symposium, the annual planning meeting, and our quarterly outings. Although our quarterly outings have been extremely well prepared and presented, the typical attendance is about 4 to 8 units or 8 to 15 people. I count roughly 16 units which to the best of my knowledge, have been on none of the outings, and about half that have not been to any chapter activity.

There are two approaches which the leadership of the chapter can take. One is to try to plan activities which will attract a larger fraction of the chapter membership. I am certainly willing to go this route, but the information as to what will "get out the troops" will have to come from the "troops".

The other approach is to acknowledge that there is a core group of "rut stompers" who will help plan the outings and attend. The rest of the chapter may be interested in hearing about various activities through our newsletter, but don't have the time or energy to attend the outings. With this approach, we plan the outings to suit the needs of the "rut stompers".

This latter approach is the default, but we are certainly willing to explore alternatives. If you would like to see a different kind of outing, call me and volunteer.

Finally, one last thought. Some of our most active members come from New Mexico and California. Maybe we should consider changing the name to the "Southwest Chapter". Give it some thought, talk about it, and we'll discuss it for awhile.

Harland

NEW KNEE WILL PUT RUTH BACK ON THE TRAIL

Some chapter members may not be aware that Ruth Root had knee replacement surgery in September. Sheri Lee visited her in the hospital and took Ruth a card and plant on behalf of the Arizona Chapter of OCTA. Ruth sent the following letter to be included in the newsletter.

9/23/90

Dear OCTA friends,

How nice it was of Sheri Lee to come see me in the hospital -- carrying a great card and a beautiful unusual plant from our OCTA friends. It was much appreciated and the plant drew many comments.

Thanks also for the cards.

I'm pleased to report that the new knee is coming along nicely and I expect to put many miles on it.

Thank you again.

Ruth Root

SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS STILL AVAILABLE

In keeping with last year, a proceedings of the June symposium has been produced. Each member unit is entitled to a copy and you may pick up your copy at any meeting. Extra copies are \$2 each.

If you would like your copy mailed to you, write to the symposium chairman, Harland Tompkins. Please enclose \$1.25 to cover the cost of the mailing.

CORRECTION: On page 2 of the May 1990 issue of ARIZONA TRAILS, the picture incorrectly identifies Harry Edwards Peak. Beale called it Frank Murray Peak. Today's maps call it Thimble Mountain.



---Dates for your calendar---

January 19-20, 1991 - Butterfield Stage Road in western New Mexico - led by Jim and Marion Carter.

March 16-17, 1991 - Butterfield Stage Road in eastern Arizona - led by Bob and Sheri Lee.

More details on these trips later.



MEMBERSHIP LIST ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

NEW MEMBERS:

Lynda Hatch
1480 W. Univ. Heights Dr. N.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(602) 556-8970

Jim Byrkit
1309 N. Navajo Dr.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(602) 774-0846

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

John Townley
1945 4th St. #21
Sparks, NV 89431
(702) 331-4968

NOVEMBER RENDEZVOUS NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA

For the November chapter outing, we will join the Friends of the Mojave Road at their Rendezvous in Needles, California. It will run from November 9 to 12. Jack Root is the chapter contact person for this trip. He arranged to have the rendezvous packets made available to the members and they are included in this newsletter. Jack includes the following information to supplement the material in the packet.

TO ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS:

If you receive this information packet in early October, you should have time to make your reservations, trip choices, etc.

I know of no way to coordinate this, even if we all wanted to do the same thing (which we won't) so it will be up to each of you to arrange your options. We will use Dennis' bulletin board for chapter communication until we all locate one another.

I've heard from the Lamsons in California, they signed up for trips #5 (Fri), #6 (Sat), #7 (Sun), and #4 (Mon). We plan to do the same. We are also signing up for the Sat. night BBQ, but not the breakfast. Figure we can do better on our own with friends, and perhaps have a chapter meeting at that time.

We plan to go over Thursday (Nov. 8) and are booked into the Imperial 400 Motel. It is quite reasonable.

Baldwin Lamson expressed interest in making some trips on our own over the Mojave Heritage Trail with just a few vehicles. I told him we could explore this option with the others, if time permits.

Please understand that it is each member's responsibility to send in your Rendezvous registration and make whatever reservations you want. It will be well to get them in early, as this is a big event and Needles is not a very large city.

Please call me if there are questions about anything concerning this outing.

Jack Root
(602) 760-0903

MINUTES OF SEPT. 22 BUSINESS MEETING

The September 22, 1990 business meeting for OCTA-AZ was called to order at 6:35 PM by president Harland Tompkins at the Afton House Restaurant in Flagstaff, AZ. Those present were Bob and Sheri Lee, Doyle and Fiona Reed, Paul and Pat Etter, Harland and Rose Ann Tompkins, Susan Doyle, and Dr. Lynda Hatch (our newest member and a faculty member at NAU). Our guests included Dr. Jim Byrkit (who has since become a member), and Jack Beale Smith (guide for the weekend) and his wife and son.

The minutes were approved as published in the last newsletter. The treasurer reported a balance of \$164.39.

H. Tompkins, S. Doyle, and D. Reed gave a brief report on the Omaha Convention. Since few trails remain in that area from that time, the convention focused on travel preparation. S. Doyle explained about the excavated steamship and the museum displaying its contents.

The previously announced business, as published in the last newsletter, of raising the dues was brought up by the president. The only expressed opposition to this proposal was by the treasurer, S. Lee. She wanted to know what we would do with more money since we don't use all that we have each year anyway. The president then stated reasons he felt necessitated raising dues with emphasis on the fact that trip planners do not submit all of their expenses, especially phone bills and meeting places expenses, presumably because they know that the treasury is small. The other significant reason was to build up the treasury to enable us to support some projects, such as placing signs where historic trails cross major highways in Arizona. The motion was made by P. Etter, and seconded by D. Reed that we raise the dues to \$10 beginning with 1991. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheri Lee, Treasurer

CHAPTER MEMBERS TRAVEL THE BEALE ROAD

On the fourth weekend in September, we circled our 4WD wagons with CB's in a Flagstaff mall parking lot, as directed by wagonmasters, Rose Ann and Harlie Tompkins, and head scout, Jack Beale Smith. Our goal was to visit some of the sites along the historic Beale Wagon Road.

The first federally funded highway in Arizona was built under government contracts to Lt. Edward F. Beale. The 1857 contract was for construction from Ft. Defiance to the Colorado River, and the 1859 contract was from Ft. Smith to the Colorado River. The road was used by emigrants, miners, and cattlemen to travel westward, many of them having come off the Santa Fe Trail.

Using a very thorough booklet of maps and diaries compiled by Rose Ann, and expertly guided by Jack, we visited several sites, including Walnut Creek Campground, Indian prehistoric ruins with petroglyphs, a mail station, and saw deep swales up long draws as well as rock work done by the road builders. Jack showed us the markers he had placed for the trail, which extends 365 miles across Arizona. He has traveled all of the trail, and marked much of it.

At one point, near Turkey Tanks and Cosnino Caves, we happened upon two Civil War Union soldiers encamped along the San Francisco Wash!

Proving friendlies, we were treated to a Civil War uniform fashion show, and a shooting demonstration. The soldiers then took their Mustang (1965) and rode off in a cloud of dust. (Jack had arranged this to surprise us.)

That evening, after a business meeting and dinner in a local restaurant meeting room, we were entertained and enlightened with a very professional two-projector audio and slide show presented by Professor James Byrkit of Northern Arizona University. The subject was the Palatkwapi Trail from the Hopi Mesas to Jerome. Jim has several other shows which we intend to prevail upon him to show at another time. He has also done extensive research on an Overland Road from Flagstaff to Prescott. Apparently we convinced him that OCTA is a somewhat credible organization and, we were delighted to say, the professor promptly joined both the national and local chapters.

The next morning, after a night of rain, we awoke to fog as thick as pea soup. Jack advised us that our intended trails for the day would be nearly impassible, so we adjourned for a visit to the Museum of Northern Arizona where we viewed the "Trails through Time" display and also saw many Indian artifacts. After a visit to the museum bookstore and gift shop, we all went our separate ways feeling we had experienced a fun and informative weekend and were glad that we had come.

SHERI LEE

