

DESERT TRACKS



VOL. 7

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

AUGUST

NO. 3

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

1994

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SOUTHWEST CHAPTER OUTING-SEPT 17/18

Get ready for the Santa Fe Trail !!

Richard and Marie Greene invite you to the mountains and high plains of Northern New Mexico to view the Historic Santa Fe Trail.

On Sat. 9/17 we will meet at 10 am in Springer, NM at Zingers Restaurant alongside the Santa Fe Trail Museum.

Proceeding 35 miles toward Clayton, NM, we'll stop at Point of Rocks Ranch, owned by Pete and Faye Gaines. There, we will see swales, (beloved to all OCTANS), a spring noted by Josiah Gregg in 1831, the grave and original headstone of Isaac Allen, numerous other unknown graves, Indian teepee rings, and a mysterious stone fence on a mesa.

A picnic BBQ is planned at Point of Rocks. You are welcome to camp out or park your RV on the Ranch, otherwise plan to stay overnite in Clayton, 35 mi. from the ranch.

On Sunday, 9/18, we will join the Heart of the Trail Chapter of SFTA for a visit to the site of McNee's Crossing on the SFT. Lunch will be at noon at the Ecklund Hotel, Clayton. The Crossing visit will follow. Early risers may want to visit nearby Clayton State Park and its dinosaur tracks. Or, outlaw buffs can visit the grave of Black Jack Ketchum, who kept his date with a rope hereabouts; related pictures are in the hotel.

Richard and Marie invite you to their home anytime on Friday, 9/16. A buffet supper is planned for 6 pm. They do ask that you confirm your attendance by calling (505) 377-6342.

This field trip is a rare opportunity to see some things outside of our usual range. The Greenes promise a memorable event for all. Put it on your calendar now.



22 July, 1994

Your Trailmarm sez...

Those who attended the planning meeting decided without any hesitation to take on the project of mapping The Southern Route for future Historic Preservation. Although we didn't actually discuss it, as it turned out we will start our work in New Mexico with three outings and head westward.

Pat and Paul Etter will be heading up our first outing in November. We will be doing our mapping as Don Buck taught us at the MET workshop in Flagstaff last fall. If you weren't there, don't worry, we can provide On the Job Training.

There will be segments of the trail between the three areas we will map on our outings which will need some individual mapping. If you are a rut stomper who prefers to work alone this may be an ideal job for you.

As president I will take on the job of mapping coordinator for the duration of my term. To do this the first thing I feel I need is to obtain a reference map of New Mexico divided into 7.5' topos. If you know of a way to get a copy for me it would be most helpful. If you know where to purchase a copy of the BLM Land Use Map for New Mexico, that will be most helpful to the Eters and other outing leaders.

See you in November!



Trailmarm

SW CHAPTER PLANNING SESSION HELD

1994-95 SCHEDULE SET.

The 1994 Planning Meeting occurred, as scheduled, on July 17 at the Tompkins' Strawberry, AZ retreat. Members will note the first activity planned for Fall, 1994 on Page 1 of this newsletter. Other key dates are as follows:

Nov. 11,12,13 - Coyote Hills, NM (mapping)

Feb. 4,5 ('95) - Cooke's Pass, NM (")

Mar. 25,26 - Whitmire Pass, Playas Lake, NM (mapping)

Jul 22 - Portal, NM, ('95 Planning Meeting)

You may wish to note these dates on your own calendar for scheduling purposes. A more complete report of the Planning Meeting will be furnished to members in the next edition of DESERT TRACKS.

SW CHAPTER FOLLOWS KEARNEY OVER "THE DEVIL'S TURNPIKE"

Members of the Chapter met on Friday evening, April 22 at the home of "General" Robert E. and Betty Lee in Thatcher, AZ. We discussed the next day's tour of Kearney's trail, but I remember laughter, food and "free spirits".

The group met the next morning at the Safford Chamber of Commerce parking area. In attendance: Robert and Betty Lee, Harland and Rose Ann Tompkins, Paul and Pat Etter, Jack and Ruth Root, and Richard and Marie Greene. Joining us were BLM Archaeologists Gay Kincaid and Rudi Benskin.

It was sunny and warm as we moved off in three 4x4s. We entered the Black Hills Back Country Byways and then branched off toward the Gila. It was r-u-g-g-e-d, it was s-t-e-e-p. The 4x4s crept over the terrain. There was no physical evidence of Kearney's trail. We had lunch on the bluffs across from the confluence of Bonita Creek with the Gila. In the distance could be seen the monument commemorating Kearney's 1846 encampment. Access to the River was down a rough trail to the flat. It seemed a logical approach for the Dragoons to cross the River to the campsite.

Kearney's men had scrambled up and down with howitzers and pack mules because the Gila Box Canyon could not be crossed until they came to Bonita Creek, the vicinity of our lunch spot.

According to Lt. Emory, "...the banks of the river became gullied on each side by deep and impassable arroyos. This drove us insensibly to the mountains...the men named this pass "the devils turnpike"...the whole way was a succession of steep ascents and descents...this day's journey cost us some 12 or 15 mules..."

I still wonder how they did it. There is nothing to see of Kearney's trail because almost no one else ever followed it.

We returned to Safford over the Black Hills Country Byway, 21 miles of well-maintained road with spectacular views. Dinner was at the La Paloma Restaurant in nearby Solomonville, where we celebrated Betty Lee's birthday (she only gets younger), and even managed a Chapter meeting.

On Sunday morning, the group became the first public visitors to tour the Mt Graham International Observatory. Our guide told us we were good training subjects for future tours. It was windy and cold at this 10,000+ ft. site but the privilege of seeing the giant instruments and astronomer's living quarters up close made us forget that. We even searched about for the elusive and notorious red squirrels, but they kept in hiding.

Once down from the mountain, we said our "Farewells". Bob and Betty Lee had assured another memorable Chapter Outing.

---Richard Greene

Southwest Chapter

Oregon-California Trails Association



MINUTES

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION April 23, 1994

Present: Secretary: Patricia A. Etter; Harland Tompkins, Treasurer; Robert E. and Betty Lee; Rose Ann Tompkins; Jack and Ruth Root; Richard and Marie Greene; and guests, archaeologist Gay Kinkade, and Rudi Benskin.

The meeting was called to order circa. 8 or so p.m. at the Paloma Restaurant in the incredible town of Solomon, Eastern Arizona, est. 1876. The food was superb. We might also mention that graduation was in progress, and local students gave the situation a special ambience in their formal dress. The meeting adjourned eventually and participants returned to motels to rest for the next day's journey to view telescope sites on Mt. Graham.

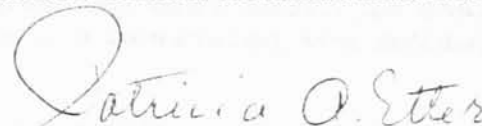
1. The minutes, 2/26/94, which somehow got covered with salsa, were approved as amended: New Business, #3: add that the President and Treasurer be jointly authorized to approve expenditures; the assembled members also eliminated the last two sentences from item #5.
2. Treasurers report, dated 4/24/94, was accepted. Cash on hand is \$660.01.
3. Paul Etter reported that the Portal Peak Lodge had confirmed the Chapter's reservation for Saturday, July 22, 1995. It is holding 6 rooms for twelve people. The group rate is \$58.50 plus 5.5% tax per room. A 60-day cancellation notice is required for 100% refundable deposit. A rooming list is requested at 60 days prior to arrival. If less than 60 days cancellation notice is given, the deposit will be non-refundable.

Portal Cafe serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily; if meals are required, the Chapter should make arrangements at least two weeks prior to arrival.

Those who are planning to attend and want to spend an extra night at the lodge are welcome to do so and can make that reservation by calling (602) 558-2223.

4. Pat Etter wanted to make sure a big "thank you" was recorded in the minutes for Bob and Betty Lee's planning efforts and the assistance of our guides.
5. The Tompkins announced that the July Planning Meeting will be held in Strawberry, Arizona, and a special mailing will be mailed outlining the details.
6. An extra cabin will be available in Strawberry for housing during the Planning Meeting; Robert E. Lee moved, and Etter seconded the authorization of \$100 for cabin rental.





Patricia A. Etter, Secretary

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Southwest Chapter

Oregon-California Trails Association



MINUTES

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION July 17, 1994 - Strawberry, Arizona

Present: Trailmarm, Sheri Lee; Secretary, Patricia A. Etter; Strongbox Custodian, Harland Tompkins; Robert Lee, the Younger; Paul Etter; Rose Ann Tompkins; Robert E. and Betty Lee, the Elder; Jack and Ruth Root; Richard and Marie Greene; Fiona and Doyle Reed; and John Townley.

Charles

The purpose of this two-day meeting was to plan the Chapter's projects for the coming year. Members began to assemble on Friday, July 16, at Harland and Rose Ann Tompkins' "cabin" on Coyote Drive, high in the pine forest overlooking the Strawberry Valley.

The group organized their chairs on the deck so as to enjoy the view, fresh, warm breezes, the birds, and some enormously creative, scintillating conversation with great helpings of humor, leaving the deck only at bed time.

The informal meeting started about two or three on Friday and broke up about 10 or 11 on Sunday. The formal meeting was called to order at 1 pm on Saturday and adjourned at 3:30. We admit to the following:

1. The April 23 minutes were approved as amended. Betty Lee asked that we include the destination of our trip or the purpose of our activities in the minutes. In this case, Chapter members researched Kearny's route at the confluence of Bonita Creek and the Gila River. This was believed to be the turnpike Emory talked of in his Notes of a Military Reconnaissance. In addition, the members traveled to the University of Arizona's telescope sites on Mount Graham on April 24. The spelling of Rudi Benskin's name was corrected.
2. The Custodian of the Strongbox, Harland Tompkins, reported a balance on hand of \$455.38. He noted that the funds had been deposited to an interest-bearing account. The report is filed with these notes.
3. Tompkins also reported that the group voted on April 24, to donate \$25 in appreciation to the Museum of Discovery for making the Mount Graham tour possible.
4. Seven of the nine presenters at the Las Cruces Symposium have agreed to submit their talks for inclusion in a Proceedings. Rose Ann Tompkins presented production figures, which would include a special binding. After discussion, Harland Tompkins moved that the members authorize up to \$200 to prepare 75 copies, which would sell for \$4 (including mailing) to members and other individuals. Seconded by Jack Root and passed unanimously.



+ postage

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5. The major purpose of the meeting was to plan activities for the coming year. The Trailmarm would like to see a number of mapping activities. She noted that Don Buck was going to reduce his mapping proposal on the Southern Route to the Southern and Apache Pass trails. The following was approved:
- a) Richard and Marie Green invited the members to Angel Fire, New Mexico, on September 16, 17, 18. They have arranged a visit a Santa Fe Trail site, including a barbecue lunch near Cimmaron. In addition, members are invited to a meeting of the Santa Fe Trail group. Greene will write up details for the next newsletter and prepare handouts.
 - b) Pat and Paul Etter will plan the trip for mapping the Coyote Hills, New Mexico, portion of the trail on November 11, 12, 13.
 - c) Marie and Richard Greene will join Marion and Jim Carter in planning a mapping excursion for Cooke's Pass, New Mexico, on February 4 and 5.
 - d) Ruth and Jack Root and Bob and Sheri Lee will plan the mapping trip for Whitmire Pass and Playas Lake, New Mexico, on March 25 and 26.
6. Robert Lee, the elder, proposed that the Chapter accept the above assignments, noting that the Chapter provide a copy of the mapping manual and assistance so members can learn mapping techniques on site. Richard Green seconded and all approved.
7. The group informally decided that once mapping progressed, that lists should be kept of what has been done. Pat Etter asked Doyle Reed to make a note of the portion of the trail he recently mapped between Gila Bend and Yuma. Someone suggested that it will be necessary in the future to keep track of what has been done.
8. It was further decided that the individual in charge of the trip would obtain an official set of maps and provide copies for people in the field. OCTA can provide funds.
9. Pat Etter suggested that copies of the minutes be included with members' copies of the newsletter. Apparently this had been agreed to some time ago and will be done using small type to conserve paper and postage costs.
10. Jack Root will be writing and presenting a list of protocols or "Rules for the Road" for Southwest OCTA outings.

Patricia A. Etter, Secretary

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER - OCTA MEMBERSHIP LIST - 1994

President:
Vice-President:
Secretary
Treasurer

Sheri Lee
James Carter
Pat Etter
Harland Tompkins

Pat & Alice Boyle	3000 E. Lehi Rd.	Mesa, AZ 85213	(602) 832-1977
Don & Vilma Buck	1158 Ribier Ct.	Sunnyvale, CA 94087-2412	(408) 739-8521
Kergan & Jeanne Bruck	5920 N. Camino Escalante	Tucson, AZ 85718-4114	(602) 577-8289
Jim Byrkit	1309 N. Navajo Dr.	Flagstaff, AZ 86001	(602) 774-0846
James R. & Marian N. Carter			
(Nov. 1 to May 1)	4091 Sotol Drive	Las Cruces, NM 88001	(505) 522-1189
(May 1 to Nov. 1)	P.O. Box 445	Alto, NM 88312	(505) 336-8378
Dick & Mae Chapman	14259 Alamo Canyon Dr.	Tucson, AZ 85737	(602) 825-9745
Mindy Chesney	69550 Holmes Rd.	Sisters, OR 97759	(503) 923-0238
John & Carolyn Davis	2751 W. Monte Vista	Tucson, AZ 85745	(602) 622-8957
Susan Badger Doyle	1658 S. Mountain View	Sheridan, WY 82801-1725	(307) 672-8090
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Richard & Marie Greene	P.O. Box 483	Angel Fire, NM 87710	(505) 377-6342
Lynda Hatch	1480 W. Univ. Heights Dr. N.	Flagstaff, AZ 86001-8970	(602) 556-0869
Aubrey & Wilma Haines	8421 E. Eli Drive	Tucson, AZ 85710	(602) 721-9136
Tom James	5494 N. Arbolito	Tucson, AZ 85715	(602) 577-2570
Lois M. Johnson	500 E. Tunnell St.	Santa Maria, CA 93454-4148	(805) 925-1379
Gary & Dean Keller	531 N. Los Alamos	Mesa, AZ 85213	(602) 832-1495
Baldwin & Ormond Lamson	4706 Balboa Avenue	Encino, CA 91316	(818) 788-8050
Bob & Sheri Lee	5790 E. Territory Avenue	Tucson, AZ 85715-1801	(602) 299-7143
Robert & Betty Lee	3780 Golf Course Rd.	Thatcher, AZ 85552	(602) 428-1196
Wm. & Mary Mueller	1112 Silver Oak Court	San Jose, CA 95120	(408) 268-7389
Joe Nardone	25082 Southport	Laguna Hills, CA 92653	(714) 458-2253
George Osborne, Jr.	2679 Kimball Ave.	Pomona, CA 91767	(714) 626-4726
Harry & Mary Reber	771 W. Desert Trail	Green Valley, AZ 85614	(602) 648-0026
Doyle & Fiona Reed	328 12th Street	Davis, CA 95616-2012	(916) 753-2759
Jack & Ruth Root	8422 E. Tourmaline Dr.	Tucson, AZ 85715	(602) 760-0903
Bill & Shann Rupp	Box 753	Jamestown, CA 95327-0753	(209) 984-3401
Ed & Mary Jo Sprague			
summer	Rt. 2, 5013 Amazonia Rd.	St. Joseph, MO 64505	(816) 279-9041
winter	4555 S. Mission Rd. #588	Tucson, AZ 85714	(602) 741-2762
Ralph & Janece Thornton	Rt. 3, Box 3459	Burley, ID 83318	(208) 678-4838
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Kenneth & Dorothy Tompkins			
(Nov. 1 to Mar. 31)	5055 University #P-7	Mesa, AZ 85205-7299	(602) 985-3733
(Apr. 1 to Oct. 31)	8404 Boone Blvd.	Kansas City, MO 64114	(816) 523-5576
Maryann Tortorich	P. O. Box 1242	Jackson, CA 95642-1242	(209) 223-3315
Charles Townley	1766 Vista Montana	Las Cruces, NM 88005	(505) 526-8705
Reba Wells Grandrud	2741 E. Larkspur	Phoenix, AZ 85032	(602) 992-0339

(paid memberships as of 7/18/94)



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FIRST CLASS MAIL



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ANOTHER PROJECT FOR US

by Sheri Lee

In your latest issue (July '94) of "News from the Plains" on page 6 there is an article about surveying trail markers on the Oregon and California Trails. Reading further you will notice it has now been decided to include all overland trails.

I spoke with Tom Hunt who is the Trails Boss on this project. It seems OCTA would like info on our trails, but NPS isn't asking for anything at this time.

I told Tom we weren't prepared to take on this task and finish it before the end of 1994. He understood and agreed we could have a couple of years to do this; taking photos and marking maps as we come across markers for the Butterfield, Mormon, etc. trails.

If we all make of note of what Tom is asking for in that third paragraph and keep it in our glove compartments, then when we happen upon a marker for any trail we can mark our map and make some detailed notes of how far from such and such inter-section, etc. or the coordinates from your G.P.S. and take the appropriate photos. (I know he asked for slides, but I never have slide film in my camera.)

We will talk about this more at the November outing, but in the meantime if you find a marker please take the required photos for OCTA's files.