

DESERT TRACKS



VOLUME 8
NUMBER 1

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER
OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

JANUARY
1995

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SOUTHWEST OCTA MEMBERS MUSH ON IN SPITE OF RAIN

Eighteen intrepid rut-stompers converged on Lordsburg, New Mexico, on November 11, to begin mapping the Coyote Hills segment of the Southern Trail. Doyle and Fiona Reed and Don Buck washed east out of California; Richard and Marie Greene, Jim and Marion Carter, Don and Darlene Couchman, and Charles Townley floated west from New Mexico; and Harland and Rose Ann Tompkins, Bob and Sheri Lee, Pat and Paul Etter, and Jack and Ruth Root rode in on a wave from Arizona.

In spite of incessant rain and storm clouds, our group with its usual sunny outlook, found plenty to do and as it turned out, we had a most productive session. Rose Ann and Pat organized the assembled crew into mapping teams in the various motel rooms and they plotted trail information from GLO plats onto 7.5 minute quad maps. It was a productive exercise and all agreed that we are better prepared for future mapping trips.

However, any time there was a break in the weather, our hardy crew rushed for the cars and braved the muck and goo to get on-site and get some of the trail on maps. Don Buck reported that he and Doyle Reed searched an area near Coyote Hills for trail remains on Saturday and Sunday. They located about 3-1/2 miles of class 2 trail (used original trail) between the southern end of Coyote Hills to the airstrip at Playas. Don's thorough report has been sent to all participants.

In between mapping sessions and forays into the hills, Ruth Root poured champagne into fluted glasses and we toasted and regaled Jack Root and Sheri Lee, who have shared birthdays. We enjoyed a memorable dinner at Lordsburg's not-famous, El Charro restaurant. The place is an artifact, marked in time--the neon, the chairs, the velvet paintings, the American flag, religious articles, and plastic flowers. It was wonderful!

Start planning for our next outing to map Cooke's Pass. My calendar is marked for February 4 and 5.

By Patricia A. Etter

Y N E W
P Y
F E
A A
H * S W O C T A * R

MUSINGS....

This edition of DT (no, Virginia, that's not delerium tremens) comes to you fresh on the breezes of a shiny new year. Let's all make the most of it.

Vol. 8, No. 1 reviews our latest (soggy) adventure and looks ahead to several new opportunities to do our (trail) thing; one in New Mexico, another in California. Registration forms are enclosed. Speaking of opportunities, the ever-resourceful Don Buck has analyzed the terrain explored on 11/12-13 (See trip reports) as well as several contemporary diaries. He concluded that the emigrants indeed must have used Whitmire Pass after leaving Playas Lake.

Don suggests that two Chapter volunteers are needed in the on-going effort to map and win National Historic Trail designation for the "Southern Route". One of these persons would coordinate the mapping effort (Rose Ann Tompkins has already accepted this job); the other would take on the political task. The latter entails Congressional liaison and coordinating effort with other interested parties such as the U.S. Mormon Battalion Inc. group.

The Board voted to accept a proposal to make special SWOCTA T-shirts available to members. Ordering instructions are within.

We note with sadness the untimely passing of John M. Townley, brother of SWOCTA member Charles Townley. John was an active member of the CA-NV Chapter and a fine historian and writer. Our sympathies go out to Charles and the rest of the Townley Family.

The unusual post-mark on this issue is because we are spending the Holidays with daughter Diane and family in California. May your Holidays be a time of Peace, Reflection, and Cheer.

JDR

OCTA TO HONOR EDUCATORS

Education Chair Bill Hill reminds us that the deadline for submission of candidates for the first OCTA Outstanding Educator Award is 2/28/95.

This award recognizes excellence in teaching about the westward overland migration. For further details, including application forms, contact the editors.

SOUTHERN TRAIL OUTING PLANNED

Cooke's Pass area of New Mexico

February 4th and 5th, 1995

Although some members have visited the Cooke's Spring and Fort Cummings area before, this time the focus will be on mapping the trail.

The pass was used by the Mormon Battalion in 1846, hundreds of Forty Niners on their way to the gold fields of California, the Butterfield Stage, and various other military, mining, emigrant, and freighting groups before the coming of the railroads to the Southwest.

The rendezvous site for the weekend is Deming, NM. Contact person is Richard Greene. Please return the registration form in this issue to him.

SCHEDULE

Saturday, Feb. 4 8:00 AM

Meet in the parking lot of the Grand Motor Inn in Deming, NM, breakfast eaten, gas tanks full. We will be out the entire day.

Dinner will be at a time based on our return from the field. A Chapter business meeting will follow dinner.

Sunday, Feb. 5 8:00 AM

Meet as on Saturday to continue the mapping project. We will conclude around mid-day to enable you to return home in the afternoon.

Photocopy maps of specific areas will be provided for each registrant.

There are several motels in Deming. The two below are suggested as they are near each other and will be our meeting area.

Grand Motor Inn-(505) 546-2632
AAA and Sr. discount
Restaurant

\$35

Best Western Chilton Inn-(505) 546-8813
AAA and Sr. discount
Restaurant

You will be asked to sign a waiver at the beginning of the field trip.

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REGISTRATION FOR MAPPING EXPEDITION

COOKE'S PASS, NEW MEXICO

FEBRUARY 4 & 5, 1995

Name(s) _____

Phone # _____

Driving a 4WD ? ___

CB Radio equipped ? ___

I can carry __ extra riders in my 4WD

I/we need a ride for __ people in a 4WD

I/we need instructions, "Mapping Emigrant Trails"

Return to: Richard Greene
P.O. Box 483
Angel Fire, NM 87710

By January 22, 1995

Questions? Call Richard or Marie at (505) 377-6342

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- o If you have a CB Radio, but need to hitch a ride, bring it along. We sometimes need extras.
- o Start with a full gas tank. Bring lunch, water, and appropriate foot gear and clothing for the weather conditions.
- o For mapping bring your "Mapping Emigrant Trails" workbook and tools, e.g., pencils, scaled rule, clipboard, magnifying glass, compass, etc.
- o The usual \$2/person trail fee will be collected.

SWOCTA T-SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE

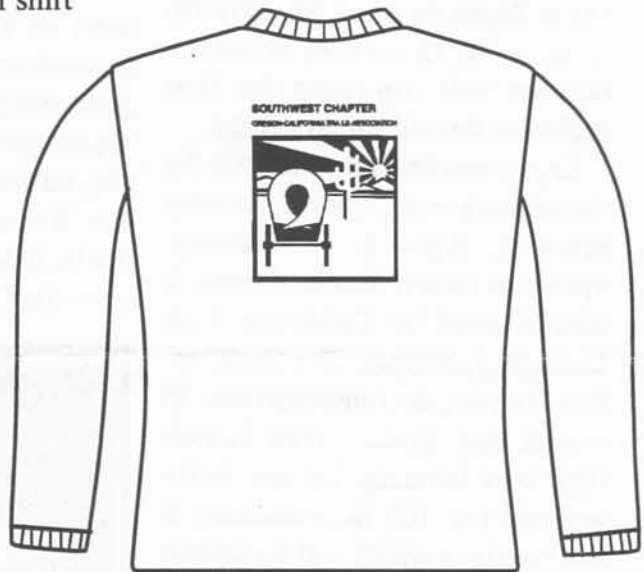
We are taking orders for T-shirts for you to wear to your favorite OCTA outing

The shirt is light grey with navy print, long sleeve, breast pocket, and comes in sizes S-M-L-XL-XXL. The cost is \$15, which includes shipping & handling.

Order Deadline, Jan. 15, 1995 (in time for Feb. Outing)

*Front of shirt
will have
"SWOCTA"
above the
breast pocket*

Back of shirt



Details

- shirt color: light grey
 - print color: navy
 - style: long sleeve with breast pocket
 - cost: \$15 each
 - sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL, or bigger
- questions? call Richard at (505) 377-6342



Name _____

Size _____ Number _____

Address _____

Size _____ Number _____

City _____ State _____

Size _____ Number _____

ZIP _____

Total \$ _____

Make check payable to Richard Greene.

Mail your order, with your check to:

Richard Greene
PO Box 483
Angel Fire, NM 87710

SOUTHERN TRAILS SYMPOSIUM

April 8-9, 1995
Zzyzx, California

As announced in TRAIL TALK, June 1994, the California-Nevada Chapter is planning a full week of field trips and lectures to call attention to the historic trails crossing the desert near Baker.

A 4-wheel drive trek commencing in Kingman, AZ, April 3rd will end at Zzyzx on April 7th. This trip is limited to 15 vehicles whose occupants will dry-camp for four nights on the old Mojave Road.

Zzyzx was chosen as the site for the meetings which begin Saturday morning, April 8. The facility, known as Desert Studies Center, is administered by California State College, Fullerton. The center offers sleeping accommodations, 25 rooms, but guests must furnish their own bedding. Lecture facilities will seat 100 for attendance at the meetings which will be opened to local historical societies after OCTA members respond to this second notice.

Dry camping, nearby at The Granites, is available at no charge for tent and RV camping. Zzyzx is a Nature Conservancy so pets must be left at home or in camp.

Speakers and their topics are: Dennis Casebier-The Mojave Road; Cliff Walker-Old Mormon Trail Through California; Dr. Leo Lyman-Cajon Pass Trails, and Dr. Delmer Ross-The Bradshaw Road. Field trips are scheduled both days after lunch, with 4-WD transportation provided for those who need it. On Saturday, a tour of Afton Can-

yon will be led by Bill Mann. On Sunday, Emmitt Harder will lead an auto-tour to Mormon Trail Ruts and Old Death Valley Mine.

Don Buck will be the speaker Saturday evening when the group meets at Baker High School Gymnasium for a catered dinner. The subject of Don's presentation is "Designating the Southern Route as a National Historic Trail." Don, architect of the proposal, writes: "Aside from having informative talks and exciting tours on southern trails, a major reason for the symposium in southern California is to generate momentum on having Congress designate the various trails in the southwest and southern California, collectively called the Southern Route, as National Historic Trails (like the recent designation given the DeAnza Trail and the Cali-

fornia Trail by Congress). At its mid-year board meeting in March, 1994, OCTA's Board of Directors approved a proposal that the association seek such designation but decided to leave it up to the three chapters involved (CA/NV, Southwest and Crossroads) to take the lead in implementing the proposal. So our forthcoming Southern Trails Symposium will become a step in that direction. As an outcome, we hope to gain some active support and even discuss a plan of action to eventually have those southern trails designated as National Historic Trails". Don will provide literature, maps and written information on the proposal to participants. Information and a registration form need your prompt attention if you plan to attend this Symposium.

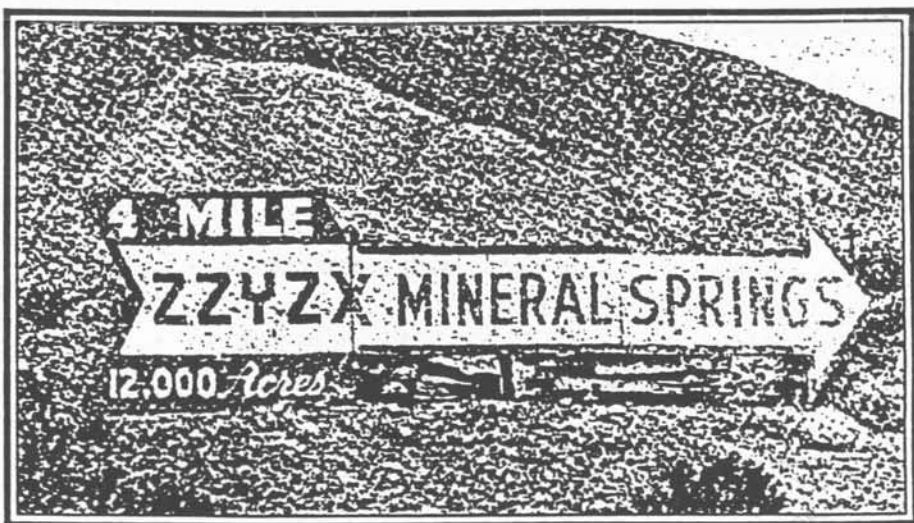


Photo from "Mojave Road Guide" by Denis Casebier



Reprinted from Trail Talk

SOUTHERN TRAILS SYMPOSIUM

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL. _____

GENERAL REGISTRATION	FEE	NUMBER	TOTAL
Individual	\$10		\$
ACTIVITIES			
Sat. session (speaker & tour)	\$5		\$
Sun. session (speaker & tour)	\$5		\$
Pre-Tour: Mojave Road, 4/3-7, 1995 (4-WD, limited, first 15 vehicles)	\$5		\$
Banquet-Sat. Eve. Cornish Game Hen	\$15		\$
ZZYZX lodging and meals	Information sent on request		

Mail this form and your check to:

TOTAL \$

OCTA, CA-NV Chapter

% Mary Mueller 1112 Silver Oak Court San Jose, CA 95120

(Tel. 408-268-7389)

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NOTE: We are competing with the Police Relay Race for rooms in Baker on April 7th so if you have not acted earlier you may have to seek lodging out of the area. Please act now if you plan to attend the Symposium.

Make your own room reservations, ASAP. The following facilities may be available.

BAKER	Royal Hawaiian Motel	(619) 733-4326
	Wills Fargo Motel	(619) 733-4477
	Bun Boy Motel	(619) 733-4363

BARSTOW Consult AAA Tour Book

STATELINE Nev.	Whiskey Peaks Resort	(702) 382-4388
	Prima Donna Casino/Resort	(702) 382-1212

ZZYZX Complete the registration form and return ASAP. We will make the reservation for you and send you notice of the cost (approx. \$50 total)



Chandler, AZ 85224-2354
1125 W. Mission Drive
Harland & Rose Ann Tompkins

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Tucson, AZ 85715
8422 E. Tourmaline Dr.
Jack & Ruth Root
DESERT TRACKS



"SPIRIT OF THE TRAIL"

Photo By Richard Greene

Southwest Chapter

Oregon-California Trails Association



MINUTES

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION November 12, 1994 - Lordsburg, New Mexico

Present: Trailmarm, Sheri Lee; Secretary, Patricia A. Etter; Strongbox Custodian, Harland Tompkins; Robert Lee, the Younger; Paul Etter; Rose Ann Tompkins; Jack and Ruth Root; Richard and Marie Greene; Don Buck; Charles Townley; Fiona and Doyle Reed; Jim and Marion Carter; and Don and Darlene Couchman.

The assembled group came from California, Arizona, and New Mexico to begin mapping the Coyote Hills portion of the Southern Trail. Because of inclement weather--it rained and did not stop until late Saturday--the assembled members spent the day planning future trips by studying and working on topographic maps.

1. Sheri Lee brought the meeting to order in room #128 of the Best Western Skies Inn about 6:00 p.m.
2. Minutes of the last meeting were approved.
3. The treasurer reported \$551.20 in the bank. The report was accepted.
4. Bills for \$160 for topographic maps and \$90 for GLO plat maps were presented. These will be reimbursed to members Rose Ann Tompkins and Richard Greene by OCTA.
5. Harland Tompkins reported 33 members, half of whom have rejoined for 1995.
6. COED (Census of Overland Emigrant Documents) reports that volunteers have donated an equivalent of 5 full-time people (40 hours/week) adding document to the database. Marion Carter has been particularly active for the Southwest Chapter in volunteering time for this endeavor.
7. Richard Greene presented ideas for T-shirts. After discussing variables, the assembled group agreed to having a grey with navy blue logo, long sleeve, all cotton T-shirt for about \$15.00. An order form will appear in *Desert Tracks* in the future.



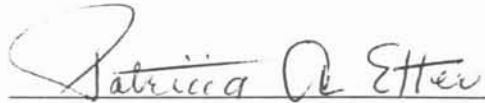
President
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(602) 964-3967

Treasurer
Harland Tompkins
1125 W. Mission Dr.
Chandler, AZ 85224
(602) 963-3565

8. The meeting adjourned to El Charro Mexican restaurant for dinner.
9. The next activity will be headquartered in Deming, New Mexico, February 4 and 5, while members map sections of Cooke's Pass. The Greenes and Carters are in charge.



Patricia A. Etter, Secretary