

DESERT TRACKS



SOUTHWEST CHAPTER OCTA

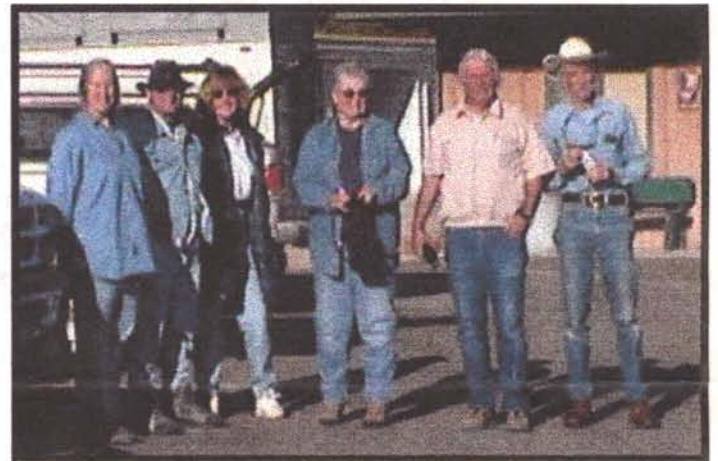
November, 1998-4

SWOCTA MAPPING WEEK - OCTOBER 16-20, 1998

Apache Pass area of Arizona

Participants:

Richard (behind camera) and Marie Greene, Angel Fire, NM
Tracy and Judy DeVault, Prescott, AZ
Harland (not shown) and Rose Ann Tompkins, Chandler, AZ
Dave Hollecker, Reno, NV
Don Buck, Sunnyvale, CA



Everyone had arrived at the Fort Bowie, AZ parking area before dinner on Thursday, Oct. 15. The wind was blustery and we were reminded of our last time here when we had to abandon mapping because the wind was blowing so hard. We hoped the weather report was going to be accurate and the wind would die down overnight (which it did).

Larry Ludwig, Head Ranger, at Fort Bowie National Historic Site, allowed us to use the facilities of the parking lot by the Ranger Residence as a staging area for our week of mapping. Talk about living in style: this meant we had a level area for parking each night, water, and most of all, a bathroom with a shower and an outlet for recharging various electronic devices.

Our camp meals were, as usual, sparse for some and elaborate for others. Tracy and Judy DeVault came well prepared with a table, a daily menu and several coolers. Dave Hollecker had a new cooker and steaks. The rest of us could not compete but the gauntlet has been thrown and, no doubt , on the next mapping trip our food should challenge the DeVaults and Dave. Got to admit that Dave's home grown apples will be hard to beat as well as Rose Ann's home grown fresh squeezed grapefruit juice.

We were rigged for sleeping in our vehicles. Of course, this means that a lot of stuff is taken out and stacked around our vehicles (an everyday ritual of in and out and we all have it down pat).

After dinner we discussed plans for the week ahead. Ranger Larry Ludwig had contacted ranchers both east and west of Fort Bowie and received permission for us to look for the trail on their land. Larry knows a lot about the area and helps us out by showing us his findings on the locations of various trails. Larry has a dry sense of humor - his one liners are so subtle that you have to be quick to appreciate the moment - and he sure has made our trips to Fort Bowie a pleasure. Also, the fact that his wife fixes us a bunch of cookies lets you know how good we have it when we visit Fort Bowie.

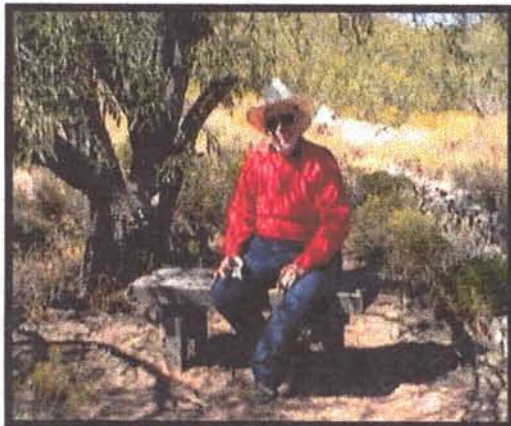
Day 1 - Friday, Oct. 16

Mapping was done east of Siphon Canyon. Several worked to close a gap from the previous mapping week (April, 1997) just west of Emigrant Hills. The rest worked near Emigrant Canyon in an area that Tracy and Larry had located earlier. The gap was successfully mapped by noon. In the afternoon, everyone worked to extend and find where the early and later trails had joined in the area between Emigrant Hills and Little Emigrant Canyon.

We were unsuccessful though pieces of trail were found here and there.

Harland Tompkins arrived late that evening to spend the weekend.

Day 2 - Saturday, Oct. 17



Harland Tompkins at the Butterfield Stage Station Ruins - Also SWOCTA Cartographer.

Tracy and Judy DeVault worked the eastern area while the rest of the group mapped the trail between Apache Pass and the present hiking trail to the fort.

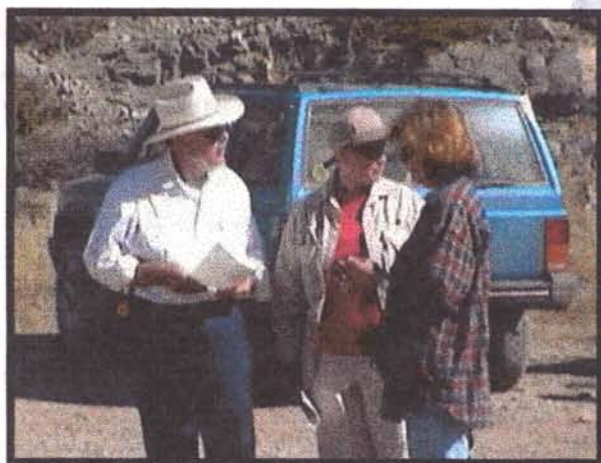
In the morning, the group walked back down from a turnout on the Fort Bowie road to the hiking trail. We used sign posts of the Butterfield Trail as a guide, and mapped the most likely emigrant route. We found that the emigrant trail is seldom where marked on

present day maps. After lunch at the turnout, we worked in the other direction as far as Apache Pass. As we drove back at the end of the day, we stopped to match the location of an old photograph taken from Conkling's book on the

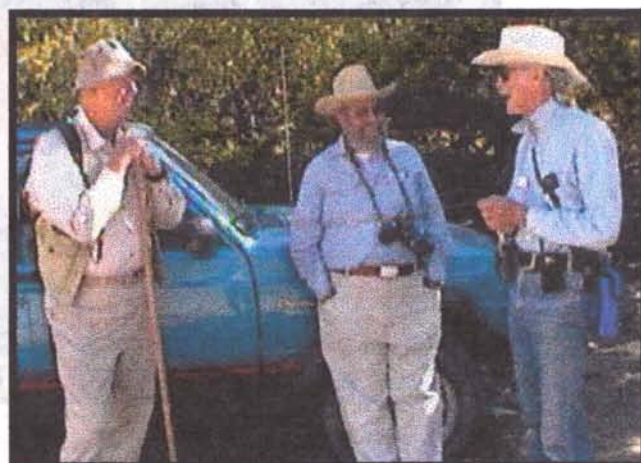
Butterfield Trail (Plate 61) to the present view. The spot was recognizable and we were happy campers.

Mule deer were often spotted - even around the camping area. They grazed near us and did not seem at all concerned with our presence.

The nights were chilly. Once the sun set, we didn't spend too much time hanging around. We retired to our vehicles early - much to the dismay of Dave. He threatened to bang on the trucks to keep us awake. Dave lives in Reno - a party town - and just could not go cold turkey so quickly.



Harlie, Rose Ann & Judy getting ready for the hike.



Bob Stuart, Peter Bennett & Don Buck having a good time.

Day 3 - Sunday, Oct. 18

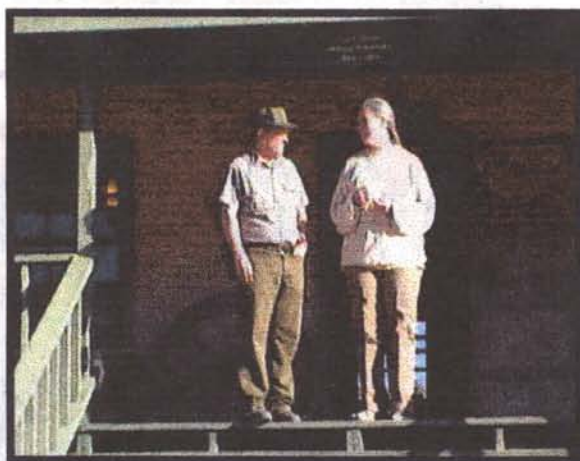
We conducted a chapter event - a hike up Siphon Canyon through an area we had previously mapped. Peter Bennett and Bob Stuart, both of Tucson, joined us for the day. Harlie, Judy and Don went along as they had not been on this area of trail before. Rose Ann led the hike and Marie acted as photographer. At a probable grave along the hike, Don and Judy tried dousing it - either they did not have the touch or no one is buried there. After the hike, we drove out to the eastern area where Tracy and Richard were looking for trail and we all had lunch. A good area of trail was shown to the day visitors before they departed.

A community dinner that evening was beef stew by Dave and salad prepared by Don. We really enjoyed this gourmet camper meal. Harlie left after dinner to drive back to Phoenix and work on Monday.

Day 4 - Monday, Oct. 19

Larry Ludwig guided us into the area west of Apache Pass. Again we had two trails to map, one that went mostly west towards Dragoon Springs and one that went more southerly through Sulphur Springs and then to Dragoon Springs.

Tracy and Judy attempted to find the portion going to the SW that Larry had pointed out. They were not successful in finding a definitive trail. The rest of us went with Larry to a saddle west and slightly north of the Pass. Trail evidence was found as we mapped through the saddle into the flats beyond. An interesting grouping of rock walls was found in the saddle, their origin and use are unknown.



**Larry Ludwig, Head Ranger,
Ft. Bowie, NPS with
volunteer Marie Greene.**

In order for Larry to take the time to guide us on this day he needed a volunteer for the Fort's Visitor Center. Marie Greene volunteered after being assured Monday was an easy day and nobody was likely to come by before Larry got back. Well, folks, Monday for Marie at the Fort's Visitor Center was the busiest Monday Marie has had in quite awhile: Visitors flocked in, they questioned her incessantly, some were in a state of collapse after the hike in, some wanted to buy books and Marie had to sell them and make change, she gave directions even for those most personal inquiries and last but not least,

were the ornery horses that broke the hitching rail. Without a doubt Marie earned her Smoky hat. We were all grateful that Marie had volunteered for the job.

The evenings were getting warmer and star gazing became more popular as we lingered around the table at night. After retirement, banging coming from the Tompkins' truck, proved to be Rose Ann killing flies that had invaded her bedroom. DeVaults could be seen in their sleeping bags working a collection of crossword puzzles. Dave was happier we could stay up longer.

Day 5 - Tuesday, Oct. 20

This day was spent working on another gap from our previous mapping week.

This gap went from the mouth of Siphon Canyon east. The entire day was spent here and the trail successfully mapped and the gap closed. Don departed after lunch, beginning his 1000 mile drive home. Don had an appointment he had to make, otherwise, if you know Don and mapping, he would never have left as he always makes every minute of daylight count.

Marie and Judy went to town for the day, returning with fresh ice and other goodies. They also bought out the entire supply of sweaters in Willcox. Apparently there was one great sale and they could not resist. Of course, the fact that the

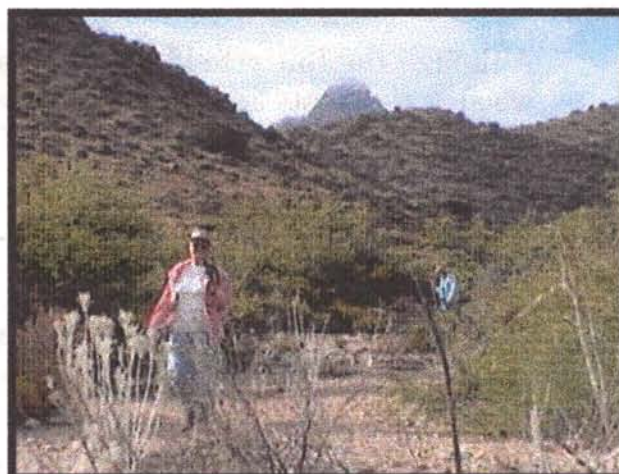
people of Willcox will not be able to buy sweaters this winter did not bother them a bit. In fact there was talk about selling them for a profit when they got home.

After days of clear skies and mild daytime temperatures, clouds were drifting in.

Day 6 - Wednesday, Oct. 21

This was to be our last day of mapping. However, rain showers began during the night and continued into the morning. Some of us got up during the night to put some of our stuff out of the rain and under the roof of the building by the parking area.

A morning rainbow and some sun during breakfast gave us hope for clearing, but the storm clouds returned. The decision was made to cancel this last day of mapping and we all headed home.



Rose Ann on the trail, Dave in the background.

Summary

The chapter has now completed 44 person weeks and three years of trail mapping. Our skills continue to get better. Five GPS units were available for use (almost 500 waypoints were collected during this mapping week), and we all had FSR radios (2 mile range) to facilitate communication when we were out of sight of each other. Digital cameras are being used as well and you might appreciate the photography in our chapter newsletter.

The trail in this area has now been mapped from roughly the mouth of Emigrant Canyon (Sec. 3, T15S, R29E) to west of Wood Canyon (Sec. 5, T15S, R28E), approximately 12 miles. Based on local information supplied by Larry Ludwig, historic military records, GLO and other historic maps, and emigrant diaries, there are multiple trails in the area.

At least two trails come from the east, the early route coming to the pass from the east and San Simon Cienega, and the later route coming from the northeast and Doubtful Canyon. They converge to go up Siphon Canyon and through Apache Pass. The routes divide again west of the pass. One route headed southwest towards Sulphur Springs and then northwest to Dragoon Springs while the other headed northwest and then west across the Wilcox Playa to Dragoon Springs.

These routes were no doubt used by traveling Indians and then received heavy usage: the 49ers, various stagelines (the Butterfield being one), military use before and during the time of the fort and continuing freight and ranch use. Sorting out the various trail routes through this area is difficult as we have found various alternates which undoubtedly stem from different time periods.

Although the Butterfield Trail is marked through the Fort Bowie NHS with wooden signposts and some interpretive markers, this area could certainly lend itself to some kind of marking by OCTA to educate the public that emigrants also used this route.

SWOCTA MAKES PROPOSAL TO FORT BOWIE NHS TO ERECT AN OCTA EMIGRANT MARKER

SWOCTA's Richard Greene has submitted a proposal to Larry Ludwig, Head Ranger of Fort Bowie National Historic Site, for the erection of a marker to recognize the trail used by emigrants through the Apache Pass area.

Richard has proposed that the erection of a marker be given consideration in Siphon Canyon or that section of the emigrant trail discovered alongside the Butterfield Trail during our most recent mapping trip or other sites recommended by the National Park Service (NPS) .

Larry will review SWOCTA's proposal and discuss it with the NPS Area Superintendent.

Richard will be stopping at Fort Bowie in January to see Larry about the status of the proposal.

FROM BILL MARTIN, THE EDITOR, "NEWS FROM THE PLAINS"

Bill Martin would like to carry some profiles of individuals who, without a lot of fanfare, are working to preserve and enhance the emigrant trails. Don Wiggins and his work on the Donner Trail will be featured in January.

Your newsletter editor would like to see some of our SWOCTA membership recognized for their efforts. Please send your recommendations to Editor, Desert Tracks, PO Box 483, Angel Fire, NM 87710 or e mail ramverde@newmex.com

The Editor will pursue your recommendations with those SWOCTA members and get their permission to sing their praises in *New From the Plains* even though their modesty would not allow them to do the same.

1999 CHAPTER OUTING - SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

A GUIDED TOUR OF COLUMBUS, NM: Review of Pancho Villa's raid .



From "THE TUCSON CITIZEN", March 9, 1916:
VILLA MASSACRES 16 AMERICANS IN U.S.—
Mexican bandit loots and burns Columbus,
NM.—U.S. may send troops across the border in
pursuit of bandits.

We will meet at 10.30 AM in Deming, NM in the Kmart Parking Lot (on the main street through town). It is not necessary to have 4WD vehicles — passenger vehicles are fine. The outing will end up in Deming in the early evening of Saturday.

Sunday, January 24 we will visit Fort Cummings and Cooke's Pass. Meet 9 AM, Kmart parking lot.

Please **submit** this form by January 10 to Trip Leader PETER BENNETT, 1525 W. WINDSOR ST. , TUCSON, AZ 85705-3017, or **call** 520 888-6553, or **Email** floraaz@aol.com

DEMING MOTELS

Days Inn 505 546-8813 \$42
1709 E. Spruce (Motel Drive)

Deming Motel 505 546-2737
\$28-36 500 W. Pine

Holiday Inn 505 546-2661
\$50, I-10 East , Exit 85

DEMING RV PARKS

81 PALMS RV RESORT
505 546-7434, \$12, 2800 W. Pine

LITTLE VINEYARD RV PARK & RESORT
800 413-0312, \$11, 2901 E. Motel Drive

CITY OF ROCKS STATE PARK 505 536-2800
ROCKHOUND STATE PARK 505 546-1212

Deming is full of reasonably priced motels if you want to take your chances.

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

____ I WILL ATTEND SATURDAY, JAN.23 OUTING TO COLUMBUS

____ I WILL ATTEND SUNDAY , JAN.24 OUTING TO FT.CUMMINGS

1999 CHAPTER DUES

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES FOR 1999

DUES ARE \$10 PER HOUSEHOLD

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

MAKE YOUR \$10 CHECK PAYABLE TO HARLAND TOMPKINS.

SEND YOUR CHECK & THIS FORM TO:

HARLAND TOMPKINS, SWOCTA
1125 W. MISSION DRIVE
CHANDLER, AZ 85224

DESERT TRACKS, SWOCTA
PO Box 483
Angel Fire, NM 87710



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