



Arizona Trails

Sept 1988

NEWSLETTER - AZ CHAPTER - OCTA

Vol. 1 No. 3

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

JACK'S TRAIL BITS

Our chapter had a GOOD get-together at the Tompkins' on July 16. We talked we swam, we ate, we conferred, we planned and we viewed some slides. Too bad only thirteen of us made it. I hope we do better next time.

We decided to shoot for bi-monthly outings during the coming season; and were so bold as to set the dates: Nov. 12-13, Jan. 14-15, Mar. 11-12, and May 13-14. This enables members to mark their calendars now and avoid conflicts later on. Each of our previous field trips (there were three) was a winner. A small committee is now solving the mystery of our destination on the above dates and will doubtless come up with a menu to satisfy the most ardent trail hound. If you pass up trips because you think it will be too difficult, or your vehicle is wrong (requires 4WD, etc.) don't. We seem to be able to accommodate all ages, vehicles, and degrees of expertise. I, for one, have learned something new every time - and our aged Midas RV remains undaunted. So give it a try.

Welcome to new members Baldwin & Ormy Lamson of Encino, California, and Gordon & Shirley Stebbings of Julian, California, who decided to join at St. Joe; as well as new member Patricia Etter of Tucson. Also, our congratulations to Susan Badger, who has been named National Secretary of OCTA. A big job, but she will do us proud.

It was great to see so many of our Arizona members at St. Joe. In addition to Susan, and the Roots, there were Fred and Joyce Rozum, Ken and Dorothy Tompkins, Bob and Betty Lee, Rose Ann Tompkins, and Mary Mueller of San Jose, CA.

Thanks are due to the Tompkins for their warm hospitality in hosting our meeting and here's wishing a speedy recovery to Aubrey Haines from his recent surgery.

Jack D. Root

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THE CHAPTER IS HOPING TO HAVE A SATURDAY AFTERNOON MEETING IN LATE SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN TUCSON. THE DETAILS HAVE NOT BEEN WORKED OUT AS OF PRESS TIME. YOU WILL RECEIVE A NOTIFICATION OF THIS MEETING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

SUMMER PLANNING AND GOOD TIME SESSION

Yes, it was both planning and good time on July 16 at the Tompkins in Chandler. We did have thirteen members present to mull over what we have accomplished during our first nine months as an OCTA chapter, and to look ahead both short and long range for our future.

Many of the members seem interested in the trail trips and we felt the ones we have had so far have been very successful. Opportunities for more of them will be available this coming year. Three weekends have been scheduled during this next year for a closer look at the Gila Trail in southern Arizona. Each weekend will concentrate on a different portion of the trail. The long range part of this program will be a possible rendezvous we could offer to the larger OCTA membership in a year or two. A committee is working on the details of the three weekends, and you will hear more later. The dates for these three weekends have been set so you can mark your calendars. They are the second weekend of the month in each case, namely:

Saturday & Sunday - Nov 12-13

Saturday & Sunday - Jan 14-15

Saturday & Sunday - Mar 11-12

We are also planning the second weekend of May, the 13-14 as an AZ OCTA weekend and suggestions are welcome at this time. We want to have a mixture of learning and doing in this chapter and all input is wanted.

At present we are solvent, but not enough to take on any big projects. There was discussion of how to raise more funds, no doubt some of those suggestions will be implemented as time goes on.

Jack stressed again the COED program that OCTA is launching, asking anyone wishing to help to respond the Don Buck's letter of last spring. COED is a Census of Overland Emigrant Documents, intended to computerized all source documents for future researchers. The committee needs volunteers to survey documents and do the data entry of the surveys.

The potluck dinner was plenty to eat for all and a chance for some informal talk. Then we had several slide presentations. Jack Root narrated the slides of their RV trip on the Oregon Trail several years ago. He took us from Independence to Oregon City with the sights the emigrants saw and the ruts they left behind. The Tompkins showed their slides of the chapter trips to Safford, Painted Rocks, and El Morro. Aubrey Haines finished the evening with an illustrated presentation on the "covered wagon" used by the emigrants. He gave us a good overview of how they were built for the long, hard trail as well as how they were handled during travel. (Those on the pre-convention trip in St. Joe saw examples of both the large freight wagon and the smaller family-type wagon at the museum at Fort Leavenworth.)

It was a day well spent for those attending and our hopes are high for the chapter during the next year.

OCTA CONVENTION - ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI, AUG. 9 TO 14. This editor was attending her first OCTA convention and came away with more impressions than will fit on this page. It was certainly a worthwhile experience and I am making my plans to go to Boise, Idaho next year. If you have not attended a convention, try to get to one sometime. It is laid-back and intense at the same time. Though we have a small chapter compared to some other areas, we are just as enthusiastic. It is a great place to learn about the trail and see some great country at the same time.

LET'S GET ACQUAINTED !

This is the first in a series of articles designed to introduce us to each other. It seems only fitting therefore to begin with the president of the Arizona chapter, Jack D. Root.

Jack and his wife Ruth (more about her another time) are retired and live in Tuscon. He started out in the mid west, born in Sterling, Illinois, and growing up in West Chicago. He received an engineering degree at the Ill. Inst. of Technology. There were then a number of homes for the Roots, including California (La Mesa and San Jose), New York (Vestal and Apalachin), Longmont, Colorado, and finally Tuscon. IBM was his employer for 33 years; he had several job titles including the one at the time of his retirement as Senior Publications Manager. Along the way, he states he was also a pickle processor and a bridge painter. Those were obviously not with IBM.

Jack and Ruth have two children and four grandchildren. They speak with pride about their family.

When asked about hobbies and interests, Jack listed history and trails, golf, reading, travel, and "fixing things" (that sounds like an engineer).

Besides being active in the Arizona Historical Society, Jack is a life member of OCTA and has attended all the conventions since joining OCTA. He was instrumental in organizing the Arizona Chapter last year as many of us know. He also participated in the Black Rock Desert Expedition in 1986 and the Mojave Road Rendezvous in 1988. Jack obviously brings an enthusiasm to our group as we go through our "growing pains".

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
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I hope the newsletter is helping to make the chapter stronger as we move into our second year. Please feel free to offer suggestions for improvement of the newsletter. I am also looking for short articles, book reviews, etc. I would like to include anything that would be of interest to the chapter members.

Rose Ann Tompkins, editor