



CROSSROADS

News of the Utah Crossroads Chapter
Oregon-California Trails Association
Vol. 27, No. 1, December 2015

OCTA Spring Board Meeting

Kathy Conway
March 2016

Update on the "Trails Across Southern Utah" Symposium in St. George

You are reminded to hold the dates of March 18-20, 2016 for OCTA's spring board meeting and symposium. We heard from some of you that the link provided at that time was corrupted, but we have since worked with the website host to correct that issue. The links provided here should now work.

Details and registration materials for the symposium are now available, and will include a Friday night reception and Saturday symposium at the Best Western Plus Abbey Inn. The board meeting will be held during the day on Friday, with a reception to follow that evening.

The Saturday symposium will focus on regional American Indian populations, early explorers, the Old Spanish Trail, and the Salt Lake to Los Angeles wagon road, and will feature T. Michael Smith delivering the keynote on Mountain Meadows during our Saturday evening banquet. Tours of trail sites will also be offered on Sunday.

Please visit OCTA's online registration system for the full itinerary, and note that we worked to keep this a very inexpensive and affordable symposium. Partaking of all meals and events over the full three days will cost an individual less than \$100, but you can of course choose your activities in a la carte fashion.

Also note that the Sunday tours will be conducted as car caravans, so you can either follow in your own vehicle or pair up with others. We will be limiting the number of vehicles on each tour, so be sure to sign up early to ensure your spot! If you are an OCTA member, paper registration forms will be mailed to you next week.

The hotel is located at 1129 South Bluff Street in St. George, Utah and OCTA has negotiated a room rate of \$118/night (normal rate is \$210). Please make your room reservation no later than February 17, 2016 to ensure you get the OCTA rate. Call (435) 652-1234 to reserve your room now. We have set aside both Queen and King suites.

All the rooms have free WiFi and 42-inch TVs, as well as microwaves, fridges and coffeemakers. Upgraded rooms add whirlpool tubs and fireplaces; 1 suite features Hollywood-themed decor.

Freebies include hot breakfast and an area shuttle. There's also a heated outdoor pool, kids pool and hot tub, plus meeting rooms and on-site laundry. An electric car-charging station is also available.

On Saturday, March 19 the symposium will get underway with a slate of speakers, followed by a dinner and keynote speaker that evening. Tours of the local trail sites in the area will be offered on Sunday, March 20.

Details on speakers and tours are still being developed by a few Crossroads Chapter members and we expect to have details and registration out shortly, hopefully as soon as later this week. Both online and paper registration will be made available.

Out and About:**Spraying Phragmites at Donner Springs**

Terry Welch

“Don’t expect success in a hurry.” That is what the Fish and Game agent told us back when we consulted about how to deal with invasive Phragmites. It was good advice, but we are making progress. There is more open water on the far side even though we did not do the spring burn phase of treatment this year.



Art Michaelson, who does the hard work, is my spraying partner. As you can see from the picture, we jury-rigged an extension for our spray hose. The mud and sub-surface debris makes wading very nearly impossible. We plan to extend the spray hose another 5-6 feet next fall.

Gregario, the ranch foreman, welcomed us and was glad to tell us of the consistent trickle of people who come to visit this remote historic site. He made special reference to recent visitors from New York.

We will be persistent in the effort to restore this meaningful site to its more natural setting. As a Crossroads Chapter, we are grateful to ranch owner Jay Tanner for his interest.

CROSSROADS CHAPTER ACTIVITIES:**Trail Monitoring**

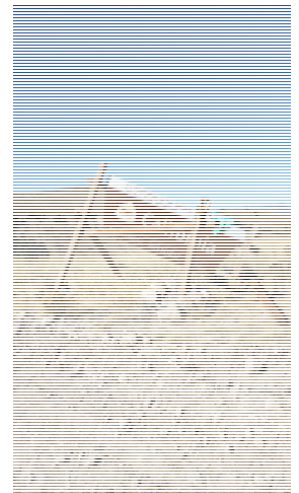
Linda Turner

We were up to Hastings Pass yesterday. Lots of washout, but road's been graded, lots of forest fire damage to the trees. Pilot Peak view 'west of pass still has the rail marker and Carsonite – looks lovely as usual.

We also took 4 wheelers over the gentle, narrow, mountain pass/trail/road just 'north' of Hastings Pass... goes up and over the pass. Roy told me something about it, but will have to call him to get a reminder. The trail circles to the south to Hastings Pass by the mine.

Redlum Spring looks pristine again-going back to nature from last washout. Pretty green cat tails are Funny, how the road signs take people 'away from Redlum Spring. Maybe it's better for ranchers and spring protection.

I've included a photo of damage to the big BLM road sign on top of the pass. Cement base has been pulled out on two sides. Looks like a tractor hit it or 'very' severe wind.

**T-Rail Post Installations Update:**

Jess Petersen

Utah Crossroads members recently installed six more railpost markers, three on the Hastings Road and three on the Salt Lake Cutoff.

On September 10th a group consisting of Victor Heath, Bryce Billings, Oscar Olson, Jess Petersen, and Ray Kelsey of the BLM traveled to Skull Valley where a marker was placed at the spot where a route that we call the Forty-Niner's trail return to the Hastings

Cutoff. This name comes from the fact that it was primarily used by the gold-rushers of 1849 and 1850 who used it to get to Delle Springs which was an excellent source of good water (as opposed to brackish water found in most of Skull Valley) and grass. This historic junction is located at the base of an overlook that is found about a quarter of a mile west of State Road 196 and about two miles north of the ranch buildings that mark the site of the abandoned community of Iosepa. **Con'td next page . . .**

The group of workers then moved a few miles north to Horseshoe Springs where a marker was placed on the Hastings Road near the interpretive panels that have been installed by the BLM.

The third marker for this day was placed at the point where the Hastings Road crosses a dike that was constructed for the purpose of impounding salt water in order to extract minerals. This spot is located about eight miles almost due northwest from Interstate 80's Knolls exit. Unfortunately, this is a restricted area that normally does not allow public access. However, Utah Crossroads is occasionally able to obtain special permission to visit the site.



On October 29th Crossroads members installed three rail posts on the Salt Lake Cutoff

(Hensley's Road). Victor Heath, Oscar Olson, Jess Petersen, Bryce Billings and his son Brad, and Gar Elison traveled to the Raft River Narrows in Idaho where they were met by some residents of the Almo area. A marker was installed as a replacement for one that had turned up missing shortly after its installation several years ago. Then, to prove that these projects are not necessarily all work and no play, the group crossed the Raft River and took a hike along the wagon road where it crosses the rocky talus slope. Just keeping upright on the loose rocks proved to be a serious challenge. Once again, modern rut-nuts were left wondering just how the pioneers were able to do some of the things they did.

The group then headed south to the Clear Creek Road to place a marker at the point where the Salt Lake

Cutoff crosses today's county road. This spot can be reached by heading west on the Strevell Road from Idaho State Route 42 for about four miles then turning south on the Clear Creek road for two miles (the Strevell Road is in Idaho but you cross into Utah about halfway to the marker).

The third marker for the day was placed at Emigrant Springs which are located in the Cedar Creek area, a short distance upslope from the eastern base of the Raft River Mountains. These springs are on private property but Crossroads can get occasional permission to visit the area.

Washington Square T-Rail Update: On November 20th Jess met with Joan Swain, who is the coordinator for Washington Square activities, and Troy Baker who is a supervisor for the Salt Lake City Parks Department. The purpose of the meeting was to reach an agreement on where to place the Washington Square rail post. The spot that was selected is near the northwest corner of the square, a few feet into the grass where it will be easily visible from both State Street and 400 South.

Troy mentioned that our request to place a rail post on the bank of the Jordan River and just north of North Temple has been approved. He also solved the mystery of the rail post that Bryce discovered missing from the Warm Springs area. His crews had to do some work in the area and they did not want to damage it, so they dug it up and stored in in one of their shops for the past couple months. He said that it was replaced at its original location a few days ago.

The Mayor's office will be preparing a letter of agreement that will cover both posts that will have to be signed by a Crossroads officer.

Other rail post news, we have installed four rail posts on the Central Overland Trail this year. The locations are Tooele City, Skull Valley, Camp Floyd, and Indian Ford.

Fall 2015 Chapter Lecture:

The Crossroads Chapter fall lecture was held on Thursday, the 12th of November at its regular meeting place on 21st South and State Street (North building) at 7:00 p.m. After a few short business items those attending were favored with a great presentation by chapter vice president, Mike Landon on the topic: "*Cattle Theft at Bishop's Creek – Southerners, "Free Soil candidates," and Indians*". Topics included

relationships and connections of the eastern regions from which emigrants traveled, often with staggering numbers of cattle, and comparisons of the subject events and activities from various accounts recorded in their original diaries. Michael's lecture is to be continued at some future date.

Other Fall Chapter Meeting Activities:

Ray Kelsey, BLM Salt Lake District Office, made 8 presentations to various Crossroads members for their invaluable assistance and work promoting trail preservation for the California NHT across the west desert area of Utah.

Crossroads leadership also made presentations to various chapter members for their continuing efforts and work with trail preservation. Quida Blandfield, Jess Peterson, Vic Heath, Drew Wanosik, Gar Elison, Craig Fuller, and Terry Welch were recognized with Certificates of Appreciation.

Current chapter officers were reelected to their various offices however chapter secretary Craig Fuller is stepping down after many years of service. Anybody

interested in serving the chapter with note taking and chapter meetings recording?

Special Recognition Awards:

Two Crossroads members were recognized in September at the annual OCTA Conference held this year at South Lake Tahoe. Al Mulder was recognized with (received by his daughter Penny) the **Gregory Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award** in recognition of his lifetime of achievements for trail mapping and his efforts to develop the Donner Spring interpretive site. T. Michael Smith was also presented with the **David J. Welch Preservation Award** for his many years of outstanding efforts toward trail preservation.

Fall Field Trip – Salt Lake Cutoff\California NHT:
October 9th – 10th, 2015 from Snowville, Utah to Wells, Nevada via the Raft River Valley, City of Rocks NR, Granite Pass, Record Bluff, and Thousand Springs Valley, Nevada. Seventeen adventurous Crossroads members rose before the crack of dawn on October 9th

and headed north out of the Salt Lake Valley for a two-day adventure on the California Cutoff. Gar Elison and Terry Welch guided this daring group to numerous sites noted in journals and diaries by earlier travelers who passed this way in the late 1840s.



Top of Granite Pass – Looking east



Heading for the Raft River Valley – North of the GSL



Wagon Ruts west of Granite Pass – to Bishop Creek



Thousand Springs Valley and creek bed



End of tour

Volunteer Activity Report:

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Donations of time, talent, funds, and equipment to volunteer organizations like ours make what we do possible. Many have been generous, and we thank them. OCTA is a 501c3 so be wise and utilize the tax laws and your favorite financial advisor in making the most of your tax-deductible donations. We remind you to consider making any final donations you may find needful before the end of the year to simplify our Crossroads paperwork and meet the end of 2015 year IRS requirements. Because of tax law, Crossroads does not appraise the value of equipment you may be or have donated.

Those who want to further help our Crossroads program can earmark funds for the purchase of plaques to go on our many T-markers. In 2015 we will probably need to raise a little more money, volunteer labor and transportation to purchase additional plaques and place the many markers we have in the works.

Besides making the various donations, each of us should also be reporting those donations. Please send Nila Eldredge at: (nila@trailbuff.com) the hours, miles and dollar amounts you may have spent assisting Crossroads trails programs during 2015. Each year we compile those figures for OCTA. That report is used in various ways to directly assist our efforts in identifying and preserving historic trail.

Young Artists Are Asked To Step Forward:

Vern /Ilene Gorzitze

The results are in. This year students from several schools were honored by having their artwork displayed on the pages and cover of OCTA’s calendar. The schools had a special assembly to present the awards and recognize efforts made by student and teacher.

This is a very rewarding project, but it does not happen unless school contacts are made. It is a great opportunity for Crossroads parents, and grandparents to visit the elementary schools their children or grandchildren attend and get them interested. OCTA is more than chapter meetings and field trips; it offers members the opportunity to get involved in many diverse areas, according to interest, ability, time and energy.

The winners are awarded a \$50 check and a copy of the calendar; the school also receives a calendar. Winning students are recognized in a special school assembly. The theme for next year is “Emigrant & Indian – Modes of Transportation”.

Canyon Rim Elementary



Upland Terrace Elementary



Scheduled Events

- **March 18-20, 2016**
OCTA Mid-Year Board Meeting and Symposium in St George, Utah
- **August 1 - 5, 2016** – OCTA National Convention, Fort Hall, Idaho

Utah Crossroads Chapter

Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA)

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CROSSROADS is published **January - April - July - October**

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