



# CROSSROADS

News of the Utah Crossroads Chapter  
Oregon-California Trails Association  
Vol. 28, No. 1, April 2016

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## 016 OCTA Mid-year Meeting Report

A year ago the OCTA Mid-year board meeting was held in Denver. The item receiving the shortest discussion and quickest approval was to plan this year's Spring meeting to be held in a warm climate; it was 11 degrees outside. Hence, we met in beautiful warm St. George.

The first day was filled with a profitable board meeting. The second day was a series of presentations focusing on the Spanish Trail as determined by ruts, names on rocks, cairns, tree blazing, diaries and artifacts. The evening keynote address was given by our own T Michael Smith on the subject of the Mountain Meadows Massacre.

On the third day participants chose to follow either Leo Lyman on a segment of the Old Spanish trail south of St George or to accompany T Michael out to Mountain Meadows.

Crossroads members who attended were Susan and T Michael Smith, Bryce and George Billings, George Ivory, Hope and Terry Welch, Chad Orton and Rob Sweeton. Next year's mid-year meetings will be in Vancouver, Washington. The annual convention in August will be held at Ft. Hall, Idaho.

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## Notes from President Terry Welch

Utah Crossroads Chapter Report (Mid-year Convention in St. George, Utah, March 2016)  
We have not taken a winter break from trail interests/involvement since the Tahoe Convention. There are always chapter events, meetings and general interaction with individuals as well as public and private groups.

### Crossroads activities of the past few months:

- Our semi-annual trail lecture provided by Michael Landon was well attended.
- The annual BBQ was as popular as ever—Will Bagley enlightened us about South Pass.
- We are having an on-going dialog, meetings and site visits as we seek locations for trail and interpretive media in partnership with the BLM and National Park Service Trails office.
- Chapter members T Michael Smith and Al Mulder were honored with national awards at the Tahoe Convention (Our chapter public affairs board member arranged for the SL Tribune to do an article recognizing these awards as well as

Dixon Ford for his superb "Overland Journal" article on oxen).

- The site committee at the Salt Lake City and County facility has identified a spot for installation of a T-rail maker.
- One of our board members made a trails presentation to a group of 80 members of a local chapter of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers.
- We have a continuing effort to express interest and provide information political and private agencies where we feel a need.
- Our Fall trip was a 2 day event—tracing trail routes from Salt Lake to City of Rocks, Burley, Idaho and south to Wells, NV. Ranchers were most kind to allow us to visit sites not often frequented.
- We are maintaining an effort to keep track and provide input to the Utah Test and Training Range Withdrawal Zone Bill—UTTR, and attendant updates as introduced by Senator Hatch and Representative Stewart.

- We are working to support the agencies planning a Jedediah Smith Monument dedication in April.
- We are actively working with KUEN 9 television to get permission to air the OCTA/BLM Hastings Cutoff film.

- Our Crossroads Chapter has an agreement with the State of Utah History Division whereby they will be a formal repository for our print items. This is currently an active endeavor.
- Our Chapter Treasurer reports that we are solvent.

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## CROSSROADS UPDATES

Linda Turner - Public Relations

It's always good to have good news to tell. Roy Tea has thankfully recovered from being in critical condition for 2-1/2 months in the hospital. He went in after his birthday November 20th. It was so good to talk to him again and he sounds great. He said his nine year old 'stint' failed and he had two choices; to operate with a 30/90pc chance to live, or be dead in one hour. Roy, we're so happy to have you back! He said to tell you all 'Hello and that he's still kicking, but not too hard.' Be sure to check out Roy's webpage at: [www.scienceviews.com/Hastings Cutoff and Bidwell Bartleson](http://www.scienceviews.com/Hastings_Cutoff_and_Bidwell_Bartleson). We send our love and thoughts to Laura Mulder as well.

### Here Are Some Other Bits Of PR News:

- A beautiful, big Jedediah Strong Smith Monument was dedicated at the Fremont Indian State Park near Cove Fort Utah on April 23rd at 10 to 11am. There will be a small mountain man rendezvous, speakers and media. And a campground is near. Thanks to all involved including Dr. Leo Lyman, Bob Leonard, Kevin Taylor, Don Merritt, OSTA, NFS and DNR.
- After months of meetings, calls and emails, our VIP Central Overland Trail Director, Jesse Petersen got final approval from the Salt Lake Mayor to put in a T-Rail post at Washington Square and one near North Temple at the Jordan River.
- After months of emails, we got approval for the 'well done' BLM/OCTA Hastings Cutoff film to be

put on KUEN 9 television! Thank you Robert Sweeten BLM for this excellent film of young BLM Interns hiking the great salt desert on the Hastings Trail. And you'll see some of our Crossroads folks being interviewed, Oscar Olson, and T Michael Smith to name a few.

- Renovation and repairs are being planned for the Donner Reed Museum in Grantsville this spring/summer. Thank you Craig Anderson for allowing some OCTA/Crossroads archive trail history, Jedediah Smith history, Pony Express and Lincoln Highway history to be included.
- Cheers to Preservation Officer T. Michael Smith and President Terry Welch for all their successes at the Symposium in St. George. I hope to see you all out on the trail, lots of work is being done and we can all be proud.

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## Utah Crossroads Railpost Project Update

Following are various correspondence notes regarding permission for installation of Rail Posts within Salt Lake City.

### Letter from Parks and Public Lands Program

Director, SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION:

Christina Ottoline will be contacting you today to receive a delivery of donation date. Once we have that the contract will go to the Attorneys for the last of the signatures. Once complete, Troy Baker will be contacting you to work out details of the

installation. Sorry this has taken more time than usual. We will contact you very soon once the contract is complete. Thank you so much for your patience and the donation to Salt Lake City.

KRISTIN RIKER, CPRP

Parks and Public Lands Program Director

**Response note from Petersen:**

Thanks for the update Kristin. I did get the call from Christina. Selecting a delivery date was something of a problem without knowing when we can expect to obtain final approval. But we did settle on the end of May. Now, let me ask you if you feel that there is any question that our proposal will actually be approved? As I think I have mentioned previously, it has always been our practice to wait until we have received final approval from the land-owner before we place an order for the engraved metal plates. In this particular situation, if you feel quite certain that this project will end up being approved, I will go ahead and place the order for the plates. Please let me know what you think about this. Thank you for your help, we definitely appreciate it.

JESS PETERSEN

Your donation has been approved by the Mayor. The DA's office signature is to finalize the contract. I am certain this is already approved and will move forward in the next day or two. Once we have the contract I will contact you. – Kristin.  
KRISTIN RIKER, CPRP

**On Wed, Mar 16, 2016, Jesse Petersen wrote:**

Great News!!! I feel like we can regard this as an official notification of approval and will get the plates ordered for the two posts that will be placed in Salt Lake City; one in Washington Square and one on the bank of the Jordan River at North Temple, and a third one that will be placed near Black Rock.

Linda, you really deserve the credit for getting this done, I am totally convinced that it would not have happened without your efforts. Thanks so very much.

Jess Petersen

**Outstanding Educator Awards**

Vern \ Ilene Gorzitze

**Oregon-California Trails Association****2016 Outstanding Educator Award****The OCTA Calendar entries**

The "Outstanding Educator Award" nominations were due this Spring and it would be well to remind Crossroads membership of this yearly event. The deadline was March 31st. You might just start thinking about possible nominees for next year.

The Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA), founded in 1982, is a national organization dedicated to the study, preservation, interpretation, appreciation, and enjoyment of the western pioneer trails. It is now accepting nominations/applications for its award program to recognize outstanding achievement in educating students of various ages and abilities about the westward migration. The presentations will be made at the awards program on Tuesday, August 2, during OCTA's convention, August 1-5, 2016. The convention will be held in Fort Hall, Idaho.

Nominations for the Outstanding Educator Award are open to any individual and/or group of educators or institution/museum that contributes significantly to students' education about the 19th century westward overland migrations in the United States. The work may reflect a whole unit or special project within a unit or a course on westward migration. It will be considered for its unique or imaginative approach "above and beyond" the normal teaching of the topic, its appropriateness for the students' level and range of abilities, the accuracy of its historical presentation, the range of student participation, and its effectiveness in presenting the topic to the students. The work for which the recipients will be honored must have been used during either the 2014-2015 or the 2015-2016 school year.

The five category levels for this award are:

- 1) Elementary - primary/intermediate grades
- 2) Middle school/Junior high
- 3) High school
- 4) Post secondary – college, university, adult education
- 5) Museum/park/institution

The recipients will be recognized at the annual OCTA convention and receive a framed certificate and an honorarium of \$250.00. In addition, they will receive their convention registration and room and board for the day of the awards program. For forms and additional information about this award and the nomination process, please contact:

**Outstanding Educator Awards Program  
Oregon-California Trails Association  
524 South Osage Street / P.O. Box 1019  
Independence, MO 64051**

The following are a few words about the participation of students in the Calendar Project sponsored by OCTA, under the supervision of Bill Hill, Education Publications Chairman:

### **YOUNG ARTISTS ARE ASKED TO STEP FORWARD**

Each year the Oregon-California Trails Association produces a special calendar based on a particular theme. The calendar is created using the original artwork of elementary students. Prizes are awarded to each child whose artwork is selected.

As you know OCTA is dedicated to the study, preservation, interpretation, appreciation and enjoyment of the western trails. This is one of the education projects. It integrates history and art. Hopefully it will increase the student's interest in learning about the West, an important part of our history.

### **Calendars will run from January - December.**

The theme for 2016 issue was "Emigrant & Indian Children's Toy's & Games". The theme for 2017 is "Emigrant & Indian Modes of Transportation".

Prizes are given – Each student (whose artwork is selected) will receive a calendar and a Special Prize. The school will also receive a calendar. Additional copies will be available for purchase.

Specification are set forth and must be followed i.e. size and originality.

For more than a decade Ilene Gorzitze has contacted local schools, explained the program and asked for their participation and later visited schools with instructional materials and display items. There has been almost yearly success and several local schools have had their young artists recognized more than once.

Some educators have even made this program part of their yearly curriculum. The schools have 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. This year Ilene is working with teachers and 4th students of Bennion Elementary.



(L) Ilene giving instructions to Bennion 4th Grade Classes - Vern looking on.



(R) Bennion 4th Grade Classes – Ilene and Vern at the rear of room.

### Symposium topic-UTAH BLM/OCTA Hastings Cutoff film

Utah Crossroads Public Relations

Exciting news!! Maybe you could mention something about this at the Symposium (per BLM Robert Sweeten)!! We finally got approval to show Sweetens' Utah BLM/OCTA film about the two BLM interns crossing the great salt desert on Hastings Cutoff on television Channel 9! I advised Kyle Anderson Program Director KUEN 9 to continue correspondence with Utah Robert Sweeten BLM, the lead in this project, to get the film ready for television. I just talked to Mr. Sweeten yesterday and he said the film is nearly ready to present to Kyle and the actual showing date should soon be given. Robert Sweeten says he's thinking of even wider distribution for television and maybe visitor centers. And noted due to its 45 minute length, it's better for 'television than schools.

Thanks for all you do Travis. Another thought: remember the Jedediah Smith Monument with metal horses and mules, east of Cove Fort Utah dedication on April 23rd (per Kevin Taylor), Fremont Indian State Park.

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### Our Spring gathering on 31 March

Terry Welch, Crossroads President

Greetings to All!

(1) A proposal has been made for Bidwell/Bartleson markers at Newton and Tremonton (with a possible trail brochure)--Tremonton, Newton DUP, and Cache County Tourism were visited some time ago. Just recently I visited with Box Elder Tourism and the head of the very trail active SUP in Brigham. All are on board conceptually and each has committed dollars. I will now be back in touch with Cache Co. Tourism--they seem to be the one to engineer the next step of production (Kimberly Finch in the NPS, National Trails System Office also indicated that she has contract resources...) The locals in

this matter seem ready to do much of the leg work--I hope to use our CX resources to keep these elements on the same boat. The key figures in this endeavor already know each other. Any advice/direction/ pitfall warnings from any of you will be welcome. (Roy Tea wrote a document that could be used for sign content--we will watch this phase closely--"we" means you good folks)

(2) We will had a board meeting at 5:00 pm on the 31st of March.

(3) Spring Tour: Saturday, May 14 We will meet at the Maverick off of I-15 between Ogden and Willard. The exit is 2700 North (Rt 134)--same pace as last year. Meet at 8:00 so we can be on the road by 8:15. Even with road construction this should put us at Tremonton by 9:00. (Our location will be near a spring on the Hensley Cut-off Trail.)

**Tour includes:** The world's largest collection of wagons. Eli will show/tell U.S. and western history using wagons, which, if placed tongue to tailgate, would stretch on for a mile--truly unique! A visit to historic Conner Springs along the Bidwell-Bartleson Trail. We won't want to pass by some significant rock art panels. On our way to The Meeting of the Rails site we will make a brief stop at the ATK rocket display and then follow the RR

grade and check out the location of the steepest section of the early RR between Sacramento and the Missouri. We will visit the Promontory monument and the engines from east and west. (4) Two other items will be our CX organization and more on the big OCTA convention here in 2018.

(5) The trails are thawing!

## UTTR legislation

T. Mike Smith, Crossroads Preservation Director

Concern over the UTTR legislation has reached my email from various quarters. To which I respond as follows. (HR4579 Supported by all four Utah's (Congressional Representatives)

It provides a joint DOI/DOD Management for the expanded UTTR, as in Hatch's revised bill we had some months back. It is not the wholesale transfer to DOD that we first saw and to which we so objected.

It requires an appropriate MOA between DOI and DOD and has a 30 day public comment period for that doc. A Community Resource Group (Sec 103) is required to advise the joint management and requires DOI/DOD to produce the management doc within a 180 day time frame following the input. Our most direct access window is within the allowable recreational group (D of 102). It would be competitively difficult to put a Crossroad member there and we should prepare to try and influence whoever is appointed. BLM

UT will appoint, and BLM continues to be our best general point to influence (That is good).

The problem of the legislation is in the details. It gives considerable latitude to the new combined management to do various things. That is, there is double speak in this bill and that is common for

these general management mandates and it is usually thought wise to allow this flexibility.

What OCTA really seeks is a continuance of previous trail management activities that allow access, research and preservation of NHT and other important trails.

Access closures (Sec 102) seem similar to the previous revised Hatch bill. Restraints do exist. Special wordage for certain interests is included. The trail's one is mentioned in Sec 105. It reads: "(2) National historic trails and other historical landmarks. Except as provided in section 102, nothing in this title limits or alters any existing right or right of access to a component of the National Trails System or other Federal or State historic landmarks within the BLM land, including the California National Historic Trail, the Pony Express National Historic Trail, or the GAPA Launch Site and Blockhouse."

Presently, this is not a bad bill, but is one that is in the early stages of the legislative track. It could change and even if passed and signed as is, could be implemented either adversely or sympathetically, to our trails interest. As the management doc is completed and the community group is chosen and advises it could also change either way.

So far so good, Mike



## History Day Call for Judges

Lee Kreutzer, Cultural Resources Specialist  
National Park Service, InterMountain Region Trail Office

The Division of State History asked me to forward this announcement around to people who love history and might be willing to serve as judges for this year's National History Day competition. The theme of the competition this year Exploration, Encounters, and Exchange, and the tee shirt they are giving to judges and history day winners features a few of Utah's historic transportation corridors (including the Hastings Cutoff, the transcontinental railroad, and the Lincoln Highway). It sounds like a lot of fun and I am going to sign up, myself.

I am wondering if you would be willing to forward this announcement around Crossroads OCTA in hopes of recruiting a few judges for the festivities. Dates and other information are provided in the attached poster. Thanks for any help you can give!

**From: Wendy Rex Atzet wratzet@utah.gov**

Date: Tue, Feb 9, 2016 at 12:49 PM

Dear Colleagues,

It's almost contest season, and History Day really does need you! History Day helps kids discover that history is meaningful, relevant, and fun. Bring your enthusiasm and an open mind, and spend a day working with young people who are excited about the past.

As a judge, you will read/view history projects, interview the students, and provide written feedback on each project. The time commitment is 8:00 am - 1:30 or 3:00 pm. We will train you, and we will feed you. It's fun and it's rewarding.

### **We especially need judges at our State Contest:**

Saturday, April 16, at Hillcrest Jr. High in Murray

Sign up here: <http://utahhistoryfair.weebly.com/judges.html>

Do you know someone who would be great at this? Spread the word! Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Wendy Rex Atzet



**Scheduled Events**

- **March 18-20, 2016**  
OCTA Mid-Year Board Meeting and Symposium in St George, Utah
- **May 14, 2016**  
Saturday, Spring Tour Wagons, Rails, & Rockets
- **August 1 - 5, 2016** – OCTA National Convention, Fort Hall, Idaho

**Utah Crossroads Chapter**

Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA)

<http://www.utahcrossroads.org>**Chapter Officers:**

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