

FALL Issue

Fall 2018

'Our mission is to enhance the California Trail Experience for our community, visiting public and future generations.'



CALIFORNIA TRAIL HERITAGE ALLIANCE

THE Wagon Tongue

Reflections of Rails & Trails—Confluence & Impact

What an amazing week it was in the Ogden area at the 2018 Oregon-California Trail Convention this past August! The Utah Crossroads Chapter did an excellent job in making this a convention to remember. The theme of Rails and Trails –Confluence and Impact was reflected in the presentations, tours, and the activity stations. All were well organized and rehearsed or prepared.

The speakers were outstanding – some from academia, some from the museum world, and others from the private sector. Many of the presenters provided information new to some members of the audience.

One of the most completing was a joint presentation “Bear River Massacre – Getting the Account Correct. It was a two part presentation by Northwest Band of Shoshone Tribal Vice-Chair and archeologist Ken Cannon. They provided individual perspectives on a joint effort to determine the location of the Bear River Massacre using historical documents and maps, and modern geomorphology and very limited sand luminescence testing. The cooperative effort between the tribal leaders and the scientific community was a wonderful part of this story.



The tours provided insights into the above-mentioned themes of the Convention. Those who took the Central Overland Tour reported many interesting points made by the tour leader about the Overland stage and later wagon travel on that route. Others found the tour focusing on the Bidwell-Bartleson wanderings south of Soda Springs (continued on pg. 3)





BLAINE BENEDICT RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE TO TRAIL CENTER

Blaine Benedict, retired Southern Nevada Conservancy Director, was recently honored by the Elko-based California Trail Heritage Alliance. Benedict is credited with a critical role in making the exhibits and facility now known as the California Trail Interpretive Center, a world-class center. The story of the mid-nineteenth century California Trail comes alive in the murals, photographs, interactive models, and wonderful indoor and outdoor exhibits and other features.

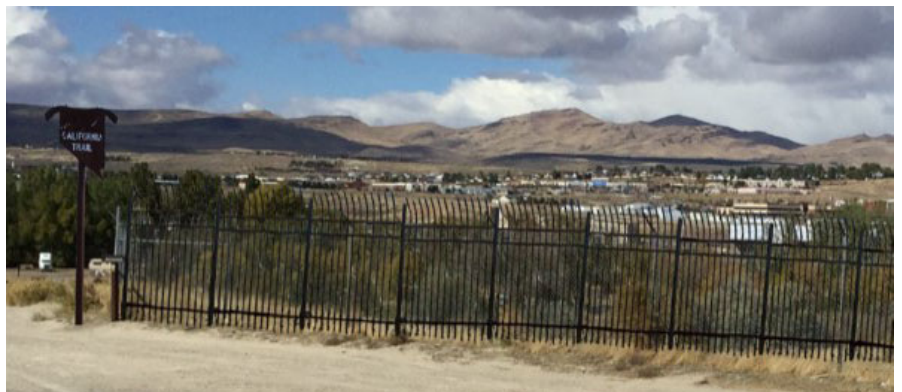
Former federal site managers credit Benedict and the Southern Nevada Conservancy with making the site the world class facility it is today.

ELKO HOT HOLE

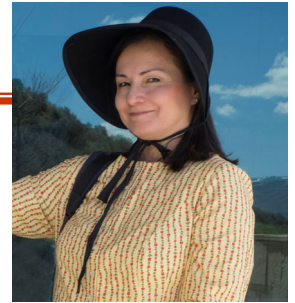
Plans are moving forward to fence the historic Elko Hot Hole with funds from the Nevada Commission on Tourism. Kevin Lee with the California Trail Heritage Alliance has been working with the City of Elko, and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office to move the project forward. The goal of the project is to install an attractive fence that provides for the safety of the public visiting the site. The story of the site and its importance in local history will be shared on an interpretive panel in the vicinity.

August 20, 1850, James Bennett wrote: " *Three miles within the canyon are a number of boiling springs bursting from the base of the mountain immediately into the creek, rendering the water unfit for use for several miles below.*"

The California Trail Heritage Alliance plans to complete the fencing and prior to the Oregon-California Trail Association in 2020. They are hosting that event. For more information email ctcf18492@gmail.com.



Center Presents Exhibit Tour in Spanish



The California Trail Interpretive Center presented a guided tour of its state-of-the-art exhibits in Spanish.

Isabel Sanchez conducted the family friendly tour on Sept. 29th. The one-hour tour of the interactive exhibits was free and open to everyone.

Sanchez is a Trail Center volunteer and a certified Interpretive guide with the National Association for Interpretation.

In a pre-tour press release, Supervisory Park Ranger Alex Rose wrote, “This program is the first formal tour we have ever conducted in Spanish, and we encourage visitors to join Isabel as she leads the group through our galleries,”

Between 1841 and 1869, approximately 250,000 people sold their belongings, packed wagons, and set out for California. Trail Center visitors learn about the emigrants and their impacts to both Nevada and U.S. history.

The mission of the California Trail Interpretive Center is to connect visitors to the California Trail experience. The Trail Center is a national and international destination, serving visitors from throughout the United States and around the world.

Reflections (Continued from Pg. 1)

Idaho along the Bear and Malad Rivers to be of interest. Information presented about the Hastings Cutoff in Utah shared during the tour of Echo and Weber Canyons and the post-convention tour of the Hastings cutoff west of Salt Lake to the Nevada line were of great interest to those who are familiar with the Hastings Cutoff in Nevada. The difficulty the Donner Party had getting through the vegetation in the Utah Canyons and along the periphery of the Salt Flats were underscored with these field trips. One highlight of the Bidwell-Bartleson tour was a visit to Wagon Land where a gentleman is in the process of or has already restored over 350 wagons and stage coaches from the mid-nineteenth century.

A new approach taken by the Utah Crossroads group at this convention was the establishment of Activity Stations which could be visited on two different afternoons. The stations included hands on information about hand cart construction, gear and equipment used by the Mormon Battalion, agency and historic trail information booths, information about LDS family and historic research and others. The opportunity to speak to those at these booths was well received and provided for some great one on one learning opportunities.

The convention was well worth the time and money invested and provided an incentive to attend next year’s convention in early September in Santa Fe New Mexico—*Helen Hankins*.





UPCOMING EVENTS

CTHA Board Meetings

*All California Trail Center Foundation Board meetings are held at the California Trail Interpretive Center and begin at 5:30 p.m.

October 18, 2018 - Board Meeting

October 20-21, 2018 - MET Mapping

October 30, 2018 - 2020 OCTA Planning Meeting

November 15, 2018 - Board Meeting

November 27, 2018 - 2020 OCTA Planning Meeting

KEY LINKS

www.facebook.com/pages/California-Trail-Center-Foundation/157116030992463

<http://www.californiatrailcenter.org/>

www.emigranttrailswest.org

www.octa-trails.org

www.appl.org

[www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office/
blm_programs/blm_special_areas/
california_trail_historic.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office/blm_programs/blm_special_areas/california_trail_historic.html)

TRAIL CENTER ACTIVITIES

Oct. 28, 2:00 p.m.: Junior Ranger Program: Oxen: Strong, Slow and Thick Skinned

Oxen are the unsung heroes of the California Trail. Oxen are smart, strong, obedient, and if you wound up in a desperate situation, they were delicious.

Due to their reliability and low cost, oxen were the preferred wagon haulers for most pioneers. Join Park Ranger Greg Feathers and learn how oxen were used on the California Trail. To conclude the program, junior rangers will drive their own "ox team" through a fun and challenging obstacle course.



Living History Program

On Oct. 6, visitors were able to meet Gideon Fitzgerald, California Trail Emigrant.

The year is 1850. Gideon Fitzgerald, a young man from Tennessee, is on his way to California, hoping to strike it rich in the gold fields. Fitzgerald has set up camp near the California Trail.

Fitzgerald was able to share his experiences that include hunting buffalo in Nebraska, meeting Native Americans, and the tragedy that took place in what we now call Wyoming.

Volunteer Brandon Allen portrayed Gideon Fitzgerald in this living history program.



Great Basin Native Market: Crafts, Jewelry, Native Games, & more

Celebrate the rich history and culture of Great Basin Native Americans at the California Trail Interpretive Center. The Trail Center will celebrate traditional Native American history at the annual Great Basin Native Market on Oct. 20 and 21, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This family friendly event is free and open to everyone.

Learn about the history and traditions of Great Basin Native Americans. This year's Native Market features handmade crafts, collectibles, jewelry, and more. Native American art makes great Christmas gifts.

The event also features the exhibit, "Through Our Own Eyes: A Native American Youth Art Exhibition." The exhibit includes over 100 paintings by students from Owyhee Combined School, located on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation.

Whitney's Indian Tacos will sell food and refreshments at the market. "We are excited to have traditional Shoshone games at this event," said Jordan Thomas, a visitor guide and event coordinator. "We also want to encourage visitors to bring their families and enjoy lunch while learning more about traditional Great Basin Indian culture."

The following is a schedule of events:

Oct. 20, 11:00 a.m.: Pine Needle Basket Weaving Demo

Leah Brady will demonstrate how to weave traditional baskets using pine needles.



Oct. 20, 1:00 p.m.: Traditional Shoshone Children's Games

Learn how to play three traditional Shoshone games. Shinny is similar to field hockey. The second game, the Winnowing Tray game was played to teach young women how to clean and cook pine nuts. Children can also play Hand Game, a traditional Native American guessing stick game.

Oct. 21, 11:00 a.m.: Willow Basket Weaving Demonstration

Leah Brady will demonstrate the traditional methods used to weave willow baskets.

Oct. 21, 1:00 p.m.: Traditional Shoshone Prayer Songs by Katherine Blossom

Enjoy traditional Shoshone songs. Katherine Blossom will sing and drum as she performs traditional prayer songs.



For more information about the California Trail Interpretive Center, call (775) 738-1849. Visit the Trail Center online at www.californiatrailcenter.org or <https://www.facebook.com/californiatrailinterpretivecenter/>.

Bike Path Planned to Trail Center

Reprint from the Elko Daily Free Press.

Article and photo by Toni Milano



Cyclists are a few years away from having a new bike path connecting them from Elko to the California Trail Interpretive Center.

Starting at Exit 298, the seven-mile path will run along Interstate 80 to the Hunter Exit and include signs pointing out the historical significance of the trail, said Larry Hyslop, a member of the California Trail Heritage Alliance.

“Our goals are to tie the California Trail Center to the path to have a link with the city, and to create another recreational opportunity,”

Bike path advocate Larry Hyslop spoke to the Elko City Council in Sept. to inform them of the plans. He shared an aerial photograph of the path’s location prepared by the Nevada Department of Transportation and presenting an overview of the route.

The project is within NDOT’s right-of-way for I-80 and is currently in the scoping phase and risk assessment phase. NDOT officials have indicated the project is in their data base and is going to happen. The funding for the path will come from NDOT, and from grant monies associated with federal highways.

Hyslop said there will be a local stakeholder meeting this fall to gain more community involvement. In announcing the plans to the city council, Hyslop said he was hoping to encourage the community to come on board with the project.

“I’m trying to build buy-in, and get people excited about it and talk about it,” Hyslop explained, adding he hopes to spread the word and talk to more groups and organizations about the path for additional support.

He also hopes it will increase awareness for more designated bicycle lanes within the city.

“We’re hoping that there will be bike paths all the way through the city and out to that point,” he told the city council.

Possibly, NDOT could develop a route taking cyclists to the bike path’s trailhead from West Idaho Street to Mountain City Highway, Hyslop said, which might add to the county’s master plan for bike paths stretching from Lamoille Canyon to the Carlin Tunnels.

“There is a plan and that’s their ultimate goal, but it’s going slowly,” Hyslop said.

For those interested in learning more or partnering with the California Trail Heritage Alliance, contact Hyslop at 385-8870 or email ctcf1948@gmail.com.

CALIFORNIA TRAIL



HERITAGE ALLIANCE

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Summer has been an amazing time for the California Trail Heritage Alliance. The bike path project we have been working on for at least two years is on its way to become a reality. NDOT will be scheduling a stakeholders meeting this fall to get additional community input. Alliance member Larry Hyslop has spoken before several local groups and the Elko City Council to inform all about the project.

Duane Jones was successful in obtaining grant funds from the Nevada Commission on Tourism for marketing the California Trail Interpretive Center through electronic, print and social media. He also obtained a grant from Newmont for licensing Terrain Navigator, a GPS application used by the Alliance for mapping the California Trail and the Hastings cutoff. I (Helen Hankins) was able to get funds from the Elko County Recreation Board to serve as matching funds for the marketing grants from the State.

Gratton Miller has worked to update our bylaws and ensure that succession planning was included.

Walt Goddard is moving forward with a concept to place several interpretive panels throughout the City. Preliminary sites for signs have been identified. Walt will soon be moving forward to work with land owners in the area.

Kevin Lee, with the able involvement of Tim Murphy, archaeologist, has been leading the charge on mapping parts of the Hastings Cutoff in Ruby Valley. Three trips have been completed in the last year and another is anticipated this fall. Some sections have revealed more artifacts than others but the key to success is persistence and work over many sections of the trail over time.

Marlene Goddard has updated our financial records and made it much easier to track grants, and other funds as well as properly manage our expenditures. Other board members are involved in note taking (Tamara Baker), newsletter (Leah Brady) and estate planning (Kerry Aguirre) and all are key aspects to what we do.

I (Helen) am also working on the OCTA 2020 Convention and involving some Alliance members in that effort as well.

- Helen Hankins, President

Core Members:

Kerry Aguirre
Bailey Billington
John Collett
Marlene Goddard
Walt Goddard
Helen Hankins
Duane Jones

CTHA Board of Directors

At-Large Members

Blaine Benedict
Leah Brady
Larry Hyslop
Kevin Lee
Larry Schmidt
Frank Tortorich
Kerry Tuckett
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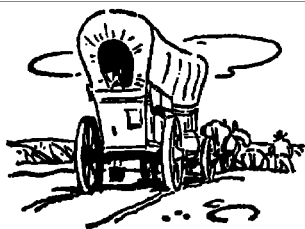


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www.californiatrailheritagealliance.org



Join Today! - Membership Application

Join your friends and neighbors and become a supporter of the California Trail Interpretive Center! Every membership supports the California Trail Interpretive Center and Trail preservation. When you join other enthusiasts to become a member, or renew your membership, you directly support interpretation, education, and special events at the California Trail Interpretive Center, and help preserve the Trail and its history for the benefit of current and future generations.

Annual Memberships: _____ New _____ Renewal

Name: _____ Address: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Email: _____

All members receive the informative electronic newsletter, electronic updates about special events and activities and a 10% discount at the California Trail Interpretive Center store. Invitations to one or more special events are extended to the Supporter membership levels & above.

Level	Individual	Family	Supporter	Partner	Lifetime
Special Events)			1	2	3
Cost	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$200

*Special Events may include presentations, workshops, tours, exhibit previews or other activities. Individuals who choose to make a donation equal to or greater than \$250 will receive recognition, if desired, on the Donor Wall in the California Trail Interpretive Center

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Wagon Master	\$2,500.00 to \$4,999.99
Empire Building	\$5,000.00 or Greater

CONTACT US!

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