



NPTF Photo

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation

Official Partner of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail

Ta'yam (Summer) 2015



Jim Zimmerman,
President NPTF

President's Message

Dear fellow Nez Perce Trail Foundation members,

With the end of summer, it might be a good time to begin planning for 2016. As we look back, the Nez Perce Trail Foundation has experienced a tremendous amount of success relative to our re-organization efforts. The down side of 2015 was that actual "on the trail" improvements and upkeep was at a stand still for several reasons. The worst thing that could happen to the Nez Perce Trail did happen. The fire season of 2015 will not be forgotten for years to come. We have witnessed some of the most disastrous fires throughout the Northwest this year, and the Forest Service resources have been stretched beyond reasonable expectations. The financial strain that has been placed on the U.S. Forest Service will inevitably mean that services, programs, and facilities will be lost or cut back severely. The USFS is forced to utilize their own budget to combat these annual fires. That is much different than how other natural disasters are financially dealt with such as hurricanes, earthquakes, tornados, or floods. Those disasters are

funded by way of a completely different procedure and revenue source, and in most cases, involve FEMA. I have personally lobbied House and Senate members to consider funding fire disasters through a separate line item account so that the Forest Service can continue to provide the services and management of our resources as intended. A letter to your Congressional Representative or Senator pressing them to take action on this request will be helpful. The summer activities of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation were highlighted by way of this year's Summer Educational Trail Tour, organized and conducted by Duane Heglie and Karen Heagen, Secretary. The Tour began at Wallowa, Oregon during the Tamkaliks Celebration and concluded at the Big Hole National Battlefield. This year's event was one of the best organized Teacher Tour events ever and interest in joining the Tour for next year, which will begin at Big Hole, has already claimed several reservations. The financial status of the NPTF is strong and we are wrapping up our outstanding payables which have decreased dramatically. This year we were able to recover our 501(c) 3 status which means that the Foundation will have a much easier time in securing gifts and grants now that we are tax deductible. Another item on the horizon is the manner in which we will be handling annual dues. In the future, all dues will become payable starting on January 1, 2016. This will eliminate the need to send out renewal notices every week or month, which in itself is very hard to keep up with. One blanket renewal will be sent to everyone prior to the first of the year. Additional information on the new process will follow after details are finalized during the next Board Meeting. Speaking of the next Board Meeting, our agenda will include the subject of including the "Exile Routes" and "Return Routes to the Northwest" into the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. I made this a primary focus during my visit to Congressional offices last February. The process is not an easy one. We will also discuss the proposed appropriate Encampment Monument for Ft. Leavenworth. There are more issues that need to be covered and we will keep you posted on our progress. Thanks so much for your support and I hope we can count on you as we continue to Preserve, Protect, and Commemorate the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

Sincerely,

Jim Zimmerman
President / Partnerships



Dick Seymour
Vice President / Historic Trails



Karen Heagen
Secretary / Research



Tricia Taylor
Treasurer / Finance



Matt Nowak
Membership / Projects

NEWS and EVENTS from the NPNHT

Our work celebrates the rich traditions and histories of the Flight of 1877. Our staff is dedicated to increasing our understanding of the past events and future life of the young people who will be our next leaders. We are mandated to preserve, display, and embody every facet of the NPNHT. Friends of the NPNHT treasure and incorporate their personal affection for this trail into active participation in the NPNHT daily work.



Sandi Broncheau
McFarland, NPNHT-
FS Administrator

- NPNHT Challenge Cost Share Projects & Program
- NPNHT Visitor Passport Stamp Available at a Dozen Locations
- Confluence Listening Circle Dedicated at Chief Timothy Park
- Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Tear Sheet Map Well Received

For more information on these topics, contact www.fs.usda.gov/npnht

View the 2015 Summer B.O.D. Meeting Minutes

www.nezperctrail.net/the-foundation/officers-board-of-directors/



JOIN TODAY!

Please send your generous donation/membership/estate gifting to: NPTF • P.O. Box 5024 • Bend, Oregon 97708

Visit our website for details at www.nezperctrail.net

Tamkaliks . . . more than just a Pow Wow this year

-- A long weekend of Celebration, Honoring, Scholarships, Feasting, and Dance

by Karen Heagen, Secretary, NPTF ©2015.



Grand Entry procession under the beautiful parachute Arbor at Tamkaliks 2015

Temperatures were blissfully mild during the weekend of July 17-19 at Tamkaliks this year. In years past, we have seen temperatures running in the 90's, but dancers and visitors alike enjoyed the balmy mid-70's. Thanks to organizers like Brian Conner, Nancy Crenshaw, Joe McCormack, Mary Hartman, CeCe Whitewolf and countless others, this year's festivities were once again flawless and exciting. Fridays activities included the roll call, social dancing, memorials, and namings. On Saturday we enjoyed the horse parade and traditional four-person veteran's dance. Members of the Wallowa Band "Women of the Warriors" finally received their recognition as being part of the Nez Perce War of 1877. The brave women that can trace their lineage to the war where honored. The NPTF donated red tote bags that were used as gift holders for salmon, beadwork, medicine, and special symbolic articles.



NPTF Red Tote

Previously, CeCe Whitewolf called upon elders, historians, and tribal members to compile a list of the women participants of the Wallowa Band. Other women warriors will be added when information is learned, as well as all descendants who can trace their heritage to this list. "It is just the beginning," says CeCe. On Sunday morning, washat services were conducted under the beautiful tent. Hundreds

of guests lined up for the Friendship Feast afterwards, and no one was disappointed with this year's fare of elk, salmon, buffalo, salads, fruit, pastries, pies, and assorted vegetables. Everyone's hunger was satisfied! Masters of Ceremonies Fred Hill and Thomas Morning Owl were proud to announce the raffle ticket winners throughout the day, as well as the winner of this year's annual



Mens Dancing takes center stage at night

Heglie Family / Nez Perce Trail Foundation Scholarship, Dominique Belafsky. Good luck with your college career, Dominique! Brian Conner announced that he will be hanging up his buffalo robe and retiring from directing the annual Tamkaliks Celebration and Friendship Feast. Brian served for 25 years, and *literally* danced a celebratory dance under the arbor with a huge buffalo robe. Only a great warrior could undertake such a task and honor! Brian, "Shukush'kuin," is a descendant of Tazz Conner, one of the first organizers of Tamkaliks. Tazz was a direct descendant of old Chief Joseph, Tuekakas. Thank you Brian, for 25 years of excellent service and dedication. As we know, the Wallowa Valley was a special place for the ancestors of the Nez Perce who are honored at the annual Tamkaliks Celebration. The Nimiipuu spent their summers in "the Wallowa." "The valley provided ample game and other foods, as well as abundant grass for the livestock. Families would gather where the Lostine and Wallowa Rivers meet," says Conner. The first Powwow was held in the Wallowa High School gymnasium in 1990. A Coalition was formed, and 160 acres was purchased in



Grand Entry files into the Arbor in full costume

1997. By the year 2000, the Arbor was finished and another parcel of 160 acres was purchased to improve on the site area. Since then, roads, electricity, showers, an entrance gate, tipis, interpretive signs and plaques, watering systems, horse corrals, plants, landscaping, bridges across the Wallowa River, salmon cooking kitchen, and a re-inforcement center pole was added to support the parachute. All accomplished in 25 years of very hard work!



Young ladies ready for their dance competition

"A TRIP, and a PERSONAL QUEST..."

Needless to say, when I received an email from Karen Wapato requesting to join us on the NPTF 2015 Annual Summer Educational Trail Tour, I was thrilled. Then I was worried. As a member of the Nez Perce Tribe, could we meet her expectations and could we answer all of her questions about the Trail along our 600 mile journey? Then her sister Kathryn decided to join us. Double pressure, but worries unfounded. These daughters of the late Ruth Wapato brought a spirituality and depth that Duane and I had never experienced before. We will be forever grateful to them, and other Nez Perce that should decide to join us in the coming years. All are welcome, all are invited. The Wapato sisters were fulfilling a wish that their mother Ruth had requested of them. As you may remember, Ruth passed away last year and was one of the foremost proponents of the NPTF. She was Membership Director and we all welcomed



Karen Wapato, Duane Heglie and Kathryn "Kat" Wapato

her personal notes on the renewal cards. Husband Paul still serves on the NPTF B.O.D. as well. They are NPTF family. The Trail was virtually unknown to them, so we had the honor of guiding them on it. They first experienced Tamkaliks, where the stage was set with dancing, honorings, ceremonies, and memorials. Traditional customs and values were shared with Nez Perce and visitors alike. Karen and Kathryn began their pilgrimage here by praying for Ruth under the old tree at the top of "Tick Hill." For the next week, these sisters hiked the White Bird Battlefield and Lolo Pass; finding themselves walking in the footsteps of their ancestors, Wottolen and Blackeagle. On to May Creek, MT. we went, all the while



Karen Wapato hiking White Bird Battlefield



Karen Wapato studies the map at the Big Hole Visitor Center

on the actual Trail or crisscrossing the tread. Each day concluded with personal testimonies by the fire. Our last day was spent visiting the Big Hole Battlefield Visitor Center and walking through the village site. The historical portrayal and narration is very emotional; the sisters were overwhelmed with both personal and cultural grief. But we grieved together. Not only was this trip healing and cleansing



"Kat" Wapato reads a story board about historical accounts of the battle.

The nightly campfire is a place for sharing thoughts, reflection, contemplation, or just being quiet.

for them, it was for all. I hope that our family of "Walking Stick Band" members revisit their memories and pass on their experiences to others. It is how Duane and I heal from this sore event in America's past. And we always look forward to next year's trip.



by Karen Heagen, Secretary, NPTF ©2015

FOLLOWING the FOOTSTEPS -- The "Indian Post Office" (on the Lolo Trail) Dedication



Rosa Yearout and son Abe, sponsors of the event

The newly finished 2.2 mile portion of the Nez Perce Trail at the Indian Post Office was dedicated this last August 6, 2015. The new brown interpretive sign had been previously installed commemorating the newly re-opened trail between Indian Post Office summit and Moon Saddle. Sandi Broncheau-McFarland from the NPNHT-FS attended the event, as did Cheryl Probert, Forest Supervisor of the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forests. Volunteer efforts of the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club were recognized, beginning with a feast at Howard's Camp, and then a celebratory trail ride on the improved Trail.



Nez Perce visitor reads the new signage

The Nez Perce Tribal Horse Grand Entry circled three times to the drum beats of the Wap'qaqan Drum and the gentle wind. Opening prayers were conducted by Bill Timentwa and Loretta Sobotta, followed with oral history by Nakia Williamson-Cloud. Rosa Yearout and son Abe, who is President of the NPAHC, shared the importance of the preservation of this trail site and others along the Lolo Trail-- a lesson well taught to the several youths of the Club who rode several Appaloosa



Nakia Williamson-Cloud



Nez Perce Youths of NPAHC ride the Trail

horses brought up for the dedication and ceremony. Emmitt E. Taylor, Jr., Master of Ceremonies, then led the guests in building a new rock cairn at the site to symbolize renewal, preservation, the Nez Perce War of 1877, and the sacred history of the ancestors.



The "Indian Post Office" was a message center and a place for praying for those who journeyed on the Lolo Trail. It is located on the unpaved Lolo Motorway, FS-500 via FS-107, and Hwy. 12, Idaho.



Top photo: Members of NPAHC circle the ceremonial grounds. Middle: Karen Heagen with Grace Moore of Nespelem, WA. Bottom: Karen Heagen with Sandi McFarland, NPNHT-FS.

by Karen Heagen, Secretary, NPTF ©2015

FEATURED MEMBER



©2015 NPTF Photo

DOROTHY BROWN *"Miss Dorothy"* from Bend, Oregon

Dorothy joined the NPTF in 2014. She lives in Bend, Oregon and enjoys nature and the great outdoors. Her love of travel, history, horses, and Native Americans led her to the discovery of the NPTF. This year, Dorothy

attended the 2015 Tamkaliks Celebration. She then participated in the NPTF Summer Educational Trail Tour from Wallowa, Oregon to Big Hole, Montana. After a visit to several Trail sites in Yellowstone, she visited the "Indian Post Office" on the Lolo Trail in Idaho. During her travels, Dorothy enjoyed meeting and sharing stories with the Nez Perce people, especially the elders and children. Her journey goes on!

P.S. She is only 91.

Well done Dorothy, and qe'ciye'w'yew (Thank you!)

If you would like to be our Featured Member, or know someone who would like to be, please submit a name, photo, short bio., and why the Nez Perce Trail is of interest to you (or them.) Please send to Khnezperctrail@gmail.com



National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference at Franklin, Tennessee

June 27 - July 1, 2015

By Margaret and Charlie Moses, Jr.

Margaret and I attended the conference at Franklin, Tennessee from June 27 to July 2, 2015. The hotel, meals, and conference speakers were good. Highlighting the conference was a talk by Jon Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service. Jon spoke of the need for change to better inform the public on what the NPS is or does. He spoke of the change in the demographics and making NPS accessible to all nationalities and income levels. Audrey Peterman gave a very stimulating talk as to her experience visiting the National Parks and Trails. She stated that we need to more clearly say what our trails are about. She stated that after reading about the Natchez Trace, she still did not know what they did. Jay Leutze, author, is a national spokesman for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. He and other speakers asked us all to contact our senators and congressmen and ask them to vote for an extension of this fund as it is soon to expire. Also attending the conference were about twenty five young people learning about the trails and becoming leaders.

We toured about fifty miles of the Natchez Trace parkway. The parkway is a highway that runs along the old Natchez Trace. Significant for the Trace is that three routes of the Trail of Tears crosses the Trace. and they plan to mark the crossing. Also significant is that Meriwether

Lewis died and is buried along the trail. An appropriate marker is in place. He was 35 when he died, and it is said that he took his own life. The map shows that the area the Trace runs through was the ancestral homeland of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Tribes. Parts of the old trail tread are still very visible and need to be preserved and protected. We attended workshops on various trail subjects. One of the speakers talked about all of the schools along their trail and his effort to get the school children involved. An award was given to one of the volunteers who helped 1600 students become knowledgeable about their trail. **We** also need to concentrate on **getting more kids out ON the NPTF trail**. Also, several of these trails have signs that say "Trail Town" to indicate that the town recognizes that the trail goes nearby and that their community supports their trail. We need to identify and recognize **towns** along our own Nez Perce Trail that will Preserve, Protect, Commemorate, AND Support it!



Charlie Moses, Jr.

WELCOME to the NPTF

Jacoby Taylor (20 mos.) (Life) • Kansas

Bette Zimmerman (Life) • Kentucky

Dennis & Kris Jennings • Oregon

Cesare Bracchi • Italy

NPTF DONATIONS & GIFTS

Robert & Margorie DuSell • California

CONTRIBUTIONS

All members are encouraged to submit materials that relate to the Nez Perce Trail for consideration of inclusion in our quarterly publication of **'Iskitpe** newsletter or monthly **Hinme-t** update.

Please submit to: khnezperctrail@gmail.com

or mail to: NPTF, P.O. Box 5024, Bend, Oregon 97708

All NPTF Memberships will Renew on January 1st, 2016

Details and Notifications to Come Soon!

THE LONGHOUSE Dream



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WALLOWA BAND NEZ PERCE TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER

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THOSE WE HAVE LOST . . .

FRANK ANTHONY BLACKEAGLE

November 2, 1955 - July 9, 2014

Described by his family as a loving father, husband, uncle, cousin, and friend, Frank Blackeagle passed away July 9, 2014 at the age of 58. He tragically lost his life on the Selway River during a fishing trip. One of eight children, Frank was a member of the Nez Perce Tribe and a descendant of Chief Red Grizzly Bear, Wottolen, Three Feathers, and the elder Chief Joseph (Tiwi'iteq'is, Tuekakas). He was also a descendant of Blackeagle, one of four Nimiipuu warriors sent to St. Lewis to contact Lewis and Clark to seek the book of wisdom, enlightenment, and God. His parents were Rueben Blackeagle and Veda Jackson. As a resident of Lapwai, he was also a member of the Upriver Nez Perce, known as the "Matalayma."

Frank was a skilled sawyer, but also worked at the Clearwater Casino, NP Express, Knight Construction Supply, and on the Dworshak Dam project.

Frank loved the outdoors and participating in the Nez Perce Tribe's Senior Citizen Program. He was very proud of his extensive family, and daughter, Bessie Blackeagle of the NPS. *"Running like the Wind"*, by the Marshall Tucker Band, was one of his favorite songs. *Run easy Frank, and be proud.* The Nez Perce Trail Foundation will always remember you.



Photo courtesy of the Blackeagle family

Frank Blackeagle with daughter, Bessie, at the Big Hole Battlefield in 2012.

FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS with Hetty Dutra . . . Part 4

**. . . will be continued in the
upcoming Fall Issue of the
'Iskitpe Quarterly Newsletter**

HORACE P. AXTELL

November 7, 1924 - September 7, 2015



Horace P. Axtell, "Isluumc"

After living a remarkable life, Horace P. Axtell "Isluumc" has passed on to the Happy Land. He died peacefully at his home in Lewiston, Idaho on July 9, 2015 at the age of 90.

Horace was a proud WWII veteran, mill worker, drum maker, Nez Perce language expert and representative of the Nez Perce Tribe at meetings, ceremonies, and memorials. He was also a spiritual leader in the Seven Drum Religion. He mentored the young Nez Perce and stated "you are always learning until the day you die." One of his goals was to build a new longhouse in Spalding; a wish that has yet to be fulfilled.

Born to parents Nellie Moody and William Whitman Axtell, he was a descendant of the Chief Joseph Band and the White Bird Band. His lifetime accomplishments include AISES (American Indian Science and Engineering) membership, sponsoring family lifetime memberships to the Sequoyah Fellowships, elected to Earth Ambassadors Council of Elders, Four Worlds Development Project Council of Elders, Lewis and Clark State College Nez Perce Language Instructor, and author of "A Little Bit of Wisdom: Conversations with a Nez Perce Elder." He was awarded Univ. of Idaho's Presidents Medallion, honorary doctorates from the Univ. of Idaho and Lewis and Clark State College, Peace and Friendship Award from the Washington State Historical Society, Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities from the Idaho Humanities Council, National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, and voted Elder of the Year from the Indian Education Association.

As a true warrior, he was also involved with Native American issues, programs, protests, and causes.

He is survived by his wife Andrea, three sisters, nine children, many, many grandchildren and great grandchildren, and several adopted children.

He inspired countless friends and families. The NPTF honors Horace, whose gentle manner, strong spirit, and endless wisdom touched the lives of many.

*Peace to you always,
Isluumc.*



Karen Heagen and
elder Horace Axtell

A Brief MESSAGE FROM YOUR SECRETARY

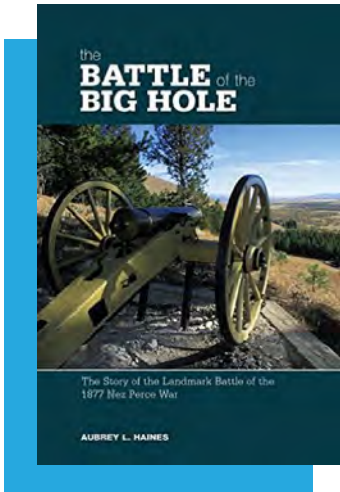
As you know, this Quarterly Newsletter is a bit late in its publication. My sincere apologies are in order, but please know that is not from negligence. Truth is, this issue covers the entire summer of events and experiences from NPTF travel on the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

I had the pleasure of attending a unique ceremony at the Indian Post Office Trail dedication, and further explored the sites in Yellowstone National Park. I also stopped at some ancient fishing grounds along the Lochsa, Selway, and Clearwater Rivers. I accompanied Duane Heglie on the annual NPTF Summer Educational Trail Tour, visiting Wallowa, Spalding, White Bird, Lolo Pass, Bitterroot Valley, and the Big Hole Battlefield. My journey lasted for more than a month, and as usual, I gained further insight into the Trail and the Nez Perce people. Sadly, this year we have lost some great ones, but they are with me in spirit on my journeys. My passion and your support urges me on, even though I have given new meaning to the word "volunteer." I cannot wait to get back on the Trail and inform all of you of my latest adventures.

Qe'ciye'w'yew, Karen Heagen

**The NPTF gratefully
acknowledges and thanks
all of the firefighting
personel that helped in the
efforts to fight and control
the many wildfires in the
Northwest this year.**

RECOMMENDED READING



“The Battle of the Big Hole”

-- The Story of the landmark Battle of the War of 1877

By Aubrey L. Haines

In **The Battle of the Big Hole**, noted historian Aubrey Haines has compiled many written and first-person accounts of this historic moment in the Indian Wars into a complete and exhaustive history of the 1877 battle. Ultimately, neither the U.S. forces or their adversaries could claim victory in the two-day struggle in this idyllic setting in southwest Montana, and the Nez Perce continued their dramatic flight for freedom after heavy losses on both sides. This fine volume reveals the story of the landmark battle of the Nez Perce War with reproductions of first-person accounts of the battle, photographs, maps, and drawings.

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P.O. Box 480 • Guilford, Connecticut 06437
ISBN: 0-7627-4148-1

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 3, 2015 --- Bears Paw Battlefield Memorial, Chinook, MT
October 16-18, 2015 — Hiitem Waq'iswit Pow Wow, Lapwai, ID
November 2015 — Native American Heritage Month
November 6-7, 2015 — Veterans Day Pow Wow, Nespelem, WA
November 11, 2015 — Veterans Day Weekend (no fees at Nat. Public Lands Agencies)
November 13, 2015 — Young Nations Pow Wow, Lapwai, ID

DID YOU KNOW? “Lapwai”

The word “Lapwai” was an *interpretation* of Nez Perce words. When asked about the name and location of the village in English, a traveler was taken to a spot on the creek where thousands of butterflies were resting on a muddy flat. The Nez Perce guide demonstrated with his hands, imitating the motion of butterfly wings, and spoke the words “*le’p lep.*” It must have been an incredible sight.

MISSION STATEMENT of the NEZ PERCE TRAIL FOUNDATION

The Nez Perce Trail Foundation exists to promote public awareness and appreciation of the historic route of the tragic 1877 flight of the Nez Perce from the U.S. Army. Much of this route is recognized by our nation as the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, extending from Wallowa Lake in Oregon to the Bears Paw Battlefield in northern Montana. The Foundation shall work, either individually or jointly, with governmental agencies and others to preserve and protect cultural resources and values while promoting respectful use by all. Our mission also advocates extension of the trail to include these additional routes: the Redheart band's forced march to Ft. Vancouver, Washington and their incarceration; the journey to exile at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, and in the Oklahoma Territory; the escape route into Canada used by the survivors; and the return from exile to the Lapwai, Colville, Umatilla, Yakima, and Palouse area Indian Reservations of the northwest.

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*Volunteers Dedicated to the Nez Perce Trail
Please forward this newsletter to your friends*