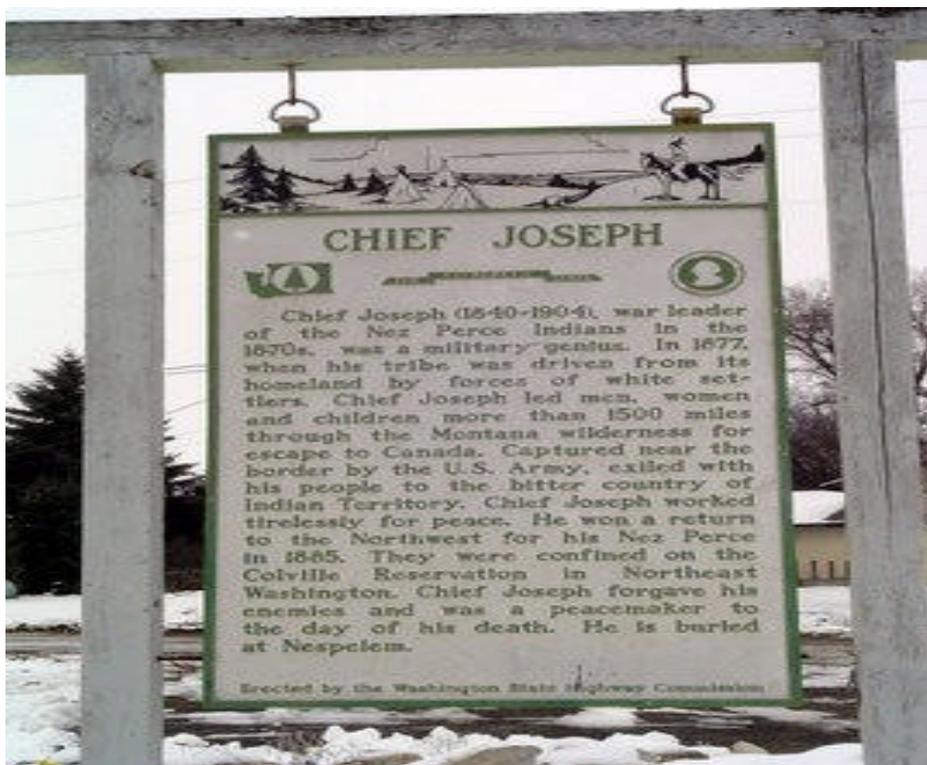


Winter Board Meeting Nespelem



Chief Joseph
Marker at Nespelem

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTES

This winter and spring have been a very busy time for the Foundation.

Highlights were: The annual Hike the Hill visit to Washington DC. This year was very productive as we (The Partnership for National Historical and Scenic Trails) were successful in obtaining funding for all the trails at last years level. The President's budget had \$000 dollars.

Met the new USFS Director of Trails and was present when the BLM released their National Plans for trails.

The next travel was to a Historical Workshop held in Kansas City, Kansas. All but 2 of the 16 Historical Trails Executive Directors were present. It was one of the best workshops that I have attended. Have more ideas from it than we can complete in many years.

The Winter Board Meeting and Book Signing in Nespelem was a big success.

The work on the Wallowa Project is coming along and will be done this year. We are also working on the Birch Creek Project. It is being included in a Scenic By Way program. Will be asking for your support on this project.

Still working with the NPNHT on having a planning meeting for next years funding and projects.

Attended several programs with the booth and handed out hundreds of informational pieces on the Foundation.

We are working with the Appaloosa Horse Club of Canada to put on a trail ride near Fort Walsh, called the Nez Perce Freedom Ride. You will be getting more information on this later.

The big thing is our up coming Annual Meeting and Education Program, which will be held in Cody, WY August 11,12 2006. Information is in this issue of Iskitpe. Be sure to mark your calendar and attend this meeting. Our Key Note speaker will be Debbie Salt, the Head of the BLM's Trail Programs. All meetings will be held in the Buffalo Bill Museum and the

Banquet at the Irma Hotel.

We had two Board member resign. Porter Price and Cathy Quistgard. We will miss their contributions and thank them for their support.

All need to be thinking of the election of Officers. If you or someone you know would like to serve the Foundation as a Board Member or Officer please let an Executive Committee member know as soon as possible.

The approval of the revised By-Laws and Operating Procrurers will be of great help in operating the Foundation's business.

As always if you have any ideas or concerns please contact me. We have a great need for ideas on a fund raising program.

A special Thank You to Dan Swan for assistance in editing this newsletter.

Lilóoy 'ískit (Happy Trails)

Jim Evans



?skitpe is a Nez Perce word that translates to "on the trail, path or road." This newsletter is published on a quarterly basis and serves the members of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation.

Submission: All readers are encouraged to submit material, stories, photos, and ideas that relate to the Nez Perce Trail for publication consideration. All submissions are subject to editing for grammar, clarity, length, and the editor reserves the right to reject any submission. Submissions may be made via E-mail, on a 3.5" disk, or on paper.

Submissions must be made by the following dates:

Spring: May 31 Summer: August 31

Fall: November 31 Winter: January 31

Subscriptions: Subscriptions are free to members of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation. A one-year subscription for non-members is \$10 to cover the costs of printing and postage. For more information, call Jim Evans at 208.940 0053 or email

executivedirector@nezperctrail.net.

Winter Board Meeting

Paul, Ruth and Charlie



CHIEF JOSEPH GRAVE SITE

Nez Perce Trail Foundation

Winter Board Meeting

March 27, 2006

Location: Colville Agency Credit Union, Nespelem

Attendees: Jim Evans, Paul Wapato, Ruth Wapato, Charles Moses, Dick Seymour, Michael Seal, Carolynne Merrell, Bernadine Ellenwood, Harold Phieffer and guest Jeff Fee.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 by president, Paul Wapato who gave a few opening remarks. Jim Evans served as convener for the meeting.

Treasurers Report: Charley Moses presented the treasurers report giving the accounting summary for 2005.

As of January 1, 2005 the balances were: \$21,519.69 for checking and \$60.86 for savings giving a total of \$21,548.34. The balances ending in December 31, 2005 were: \$382.72 in checking, \$23,033.65 in savings and \$38.36 in Pay Pal giving a total of \$23,454.73. Net Income for the year was \$1,906.39.

It was moved Mike Seal, seconded Ruth Wapato) and unanimously approved to accept the treasurers report.

Business

National Historic Trails Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, May 5-7, 2006

Executive Board member, Carolynne Merrell, will be on a panel discussing Preservation and Protection of Trail Resources. It was moved Dick Seymour, seconded Charles Moses and unanimously approved to pay \$278.37 to help cover Merrell's airfare. Other attendees .

will be Jim Evans, and Paul and Ruth Wapato.

Preliminary Budget for 2006

Following the presentation by Jim Evans and a brief discussion it was moved Carolynne Merrell and seconded Ruth Wapato and unanimously approved to accept the budget as presented.

Report by Executive Director Jim Evans

Jim expressed frustration with the difficulties arranging a meeting with trail administrator Sandy McFarland, Tom Puchlerz and Maureen McBride of the Region 1 Forest Service.

February 21, 2006 A meeting was held in Missoula at the Region 1 FS office with Tom Puchlerz, Jim Evans, Carolynne Merrell, Gene Merrell and Mike Beckes. Mike Beckes is the Heritage Resource Manager for Region 1 and was involved in the establishment of the NPNHT and is familiar with the history and early administration of the Trail. This meeting provided Tom Puchlerz insight into the problems faced by the NPTF in working with the Trail administrator for the mutual benefit of the Trail. Based on this meeting a future meeting was set up to include Sandy McFarland for March 7, 2006.

A confusion in the time for the March meeting resulted in Jim Evans meeting with only Tom Puchlerz and Maureen McBride. Jim felt the results of this meeting were favorable towards improving the relationship between the NPTF and the NPNHT and he is continuing to try scheduling a meeting with Sandy McFarland.

Based on Jim's report regarding his experiences with the Forest Service and Trail administrator, a motion was made by Carolynne Merrell, seconded by Dick Seymour and unanimously approved, to give Jim a vote of confidence to take a firmer stance with the Forest Service and the NPHT administrator.

Jim reported favorably on his trip to Washington D.C. where he met with congressional and senate representatives and attended meetings with other National Trail representatives.

Regarding the capital fund raising activities initiated by Jim with it was moved Dick Seymour and seconded Mike Seal to allow Jim to pursue such activity provided there is no financial commitment. The motion was approved.

2006 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held in Cody Wyoming. The Cody Museum Amphitheatre has been reserved for the public Educational Meeting. Debbie Salt (BLM) will be the keynote speaker.

Minutes Continued

. Other events and scheduling are still in the planning stages. The board will be informed as plans continue to unfold.

Wallowa Project

Dick Seymour reported on the progress to provide signage in the Wallowa, Joseph area and the establishment, locating, and marking of a Nez Perce route from Wallowa to Doug Bar. The Nez Perce Wallowa Band will decide on the best location for the sign. Dick reports that a trail through the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest has been selected and approved by the Forest Service and is awaiting final approval from the Nez Perce Cultural Office and the Trail Administer. Work is continuing on the trail sections through private land. The next meeting of the Wallowa Band will be April 15, 2006.

Nespelem Rest Stop Project

Charles Moses reported on the progress of the Town of Nespelem's Chief Joseph Monument Project. Following lunch at the Nespelem Senior Center, Paul Wapato pointed out the future site location in front of the center to the board members. The Foundation and its partners will supply text and photos for the interpretive panels to the Forest Service enterprise team, Heritage Design, and will purchase, own and maintain the panels which will include the NPNF logo. Dedication for the rest area is planned for 2007.

By Laws

Jim reported members voted favorably by a mail-in ballot to pass the revised By Laws.

Board of Directors By Law Operating Procedures

It was moved Carolynne Merrell and seconded Ruth Wapato to accept the proposed Board of Directors By Law Operating Procedures. The motion was approved.

By Laws

Jim reported members voted favorably by a mail-in ballot to pass the revised By Laws.

Board of Directors By Law Operating Procedures

It was moved Carolynne Merrell and seconded Ruth Wapato to accept the proposed Board of Directors By Law Operating Procedures. The motion was approved.

New Member Harold Phieffer expressed his interest in becoming an active member of the Foundation. He offered his services as a professional photographer with an extensive copyrighted archive of Trail related

photographs should the Foundation be interested in publishing a book on the Trail to raise awareness for the trail and as possible fund raising.

The next board meeting will be June 9 or 10, 2006 at the regional FS office in Missoula Montana.

A motion to adjourn was made Dick Seymour, seconded Mike Seal and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolynne Merrell, Recording Secretary

MEET THE AUTHORS

Cheryl Wilfong author of
FOLLOWING THE NEZ PERCE TRAIL



Diane Mallickan, Editor
THE NEZ PERCE NATION DIVIDED



You can order these and other books found in the Nez Perce Trail Foundations TRADING POST located on our web site at www.nezpercetrail.net

From time to time we will publish items of interest about people who have an interest in telling the story of the Flight of the Nez Perce

Writing With Yellow Wolf

© March 2, 2006 Dan Strawn

In 1950, an aunt sent me a copy of L.V. McWhorter's Yellow Wolf: His Own Story. Fifty years later, after a lifetime of reading and writing and sitting at the feet of great story tellers, I decided to write my own story. I wanted it to entertain while showing the humanness of all people. Yellow Wolf's tale came to mind. With Hemene Moxmox, Yellow Wolf, looking over my shoulder, I wrote Lame Bird's Legacy, my story of ordinary people caught up in the sweep of historic times.

Before I could write about Yellow Wolf's people, the Nimi'ipuu, I needed some personal sense of their connection with the land they inhabited. So, I made multiple trips to Idaho, Oregon, and Montana. I visited the Big Hole with my four sons. We came away informed, sobered, and humbled.

My wife and I spent a half day at the museum in Spaulding, and three days on the Clearwater above Kamiah, across the road from the Heart of the Monster. We snaked our motor home out of a Clearwater canyon to Weippe. We found where Lewis and Clark and the Nimi'ipuu first met. I saw thousand year old soot at the Weis Rock Shelter.

My border collie, Ida, and I looked down from the crest of a dirt back road at White Bird. Later, at the roadside marker outside of Cottonwood; I read the names of dead soldiers and contemplated the missing names: those of the Nimi'ipuu.

Outside of Lapwai, I admired a herd of horses. Had their magnificent ancestors carried the Nimi'ipuu over the Lolo trail? I looked into the canyons of the Grande Ronde, Imnaha, and Snake; through August's hot haze I saw visions of Nimi'ipuu around campfires. I prayed at Old Joseph's grave.

Finally, I began to feel a little of that deep, spiritual connection the Nimi'ipuu hold for their homeland. Now, I could write the story of Lame Bird's Legacy.

Born in Idaho, raised in Idaho and California, Dan Strawn reveals his lifelong love affair with the history of the West, especially the Native American peoples, in Lame Bird's Legacy

is Strawn's entrée into the world of fiction writing. While it revolves around the lives of ordinary people on both sides of the Nez Perce War of 1877, the story is a metaphor for all people caught up in conflicts when cultures clash.

Strawn is a member of the Northwest Interpretive Association, the Nez Perce Trail Foundation, and the Willamette Writers. He retired from dual careers in business and education and moved to Vancouver, Washington, where he now resides with his wife, Sandi, and their border collie, Idaho. He and his wife spent this past summer as interpretive volunteers for the Oregon State Park and the Nez Perce National Park in Wallowa Valley, Oregon, and are looking forward to repeating that adventure this coming summer.

Strawn would love to hear from you. He can be reached at ddsas9612@aol.com



Our Booth at the Idaho State Backcountry Horse Men Annual Convention



Kirkus Reviews of the new book by Kent Nerburn CHIEF JOSEPH & THE FLIGHT OF THE NEZ PERCE

A revisionist account of Nez Perce history and one of its most controversial figures. Under Chief Joseph's leadership, the schoolbook version of the story goes, hundreds of Nez Perce Indians outmaneuvered U.S. soldiers for three months, making their way to Canada. But on October 5, 1877, after a bloody five-day battle, Chief Joseph admitted defeat. The speech he made upon his surrender earned him a spot as one of America's great orators.

Review continued.

Indeed, white America made a hero out of Joseph, affecting what Nerburn calls a "cultural canonization."

The chief was lauded for his wit and his courage—once he was no longer a threat to the designs of the U.S. government. The Nez Perce themselves, the author notes, rejected the lionizing of Chief Joseph, and have been, in fact, rather ambivalent about him. Many resent that white America made an icon of Joseph but largely erased the Nez Perce people from the national story.

Some natives even revile Joseph, blaming him for surrendering. In short, the familiar narrative is, at best, oversimplified. Nerburn, therefore, aims to provide not just a biography of Joseph, but also the story of the Nez Perce: their complicated and wily but largely trusting relationship with white Americans throughout the 19th century, their horrific and brave flight from Idaho. The author's most innovative interpretations come in the final 75 pages, in which he charts the "marketing" of Joseph and the commodification of all things related to the chief. The man who bought Joseph's horse knew that he could sell that horse's offspring for beaucoup dollars; the chief signed autographs for the white tourists who came to ogle the Indians in their post-surrender squalor; he courted reporters and, according to Nerburn, enjoyed his fame. Neither the first attempt to demythologize Joseph, nor the last word on his people, but an intriguing study of a man and a legend.

Note by: Jim Evans, Executive Director:

This is but one of several reviews of the Nerburn book, all give it high standards. I have read many books covering the Flight of the Nez Perce. With the exception of one other author, Kent Nerburn tells the story in the traditional way. As a story. This makes the events more personable and much more interesting. He also includes the rest of the story. Many leave out what happens after the Nez Perce stopped fighting. It was not a surrender as many authors state, but as Joseph said "I will fight no more, forever".

It is also a treasure with all its resource material. It is the kind of book that once you start you cannot put it down. I think it is a must reading for all who have an interest in the Flight of the Nez Perce.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

16th Annual Tamkaliks Celebration, July 21-23
Wallowa, OR

42nd Annual Chief Joseph Trail Ride July 17-22
Clear Water Battle Field to Musselshell ID

White Bird Memorial June 17 Whitebird, ID

Chief Looking Glass Memorial, July 1 Kooskia, ID

Big Hole Memorial August 5 Wisdom, MT

Nez Perce Trail Foundation Annual Meeting and
Education Program August 11-12 Cody, WY

**Nez Perce Flight to Freedom Trail Ride August
29, 30, 31 Fort Walsh, Canada**

Some thoughts from the President:

2006 is shaping up to an excellent year! Jim Evans is swinging into his Exec Director role, opening up all sorts of new opportunities for the Foundation. Our Annual Meeting, at the Buffalo Bill Center in Cody, WY should really be an event to remember!

Of course, we can still work to broaden our membership base, so we hope you aren't bashful about suggesting membership when you meet people interested in the Trail. And when Jim describes a program or event that's down your alley, don't be shy, go ahead and volunteer! And if a program or event idea occurs to you, making you think "why don't we?" -- ask the question out loud. Maybe we will!

And please, remember that an active Executive Committee is needed to keep the organization alive, so do think about serving as an Officer or, if you think someone is a good candidate, try to convince them to volunteer. Remember, we have to find a candidate to replace your current President at the Annual Meeting this year.

Paul Wapato, President

ANNUAL MEETING
&
EDUCATION PROGRAM
CODY, WYOMING
AUGUST 11,12, 2006

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend what is planning out to be a great membership meeting. The Educational Programs are going to be super and the setting is even better.

ALL OUR MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE BUFFLO BILL MUSEUM . THE ANNUAL BANQUET WILL BE HELD AT THE HEADQUARTERS HOTEL, THE FAMOUS IRMA HOTEL.



We have blocked off 25 rooms at the Irma so you need to make your reservations as soon as possible. Irma Hotel - Phone: 307-587-4221 . The rate for a single will be \$75.00, 2 persons 82.50, 3 persons \$90.00 plus 8% tax.

The Banquet is part of your registrations fee and will be held in the Governors Room and here is the menu :

PRIME RIB DINNER BUFFET

Slow Roasted Prime Rib and Ham at the carving table, BBQ Pork Ribs and Lemon Butter Cod
Baked Potatoes – Mashed Potatoes with Gravy , Oysters Rockefeller, Fettuccini Alfredo, Mixed Vegetables
Soup and Salad Bar , Choice of Soft Drink, Coffee or Tea

The Keynote Speaker will be Debora Salt, National Scenic & Historical Trails Coordinator BLM.

The Educational meetings will be highlighted by a “State of the Trail” report by the Land Managers for the Nez Perce National Historical Trail plus the American Trails organization. There will be a tour of the Buffalo Bill Museum and several programs on local history.

You will receive a registration packet early July, with information on Cody and the agenda, but please make room reservations as early as possible. Hope to see you there.

Is Your Membership Current?

The Nez Perce Trail Foundation relies on membership fees to provide many valuable services to our members. With your continued financial support, the Nez Perce Trail Foundation is able to continue serving the community as an advocate for the Nez Perce National Historical Trail. Please take a few moments to check the status of your membership. To verify your membership expiration date, please email Jim Evans at executive director@nezperctrail.net. To update your membership dues, send a check to Nez Perce Trail Foundation; 194 Highway 28 Salmon, ID 83467.

Annual Dues:

Individual: \$30 Senior \$15 Family: \$50

Non Profit/Gov/Sponsor \$100 Corporate: \$500

Nez Perce Trail Foundation

194 Hwy 28

Salmon ID 83467

OFFICERS NEZ PERCE TRAIL FOUNDATION 2005-06

PRESIDENT: Paul Wapato , Spokane, Washington

president@nezperctrail.net

VICE-PRESIDENT: Richard Seymour Wallowa, Oregon

vicepresident@nezperctrail.net

TREASURER: Charlie Moses, Jr., Elmer City, Washington

treasurer@nezperctrail.net

SECRETARY Carolynne Merrell, Moscow, Idaho

secretary@nezperctrail.net

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Jim Evans, Salmon, Idaho

executivedirector@nezperctrail.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joseph O. McCormack, Wallowa, Oregon

Michael D. Seale, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Ruth Wapato, Spokane, Washington

Gene Eastman, Weippe, Idaho

Mollie Eastman, Weippe, Idaho

Myrna Tovey, Malad City, Idaho

Toni Charlesworth, Idaho Falls Idaho

Lea Conner, Pendleton, Oregon

Carol Austin, Cody Wyoming

WEB SITES

Nez Perce Trail

Foundation

www.nezperctrail.net

Nez Perce National

Historical Trail

www.fs.us.gov/npnht

Nez Perce National

Historical Park

www.nps.gov/ncpe

Sacajawea Center

www.sacajaweacenter.org

Nez Perce Tribe

www.nezperce.org

Wallowa Band Interpretive Center

www.wallowamezperce.com

Confederate Tribes of the Umatilla Indian reservation

www.umatilla.nsn.us

See our web site for more