

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.

Idaho Chapter Newsletter

July 1998



SUMMER ENCAMPMENT: CASCADE, IDAHO on JULY 31 - AUGUST 2

Idaho Chapter members are invited to commemorate William Clark's birthday as well as share ideas on the upcoming Lewis and Clark bicentennial at the summer encampment being held at Carol MacGregor's Raspberry Ranch near Cascade. We will gather Friday evening at 5 PM and activities will last through Sunday morning. The Idaho Lewis and Clark Trail Committee will also attend so bring your ideas as to how Idaho and the Idaho Chapter can make the bicentennial commemoration meaningful to the people of Idaho.

Carol has graciously offered an area for members to pitch their tents, park their camper or trailer or to sleep in the bunkhouse. Call Carol for any special needs at: (208) 382-3430 or 386-9494 or e-mail her at: raspberry@worldnet.att.net Besides talking Lewis and Clark, there will be fun activities in the beautiful Long Valley under Collier's Peak. **Please RSVP to Carol prior to the event.** Contributions can be made to help defray the costs for food for the weekend. Plan to bring comfortable clothes including walking shoes and warmer things for evening. Also, bring your ideas! (The ranch is located west of Cascade by taking Lakeshore Drive, West Mountain Road and Raspberry Road.) Any questions about the agenda may be directed to: Steve Lee at (509) 229-3870 or by e-mail at: sglee@mail.wsu.edu Hope to see you there!

MAY 30th IDAHO-WASHINGTON CHAPTERS MEETING A SUCCESS

A large group of chapter members gathered in Lewiston on May 30th to hear three speakers and then partake of a field trip of Lewis and Clark sites in the valley. The speakers included Mike Venso who told the gathering about his 3-month journey retracing the Lewis and Clark trail from the mouth of the Columbia to St. Louis. Mike, his brother-in-law Greg Balsmeier, and their families left after the meeting to start the trip. Chapter members are encouraged to follow Mike and Greg's trip by reading weekly dispatches from the trail in each Sunday's *Lewiston Morning Tribune* or at the following website: www.lmtribune.com/discover Also speaking at the meeting was local historian Carole Simon-Smolinski who talked about Lewiston's navigational history and Jefferson's legacy and Bob Hoyle who outlined the Corps of Discovery's journey through eastern Washington in 1806. Upcoming issues of the newsletter will give more details on Bob's research in pinpointing the trail in this area.

The field trip later that day included the Centennial Mall at Lewis-Clark State College, the Alpawai Interpretive Center at Chief Timothy State Park, the timeline at Rooster's Landing, the Luna House Museum, the health department murals and the Corps of Engineer's interpretation at the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers. The evening was capped off with dinner in the backyard of Jim and Sue Hottois's home in Lewiston. Thanks to all speakers and the Hottois for making the Chapter outing so successful!

LABOR DAY: "HEART OF THE LOLO TRAIL" CAMPOUT

The Chapter will again take to the Lolo Trail. This time, the Chapter has made plans so that everyone --even those without camping gear and heavy-duty vehicles--can enjoy an outing on the trail. Enclosed is an information sheet on the campout details. We would like to have a count of those interested in participating in this outing. Please contact Steve Lee at (509) 229-3870, or PO Box 2264, Lewiston ID 83501 or e-mail him at: sglee@mail.wsu.edu to reserve your spot. If you have an interest in going but can't commit this early, please let him know and he will add you to the list of interested participants. Updates on the details can then be forwarded to you.

NEW COIN TO FEATURE NATIVE AMERICAN WOMAN

In June, a Treasury Department advisory panel voted to place Sacagawea or at least the spirit of the Indian guide, on a new dollar coin. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin has the final decision in this matter. Letters are currently being written to Secretary Rubin urging him to select Sacagawea and to add her name to the new coin. Letters may be addressed to him at: Robert Rubin, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20200.

OTHER EVENTS:

Lecture, Donna Turnipseed, "Following the Trail to the Buffalo: A Cultural Landscape" Sponsored by Idaho Humanities Council. - **July 16 - Boise**, Boise Public Library, 7 PM

- **July 23 - Grangeville**, Senior Citizens Center, 7 PM

- **July 29 - Lewiston**, Red Lion Inn, Post 2 Room, 7 PM

- **Aug. 17 - Ketchum**, Ketchum Public Library, 7 PM

- **Sept. 14 - Moscow**, UI Student Union, Silver/Galena Room, 7 PM

August 6-9, Fort Hall - Shoshone-Bannock Indian Festival, (208) 238-3700

August 15-16, Kamiah - Chief Lookinglass Days, (208) 843-2261

Professor plots campsites of Lewis, Clark

Associated Press 6-17-98 LMT

DES MOINES, Iowa — For the last 13 summers, Steve Russell has documented Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's path, within 20 steps, to preserve the explorers' trail.

"I combine my engineering education with a willingness to go through the brush to locate these old trails and campsites," Russell said.

The Iowa State University engineering professor began a 25-day solo mission this week along the Lolo Trail that winds through the Bitterroot Mountain range near Dillon, Mont.

Each day, Russell will hike about six miles from his pickup truck, which he uses as a base camp, to locate the campsites and log their coordinates with satellite technology.

He has studied journal accounts and topographical maps for months to determine the most passable route along the trail, but rock slides, fallen timber and the passage of time have made Russell's quest cumbersome.

Russell knows the lonely hike can be dangerous, but he has never been injured enough that he could not make it to his truck. He also radios local authorities at night to let them know he is all right.

When Lewis and Clark forged their path from St. Louis into Idaho and Montana, their pencil and paper descriptions of the route left much for today's explorers to clear up.

"My main goal is to make sure the trails and campsites are accurately documented," Russell said.

He has taken more than 2,000 pictures of sites and landmarks along the trail that have been used with location coordinates in books and films about the explorers, including an Idaho Public Television documentary.

40 YEARS AGO

From The Lewiston Tribune
July 2, 1958

Funds sufficient to complete the Lewis & Clark Highway in 1961 have been allocated, Gov. Robert Smylie announced at Boise, ending a 40-year struggle to push an east-west highway through north central Idaho's primitive forest.

At the core of this discovery, students find history ...

Too close for comfort

By ERIC BARKER
OF THE TRIBUNE

MUSSELSHELL MEADOWS — William Clark, on Sept. 16, 1805, reached for his journal on the Lolo trail and entered these words:

"I have been wet and as cold in every part as I have been in my life."

Nearly 193 years later, 42 eighth-graders from Kamiah Middle School, trying to relive the Lewis and Clark experience, knew exactly how the explorer felt.

Just after breakfast, rain began falling on their camp in Musselshell Meadows, in the Clearwater National Forest near Weippe.

At first they endured the showers and proceeded with plant identification and mapping activities.

But the weather endured as well. By lunch time, it was clear the storm was not going to let up.

Their teepees, sitting in lush meadows speckled with pools of blooming camas, began to fill with puddles of water.

Huddled under blue tarps, the two score of teenagers were wet, cold and shivering.

Some wore trash bags to keep out the water. Others wrapped themselves in damp blankets.

Like Lewis and Clark, the kids would be rescued, but this time by two school buses instead of Nez Perce Indians.

"It's got to be the most authentic experience you

could ever have," said Dan Davis, a U.S. Forest Service wildlife biologist. "We were doing everything authentic. We just didn't know we would have authentic weather."

The outing was supposed to bring history to life for the kids. They wrote in journals and identified flora and fauna much as Lewis and Clark did.

They were to eat camas roots, dried salmon and other foods the Nez Perce fed to the Lewis and Clark expedition.

But unlike the explorers, the kids had warm houses and worried parents only an hour away.

"Lewis and Clark didn't like the rain either, but I have 45 parents to answer to," said Amy Woods, a language teacher and organizer of the outing.

Many of the kids were relieved to be escaping the cold and wet conditions.

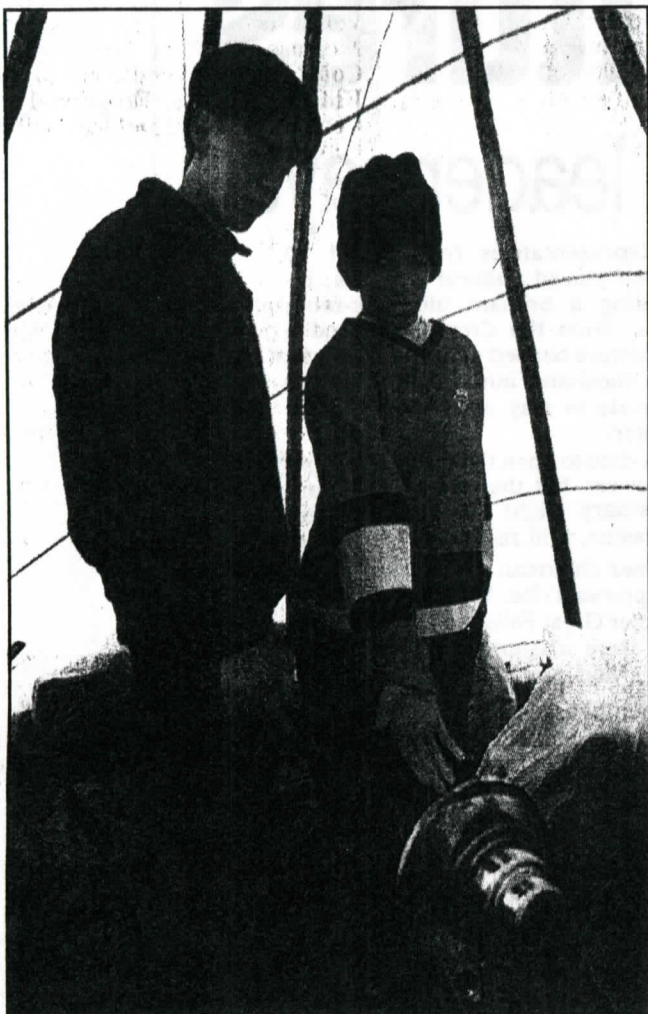
"I can't wait to get home," said Sharon Unsworth, thinking of a hot shower.

But others wanted to stay, figuring camping is better than school, no matter the weather.

"I don't think it's going to be as much fun at school as it is up here," said Charles Voiselle.

The students will have to go to school today, but not to their regular classes. Instead they will see demonstrations canceled by Thursday's rain.

Members of the Nez Perce Tribe will show them how to preserve food, build dugout canoes and display examples of traditional tools, clothing and medicine.



MIKE VENSO/TRIBUNE

TOP: The chilling temperatures and rainy weather forced students Kyle Wining, left, and Adam Crawford into their teepees to warm up with a propane heater. Unlike

the Corps of Discovery, these modern-day explorers had the advantage of heaters, synthetic clothing and a couple of school buses to save them from their travails.

Center bonds cultures

'It can become a healing tool,' Indian leader says

By KAREN IVANOVA
Tribune Staff Writer

One by one, tribal elders slip treasures into a tall silver cylinder, a time capsule waiting for future generations.

State, federal and local officials take turns at the microphone and one chokes up with emotion.

An elegant figure against a sapphire blue sky, a seventh-generation descendent of Sacajawea, stands beside a uniformed airman — he decorated with badges and brass, she with beads and feathers. He sings "America the Beautiful" and she translates his words into Native American sign language.

She is Lemhi Shoshone tribal member Rose Ann Abrahamson, one of about a dozen dignitaries to mark the grand opening of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center Saturday with an eye on the future.



Allen

"It can become a healing tool," said Ron Allen, president of the National Congress of American Indians, who came from Sequim, Wash., for the

ceremony. "A healing tool between two different kinds of cultures."

Between 1,000 and 1,500 turned out for the sun-drenched event, where U.S. Forest Service director Mike Dombeck was presented a giant mock check representing the \$3.6 million raised locally for the \$6 million center.

The Forest Service will manage the new facility, a local dream that was 14 years in the making.

"The challenges you faced often seemed as formidable as those to Lewis and Clark ...," Jim Lyons, undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture told all those who worked to make the center reality. "Today you make your mark on history for all of us to enjoy and benefit from." The Forest Service is part of the USDA.

While the Lewis and Clark fanfare in Great Falls this week is usually referred to as a "festival" or "celebration," tribal leaders remind merrymakers that the opening of the West changed Native American life forever.

But unlike the 1992 quincentennial of Christopher Columbus' "Discovery of America" — an event that struck a negative cord with tribes across the United States — the Lewis and Clark Expedition was a joint effort between Jefferson's explorers and the various tribes they encountered.

"In the Lewis and Clark Expedition you really do have a shared meeting of the two cultures," said Jeanne Eder of the Sioux Tribe. "You have the Indian side of the story and the non-Indian side of the story. I think that's very evident in the new interpretive center."

Eder is a tribal representative on the state's Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission. Created by the 1997 Legislature, the commission is charged with giving technical, financial and informational assistance to communities planning events to mark the 200th anniversary of the expedition in 2004.

"It has the potential to touch every corner of Montana," said commission executive director Clint Blackwood.

Like the interpretive center, the bicentennial also has the potential to heal cross-cultural wounds, said commissioner Darrell Kipp, of the Blackfeet Tribe.

"I think in the replay of the Lewis and Clark Expedition they're going to come along and find Indians in the same places they were before," Kipp said. "This bicentennial gives America another opportunity to become acquainted."

Many new acquaintances were made in the ceremony outside the interpretive center Saturday, where old-style red, white and blue grandstand banners mingled with traditional Native American sweetgrass braids and pottery.

Representatives from about 10 tribes placed cultural symbols, including a brilliant blue elk-tooth dress from the Crow Tribe and a miniature beaded cradle board from the Shoshone, into a tall metal time capsule to stay at the interpretive center.

A date to open the capsule has not been set, but the center's 50th anniversary might be an appropriate occasion, said James Parker Shield, former chairman of the Little Shell Chippewa Tribe. Parker Shield and former Great Falls Mayor Bob Deming were masters of ceremony for the grand opening.

National and state officials speaking at Saturday's event included Jim Lyons, undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Mike Dombeck, chief of the U.S. Forest Service, Gov. Marc Racicot and Montana's three congressmen.

U.S. Rep-Rick Hill said a 14-member Lewis and Clark Expedition Congressional Caucus will keep a national focus on the bicentennial.

Indians and non-Indians joined Saturday in promising to mark the bicentennial together.

"We are gathered here to honor this center, which we hope will symbolize a relationship," said Allen. "And why we need to walk together in harmony."

GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE
July 5, 1998

Kids saving pennies for Sacajawea monument

By Kathleen Mortensen
The Idaho Statesman

MERIDIAN — Pioneer Elementary School students are kicking off an area-wide project to collect pennies to build a monument for Sacajawea, the Lemhi Shoshone girl who helped lead the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Idaho State Treasurer Lydia Justice Edwards, who came up with the penny-drive idea, called Sacajawea an inspiration during a school assembly Wednesday. Edwards hailed her as a heroine for Idaho children, especially teenagers.

"One of the least recognized aspects of that remarkable journey of discovery is that a teen-age mother, carrying her newborn, led the Lewis and Clark explorers from what is now Montana to the Pacific Ocean and back again," Edwards said.

The campaign even has its own history lesson. Instead of using the common modern-day spelling of "Sacajawea," project organizers are using the historical spelling "Sacagawea" in promotional materials.

Students saw a model of the proposed life-sized monument, made by sculptor Rusty Talbot. They also watched a slide-show presentation of the explorers narrated by Boise State University Professor Carol McGregor.

Talbot created the sculpture at the request of the Lemhi tribe, which is hoping to create an Idaho cultural center focused on the history and tradition of its people.

The model for the sculpture was Michelle Arawite, a 15-year-old Lemhi Shoshone.

Organizers of the project hope to collect the \$15,000 needed for the statue by 2000. That's 1.5 million pennies.

"We don't want their lunch money, or money from their mother's purse," Edwards said. "We want the change from their candy bar. It isn't so much about pennies as getting their attention."

Edwards hopes kids will identify with Sacajawea, and that in turn will make history come alive for them.

"It's empowering," she said. "It's a children's project that will give them a foundation of respect for history."

To get kids in the Treasure Valley started, Pioneer fifth-grader Marissa Miller asked her schoolmates to donate pennies to special collection jars in each classroom.

Miller got involved two months ago as part of a contest sponsored by Disney on how kids could better their community.

With help from her mother, Trina Reiss, Miller decided to launch the school penny-drive campaign from Pioneer Elementary, then spread it to other schools around the Treasure Valley, and eventually the state.

"I thought I could let people know what a good role model Sacajawea was," Miller said. "We need someone like that. She was so brave, a real fighter."

The Idaho Statesman



GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE July 5, 1998

Tribune photo by Larry Beckner

Rose Ann Abrahamson, a Lemhi Shoshone and a seventh-generation descendant of Sacajawea, signs "America The Beautiful" in traditional Indian sign language Saturday during the grand opening of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.

PROJECT COORDINATOR:

Don Riley
(208) 375-9826

Retracing history

His imagination stoked by the seminal story of explorers Lewis and Clark, Tribune photographer Mike Venso sets out on his own personal journey of discovery

tomorrow we begin our journey, a journey that began as a crazy idea and now sits perched overlooking the Pacific Ocean awaiting reality.

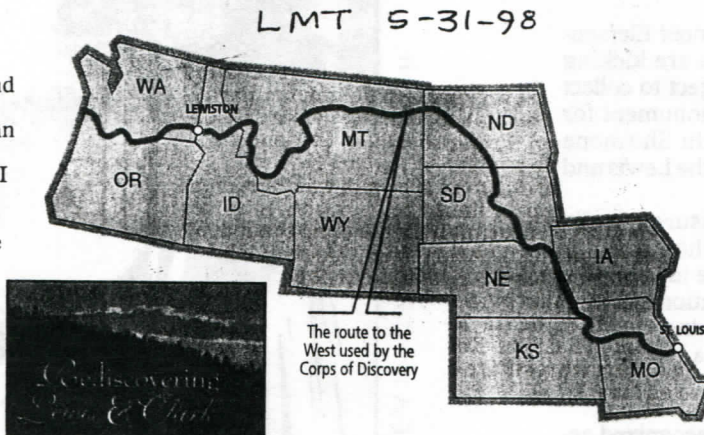
Nearly two years ago I helped fulfill one of my father's greatest wishes — to be a forest ranger. He didn't have one of those really cool hats or drive a lemon-lime truck. But for one weekend at Austin Ridge Lookout, he was a forest ranger surveying the endless ridges of trees, trees and more trees.

Dad came out to Idaho from Kansas, where I grew up, for a little vacation. He got that and more as our little Ranger Rick weekend quickly turned into an outbreak of Lewis and Clark fever.

You see, there we were at the Lewis and Clark Grove, not far from Austin Ridge, and it struck me. We were standing on the same ground that the Corps of Discovery hiked and camped on nearly 200 years ago.

The remoteness, the smell of rain and cedar and the sound of a creek trickling toward the ocean made it feel as if they could have been there yesterday. At this spot, the land and its ruggedness had changed little in two centuries. But as we made our way back to Lewiston, the landscape, the people, the rivers, the smells and the sounds all changed.

I thought about how different this part of the Lewis and Clark Trail had become since first described for a curious nation. I imagined myself



among the ranks of the Corps of Discovery and I felt a desire to rediscover the America they found so challenging, so beautiful and so wild.

Within days I was consumed with all things Lewis or Clark. I checked out books. I bought books. I surfed the Internet for hours and hours. I talked with historians, scholars, authors and folks I met along the trail.

I started dreaming up a trip to retrace the Lewis and Clark Trail, and my wife looked at me like I was crazy, stupid and naive. She was right. My first plan to hike and canoe the nearly 3,500-mile trail was a little bit out there.

I spoke with some former Tribune story subjects who retraced the trail in 1992. They echoed my wife's sentiments and invited me along on their at-

See **Retracing**, Page 5A

My brother both new

tempt this fall to make the return trip from the Pacific to St. Louis. I signed on and proposed the idea to the Tribune as a photojournalistic-documentary project. The Tribune supported the idea and plans began slowly to develop.

My enthusiasm could not be contained. I was researching, studying and traveling every chance I got to learn more about the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

But as spring approached, the plans fell apart and my new friends from the Midwest were no longer able to make the trip. I didn't waste any time, however, planning a trip of my own.

The Rediscovering Lewis and Clark Expedition was born and I've spent the last few months, when I'm not working at the Tribune, planning, seeking support, planning, writing grants, planning, ordering supplies, planning and making sure we have enough dehydrated beef stroganoff, film and toilet paper.

I needed assistance to complete the challenging trip and found an ideal partner in my brother-in-law, Greg Balsmeier. The former U.S. Navy SEAL and current University of Kansas student and his wife, Abbi, are spending their summer catching a bit of Lewis and Clark fever themselves.

Greg will accompany me on the expedition while Abbi will spend most of the summer

here in Lewiston helping my wife, Kathy, and daughter, Amanda, with the logistical support that makes this project possible.

I settled on an attempt to get as many perspectives and opinions as possible by utilizing different modes of transportation. We will travel from the Pacific Ocean to St. Louis for the next three months by fishing boat, U.S. Navy ship, tow/barge, jetboat, logging truck, horseback, 4-wheel-drive vehicle, hiking, mountain bike, canoe and power boat.

We'll be documenting what has changed and what hasn't since the members of the Corps of Discovery described the land and its people in their journals. Through words and photographs we hope to provide a new vision of the American West through the eyes of those who live, work and play along a ribbon of history known as the Lewis and Clark Trail.

Each week, we'll file a journal entry of our own in the pages of the Sunday Lewiston Tribune. We'll use a laptop computer and digital camera to send back images and words from the trail to share with our readers and people around the world through a world-wide web site at: www.lmtribune.com/discover/

Tomorrow, we're bound for St. Louis from Fort Canby State Park in Washington. We'll pass through Lewiston Monday.

1998 L&C Labor Day Exploration

In the past 10 yrs we've made several "expeditions" over the Lolo Trail, most of which were a week long, required overnight campouts, and focused on east end of the trail. Few attended because the trips were too long or lack of camping gear. With that in mind we set two goals this year: 1) Visit the center or west end of the Lolo Trail, and 2) Organize it so the non-campers and those with passenger cars can attend. We will "pool" our rigs for day trips as many L&C "buffs" will arrive in RVs or passenger cars not suitable for some of the roads.

THE HEART OF THE LOLO TRAIL WITH TRIPLE "O" OUTFITTERS

Harlan and Barb Opdahl have a base camp in the center of the Lolo Trail reached over Saddle Camp Road (a good gravel road). The camp has several buildings and many tents and can feed up to 70 people. You have the choice of sleeping in your own RV, pitching a tent, or using one of Triple "O"'s tents (bring your own sleeping bag). We'll eat the outfitter's grub. No cooking or KP. Cost: \$40/day/ person food, or \$65/ day/ person food & lodging.

EXPEDITION AGENDA

FRIDAY NIGHT, SEPT 4: No planned meals: "Campfire" & stories while waiting late arrivals.

SATURDAY, SEPT 5: Travel the motorway west to Sherman Peak getting spirits revived after a hike to the peak (about one mile). After lunch return east stopping at Dry camp, Green Sward camp, Bald Mtn, and perhaps a side trip to Castle Butte Lookout with it's incomparable view of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness across the Lochsa River. Back in camp by 6 for dinner & campfire.

SUNDAY, SEPT 6: Visit Indian Post Office in morning. Hike to Lonesome cove camp or view peeled trees. While returning to camp view alternative route theories: Which way did they go = Moccasin Peak or Horseshoe Creek? Back to camp by 3 for an early dinner. After dinner take an evening horseback ride (\$25) or walk the 3 mile trail that visits the Sinque Hole, Indian Graves Meadow (the probable campsite instead of the Sinque Hole) and visit the Smoking Place at sunset. Back to camp for a late snack and campfire.

MONDAY, SEPT 7: Head for home. Some will organize a caravan west over the motorway to come out at Weippe or Kamiah catching some of the sites on the west side of the Clearwater National Forest.

FINDING OUR BASE CAMP:

Travel east on Hwy 12 from Lewiston about 3 & 1/2 hours to MP 139 (the green numbered paddles on the side of the road), or about 60 miles east of Kooskia), to the Saddle Camp Road #107.

Turn north (left for those traveling up river). The Saddle Camp road is a good gravel road. Stay on the main road for about a half hour to 45 minutes when you will reach Saddle Camp at the junction of the #500 road. Actually this is a 5 way intersection.

Take the 2nd left, Road #587 about 15 minutes to our camp on the right. We'll have signs guiding us. *This is all good gravel road and the discussion below does not apply.*

DRIVING THE 500 ROAD: YOU AND YOUR VEHICLE

Tires are the greatest limitation on the #500 road with passenger cars. "Highway" tires designed for lightness to obtain good mileage break cords on this rocky road. Other limitations include clearance which usually only affects very low cars. Motorhomes will be swept by overhanging trees and brush, and by rocks on tight turns. The road is single lane with turn-outs to allow passing, but there are sections of more than one-half mile without any turn-outs. Drivers should be able to back 1/4 mile comfortably to a turn-out using their mirrors. Uphill traffic has the right-of-way.

On our expeditions from base camp we will "car pool" to aid discussions and to reduce congestion on these narrow roads. If you have a large passenger carrying rig (van, suburban, etc.) please bring it.