

Southern Trails Chapter

Oregon-California Trails Association

Las Cruces Annual Winter Conference
February 23 thru 25, 2012
Bureau of Land Management District Office
Las Cruces, NM

Registration Form

Name/s _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

E Mail Address _____

	# Persons	Per Person	Totals
Registration Fee	_____	\$ 50.00	\$ _____

Box lunch for El Camino Real-Space Port field trip
At \$10.00 per lunch \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please indicate the field trip you plan to join (optional)

4WD Field Trip

El Camino Real-Space Port Field Trip

Registration Fee includes:

Welcome Reception

Friday Luncheon

Coffee Service at meeting

Please make checks out to Southern Trails Chapter and mail with registration to:

Jud Mygatt
Southern Trails Treasurer
General Delivery
Stanfield, AZ 85172

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Bureau of Land Management District Office
1800 Marquess Street
Las Cruces, NM

Several important trails pass through the Las Cruces-Mesilla-Doña Ana area, including El Camino Real, the Butterfield Overland Mail, and a branch of the Southern Emigrant trail. Stephen Watts Kearny's 1846 route, and Cooke's Wagon Road left the Rio Grande near Truth or Consequences, passing through the country to the west of the Rio Grande en route to California. On Christmas day, 1846, Colonel Alexander Doniphan and his "Ring-tailed Roarers" defeated a Mexican army at the Battle of Brazito just south of Las Cruces. The final draft of the Gadsden Purchase, adding Southern Arizona and Southern New Mexico to the union, was signed on the Mesilla Plaza in 1854.

This year's conference will follow the previous year's format, with a reception Thursday evening, speaker presentations and chapter meeting on Friday, and field trips on Saturday.

The Ramada Palms de las Cruces will serve as our Conference hotel. The Ramada Inn is located near exit # 142 off I-10 at 201 E. University Avenue, Las Cruces. The convention rate is \$81.00 per night for either a queen or king size bed. To get the convention rate, call the Ramada at (575) 526-4411 and mention that you are attending the Southern Trails Chapter convention.

Our **Thursday evening reception** is scheduled from 5:30-7:00 pm in the courtyard of the historic J. Paul Taylor House located on Calle de Principal in historic Mesilla on the west side of the Mesilla Plaza. This adobe structure is one of the finest examples of New Mexico territorial architecture, and dates back to the 1850s. J. Paul Taylor and his family recently donated the property to the State of New Mexico. It is now listed as a New Mexico State Monument. Mr. Taylor and the *Friends of the Taylor House* will be available to greet Southern Trail Chapter members, and to provide informal tours of this historic dwelling.

Speakers at this year's conference include:

Rose Ann Tompkins: "The Southern Trail Complex."

Rose Ann is well-known for her work with the *Trail Turtles*. She is a former OCTA officer, and currently serves as our Southern Trails historian.

Tom Jonas: "Determined to Commence Packing: Where Did Kearny Leave the Wagons?"

Tom is an expert on Kearny's route in the Southwest. He is a gifted cartographer, and currently serves as our chapter webmaster.

Patrick Beckett: "El Camino Real"

Mr. Beckett is a former president of CARTA and is the owner of COAS bookstore in Las Cruces.

Aaron Mahr: "National Historic Trails from an Agency Perspective."

Mr. Mahr is General Superintendent of the National Park Service Intermountain Region's National Trails System.

Don Couchman: "A Road of Many Names"

Mr. Couchman is a trail historian who specializes on the trails in southern New Mexico and Arizona. His work has resulted in the precise mapping of many of these trails.

Saturday Field Trips:

*** El Camino Real--Spaceport**

This field trip will be by private automobile, and will depart from the Ramada Inn parking lot at 8:30 am. Carpooling is encouraged. The caravan will proceed up the royal highway, with stops at important sites including the BLM's Yost Escarpment Trail. We will also visit three archaeological sites, including paleo-Indian and proto-historic sites. We will be able to see the Spaceport hanger and grounds, but will not be able to enter the hanger, since it is privately owned and operated. BLM archaeologist Jane Childress will lead the tour. Mrs. Childress is BLM Project Coordinator for the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail. A box lunch will be provided. Warm clothing may be necessary. The tour includes a short hike.

*** Cooke's Canyon Area Field Trip**

Field trip from Deming to Fort Cummings, Cooke's Spring, John Chaffin marked grave (short hike), and Cooke's Canyon. Besides these landmarks you will see the fort cemetery, site of a stage station, graves of unknown travelers, boulders with grooves made by wagon wheels, Indian mortar holes and petroglyphs. Rose Ann Tompkins and Tracy DeVault guides.

High clearance 4WD vehicles are necessary as the road is very rough in the canyon. Limited to 8 vehicles. Meet in Deming at 8:30 am on Saturday at the south end of the Walmart parking lot. If you have room for extra passengers in your vehicle, please indicate. We may be able to accommodate those who do not have an adequate vehicle. If you would like to be put on a list of those needing a ride, please indicate. We will try to be back in Deming by 4 pm at the latest. Wear hiking boots and clothing for possible cold weather. Bring your lunch, snacks, drinks, hats, walking sticks, suntan lotion and cameras.

Sign up by emailing Rose Ann at rt37pkin@cox.net. First come, first serve.

