

Of Special Interest

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Hungry on Hungry Creek

by Robert Allison, Jr.

Of the overland portions of the Lewis and Clark Trail the one section of the trail which is the most untouched by modern civilization has got to be the fifteen mile section along Hungry Creek in the Lolo Pass area. William Clark first camped on this creek on September 18, 1805. He wrote in his journal "...and Encamped on a bold running Creek passing to the left which I call Hungry Creek as at that place we had nothing to eat." (Moulton 5:213-214)

During the summer of 1998, in a solo attempt to follow Lewis and Clark's route along Hungry Creek, I ended up being



*Along The Lolo Motorway
Bitterroot Mountains
Northern Idaho*

hungrier than even Lewis and Clark and their party were while on Hungry Creek. By the time I walked out in July of 1998, I had spent four days without food and four nights without shelter in the Hungry Creek drainage. Lewis and Clark had portable soup, horse meat, pheasants, and other birds to eat. I had a few huckleberries. This is the story of how that came about.

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Trail Stewardship Opportunities

Review of Federal Agency Resource and General Management Plans

The Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement will be available for public comment until 4/26/06. The draft plan contains over 400 pages and is available at www.missouribreaks.org. In addition, the Bitterroot and Lolo National Forests are also in the process of revising their general management plans. Contact Wendy Raney at (888) 701-3434 or wraney@lewisandclark.org if you would like to get involved with the public review process.

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Chapter Survey Results

by Ken Jutzi

In January our Chapter conducted a survey of active and previously active members of our Chapter or the Foundation who reside in California or Nevada. We also included previously active Chapter members residing in Illinois and Texas.

The objective of this survey was to gather information about member and non-member interests to help us develop Chapter events, projects and products that would be both useful and interesting to our current members as well as prospective members.

Questionnaires were mailed to 232 residents of California, 13 residents of Nevada, and 1 resident of Illinois and Texas. Within California, 133 (57%) were active members of the Foundation but not

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Trail Stewardship Opportunities

(continued from page 1)

Bureau of Land Management Support (May/June)

Volunteers are needed to help the BLM recycle old wooden signs. This will include the installation of 30 to 50 signs along the Missouri River. These signs will be small wooden signs marking campsites or river mileage markers. Woodworking skills are required. Volunteers are also being sought to help the BLM wrap wire around cottonwoods on BLM land along the Missouri River to protect them from beaver.

Lolo Motorway Impact Monitoring (July and September)

The U.S.D.A. Forest Service and our Foundation have a long standing partnership focused on the protection of the natural and cultural resources along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Foundation and chapter members assist in campsite monitoring, campsite cleanup, trail clearing and sign installation. A portion of the Trail includes the Lolo Motorway in northern Idaho.

The 2006 sessions on the Lolo Motorway will occur July 18-20 and September 12-14. Both sessions will begin at 9 a.m. on Tuesday morning at the Powell Ranger Station in Idaho and conclude at about 2 p.m. Thursday at the same location. The Powell Ranger Station is off Idaho state highway 12 just west of Lolo Pass. Nine volunteers are needed for each session. The work takes place from a base camp on the Lolo Motorway. The Forest Service provides meals and transportation to the Motorway from the Powell Ranger Station. Volunteers need to provide their own tents, bedding and a variety of weather-appropriate clothing, including rain gear and boots. The work does not require much physical exertion, but it does require long periods of riding in a vehicle on an extremely bumpy and narrow road. It also may be wet and cold and you will be sleeping outside.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Park Support

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Park is interested in working with Foundation volunteers in 2006. Potential opportunities include summer ranger positions, interpretive programming, trail watch efforts and some trail maintenance. Specific details will be available soon and will be posted on our website as they become available.

To Learn More

To learn more about ongoing trail stewardship programs and how you can contribute, contact Wendy Raney at (888) 701-3434 or wraney@lewisandclark.org.

Bay Area

Book Discussion Group a Success More are Planned

by Mary Ann Kvenvolden

On January 28, 2006, eleven people gathered at the Kvenvolden home in Palo Alto for a Book Discussion Group. The result was a very pleasant afternoon with some lively discussion revolving around the chosen book, *Scenes of Visionary Enchantment* by Dayton Duncan.

Nine of the participants were members of either our Chapter, the Foundation, or both. Two of the attendees were not members of either and came because of their interest in the Lewis and Clark Expedition. After the book discussion, they both decided to join both our Chapter and the Foundation. Refreshments were served and everyone had a chance to get acquainted and share some of their common interests.

This gathering was originally planned as a pilot event to see if there would be interest in such a gathering. Because



Keith Kvenvolden's
Special Lewis & Clark Collection
(Courtesy Keith Kvenvolden)

of the interest expressed by those in attendance to have additional gatherings, a followup book discussion meeting has been planned for May 20, 2006 - this time at Pat Hartinger's home in Los Gatos. The book to be discussed is a new book by James Ronda, *Finding the West*. James Ronda is a noted historian on the American West and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. He has published several books on these subjects, some of which are listed on the *Useful Resources* page of our chapter's website.

Space is limited. If you are interested in attending, please contact either Pat at (408) 356-5363 or Mary Ann at (650) 328-0414.

Treasurer's Report

Funds on hand as of
March 20, 2006: \$908

R. L. “Bob” Rickards Captivates Camarillo Audience

Despite competition from the premier of *The Amgen Tour of California*, a professional bike race promoted as being comparable to *The Tour de France*, on February 25, 2006, about twenty people gathered at the Camarillo Public Library in Camarillo, California. They were there to listen to R. L. “Bob” Rickards, a self-taught renowned local western artist, who has spent over 25 years researching, traveling and subsequently painting locations along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (LCNHT).

Bob’s works have been displayed at Hearst Castle in San Simeon; the Fred Kavli Theatre for the Performing Arts in Thousand Oaks; have been used to illustrate feature articles in *We Proceeded On* and, on occasion, have graced its cover; and have served as the feature exhibit on Lewis and Clark in the Ronald Reagan Library and Museum in Simi Valley, California.

Bob captivated the audience as he discussed his experiences while traveling and painting The Trail and capturing on canvas the significant events of the expedition’s Journey of Discovery. Several of Bob’s works were on display for attendees to view close up. Each attendee was given a color catalogue of all of Bob’s Lewis and Clark paintings, a Bicentennial poster/calendar of The Trail, and a LCNHT pin.



Attentive audience listens to Bob discuss his painting of The Trail

After Bob’s talk, a drawing was conducted to award door prizes and refreshments were served. Door prizes included several Foundation items and a grand prize of an 8”x12” Gilcee reproduction of one of Bob’s paintings. As a small token of our appreciation for Bob agreeing to be our feature speaker, we presented Bob with his own LCNHT pin and a solid mahogany and brass replica of a Thomas Whitney pocket compass, one of the instruments

Lewis purchased for the expedition when he was in Philadelphia¹.



Attendees gather for refreshments and further discussion after Bob’s talk

Of those who attended, 50% (10) were not members of either the Foundation or our Chapter. Two people joined our Chapter and one attendee renewed their membership at a patron level.



Bob Rickards with the happy winners of the 8”x12” Gilcee reproduction of one of his paintings

Special thanks go to Karen Rickert at the Foundation for donating the Foundation items; to John Toal of R. L. Rickards Western Art for donating handouts, the Gilcee reproduction, and arranging for Bob to speak to us; to Barbara Gaitley for donating a Foundation tee shirt and handling our membership table; and to Jane Jutzi for donating the refreshments and handling our fund raiser table.

¹ For a description of this instrument go to the following webloc of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, Behring Center: americanhistory.si.edu. Then, in the search box, search for “lewis compass”.

Presidents Notes

Whew! It's been a very busy 2006! During January and February we held two chapter events, one in Palo Alto and one in Camarillo and in March we finalized planning for our event this month in Auburn, California.

The results of our January statewide survey were analyzed and a report was prepared. In addition, our website was updated with current information and redesigned to give it a new look and feel. I encourage you to take some time to visit our new site and let me know what you think. Its entry point has not changed.

I want to especially thank everyone who took the time to fill out the survey questionnaire and send it in. Although the results are summarized in this newsletter, a more complete report is available on our website in the *Miscellaneous* section of the *Downloads* page. I encourage you to read it. Although there are no big surprises, I think you will still find it interesting.

One aspect not discussed in the summary article relates to a question concerning the Lewis and Clark experience. When asked to select six, from a list of 18, those aspects of the Lewis and Clark experience that were the most interesting, 79% chose traveling the Trail and visiting interpretative centers. The next most selected choice, at 64%, was tied between "learning about the Expedition and its legacies" and "protecting and preserving the physical, historical and cultural aspects of the Trail".

As some of you already know, I had the privilege of serving on the Foundation's Strategic Planning Committee that is setting the course for our Foundation over the next ten years. We met in St. Louis in January and again in March via conference calls to put together updated vision and mission statements and associated goals, objectives and tasks. You will be hearing more on this topic from the Foundation in the coming months as the Foundation's Board of Directors reviews this draft plan and takes it to the membership for comment prior to approval in September.

From October 1, 2005, to the date of this writing, we welcomed 26 new members - 22 into our chapter and 4 into the Foundation. We also had 7 Chapter members renew their memberships. Of the Chapter memberships, twelve (41%) were above the individual or family level.

This increased activity and the unusually long but excellent article by Robert Allison, Jr., has resulted in this issue of *Golden Notes* being much larger than normal. In spite of that, I hope you will find it both interesting and informative.

Ken

Did You Know?

by Ken Jutzi

During their trip west against the Missouri River's current, the Corps considered traveling twenty miles as a very good day. On their return trip in 1806, the Missouri was much more cooperative. Going with the current, it was common for them to travel fifty, sixty and even seventy miles a day. These distances became so common place that Clark notes they "incamped haveing Come 45 Miles only to day". Despite this speed, and their eagerness to get back to St. Louis and civilization, they halted their canoes midday at the base of a steep hill they had named Floyd's Bluff - after traveling only 36 miles. On this bluff, two years earlier, they had buried Sergeant Charles Floyd who had died from "bilious cholick" (probably a burst appendix)¹.

As they ascended the hill to pay their respects on that cloudy September day, Clark notes that they "found the grave had been opened by the nativs and left half Covered"². The Captains ordered it filled in and, after paying their respects, the party proceeded on to St. Louis.

Years later, in April of 1810, Nicholas Biddle interviewed Clark as he was preparing the Captains' journals for publication. During this interview, Clark elaborates on this event and provides details not found in their daily logs. For September 4, 1806, Biddle notes "Floyds grave. A chief of one of the Sioux bands encamped near it, lost one of his sons. He had Floyds grave opened & his son put in with Floyd for the purpose of accompanying him to the other world believing the white man's future state was happier than that of the Savages"³.

Floyd's Bluff is near today's Sioux City, Iowa. His remains have been moved four times and now rest beneath a 100 foot high obelisk located about 200 yards from the original burial site.⁴

¹ Dayton Duncan, "Scenes of Visionary Enchantment, Reflections on Lewis and Clark", University of Nebraska Press, 2004, p.134.

² Moulton, Gary, "The Definitive Journals of Lewis & Clark", Paperback Edition, University of Nebraska Press, 2002, Vol. 8, p. 349.

³ Jackson, Donald, "Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition with Related Documents, 1783-1854, 2nd Edition, with Additional Documents and Notes", University of Illinois Press, 1978, Vol 2, pp. 541-542.

⁴ *Discovering Lewis & Clark*® at <http://www.lewis-clark.org/content/content-article.asp?ArticleID=715>.

Chapter Survey Results

(continued from page 1)

our Chapter; 24 (10%) were active members of both the Foundation and our Chapter; 6 (3%) were only active in our Chapter; and 69 (30%) were not active members of either the Foundation or our Chapter.

We received 50 replies (a response rate of about 21%). These respondents were distributed geographically as follows (1 respondent did not provide his location):

- Southern California 16 (33%)
- Central California 4 (8%)
- Northern California 27 (55%)
- Nevada, Texas, and Illinois 2 (4%)

Their indicated membership status, in either the Foundation (LCTHF) or our Chapter (CALCTHF), was as follows:

- LCTHF Only 24 (48%)
- CALCTHF Only 0 (0%)
- Both LCTHF and CALCTHF 23 (46%)
- Neither LCTHF or CALCTHF 3 (6%)

The response rate by membership status category was:

- LCTHF Only 18% (24/133)
- CALCTHF Only 0% (0/6)
- Both LCTHF and CALCTHF 96% (23/24)
- Neither LCTHF or CALCTHF 4% (3/69)

Eighty-one percent (81%) of these respondents said they were retired and 8% indicated they had elementary school children living with them. Several indicated they had grandchildren in elementary school.

Our survey questionnaire contained twenty questions. Thirteen questions focused on three categories of Chapter activities and products - Chapter events and projects, our newsletter, and our website.

The following paragraphs provide an overview of the preferences provided by the 50 respondents. As indicated there, all 50 did not answer every question contained in our questionnaire. A more detailed report, showing the questionnaire we used and the results for every question, including written comments (without respondent names), is available on the *Downloads* page of our website (*Miscellaneous* section).

Chapter Events and Projects

In this preference category we wanted to know how frequently we should have a Chapter event, what part of Volume 6, No. 2 (April 2006)

the week is the most preferred, and what types of events or projects are the most appealing.

Regarding the preferred frequency, the preferences of the 37 respondents (out of 50) who answered this question were distributed as follows:

- monthly 5% (2)
- quarterly 46% (17)
- semi-Annually 49% (18)

On the question related to the preferred part of the week, 42 respondents answered it. Their preferences were distributed as follows:

- on a weekday 9% (4)
- on the weekend 48% (20)
- any day of the week 43% (18)

With respect to what types of Chapter events are the most appealing, Question 9 of our questionnaire asked respondents to select their top six types from a list of 12. The top four choices, for the 45 respondents who answered this question, were as follows:

- (1) listening to a knowledgeable speaker or scholar discuss some aspect of the Expedition (87%)
- (2) listening to a Lewis and Clark scholar discuss his/her research (78%)
- (3) visiting Lewis and Clark related historical sites or interpretive centers (60%), and
- (4) either watching a movie or slide show about some aspect of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (49%) or visiting state or local historical sites, societies or museums (47%).

No significant geographical difference with respect to these top four choices was evident. The results for all of the 12 event types that were listed in Question 9 are provided in Figure 1 below.

Another set of questions focused on book discussion groups. We wanted to know if there was interest in attending such a group - if it were convenient to do so. We also wanted to know how far people would be willing to travel and how many would be willing to lead one.

Of the 43 respondents who answered the first question, 54% (23) indicated they were interested. Of these, 46% (13) said they would be willing to travel up to an hour and 36% (10) indicated they would be willing to travel up to two hours. Five people (1 in central California and 4 in northern Californian) indicated they would be willing to lead a book discussion group in their local area.

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Our questionnaire also asked how far one would be willing to travel to attend a Chapter event featuring a nationally known speaker such as Gary Moulton. Of the 46 respondents who answered this question, 54% said they would be willing to travel a distance that required an overnight stay.

Chapter Newsletter

In exploring priorities related to our Chapter's newsletter, our questionnaire contained a set of questions which focused on content, publication frequency and method of delivery.

Question 14 of our questionnaire dealt with content. In that question, respondents were asked to identify their top six choices from a list of 9. The top four choices were as follows (46 respondents answered this question):

- (1) information about our Chapter's events, activities, and projects (83%)
- (2) information about Lewis and Clark community events, activities, and projects (70%)
- (3) articles about some aspect of Lewis and Clark history (67%)
- (4) little know facts and tidbits of information about the Expedition, the Foundation, or other Lewis and Clark Community related topics (57%)

With respect to preferred publication frequency, respondent preferences were distributed as follows (45 respondents answered this question):

- once a year 7% (3)
- twice a year 29% (13)
- quarterly 62% (28)

With respect to preferred method of delivery, all 50 respondents answered this question. Their preferences were distributed as follows:

- by regular mail 70% (35)
- by email 26% (13)
- view/download from website 4% (2)

Chapter Website

The final set of questions in our questionnaire dealt with our Chapter's website. We wanted to know how many people had Internet access, what the speed of their connection was, and what their priorities were for online capabilities.

Regarding Internet access and connection speed, 81% (39) indicated they had Internet access and of these, 54% (21) indicated they had a high speed connection (46% (18) indicated they had a dial up connection).

The top three preferences for online capabilities, selected from a list of 11 choices, were as follows (37 respondents answered this question):

- (1) access to information about our Chapter's events/activities/projects (90%)
- (2) access to information about Lewis and Clark community events/activities/projects (81%)
- (3) links and references to useful resources to learn more about Lewis and Clark (68%)

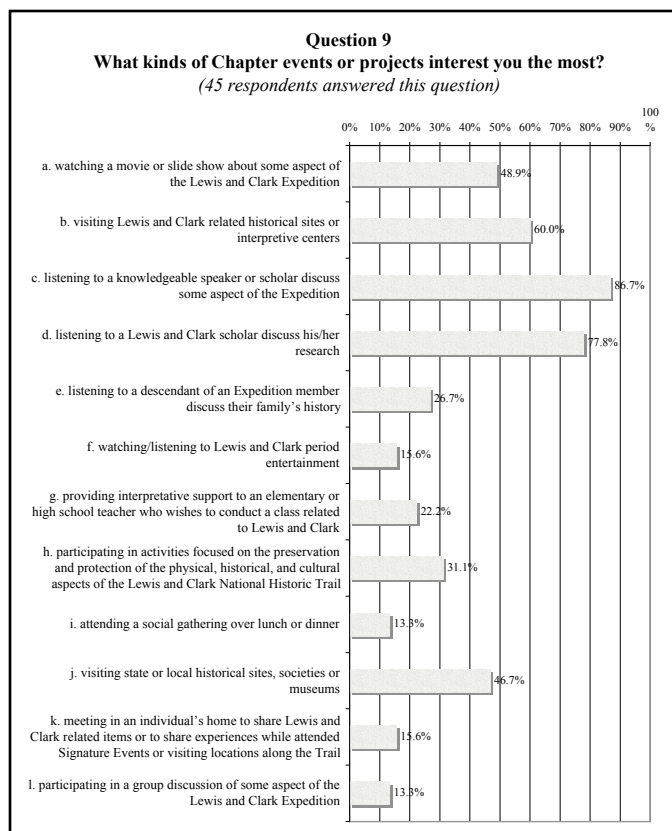


Figure 1 - Preferences for Chapter Events and Projects

**If You Are Not a
Chapter Member
◆ Please Join Us! ◆
(see page 11 for how to do it)**

Hungry on Hungery Creek (continued from page 1)

I was a forester with the Forest Service in Colorado with a strong interest in history and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. My interest in Lewis and Clark dates to the early 1950's when my family lived in the Lemhi Valley near Sacagawea's birth place. At that time my father was the Forest Ranger for the Lemhi Ranger District of the Salmon National Forest.

For several summers my family and friends and I hiked the Lewis and Clark trail west of Lolo Pass. We usually took about a week each of those summers and hiked roughly forty miles each trip shuttling our camping equipment by vehicle. Our hikes mostly followed the Lolo Motorway (Forest Service Road 500). We tried to camp as near as possible to actual Lewis and Clark campsites each night. In the evenings, around the campfire, we would read the journal entries for the campsite we were near. Some evenings we would also fire a replica of a model 1803 Harpers Ferry rifle, the rifle some think was used by the expedition¹. We even had campfire skits in period clothing.

Forest Service (FS) Road 500, which was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC's) in the 1930's, closely follows the original route of the Lewis and Clark Trail west of Lolo Pass. However, where the original trail route climbs Willow Ridge and then drops down to Hungery Creek, it leaves FS Road 500 for about 15 miles. At one time a Forest Service trail (#237) ascended Willow Ridge and then followed Hungery Creek all the way to Windy Saddle near Lewis and Clark's Horsesteak Meadow Camp. The first three miles or so of this old trail, from where it leaves FS Road 500 and ascends Willow Ridge to an outfitter camp, has been maintained by outfitters and is in good shape. However, beyond that point the Forest Service trail has grown over and very few traces of it can now be found. Most of the country along Hungery Creek is still as wild and rugged as it was in Lewis and Clark's day with "... much falling timber ..." (Clark, 9/18/05), and "The road up this Creek is much wors than any other part as the hills Sides are Steep ..." (Clark, 9/19/05). Lewis was following behind Clark with the main party. In his journal entry of September 19, 1805 he states that "...the road was excessively dangerous along this creek being a narrow rocky path generally on the side of steep precipice, from which in many places if ether man or horse were precipitated they would inevitably be dashed in pieces." (Moulton 5:215)

During our 1997 hike on the Lolo Motorway, knowing that I wanted to follow the Lewis and Clark route along Hungery Creek the next summer, I checked out the first part of Forest Service trail #237. I hiked the first half mile or so and found the trail to be in good shape. We also checked with the local Forest Service Ranger Station at Powell. They cautioned us that the trail was not maintained. At the time I didn't know that outfitters had maintained the first three miles of the trail, but because they had, that gave me the false impression that the entire trail would be in that same condition. Unmaintained trails in the drier Colorado Mountains that I was used to do not

disappear as completely as they do in the wet and lush forests of the Bitterroots.

When we returned in July of 1998 for our annual Lewis and Clark Trail hike, I ended up being the only party member interested in taking a two day backpack trip along what I thought to be an unmaintained but existing trail along Hungery Creek. The plan was for the other party members to hike Forest Service Road 500 and meet me the second night at the Lewis and Clark camp at Horsesteak Meadows.

Day 1

I started out on a Monday with a fifty pound backpack and freeze dried food for one night on the trail. I had a map, a compass and one packet of book matches in my shirt pocket. My plan was to camp the first night where the Forest Service trail intersected with Hungery Creek at a Lewis and Clark campsite. The trail started out ascending Willow ridge in almost the exact location as the original Lewis and Clark trail. It was in good shape for the first three miles. At the large outfitter camp the trail dead-ended. At that point, Willow Ridge is a broad, easy to follow ridge. There is no undergrowth



Clearwater National Forest sign not far from where the actual route taken by Lewis and Clark leaves FS Road 500. The sign reads, in part, "From here their route west leaves the main divide, descends Willow Ridge to Hungery Creek, and regains the main divide 12 miles to the west".

and travel is easy. Because I was a forester who had spent my career working in the woods, I wasn't intimidated by cross country travel or rough country. I also expected to find the Forest Service trail again once I reached Hungery Creek. For these reasons, I decided to continue following Willow Ridge cross country down to Hungery Creek.

During the afternoon I got into a very thick band of brushy willows. Travel was extremely difficult. Because the willows were clawing at my pack, I had to travel backwards using the willow branches to rappel backwards down the slope. At that point I saw a creek far below me to my right. According to my map this was Doubt Creek which feeds into Hungery Creek. Following this creek would be another way to get to the

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campsite I was trying to reach that night. Because I anticipated much easier traveling once I got out of the willow brush and down to a creek, I decided to drop down to Doubt Creek. I continued rappelling backwards down the steep willow covered slopes and after negotiating my way through some steep cliffs, I got down to Doubt Creek. To my disappointment, I found travel along the creek to be nightmarishly difficult without a trail. Footing was almost impossible on the steep side slopes. The only reasonable way to travel in that country was to wade down the middle of the creek. In the creek was a constant jumble of down logs which I had to climb over and wrestle my pack over. There was no country flat enough or dry enough for campsites. During the afternoon I fell full length into the creek. What I did not realize at the time was that I had soaked and ruined the book matches in my shirt pocket. By nightfall I had only fought my way a pitifully short distance down the creek. I was still more than a mile from Hungery Creek. Because the only suitable campsites were soggy sandbars in the creek, I camped for the night on one of them, sleeping wedged against a driftwood log. I found my matches to be ruined and I was unable to cook the single freeze dried dinner I had in my pack.

Day 2

The next morning I kept trying to fight my way down the creek. I was getting exhausted trying to wrestle my heavy backpack through the tangled logs and making only very slow progress. I still had hopes of hitting a Forest Service trail once I got to Hungery Creek and getting to Horsesteak Meadows by nightfall to meet my other party members. To do so I would have to travel quickly and lightly. With those thoughts in mind, I finally decided to abandon my backpack on a sandbar in Doubt Creek. I decided to take some essential items and climb the dividing ridge to my right which would bring me out on Hungery Creek. I took my gortex rain-shell, a flashlight, a canteen, a knife, my map and compass, tennis shoes for walking in the creek and a small bag of M&M's and peanuts my mother had given me when I started out.

Putting this plan into action, I finally got to Hungery Creek by midday. There was no trace of any Forest Service trail anywhere nearby. However, the creek was wide and provided easy walking in the creek bed. I began walking northwest still hoping to reach Horsesteak Meadows by nightfall. The further upstream I went, the tougher the going got. I began encountering the same jumbles of down trees I had on Doubt Creek. I also began hitting waterfalls. Sometimes I was able to fight my way through the logs or up the middle of the waterfalls. At other times I had to detour up the steep side slopes until the creek bed was clear. Nowhere did I see any sign of civilization. By nightfall the second night I judged I was still a long way from Horsesteak Meadows. But I had been through such terrible going behind me that "proceeding on" seemed the only sensible course.

I never found decent campsites on Hungery Creek and I often wondered how Lewis and Clark were able to camp along the creek or even ride horses in that area! Footing was terrible. The tall ferns hid the slippery down logs and holes which were everywhere. I found a walking stick the first day on Willow Ridge and had to use it constantly. I would have fallen every step I took without the staff to probe for sound footing. There

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were no level spots, no dry spots, absolutely no spots large enough to lie down full length on the ground.

The second night I sat in a soggy sand and gravel area at the side of the creek. My matches were ruined and I could not build a fire. As I had eaten the M&M's earlier in the day I had no food. I had nothing but my gortex shell to keep me warm. Because I had waded in the creek until 10:00 PM or so, I was wet to the waist. I stayed awake all night, moving around on the gravel and rubbing and slapping my arms and legs to keep warm. Luckily the weather was mild. Later in my ordeal hypothermia would become my major concern.

Day 3

The third day I continued wading up Hungery Creek again until dark. Again I had nothing to eat. Again I was wet from the waist down when I stopped walking. I still had not found any suitable campsites. Again I sat on a narrow dryish patch of gravel next to the creek. Again I stayed awake all night huddling inside my gortex shell and rubbing my arms and legs to keep warm.

Day 4

The fourth day was more of the same (wading up Hungery Creek). That day I saw a helicopter and knew that my waiting family members had started a formal search for me. The helicopter could not see me. With no matches I couldn't make smoke signals. But I was not lost. I was on Hungery Creek and knew where I was!

On this day I saw one of the few signs of civilization - some rocks in the creek painted with white numbers. I thought perhaps to indicate a mining claim. How did anyone get there to paint the rocks? I didn't know. The country was still terrible. The most inaccessible country I'd ever seen. Sometime during the day I also encountered another outfitter camp in a grassy meadow near the creek. There were trails leading from the camp. I took time to follow all of them but they all petered out. None of them led anywhere.

My matches had dried out a little and that night I tried unsuccessfully to start a fire with them. I even tore off the part of my map I didn't need to help start the fire. Only one of the matches lighted. The fire started to burn and then went out. None of the other matches would light. Later that night it rained. Because of the threat of developing major hypothermia, I was becoming deathly afraid of the rain. After dark I crawled into a hole under a fir tree and stayed there all night. It kept the rain out.

Day 5

The fifth day I encountered the same problem Lewis and Clark often had. Which is the true fork of a creek or river? There was a major fork of the creek. I ended up choosing the wrong one. If I had kept to the left I would have been still heading for Horsesteak Meadows. The one I chose turned out to be Obia Creek. It took me right, to the north, up towards Forest Service Road 500 and Rocky Ridge. By that time I was exhausted from lack of food and sleep and I was not checking compass directions. I did not learn which fork I ended up on until I studied a topographic map at the search command post. The

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creek was becoming so small and hard to travel that later in the day I finally left it for good, striking out to the left up a ridge, looking for a road I thought I should hit to the south of Horsesteak Meadows. I found some nice grassy meadows and in the warm afternoon sunshine I laid down and slept. It was my first good sleep in four days. By this time I was tiring easily and I would frequently sit down to rest.

In the afternoon I encountered huckleberries high on the ridge to the left of Obia Creek. I stopped and ate as many as I could find. It was my first food since the M&M's on Tuesday. By the end of my ordeal, I would cut two more notches in my belt to keep my constantly wet and heavy pants up. That afternoon a major rainstorm was blowing into the area. I was still very worried about hypothermia so I stopped late in the afternoon near the huckleberries and used my knife to build a lean to of fir boughs. It rained hard that night but the lean to kept me dry.

Day 6

The sixth day I continued up the ridge and encountered traces of Forest Service Trail #254. I still thought I was on the main fork of Hungry Creek and I was still looking for the road which ran south of Horsesteak Meadows. In midmorning I hit Forest Service Road 500. By following it I found a woman camping in a trailer while her husband worked on a wood cutting contract. She gave me a Pepsi and a jam sandwich. My stomach had shrunk and I could only choke part of the sandwich down. She had no vehicle so I kept walking until I came to the Forest Service campground at Rocky Ridge. A couple there offered to drive me to Horsesteak Meadows. On the way we encountered the search party and they took me to the command post where I was reunited with my relatives.

The Rest of the Story

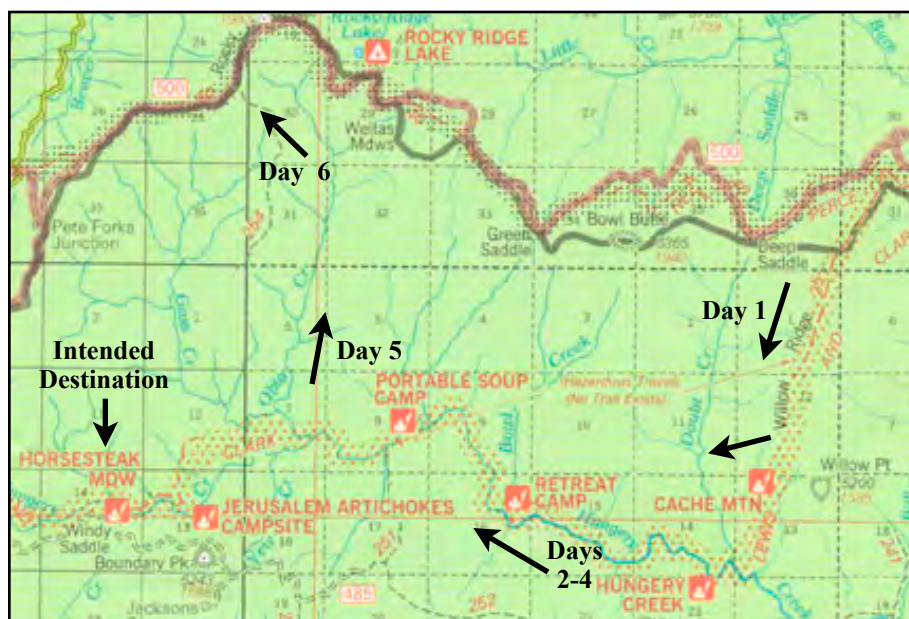
On the third day, when I still hadn't returned, my father, who was 77 years old at the time, decided to hike in from Horsesteak Meadows looking for me. He expected to be gone only a short time so he was wearing only a polo shirt. All he had with him was a canteen.

As on Willow Ridge, the trail went in a short ways and then dead-ended. My father kept going and within a few miles

found himself in the same situation I was in. The country was too rugged to effectively travel in without trails. He couldn't find me and he couldn't get back to the trail he had come in by. He ended up spending two nights without shelter and most of three days without food. He didn't even have a jacket!

In the meantime our other relatives in the party, all of whom were camped at Horsesteak Meadow waiting for us, had a cell phone. They called 911 and alerted the sheriff that I was overdo and my father was missing. A major search was organized which included two sheriff's posse's, a helicopter, two search dogs, a psychic, and a prison crew. They all did a fine job and made every effort to quickly find us.

A search crew located my father and called for the helicopter, which picked him up and brought him to the search command post. He was okay except for being unable to eat because, like myself, his stomach had shrunk. One of the search team leaders called him "a tough old bird" for coming through the ordeal as well as he had.



FS Road 500, the Hungry Creek Drainage and the Authors Approximate Route

The dog handlers got several personal items from the luggage in my truck, such as a hairbrush and a toothbrush to establish my scent. They successfully followed my route along the first part of Willow Ridge. The search crews never got very close to me although the psychic had told the searchers correctly where I had camped the last night before I walked out to FS Road 500.

Although my father and I were in different parts of the Hungry Creek drainage

several miles apart, we both adopted surprisingly similar procedures to survive. We both stayed awake all night rubbing and patting our arms and legs so we would not succumb to hypothermia. We both napped during the warmer parts of the day and we both avoided drinking the Hungry Creek water to avoid giardia. I looked for springs or smaller tributary streams to fill my canteen. We both found walking sticks, which were essential for moving around safely in that terrain, and we both became so attached to them that it was hard to part with them at the end of our ordeals. We were both comfortable in the woods and we both stayed positive in our attitudes.

I was a full four days with no food except a few huckleberries on the last two days. When you go for extended periods without food, food comes to dominate much of your thinking. I began fantasizing about having a strawberry milkshake. One of

California Chapter, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.

the first things I did upon reaching Orofino was buy several strawberry shakes.

During the last several days I began thinking of John Colter and the ordeal he survived when the Blackfeet captured him, stripped him of his clothes and forced him to run the famous foot race. I told myself that what he faced getting safely to civilization was far worse than the few miles I had to travel. Thinking of Colter, a girl I liked, and food all helped me to maintain a positive mental outlook. I also prayed.

It took my father and I several days to recover. It was hard to begin eating normally. We both had raw and scrapped legs from climbing over countless down logs. My feet were very sore and numb after not taking off my wet tennis shoes for six days. My family and I were very grateful for all the kindnesses the search and rescue team and the Clearwater and Idaho County Sheriff's Departments showed us during the rescue effort.



*Bob and his Dad talking with rescuers shortly after their return
(Courtesy Robert Allison, Jr.)*

The day after I walked out of Hungery Creek a search team of two men hiked into Doubt Creek by way of Willow Ridge and recovered my backpack. On one of the search maps showing the Hungery Creek area a searcher had written "A vast forbidding wilderness from which there appears no escape."

Lessons Learned

So what did I learn from this experience? The first and most obvious lesson has to do with communications. Were I doing it over again, I would have a cell phone or a two way radio and make sure that a member of the party waiting for me also had the same². I would have also agreed upon checkin times. Although it took me four days longer than planned, I never felt myself in serious danger, except for the threat of hypothermia. If I had been in contact with my relatives by phone or radio, I could have headed off the search and rescue efforts and especially, headed off my father's rescue attempt. I would have asked them to just wait for me to get out on my own.

The second lesson has to do with matches. For many years as a Boy Scout and young adult, I always carried a waterproof match container. In 1998, in my old age, I was getting too casual and didn't worry about a waterproof container. It would have been a much more comfortable trip had I been able to have fires each night.

A third lesson has to do with food. I wish I'd had a package of emergency rations in my backpack.

A question some people might ask is: Do I regret trying to hike that piece of Hungery Creek? The answer to that is no. I'm still

glad I did it. My only regret is the significant inconvenience I caused so many people involved in the search and rescue effort.

Robert Allison, Jr. is a long time member of the LCTHF and recently joined our Chapter. He now lives in South Lake Tahoe, California. Additional pictures related to his ordeal may be found on our website (Galleries page).

¹ Firearm historians are not in agreement as to exactly which rifle Lewis picked up at Harpers Ferry. For more information about this topic see the discussion of 1800 army rifles contained on the website *Discovering Lewis & Clark*[®] at <http://www.lewis-clark.org/content/content-article.asp?ArticleID=2356>.

² Editors Note: Cellular phone communication in the Bitterroots is spotty at best and is not considered reliable. Two way radio communication might be better. Consultation with local Forest Service personnel at the Kamiah, Kooskia, or Powell Ranger Stations is highly recommended.

Newsletter Content Sought

You are encouraged to submit articles, letters and other information that you would like to appear.

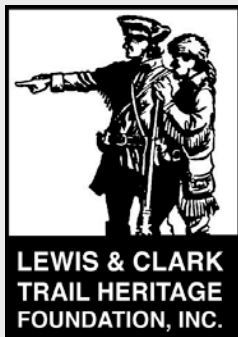
See the *Newsletter* page on our website for how to do it.

Dues Reminder For Lapsed Members

Chapter dues for 2005-2006 were due 9/30/05. If you have not yet paid yours, please do so now. See page 11 for new membership options that are now available.

Your membership dues and tax deductible donations make our chapter sponsored events and this newsletter possible.

We thank you for your support!



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Golden Notes is published on a semi-annual (January and July) or quarterly (January, April, July and October) basis depending upon the availability of funding to cover our printing and mailing costs.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send them to CALCTHF, c/o Golden Notes Editor, P.O. Box 1767, Camarillo, CA 93011-1767, or email to calcthf@adelphia.net.

Newsletter Editor
Ken Jutzi

About Our Organization

The California Chapter is a non-profit organization. We are dedicated to stimulating public appreciation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's contributions to America's heritage. We actively support education, research, development, and preservation of the Lewis and Clark experience, and we seek ways to support trail stewardship. We also have fun! To learn more please visit us at:

<http://homepage.mac.com/calcthf/ws/main.htm>

Come Join the Adventure!

To join our Chapter, the Foundation, or both our Chapter and the Foundation, simply download an application from the *Downloads* page of our website. Then fill it out and mail it, along with your check or money order (payable to CALCTHF), to CALCTHF, 15030 Ventura Blvd, #449, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403-2467. If you would like us to send an application to you in the mail, just let us know at the above address. We will be glad to do so.

Membership Options			
Membership Level	CA Chapter Only	LCTHF Only	CA Chapter and LCTHF ²
● Student ¹	\$8	\$30	\$35
● Individual	\$10	\$40	\$47
● Library/Non-profit	\$10	\$40	\$47
● Family/International	\$15	\$55	\$65
● Business	\$15	\$55	\$65
● Alexander Willard Club	\$20	NA	\$55 ³
● Jean Baptiste "Pomp" Club	\$25	NA	\$60 ³
Patron Levels			
● Heritage Club	\$30	\$75	\$100
● Explorer Club	\$50	\$150	\$185
● Jefferson Club	\$100	\$250	\$325
● Discover Club	\$150	\$500	\$625
● Expedition Club	\$300	\$1,000	\$1,250
● Leadership Club	\$500	\$2,500	\$2,850

¹ Full time student (to age 21)

² Combined Chapter and Foundation memberships must be purchased before 9/30/06. The benefits of both Chapter and Foundation memberships are included.

³ Individual/Library/Non-Profit Foundation membership level

All Chapter Memberships include a copy of the booklet *A Charbonneau Family Portrait* by Irving W. Anderson. This booklet contains historically accurate biographical sketches of Sacagawea, Jean Baptiste "Pomp", and Toussaint Charbonneau. Chapter memberships also include a subscription to *Golden Notes*, which will be published at least twice a year. Patron Level members receive their copy of *Golden Notes* in color. Memberships of more than \$10 are tax deductible. Foundation memberships include subscriptions to *We Proceeded On*, the Foundation's scholarly publication, and *The Orderly Report*, the Foundation's newsletter. Both are issued quarterly. Memberships of more than \$40 are tax deductible.



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Dates to Remember	
Chapter/Foundation Events	
April 22 Auburn, CA	The Life and Times of Jean Baptiste “Pomp” Charbonneau
May 20 Los Gatos, CA	Book Discussion Group
June 25 Camarillo, CA	Clark on the Yellowstone
September 18-19 St. Louis, MO	Foundation Annual Meeting
September 18 St. Louis, MO	Chapter Business Meeting
November Bay Area, CA	Chapter Event With Gary Moulton
Remaining Signature Events	
May to September Washington, DC	Lewis and Clark: The National Bicentennial Exhibition
June 14-17 Lewiston, ID	Among the Niimiipuu (Nez Perce)
July 22-25 Billings, MT	Clark on the Yellowstone
August 17-20 New Town, ND	Reunion at the Home of Sacagawea
September 20-24 St. Louis, MO	Currents of Change



*Doubt Creek in the Hungry Creek
 Drainage (article on page 1)
 (Courtesy Robert Allison, Jr.)*