



Westward Barriers

Monthly Newsletter of the Travelers' Rest Chapter
of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

PO Box 447 – Lolo, MT 59847 www.travelersrestchapter.org

Keepers of the Travelers' Rest Story – Stewards of the Lolo Trail

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 7th, 7 p.m. – Lolo Community Center

The Program: The Life of Artist **Karl Bodmer:** Video Presentation & Talk

Origin: Switzerland

Profession: Painter and Lithographer

Born: February 11, 1809, Zurich, Switzerland

Died: 1893

While a student painter, Karl Bodmer developed a remarkable talent for drawing and painting. He joined his brother on a sketching trip through Germany in 1832 where he met Alexander Philip Maximilian, the Prince of Wied Neuwied. Maximilian, known for his natural history research in the coastal forests of Brazil, who was then searching for a professional artist to accompany him on his expedition to North America. From 1833-1834, Bodmer created some of the greatest works of his career (see the Mandan Youth to the right).



The two traveled up the Missouri River, **retracing the 1805 journey of Lewis and Clark.** They left St. Louis aboard the steamboat, *Yellowstone*, with the same destinations Artist George Catlin had made the previous year. They visited a number of forts and villages and arrived at their most western point, Fort Mackenzie [**near present day Fort Benton, MT**], in August. A raid on the fort and other possibilities of Indian problems convinced them to return down river rather than to go to the coast. They over-wintered near the Mandan and Hidatsa villages where Bodmer had further chances to paint portraits and experience the communal life of Native Americans. Bodmer and Maximilian witnessed the last of the American West before the disruptive intrusion of settlers.

Before the end of the journey, Bodmer had completed 81 paintings, illustrating Maximilian's expedition. Each elegant painting displayed extremely detailed and accurate accounts of Indian ceremonies and everyday life. In 1843, Maximilian's lithographs were published in *Travels in the Interior of America*. Bodmer, who never revisited America, returned to Paris where he was involved with the burgeoning movement called the Barbizon School and worked with the French artists Millet and Rousseau.

Stephen Forrest to lead Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

Great Falls, Mont. – The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) board of directors has hired Montana native **Stephen Forrest** as its new Director of Operations and Member Services. He will assume the position in **January 15, 2010**.

Forrest brings extensive experience in the non-profit sector and fiscal management to the national membership organization. He is internationally recognized as an innovative and skilled historical educator, historic preservationist and policy advocate.

Since 2008, he has served as a lecturer at St. Clare's, Hertford, and St. Catherine's Colleges, University of Oxford in the United Kingdom. Prior to that, he was a faculty member in history and education at Montana State University – Great Falls.

He also has served as a speaker and panel moderator for popular and academic audiences on American history, Native American history, Irish history, community development and education. His personal scholarly interests include the impact of the sense of place in history, Jeffersonian education, and the integration of history, anthropology and geography.

The Foundation was established in 1969 and has **headquarters in Great Falls, Mont.** It partners with the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in caring for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. In addition, the Foundation supports scholarship, education and research on the expedition. The Foundation has more than 2,000 members, serves as the legal umbrella for over 30 Chapters (**including the Travelers' Rest Chapter**) and is known worldwide as the "Keepers of the Story and Stewards of the Trail." Four times a year the LCTHF publishes the highly acclaimed scholarly journal, "**We Proceeded On**". For more details and membership information please go to: www.lewisandclark.org or call: 406-454-1234 or toll free call: 1-888-701-3434.

Chapter Member Joel Shechter volunteers to be Treasurer

Hazel Pflueger recently resigned as Treasurer of the Travelers' Rest Chapter with the hope of spending the next year finishing a book on her great-great-great grandfather, who was a Hessian (German) Soldier in the Revolutionary War. Time is of the Essence - as one brother is now 88 and the other 92 years old. THANK YOU Hazel for all that you did to keep us on track!

Chapter Member Joel (Tin Hip) Shechter has been hinting that he finally has the time to get more involved in any Chapter needs or responsibilities. Joel then stepped forward to offer his non-profit bookkeeping knowledge and skills as Treasurer for the Chapter. For two years, Joel was the Treasurer for the *Western Montana Fish & Game Association (WMF&GA)*, which operates the Deer Creek Shooting Range... and he continues to be the Treasurer for the *Sapphire Mountain Men*, a group of re-enactors and black powder shooters.

Some of Joel's favorite history related activities include participating in Brigade Events, handloading his own ammunition and re-enacting the historic lives of Métis and Voyagers from the mountain man era as well as the Lewis & Clark era.

Joel has a M.S. from Florida State University in Industrial Management, and a PhD in MIS... (Management Information Services) from Washington Business School. He also founded a business (Five Valleys Video Productions) in 1986, and continues his work there. We are very pleased that Joel is so well qualified and is already an active member of our Chapter!

Travelers' Rest Chapter – Membership Information

Please check your mailing label. There may be a message asking you to renew your Membership.
Please send in the requested information listed below and make your check payable to the Travelers' Rest Chapter:

Send Payment To Our Treasurer: Joel Shechter · 5104 Village View Way #2 · Missoula, MT · 59802

New Member

Renewal

Address Change

Name _____ 2010/01

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Scout (Student) \$5

Private (Individual) \$10

Platoon (Family) \$15

Interpreter \$25

Corporal \$50

Sergeant \$75

Captain \$100

General \$500

Jefferson (Lifetime) \$1,000



Travelers' Rest State Park Update – Maria Berger: TRPHA Director

Travelers' Rest Preservation and Heritage Association (TRPHA) and Travelers' Rest State Park ring in the new year with the **Seventh Annual Winter Storytelling Series**, which takes place at the Holt Museum at Travelers' Rest from 11:00 a.m. - noon every Saturday during January, February, and March. Although this popular program series specifically honors the Salish tradition of gathering with friends and family to share history through stories during the winter months, this year's schedule features presenters from four regional tribes as well as non-Native storytellers with strong ties to western Montana.

The 2010 Winter Storytelling season opens on January 2nd with Pend d'Oreille Elder Stephen Smallsalmon. Be sure to bring your current (2010) TRPHA membership card for free admission; the program fee for non-TRPHA members is \$3 per adult.

Tickets are still available for the **2010 TRPHA Auction on Friday, January 22** at the Holiday Inn at the Park in Missoula. This annual fund-raising event supports TRPHA's mission of protecting and preserving Travelers' Rest State Park and National Historic Site through education and interpretation and is the primary source of revenue for all programming at Travelers' Rest. **The evening features approximately two-hundred high-quality silent and live auction items, a delicious dinner, and lots of fun!** Contact Park staff or call: 273-4253 to purchase tickets (\$50 each or \$90 per couple).

Our heart-felt gratitude goes out to all of the dedicated TRPHA volunteers whose time, expertise, and enthusiasm allowed thousands of visitors to enjoy and appreciate Travelers' Rest State Park in 2009. Thanks to the flexibility and support of these special people, Travelers' Rest navigated the long-anticipated transition to state management and the move to the new visitor center while continuing to make memories for visitors from near and far. Several Travelers' Rest Chapter members are also TRPHA volunteers; please take a moment to thank them for helping to protect and share our heritage!

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Bodmer (Right) – Maximilian (Center) – Charbonneau? (Left)

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A Very Important New Year Resolution – Please Renew Your Membership

It has been a very busy and positive year for our Chapter (of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation - LCTHF)!!! Our membership increased 50% from a Post-Bicentennial low of 80... to a lively and exciting 120+ members. For paid-members-only, we sponsored a late-summer, one-day tour of the high-elevation ridges on the Lolo Trail in Idaho (with a fun and relaxing dinner at the Lochsa Lodge), and we coordinated an early-fall, two-day tour of historic Lewis and Clark related sites in the Cut Bank, Montana area (Camp Disappointment & the Two Medicine Fight Site). The weather and sunshine was perfect and glorious on both occasions.

We had eight top-notch presenters who typically attracted between 50 – 75 visitors to our monthly meetings. Some of the attendees had never been to one of our monthly meetings before, but were enticed by the interesting topics that were announced in the local media. Many of the newbie's choose to join our active and quirky little history group, especially when they found out that there is a \$5 Off 'Membership-Only' Discount on ALL the books we sell !!!

The Board and I will continue to dedicate ourselves to E X P A N D I N G (1) Quality Programs... (2) Membership Activities... (3) Membership Benefits... (4) A Relevant & Interesting Newsletter. Your Volunteer Board and I look forward to another great year of activities and programs.

Scott Sproull, Travelers' Rest Chapter President, scottsproull@gmail.com 406-543-1128