2017 Officers & Board Members:
President—Larry Short
Vice President—Mary Conrad
Treasurer—Wes Huskisson
Secretary—Anne Mallinson
Historian—Sandy Slusher
John Atkinson
Richard Lawson
Dick Nelson
Ross Marshall

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Santa Fe Trail Association
Santa Fe Trail Center
1349 K-156 Hwy
Larned, KS 67550
Phone: 620.285.2054
Email: trailassn@larned.net
www.santafetrail.org

National Frontier Trails Museum
318 W. Pacific
Independence, MO 64050
Phone: 816.325.7575

Celebrate National Trails Day
June 3, 2017

A joint meeting with MRO, the Trails Head Chapter of OCTA & KCAHTA

Lone Elm Campground Park
167th & Lone Elm Rd
Olathe, Kansas

Mark your calendars now for this special day of celebration along the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California National Historic Trails!

More details with times and other information will follow in future emails and newsletters.
Following years of dedicated work and planning by the National Park Service Intermountain Region, the Santa Fe Trail Association, the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter, and the Jackson County Parks + Rec the interpretive site at Salem Park is now a reality.

The project was initially discussed in 2002 when John Conoboy of NPS and Hal Jackson of SFTA developed a list of sites along the Santa Fe National Historic Trail that would be historically significant to tell the story of the SFT through interpretive panels and kiosks. The idea was set aside when John Conoboy retired in 2008 and it was not until 2012 when Roger Slusher, President of MRO, and SFTA, put together a planning committee.

On April 24, 2012 a group from SFTA, MRO and JCPR met at the Salem Park sign and agreed that the site warranted interpreting. Attending at this initial meeting were: Mark Trosen and Gordon Julich of JCPR; Roger Slusher, Ross Marshal, Larry Short, John Atkinson, and Dick Nelson of MRO; and Joanne and Greg VanCoevern of SFTA. A task force agreement was entered into between the National Park Service and SFTA. Jackson County Parks + Rec agreed to participate by providing the pad and parking area. After delays due to the submission of a budget to the Jackson County Executive Board, the project was finally moving forward.

Plans for the area were developed by Kristin VanFleet, Landscape Architect for NPS and Bruce Wilke, Landscape Architect for JCPR. Our next step was to develop the three interpretive panels. Craig Crease led the team in developing the story of the Blue Mills and the Blue Mills Landing. With his historical knowledge the panels were designed and developed by Lynne Mager of NPS.

To complete the site, it was necessary to move the DAR marker to an area beside the pad that would be poured. MRO secured bids for the moving of the marker and were astonished that it would cost $2700. Immediately we went to our members to raise these funds. Our members stepped up with donations and thanks to a very generous donation by our own Sandy Slusher in the amount of $2000, the marker was moved by Pence Monument Company in August of 2016.

Work continued on the site with the completion of the pad in October of 2016. At this point the final approval had been given on the interpretive panels and they were produced and shipped to JCPR for installation in November of 2016.

Our gratitude and thanks to all who took part in the development and production of this project at Salem Park. It was a true team effort between the National Park Service, Jackson County Parks + Rec, SFTA, and MRO. Our special thanks to Aaron Mahr, Superintendent of the National Historic Trails Intermountain Region, and his entire staff at the Santa Fe NPS office who worked diligently and efficiently to produce this interpretive site which will enhance the trail experience for many generations to come. Additional gratitude is extended to the entire staff of JCPR and especially to Brian Nowotny, Deputy Director, Parks Operation, JCPR, who participated in the dedication ceremony.

When you visit the greater Kansas City area, please take the time to visit this site and the many other trail related historic sites in Western Missouri.
The progression of the Salem Park Project!
The Salem Park Dedication
Friday, December 2, 2016
Each year seems to pass by so quickly and it was no different for 2016. The year was a very good year for MRO! The newly constructed Powder Mill Bridge at I-435 and Bannister was dedicated in June of 2016 during the PNTS meetings and workshop that were held in Independence, Missouri. Major projects came to a completion during the hectic year such as the completion of the original and local tour route signs in Jackson County, Missouri and Johnson County, Kansas. The final signs for Johnson County are currently under order and will ship shortly. The Salem Park project (see article on page 2) was finished and dedicated. A new sign plan is currently under development to mark much of the original tour route from Salem Park, along E. Blue Mills Road, south on the Buckner Tarsney Road to E. Reber Road where it will turn east and eventually to the southeast where it will join Missouri Highway 24. With this new section completed in early spring the entire MRO will have all of the original and local tour routes signed with the exception of the sections along Mo-Dot right of way.

MRO members continue to take leadership roles in SFTA. I have the privilege of serving as the SFTA Vice President and member Sandy Slusher serves on the Board of Directors as nominating committee chair. Members Ross Marshall, Rich Lawson, and Anne Mallinson service as chairs of various committees of SFTA.

As we move forward in 2017, MRO will be co-chair of the SFTA Symposium which will be held in Olathe, KS, September 27-30, 2017. Information on this great event is found on page 9 of this newsletter and on the SFTA web site at: www.santafetrail.org

Our annual Holiday Potluck dinner at the historic home of Sandy Slusher is always a highlight of every year. This year 26 members enjoyed a Sunday afternoon of excellent food and conversation. Sandy provided us with Christmas tunes she played on her piano.

I want to invite suggestions from all of our members as to what programs and activities you would like to attend and/or participate in over the next year. I also would like to ask our members to consider volunteering to serve on our Board of Directors to help bring fresh ideas to MRO.

I wish to extend my personal thanks to our current board of director members who continue to serve MRO in a professional and dedicated way. It is a pleasure to serve with you. Our team is strong and serves as an inspiration to other chapters of SFTA.

Finally I want to encourage each of our members to invite others to join us at MRO and SFTA. Bring your friends and fellow trail enthusiasts to our meetings and take them on a drive down the newly marked routes.

I look forward to seeing you at our future meetings. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss MRO and SFTA and what you would like to see from them. The input of our members is appreciated and makes us a much stronger organization as we move forward to protect and preserve our National Historic Trails.

Have a wonderful and successful 2017!
Volunteers needed

We are moving forward with our plans for a great Symposium in Olathe, Kansas in September of 2017. This event is co-sponsored by the MRO and Douglas County Chapters of the Santa Fe Trail Association. We are reaching out to our members for volunteers to help us move forward with the implementation of this event.

Volunteers are needed to help with the registration and information desk, the silent auction and/or raffle, work with HyVee to insure the timely delivery of our mid-morning snacks and box lunches for the bus tours, and find entertainment for the closing banquet.

We are requesting that one or more members from each chapter step forward to commit to helping make this one of the most successful Symposia to date.

Please contact Larry Short by either email or phone at the numbers shown on page one of this newsletter.

Remember that the two chapters will split some of the proceeds after all expenses have been paid. This income can be used at the discretion of the chapters toward new projects.

MRO and The Santa Fe National Historic Trail—Franklin, MO to Gardner Junction, KS

Top right: Franklin, MO Interpretive Kiosk
Top left: Arrow Rock Ferry Landing
A Pictorial Review of 2016!

Our joint meeting in March with the Trails Head Chapter of OCTA and KCAHTA

The dedication of a new bench at the DAR marker at Cave Spring held on National Trails Day, June 3, 2016

The Powder Mill Bridge dedication on June 9, 2016
MISSOURI RIVER OUTFITTERS
CHAPTER OF THE
SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION
Membership Application

Name: _____________________________________________________________________

Street: _____________________________________________________________________

City, State, ZIP: ______________________________________________________________

Phone: _____________________________________________________________________

Email: _____________________________________________________________________

Dues: $10.00 per year (Individual or Family)

Make check payable to: Missouri River Outfitters

Mail to: Wes Huskisson

MRO, Treasurer

3008 E. 107th Ter

Kansas City, MO 64137

We encourage our members to share this newsletter with others in your family and community. Invite them to join MRO and SFTA.

Please feel free to contact any of the board members for additional information and visit the MRO web page at:

www.santafetrail.org

Please remember to send in your 2017 membership investments to MRO & SFTA. Your membership is important to the continued success of both MRO and SFTA.

Renew or join today!
“The Santa Fe Trail: America’s First Highway of International Commerce”
September 27-30, 2017 - Olathe, KS

Sponsored by: The Santa Fe Trail Association in partnership with the National Park Service, National Trails Intermountain Region

Plan to join us in Olathe, KS for the 2017 Santa Fe Trail Association Symposium, hosted by the Douglas County Chapter and the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of the SFTA and featuring speakers, tours, living history, entertainment and fellowship. Some of the proposed highlights will include:

- Life at the historic Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm
- Military use of the Santa Fe Trail
- Explore an extensive horse drawn vehicle Exhibit
- Fort Leavenworth’s Connection to the Santa Fe Trail
- A Night at the Steamboat Arabia Museum - Trade Goods on the Santa Fe Trail

For more information visit: www.santafetrail.org
UPCOMING EVENTS

April 20-22, 2017, SFTA Board Meeting/Workshop, Salina KS

June 3, 2017, Joint meeting with MRO, Trails Head Chapter of OCTA, and KCAHTA to celebrate National Trails Day, Lone Elm Park, Olathe, KS

September 27-30, 2017, SFTA Symposium, Olathe, KS

April 19-21, 2018, SFTA Board Meeting/Workshop, Site TBD

September 20-22, 2018, SFTA Rendezvous, Larned, KS

March 28-30, 2019, SFTA Board Meeting/Workshop, Site TBD

September 25-28, 2019, SFTA Symposium, St. Louis, MO

April 16-18, 2020, SFTA Spring Board Meeting, Site TBD

September 24-26, 2020, SFTA Rendezvous, Larned, KS

2021 The 200th Anniversary of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail

April, 2021, SFTA Board Meeting/Workshop, Council Grove, KS

September 1, 2021, 200th Anniversary Day Celebration by MRO, Arrow Rock, MO

September, 2021, Symposium, Bent’s Fort, La Junta, CO

Missouri River Outfitters

c/o Larry Short

3930 S. Jackson Dr #106

Independence, MO 64057