



An Urgent Dispatch for the General Staff

the E-newsletter of the W3R-US -- October 2009



Exec. Comm. Meeting

The Executive Committee of the W3R-US held a three-and-a-half hour meeting at the NPS Visitors Center at Yorktown VA on Saturday, October 17. Several Directors participated and the **Superintendent of Colonial National Park, P. Daniel Smith**, joined us for a while to share his perspectives and experience on trail development within the National Park System.

Our main concern was to develop a process for **reviewing and changing our structure** to accommodate 500 members. Ralph Nelson (chair of the W3R-US) has interviewed leaders of several other national historic trail organizations about their structure and governance. All have fewer Directors than the W3R-US and most use mail balloting before the Annual Meeting to elect Directors and officers (rather than having Directors elect the officers, as we do).

After considerable discussion we determined that this review would lead to proposed Bylaw changes, that the **Bylaw Committee should hold teleconferences** at which the various issues could be discussed, and that these should be scheduled weekly at 7:30 PM (Eastern Standard Time) on each Thursday in January (7, 14, 21, and 28). This should give most members an opportunity to participate. The schedule of topics will be announced in advance and more can be added. The Bylaws Committee would then formulate amendment proposals for discussion and vote at the Annual Meeting.



B.J. Gerber (Director of the W3R-US, whose ancestor lived in Warner Hall) and P. Daniel Smith (Superintendent of Colonial National Park) chat in the parlor of Warner Hall Inn before the W3R-US Board Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Managers held a 45-minute meeting at Warner Hall Inn in Gloucester VA on Sunday, October 18. The Board members approved the following proposals from the Executive Committee:

1. to hold the **Annual Meeting at Marist College** on Saturday, April 10, 2010. This is north of Poughkeepsie NY, with nearby rail and airport facilities.
2. to form a **Bylaw Review Committee** -- with chair Sallie de Barcza and vice chair Ralph Nelson -- to proceed as outlined by the Executive Committee.
3. to appoint Carl Nittinger as chair of the **Nominating Committee** with two others to be appointed by the Ralph Nelson, chair of the W3R-US.
4. to encourage Jim Raleigh to share with Joe DiBello, NPS Supt. for the W3R-NHT, maps which he believes would be suitable for the **UniGrid trifold brochure** now under development for the W3R-NHT.
5. to form a **Map Refinement Committee** chaired by Jim Raleigh to review the historic and tourism maps for the W3R and determine which route segments to use in illustrating the proposed tourism guidebook for a Newport to Yorktown journey

In addition the Board members approved

7. encouraging the **Alliance Museum Committee** to explore the NPS suggestion for a traveling exhibit and the Soc. of Cincinnati suggestion for a joint revised proposal for an exhibit in Philadelphia.
8. issuing **Chapter Charters** to New Jersey and Delaware in response to their petitions for a charter.
9. encouraging the W3R-MA to pursue their proposal to develop interpretive markers for the **route taken by Lafayette** as he rode from Boston MA to Morristown NJ to inform Gen. Washington that Gen. Rochambeau had been ordered to lead a French Expeditionary Force to the U.S. This is a "prequel" trail for the W3R-US.

Nicole Yancey, chair of the W3R-VA, was presented with a **Certificate of Appreciation** for generating considerable W3R activity in Virginia, diligently organizing our Yorktown meetings for several years, and leading the Atlantic Alliance Committee, which is developing plans for ensuring that the naval component of Yorktown will not be forgotten.

Notes from the Superintendent

Joseph DiBello, NPS Supt. for the W3R-NHT

- Attended Oct. 7-8 Delaware Valley workshop aimed at strengthening connections between parks and tourism. Representatives from state agencies, visitor and tourism organizations, heritage areas and NPS units attended in what proved to be a timely and useful session.
- Attended October 16 Rhode Island coordination meeting organized by Roseanna Gorham (W3R-RI). It was well attended by state preservation, tourism and transportation agencies, the governor's office and area scholars. Jan Reitsma - Superintendent of Roger Williams National Memorial and Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor -- was also there and it was a great opportunity for us to share information and begin discussions on next steps for RI.
- Met October 23 with Ursula Reed (W3R-PA) and a Representatives of Telemark Films. They presented a documentary film proposal and are seeking support for the project
- Coordinating with Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (Mark Castiglione) on a \$300, 000 DOT enhancement project for interpretation and route marking of the W3R-NHT in NY.
- Met October 29 with Kim Burdick (W3R-DE) on Strategic Planning for the W3R-US. She felt this was needed exercise, supported the workshop idea and provided a list of key contacts.
- Responding to many requests for information about W3R-NHT and what happens now that it has been designated an NHT. We are in the early phase the next step in the process. We will be working with parks and partners to plan our next steps in the coming months and develop a strategic plan that will serve as the foundation for the comprehensive management plan. Harper's Ferry has been asked to provide assistance with a unigrd brochure and a W3R-NHT logo design. Park superintendents and their staff have been great in providing guidance, information and support.

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Oct 19: Yorktown Day in Yorktown VA

At 8:30 AM several of us attended a memorial at the French cemetery. At 9:00 AM the W3R-US was one of six organizations placing a wreath at the monument for all the French military that died in the U.S. during the Revolutionary War. Dr. Robert A. Selig, the senior W3R historian for the W3R-NHT, gave the principal Yorktown Day address, and several podium speakers noted our new National Historic Trail status. At 10:00 AM members of the W3R-US marched in the parade with the 1781 French royal flag and the W3R -US banner -- Alan Hoffman, Blanche Hunnewell, Ralph Nelson, and Jim Raleigh,.

NPS to Help Us Develop a Work Plan

On Nov. 2 the National Park Service Northeast Region's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) announced that it would provide assistance to the W3R-US in developing a work plan for 2010-2011. Julie Bell, the RTCA project manager will work with Joe DiBello and the W3R-US on a limited consultation basis. The mission of the RTCA is to share the benefits of the NPS with all Americans and extend its benefits to all communities by improving trails, conserving rivers, and enhancing community connections to open spaces, cultural sites, and outdoor recreation. This is an excellent with the resources of the W3R-NHT and the plans of the W3R-US. We'll report more about this as the consultation and planning proceed.

Calendar of Events

Jan 7, 14, 21, 28 - 7:30 PM Bylaw Committee teleconferences (open to members) to discuss alternative future structures for the W3R-US. Further information will be mailed to members.

April 10, 2010 - Annual Meeting of the W3R-US at Marist College in Poughkeepsie NY. Early bird dinner Friday night; meeting and workshops on Saturday; a Sunday tour of the area for those who can stay a while. Further information will be mailed to members.

State Activity for W3R-MD

Not yet available; will be published when submitted

Biosketch of a W3R-CT Leader

Not yet available; will be published when submitted

Biosketch of a W3R-MA Leader

Not yet available; will be published when submitted