



## An Urgent Dispatch for the General Staff

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

edited by Ralph D. Nelson, Jr., DEpatriot@aol.com



### A New Year's Revolution: Planning for the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail in 2010 and Beyond

by Joseph DiBello, Superintendent for the W3R-NHT

The National Park Service (NPS) looks forward to working with the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association (W3R-US) and partners at every level — federal, state, and local — to develop the 680-mile-long, multi-state Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route now designated as a National Historic Trail (NHT).

In 2010 the NPS is committed to helping the W3R-US develop a vision and direction for the W3R-NHT and to laying the groundwork for the Comprehensive Management Plan that is required for all trails within the national trails system.

**Julie Bell**, a planner for the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA) and other NPS staff will help the W3R-US and other partners organize and facilitate three regional strategic planning sessions. RTCA provides technical support for community conservation and outdoor recreation projects. See [www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/](http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/). There are two primary objectives:

1. Identify the trail's
  - fundamental purpose and significance
  - core resources and values
  - planning challenges
  - primary interpretive themes / stories
2. Gain consensus on
  - a strategic direction
  - priority actions for collective action by partners
  - the best timing and sequence for those actions

We hope to complete these strategic work sessions prior to the April 2010 Annual Meeting of the W3R-US, when the W3R-US membership will have an opportunity to review and provide input on the results of the sessions. As the coordinator and administrator of the W3R-NHT for the NPS Northeast Region, I shall work with W3R-US leaders on locations, times, and agenda.

NPS will generate a summary report from the strategic planning sessions. NPS anticipates that the report will not only lay the foundation for the Comprehensive Management Plan, but also help the W3R-US' development as an organization that can meet the challenges of the coming years.

### Lost Sign Replaced

**Torben Jenk**, a friend of the W3R in Pennsylvania, reported that the Pennsylvania Historic Markers Commission has replaced a 1954 sign commemorating the allied march south in 1781 and their camp along the Poquessing Creek on Bristol Pike. The sign disappeared about 1990 when the Red Lion Inn burned down.



### Historic Hale-Byrnes House Marked

On Saturday, December 5, the W3R-DE unveiled a W3R-US logo plaque to mark this Stanton, Delaware, house as a building that stood along the route of the allied US-French armies on their 1781 march to Yorktown. Generals Washington, Rochambeau, and roughly 6,000 allied soldiers passed along the road adjacent to the house, along with the French field artillery, hundreds of wagons and hundreds of beef cattle.



From left to right are Milt Draper (Delaware SAR), Pierre LeFebvre (Union des Francais de L'Etranger Philadelphie), Ralph Nelson (chair, W3R-US), and John Foskey, Delaware re-enactor). Photo by Kim Burdick.

## November 2009 Highlights

by Joseph DiBello, Superintendent for the W3R-NHT

### National Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association (W3R-US)

- Developed scope of work for RTCA project assistance for 3-4 workshops to be held in Jan-March of 2010 to develop a strategic plan or foundation document for the comprehensive plan.
- Prepared several sets of maps derived from the W3R resource study of 2006. We have 100 spiral bound 8 1/2 x 11" booklets which highlight the trail route and 50 large (30x36) maps.
- See the W3R website and their latest news at <http://www.w3r-us.org/>

### Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail (WARO)

- Steve Elkinton, National Trails Program, informed us that \$30,950 will be available for W3R project through the Challenge Cost Share Program in FY 2010.
- Robert Selig presented an overview of Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route at a well-attended meeting organized by the W3R-PA at the Historical Society of Frankford on the evening of November 10. For the story, photos and three videos, see <http://neastphilly.com/2009/11/11/historical-society-of-frankford-celebrates-national-historic-trail-distinction-for-frankford-avenue/>
- Provided information to Jean-Cosme Delaloye, Editor-in-Chief, *France-Amérique*, regarding the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail for an article on the project.
- Coordinated with Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (Mark Castiglione) on a \$300,000 DOT enhancement project for interpretation and route marking WARO in NY. We are still trying to figure out how to use these federal funds to engage NPS and our contractors in this project.
- Contacted by BLM Lower Potomac Field Station and provided information about W3R and the Potomac Heritage NST; could they could be incorporated into BLM management plans for VA areas they manage.
- As part of ongoing efforts to meet and great partners, spoke to Kate Litvak, Crossroads of the American Revolution Association, to continue discussions about opportunities for coordination. Randy Turner, MORR is helping coordinate a meeting of key NJ interests.

- Edie Shean-Hammond and I attended a preview of a new documentary on Schuylkill Heritage on the evening of Nov.19 at the Philadelphia Waterworks. Mike Caldwell is featured in the video, which will soon be offered to a broader audience.
- John Maounis organized a meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Office to help us coordinate with the Gateways Network, John Smith NHT and Star Spangled NHT.
- Responded to many requests for information about WARO and what happens next. We are in the very early stages of the next phase of this project. We will be working with parks and partners to develop a strategic plan that will serve as our foundation for a more comprehensive management plan.
- Sought assistance to develop a unigrid brochure and logo for the new trail to foster continuity and identity and to have material to help share information about the effort. Park superintendents and their staff have been great in providing guidance, information and support.

### Delaware Valley

- Responded to a request from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers regarding our opinion on funding River Basin Commissions directly as a line item in the Energy and Water Appropriations Act. After consulting with parks and NCR, we concluded that this seemed to be a reasonable approach. The Northeast Region and National Capital Region work closely with the basin commissions to the extent that we can. Many of us hope that all of our related agencies and the U.S. Department of the Interior can play an even greater role in the future.
- Identified several potential landscape initiatives in the Delaware Valley including South Jersey, the tidal Delaware River and Delaware Coastal Rivers.
- Attended Delaware Estuary program Implementation Committee meeting November 19 to explore potential coordination opportunities in the Bay region.

For more information please contact  
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at 215-597-1581 or [joe\\_dibello@nps.gov](mailto:joe_dibello@nps.gov).

## January Teleconferences on Structure

We need to review and probably change our structure to accommodate a larger and thus more productive membership of, say, 500 members from twenty states. When we call a Board meeting we ask forty Directors to travel an average of several hundred miles and pay for a weekend away from home. Other national historic trail organizations have many fewer Directors. For our Annual Meeting we have a quorum of 25% of the membership -- again a significant expense to attend -- and only those present can vote for Directors. Other national historic trail organizations use mail balloting so that everyone can vote for Directors and officers.

The Bylaws Committee will to host a series of teleconferences in January so that most W3R-US members can discuss these and other issues. The teleconferences are scheduled for 7:30 PM (Eastern Standard Time) on each Thursday in January (7, 14, 21, and 28). Following this the Bylaws Committee will formulate amendments for final discussion and vote at the Annual Meeting.

The topics for each week are listed below

**Jan 7:** a) Should we continue to have whole-state chapters or switch to local-area chapters?

b) What should be the criteria for forming a chapter and dissolving a chapter (say, from Orlando FL)? At present it takes only three resident members to petition for a state chapter.

c) Should we continue to have separate national and chapter membership (so that to participate in both you have to join both) or should we change to a single national membership, with a significant fraction of the dues sent to the member's designated chapter?

**Jan 14:** d) Should Annual Meetings continue to consist of only those members who can afford to attend or should chapter members elect delegates to act as proxies for the chapter members and thus allow a better balance between votes from states near the meeting place and those far away

e) Should we continue to have only the members at the Annual Meeting elect Directors or should we move to a postal election system in which all members could vote.

f) New topic suggested last week or continue discussion of previous week topics.

**Jan 21:** g) Should we continue to have the Directors elect officers from among themselves (after the vote for new Directors is over) or should we elect the officers in the same way as Directors (with the newly-elected officers becoming Directors ex officio)

h) Should we continue to have a maximum of forty Directors with a recommended even distribution between the chapters or should we reduce the number to, say, six plus officers with no recommended even distribution between the chapters?

i) New topic suggested last week or continue discussion of previous week topics

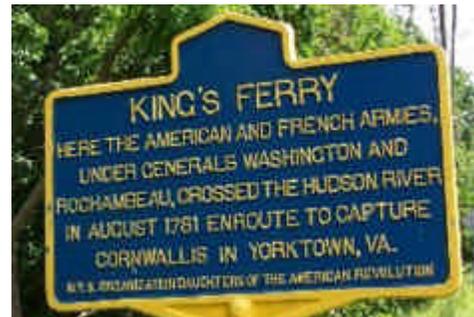
**Jan 28:** j) Should we institute a descendant certificate program, separate from membership, requiring a fee and submission of a documented descent (checked by another organization) from a participant in the W3R and an acceptable one-page story about that ancestor (with permission to publish it)

k) Should we work toward becoming a subsidiary of a larger organization (historical or lineage) rather than a free-standing organization.

l) New topic suggested last week or continue discussion of previous week topics

## Historic Marker in New York

Many markers placed along the W3R before 2000 help us tell the story of that historic allied march.



*New York DAR marker on Route 9W in Stony Point NY -- from [www.waymarking.com](http://www.waymarking.com) --*

## State Activity for W3R-VA

Not yet available; will be published when submitted

## Biosketch of a W3R-NJ Leader

Not yet available; will be published when submitted

## Biosketch of a W3R-CT Leader

Not yet available; will be published when submitted

## 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. Perhaps a dinner Friday night, perhaps a tour of the area for people staying for Sunday.