



An Urgent Dispatch for the General Staff

the E-newsletter of the W3R-US -- April 2010
edited by Ralph D. Nelson, Jr., DEpatriot@aol.com



The Annual Conference

The Annual Meeting of the W3R-US was held at Marist College in Poughkeepsie NY on April 10, 2010. See the minutes (to be posted on the W3R-US Web site) for the various reports and several Bylaw changes.

The members elected Directors for 2010-2013:

- Janet Burnet
- Kathy Faulks
- Carol Firing
- Betty Jean Gerber
- Nicholas Gorham
- Roseanna Gorham
- Blanche Hunnewell
- Carolyn Johnson
- Robert Reyes
- Glenn Williams

The Board of Directors elected Officers for 2009-10:

- Chair: Sallie de Barcza
- Vice Chair: Jim Raleigh
- Recording Secretary: Carolyn Johnson
- Corresponding Secretary: Kathy Faulks
- Treasurer: Carl Nittinger

Dr. Robert A. Selig gave an illustrated talk on the use of diaries, battle reports, arial photos, maps from various eras, and common sense to determine the routes that various units traveled along the W3R.

At the Installation Dinner outgoing Chair Ralph Nelson presented medallions (shown at right) to W3R historian Dr. Robert A. Selig and to W3R illustrator David Wagner for their continuing valuable contributions to the development and public appreciation of the W3R-NHT.

Dr. Frank T. Bumpus and David Wagner unveiled a new painting (below) in a series which Dr. Bumpus has commissioned for interpretive use through the Hudson River Valley Institute <www.hudsonrivervalley.org>.



W3R-US members spoke with Dr. Selig (above) and networked with other members (below).



Medallion commemorating the 150th anniversary of the 1781 Victories at Sea and at Yorktown



French troops crossing the Hudson River at Verplanck's Point (Kings Ferry)

Non-W3R Events of Interest

May 12-14: San Antonio TX -- Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS): Workshop on "Cultural and Heritage Tourism: Trails as Destinations". With NPS assistance W3R-US is sending two representatives.

June 5: National Trail Day - Tell us if your group is planning a hike along the W3R-NHT for this weekend.

WWW.W3R-US.ORG

April 2010 Highlights of the W3R-NHT

by Joseph DiBello, Superintendent

- At the Annual Meeting of the W3R-US Joe DiBello and Ralph Nelson provided an **overview of the three regional planning workshops** held as part of a series of discussions that will provide input to a strategic plan that will serve as a foundation for the Comprehensive Management Plan.

- With the help of the Northeast's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (Julie Bell and Antoinette Jett), we prepared a **summary of the work sessions** we held in Princeton NJ, Providence RI, and Washington DC. A report from each meeting was prepared and will be sent out to participants and posted on the W3R-US website.

- The Northeast Regional Leadership confirmed the FY10 allocation for W3R and we are moving to get work underway for **the unigrid brochure and the NHT logo**. Michael Paskowsky, NPS' Harper's Ferry Center (HFC), is our project manager for developing the brochure and logo.

- Northeast Regional Leadership has funded a graduate student under the Student Temporary Employee Program. Samantha Driscoll, a graduate student in the Univ. of Pennsylvania, School of Design's Program in Historic Preservation will **help develop web content and other digital media** to communicate about the W3R-NHT.

- B.J. Gerber (VA) and Robert Reyes (MD) will represent the W3R-US at a **national conference for Historic Trails** in San Antonio, TX May 12-15. Joe DiBello will also attend.

- April 16th, 17th and 18th, **General George Washington** (as portrayed by Dean Malissa) participated in several events at Morristown National Historical Park as part of the Revolutionary Times Weekend 2010.

- Applications for the **National Park Service's Save America's Treasures (SAT) grants** are due May 21, 2010, at 11:59 PM EST. These awards are competitive matching grants which nonprofit organizations may use for preservation and/or conservation work on nationally significant historic properties and collections. For more information and the application form see <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/treasures/index.htm>.

- A new organization, the **National Society & Friends Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail** has been formed. For more information, see <http://www.washington-dc-national-trails-byways.org/trailsandbyways.html>

- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) is the official content provider for Google Map's **brand-new biking directions functionality**. Now Google Maps users may type in a start and destination and receive directions for the best bicycling route. Google Maps can also provide walking, driving, and transit directions. RTC's extensive trail-map data will allow Google Maps to provide safe, accessible and fun bicycling routes. RTC has provided data on over 1,600 rail-trails and connecting corridors to the public through www.TrailLink.com since 2000. In 2007 RTC launched its Mapping Initiative and expanded its library of information to include exclusive and free trail maps.

The W3R-US Website Attracts Attention

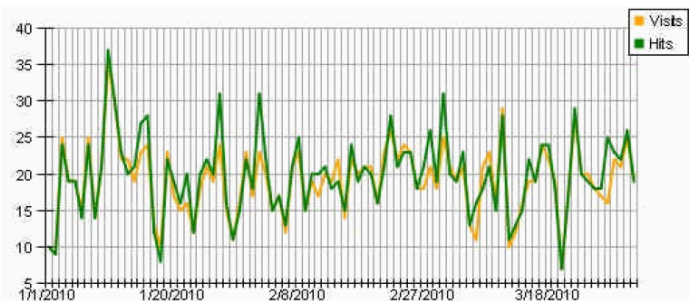
by Ralph Nelson, Managing Editor

The W3R effort has had a Web presence since 2000 -- originally amrevandfrance.com, now www.w3r-us.org.

Traffic grew, peaked with the 225th anniversary of the Victory at Yorktown in 2006, and is now stable at about 10,000 visits (30,000 page views) per month. About 3% of the visits are from France. Of the 1,000 visitors per month referred to us from other sites about half find us through Google. Of the roughly 30,000 people who have visited us during the past year about 7% have visited five or more times.

About half of the visitors entered the site via the home page; the rest went directly to a specific page. Consistently among the top ten HTML pages monthly are the historical overview page, newsletters, events (past and upcoming), W3R-US activities, and W3R-US achievements. Consistently among the top ten document pages monthly are Dr. Selig's document survey reports.

Not counted above are the 7,300 visits per month by spiders (robot search engines that gather the information that Google and Yahoo, etc., use to suggest where users may find information that they seek.



Daily downloads of Dr. Selig's very popular currency conversion discussion during the first quarter of 2010.

Notice: This newsletter, *An Urgent Dispatch for the General Staff*, is changing from publication monthly to publication when we get news to fill several pages.