

National Stagecoach and Freight Wagon Association

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2013

Message from the President

Dear Friends,

2013 was another good year for the NSFVA. We added several new members and are pleased to have two individuals join our Board of Directors. They are Ray Stokes from Sidney, Nebraska, and Tom Henrich from Richland, Washington. Ken Wheeling moved to a position as Honorary Director.

Our 6th annual meeting and conference was held in Virginia City, Montana, July 11-14. We had a number of very interesting speakers provide historical presentations on the early mining, stagecoaching, and freighting history of the region. In addition, we were able to tour the historic towns of Virginia City and Nevada City. Those tours included open access to a wide variety of historic buildings and allowed for detailed examination of numerous horse-drawn vehicles. We were also able to tour one of the historic stage routes and an original stage stop, as well as an original mining mill in Alder Gulch.

2014 promises to be another exciting year for our organization. Our annual meeting and conference will be held July 25-26, 2014, in Ogden, Utah. Activities will include several regionally focused historical presentations, a tour of Eli Anderson's 200+ vehicle collection, a tour of Union Station, and a group membership forum.

During Labor Day weekend 2014, at the invitation of the City of Deadwood, South Dakota, our organization will be participating in an event focused on promoting Deadwood's horse-drawn vehicle collection. Anticipated opportunities for NSFVA participation in this event include an historic photo presentation depicting the importance of horse-drawn vehicles in and around Deadwood, an interpretive demonstration of stagecoaches and freight wagons, an invitational wagon show on Main Street, and a walking tour of museum vehicles. I hope to see you at these events.

Wishing you a great 2014!

Gerry



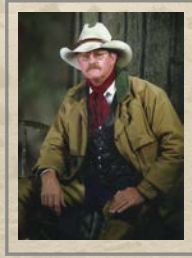
2014

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| July 10-13 | - NSFVA - attend Sheridan, Wyoming Rodeo |
| July 18-20 | - NSFVA - Annual Conference - Ogden, Utah |
| Sept 12-14 | - NSFVA - attend History Symposium - Deadwood, SD |

~~Introducing~~
OUR NEW DIRECTORS

Ray Stokes



Life on the Range

My day began on a March day (24th, 1939), on the open range country of Colorado. I arrived about 4:15 am that morning, and after the doctor and my aunt finished up with Mom I was fixen to get ready for breakfast. As aunt prepared to feed Dad and the doctor, I began fussen for fear of missing out, so Dad took me and gave me about 3-4 sips of black coffee. I nestled down and was soon off to sleep. I've been drinken that stout black coffee ever since.

My first 4-5 years after that beginning event, I spent summers on a pillow across the saddle in front of my mother riden range tending to cattle for her father's herd as well as for other men's cattle on their range. Back in those days the mothers carried the youngster's dinner right with them, she carried her's in saddle bags. I've been chasing the range ever since. The smell of cattle, the prairie, a good cowhorse, with the creeken of a windmill, the reflection of a clear blue sky and white clouds from water in the stock tank run long and deep in my life.

The "Old West" history is rich in all it holds. The development of the West in America plays a big role with me. I am glad to have a little part in the National Stagecoach and Freight Wagon Association because of the love for their history. I have a few wagons and also run a "Chuckwagon" of 1860-1900 trail class. I've cooked in competition in Cheyenne Frontier Days for 5-6 years, plus use it in events to teach the Western history with young people and other historic gatherings. I'm a member of some of the major trail associations. This is the core of history and people that gave us our great country. I plan to do all I can to help keep it alive and well.

I pastor a local Baptist Church at Sidney, Nebraska, and for the past 37 years we have had a well located farm/ranch southwest of town in the heart of Indian-Cattle Trail Country. It all lends well for my interest in history. With excitement I look forward to working for this great history and rich life.

Raymond Stokes

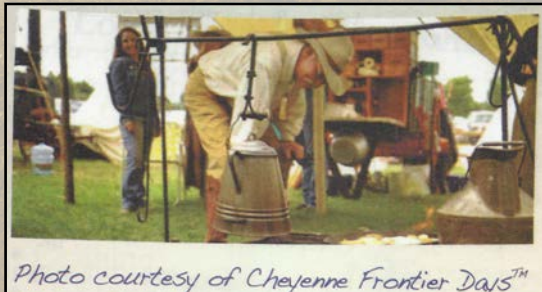


Photo courtesy of Cheyenne Frontier Days™

Ray Stokes cookin at the "wagon."



Tom Henrich

Tom was raised in Eastern Washington and was a successful business owner (Electrical Contractor) for 15 years. His interest in restoration began at a young age watching and learning techniques and skills from his father. Together at the age of 18 they restored a 1923 Model T Ford that he still owns today. Tom's interest and passion for restoration continued with restoring several 1956 Chevys and Fords in his garage.

Following retirement in 2006, he read many books about the American West and became fascinated with the ways and times of the Old West and horse-drawn transportation. Shortly after continuing his research, he started his own collection of wagons and coaches. Tom spent time with a wheelwright learning how to rebuild and restore wagon wheels. His most recent project was restoring from the ground up a Yellowstone Coach.

His interest in history is evident! He, in addition, has dismantled, moved to his property, and rebuilt a historical homestead cabin built in 1868 that is on the Historical Preservation List.

Tom appreciates and understands the authenticity aspect of historical preservation and restoration, and his attention to detail is top notch.

Tom and his wife own a ranch in Dayton, Washington, and have quite a collection of various historical wagons and coaches. They reside in Richland, Washington.



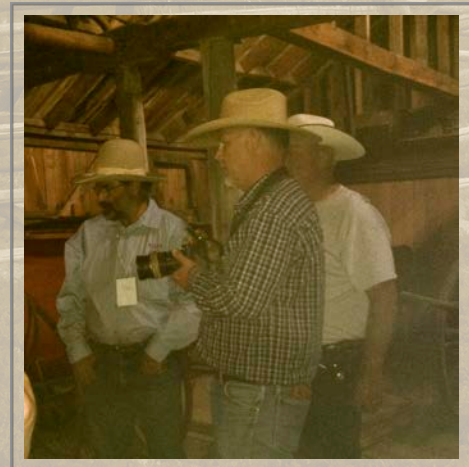
2013 NSFWA Conference

“Hanging Out in Virginia City, MT”
July 10-14, 2013



The National Stagecoach and Freight Wagon Association hosted its 6th annual conference in historic Virginia City, MT. The event was held in conjunction with Virginia City's 150th Anniversary Celebration. The presentations, demonstrations, speakers, tour guides and the entertainment acts were truly saturated in rustic flavor.

Wednesday began with an early registration and welcome picnic at Brewery Park in Virginia City. This was a great opportunity to converse and snack on delicious food!



Thursday morning, after enjoying coffee and breakfast treats, we were led on a very informative walking tour of Nevada City by Carma Sinerius. Thanks to the Bovey Family, Nevada City has been restored to an outdoor living history museum which houses one of the largest collections of old west artifacts. The Montana Heritage Commission allowed our group to view the many vehicles they have in storage.



Thanks to John and Carma Sinerius, probably one of the most exciting experiences was the actual hands-on gold panning demonstration. It took some participants a while to warm up to the idea, but then it became quite addicting.

Friday was Presentation Day in Virginia City, at the Community Center.

Jim Jarvis gave us incite on the “Mules in the Butte Mines,” as well as discussing “the Bozeman Trail.”

Gary Forney introduced us to the notorious “Alder Gulch Vigilantes” and the “Discovery of Gold at Alder Gulch”.

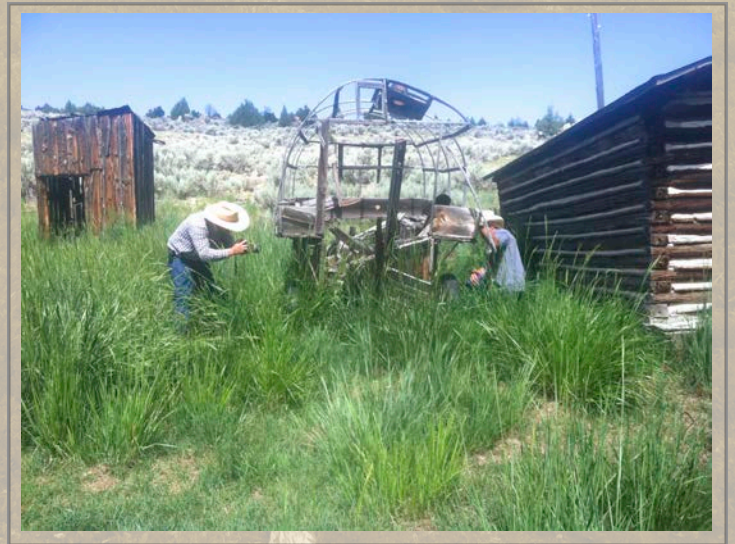
“Transforming the Upper Missouri: The Evolution of the Mullan Road to Montana’s Benton Road” was the topic that Ken Robison presented; and Jenna Vater talked about the “Indigenous Presence in Historic Virginia City”.

Saturday was another very busy day beginning with an Auto Tour of Sweetwater Station hosted by the Ruby Dell Ranch. We also enjoyed a scrumptious snack and tailgate lunch provided by Elijah’s Rest and Amber Mason.



L-r: Gary Forney, Gerry Groenewold, Jim Jarvis, Ken Robison

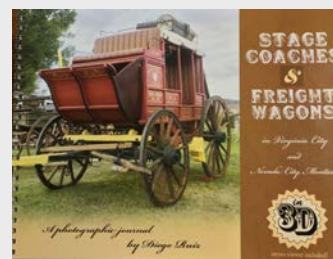
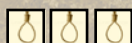
The day came to an end with a wonderful Chuckwagon Pitchfork Steak Dinner prepared by Jeff and Barb McManus. After dinner we were serenaded by The Old Dump Road Band.



A very delightful ending to the day was a Dinner and Barn Dance at the Ruby Dell Ranch in their newly restored 100 year old barn. The Ruby Valley Boys and Barb Wire entertained with their musical talents.



On **Sunday**, unfortunately, a great conference had to come to a close; but not before a very informative and interesting tour of Alder Gulch was given by Nick Shrauger. Especially intriguing was the visit to his family's Christenot Mill at Union City.



The "Stagecoaches & Freight Wagons" Book is at the printers!

This is a book in 3D documenting the NSFWA 2013 conference in Virginia City, MT. The printed set includes a 3D stereo viewing apparatus and an expanded version of our proposed edition: now with 49 stereo pairs (3D) and 23 single lens shots. Book measures 11"x 8.5".

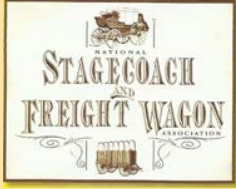
Stereo Photographer Diego Ruiz says: "Travel along with me as I enjoy the hospitality of the National Stagecoach & Freight Wagon Association. With a wagon load of specialized 3D cameras, I got the full Montana experience while capturing it for this release. Experience the wagons of the west and the lifestyle that went along with them. The N.S.F.W.A. really are the curators of the Wild West."

All images by Diego Ruiz.

Pre orders ship the week of November 11th

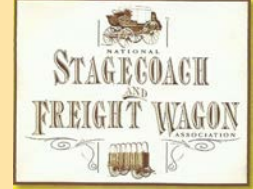
We have ordered a few extra books... there is still time to get your copy!

Go to StereoscopeJourney.com, click the "our books" tab and follow the link to order.



NSFWA

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* Lifetime
** Honorary Director
***Director

For more information on any of our events, please visit our website

www.stagecoachfreightwagon.org

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