



THE TRAVELER

Lincoln Highway Association • California

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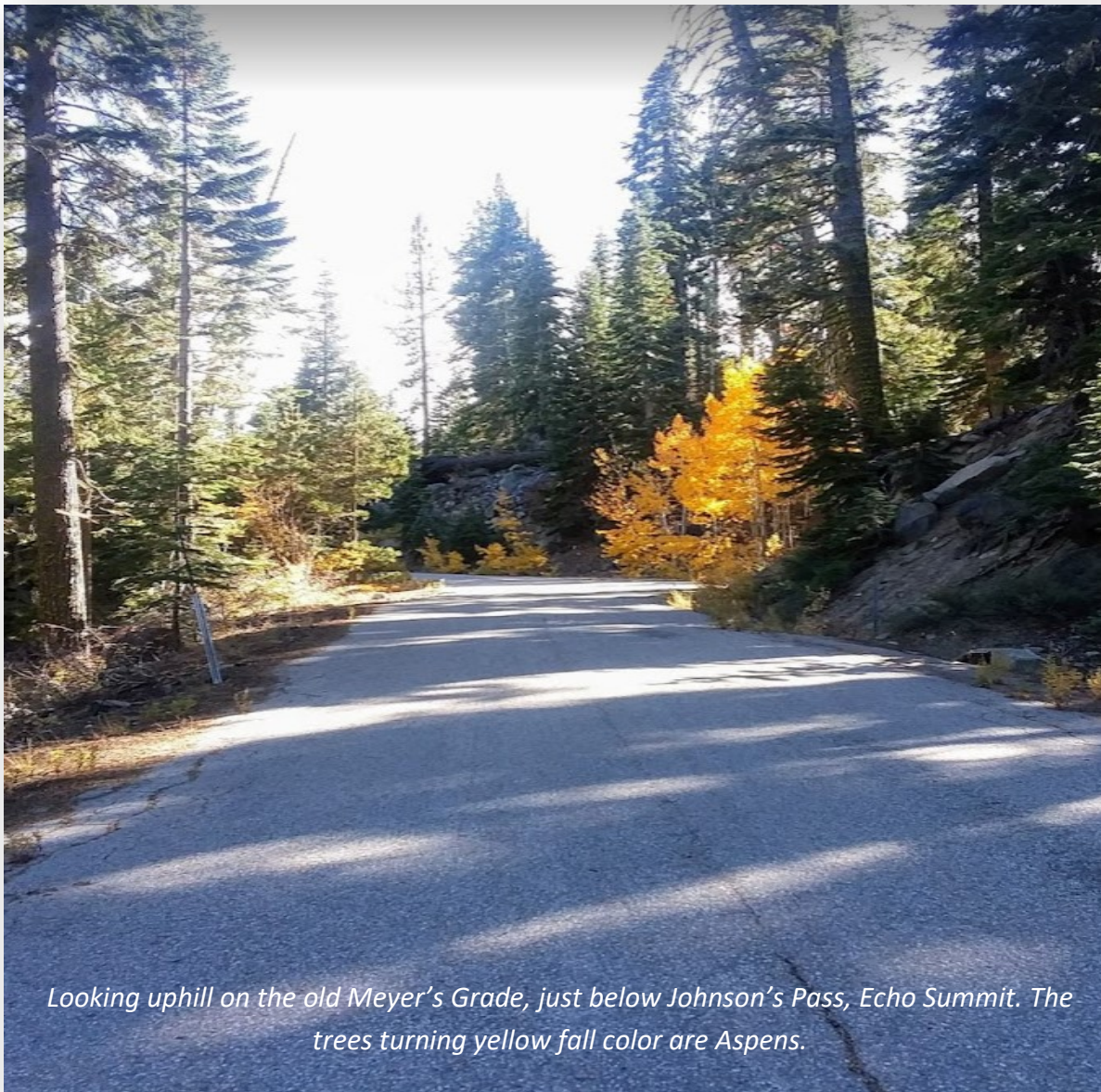
www.lincolnhighway.org/ca/traveler



Volume 22, Number 4

Fall 2021

Fall on the Lincoln Highway!



Looking uphill on the old Meyer's Grade, just below Johnson's Pass, Echo Summit. The trees turning yellow fall color are Aspens.

Upcoming Chapter Meeting: October 9



Lincoln Highway Association

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



Editor's Page

The Rainbow Bridge at Donner Summit, 1927

Donner Summit Historical Society, Norm Saylor Collection



Trey Pitsenberger

As the Chapter's newest historian, I was presented with several boxes filled with items collected by Norm Root and Bob Dieterich, both intimately involved with the Lincoln Highway Association as past presidents and state directors. The items range from maps, correspondence, photos, and Lincoln Highway memorabilia. I will bring some of the more exciting things that we've come upon to our fall meeting.

The fall meeting is at the home of Bob Dieterich's daughter, Kristen, who has kindly lent her space at 1395 Orange Hill Road in Penryn. Located off Sisley Road in Loomis, you will be able to view some original Lincoln Highway concrete, while enjoying the old California ambiance of the foothills. The meeting and lunch will be held in the "barn," set up for entertaining along the Lincoln Highway.



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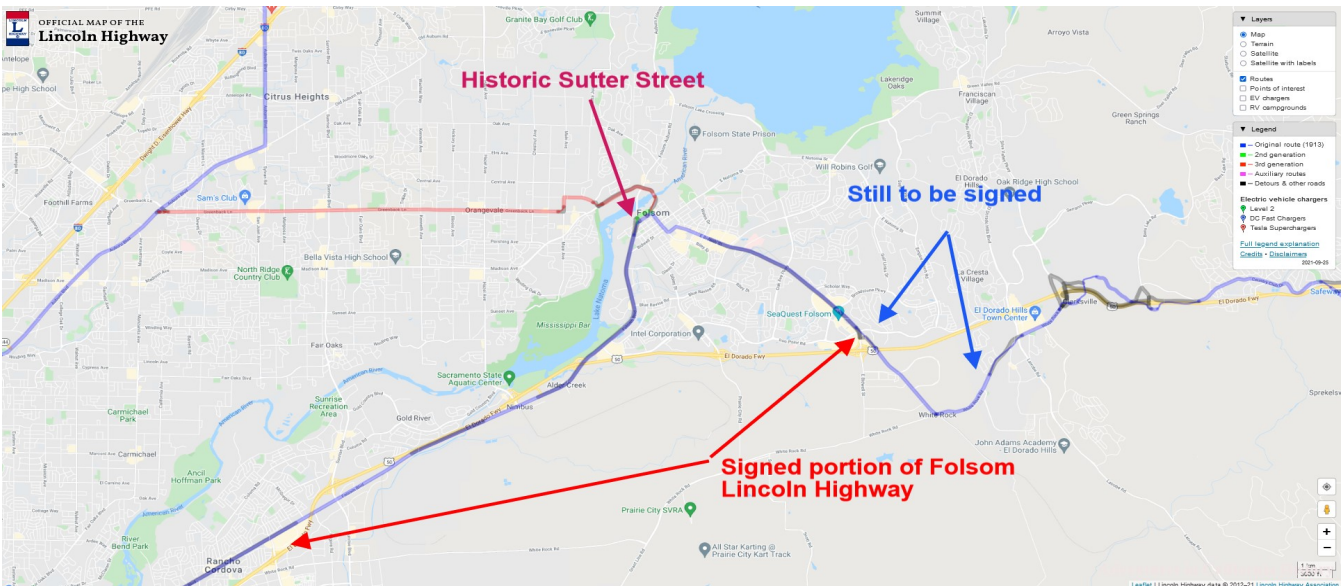


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Working with the City of Folsom Historic District, Museum, and Public Works for over a year, we can finally rejoice that the city has signed over seven miles of their section of the Lincoln Highway. There are three more miles to sign, but major home construction is underway, so we will wait until those roads have been widened.



It was incredibly fulfilling that the city made the signs and installed them at locations that the Association recommended. The signs are reflective like all modern street signs, making it easy to follow the old highway through Folsom.





Our fall chapter meeting will be held in the barn on the property of Kristen Dieterich, daughter of Bob Dieterich, who was a founding member and past California Chapter President and State Director. Kristen will serve BBQ tri tip and chicken, green and potato salad, bread, fruit, dessert, and beverages for \$15. The meeting will begin with a meet-and-greet starting at 10 AM, followed by lunch that you can enjoy inside the barn or by the pond. **Please bring a folding chair, as only limited seating is available.**

Agenda: Officer and committee reports • Marker and signage update • Caldor Fire impact of the Pioneer alignment

Presentation: Caldor Fire impact on the Lincoln Highway, before and after photos of the alignment



Adventures in California History

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HISTORY: An alignment of the Lincoln and Victory highways travels in front of the Dieterichs' home along Sisley Road. It is the longest intact section of original concrete roadway in Placer County, California. It was constructed as part of California Highway Contract #164, made possible by the 1915 State Highway Act, approved by the state legislature and voters. The contract, awarded to AC McLean Construction, specified pouring a 15-foot-wide concrete roadway between Penryn to Auburn, a distance of 7 miles. The construction cost \$72,532 in 1915, about \$1.9 million adjusted for inflation.

Chapter Archives: In August, the chapter contacted Adriane Dieterich concerning Bob Dieterich's collection of Lincoln Highway papers and artifacts. The collection also included items from Norm Root given to Bob after Norm's passing. The chapter now has an impressive collection of artifacts on the history of the Lincoln Highway in California, LHA letters dating back to its founding, maps from the California Division of Highways, and chapter events and tours. Chapter vice-president and historian Trey Pitsenberger volunteered to store the collection.

Caldor Fire: The wildfire started on August 14 near the small town of Grizzly Flats and headed east toward Lake Tahoe. It has burned over 200,000 acres



and closed US 50 access to Lake Tahoe. About 30 miles of the Pioneer alignment of the Lincoln Highway was burned, from Riverton to Echo Summit. When the area is reopened, Trey and I plan to survey the damage to the alignment, then ask the U.S. Forest Service if we can repair any damage to the old alignment.

Adventures in California History

Lincoln Highway Style

With Trey and Monica Pitsenberger

Adventures in California History

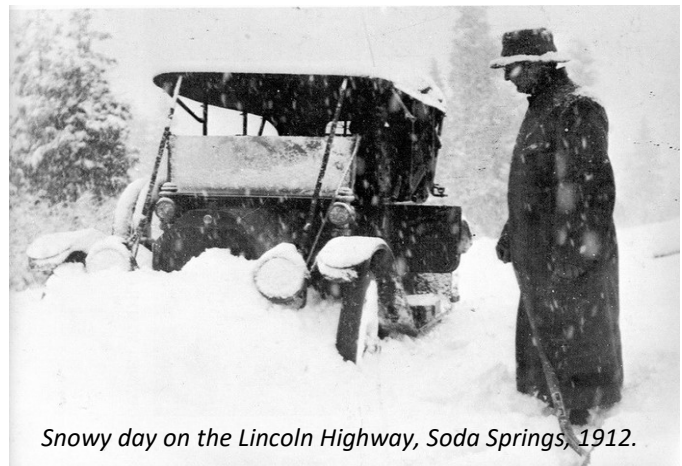
Along Donner Summit Road



Monica and Trey

Donner Summit Road at Soda Springs is in the middle of a multi-million dollar project in which bike lanes are being added from Donner Lake through Soda Springs. Recently, we made a trip to find that construction workers had removed the old layer of asphalt down to the original concrete. We searched for a “contractors stamp” in the old roadbed but were unsuccessful.

Donner Summit Road is a “second generation” Lincoln Highway, improved in 1925 as the Summit Bridge was being completed, bridging a mountainous gap, and allowing motorists to avoid the famous subway under the Southern Pacific Railroad trestles.



Snowy day on the Lincoln Highway, Soda Springs, 1912.

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To access the drivable portion of the original 1913 Lincoln Highway, we turn at the Soda Springs Road, where the lashing light is, and then turn left after crossing the railroad tracks. You'll notice lots of construction equipment. Lake Van Norden is being converted into a meadow as no one wanted to foot the bill to make the dam earthquake-proof.



The Mt. Judah Tunnel at right, the Lincoln Highway crosses the tracks.

Adventures in California History

The road east from here can be dusty in summer and impassable in winter to early spring. The best time is fall, after a nice rain. Early photos of automobiles traveling this way show a full Lake Van Norden reaching up the roadbed. About halfway down this road, there is a pull-out with an interpretive sign describing the extensive sheep grazing that used to be common here. The sheep would

be collected here at the "sheep pens" and transported by railroad.



Crossing the railroad track a bit further down the road, be sure to look right and watch the rail tracks head into the Mt. Judah railroad tunnel, which bores straight through the mountain. Soon we pass the Oakland

Ski Club building, which is a pioneering ski club in these parts. Soon, we rise to a large open area on the left, the site of the famous Summit Hotel and the extensive railroad complex that once stood here. The Summit Hotel served the wagon and auto era until it burned down in 1925.

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Crossing Sugar Bowl Road we soon pass Lake Mary on the right, mentioned in emigrant diaries, as the road we travel is also the old Donner Trail. Passing Lake Mary we rise to a point where the Lincoln Highway left the paved road and turned right and then left, headed towards the auto subway under the tracks. It makes for a nice hike, though in the summer it can get quite hot out on the exposed rocks.

*On the way east towards the auto subway.
Yes, that's the Lincoln covered in brush.*

Driving a bit further, we come to the summit and Donner Summit Road. There is a new historical exhibit here that is worth examining, to get a feel for just how important this area is in California history. Walk over towards the east to enjoy a breathtaking view of Donner Lake and the railroad tunnels.



Donner Summit, c.1920s. Notice the sign at right with the map of Lake Tahoe.



Lincoln Highway Association

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Meeting Agenda for October 9, 2021 in Penryn, California

California Chapter Meeting starts at **1:00 PM**

Host: Kristen Thomas Dieterich

Meeting Host: Joel Windmiller, Chapter President

1. Meeting call to order at 1 PM
2. Welcome/Presentation [Joel]
3. Introductions [Joel] / Attendance Sign-in Count [Joel & Paulette]
4. Approval of July 2021 meeting minutes
5. Presentation: *Caldor Fire impact on the old Lincoln Highway* [Trey]
6. Officer, Staff & Committee Reports [*not attending]
 - A. Neil Rodrigues: State Director
 - B. Joel Windmiller: President
 - C. Trey Pitsenberger: Vice President/Signage/Historian/Traveler
 - D. Grant Gassman: Treasurer's Report
 - E. Paulette Johnston: Secretary
 - F. Mark Hoffman: Tours
 - G. Jimmy Lin: Website update*
 - H. Speakers/Presentations
7. Old Business [*items below included in Officer, Staff & Committee Reports*]
 - A. Facebook group "Lincoln Highway in the Golden State" [Trey]
 - B. Adventures in California History LH [Trey]
 - C. Ophir Road Monument LH sign replacement [Trey]
 - D. Lincoln Highway Historic Highway status in California [Trey & Joel]
 - E. Signage and markers [Trey & Joel]
 - F. Concrete marker donation to Moe Mohanna, Fall 2021 [Joel]
 - G. 2022 Illinois and 2023 California conferences update [Neil]
 - H. Groups.io [Neil]
 - I. Elmer Butts recording [Trey & Neil]
 - J. Markers/medallion for sale online [Joel & Neil]
 - K. Donation and membership website [Jimmy]
 - L. Other updates from members

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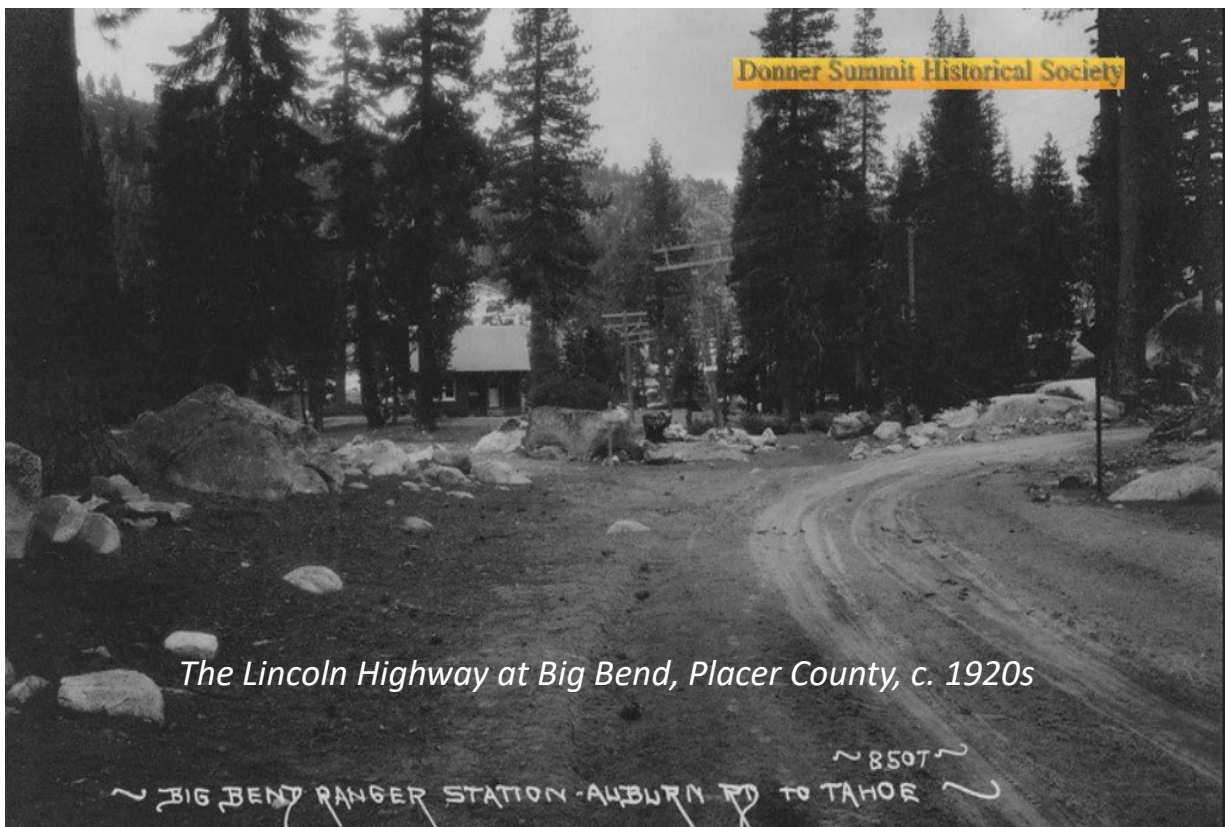
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8. New Business *[items below included in Officer, Staff & Committee Reports]*

- A. National board meeting [Neil]
- B. National board VP report [Neil & Trey]
- C. Directional signage [Trey]
- D. Lincoln Highway in California Arcadia book [Trey]
- E. LH California book donations [Bill Von Tagen]
- F. San Francisco concrete markers [Joel]
- G. Chapter activities in 2021 dealing with COVID-19 [Joel & members]
- H. January chapter meeting location [Joel]
- I. Other updates from members

9. Meeting adjournment





Lincoln Highway Association

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Chapter Meeting Minutes — Saturday, July 10, 2021

Moe Mohanna Event Center

El Dorado Hills, California

Host: Joel Windmiller, President

1. Meeting Called to Order at 1:00 PM

2. Welcome/Presentation

- a. Thank you so much to Moe Mohanna for the delightful lunch and air-conditioned building to meet on this fine July day. [Joel, Neil, and Moe Mohanna]

3. Attendance Sign-in [Joel and Paulette]

- a. 36 people present, overlooking the Central Valley of California.

4. Introductions [Joel]

- a. Joan Griffin: Has been stalking LH for a couple years. Joan was first introduced to the LH in 2013 when she followed a few days behind the 2013 car tour to Nebraska.
- b. Jerry D: Lives in Newcastle/Penryn. He has 200 feet of the Lincoln Highway on his property. He has also found three of the 6x6 monuments markers.
- c. Tom Shepherd, originally from Scotland: Been a follower on the internet for a time. He is old enough to remember when the route over the Altamont Pass was referred to as the Lincoln Highway.
- d. Walter Caplin: Walter joined the car tour in 2013, but the Firebird broke down. He was also in Utah for the convention. He said it was nice to see that the chapter has grown so much since the last time he was here.
- e. AJ MacLaren: AJ is an archaeologist. After he watched the LH documentary, took off on the highway for some investigation. AJ loves the history of the LH and bought all the books.
- f. Brent: Brent has produced a documentary for the PBS stations about the LH. He followed the LH with the military convoy in Nebraska. When he returned to California, he realized that the LH is in his back yard.
- g. Dennis L: Was on the military convoy car tour in a 1943 Ford jeep.
- h. Dottie: Joined when Norman Root was alive, who was a friend. They met through the Placer Valley Monument. She did a trip on the LH with Norman Root and Paul Gilger.

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5. Approval of April 2021 Zoom Meeting minutes

- a. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mark Hoffman. The motion was seconded by Myrna Johnston. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Officer, Staff & Committee Reports [*not attending]

a. Neil Rodrigues: State Director

- i. Updates in Old Business below

b. Joel Windmiller: President

- i. Esther M. Oyster Queneau, longtime Lincoln Highway Association member, passed away. She was the wife of Bernard Russell Queneau, an Eagle Scout who in 1928 represented the Boy Scouts on a cross-country trip on the Lincoln Highway, who passed away at age 102.
- ii. Gary Kinst has very bad health issues, so he is asking to resign as chapter historian.
- iii. Motion that Trey Pitsenberger take over as Chapter Historian. Neil Rodrigues seconds the motion. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Trey Pitsenberger: Vice President/Signage/Traveler/Newly Elected Chapter Historian

- i. Congratulations on becoming VP of the National LH Association.
- ii. Gary's book: Bill von Tagen offered to contribute money toward the publication of the LH book of California. This would be an Arcadia book. It is mostly done, but there is a need for money for the photographs that will be in the book. Seven years ago we just didn't have the money. He's concerned that the highway is not known by people, but once they find out, then they are interested. We needed approximately \$2,000. Bill, Joel, Trey, and Monica have made a pledge to give to this so the book can be published. We will use the website to have our first donation effort that we will tackle through our website.
- iii. Folsom: working on getting the highway in town signed. Trey is continuing to work with the town to make this happen. Folsom's sign department will make the signs and they will install them.

d. Grant Gassman: Treasurer's Report

- i. Deposit from National: \$234
- ii. Joel: \$70 for PO Box
- iii. Balance: Contact chapter treasurer for details

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- e. **Paulette Johnston: Secretary — no report**
 - f. **Gary Kinst: Chapter Historian***
 - g. **Mark Hoffman: Tours**
 - i. What's happening on the roads today?
 1. People are just getting up and going instead of making a plan.
 2. Hospitality industry is short of help.
 3. Mask wearing differs from place to place.
 4. Kindness goes a long way.
 5. Recommendation: please be patient.
 - ii. 2023: Thinking of doing a tour that will end at the convention.
 - iii. Thinking about a program for the schools.
 - h. **Jimmy Lin: Website update***
 - i. Trey gave a presentation on LHA web stats for this last quarter since Jimmy could not be here today
 - ii. Online membership is exceeding expectations
 - iii. He fixed the link that was misfiring on the web
 - iv. His next to do list is: add links to Neil's photos, add brochure, etc.
 - v. Mobile phones are up, tablets are down
 - vi. Facebook is up
 - i. **Speakers/Presentations: none**
- 7. Old Business** [items below included in Officer, Staff & Committee Reports above]
- a. **Facebook "Lincoln Highway in the Golden State" discussion group [Trey]**
 - b. **Adventures in California History LH [Trey]**
 - c. **Lincoln Highway Historic Highway Status in California [Trey & Joel]**
 - i. Stalemate on the byway progress: if you know someone in the State Legislature who could put up bill in congress for the byway progress please send letters, make calls, whatever you can do.
 - ii. Joel will make a templated letter that can be used to send a letter to the legislature.

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Johnson's Pass at Echo Summit.

d. Signage/Markers [Trey & Joel]

- i. Joel did some marker cleaning along the LH.
- ii. At the corner of California and Park in SF, there is a LH marker. It definitely needs some attention. We've been given the green light to work on this marker. Joel would also like to put bumpers around the marker so it cannot be taken out by a car. Walter Caplan has the name of someone who can work with us to get this stuff done.

e. 2022 Illinois and 2023 California Conference Update [Neil]

f. Groups.io [Neil]

- i. Send Neil an email to join

g. Elmer Butts recording [Trey & Neil]

- i. Carried the mail in the Sierras and audio recorded his travels over one entire day. Trey has the disc and he is planning on getting it to a format that can be shared with others. Elmer describes the old route (Trey is looking for photos of the parts of his road trip to add to a slide show that can then be displayed). Hoping to put out DVDs and possibly a link on the LH site.

h. Markers / Medallion for sale online [Joel & Neil]

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- i. **Donation and membership website [Jimmy]**
 - i. *The button is up and running. The glitch has been fixed.*
- j. **Updates from other members: None**
- 8. New Business [items below included in Officer, Staff & Committee Reports]**
 - a. National board meeting: [Neil]
 - i. Grant requests need to be made through the individuals state chapters.
 - b. Wishbone Drive Tour Brochure [Neil]
 - i. Neil has put a brochure together of this route, if you are interested in a paper copy of the map. The route is also available on the online map.
 - c. Directional Signage [Trey]
 - d. Ophir Road Monument LH sign [Trey]
 - e. Lincoln Highway in California book [Trey]
 - f. PBS Program on Lincoln Highway "edit presentation" [Trey]
 - g. Travel Realities, on The Lincoln and Elsewhere [Mark]
 - h. Gene Rabal LH Marker road trip [Joel]
 - i. San Francisco Concrete Markers [Joel]
 - j. Concrete Marker donation to Moe Mohanna [Joel]
 - k. Chapter Activities 2021 dealing with COVID 19 [Joel-Members]
 - l. Updates from other members
 - i. Joan Griffin, a new member, suggested the following to market the highway:
 1. Placer County Book Tour: can we market to this group and get a LH book on this list?
 2. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Sierra College (open to 50 years and up) has a Travel Tuesday Program. Perhaps we can get a slot in their schedule.
- 9. Meeting Adjournment**
 - a. Next meeting: October 9
 - b. Paulette Johnston Motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Myrna Johnston. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by
Paulette Johnston, Secretary
September 19, 2021

Edited by Joel Windmiller and Jimmy Lin



Lincoln Highway Association

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

P.O. Box 447
Carmichael, CA 95609
www.lincolnhighway.org/ca

Joel Windmiller*
Chapter President
Marker and Membership Chairman
(916) 208-9790
joelwindmiller@att.net

Neil Rodrigues*
State Director
Promotional Chairman
(408) 374-6288
neil_rodrigues@yahoo.com

Paulette Johnston*
Secretary
(916) 202-2724
Pj12thrnte@sbcglobal.net

Trey Pitsenberger*
Chapter Vice President
Field Secretary/Signage
Newsletter Editor
Chapter Historian
(530) 334-6040
trey@pitsenberger.com

Grant Gassman*
Treasurer
(530) 756-5507
grant.gassman@att.net

James Lin
National & State Webmaster
lincolnhwy@jameslin.name



The Lincoln Highway, your road to adventure!

There's a lot to see and do on the Lincoln Highway. Whether you're a resident of one of the Lincoln Highway states, a visitor or someone interested in learning more about the Lincoln Highway, the LHA is for you! Many sections of the right-of-way are still in place waiting for you to explore them...

To learn more about joining us, visit

www.lincolnhighway.org/support



Click the above logo to learn more!

Resources for Lincoln Highway enthusiasts
(click the link to be taken to the site)

[The Lincoln Highway in the Golden State on Facebook.](#)

[California Lincoln Highway Association on Facebook](#)

[The Lincoln Highway on Facebook](#)

[The Lincoln Highway on Donner Summit, a photo collection from the Donner Summit Historical Society](#)

[Adventures in California History, Lincoln Highway posts](#)

The California
Chapter,
Lincoln Highway
Association

P.O. Box 447
Carmichael, CA 95609





Lincoln Highway Association

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, October 9	State Chapter Meeting
12:00 Noon	Home of Kristen Thomas Dieterich
Saturday, January 8	State Chapter Meeting
12:00 Noon	(Location TBA)
Saturday, April 2	State Chapter Meeting
12:00 Noon	(Location TBA)

- Announcement of Chapter Meeting locations are mailed via postcard to all current members approximately 2 weeks prior to the actual date. They are also posted on the California Chapter web site. Contact Joel Windmiller regarding the mailing of postcards.
- For information on Car Cruises and Sports Leisure Bus Tours, contact Paul Gilger <paulgilger@att.net> or Joel Windmiller <joelwindmiller@att.net>
- Meetings are preceded by lunch at 12:00 noon (unless otherwise noted). Official meetings start at 1:00 pm.

