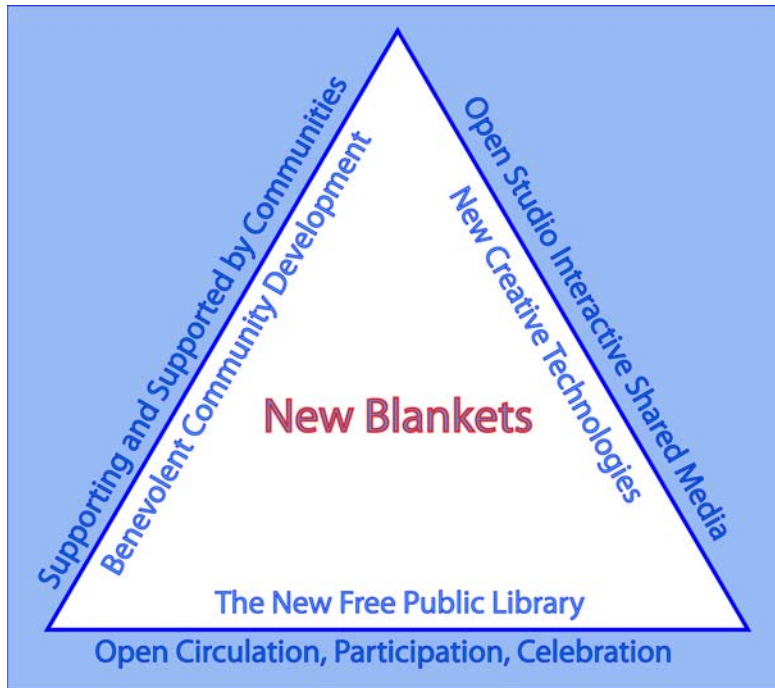


New Blankets



Andrew Carnegie's Model: The Mission and Vision of New Blankets



New Blankets was organized to re-invent the Free Public Library for the 21st century and beyond. We are attempting in many ways to follow "In Carnegie's Footsteps." Our Model is the Carnegie Free Public Libraries, launched by Andrew Carnegie's vision at the beginning of the twentieth century. The Carnegie Free Public Libraries were

- community centers for cultural enrichment
- created by communities organizing themselves for a benevolent purpose
- open to the public and encouraging participation from the public of all ages.

The Carnegie Free Public libraries had a tremendous impact on the cultural and community life of cities and towns not only throughout the United States, but throughout the world. We wish to keep that legacy alive.

The name "New Blankets" was inspired by contrast to the unfortunate historic misuse of technology (biological warfare) -- and the loss of the true spirit of gift giving -- represented by the "smallpox blankets" in the European settlement of the Americas. The New Blankets group wishes to promote technology inspired by benevolent purpose and freely given to strengthen its recipients. The name is meant to be an ironic, anti-hype reminder that technology itself does not improve the human condition.

• *The Challenge of Modern Media*

There are many reasons that Carnegie's free public library model is challenged today. We wish to accept those challenges and carry the free public library movement forward, by re-inventing it:

- Reading skills need to be improved, and enhanced with audio, video and interactive multimedia
- The values of a "**read and write**" culture need to be fostered so that people, especially young people, develop **active** skills as writers, musicians, artists, performers and game-developers, and do not just remain **passive** consumers of music, video, books and video games.
- Many at-risk young people not only have limited reading interests and skills, but are also victims of the **digital divide**. Based on their economic and family situations, these young people do not have access to the powerful computer and media technologies that would inspire them and bring them into participation with larger creative communities. (This situation has a historic parallel; before the Carnegie Free Public Libraries, it was accurate to say that only rich people had books or read books, beyond textbooks in school.)

- ***The New Blankets Approach: Programs and Activities***

Our initial programs and activities are in the following areas:

1. *Develop new **loanable technologies** and teach classes and workshops:*

- Books remain valuable and they are of course perfectly “loanable.” But we wish to develop new devices and new technologies so that anyone, especially disadvantaged young people, can have free and creative access to text, music, graphics and video – as easily as they would borrow a book from their local library. Our “suitcase supercomputer” models consist of handheld “multimedia books” that are freely loanable and also can be re-collected and gathered in “at the library” — not to sit on shelves like passive books do, but to actively network and form engaging, multimedia, animated displays.
- Our “**loanable technology**” or “**multimedia books**” consist of any easily portable device which is inexpensive enough to be purchased and supported as part of a freely circulating “library collection” of items. Our initial collections have circulated for example among young people at the Boys and Girls Clubs or in classrooms or for use in “subway seminars” for high school and college students and adults. “Loanable technology” devices are chosen based upon their ability to support e-books, music, lectures and other audio, several hours of video playback, as well as interchangeable storage and/or networking capability for easy loading and modification of the content provided to borrowers. Our initial efforts and development have thus far used, as “loanable technology”:
 - Sony PlayStation Portable (“PSP”) handheld computers, in “PSP-kits” that include integrated video cameras and Skype headsets for internet conversations;
 - Ultraportable “netbook” computers with 8” screens running Ubuntu Linux;
 - Portable Media Players (“PMP” devices) such as Sly Electronics SLV328 (e-book, audio, video, and FM radio support); and
 - USB memory-sticks containing complete Linux operating systems and free creative software application suites.
- New Blankets’ “**Suitcase Supercomputer**” concept is based on the use of networked advanced hardware that can integrate and co-ordinate the individual “loanable” elements when these loanable elements are assembled together for classes, events and festivals. Our first designs for the “Suitcase Supercomputer” have been based on collections of linux-based Sony PlayStation 3 console computers driving video walls and other physical configurations (of PSPs or netbooks) via wi-fi wireless networking.
- Concentrated sessions, such as classes, workshops and festivals, are valuable opportunities to (i) inspire local groups, such as schools and clubs, and (ii) to launch the participant interactions and mutual maintenance of such groups’ new “local libraries.” Our classes, workshops and festivals are of several different kinds, each providing valuable opportunities for the participants and organizers of the new “free public library.” These classes, workshops and festivals include:
 - Classes and workshops for young people and other “technology outsiders” to gain experience with multimedia and to learn how to use “loanable technology” and other resources to access text, audio, and video resources effectively.

- Classes and workshops for young people and other “technology outsiders” to learn how to **create content** (e.g., text, audio, video, animation and interactive content) to use and freely share with others, primarily via Creative Commons licensing.
- Festivals and workshops to celebrate and display the freely available creative works generated from these new community resources. An important example is the festival/workshop for Boys and Girls Clubs youth and their parents, particularly for parents to appreciate and encourage their children’s creative work.
- Workshops and “builds” for experts in technology and software where new designs for loanable technology, and other devices, new software and configurations of freely shareable multimedia resources can be intensively developed and tested.

2. *Circulate and demonstrate loanable technologies:*

- Unlike traditional books, our **Suitcase Supercomputer** and other new “loanable technologies” present a challenge to participants: They must develop new **read-write skills** and learn to share these skills and their products freely with others. So in addition to developing loanable-technology, we emphasize activities which get new experimental technologies into the hands of everyday people. These diverse new “library patrons” will learn and they will teach us as we continue to innovate. Our initial efforts in this area have included both “physical libraries” in facilities provided by conventional libraries or community centers such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, and “virtual libraries” of loanable technology which technology is circulated among participants person-to-person in a system which we have called “I.O.US.” Examples to date include:
 - Conventional physical library locations (New Blankets loanable technology collections have been integrated into the circulation systems of the Morris Library at Southern Illinois University and at the Gottesman Libraries, Teachers College Columbia University);
 - Distributed and participant-circulated collections launched via USPS/FedEX/UPS (Exhibit III includes a map of many U.S. cities where participants used (and learned to use) the “PSP-kit” version of loanable technology, provided feedback and developed original creative content); and
 - Temporary collections circulated for short periods of time at the Boys and Girls Clubs in Long Beach, the Supercomputer Center at the University of California, San Diego, and the Boys and Girls Club at Carbondale, Illinois in connection with events and workshops.

3. *Provide technical support:*

- Beyond the technical and engineering skills of New Blankets members, engineers and computer scientists, we need to provide technical support to groups such as the Boys and Girls Clubs who are participating with us. Our goal is to develop models that allow the young people and other participants to “maintain their own technologies” and use recycled and other technologies in their communities on an ongoing basis.
- Specifically, we provide (i) classes and workshops for, and (ii) ongoing “technical support” to, library staff and community-organization (such as the Boys and Girls Clubs) staff. Through such classes, workshops and support, we consult with such staff and train such staff in connection with the transition from “libraries with books” to new forms of multimedia-based “loanable technology” and the necessary supporting circulation systems.

4. *Train community-resources leaders:*

- Teachers, youth leaders, Boys and Girls Club staff and other participants will benefit greatly from our assistance in seeing what the “new loanables” can do and how they may establish and lead benevolent “local library” communities.
- Specifically, we provide classes and workshops for library and community-organization staff to develop their communities’ (especially communities of young people) interest in, appreciation for, and skills associated with building both community-maintained, multimedia-based “loanable technology” collections” and the necessary participant-supported circulation systems.

New Blankets Activities Overview		
Program Area / Initiative	Activity or Product produced to date	Beneficiaries
Develop new loanable technologies.	Suitcase Supercomputer: loanable video “wall/ensemble” SuitSup1 & 2 5x5 (based on Sony PSP game consoles) SuitSup3 3x3 (based on netbook computers) SuitSup4 10x10 (based on SLV328 mp3/video players)	General public, young people and especially disadvantaged or at-risk youth groups
Develop new loanable technologies.	USB-stick: A complete self-contained, self-starting Linux operating system and free multimedia software collection. Works on any Intel-based computer.	General public, young people and especially disadvantaged or at-risk youth groups The USB stick is ideally suited to recycling old/discarded computers and making them immediately usable.
Teach classes and workshops	Boys and Girls Clubs of Long Beach CA, Clairemont CA, Carbondale IL, BeWise (girls in science program) and Arroyo Paseo Charter High School	General public, young people and especially disadvantaged or at-risk youth groups
Circulate and demonstrate loanable technologies.	Suitcase Supercomputer and USB-sticks distributed and tested nationally (California, Illinois, Missouri, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania)	General public, young people and especially disadvantaged or at-risk youth groups
Circulate and demonstrate loanable technologies.	Suitcase Supercomputer and USB-sticks donated to libraries and demonstrated: (Long Beach CA, San Jose CA, New York City, Carbondale IL, St. Louis MO, Florence, Italy)	General public, young people and especially disadvantaged or at-risk youth groups
Provide technical support	Boys and Girls Clubs of Long Beach CA, Clairemont CA, Carbondale IL	General public, young people and especially disadvantaged or at-risk youth groups
Train community-resources leaders.	Wiki created for programs: http://newblankets.wik.is	General public, librarians, teachers, youth group and community leaders
Train community-resources leaders.	Tuesday Transcontinental Breakfasts (weekly teleconference discussions of technology development and community development)	General public, librarians, teachers, youth group and community leaders
Train community-resources leaders.	On-site visits and workshops: Southern Illinois University, Carbondale IL; Teachers College Columbia University, New York City; San Francisco State University, San Francisco CA; History San Jose, San Jose CA	General public, librarians, teachers, youth group and community leaders

Note that individuals that receive benefits are community members and the public at large, in the same way that any free public library benefits everyone in the community. Many benefits “to individuals” are in fact benefits to groups as a whole: a child in one of our workshops may borrow computers and other technology, (so the individual benefit is an in-kind loan) . But the workshop participants routinely develop graphics, music, games and so on that are donated to and used by their groups as a whole. Wherever possible, “loanable technology” materials will be circulated free of charge and member donations and volunteer time will be used to cover the effort of circulation and maintenance. A particular emphasis will be to provide benefits to young people, people on the wrong side of the “digital divide” and to other disadvantaged groups. These “technology outsider” groups do not easily have access to creative technologies and do not feel comfortable using these technologies without the additional, expert help New Blankets can provide.

We will not in general provide “members only” benefits. For workshops on a case-by-case basis, we may ask participants to contribute to the workshop costs on a voluntary basis.

For a detailed description of New Blankets’ past, present and planned activities, please see the following chart:

Activity	Who Conducts	When	Where	How Furthers Purpose
Technology development and planning workshops (“builds”)	New Blankets technology expert members and invited volunteers.	May 2008, June 2008, March 2009, October and continuing	San Diego CA New York, NY Carbondale, IL and online discussion, co-operation	It is essential to develop new technologies and implementations for the public domain and free circulation.
Circulate and demonstrate loanable technologies	New Blankets members and co-operating organizations (Morris and Gottesman Libraries, Boys and Girls Clubs)	June 2008 thru present, continuing	All locations nationwide: San Diego, San Francisco, The Dalles, St. Louis, Carbondale, Philadelphia, Newark, New York City + as added	The core of New Blankets’ purpose is to encourage and facilitate the circulation of loanable technologies by new free public library type organizations. These launch-circulation efforts and experiments are vital to that purpose.
Provide technical support	New Blankets expert members and participant volunteers.	June 2008 thru present, continuing	Morris Library IL, Gottesman Library NYC, Boys and Girls Clubs of Long Beach CA, Clairemont CA, Carbondale IL + as added	It is essential for participating organizations to have training and partner in developing the new types of library “loanables” and participant involvement
Train community-resources leaders.	New Blankets expert members and participant volunteers.	June 2008 thru present, continuing	Morris Library IL, Gottesman Library NYC, Boys and Girls Clubs of Long Beach CA, Clairemont CA, Carbondale IL + as added	The vision of New Blankets, and the practical determination of “what works” for the new free public library must be developed in partnership with community leadership.

New Blankets maintains a website (including an online work-area “wiki”) at <http://newblankets.wik.is>.

New Blankets!

New Blankets is a non-profit, public benefit corporation, organized to re-invent the Free Public Library for the 21st century and beyond. "In Carnegie's Footsteps," our model is the Carnegie Free Public Libraries, launched by Andrew Carnegie's vision at the beginning of the twentieth century. New Blankets seeks to promote new "free public libraries" that are:

- community centers for cultural enrichment,
- created by communities organizing themselves for a benevolent purpose,
- open to the public and encouraging participation from the public of all ages.

Who Will Carry New Blankets forward?

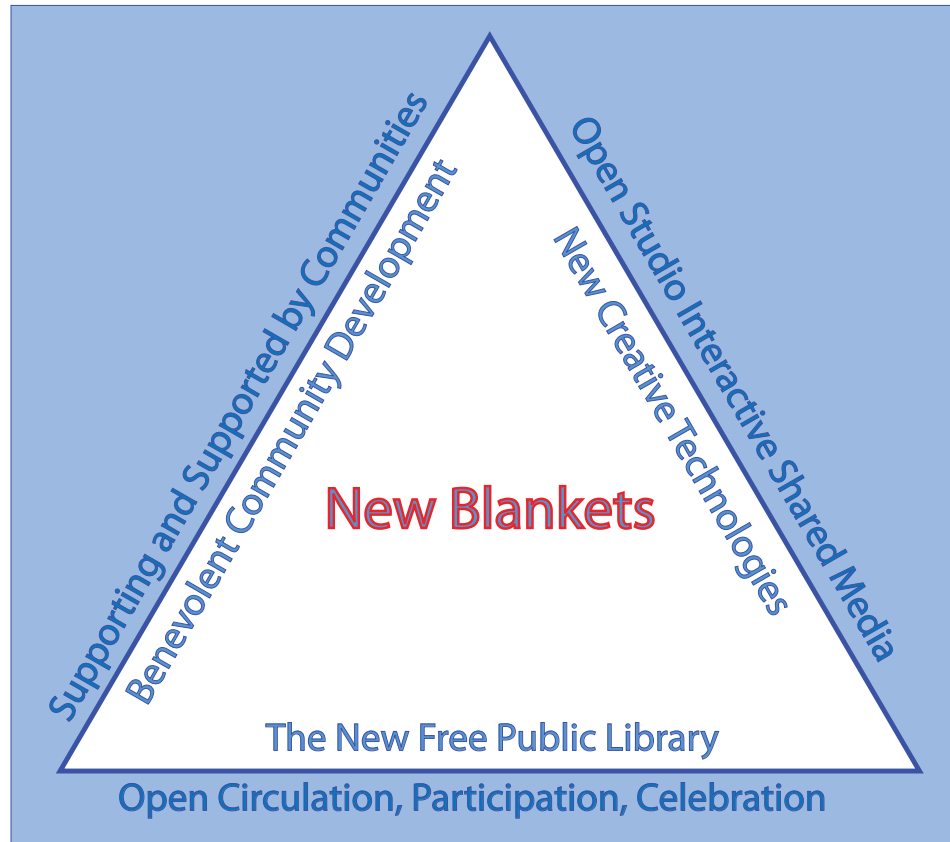
We invite you to fill out a ballot here to nominate someone you feel deserves to receive this symbolic blanket. Please describe on your ballot **why** that person embodies the New Blankets spirit of community. Please make a contribution with your nomination. We will honor **all** of the nominees here and one of them will be chosen to receive the blanket as a gift and an inspiration. (All contributions received will benefit [The Boys and Girls Club of Carbondale](#), [The Nature Conservancy](#), and New Blankets' ongoing efforts for community cultural co-operation.) The purchase of these gift blankets, which are designed by Indian tribal college students and other Native American artists, also directly supports the American Indian College Fund.)

About the name

The name "New Blankets" was inspired by contrast to the unfortunate historic misuse of technology (biological warfare) — and the loss of the true spirit of gift giving — represented by "smallpox blankets" in the European settlement of North America. The New Blankets group wishes to promote technology inspired by benevolent purpose and freely given to strengthen all participants. The name is meant to be an ironic, anti-hype reminder that technology, in itself, does not improve the human condition. We have also made use of blankets designed by Indian students for the American Indian College Fund as part of our activities and we especially emphasize that our activities should benefit under-represented and "outsider" participants.



smallpox blankets in 1763



*My dear friends,
I am so very pleased that
my illustration has inspired
good people to finally do the
exact opposite of what it
depicts. May God Bless
you in your noble efforts.
- Jerry R. Peter
9/17/2008*



Navajo Water Blanket

Based on an early 19th-century photograph by Edward S. Curtis, the blanket incorporates classic Navajo elements in an eye-dazzling pattern. The central dragonfly, an emblem of water, symbolizes life. Includes a special hangtag with the legend, inspiration or history behind the blanket. 82% pure virgin wool/18% cotton, unnaped. Dry clean. Made in the USA. Created exclusively for the American Indian College Fund. Your purchase helps fund scholarships and other needs. 64" x 80". \$275.00

Hidatsa Earth Blanket

64" x 80". From an Edward S. Curtis photograph, the Hidatsa Earth Blanket embodies the elements of earth and sky. The grey triangular step pattern in the center is called the mountain design. Each cross represents the four directions. 82% pure virgin wool/18% cotton, unnaped. Dry clean. Made in the USA. Created exclusively for the American Indian College Fund. Your purchase helps fund scholarships and other needs. \$275.00



Cheyenne Eagle Blanket

Depicts the Cheyenne story of how a warrior freed an eagle from the antlers of an elk. For helping to free him, the eagle gave the man a gift - a beautiful stallion covered with spots just like the eagle's feathers. Designed exclusively for the American Indian College Fund by Northern Cheyenne Artist Ben Nighthorse Campbell, this truly artistic blanket includes a special hangtag that tells the story of the Eagle, the Elk, and the Warrior. Photograph: Raymond Meeks. 82% pure virgin wool/18% cotton, unnaped. Dry clean. Made in the USA. 40" x 60" \$185.00



Grandeur Saddle Blanket

70852

66" x 40". Designed by student artist Sampon Frank-Dine, the powerful eagle image captures the strength and glory of this messenger to the heavens, a long revered Dine totem. This blanket includes a special hangtag with the legend, inspiration or history behind the blanket. Unnaped. 82% pure virgin wool/18% cotton. Dry clean. Made in the USA. Created exclusively for the American Indian College Fund. Your purchase helps fund scholarships and other needs. \$198.00

Homage To Spider Woman Blanket

64" x 80". Based on an original painting by artist R.C. Gorman, it depicts the deity who taught ancestors the art of weaving. Includes a special hangtag with the legend, inspiration or history behind the blanket. 82% pure virgin wool/18% cotton, unnaped. Dry clean. Made in the USA. Created exclusively for the American Indian College Fund. Your purchase helps fund scholarships and other needs. \$275.00



Maaso Blanket

64" x 80". According to the Yaqui, the Maaso, or deer, are the largest and wisest of all animals, and man could learn from them. After many years of deer hunting, the Yaqui decided that Maaso should live. Yaqui/Mexican artist Amado Peña captures that love of nature in this striking blanket. This blanket includes a special hangtag with the legend, inspiration or history behind the blanket. Unnapped. 82% pure virgin wool/18% cotton. Dry clean. Made in the USA. Created exclusively for the American Indian College Fund. Your purchase helps fund scholarships and other needs. \$275.00



Tribute to Jack Briggs

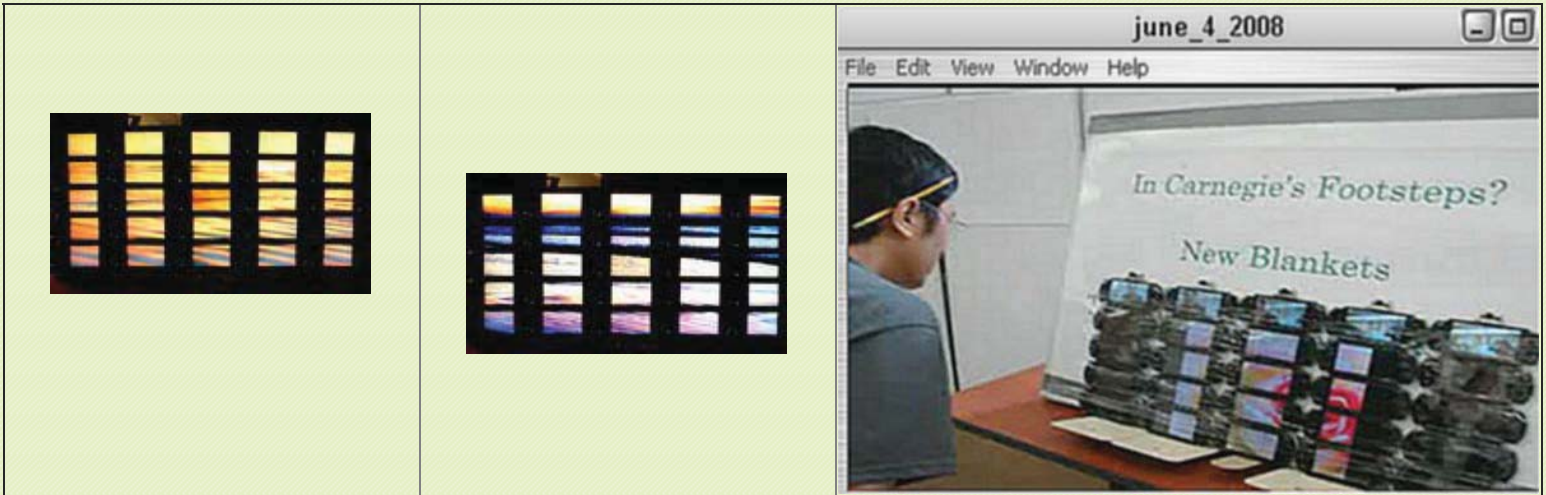
64" x 80". Lester "Jack" Briggs was a legend. He lived a childhood of institutionalized racism and grew up to be a man whose goal was to build bridges between Indians and non-Indians. He was a student who earned multiple degrees. He was a teacher who helped create the only college in the nation organized as both a state community college and a tribal college. This blanket was created in his honor. Its pattern is based on traditional Ojibwa beadwork. Your purchase helps fund scholarships and other needs. \$270.00

American Indian College Fund

The American Indian College Fund raises money for 32 tribal colleges that serve 30,000 students representing 250 native tribes. The fund disburses approximately 5,000 scholarships annually for American Indian students seeking to better their lives through continued education. The tribal colleges play a vital role in the futures of Native American people, our country and, ultimately, people everywhere. For 98 years, Pendleton Woolen Mills has maintained a mutual respect for our original customers, Native Americans. That is one of the many reasons we are pleased to support this important philanthropic partnership. When you purchase any blanket from our American Indian College Fund Collection, a portion of the proceeds goes to help tribal colleges throughout the country. To find out more about the American Indian College Fund, call 1-800-776-3863, or visit www.collegefund.org.

The Suitcase Supercomputer

- **Suit_Sup Inflowing:** The Assembled Suitcase Supercomputer creates an Exhibition/Event/Festival/Focus



- **Suit_Sup Outflowing:** The Dispersed Suitcase Supercomputer circulates through and links Creative Communities



The Suitcase Supercomputer

The Suitcase Supercomputer Takes Off!

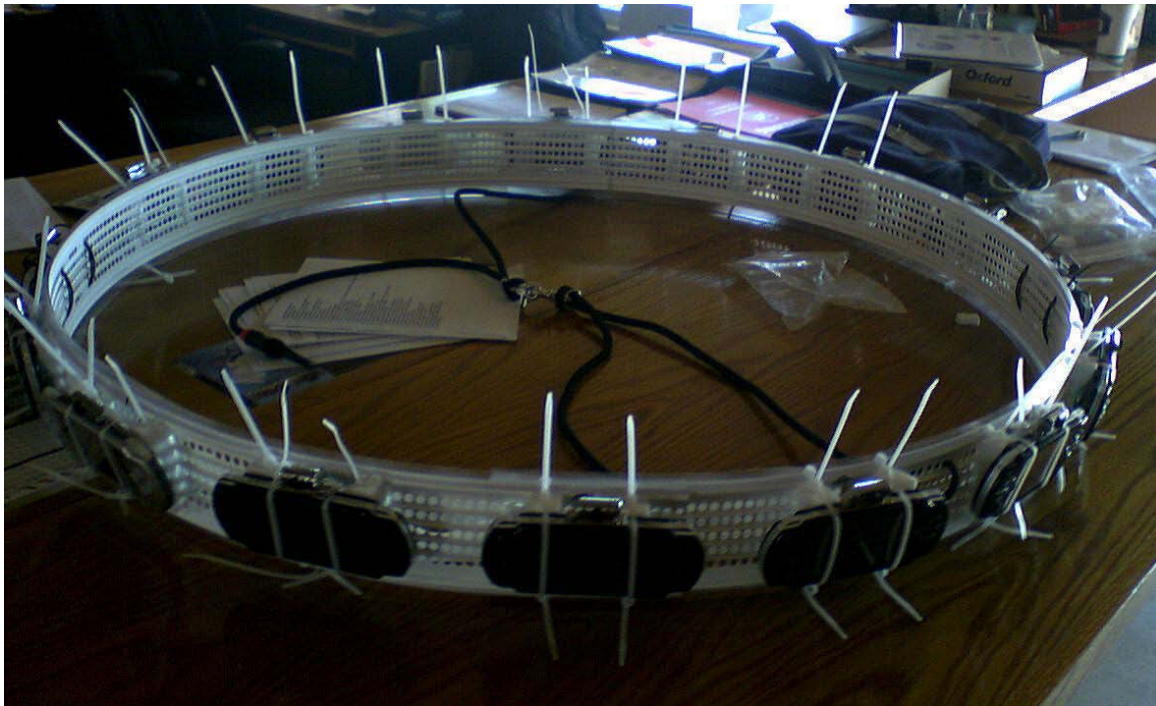
March 16, 12:00PM Torrey Pines Glider Port



Thanks,

Ki!

-- & Robin!





The flowers grow at Lyle Point, a fishing and celebration place for thousands of years
Lyle Point is now a Yakima sacred site where an entire settlement of Yakima died from smallpox blankets

