

Pike National Historic Trail Association Newsletter

Our Purpose: To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail April 2011 Vol. 5 No 4

We are a Charitable nonprofit organization Our website is www.zebulonpike.org
"Zebulon Pike was an American hero, a patriot who lived and died for his country." -Thomas Jefferson



Annual Member and Board Meeting- April 30, 2011

The Pike NHT Association Third Annual Meeting was held outside Cañon City, CO at the Royal Gorge on Saturday, April 30, 2011.

We enjoyed the pleasant atmosphere with spectacular scenery (where the Pike party struggled), received reports to begin working on three projects (see page 3) and received word of the Colorado endorsement of our US legislation (also in a separate article below.)

We established the new Honorary membership category, accepted the two logos created during the year, and began a much needed membership drive. Our next meeting will occur between Easter Apr 8 and Mother's Day May 13, 2012.



Pictured: Dorothy Urban, Cara Fisher, Ruth Disher Larry Linscott, Tom Rollings, Harv Hisgen and Mike Bandera

• Colorado State Legislature Unanimously Endorses S 276

Senator Kevin Grantham (Cañon City) and Representative Cheri Gerou (Evergreen) sponsored a Joint Resolution in the Colorado Legislature to endorse the Pike National Historic Trail and to send letters announcing their support of S 276 to Senators from the other 6 "Pike states" requesting their Co-sponsorship and included the whole Colorado US Congressional bloc. The Resolution passed **unanimously** in both the Colorado Senate and House, on Tuesday, April 26th, 2011. Not only did the 35 Senators and 65 Representatives support the Resolution, all cosponsored it.

We have unanimous support for the Pike National Historic Trail, S 276 and encouragement of US Senate leaders and Pike State US Senators to Co-sponsor S 276, from the Colorado legislature.

Needless to say- we thank Senator Grantham and Representative Gerou for their support. A copy of the Resolution can be found on the Colorado Legislature's website under SJR11-039. Click here: <http://www.leg.state.co.us/>

• For our supporters outside Colorado-

Please, call your US Senator's office in Washington requesting that the Senator co-sponsor our bill- S 276.

• Five Association Committees- Association Committees are forming for Membership, Legislative Support, Social Network, Site Information and the Newsletter. Your location is not important. A great deal is done using various media. Contact us at 303/816-7424 or by email (addresses at end of this newsletter) to join one or more committees.

• Pike's Experiences in April 1807 Mexico- Chihuahua.

Delicias, Jiménez- by Allan Vainley

During the month of April 1807, Zebulon Montgomery Pike with 7 men:

- 🕒 Spent the evening of 1 April near Sacramento on their approach to the capital, after reaching El Peñol, 40 miles northwest of Chihuahua in Chihuahua Province, Mexico on Tues., 3/31.
- 🕒 From 4/2 through 26, they spent in Chihuahua where Pike was questioned by Governor Salcedo regarding his mission.
- 🕒 Had his papers confiscated but had dinner almost nightly with General Salcedo, Malgares, and other dignitaries.
- 🕒 Collected impressions and information in conversations.
- 🕒 Continued on the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro south toward Jiménez in the escort of Lt. Malgares after crossing the Conchos River, April 28 through 30.

[continued on page 2]



We find Pike 15 to 20 miles north of Chihuahua on April 1st, and no fooling- this location was the site 39 years later of an important battle was waged in the Mexican-American War. See side bar.

After reading the January 17, 1807 issue of the *Gazetas de Mexico*, while in Carrizal on March 27th, of the Colonel Burr Conspiracy, he and his men surely had to be apprehensive about meeting with Commandant General Salcedo in Chihuahua on Thursday April 2. Pike mentions his escort Lt. Malgares' apprehensions on the 2nd. **"I was much astonished to see with what anxiety Malgares anticipated the meeting with his military chief; after having been on the most arduous and enterprising expeditions [attempting to intercept Pike and Lewis and Clark] ever undertaken by any of his majesty's officers ... yet he was fearful of his meeting him. and appeared to be much more agitated than ourselves ..."**

Pike continues, **"although we may be supposed to have also had our sensations; as on the will of this man depended our future destiny, at least until our country could**

Pike Contribution to success in 1846- The seizure of Santa Fe in the Mexican Province of New Mexico, during the Mexican-American War, by General Kearney occurred between August 8-14, 1846. No shots were fired. Many of us believe the recon work done by Pike in 1807 contributed to the success of this event.



What occurred after, certainly was aided by Pike's observations as he was taken south to Chihuahua in 1807. Kearney left for California 9/25/1846, leaving Alexander Doniphan to clean up the Navaho problem NW of Santa Fé.

Having accomplished peace, Doniphan and 924 men on February 8, 1847, began their march down the Rio Grande to El Paso and headed to the state capital in Chihuahua, to fight and win Chihuahua in the Mexican-American War.

Sacramento Pass, where we found Pike on May 1, 1807, is about 20 miles north of present-day Chihuahua City and the only defense for the state capital. The Battle of Sacramento (Pass) was the most important battle fought in the state of Chihuahua. The battle ended quickly because of some disastrous Mexican defensive errors and the ingenious strategic moves by the Americans.

After their loss at the Battle of Sacramento, the remaining Mexican soldiers retreated south, leaving Chihuahua to American occupation. Nearly 300 Mexicans were killed, 300 were wounded and 400 Mexican soldiers became prisoners of war in the battle. American forces maintained an occupation of the state capital for the rest of the Mexican American War.

A. M. Sniphan

interfere in our behalf." On meeting with the General on the 2nd- **"Salcedo- 'you have given us and yourself a great deal of trouble.' (Captain Pike) 'On my part entirely unsought, and on that of the Spanish government voluntary.'" General 'Where are your papers?'"**

Lt. Malgares produced the small trunk containing Pike's papers, they were translated by Juan Pedro Walker*, with whom Pike resided, and the papers were confiscated.

Being in Chihuahua for nearly a month, Pike and his men were allowed to talk freely with the citizenry in a pleasant atmosphere.

*Juan Pedro Walker, a schoolmaster and **cartographer**, who also acted as an interpreter and as a transcriber/translator for Pike's confiscated documents. It was while with Walker that Pike had access to various maps of the southwest and learned of Mexican discontent with Spanish rule.

Next month- *Pike's Experiences in May & June 1807*

• *Mail-We need your help* Greetings from Bellvue Colorado -- I'm a freelance writer and am finishing a book about Colorado bear stories, and there's a chapter about Pike and his bear encounter -- but I'm having trouble finding the primary source -- a journal/section in which he mentions securing the cubs and/or any other bear events. You don't by chance know where that is, do you? Just a-wondering . . . Thank you, Laura

PNHTA-We know of the cubs, but the tail end of the story. He gave them to Jefferson, who in turn, gave them to the safe keeping of the man who painted Pike's portrait. The now full grown bears got out and had to be shot.

Later- We talked with Monty Pike [closest living relative, former Pike Family Association President, and our VP] and he said the story told at one of the Pike Family Association's gatherings in Sackets Harbor, NY, was that he may not have dragged two grizzly bears here from Colorado and Monty said, "it was with a smile on the speaker's face, that he may purchased the bears in Louisiana." All this for them was light conjecture, no one really knowing for sure. This is certainly more than 3rd hand and may not be what you are looking for.

If you know of primary or secondary source please contact us.

• *Health of our other Vice President- - Good News* John Patrick Michael Murphy, our 2nd Vice President, reports that he is "on the mends" and is back to doing some hiking. John's tumors are shrinking. He has melanoma* and gives us great news of his well-being. Perhaps he can join us in our activity announced on page 3.

*Melanoma, the most serious type of skin cancer, develops in the cells that produce melanin — the pigment that gives your skin its color.

- *Pike National Historic Trail Association Activity What Pike saw but didn't climb* - - In July we plan to hike some of the trails to the 14ers in the Collegiate Range in Colorado. *If you would like to join us please contact us.*
- *Pike National Historic Trail Association Projects* There are three projects our Board decided to engage in:
 - Pike Blockhouse /Cañon City CO - Discover the place-position of & possible siting of the location of the original Pike blockhouse
 - Royal Gorge Bridge and Park additional Signage- Definitive markings of Pike's presence in the Royal Gorge
 - AHRA History User Proposal

We would like to concentrate here on a historical focus on our encouragement of the **Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA)** to add an additional dimension to this unique State Park.

The Zebulon Pike / AHRA Project - Part One by Tom Rollings*

The AHRA (Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area) is perhaps the most unique state park in the United States. This Colorado state park is actually a series of campgrounds, pull-offs, points of interest, off-road trails, and rafting docks, running along the Arkansas River from Leadville to Pueblo. It is one of the most frequently used parks in the country, and so the State of Colorado and the BLM review and update a "management plan" every few years to make sure that the park is responsive to those who seek to enjoy it.

Zebulon Pike and his men camped within the park boundaries 37 times. Pike discovered the river's headwaters with privates Miller and Mountjoy before eventually meeting the rest of the expedition near the Big Bend site, home to the famous Christmas camp in Salida, CO.

There are six sites in the AHRA that would be enhanced by the addition of kiosks, signs and markers signifying the contributions of the Zebulon Pike Expedition. Historical tourism is a growing economic and recreational element of the AHRA and this proposal seeks to address that need.

All of the AHRA sites have been evaluated for historically accurate locations and least need for environmental alteration. Recreation area user groups should not conflict with these choices, but actually benefit from the variety of interests represented.

- * Site #1 Pinnacle Rock - Texas Creek CO *The horses continued to fall on the ice, the men pulled them across the ice with ropes in order to save them. 12/30/1806*
- * Site #2 Canyon Trading Post - Coaldale/Cotopaxi CO *Almost in this exact location, Zebulon Pike described in his Journals where he discovered the Bighorn Sheep, an animal never before seen by white men. (Existing kiosk describing bighorn habitat.) 12/29/1806*
- * Site #3 Ricon - Howard CO *Pike realizes that the canyon he is entering is dangerous. 12/27/1806*
- * Site #4 Big Bend - Salida/Ponchas Springs CO *The Pike Expedition was saved from starvation and remains two days to celebrate Christmas. This is one of the more famous Pike sites. 12/24-25/1806*
- * Site #5 Collegiate Peaks Overlook - Johnson Village/ Buena Vista CO *Pike discovered the upper Arkansas River, camped for two days, split his party into thirds and determined to discover the headwaters of the river. 12/19-20/1806*
- * Site #6 Railroad Bridge Campground - Riverside CO *Near here Pike, Miller and Mountjoy camped (12/21) en-route to view to view the headwaters of the river. They returned to this site after the effort and reoccupied this camp (12/23). The men were freezing to death and beginning to starve.*

Note- These sites are numbered east to west. **Pike is traveling west to east in 1806.**

To view a map with these locations - click here: [Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area Map](#)

Thanks for your offer to help with this project. Here is the general idea of what to write in an e-mail to those members of the Citizens Task Force that need to hear from you:

Dear _____,

Please allow me to express my support for the inclusion of a new historical user group to be part of the upcoming AHRA management plan. With specific regard to the Zebulon Pike Expedition, it is my opinion that many people visiting the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area would enjoy learning about the discoveries and contributions made by the explorer to the Arkansas River Valley and the tremendous canyons that are part of the AHRA.

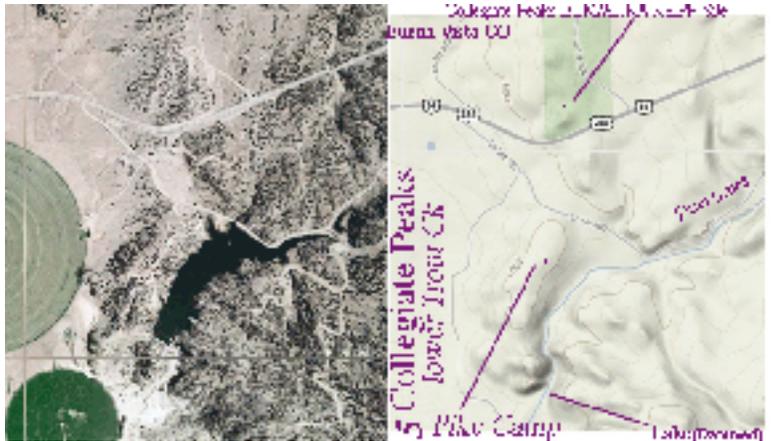
Thanks! (sign) print name address telephone number

*Tom is our Upper Arkansas Coordinator and Pike expert.

(Continues Page 4)

The addresses of principal individuals are:

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- *Site #5 Project Feature Collegiate Peaks Overlook -*
Johnson Village/ Buena Vista CO

The Pike party camped for two days on the mesa marked “Y” after camping on 12/18/1806 at Trout Creek Pass beside Trout Creek after discovering the South Platte River in South Park CO.

From the Collegiate Peaks Overlook (marked “x” on the map) to the north of US route 24/285 above Johnson Village (Buena Vista CO) one can view not only what the party saw- the Collegiate Range/ Continental Divide, but the mesa where they camped and the lake now occupying lower Trout Creek.

We will feature the other 5 sites in upcoming issues.

Please consider joining us with your membership. The membership form is on our website or contact us at 303/816-7424

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