



# Pike National Historic Trail Association Newsletter

June 2013 Vol. 7 No 3

*Great News, meeting news and a sad news update*

*Our Purpose: To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail*

Our website is [www.zebulonpike.org](http://www.zebulonpike.org) - Thomas Jefferson  
"Zebulon Pike was an American hero, a patriot who lived and died for his country."

## ● *Federal Legislation Movement* The Feasibility Study step

### ● *To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail*

The Pike legislation [S. 524] was reintroduced in the Senate by our Cosponsors- US Senators from Colorado earlier this session.

★ We have some movement on the Federal Legislation. A hearing was announced---see p. 3.

Here is the correspondence so far.

Annie Oatman-Gardner (Senator Bennet's office) email to us 7/19--- "There is movement!!!!!! Sean asked if you were ever able to get someone in the House to support this so that a companion bill can be run? Lamborn? Tipton?"

Harv to Annie, 7/20 "No. We left messages not to be called back. I will put a burr under some saddles. What is Sean thinking and what does he need?"

Annie to Harv 7/21 (today)--- "If we can get this onto a calendar and voted upon , then it will need to also be introduced in the House. My thinking is yes, we need to find someone. If your group can make initial contact with an office to gauge interest, then our DC office can get them the info they might need."

★ Beginning next week, we will visit the three COLORADO "Pike" Congressmen or their staff, face to face [Lamborn, Gardner and Tipton] to not only request sponsorship of a House Companion bill, but also to request lead sponsorship.

1. We will ask what are the Congressmen's concerns about granting a Feasibility Study.
2. We will make the economic, educational, recreational, historic preservation and historic interpretations advantages better known.
3. We will seek a cooperative effort in the House.

★ **Our Officers, Board, Coordinators and Advisers on 7/19 were asked, "Can we all [not just in Colorado] redouble our effort to get a House sponsor for companion legislation?"**

### **OUTSIDE COLORADO**

★ **Now I ask you to contact your US Representative or their staff to:**

**inform them of our effort, hand them material regarding the Pike effort, and gauge his or her feelings about supporting as Co-sponsor a Companion Feasibility Bill in the House.**

**Then act to get their cosponsorship once such a bill is being formed.** Of course, we will let you know.

**Remember you have help on our website ([www.zebulonpike.org](http://www.zebulonpike.org)) in the document "Pike Fact Sheet."**

One of our Board members gave a Pike presentation today in Buena Vista, CO. Tom, in Q&A, talked with tourists from many states and Europe. Tom repeated 2x to me that Europeans are, "VERY INTERESTED IN WESTERN HISTORY." There is a tourist base even from Europe, learning about Pike and buying goods and services.

## •2013 Annual Meeting - Cañon City, CO

•The Association Annual Meeting was held in the Bighorn Mountaintop Lodge overlooking the Royal Gorge and Pike's Gulch on Saturday, June 1st.

### 4 Main Discussions:

1. Membership We will seek to acquire "new blood," not so much for their membership money, but for manpower.

The groups already approached are: Fremont County Historical Society, Fremont County Heritage Commission, and Southern Rockies: Crossroads of Cultures, the 5 County group in southern CO.

2. Interpretation The educational effort of the Association is ongoing in schools, the general public and in state parks. Printed materials containing site specific information as well as why Pike made certain decisions, will be drafted and pursued.

We look forward to partnerships to develop materials.

3. Preservation Erwin Young, Monty Pike, and Mike Bandera are working on continued Preservation of Pike sites and the display of Pike items. With the prime site [the Royal Gorge] having burned, we are excited about the possibilities of perhaps being a part of their new design.

4. Legislation We have many members who have indicated that they will do support work in New Mexico, Kansas and Missouri.

We need help from folks in TX, NM, KS, and MO to accomplish action in the areas of Legislation, Preservation and Interpretation.

The next board meeting at the same location (Royal Gorge- Bighorn Lodge) next year. **Saturday April 27, 2014**

## •Royal Gorge Fire - Cañon City, CO

The Royal Gorge Park and Bridge (in which Pike climbed) suffered major damage in June (after our Annual Meeting there.)

Royal Gorge Fire Statistics at a Glance:

- **Time/Date Started:** June 11, 2013 approximately 1 p.m.
- **Location:** Fremont County, Colorado
- **Cause:** Under Investigation
- **Fuels:** Piñon, Juniper, Sage Brush
- **Size:** 3,218 acres
- Containment: 100%
- **Resources Committed:** 384 personnel including - Rocky Mountain Area Incident Management Team B, 2 Type-1 crews, 8 Type-2 crews, 1 Type-1 helicopter, 1 Type 3-helicopter, 14 engines, 3 dozers, and 7 water tenders

40 to 48 buildings were destroyed or damaged

The recovery of four cables located in the Arkansas River from the Royal Gorge Bridge Park's Tram has been put on hold. Peggy Gair, HR/PR manager for the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park stated, "We had an orderly evacuation yesterday afternoon around noon, so we are extremely happy to report that all employees are okay, and all guests were evacuated safely."

"The park has elk, buffalo, bighorn sheep, and saddle horses on property and all reported to be okay and are being watched closely, receiving fresh water and feed," said Gair.

The [Royal Gorge Bridge is listed with the National Register of Historic Places](#) and is suspended 956 feet above the Arkansas River, making it one of the world's highest suspension bridges.

"We anticipate a 'one-way bridge only' ticket for vehicular traffic mid-to-late August once demolition is completed." Some of the wooden planks were damaged and the steel frame will be structurally evaluated.





**The Royal Gorge Bridge & Park expects a brand new park by summer 2014.**

Mike Bandera, Park Superintendent and Pike NHTA Board Member, announced at our June meeting, "The Royal Gorge Bridge & Park is moving ahead on a \$46 million renovation and improvement project, including property being bought for a resort hotel, golf course complex as well as improvements within the current park."

- ---Thursday, July 18, 2013 2:56 PM **Subject:** 07.31.13 NP Subcommittee Hearing

## HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

This is to advise you that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on National Parks. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, July 31, 2013, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills:

**S. 524, to amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the study of the Pike National Historic Trail;**

- establish a Study Commission for a National Women's History Museum;
- to conduct certain special resource studies;
- designate the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor as "The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor";
- modify the Yosemite National Park boundary;
- revise the Gettysburg National Military Park boundaries to include the Gettysburg Train Station;
- establish the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area;
- improve the Lower East Side Tenement National Historic Site;
- authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish their memorial in DC;
- provide for certain land conveyances in the State of Nevada;
- install a plaque with words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the US on D-Day, June 6, 1944;
- authorize improvements for National Historic Sites (NPS);
- reauthorize the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (NHA);
- reauthorize the America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership in the State of Iowa;
- reauthorize: Rivers of Steel NHA, Lackawanna Valley NHA, Delaware & Lehigh NHC, & the Schuylkill River Valley NHA;
- reauthorize the Essex NHA;
- designate segments of Vermont - Missisquoi River & Trout River - components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System;
- designate segments of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in CT;
- feasibility study for Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as a unit of the NP System;
- San Antonio Missions NHP boundary expansion;
- authorize acquisition of battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War & War of 1812;
- continue stocking fish in the North Cascades NP, Ross Lake NRA, and Lake Chelan NRA.

*Membership* - Thank you for our new members and those who have renewed their membership in the Pike National Historic Association!

*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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