



# Pike National Historic Trail Association Newsletter

November  
2013  
Vol. 7 No 5



## Add another candle - Our Sixth Birthday

Our Association celebrated it's sixth birthday last month. Much has been accomplished in these six years. This is what comes to mind. Many schools are using our newsletters and web site. Children are learning about Pike. Many of us have contacted Congressmen. We have preserved Pike items by finding locations to store and present them. Many of us have made public presentations regarding Pike and his men. County Commissioners, town mayors, chambers, preservation and historical organizations and private individuals have endorsed our effort. This includes the unanimous endorsement of the entire Colorado Legislature. Pike sites have been identified and marked.

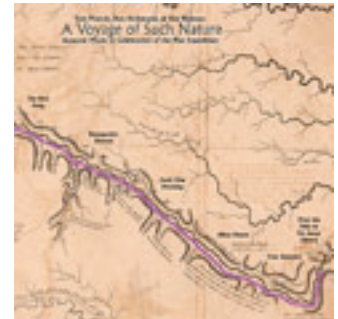


As you probably know one of our goals is

*To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail- the first step is passing Feasibility Study Legislation.* While we can hope that the Senate Bill S.524 is passed by this Congress, perhaps in an Omnibus bill, but we are concerned about other projects. There is items which we can accomplish while we are patient with the pending legislation.

- Our Pike Preservation Fund is to be kicked off.
- Some individuals and families are visiting Pike sites.
- An automobile and a hiker route to follow Pike's SW route is being worked on.
- Interpretive material is being planned.

**We must not lose site of getting things done. Here are examples.**



## Rex is presenting Pike era music

Rex Rideout, Pike Nat. Hist. Tr. Assoc. Board member for all six years, continues to present Pike era music and the Pike story. He performs individually and with partners Tom Munch and Don Richmond. This time at the Nov. 9 Park County [CO] Historical Society dinner. We have had the great pleasure of seeing and hearing him in performance in Conifer, CO, at a Santa Fe Trail Association meeting and at Cowboy ventures. His audiences are introduced to Zebulon Pike and he offers Pike Nat. Hist. Trail cards. His 4 CD's are offered on <http://www.timetravelmusic.com/> We recommend: *A Voyage of Such Nature: Acoustic*

Rex Rideout

*Music in Celebration of the Pike Expedition.* Pat Surrena, also a Pike Nat. Hist. Tr. Assoc. Board Member and Interpretation Committee Chair, attended Rex's presentation last week. Pat was impressed.

See the story on page 4

Pat Surrena



*Our Purpose: To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail*  
We are a Charitable nonprofit organization Our website is [www.zebulonpike.org](http://www.zebulonpike.org)  
"Zebulon Pike was an American hero, a patriot who lived and died for his country." - Thomas Jefferson

## *Helping Students-Marshall and Casey*

November 15, 2013 Hi Mr. Hisgen,

“My name is Marshall ... and I go to Rocky Heights Middle School, in Highlands Ranch, CO. In social studies we are working on a project for National History Day. I am working with another student, Casey ... , on a project about Zebulon Pike. As a group we had to develop a thesis statement and make an exhibit to prove our thesis, our working thesis is; It was Zebulon Pike's right to travel in the Spanish territory.” Thank You, Marshall and Casey  
They asked for an interview. My response included these comments---

### **It was Zebulon Pike's right to travel in the Spanish territory.**

He had little or no choice--- Reasons-

Facing the mountains and a cold winter, low on food at Cañon City

1. He knew he had little hope of traveling back east from where he came.
2. He attempted to travel north staying in the US- into South Park and returning from the west through the Arkansas River Valley and the Royal Gorge with little hope of finding help.
3. His final task was to find the Red River to the south. Remember Thomas Jefferson considered the watershed of the Arkansas to be part of the US. (Of course that view probably was not shared by the Spanish.)
4. He went south from Cañon City to find food and shelter, perhaps Spanish or Indians to help. He would have been in the US until he crossed the Sangre de Cristo mountains into the San Luis Valley, where food and shelter were found.

5. At the Pike Stockade (south of Alamosa) he was "captured", given no choice but to go to Santa Fe, Chihuahua, Torreon, Mexico (then New Spain), etc. Survival perhaps overrides "right." I believe it does.

Not only did he have the right but the responsibility. The borders were **not** marked.

His right to explore a largely unexplored, largely uninhabited area south of the Arkansas [perhaps a good deal of the way to Santa Fe], to describe the terrain, etc. would be considered the responsibility of a trained observer.

His last assignment was to find the Red River- definitely part of the US and today's Texas northern border, known to be somewhere south. So south to find the Red River.

He **also** had the responsibility to care for his men, i.e. food. This also gives him the right as well as responsibility.

## *We are in the news once more*

*See an edited version of Rex's performance in Bailey, CO. below.*

The Friday (11/15) Fairplay Flume printed Rex's Pike narrative. [www.fairy-lamp.com/PCHS/Flume\\_Rideout\\_Pikes\\_Journey\\_111515.pdf](http://www.fairy-lamp.com/PCHS/Flume_Rideout_Pikes_Journey_111515.pdf).

## *Royal Gorge fire report & The Association's next meeting for Members and non-Members*

This past summer the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park lost 48 of 52 buildings. Demo work was completed in October with rebuilding to begin Dec. 15 and the Park reopening Summer 2014.

The next Pike NHT Association meeting is planned at the Royal Gorge- Temporary Offices in Cañon City (6th & Macon) on **Saturday, April 27, 2014.**

## *Ultralight equipment for Pike National Historic Trail route bikers & hikers* by Allan Vainley

*Discovery for our hikers and bicyclists (The Pike route is being planned.)*

At a recent meeting, I **learned** of a new fiber - Cuben Fiber - is making backpacking MUCH lighter. I used to carry a 55 pound pack. Water (and perhaps food) constitutes the weight concerns now. When I talked with multi-trail long distance hikers Julie and Barry from Lincoln, NE, we **discovered** that their maximum pack weight was 28 pounds and carrying water was their challenge to make it lighter. We began discussion with products made with Cuben Fiber, and then discussed light weight water filters and soda pop can stoves. I was challenged and **discovered** a great deal more.

### **Pop can stoves and supports-**

There are several websites with instructions for making these light-weight stoves, snuffers, pot supports, their use, troubleshooting, etc. Pictured is a pop-can stove with snuffer. They will cook your meal, are small, light weight, and use alcohol fuel like that found in the yellow bottle of HEAT found at automotive stores and stations. These are sturdy, ultra light and used by many people.

Two websites to start with are: [www.thesodacanstove.com/alcohol-stove/how-to-build.html](http://www.thesodacanstove.com/alcohol-stove/how-to-build.html) and <http://www.thesodacanstove.com/pot-support/index.html>



### Water-filters-

Sawyer\* makes a water filter for \$24 weighing 1.3 oz. This mini filter can filter up to 100,000 gallons of water. The Hollow Fiber Membrane inside (a .1 Micron filter which exceeds EPA recommendations for removing harmful bacteria and protozoan cysts such as E. coli, Giardia, Cryptosporidium, Salmonella, etc.) is cleaned by back-washing water with the included syringe. Their **2.5 ounce** regular size is guaranteed for 1 million gallons. \*Name brands used in this article are for reference only and not an endorsement.

### Cuben fiber-

Buying the material: to make your own wallet or what you wish-

You can buy Cuben Fiber-eVent Waterproof Breathable Fabric- 1.42 oz/sqyd **Roll width: 54"** **Price: \$30 per HALF linear yard**  
Click on: [www.zpacks.com/](http://www.zpacks.com/) \*Name brands used in this article are for reference only and not an endorsement.

Cuben Fiber was developed in 2007 for lightweight, dependable sails for racing catamarans. It is extremely strong rip resistance, durable and has light areal weight. Cuben fiber can elongate slightly under heavy loads but we are not carrying heavy loads.

It is a laminated fabric constructed from Polyethylene fiber monofilaments and polyester, PVF films. In August 2013, Cuben Tech Corp began producing a waterproof, breathable fabric version.

The Cuben fiber, because it is new, can be more expensive.

I wanted to **discover** the costs of equipment made with Cuben fiber and compare them with the ultralight factor for backpacking and bicycling. I trust this will help Pike thru and day Hikers and Bicyclists.



### Packs, Tents and Tarps, Jackets and pants, Stuff sacks, Sleeping bags and pads-

#### Backpacks-

Cuben Fiber is used by some manufacturers. ZPacks\* ([www.zpacks.com/](http://www.zpacks.com/)) seems to have a great variety of Backpacks, Tarps, Sleeping bags, and accessories made of Cuben. I **discovered** some others and here is what I found:

-ZPacks™ "Blast" Cuben Fiber Ultralight Frameless Backpack (picture #1). It can handle 30 pounds and sells for \$235 for the 45 Liters / 2,750 ci size weighing **12.5 ounces**, up to the 60 Liters / 3,650 ci size, weighing **13.5 ounces** selling for \$249.

-Terra Nova makes the Ultra 20 Backpack Silver, picture #2. It weighs 3.9 oz.- \$140. Sold by- CampSaver.com, BackcountryGear.com, and Moosejaw.

#### Tents-

-CampSaver.com sells the tent to the right (Sierra Designs-Mojo UFO Tent for \$1440 (2-man) and wbags.com sells it for \$1620. It weighs 31 oz. Picture #3.

-ZPacks™ Hexamid Duplex Tent for two people weighs 19.3 oz and sells for \$600. It comes in the white (picture # 4) olive drab and blue.

#### Tarps-

ZPacks makes a Cuben tarp, the Hexamid Duplex Tarp for \$375.

#### Sleeping bags-

ZPacks™ 900 Fill Power Down Solo Sleeping Bags (pictured right)

**40 Degrees - 11.4 ounces \$350**  
**30 Degrees - 14.0 ounces \$370**  
**20 Degrees (-7\* C) - 16.7 ounces \$390**  
**10 Degrees (-12\* C) - 19.4 ounces \$410**

Cuben sleeping bags range in weight and price.



Jackets [waterproof-breathable] 4.5 oz \$225  
Stuff sacks .1 oz. \$5 and up

Pants [waterproof-breathable] 2.9 oz \$160  
Zip Pouches .3 oz \$10

I can see that a person can hike lighter (less than 28 pounds.) How comfortable! An ultralight backpack with no frame needed sounds wonderful. The costs for Cuben Fiber products seems a little higher.

The cost will perhaps become lower as more folks are using them. Some sites show "Out of Stock", so maybe Cuben is becoming more desirable. LESS THAN 28 LBS. WITH FOOD AND WATER. GREAT! It is your turn to **discover** with the web sites I've supplied.

\* Name brands used in this article are for reference only and not an endorsement.

## *Rideout presents Zebulon Pike journey*

### Park County Historical Society presentation draws record attendance

By Douglas Stephens, Correspondent FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2013 PARK COUNTY REPUBLICAN AND FAIRPLAY FLUME [CO] PAGE 9

Rex Rideout garnered the largest attendance on record for the Park County Historical Society on Nov. 9 at the season finale of the society's dinner presentations.

"There were 81 people last night! That's our record," said Vice President Karen Christenson in an email. Saturday's attendance overtook the previous record of 79 people, the number who attended for the Ken Hicks and Clyde Johnson presentation on the building of the Harold D. Roberts Tunnel in Grant.

Rideout followed Pike's journey from Fort Bellefontaine in Missouri starting on July 15, 1806, through Colorado and South Park, culminating in his ultimate capture by the Spanish and return to Louisiana on July 1, 1807. Pike's mission was to find the headwaters of the Arkansas and Red rivers.

The mission was the result of the Louisiana Purchase, which doubled the land area of the United States. In 1803 the United States purchased approximately 828,000 square miles of territory from France.

What was known as Louisiana Territory stretched from the Mississippi River in the East to the Rocky Mountains in the West and from the Gulf of Mexico in the South to the Canadian border in the North. Part or all of 15 states, including Colorado, were eventually created from the land deal, which is considered one of the most important achievements of Thomas Jefferson's presidency.

General James Wilkinson ordered Pike on the journey. Wilkinson was, Rideout said, a confederate of the Spanish and relayed information on the expedition to the Spanish. Another source for this assertion is "Of Patriots and Traitors" by Joshua Gornitsky. It states that Wilkinson was a double agent for Spain. Wilkinson's double agency was not discovered for more than 100 years, and only after the official records were released by Spain.

Wilkinson ordered Pike on the journey. Wilkinson also sent his son along, although it is not asserted that the son shared the complicity of the father. Rideout also disagreed with those who say Pike was spying for the United States.

"Pike was an explorer," he said.

#### **Expedition firsts**

Among the many firsts highlighted by Rideout's presentation included Pike's seeing the "prairie goat," or pronghorn. He also saw the bighorn sheep in the Royal Gorge. Pike and his men built the first log building in Colorado near Pueblo. He wrote in his log: "November 24, 1806 ... cut down fourteen logs and put up a breast work five feet high on three sides and the other was thrown on the river."

Besides seeing the Royal Gorge, after crossing Medano Pass, Pike saw the Great Sand Dunes.

#### **Pike in South Park**

Pike followed and correctly identified the South Platte River, following it near present-day Hartsel and through Eleven Mile Canyon to the area near present-day Fairplay. It was December when Pike encountered the remains of a large Indian camp. He was amazed at the area covered by the camp and wrote in his log: "The Doctor (Robinson) and myself ascended high enough to ... lay down the course of the river into the mountains. One of our party found a large camp, which had been occupied by at least 3,000 Indians, with a large cross in the middle," Dec. 16, 1806.

From Fairplay, Pike's expedition moved south toward present-day Buena Vista and the Arkansas River. Pike went north to near present-day Leadville, reaching the area in December.

On Christmas, near present day Salida, Pike was cold with the men and suffering.



Dee Brown (right), introduces Rex Rideout wearing period garb (Photo by Douglas Stephens/The Flume)

He wrote: "800 miles from the frontiers of our country. In the most inclement season of the year, not one person clothed for the winter, many without blankets ...." December 25, 1806.

Rideout said that many of the blankets were cut up by the men to make socks. Socks and moccasins made from raw buffalo hide didn't last the men long on the journey.

### **Pikes Peak**

Zebulon Pike never set foot on Pikes Peak, which was named in his honor by John C. Fremont in 1840. Pike did, however, climb nearby Mount Rosa.

In early November 1806, Pike and his team recorded the sighting, and tried to climb to the summit, of what was eventually named Pikes Peak.

Unprepared for the conditions, they made it as far as Mt. Rosa, to the southeast of Pikes Peak, and they gave up the ascent of Pikes Peak in waist-deep snow. They had already gone almost two days without food.

Pike wrote: "We commenced ascending but found it very difficult ... And after marching all day we camped in a cave, without victuals or water."

### **Capture and return**

On Feb. 6, 1807, Pike was captured by the Spanish in a stockade he and his men built, thinking the Rio Grande River was the Red River and that he was on U.S. soil. When informed otherwise, Pike struck the U.S. colors. After being held in Santa Fe, Pike and his men were taken to the capital of Chihuahua.

There, they were taken to Commandant General Salcedo, who was governor of the state. After transcribing Pike's seized journal and papers, Salcedo had Pike escorted to Louisiana on July 1, 1807.

### **Story in song**

Rideout sang several period songs and played the fiddle, tin whistle, and gourd banjo. A compact disc is available of the songs, titled "A Voyage of Such Nature (Acoustic Music in Celebration of the Pike Expedition)" for those who missed the performance. It is available from Rideout at [www.timetravelmusic.com](http://www.timetravelmusic.com).



Rideout is also a board member with the Pike National Historic Trail Association, which seeks to establish federal nomination and designation of the Pike National Historic Trail for the 1806-1807 Zebulon Montgomery Pike Expedition. To find out more about the expedition and trail, including maps of Pike's journey in Colorado, visit [www.zebulonpike.org](http://www.zebulonpike.org).

### **RIDEOUT ON BANJO**

Rex Rideout plays a gourd banjo modeled after a banjo seen in the 1790s painting "The Old Plantation." The gourd banjo was an early instrument constructed by southern slaves. Seen with Rideout is an 1805 fiddle, right, and a fiddle Rideout used in the movie "Cowboys and Aliens," at left, below Rideout. Of the 1805 fiddle, Rideout said, "It's exciting to play music of the period of the Pike expedition on a fiddle that was made in that same era." (Photo by Douglas Stephens/The Flume)

[www.fairy-lamp.com/PCHS/Flume\\_Rideout\\_Pikes\\_Journey\\_111515.pdf](http://www.fairy-lamp.com/PCHS/Flume_Rideout_Pikes_Journey_111515.pdf)

*•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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