

***It's official*** - Our name is the Pike National Historic Trail Association, we will establish a website, and we have individual financial support (see Questionnaire results below.)

An Advisory Committee has been established.

--Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, a Strategic Plan, a Congressman to introduce legislation is being selected and Justification for Congress under the 1967 National Trails Act are being reviewed.

--Support from VA, WV, NC, IL, WI, MN, CA, MD, AZ, as well as the states on the route MO, KS, NE, CO, NM and TX has been engaged.

### ***Pike's Time Has Arrived***

Our purpose is to establish the Pike National Historic Trail for the 1806-1807 Pike Expedition.

***Happy Birthday - Zebulon*** On January 5th, Zebulon would have been 229 years old. On this day in 1807, after climbing up Pikes Gulch out of the Royal Gorge another time, with nothing to eat for three days, cold, finding his gun barrel bent, he lamented, "most fervently did I hope never to pass another so miserably." Fortunately his interpreter had killed a bison and some deer. Reason for us to celebrate?

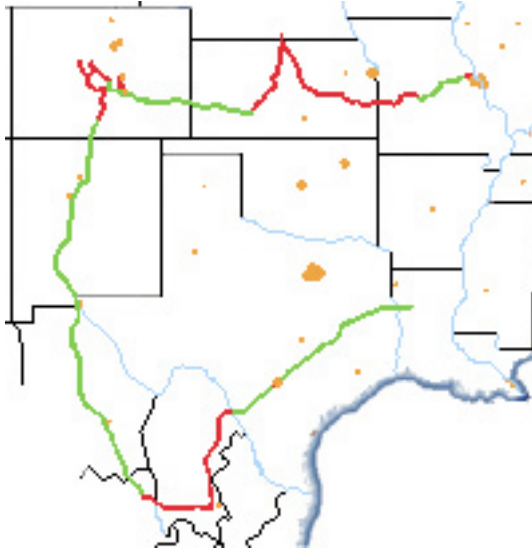
### ***The Route***

Our team of experts (Pike experts, and cartographer) are now going back over the Pike maps and journal, Bicentennial map work, and the work of other National Historic Trails to pinpoint campsites and route. There are some sites prohibitive such as the Lake of the Ozarks and Truman Reservoir because it's now deep and hard to swim in, restricted military areas because of ordinance, ---

### ***What parts of Pike's Route are already established?***

There were several oversights in our last newsletter where we reported that there are "three established trails follow his route." We mentioned the Santa Fe, American Discovery, and El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trails.

Add to that list- ***Katy Trail/Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail/American Discovery Trail-***



The Katy Trail stretches from St. Charles west along the Missouri River. Practical bike or auto routes will require that routing use the Katy to Jefferson City on the Katy/ L&C/ ADT because the Osage River (95 Katy miles from St. Charles) is more easily accessible from MO's capital. (~100 miles)

***Old Spanish National Historic Trail-*** From just south of Colorado's Great Sand Dunes Nat. Pk. to connect with El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro in NM is a portion of the Old Spanish NHT. It is probable that Pike was brought on this road by Lt. Saltelo after their "capture." (~100 miles)

***El Camino Real de Los Tejas National Historic Trail-*** The brand new El Camino Real de Los Tejas NHT extends from southwestern to eastern Texas and into Louisiana. The Spanish brought Pike over this road. (543 miles)

That's 6 trails that either Pike explored or was shown. Even some of the trails used in Kansas and western Missouri are Pawnee/Osage suggesting further heritage connections.

There may be 2006 miles of the 3664 miles or 55%, already in place.

Green above denotes designated/protected "Pike route" Red is not yet designated by Congress or Mexico.

### ***Did you know?***

- ***Royal Gorge***, Some suggest that the Royal Gorge was jammed with ice when Pike arrived and that in spite of his labeling the Arkansas headwaters "Red River," perhaps to cover being captured in New Spain, he knew that he had accomplished his goal regarding the Arkansas.
- ***Fort Bellefontaine***, north of St. Louis to the east side of US 67 on the Missouri R, where Pike started from (just 3 months after exploring the headwaters of the Mississippi,) was not what you see today. The area is now Missouri Hills Detention Home. Nothing is left of the fort, rather a grand staircase built by the WPA which stands where Pike left and is now being renovated.

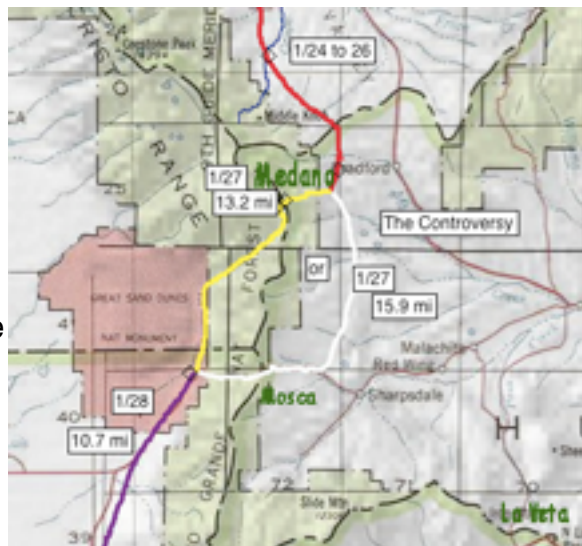
December 2007

**Crossing into New Spain** The Controversy is where the Pike Expedition crossed into New Spain?

*It's our 1st DISCOVERY Project for you!*

Probably one of the more interesting political questions regarding the Pike Expedition is the crossing of the Expedition from the Arkansas River watershed into the Rio Grande (Rio del Norte) watershed. The Louisiana Purchase included all rivers flowing into the Mississippi River. Clearly the Arkansas and Red Rivers do so. Many Americans and President Jefferson considered the whole of the Arkansas watershed to belong to the US, not just north of the Arkansas River; while Spain claimed everything south of the Arkansas to be New Spain.

Pike was clearly worried about his men and needed to cross over the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range from the Wet Mountain Valley (~ 8000 ft) into the lower San Luis Valley, part of the Rio Grande watershed. This was clearly Spain's since the Rio del Norte does not drain into the Mississippi. He then hopes of being captured to gain Spain's assistance.



Here is the topic for you to *Discover---*

**Was the crossing at Medano Pass, Mosca Pass, or La Veta Pass?**

Some facts: Medano Pass is 10,000 feet high 4.3 mi NE of Great Sand Dunes NP

Mosca Pass @ 9750 feet is 2.3 mi E of Great Sand Dunes NP

(Medano and Mosca Passes, are 8.5 miles apart almost cardinal north-south)

La Veta Pass is 20 miles SE of their 1/26th camp and is 9700 feet high.

Here's what Pike wrote-

27th January, Tuesday.- We marched, determining to cross the mountains, leaving Menaugh encamped with our deposit, after a bad days march, through snows, some places three feet deep; we struck on a brook which led west. which I followed down, and shortly came to a small run, running west; which we hailed with fervency as the waters of the Red River.\* Saw some sign of elk. Distance 14 miles.

Here's what Don Jackson wrote-

\*The stream was westbound Medano Creek, which Pike encountered midway across Medano Pass. Had he not chosen this pass, his southbound route would have led him to Mosca Pass, then to La Veta, both easily traversed. ... Local tradition once identified the route as "Pike's Gap." D. Jackson

Jackson, Donald *The Journals of Zebulon Montgomery Pike*, Vol 1 (U of OK Press, Norman,1966,) p.373.

You are required to use your gray matter on Discovery questions! You will certainly need a map. You will certainly have to locate and use other sources of information. We can help if you get stuck. Let us know which pass and why.



**Results of the Questionnaire-**

1. Name of this association: 7 Pike National Historic Trail Association 0 Society 0 Friends 2 All three are good
2. Is a website for this effort essential? 7 Absolutely 1 Probably 1 Not at all
3. Would you be willing to help defray costs (mailing, printing, web, etc.) ...? 5 Absolutely 2 Probably 0 Not at all 1 Not this time- later 1 No- kids in college

**Keep on sending names** -acquaintances (individuals or organizations) who would be willing to participate in our effort.

**You know you're a Pike Lover if you-**

1. Married one.
2. Enjoy blue mountains or small clouds.
3. Recite America, The Beautiful a lot.
4. Wonder - What does a pea + General Eisenhower = ?
5. Say, "They'll call him Zeb, but we'll call him Montgomery."
6. Drive a lot and turn, or like to walk in three foot snow.
7. Find yourself fishing every day.
8. Wake up in the morning asking, "Now where's he?"
9. Like to sleep in the mud at Fort Bellefontaine.
10. Admire his drive and concern for his men.

**Next month**

- + Purposes for the PNHT Association
- + Report on how we celebrated Pike's Birthday
- + Discovery Project #1 additional clues
- + Discovery Project #2
- + What was a "spy" in those days?
- + More

Merry Christmas!

**Who are we?** -The Advisory Committee- The folks serving the Pike National Historic Trail Association currently include: Harv Hisgen- Chair- Conifer CO (retired Chemistry teacher); Rev. Dr. Roy Pike- Livermore MN (retired minister and Pres.- Pike Fam. Assoc.); John Patrick Michael Murphy- Colorado Springs CO (retired lawyer and Pike expert); Don Headlee- Las Anamas CO (retired history teacher and Pike expert); Dr. Jill Ghnassia- Cullowhee NC (English professor); Mike Bandera- Canon City CO (Superintendent- Royal Gorge); Will Kerns- Morrison CO (County official); Norm Meyer- Conifer CO (retired Continental pilot); Rex Rideout- Conifer CO (College teacher and Pike era music expert); Clive Siegel- Austin TX (Bicentennial Committee and Pike expert); finally Zebulon Montgomery Pike- Salida CO (Pike expert)

They are not dead who live in the hearts they leave behind - Tuscarora

*Pike National Historic Trail Association*

10060 Blue Sky Trail  
Conifer CO 80433



«First Name» «Last Name»

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«City» «State» «Zip»

