



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

# Pike National Historic Trail Association

Newsletter Jan & Feb 2015 Vol. 9 No. 1



## The Association's Annual meeting-

The Annual meeting of the Association will be held on **Saturday, April 25, 2015, at 9:30 am in Cañon City** at the Royal Gorge conference room in the new administrative center next to the visitor's center. Please consider attending this meeting.

We want to move ahead with our work. Our legislation will also be on our mind and we need your input on our future direction with this item.

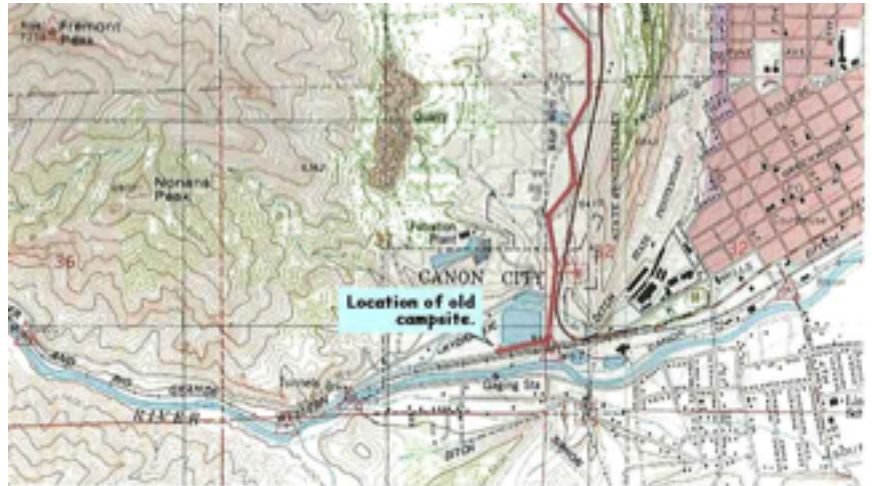
Let us know if you will be attending by calling 303/816-7424.

## Following Pike's Footsteps-

### D. Nelson Walker Part 6 'Dec. 8, 9 & beyond'- Cañon City, CO.

#### Leg #3

Camp 29, Dec. 8-9, 1806; located 400 feet west of US 50 next to the access road to the Canon City campus of Pueblo Community College. The coordinates are N 38-26-27.61; W 105-15-17.67. The legal description is NW ¼ Sec. 32, T18S, R70W, 6<sup>th</sup> PM, Fremont County. This campsite was used again when the expedition



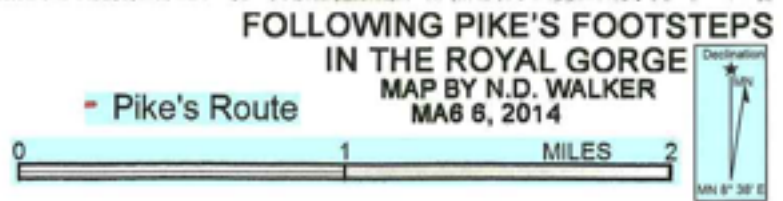
returned here in January, 1807, and is designated on Scott's map as Camp 51, and it was during Pike's second visit that the blockhouse was constructed.

Pike spent a total of twelve days in the immediate Canon City area at Camps 28, 29, and 51. More time than Fremont or any other expeditions that passed through the area. Pike's journal entries while camped here indicated that he and his men spent most of

their time hunting and exploring the local terrain, including the lower portion of the Royal Gorge.

Consequently, the opportunities to promote Pike's story in Canon City are practically limitless. Potential places and trails for erecting interpretive signs and designating car-bike-hike routes include: Highway 50, Arkansas Riverwalk, Tunnel Drive Trail, Grape Creek, Veterans Park, the Pink House Boat Landing, and Skyline Drive.

Scott's map showing that the camp was located on the campus of Pueblo Community College conflicts with the information recently supplied by Carol McNew, which places the site next to the Arkansas River on D&RGWRR right-of-way. I have no idea how Scott determined the location, but I feel that Carol's location is the proper one because it is supported by documented evidence. (D. Nelson Walker Part 6) © 2014- N.D. Walker- Pike NHTA



## Cara Fisher, a Pike National Historic Trail Association Board member, passed away in February.

Cara Fisher from **Cañon City** passed away on Feb. 10, 2015. She loved Pike and always hoped Fremont County would do more. We are planning a memorial service for March 14 at Cara Fisher Square in Cañon city. - Mary Chamberlain

Cara was a Pike Author, Central Colorado Pike Coordinator for our Pike Association, and the Historic Museum founder in Cañon City, CO.



### Pike Coat of Arms by Allen Raymond Pike, B.L.I., M.A., C.A.S.

While there is no evidence of Pike ever used a coat of arms or was even aware of a Pike coat of arms, we would like to examine briefly the Pike coat of arms used by the Pike Family Association because we have had a long and warm relationship with them and with two of their past presidents serving on our Board.

The "Coat of Arms" brought over from England by John Pike in 1635. It was adopted by the PFA in 1902.

The heraldic reading of John Pike's "coat of arms": "He beareth (shield) ARGENT (silver) - Chevron (ordinary) GULES (red) - between three crescent (subordinaries) VERT (green) - Crest three pikes proper one erect the two saltire ways by the name of PIKE."

Arms are finely mantled and beneath supported by crossed palm branches and scroll bearing the motto: "L'AMOUR - LA VERTU - LA PAIX" (French: LOVE-VIRTUE-PEACE).

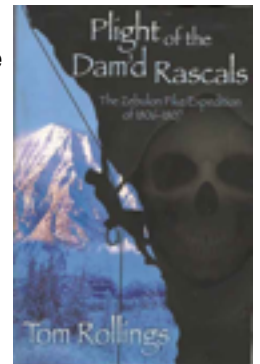
While the "College of Heraldry of London" was established to discourage "bogus coats of arms," we may questioningly assume that the John Pike "coat of arms" came from Sir Richard Pike. Cecil Humphrey-Smith, a director, Achievements Ltd., Northgate, Canterbury, England, writing on 8th July 1974 to Manville C. Pike (11-986, p. 564) quoted the above arms as being from surname Pike located in West England (Devonshire). Sir

Richard Pike resided in that area.

Arriving in America the pioneers desired to divest themselves from all English customs, especially in a democratic society where "all are equal" and family "coat of arms" was not continued. However, the honor of displaying the family "coat" not only conjured noble deeds of the past but brings together a relationship of a family.

References: *American People Encyclopedia* (p. 10-397ff); William H. Whitmore, *The Elements of Heraldry*, Boston, 1866 (NEHGS: H/WHI)

*Plight of the Dam'd Rascals* Tom has written a useful examination about the numerous plights that the Southwestern Pike Expedition endured. He repeatedly documents the struggles the men had with the Grim Reaper, all the time keeping score. He uses and quotes not only from documents including Pike's Journal but also uses other historically correct material. A good read.



Tom Rollings, *Plight of the Dam'd Rascals- The Zebulon Pike Expedition of 1806-1807*, Dog Ear Publishing, Indianapolis, IN, 2014

Tom has long been a member of the Pike National Historic Trail Board, our Upper Arkansas River Valley Coordinator, is chairman of the Friends of Pike in Buena Vista.

You can buy the book Barnes& Noble or an [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

### American Philosophical Society reviews the Pike Journals

**Abstract** In a relatively brief military career, Zebulon Montgomery Pike rose to the rank of Brigadier General, led two expeditions into the heart of the western wilderness, was a prisoner of war, and the center of an international incident, all before dying an heroic death at the age of 34 during the War of 1812.

The Pike journal documents the expedition to explore the geography of the Mississippi River led by Lt. Zebulon Montgomery Pike in 1805-1806, and his attempts to purchase sites from the Dakota Indians for future military posts, and to bring influential chiefs back to St. Louis for talks. Less a literary masterpiece than a straightforward record in terse military prose, the journal provides a day by day account of the journey and the activities of Pike and his small contingent during this early exploration of present day Minnesota. It was printed with variations and omissions in *An Account of Expeditions to the Sources of the Mississippi and through the Western Parts of Louisiana...* (Philadelphia, 1810), and was edited in Donald Jackson, ed., *The Journals of Zebulon Pike: with Letters and Related Documents* (Norman, Okla., 1966).

SOURCE: American Philosophical Society, *Zebulon Montgomery Pike Journal of a voyage to the source of the Mississippi 1805-1806*, 2003.

### *Pike experiencing Christmas in the upper Arkansas River Valley 1806- Followup*

Stew Brown- "On this December 24, 2006 date, Monty Pike and I hosted 150 people along the Arkansas River, near 'Big Bend' (an ideal spot for camping with wind protection, water, trees for fuel, level ground, etc). to celebrate Zebulon Pike and his expedition as they enjoyed fresh buffalo meat, relaxed for two days, and mended equipment."

"We enjoyed a buffalo Bar B Q luncheon. Also joining us were several "Colorado Mountain Men" who camped out the night before and shared some of their stories with the crowd. It was a memorable experience and we were fortunate to have semi clear skies and moderate temperature."

(Monty is fond of pointing out that the had NO SALT for the buffalo.)

### *Ft. Carson's request- HAMET (High Altitude Mountain Training) right-of-way with the BLM*

#### Comments on the HAMET Program

Dave Walker- "Yes, I am familiar with the Army's helicopter pilot training operations. They have actually been active for a few years now since late 2012. Although I find the low-flying helicopters to be annoying at times, I understand that the Army has an important need for training novice pilots for flying and maneuvering at high-altitudes in mountainous terrain, where they are able to learn to deal with the special challenges posed by mountainous topography, and especially how the thin air and tricky air currents affects the performance of the helicopters.

I do not see how the training operations would pose any threat whatsoever to the integrity of the Pike National Historic Trail. Based on what I observed during its operations in 2012-13, there is no physical ground disturbance involved in the operations.

As to the impact of the operations on wildlife values, I do not believe that the training would pose a serious detriment to wildlife or wildlife habitat. Critical wildlife areas, such as the birthing and wintering grounds for elk, deer, bighorn sheep, and other species are known and can be avoided.

The only folks I really sympathize with, and whom I feel have a legitimate beef with the Army's proposal are the homeowners living in the areas impacted by the training flights.

I personally believe the official position of the Pike National Trail Association on this matter should be to limit its response to addressing the adverse impacts that the Army's proposal could have on the Trail and on PNTA's plans for promoting it."

PNHTA comment- Dave is a retired employee of the Forest Service, has hiked in the Cañon City, CO area extensively, and has written a series of articles for us regarding Pike's path into Cañon City then heading north into South Park and returning from the Upper Arkansas through the Royal Gorge.

The article written on the Hamet proposal in the last newsletter was intended simply as a informational item and we do fully agree with him that the official position of the Pike National Historic Trail Association is only to react on the impact that this training may have on the Pike Trail as well as our plans for promoting it.

### *Pike and the 1805 Upper Mississippi Expedition request.*

We have received from Heritage Documentaries, Inc. a request for permission to use our copyrighted fort sketch of Fort/ Cantonment Belle Fontaine writing, "Our organization is working on a documentary of Zebulon Pike and his exploration of the Upper Mississippi River."

This documentary shooting will be one half hour to one hour in length and Heritage Documentaries expects to wrap the project up by the end of 2015.

website [heritagedocumentaries.org](http://heritagedocumentaries.org)

Our Pike organization started out as a project of the Santa Fe Trail Association's celebration of the Pike Bicentennial of the Pike Southwest Expedition 2006. (Pike is considered to be the father of the Santa Fe Trail.) We decided to concentrate just on the SW Expedition because we needed to concentrate on the one and not the other. We, of course, are interested in Heritage Documentaries' project and other efforts connected with Pike.

It is an interesting fact that the Lewis and Clark Expedition camped their 3rd night at Fort Belle Fontaine. There is nothing noted about Pike starting both of his expeditions from here at the Fort. Pike, after all, did find the headwaters of the Mississippi and purchased land which is now Minneapolis-St. Paul. Perhaps this documentary will bring attention to Pike at this site.

### *Royal Gorge Bridge & Park Opens New Gondolas Saturday 3/13*

press release from the Royal Gorge

Canon City, Colo.,-- Spring Breakers are out in full force according to Royal Gorge Bridge and Park General Manager Mike Bandera, and the brand new park tramway is running on Saturday 3/14/2015 for the first time. The bright red Leitner-POMA cabins will take guests across a 2,400 foot-span about 1,200 feet above the Arkansas River.

The park was 90% damaged due to a wildfire June 2013, destroying the park's 35-passenger single-span aerial tram which spanned the gorge since 1969. Along with the new gondolas, the park will be re-opening the theater and the Royal Rush Skycoaster on a daily basis through the Fall.

Jon Mauch, Leitner-POMA North American Sales Manager called it a unique installation. "It was quite a feat, spanning the gondolas that far over a deep canyon. There are very few like this in the world," he said. "This is a far superior experience for guests, replacing the old tram with these gondolas. With the many technological improvements, we've increased capacity, and people can sit down and enjoy the spectacular views with floor to ceiling glass," Mauch said. Leitner-Poma is one of the world's largest tram and gondola builders, and has been in business 150 years internationally installing what are technically called passenger ropeways, and doing business over 50 years in the United States, he said.

The new gondolas are a jig-back system according to Bandera and will travel 48 guests in six gondolas, "three coming, and three going."

In the next week, Bandera said the park will be opening North America's highest Zip Line by Zip Rider, running parallel with the new gondolas. In addition, the mini-train will also be re-opening for guests of all ages to enjoy. "Stay tuned, we're rebuilding our park, and we're better than ever," Bandera said.

PNHTA comment- Mike is a member of our Board and hosts our annual meetings at the Royal Gorge in Cañon City. Mike indicated that there are six phases involved in the rebuilding effort and that phases 3 through 6 will be completed in the next few years.

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