

# Pike National Historic Trail Association Newsletter

February 2013 Vol. 7 No 1



*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

• *Add another candle - Our Fifth Birthday* Our Association celebrated its fifth birthday last October.

• *SORRY* - The Newsletter for the Association has not been published for quite some time for many reasons, like not much news and need for a newsletter editor. Things are happening however and now there is news which involves renewed effort and requesting your help.

• Of course, very little is happening in Washington with legislation such as ours. As was said in the last newsletter our patience has been enabled. We knew the feasibility study leading to enablement of the Pike National Historic Trail would take time, but passage of the Feasibility Study bill which will answer the many questions we have been asked is not on radar screens. It is our job to work on becoming noticed.

Meanwhile, we are beginning in earnest to work on preservation and educational interpretation.

• *Annual Meeting last May* - The Association board met in the Bighorn Mountaintop Lodge overlooking the Royal Gorge in May. Brian Pike and Stew Brown have joined our Board. Erwin Young, our Southern Colorado Coordinator, has proposed some fund raising ideas which will feed into our Pike Preservation Fund, headed by Monty Pike.

• Items pertaining to Zebulon Pike are in need of public preservation. We are in need of a suggestion regarding a proper entity who have space to display these items. Do you have ideas?

• *2013 Annual Meeting Planned* The Association

Annual Meeting will be held once again in the Bighorn Mountaintop Lodge overlooking the Royal Gorge and Pike's Gulch- outside Cañon City, CO on Saturday, June 1st. We plan to arrive on Friday afternoon and share an Italian meal in Cañon City at 6:30 pm and warm conversation. In the evening we will have a lively debate regarding Pike legislation and Pike Interpretive sites. Lodging will be available Friday evening in the warm Lodge. Reserve- 303/816-7424.

• The main topic at the meeting (9:30am to noon) 6/1/2013 will be Passing the new Senate and House bills, our Congressional Legislative effort for the *Pike National Historic Trail*.

• Follow up on Association initiatives being planned after the last Annual meeting.



2012 Board Meeting Pictured- Harv Hisgen, Erwin Young, Monty Pike, Tom Rollings, and Patrick Surrena. Mike Bandera also attended.

- *Federal Legislation* The Feasibility Study step *To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail*  
**The Pike National Historic Trail Association has been exploring a new strategy for our national legislation.**

We are seeking the reintroduction of our Federal Legislation and support of the Cosponsors.

★ Within the Association, there is a growing concern for-

1. The introduction of a companion bill in the US House.
2. Perhaps some think that our legislation an entitlement and Conservatives in the House should reconsider.
3. We need to gain a stronger position in the Senate and now House. Or, at least, further educate Congressmen about our effort and be noticed. The Feasibility Study should be enacted so that options are made available and the economic, educational, recreational, historic preservation and historic interpretations advantages will be realized.
4. We should gain State Legislative resolutions in the Pike states similar to the unanimous resolution of support passed in Colorado.
5. We should seek letters of support from governors in the Pike states.
6. We should re-approach County Commissioners in the Pike states outside CO for support letters.

We have County Commission support letters from 3 counties in MO, 2 in KS, 2 in NM, and one in TX.

7. We need to approach the Pueblo - 17 tribal groups along Rio Grande the in New Mexico - for active support.
8. We need to bring those County Commissions, mayors, historical and preservation organizations, etc. up to date.

★ OUR RENEWED EFFORT- We have begun this effort with more vigor -

1. We will be approaching the House members who represent folks in “Pike Districts” to begin dialog about the sponsorship of a House companion bill. WE NEED A RESIDENT IN CONGRESSMAN LAMBORN, GARDNER, AND TIPTON DISTRICT TO BE PRESENT WITH US AT AN INITIAL MEETING. A CONSTITUENT. PLEASE CALL 303/816-7424 FOR VOLUNTEER AN HOUR OR SO.
2. We will ask what are the Congressmen’s concerns about granting a Feasibility Study.
3. We will make the economic, educational, recreational, historic preservation and historic interpretations advantages better known.
4. New Mexico will soon be considering a Joint Resolution of support. New Mexico residents must join in Brian Murphy’s efforts. Please call 303/816-7424 to volunteer.

In other states we are asking that you contact your State Senator and Representative to take the lead on such an effort in your state. Copies of the Colorado Joint Resolution are available.

5. We will be approaching the Colorado Governor’s office. Because of the amount of support we have in Colorado, we believe he will be sympathetic. We need you to do the same in your state.
6. We ate dinner with a County Commissioner in Sierra County, NM, and met with the County Administrator in Socorro County, NM. Brian Murphy will be attending the Santa Fe County Board meeting to gain their support. Materials to help you approach your County Board are available.
7. We met with a staff member for the Governor of the San Filipe people and hope to meet with the other 19 tribes, 17 of whom live on land where Pike was brought.
8. We will be contacting our support.

Please help us in whatever way you can.

• *Membership* - Thank you for our new members and those who have renewed their membership in the Pike National Historic Association! Many have not.

• To be able to continue to be effective, we must request that, if you have not done so, renew your membership yearly. The life members have helped us greatly, some giving well over their one-time share.

See the web site for a membership form.

Thank you for the additional donations some of you have given in addition you your membership!

*Friends of Pike* - by Tom Rollings, Pike Upper Arkansas River Coordinator

The Friends of Pike is a non-profit organization that works locally to further some of the general goals of the Pike National Historic Trail Association. By presenting costumed storytellers in the public schools and for various organizations the Friends of Pike seek to "keep history alive." The other part of the group's mission is to sponsor civic projects.



This past week there was another meeting concerning the community trail system in Buena Vista, Colorado. The Friends of Pike have been working on the trail enhancement of a connector trail in the BV system for the past seven months. Their hard work is starting to pay off. A final determination of the proposal will be made at a town trustee meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November, and if approved, work on the trail will commence in the Spring of 2013.

Historical sign kiosks, surrounded by split rail fencing, will show Pike's route in Chaffee County, Colorado. There will also be a bench composed of river rocks and various trail signage to enhance the newly-named Zebulon Pike Trail. A parking area will be provided for easy access. Some work needs to be done on the trail itself with regard to upkeep, but when completed a patron will be able to see where Pike, Miller, and Mountjoy trekked above the Arkansas River in order to eventually view the headwaters of the river. This route later became the same one used by stagecoaches and railroads. The Friends of Pike seek to save a part of history with these upgrades to the existing Ramsour Road/ Cottonwood Creek North trail.

During the past few months the group also cleaned, acid etched, and painted industrial strength epoxy on nearly 5,000 square feet of concrete floor of the State Highway Theater in Buena Vista. Why do this? It is hoped that the effort will enable the general public to view presentations, plays, and performances of all kinds in a theater setting that is essentially unavailable at present. The Friends of Pike have traded work on the building for an office and other considerations when renting a venue in which to re-enact the role of Zebulon Pike or other historical figures.

At present, the group is also trying to work with the national organization (PNHTA) in an effort to meet with Senator Mark Udall's (D-CO) office to develop a strategy to pass trail legislation proposed by Senator Bennet (D-CO). The bill is still in committee, but has yet to be debated by the full Senate.

Anyone wishing to join the Friends of Pike may call 719-395-5786 and we would be glad to give you more information.

*Tom Rollings is a retired school teacher who has been interested in the Zebulon Pike Expeditions his entire life. As the founder of "The Friends of Pike" he remains active with the PNHTA and local efforts to illuminate the contributions of Pike's expedition of 1806-1807.*

Address: Tom Rollings Friends of Pike 26490 Range Dr. Buena Vista, CO 81211 [friendsofpike.org](http://friendsofpike.org) is the website.

*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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