



# PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter July— 2018 Vol. 12 No. 6



## EL PASO COUNTY PASSED ITS PIKE TRAIL IN COLORADO RESOLUTION

On July 17th the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners unanimously passed its resolution enabling the Pike Trail in Colorado- El Paso County.

It is exciting that the county where Pikes Peak is located agreed to designating a automobile/ bike/hike route near Pike's footprint. This will enable you to see where Pike attempted to climb the mountain named for him and the Pike National Forest. The county also designated the route into Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak Toll Road. So even though Pike never made it to the top, visitors are encouraged to drive to the top of Pikes Peak. The commissioners saw the economic advantage of designating our full request.

A great deal of his approach and return (in Pike's "attempt to climb" route) in El Paso County was through the center a Fort Carson Army base. We requested the auto route to follow Colorado 115 on the west side Fort Carson so that you could see some of where Pike brought Robinson, Brown and Miller. Where Little Fountain Creek crosses 115 south of Colorado Springs is where they ascended to Mt. Rosa on November 25 to 27, 1806 on Little Fountain Creek. Up and coming Newsletters will detail Pike's attempt to climb his Grand Mountain.

This leaves two of 17 Counties remaining to pass their resolution- Teller and Bent. **You're encouragement is requested in these last two counties for their passage of their Pike resolution.** If you could call the county commissioners in these counties, we would appreciate it.

## OUR FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO BE HEARD BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES BILL # 2876

### Bennet, Gardner Historic Parks Bills Receive Committee Hearing

Wednesday, August 15, 2018 **US SENATE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Washington, D.C.** – Two Colorado-focused bills, introduced by Colorado U.S. Senators Michael Bennet (D) and Cory Gardner (R), received a [hearing](#) today in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The senators applauded the advancement of the *Pike National Historic Trail Study Act* and the *Amache Study Act* and encouraged their passage out of committee.

The [Pike National Historic Trail Study Act](#), led by Bennet, could result in the designation of explorer Zebulon Pike's route through the American Southwest—including significant stretches in Colorado—as a **National Historic Trail**. Bennet introduced this legislation in previous Congresses and [testified](#) in support of the bill in 2013. A video of Bennet's testimony is available [HERE](#).

"Two centuries after Zebulon Pike made his journey across the West, it's time we designate the Pike National Historic Trail," **Bennet said**. "This legislation—widely supported by local governments across several states—not only recognizes an American trailblazer and the rich history of the West, but also would boost tourism and provide opportunities for economic development. Today's hearing is a step in the right direction toward passing this bill and designating the Pike National Historic Trail."

"Zebulon Pike, the namesake of Pikes Peak, is known throughout Colorado and the West as a trailblazer who explored the country's new territory following the Louisiana Purchase, and I support cementing his legacy by naming the route he took as the Pike National Historic Trail," **Gardner said**. "I know there are many in Colorado who are glad to see this bipartisan bill taking the first step toward becoming law."

*We applaud the Senators who are willing to work for a BIPARTISAN Bill benefitting the Southwest.*

**ANNOUNCING** our President's presentation on August 25th for the Park County Historical Society. Harv Hisgen will present "Pike's South Park Exploration- the Loop" at the Hartsel Fire Station, 86 Valley Ave., Hartsel, CO; 5pm dinner, 6pm presentation.

## NEW LOOK FOR OUR ASSOCIATION

**New Membership brochure-** Our new Board member (and retired Disney senior artist) Ed French redesigned our Membership brochure. Printed on a glossy paper, we have distributed 10,000 copies of this 3-page foldout across Colorado.



**Website-** For several months we have been working with our Website designer to redesign our website. She designed our original site, but with the advent of Smartphones (iPhone and Android) and iPads the site had to be brought up to date in content and also so screens would fit on the screens of these new devices.

The ability to pay on line with a credit card or PayPal has been added to the site.

From a membership point of view these added features and volumes of added educational information as well as updating, our membership numbers are expected to increase. Our educational, interpretive, and preservation mission will be enhanced. Pike's Legacy is important to us.

**Colorado Route Book-** One of our next steps in working on the Pike Trail in Colorado is to provide an interpretive route book for the public. It will not only include route descriptions for Autos and Bike-Hike folks, maps, and interpretation but Pike's words, scientific readings and Field Maps. Dr. Clive Siegle, Board member and founding member of the Pike NHT Association

has agreed to edit this publication.

Perhaps you have noticed that we have posted in our past newsletters a great deal of this information. Recall that: Our **Vision** is **TO PROVIDE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT PIKE AND CELEBRATE HIS MEMORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.**

**Phase II of the Pike Trail in CO-** We are moving into Phase II of the Pike Trail in CO (directional signs, interpretation and a route book). We have assured County Governments that we will work with them and CDOT regarding size, placement, number and cost of directional signs. Our suggested design has been established. We are making CDOT and other state agencies aware of progress. We are seeking grants and help from the public to fund efforts in this area.

## CORPORATE PARTNERS

This year we have three Corporate Partners. Apex Pavement Solutions of Golden, CO, Land Title Guarantee Company - Denver and Royal Gorge Bridge and Park.

Apex Pavement Solutions of Golden, CO offers Solutions for all Pavement Surfaces - Commercial and Residential asphalt paving, Seal coating, Chip Seal paving, Recycled asphalt paving asphalt repairs.

Land Title Guarantee Company in Cherry Creek - Denver

Royal Gorge Bridge and Park

We love our members and Corporate partners.



THE 4 COLORADO WILDFIRES NEAR PIKE'S ROUTE (July 2018) by Allan Vainley



We have reported fires on the Pike route in the Wet Mountain Valley and at the Royal Gorge in the past. There are currently (7/7/18) 15 Wildfires raging in Colorado. 4 of them are close to where Pike's crew passed in December 1806 and early January, 1807.

(Map shows Pike's route in red and the location of the 4 fires.)

Today (7/7/18) more than 60 large wildfires are burning across U.S. Wildfires are part of the cycle of life. Some will remember a massive wildfire in Yellowstone NP, WY in 1988. Today this supervolcanic caldera blossoms abundantly. It took years but it is beautiful today. While wildfires have their benefits, they also have their dangers for humans and wildlife as well as structures. The danger for fire responders is real. We are concerned about these aspects. High winds, lightening and drought conditions have plagued Colorado for several years.

Facts about these 4 fires are given below:

The **Weston Pass Fire** in South Park is the closest to Pike near Hartsel (12/17/1806) and the Denver Water's Antero Reservoir. Winds have been spreading the fire. On July 5 a tornado touched down on edge of Weston Pass fire in Park County. This doubly rare event was only the sixth tornado recorded in Park County.

The **Chateau Fire** is close to where Pike attempted to climb Pikes Peak reaching Mt. Rosa on Nov. 26, 1806 and 10 miles from Pike's route from Cañon City into South Park (Date: 12/11/1806).

The **Adobe Fire** is on the eastern side of the Wet Mountain Valley near where 9 of Pike's men got frostbite after falling in Grape Creek on 1/17/1807.

The massive **Spring Creek Fire** is near Blanca Peak, a 14,351-foot pinnacle in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains where Pike encamped on

1/29 & 30/1807. The Great Sand Dunes National Park is very close where Pike encamped and wrote these famous words about the Dunes "Their appearance was exactly that of the sea in a storm, (except as to color) not the least sign of vegetation existing thereon." on Jan. 28th. This fire is within 14 miles of where Pike stepped. For comparison- So far this year the longest lasting wildfires in Colorado are the "416 Fire" & "Burro Fire" in La Plata County about 10 miles N of Durango. They have been burning since the first week of June and continue at 50% containment. High winds and drought conditions continue to plague the area.

**Our inspection-** When we drove past the Weston Pass fire on July 10th we saw that it was 100% contained and on July 11th a large tanker plane flew over our campsite at the Great Sand Dunes and Mount Blanca enroute to dump water on the Spring Creek fire.

**MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS**

We are indeed happy to receive two donations for \$700 and a Life Membership in July. Thank you.

Would you consider joining our Association, renewing your membership, and donating?

Donations are tax deductible.

We now have some breathing room in paying for projects announced above. With your additional donations we can fund other projects currently on hold.

We are moving into Phase II of the Pike Trail in CO (directional signs, interpretation and a route book). We have assured County Governments that we will work with them. We are also seeking grants and help from public groups and private individuals.

Memberships, in part, also fund the reinvigorating of our website, and encouraging the national legislation for the Pike National Historic Trail. Thank you for your help in the future.

PIKE FROM JOHNSON VILLAGE TO THE ROYAL GORGE AND CAÑON CITY

by Allan Vainley (WE QUOTE PIKE IN GREEN.)

**Pike's Trip** 12/23 to 31/1806 In the June issue we left you in Johnson Village on US 24-285. Pike, Mountjoy and Miller had explored the headwaters of the Arkansas and are now following the others from Johnson Village south and caught up with them on the 24th. They spent Christmas Eve and Christmas at Big Bend 7 miles northwest of Salida, CO. They encamped on the Arkansas in Salida and continued down the Arkansas thinking it to be the Red River (their remaining goal). They had no way of knowing it was not the Red River until they encountered the Royal Gorge and their stockade in Cañon City which they left on December 10th.

-Pike 23rd December, Tuesday **Today's Brown's Creek in Browns Canyon** "Marched early, and at 2 o'clock, p.m. discovered the trace of the party on the opposite side the river; forded it, although extremely cold and marched until some time in the night, when we arrived at the second nights encampment of the party. Our clothing was frozen stiff, and we ourselves were considerably benumbed. "

**Camp Location: Brown's Creek in Browns Canyon Chaffee County 38.699911, -106.054791 7520'**

**24th December, Wednesday.- Salida** The party's provisions extending only to the 23rd, and their orders being not to halt until they killed some game, and then wait for us: consequently they might have been considerably advanced. About 11 o'clock, met Dr. Robinson on a prairie, who informed me that he and Baroney had been absent from the party two days without killing any thing, (also without eating,) but that overnight, they had killed four buffalo, and that he was in search of the men; suffered the two lads with me to go to the camp where the meat was, as we had also been nearly 2 days without eating. The doctor and myself pursued the trace and found them encamped on the river bottom. Send out horses for the meat, shortly after Sparks arrived and informed us he had killed four cows. Some being in the starving condition we had eight beeves in our camp. We now again found ourselves all assembled together on Christmas Eve, and appeared generally to be content, although all the refreshment we had to celebrate that day with, was buffalo meat, without salt, or anything whatever. ...

**Camp Location: Big Bend on CR 165 Chaffee County 38.573374, -106.078100 7200'**

**25th December, Thursday.- Salida** It being stormy weather and having meat to dry; I concluded to lie by this date. Here I must take the liberty of observing that in this situation, the hardships and privations we underwent, were on this day brought more fully to our mind. Having been accustomed to some degree of relaxation, and extra enjoyments; but here 800 miles from the frontiers of our country, in the most inclement season of the year; not one person clothed for winter, many without blankets, (having been obliged to cut them up for socks, &c.) and now lying down at night on the snow or wet ground; one side burning whilst the other was pierced with a cold wind: this was in part the situation of the party whilst some were endeavoring to make a miserable substitute of raw buffalo hide for shoes &c. I will not speak of diet, as I conceive that to be beneath the serious consideration of a man on the voyage of such nature. We spent the day as agreeably as we could be expected from men in our situation. Caught a new species, having made a trap for him.

**Camp Location: Big Bend on CR 165 Chaffee County 38.573374, -106.078100 7200'**

**26th December, Friday.- Salida town** Marched at 2 o'clock and made 7 1/2 miles to the entrance of the mountains. On this piece of prairie the river spread considerably, and formed several small islands, a large stream enters from the south. As my boy and some others were sick, I omitted pitching our tent in order that they might have it; in consequence of which we were completely covered with snow on top, as well as that part on which we lay.

**Camp Location: Salida, CO Chaffee County 38.537021, -105.989960 7020'**

**27th December, Saturday.- Swissvale** Marched over an extreme rough road, our horses received frequent falls and cut themselves considerably on the rocks. From there being no roads of buffalo, or sign of horses, I am convinced that neither those animals, nor the aborigines of the country, ever take this route, to go from the source of the river out of the mountains, but that they must cross one of the chains to the right or left, and find a smoother tract to the lower country. Was obliged to unload our horses and carry the baggage at several places. Distance 12 1/2 miles.

**Camp Location: Swissvale Fremont County 38.479256, -105.891069 6820'**

**28th December, Sunday.- Coaldale** Marched over an open space and from the appearance before us, concluded we were going out of the mountains, but at night and encamped at the entrance of the most perpendicular precipices on both sides, through which the river ran and our course lay. Distance 16 miles.

**Camp Location: Coaldale Fremont County 38.367615, -105.751942 6500'**

29th December, Monday.- **Cotopaxi Bighorn Sheep** Marched but owing to the extreme ruggedness of the road, made but 5 miles. Saw one of a new species of animals in the mountains; ascended it to kill him, but did not succeed. Finding the impossibility of getting along with the horses, made one sled, which with the men of three horses, carries their load.

Camp Location: **Cotopaxi Fremont County** 38.371006, -105.688218 6350'

30th December, Tuesday.- **Texas Creek** Marched: but at half past one o'clock; we're obliged to halt and send back for the sled loads, as they have broken it and could not proceed owing to the waters running over the ice. Distance 8 miles. Crossed their horses twice on the ice.

Camp Location: **Texas Creek Fremont County** 38.410269, -105.583362 6180'

31st December, Wednesday.- **Parkdale** Marched; had frequently to cross the river on the ice, horse falling down, we were obliged to pull them over on the ice. River turns so much to the north, as almost induced to us to believe it was the Arkansas. Distance 10 3/4 miles.

Camp Location: **Parkdale Fremont County** 38.486671, -105.373390 5750'

1st January 1807, Thursday.- **Cactus Mountain or Spikebuck Mountain** The doctor and one man marched early, in order to precede the party until they should kill us supply of provision. We had great difficulty in getting our horses along, some of the poor animals having nearly killed themselves falling on the ice. Found on the way one of the mountain rams which the doctor and Brown had killed and left in the road. Skinned it with horns &c. at night ascended a mountain, and discovered a prairie ahead about 8 miles, the news of which gave great joy to the party.

Camp Location: **Cactus Mountain or Spikebuck Mountain Fremont County** 38.43456, -105.25752

Elliot Coues notes-Page 478 it should be noted here that one of the eighth straggling parties managed to get through the canyon itself. Some came over the mountains to the North, and the rest over those on the south. Pike alone assayed the gorge, but only got halfway through. Next morning he escaped by scrambling up a small side Canyon which occurs in the north-side (Pike's Gulch.) Dr. Robinson and his man came that way too. Vasquez and his men brought the horses the other way.

2nd January, Friday.- Labored all day, made only 1 mile, many of our horses much wounded in falling on the rocks. Provision growing short, left Stout and Miller with two loads, to come on with his sled on the ice, which was on the water in some of the coves. Finding it almost impossible to proceed any further with the horses by the bed of the river, ascended the mountain and immediately after were again obliged to please descend an almost perpendicular side of the mountain; in effecting which, one horse fell down the precipice, and bruised himself so miserably, that I conceived it mercy to cause the poor animal to be shot. Many others were nearly killed with falls received: left to more men with loads hand tools to make slides. The two men we had left in the morning had passed us.

Camp Location: **Cañon City Fremont County Stockade** 38.43456, -105.25752



**AUTO, BIKE AND HIKE ROUTE**  
(The same route)  
**Johnson Village/ Buena Vista to Cañon City**



**AUTO Route 1 h 41 min (80.5 miles) BIKE 6 h 42 min (80.5 miles) HIKE 33h (78.6 miles)**

Jct. US Hwy 285 and US Hwy 24 Johnson Village, CO 81211

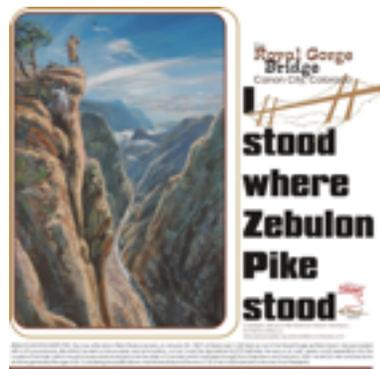
- |   |         |                     |
|---|---------|---------------------|
| 1. Head south on US Hwy 285 S   | 9.3 mi  | 10 min (9.3 mi)     |
| Stop 1 US Hwy 285 and Brown's Creek into Brown's Canyon (South of Nathrop, CO 81236) Pike 12/23/'06 |         |                     |
| 2. Head south on US Hwy 285 S   | 7.8 mi  |                     |
| 3. Turn left onto Co Rd 165   | 0.4 mi  | 9 min (8.2 mi)      |
| Stop 2 Christmas site Big Bend 10534-11498 Co Rd 165 Salida, CO 81201 Pike 12/24&25/1806            |         |                     |
| 4. Head southeast on Co Rd 165 toward Co Rd 163   | 0.9 mi  |                     |
| 5. Turn left onto Co Rd 160   | 3.7 mi  |                     |
| 6. Turn left onto Rd 154  | 0.2 mi  |                     |
| 7. Turn right onto Co Rd 154  | 0.7 mi  |                     |
| 8. Turn right onto CO-291 S   | 1.1 mi  |                     |
| 9. Turn left onto G St  | 410 ft  |                     |
| 10. Turn right onto W Sackett Ave   | 489 ft  | 14 min (6.7 mi)     |
| Stop 3 150 E Sackett Ave Salida, CO 81201 Riverside Park Pike 12/26/'06                             |         |                     |
| 11. Head southeast on E Sackett Ave toward N E St   | 0.2 mi  |                     |
| 12. E Sackett Ave turns slightly right and becomes N C St   | 325 ft  |                     |
| 13. Turn left onto E 1st St   | 0.2 mi  |                     |
| 14. Continue onto CO-291 S/Oak St   | 0.6 mi  |                     |
| 15. Slight left onto US-50 E (signs for Canon City)   | 54.8 mi |                     |
| 16. Turn right onto Tunnel Dr on the right  | 0.3 mi  | 1 h 7 min (56.2 mi) |

Cañon City, CO 81212

Pike Cañon City Stockade (below on the north side of the Arkansas) 110 Tunnel Dr

Use caution—bicycling directions may not always reflect real-world conditions

**PIKE T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE \$25 POST PAID**



**The Pike National Historic Trail Association** are now offering for sale 2 different T-shirts (shown above) with two of our paintings as full color reproductions.

These shirts **\$25 post paid** can be ordered through Ed French (a retired Senior Disney World Artist)

PO Box 300 Cotopaxi, CO 81223 Ed is a. Board 719 942 3604 Ed French <edfrench72@gmail.com> or through the Association (address below)

All profit is donated to the Association.

Arkansas River rafters and Pike Board Members have bought and wear these fine shirts!

Will you consider joining us or renewing? Membership blank below.

**Won't you join our Association also!**

We need you to renew your membership or join for the first time. Click here for a membership form: <http://zebulonpike.org/docs/MembershipBrochure.pdf> or complete and mail the membership form below.



*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

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE- (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pike-National-Historic-Trail-Association/167853563238403?fref=ts>)

*The Pike Association's vinyl decals- The cost is \$2.50 each with price breaks at 5, 10, or 25 decals, plus shipping.*

## Membership Form

*Join Now!* Please consider membership in our organization

Level	Amt.	Level Name	Level	Amt.	Level Name
Student	\$15	<b>Corporal Jackson</b>	Small Business	\$75	<b>Robinson-Brown-Miller</b>
Individual	\$25	<b>Sergeant Meek</b>	Corporation	\$200 & up	<b>Carter-Gordon-Mountjoy-Roy</b>
Family	\$35	<b>Menaugh-Stout</b>	Benefactor	\$500	<b>Sparks-Daugherty</b>
Non profit organization	\$50	<b>Vasquez-Smith</b>	Life	\$1000	<b>Zebulon Pike</b>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I will be able to help with:

Address \_\_\_\_\_

The Pike Assoc. website

Historic/heritage investigation

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Providing educational opportunities

Producing educational materials

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

I /we will personally contact legislators for legislative support

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I /we will write letters of legislative support

I/we would like to help in any way (Assoc. will contact)

Contact us: 303/816-7424 [harv.pike@gmail.com](mailto:harv.pike@gmail.com) Additional gifts are tax deductible.

Make checks payable to: Pike National Historic Trail Association Mail membership and donation checks to:

Pike National Historic Trail Association, C/o Brian Pike, Membership Chair, 5357 Bristel Arvada, CO 80002

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**PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION** 10060 Blue Sky Trail Conifer CO 80433 303/816-7424

Pike July 2018 Newsletter

We are a tax exempt not-for profit Association under Section 501 (c) (3) IRC. Your contributions are deductible under section 170 of the Code.

Our **Vision** is **TO PROVIDE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT PIKE AND CELEBRATE HIS MEMORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**