



PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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OUR THIRTEENTH BIRTHDAY



Our Association celebrated our thirteenth birthday in September.

It has been pointed out the actual birth date of the **Pike National Historic Trail Association** was late in September of 2007. The informal organization of the Association took place in Trinidad, CO fittingly near the Equestrian statue of Kit Carson. The Founding Board was included Dr. Clive Siegel from Texas; Dr. Leo Oliva from Kansas; John Patrick Michael Murphy from Colorado Springs and Harv Hisgen from Conifer, CO.

We are particularly happy this year 2020 because the Feasibility Study process is moving along leading hopefully to the dedication of the *Pike National Historic Trail* a main goal for which we exist See Lillis’ Report which follows.

UPDATE ON THE PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Pike National Historic Trail Feasibility Study has officially begun. The National Park Service National Trails office in Santa Fe, New Mexico is responsible for completing the study, and has formed a planning team to be led by lead planner, Dr. Lillis Urban. Other members of the team include historian Dr. Guy McClellan, responsible for route verification and trail significance; and a data management and GIS specialist Mr. Brian Deaton, who will be responsible for trail mapping.



NPS Pike Feasibility Team

Dr. Lillis Urban, Lead Planner; Dr. Guy McClellan, historian, route verification and trail significance; Mr. Brian Deaton, data management & GIS specialist- trail mapping; Ms. Sarah Rivera

Public outreach and engagement meetings are scheduled of the spring of 2021. To encourage the maximum level of participation, while also following CDC guiding principles to assure the lowest risk to participants, the public meetings are planned for a virtual setting.

Please visit the study’s planning page to track project updates and to learn about the study process: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=95651> - Dr. Lillis Urban

ABOUT THE PIKE FEASIBILITY STUDY BLOG HH 11/15

The Pike NHTAssociation is more than delighted that the first step in the Pike National Historic Trail designation process is progressing.

A little review for our readers is appropriate-

Enablement-

The Study was enabled in this legislation:

S.47 - John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act was signed by President Donald J Trump and became “Public Law No: 116-9” on 03/12/2019.

Wording-

Subtitle F—National Trails And Related Matters SEC. 2504. PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL STUDY.

Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act ([16 U.S.C. 1244\(c\)](https://www.uscourts.gov/16-U.S.C.-1244)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

ABOUT THE PIKE FEASIBILITY STUDY CONTINUED

“(46) PIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—The Pike National Historic Trail, a series of routes extending approximately 3,664 miles, which follows the route taken by Lt. Zebulon Montgomery Pike during the 1806–1807 Pike expedition that began in Fort Bellefontaine, Missouri, extended through portions of the States of Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas, and ended in Natchitoches, Louisiana.”

Meetings and actions-

9/19/2019 Harv, Linda Balough, and Ed French met with Aaron Mahr, NPS Superintendent National Trails in Walsenburg, CO. The NPS Team and the process were introduced.

The NPS works with us “to protect, develop, and promote national historic trails.”

Following this meeting- the National Park Service hired a principal planning officer, Lillis Urban and assembled the study team. Funded work began Nov 1, 2019.

7/15/2020- Harv, Linda and Brian met via phone conference with Aaron, Lillis (Principle NPS Planner for the Pike Feasibility Study), and the NPS Study Team (NPS Historian, NPS GIS Specialist, and the NPS Trails Deputy Superintendent.)

PIKE LEGACY



“**Pike Legacy**”, a smartphone app is being developed by the Pike National Historic Trail Association.

A smartphone app, mobile application, or app is a computer program or software application designed to run on a mobile device such as a [phone](#), [tablet](#), or [watch](#).

Our app will be downloaded from the [App Store \(iOS\)](#), [Google Play Store](#) or other app stores including Android.

Pike Legacy will be free as well as GPS and location-based.

What's been done so far?

Three years ago we started this project with “stqry formerly My Tours” in Auckland, NZ and got confused. We were uploading images, audio, text and map info to their web-based tour builder. With “stqry”'s help we're going to attack arranging material properly, uploading much more, working out bugs and making the app available. We have concentrated on the Southwest Expedition and will work on his early and later life as well as the Mississippi Expedition.

The finished product-

This app will give the public more information about General Zebulon Montgomery Pike. It will stand with our website to provide more because of its features of audio, video, text and map capabilities. The app will allow the iPhone or Android user to learn about a Pike location while standing in front of a Pike plaque. For example: If you are standing beside the Plaque on Pikes Peak every thing you want to know about this part of the Pike Legacy will be given on the smartphone.

WALKING IN ZEBULON PIKE'S FOOTSTEPS

Do the Colorado-based exploits of one of America's most iconic explorers deserve another look?

BY **ROBERT SANCHEZ** • **5280 SENIOR STAFF WRITER DECEMBER 2017**

It's my second night in the wilderness, and I'm cold and feel as though I might vomit. My back and my feet ache. My ankles are stiff. It doesn't help that I can't move in my narrow sleeping bag.

Truck headlights wash along the nylon walls of my tent: hunters, I guess, bumping up the dirt trail looking for a place to rest. I push the button that illuminates my watch: 12:17 a.m. Then: 12:46. 1:29. 2:02. 2:39. 3:17.

For the better part of the past year, I'd been on a quest to understand the Army officer and explorer Zebulon Pike; to learn about his expedition through Colorado more than 200 years ago. I'd studied page after page in history books, and I'd read Pike's writings. Eventually, I decided to walk some of

WALKING CONTINUED



The author one day before he reached Medano Pass. Photo by Matt Slaby

the places he'd been, to see what he might have seen as a way to understand his exploration of America's Southwest. But now, it seems, I'm learning something about myself. Namely, I've figured out I'm not prepared for my own expedition. I've spent more than 30 years of my life in Colorado, but the firsts are stacking up. This is my first time camping, my first time hiking more than three miles in one day, and my first time carrying a backpacking pack.

MEETING BOB- A number of us met Robert Sanchez when he joined us to tour numbers of Pike sites in the Wet Mountain & San Luis Valleys in June 2017. We visited several

PNHTA roadside panels, the Pike Stockade ([37.293832, -105.810376](#), a replica); the ruins of former CO Governor Albert McIntire home and McIntire Spring ([37.280102, -105.819089](#)) with the property owner; an Alamosa County Pike Roadside Panel

([37.3851, -105.754](#)) and Washington Spring (Co. Rd. 8 & Rd S 116 - [37.460334, -105.745171](#)) a possible Pike watering site.

Our quest was to attempt to locate footings for the actual 1807 Pike Stockade at McIntire Spring, do artistic research for this painting and to find Pike's exact route.

Robert's was preparing several articles on Pike for 5280 Magazine. Two days later he hiked over Medano Pass from the Wet Mountain Valley to the Great Sand Dunes as Pike did on January 27, 1807. He wrote the above article for 5280 Magazine.

Pike's men had suffered 11 days (Jan 17-27, 1807) in the Wet Mountain Valley, the worst they would run into starting with frostbite and departing over Medano Pass leaving three men behind.

Laura Pope, our Treasurer, worked at a camp in the Wet Mountain Valley in the winter months. She realizes the hardships the Pike expedition suffered in the Valley. "I remember winters when my friends and I trudged in that field where they were with knee deep snow. It wasn't quite four feet or -10° F nor was it a driving snow storm when we went out. It was miserable."

EXPLORE! YOU TOO CAN WALK IN PIKE'S FOOTSTEPS

We encourage you Explore the Wet Mountain and San Luis Valleys— — TAKE THE FAMILY

You can hike over Medano Pass [as Robert did] or bicycle or drive a jeep from Westcliffe in the Wet Mountain Valley over Medano Pass to the Great Sand Dunes National Park in the San Luis Valley. Trip 1

Here are some GPS readings so that you can plan your Medano trip:

Westcliffe, CO [38.136208, -105.463856](#) Road Route 69 to Medano Pass [37.940055, -105.326986](#)
Medano Pass [37.85627, -105.43371](#) Visitor Center- Great Sand Dunes Nat. Park [37.73257, -105.51215](#)

Trip 2 Use the GPS readings in "Meeting Bob" above to plan a trip in the San Luis Valley.

CORPORATE SPONSORS We are also grateful for the support of our Corporate Sponsors.

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

Our Purpose: To Establish federal designation of the Pike National Historic Trail

We are a Charitable nonprofit organization Our website is www.zebulonpike.org

“Zebulon Pike was an American hero, a patriot who lived and died for his country.” -Thomas Jefferson

Contact us: 303/912-9939 harv.pike@gmail.com

PO Box 195 Conifer CO 80433 303/816-7424

Our Website: www.zebulonpike.org

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Now that we are moving toward possible designation of the Pike National Historic Trail

Join our Association or renew your membership

Donate to our effort

We need you to renew your membership or join for the first time.

Click here for a membership form on our website (Payment method PayPal):

<https://www.zebulonpike.org/product-category/membership/>

or

complete and mail the membership form below.

Make checks payable to: **Pike National Historic Trail Association**

Mail membership and donation checks to:

Pike National Historic Trail Association, PO Box 195, Connifer, CO 80433

Membership Form

Please consider membership in our organization

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

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