

# NATIONAL PONY EXPRESS ASSOCIATION



2019 Re-Ride Schedule

2019 NPEA Officers



## Letter from the President

As we wind up another year we look back and see the goals we've reached. With the Nationals Trails 10th anniversary we reached out to the public with sign projects, auto tours and our annual Pony Express Re-ride. With the help from our partnership with The National Parks Service and Bureau of Land Management, we marked a new section of the trail and are excited to hear of more sign projects in the future for the West Desert in Utah and Eastern Nevada.

Our convention this year was in Torrington, Wyoming. They were gracious hosts and was a successful convention. New goals were set for this next year. Our website has generated a lot of interest and reached out to a new audience, young and old. Even drawing interest from a filmmaker. Exciting news to come in the future. We are excited for the upcoming year, to set new goals and to help keep the History of the Pony Express alive!! I want to thank everyone for all those who helped to make it possible.

Sincerely,  
Dean Atkin, National Pony Express President



2018/19 Deadlines

[NationalPonyExpress.org](http://NationalPonyExpress.org)





# Public Access to XP Trail Promotes Volunteerism

By Lucy Badenhoop



Troop #466 Sunnyvale BSA

2018 is a major milestone for the national trail system.....it marks the 50th anniversaries of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act and the National Trails System Act. The Pony Express (XP) Trail is one of the historic trails protected by the National Park Service. During 2017 in honor of the 50th anniversaries, the California Division of NPEA initiated a multifaceted restoration program for its section of the Pony Express Trail.

Two goals were paramount: facilitate public access to the historic trail, which is designated multi-use, and promote trail maintenance on the 47 miles of rugged alpine trail alongside Hwy 50 in the canyon cut by the South Fork of the American River.

As various projects progressed, it became apparent that the two objectives were mutually supportive. The improved condition of the trail was more inviting to users - hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers. The improved trailhead access also was more inviting to volunteers wanting to help preserve the trail, many of who drove only street vehicles.

A key factor in the accessibility of the canyon portion of the trail (Echo Summit to Pollock Pines) was restoration of the XP Corral Trailhead near the midpoint of the canyon. Once the entry ditch and badly rutted driveway were graded and graveled, ordinary street vehicles could enter the trailhead. The week after construction workers left the site, two boy scout troops volunteered to work on the trail....3 days each.

The first Troop #466 came from Sunnyvale, CA. They posted trail markers and did pruning along twenty miles of the trail between Echo Summit and Kyburz. This group was organized and guided by XP Rider Jerry Bestpitch.

The second Troop #186 came from Elk Grove, CA. They did trailhead improvements by installing riprap (cobblestones) at various locations subject to erosion, especially three spots that drain into the seasonal creek. This troop also agreed to adopt 12 miles of the trail for spring pruning and fall culvert cleaning. An Eagle Scout candidate is proposing a mapping project to be included in the USFS handouts for trail users. Another candidate is considering installing a gravity fed water feature for the horses. No doubt about it....improving the vehicle access to the trailhead also improves the public usage and volunteer maintenance of the XP Trail.



Troop #186 Elk Grove





## The NPEA has been invited to participate in the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Reno Rodeo!

The Reno Rodeo is June 20-29, the NPEA is has several events to participate in. If you are would like to participate as a rider or ground crew for this event check our website for more details on how to get involved: <http://nationalponyexpress.org/npea-events/rodeo>

### Pony Express Letters for Veterans

As part of the 100th Year Reno Rodeo Celebration, the Pony Express has been invited to participate in Patriots night during the 2019 Rodeo. We have the opportunity to carry cards and letters of appreciation into the Rodeo Arena by horseback to present to the Veterans Coalition. You can also be a part of this effort by sending your personal message to a veteran. We will be doing letter drives and presentations at schools and other organizations in the months leading up to the event to increase awareness and get as many letters delivered to our Veterans as possible. The letters will be mailed directly to the Rodeo and will be given to veterans in various locations throughout the year including VA Hospitals and also to active duty service members. Please help us to make this event a success by sending a letter, and encouraging others to do so as well. We have a few templates available for you to use or you may write your own. Mailing address to send letters and more details is on the website:

<http://nationalponyexpress.org/npea-events/rodeo>

### Media Coverage of Pony Express

The media team publishes any press coverage on the Pony Express and adds the link to our website (<https://nationalponyexpress.org/news-items/?press=yes>) to share with our members. This includes spots on television channels, newspaper and magazine articles. This past year we've had some special coverage not only across our country but international coverage as well. We continually work with media teams to provide information and photos for their articles. Here are links to some of this coverage.

#### Der Spiegel

(<http://www.spiegel.de/einestages/pony-express-von-1860-amerikas-mutigste-brieftraeger-a-1200033.html>)

#### Sagebrush Rider

(<https://view.joomag.com/sagebrush-rider-magazine-issue-4-june-2018/0099828001527742687?short>)

#### Travel Channel

(<https://www.travelchannel.com/videos/the-pony-express-4543467>)

#### Vamoose Utah

<https://issuu.com/cityweeklynewspaper/docs/vam1810> (pg 32-35)

### My Public Lands Middle School Teaching Guide: Classroom Investigation

Check out the My Public Lands Middle School Teaching Guide: Classroom Investigation from the Bureau of Land Management. "America's Scenic and Historic Trails on Public Lands: The Intersection of Cultures, Heritage, and Outdoor Recreation."

[https://www.blm.gov/.../blm.gov/files/d.../files/CI\\_trails\\_0.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/.../blm.gov/files/d.../files/CI_trails_0.pdf)





# My First Pony Express

By Christine Lind

My dad, Ed Lynch, has been a member and riding on the Nevada trails for 20 years or so. His best friend of 78 years, Dale Ryan, is who got him involved in the re-ride and he's been hooked ever since. He stays at Dale and Bonnie's house, who live in Carson City. I didn't really think too much of these trips to Nevada and figured it was an excuse for a week away from home to go visit his best friend. Since my dad is blind he usually takes a flight down but this year I offered to drive him.

A few weeks before the trip, Dale Ryan passed away. We were all devastated and unsure if we could do the trip. As it turned out we did take the trip, it was the best decision I've ever made in my life. We arrived on the doorstep of Petra Keller who loaned a horse to dad for the ride. I watched a wonderful

exchange of Petra and dad as he was test riding her horse and practicing how the lone rider was going to be walked behind dad as he was handed the reins. The lone rider represented Dale Ryan, his best friend. As it turned out Petra's crew hand was not going to be able to make it on the re-ride and she needed help with her horses, driving the truck/trailer, and general go getters. Dad and I volunteered and we went on an amazing adventure with Petra and her dog, Siena. We started in Old Sacramento, CA and ended in Cold Station, Nevada. We drove so many miles and talked about so much it's almost a blur. The first leg for us was at Celio Ranch where I was put to work interviewing riders and the owner of the ranch. The riders were greeted with a cheering crowd, and a wonderful lunch buffet. Afterwards Petra sat with a group of people and answered questions about the ride, riders, and horses.

The next few days we travelled towards Cold Springs taking legs of the ride where riders were unable to make it. Cold Springs is where I found pony fever. After the riders exchanged the mail, the lone rider ceremony started. I was honored to speak for the family and for my dad about Dale Ryan. Dad took the reins of the lone rider's horse and led him around a pasture while music played. I can only imagine the sorrow and pain my dad was feeling as he was leading this horse around representing his best friend. It was a powerful moment for me and the family. As I got to talking to everyone I learned that no matter who the riders are or where they came from they all had the same respect for the cowboy way: a simple life of hard-work and the love of family and God. The love of horses and history is something special. I really believe that any one of them would love to live a real day in the life of a rider if they could. And who wouldn't? As I stood outside waiting for the riders in the wide-open expanse with the of the Nevada hills surrounding me, I was picturing what it would be like to be a kid riding a horse by myself. All of the "what if's" circling around in my head. The sounds of bison, wild horses, birds, rattlers, wind, and storms. All those sounds you can't hear today. What a scary and most beautiful time to live and be a part of the Pony Express. And the re-ride continues to serve as a reminder of the perseverance, comradery, determination, and absolute courage these boys had.

So here I am at home, still very moved by the moments I experienced that wonderful week in June 2018. The impact that week had on me will last forever. The people I met reminded me of the small town I grew up in. It felt like home. They felt like family. I'll see ya'll next June ! Go Pony !

## 2018 Re-Ride Video

During our annual convention in Torrington, WY we showed a compilation of photos and videos from the 2018 Re-Ride. Several folks asked about it, here is a link to the video. Enjoy! <https://youtu.be/p8s3RMPo2q0>



# Pony Express Tour on Utah's West Desert

By Joseph Hatch, Utah Division, NPEA

On Saturday, 6 October, 2018 the Utah Division of the Bureau of Land Management sponsored an "Auto Tour" of the Pony Express Stations in Utah's West Desert as part of the Utah State Historical Society's Annual Meeting. Ray Kelsey of the Salt Lake City BLM Office planned the tour, made the arrangements, and started the discussions at the places where they stopped, to get a close-up feeling of the sites. It was quite windy, but that blew the dust away on those dirt country roads that rather closely follow the XP trail. There were 8 vehicles and 2 BLM trucks. We had about 20 persons in the group. I was there to provide information about the Pony Express. Jess Peterson commented on the Lincoln Highway and the Simpson Trail (aiming to avoid the salt/alkali flats south and west of Great Salt Lake). Laura Anderson, Mormon Battalion Historian, also spoke to the group.



We drove back via Wendover after leaving Ibapah, Utah and Howard Egan's cabin at Deep Creek. We traveled by or stopped at Faust's, Lookout Pass, Government Creek, Simpson Springs, River Bed, Dugway, Blackrock, Fish Springs, Boyd's, Willow Springs, Round Station, Canyon, and Deep Creek stations. We left the graded road and drove on a two track of actual Pony Express Trail (with carsonite markers) for a delightful mile or so through the sagebrush, just past the Canyon Station site. Ray gave each person a copy of the Fike and Headly 1979 Utah BLM sponsored prospective of the Pony Express Stations of Utah. Many of the participants had the Patrick Hearty/Joseph Hatch 2012 copy of "The Pony Express Stations in Utah" with its archive and current photos and map and lucid text. It was very helpful to refer to this book when pointing things out and answering questions. Our group was sincerely delighted with the tour and very pleasant throughout the day. They asked great questions. I left home at 6:30am and returned home at 9:00pm. Overall, it was a special event.







## Travels of Seaman Jr.

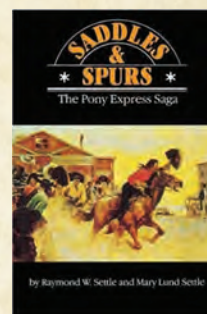
Have you been following the travels of Seaman Jr.? He came to visit the Pony Express Trail and got to ride a Pony Express Re-Ride horse in Nevada. Check out where else he has been!

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/western-national-trails-seaman-jr.htm>

## Pony Express Book Corner

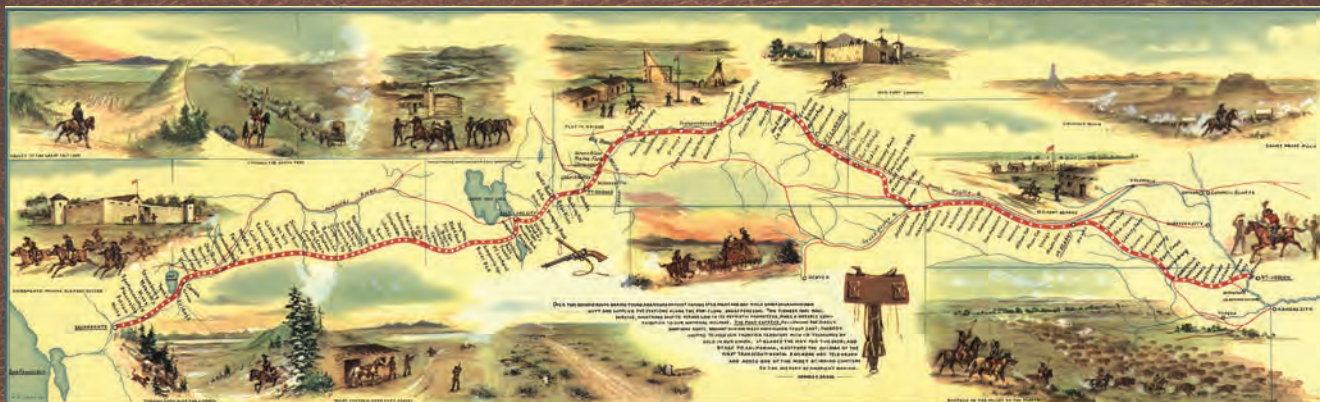
Interested to learn more about the Pony Express?  
We have a list of books that can help you! Check it out!

<https://nationalponyexpress.org/news/book-corner/>



## Augie presents his Pony Express Memorabilia

In the Fleming High School Library in Fleming, CO they host an annual Collectors Show. On September 27, 2018, August Bjorklun presented his collection of Pony Express memorabilia and history of the organization as well as his torch he carried during the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay.





# Local Tour Signage Project In Northeast Kansas

By Arleta Martin, project manager

Early in 2017 our KANZA Chapter of OCTA (Oregon-California Trails Association) was asked, by the National Park Service (NPS), to work on a Local Tour Route signage project. Our Chapter had a group of individuals who had previously gone out and measured, marked and mapped the Oregon and California Trails in our locale. My daughter, Alicia and I were two of the remaining 'Rut Nuts', we were asked to send the trail locations and other information to the NPS. I also knew that the Pony Express National Historic Trail (PENHT) ran in the same corridor in our area, so I asked if the PENHT could be included in this project. The NPS was agreeable so we proceeded with the project. We went out and drove the route and took pages of notes. I typed up the notes and drew lines on plat maps to show the NPS where there was visible trail remnants or graves. We sent the information to the NPS and they drew up the plans on which signs were to be placed where. We then had to go and get written releases from the parties who were to install the signs. I live in Marshall County and in my county the Township trustees were the ones responsible for placing the signs. I worked with the two Township trustees to sign the paperwork and then all we had to do was wait for the signs to be shipped. In Washington County the Public Works Department does sign installations and they too signed the release forms. As the NPS was using a new vendor for the signs in 2017, we didn't receive them until fall harvest! As our Township personnel were farmers, they needed to harvest crops and not install signs. One thing after another and finally Logan Township installed signs in August of 2018 and the Marysville Township installed signs the first week in October. I need to continue pushing Washington County to get the signs erected there. Projects like this show that we are meeting our goals set down in our Strategic Plan we have with the National Park Service. We also included the PENHT in the new signage that our OCTA Chapter erected at the Trails Junction on the Marshall and Washington County line.



Trails Junction

California National Historic Trail  
Oregon National Historic Trail  
Pony Express National Historic Trail
National Park Service  
Oregon-California Trails Association  
National Pony Express Association

## Wagons Merge on the Prairie

Wagons bound for Oregon and California left Independence starting in the 1840s and developed a trail to this location. Others started across the prairie from St. Joseph, and Fort Leavenworth. All of that traffic merged here at the junction of the Independence and St. Joe Roads. From this point the shared route headed northwesterly across Nebraska along the Platte River corridor. The wagons would share the same route from here until they reached western Wyoming, where again the routes would split. In the 1860s, the Pony Express and the Overland Stage would follow this route as well.

Marker placed here in 1947 by the American Pioneer Trails Association

Westward from here the tallgrass prairie began changing to shortgrass plains. Approaching the Platte, emigrants wrote in their journals of seeing buffalo and antelope for the first time. Water and trees became scarier and emigrants began collecting "buffalo chips" to fuel their campfires.



# 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Trails Act

By Ron Bell



About three months ago I went to the BLM office in Carson City to find out about film permitting for *Thunder and Dust*. At that time I met BLM staff who were preparing for the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act, with an emphasis on the Pony Express National Historic Trail. The BLM was putting together posters and postcards commemorating the Pony Express ride through Nevada, and was planning to distribute them at the Pony Express ruins at Sand Springs. I offered to bring

horses and riders out and make it a bigger event, and suggesting having the event at Fort Churchill which is more centrally located. During event planning, the BLM showed me a draft of the poster and asked if I had any input on the design; some of my suggestions were incorporated into the final product. In appreciation of the NPXA and its participation in the Trails System Act event, the BLM provided the NPXA with thousands of the printed color posters and postcards; these were given out at the 2018 re-ride. In Woodfords we gave the store postcards and posters, the kids and adults all started getting the riders of the Pony Express to sign them. What a fun time.

I contacted Kristin Sanderson at Fort Churchill State Park. She is the Fort Churchill State park interpreter for their historic events and park content. Kristin, the BLM, and I had a few meet-ings to set the program. We wanted to show the audience many different looks for this time period, including Pony Express Riders, Paiute Indian's, Immigrant Trails Crossing, Women of History. I felt that group of performers would cover some of the major historic influence's of this time in the west. I asked Gretchen Wood to come and sing for us prior to the program and then do the National Anthem. Gretchen is in a wheelchair and has a hard time getting around her special van needs repair and she can't afford the money to get it fixed. I felt honored by her she when used one of my poems in a song that she sings when she is doing events. The Pony Express rode in with the flags flying during the song presentation, I had asked Arthur Johnson if he would move out and ride by during the song and at the end to do a high-speed ride by. What a perspective with his paint horse running wide open, our flag flying, and in the background of Ft. Churchill; a vision.

This event crossed many boundaries. Why do I say that? We had a BLM event in a Nevada State Park, we had BLM and State Park people working together for one common goal teaching kids about the local history and people who lived in that time period.

This program consisted of Kim Harris (AKA) Warren Boston Upson talked about life as a Pony rider and spoke about Pony Bob Haslam and his life along the Pony express trail, she also gave the Pony Express Rider Oath to all the students and others present; Ron Bell talked about some of the Pony Express History; DebiLynn Smith portrayed Anna Harris, the first woman to own a business in her own name in 1891; Judy Quinlan portrayed Hannah Clapp and she called the kids in from recess with her school bell--Hannah was a teacher in the 1860's time-period in Carson City and she was also responsible for building the wrought iron fence that surrounds our state capital in Carson City; Donna Cossette presented the Paiute Indians prospective of life along the Carson River; Steve Neilsen, great-great-nephew of "Pony Bob" Haslam, was also present and aided the riders with the flags; and Hellen Newman was on hand to provide us all with some special pictures of this event at HANd pict Photography on Facebook and on our National Pony Express Nevada Division Facebook page.

Kenneth R. Collum Stillwater Field Manager presented an award plaque to the Pony Express for keeping the trails in the spotlight and for our trail maintenance on them also. As many know the Pony Express in Nevada and Utah are working with the BLM and other parks to film a movie called *Thunder and Dust*. Brian McLoughlin is the producer with the vision behind this film, Brian had a picture framed from the pre-shoot at Simpson Pass in Nevada for me to present to the BLM. I did this presentation at this event to Kenneth Collum, I think he liked the picture a lot, it will be displayed at the BLM's office in Carson City.



## 50th Anniversary Event Cont.'

As many know the Pony Express in Nevada and Utah are working with the BLM and other parks to film a movie called Thunder and Dust. Brian McLoughlin is the producer with the vision behind this film, Brian had a picture framed from the pre-shoot at Simpson Pass in Nevada for me to present to the BLM. I did this presentation at this event to Kenneth Collum, I think he liked the picture a lot, it will be displayed at the BLM's office in Carson City.

Kenneth also told me that he would like to look at being more involved with projects or events in the area. Thanks Kenneth. Kristin Sanderson is my hero: she and her fellow workers were just great, she even had her Mother and Dad helping by delivering chairs to the event and the kids had a blast with the hot chocolate and other drinks. Johnny Fry was there with his donuts for the kids. This event lasted from 10:00am to after 2:00pm The Pony Express Riders all had sore arms after signing all of the posters given out by the BLM, we had lines in front of all of the horses during the meet and greet up at the State Park Museum. Also check this out! Fort Churchill was a no fee day for this event. I would like to say that we do need to support the parks with our money and visitation, most of the area doesn't know that Fort Churchill is in their local area.

I talked to many visitors who just walked in and joined the event and had a great time. They told me that our parks need to have more events like this and we need to better advertise local and outside of the area. I did one radio spot and would like to say thanks to News Talk Radio 780 KOH and their, very own Daniela Sonnino for doing the news clip supporting the Pony Express Nevada Division.

Thanks to our Pony Express supporting members: Kim Harris, DebiLynn Smith, Judy Quinlan, Janice Scandrett, Debra Rosse, Jerry Rosse, Anne Martins, Petra Keller, Sam DiMuszio, Jill Andrews, Cassidy LeGaux, Steve Nielson, Arthur Johnson, Hellen Newman, Gretchen Wood, Susie Bell, Ron Bell.



## HAM Radio Operators

During the annual Pony Express Re-Ride, hams provide support to the NPEA in several states along the trail. Generally the ham is to report the position of the pony to captain. In an emergency where medical assistance is needed human or equine they are there to make that need known. Additional Information can be found here: <https://nationalponyexpress.org/annual-re-ride/ham/>

HAM operators in the field, 2017 Re-Ride  
photo by Sue Cauhape





# Pony Tails?

By Quackgrass Sally

Across the plains of Nebraska or a high Sierra mountain pass, the spirit of the historic Pony Express riders was ever tested. Each relay-run brought its own challenges... swollen rivers, burning sun or gale force winds blowing snow that stings like bees, the mail continued its trek across the XP trail. Volumes of literature have been written about these riders and their valiant courage over the eighteen months that set down their feats forever in America's history story. BUT what of the riders' mighty four-legged companions...the XP mounts, ever ready to do their job, with hearts willing and strong. So little has been set down on paper of these true heroes of the XP trail, who's endurance and stamina carried every mochila to its destination. Thousands of miles, over terrain as wild and varied as the breeding of the horses who traveled them. Artists have tried to capture the essence of their spirit... rearing out of an XP home station or galloping across the high deserts of the west...but their names are forever lost to the winds of time.

Today the NPEA rides the trail each June, reliving and re-dedicating the legacy of the 1860's Pony Express. Perhaps it's the romantic in me, but again I feel the loss to history of the quiet champions who make our annual ride possible...our horses. A roster of each years relay riders is preserved in our organization's records but none of the names of the mounts. I personally know I have never forgotten each horse's name I've ridden along this trail. Closing my eyes I can all but feel the ground pass by beneath us as we cover the miles in our relay. I hear the sounds of hooves and the breath of both my horse and I, while our hearts are almost magically united in our bond of trust and love. We ARE carrying the mail...we ARE a link in the chain of an endeavor who's spirit is as strong now as it was in 1860.

So, I make this proposal to the NPEA XP Riders: We need a roster of our XP mounts! It need not be super detailed, just some simple information that remembers our 4-legged companions who have helped us "live the dream" of our XP adventure. Rider Name/Name of Mount/Breed; Age/Date of XP relay/Area ridden/any other special notes And...knowing that an idea needs someone to follow-through, I volunteer to take on this job. I don't know if anyone else feels that this is worthy of our organization's history story, but I believe it is. I will keep a log of anyone's horse/mule and create a spreadsheet where future riders can see the information of our XP mounts and the miles THEY carried the XP mail...making history one step at a time. If you are interested in registering your XP mount, feel free to contact me at: [xptrailgal@gmail.com](mailto:xptrailgal@gmail.com) and I will email you a form to fill out.

If you do not have email or like snail-mail like I do, you are welcome to write for the registry form at: XP Mount Registry – Quackgrass Sally  
72 Buckboard Lane, Bridger, MT 59014  
I hope to hear from you all soon! Until then....  
Happy Trails,  
Quackgrass Sally



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[Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)



# Greetings from Julesburg...Gateway to Colorado

By Cheryl Nein

Colorado Division XP delegates enjoyed this year's National XP Convention hosted by the Wyoming delegation in Torrington. It has challenged Colorado to provide next year's attendees with special historical XP experiences in Julesburg, Colorado! Annual XP riders began 1979. 2019 marks the 40th anniversary of this historic event in Colorado. Therefore, this upcoming national convention's theme will be honoring 40 years of annual rides.

On Thursday evening (Sept. 12th) for early convention attendees, we are planning a "Parade of Champions...How the West Was Won." In addition to the historic mode of transportation, businesses and museums will be open, vendors on hand, and special appearances from Nevada's Gino and Tony!

Grand Marshals for the celebration will be Colorado's own XP riders from not only the 1979 re-ride, but also the 1960, 100th anniversary re-ride — Lee Kizer, Jim Parker and Darris Cumming. (Any states with riders from the 1979 re-ride and attending this convention, will also be honored as Grand Marshals). Pony XP riders will then escort the entourage of historical wagons down Main Street for review. Parade participants may camp at the fairgrounds. Wagons will "train" along South Platte Trail/Historic ByWay on Friday morning on the original XP route.

A new addition to the convention will be an XP Gift Shop. Attending National Convention in other states, we observed delegates seeking out XP gift items/collectibles. Proceeds will go to the CO. Division to assist with convention expenses. This will not replace the auction at the banquet.

Colorado may have only 18 miles of original XP trail in our state, but our pride in promoting this important historical organization is second to none!

Please plan now to attend XP's 2019 National Convention in Julesburg — it promises to be a memorable adventure! Stay tuned for convention updates throughout the upcoming year on our website (<https://nationalponyexpress.org/npea-events/upcoming-convention/>)

## XP Trail Gets Facelift for 50th Anniversaries

By Lucy Badenhoop

### Part I – Trail Background

2018 is a major milestone for the national trail system.....it marks the 50th anniversaries of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act and the National Trails System Act. The Pony Express (XP) Trail is an historic trail protected by the National Park Service. The XP California Division partnered with the Back Country Horsemen of California - Mother Lode Unit and the US Forest Service to improve public access and trail maintenance on the Pony Express National Historic Trail. Multiple projects were planned in 2017, then initiated in 2018.



BSA Troop #186 riprap for the creek



## XP Trail Facelift Cont.'

### Part II – Restore Equestrian Trailhead

The first priority project by the partnership was to restore and enlarge the XP Corral Trailhead near the midpoint of the 47-mile canyon between Echo Summit and Pollock Pines to allow overnight staging of work parties and provide a trail access venue for the general public. The US Forest Service (spearheaded by Eldorado National Forest Recreation Officer, Josh Sjostrom) supported the effort by providing environmental approvals in nine months followed by landscape designer plans and letters of support for grant applications.

Three long time equestrian trail supporters (Darryl Shankles of Burro Trucking, Doug Veerkamp General Engineering, and Gary Cooper of G&O Towing) made in-kind donations of their heavy equipment and skilled operators to prepare the site and install gravel. Daryl Shankles of the BCHC-MLU unit lead the multiple on- site work parties. Other volunteers included Steve Smith, Joshua Major, Mark Miser, Frank Henderson, Vicki Jowise, Jerry Heitzler, and Boy Scouts of America Troop 186 from Elk Grove CA. BSA Troop 186 helped with the finish work by installing riprap (cobble stones) to prevent erosion in critical areas around the site, especially three spots that impact the seasonal creek. Troop 186 also agreed to adopt 12 miles of the Pony Express Trail for spring pruning and fall culvert cleaning. Additionally, an Eagle Scout candidate is proposing a mapping project that will be used by the USFS to create a Recreational Opportunity Guide (ROG) for handout to trail users.

### Part III – Ford Replaces Bridge

The second priority XP project was to reopen a 4-mile section of the trail near Kyburz CA that was closed due to the total destruction of a bridge during the winter of 2016-17. This started with environmental approvals by the USFS to reroute the trail about 150 yards upstream from the bridge crossing to a spot suitable for a ford. The next step was to find volunteers with the knowledge and skills for building the rerouted trail and new ford. Four folks who routinely build new trails and water crossings for the Tahoe Rim Trail and Pacific Crest Trail, stepped forward: Don & Cheryl Bailey, Clay Grubb and John McKenna, Other helpers included David & Hannah Heitzler, George Lazar, and Kathy Becker. It took them 25 man-days, but the job was done in time for the June 2018 XP ride.

### Part IV – Financing the Projects

The financing for these two major efforts (mostly to purchase materials) was supported by cash donations from both partners (XP-CA and BCHC-MLU) and two grants obtained from the National Wilderness Stewardship Foundation. While both projects are usable in their current condition, they still require more work to produce a finished trail feature...there's more to do next year.



Mark Miser on dozer, Steve Smith on water hose