

NATIONAL PONY EXPRESS

Winter 2019 Newsletter

Vision

The National Pony Express Association will keep the spirit and memory of the Pony Express alive.

Mission

Our mission is to identify and preserve the Pony Express National Historic Trail today and for future generations by partnering with others, providing education, and creating public awareness through an annual re-ride and other activities.



2019 National Officers- Tony Goulart (1st V.P.), Melva Sanner (President), Howard Schultz (3rd V.P), Dean Atkin (past President), Jack Davis (Treasurer), Pam Dixon-Simmons (2nd V.P.) and not pictured Wendy Cobb (Secretary)

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I want to extend a Thank You to the Colorado Division for the wonderful Convention that they hosted in Julesburg in September 2019. It was well planned and enjoyed by all that attended. The only thing I noted was that the Auction did not have a Quilt for auction. So.... I had to buy a pair of chinks – oh well I am sure they will look nice on my bed. Ha Ha!!!

I also want to thank the organization for having faith in me to serve as the National President. I will do my best to live up to the responsibility.

I also want to thank the media team of Petra Keller and Arleta Martin for their hard work and dedication in the organization of the social media for the National Pony Express. They have both resigned from their positions and this leaves the position of News Letter Editor and Stable Master open. If you or anyone you know would be interested in these positions, please contact me. Pam Simmons is working with Petra during the transition of duties.

Lyle Ladner has agreed to take responsibility for the coordination of the spot tracker and maps and will work to get the updates for the Re-ride done in a timely manner.

I think that we have a strong executive board and look forward to working with them this next year.

I will be sending the corrected Ride schedule to the State Presidents for final approval and then we will get it posted to the web site.

A visit to the National Park Service office is planned for some time before the end of the year to coordinate with them on the various ways that we partner together for the betterment of the trail and re-ride.

Again, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as the National President.

Melva Sanner
N.P.E.A. President

*Have a story to share? You can share by using our website or Facebook
Nationalponyexpress.org*

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/expressrider/>

2019 National Director's Meeting-Colorado

Submitted by Linda Dolezal

This year's Director's meeting and Convention was held in Julesburg, Colorado September 12-14, and the Colorado Division did a great job. The schedule was packed full of activities and sites to see. The official event kicked off Thursday night with a parade through town. Friday included the Past Presidents Meeting, State Presidents meeting and Trails Meeting where stories along the annual re-ride route were shared. Friday evening the delegates enjoyed a historical tour of local sites and stories presented by historical characters as well as dinner and musical entertainment. This dinner even included a Pony Express rider who rode right up to the dining area to pick up postcards to be delivered. Saturday was a full schedule with the Director's meeting and then a wonderful banquet dinner held at the historical Hippodrome Theater with silent auction, live auction and musical entertainment.



Thank you, Colorado Division, for hosting a wonderful Convention!

SIGNAGE PROJECTS – TRAIL MAINTANCE

Nevada Signage Project Submitted by Dean Atkin

October 2019 Signage Repair and placement in Nevada where approximately 17 new signs were placed along the trail and repairs were made at Antelope Springs towards Shelbourne and Rock Springs Pass. Rock Springs Pass is said to be the highest point along the Pony Express Trail.



Pictured Wendy Tony Hemp Robert and Dean.



Utah Trail Report
Submitted by Dean Atkin



Dean Atkin and crew have been working hard and have almost completed a National Trails signage project in the Tooele, Utah area.



California Trail Report

Submitted by Lucy Badenhop

In 2018, volunteers restored the XP Corral Trailhead by grading the site to correct drainage and erosion issues; then installed compacted gravel. The gravel was purchased with a grant from National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance and donations from Back Country Horsemen of CA Mother Lode Unit (BCHC-MLU) and the Pony Express Assn., CA Division (XP-CA).

In 2019 a contractor installed the 15-foot asphalt swale at the entrance on Wrights Road to remove the last impediment to street vehicles accessing the trailhead over the heavily eroded drainage ditch. MLU obtained a grant from Bass Pro Shops that paid for the asphalt entry and a portion of the gravel driveway.

Providing hardened surfaces of gravel in the trailhead and asphalt at the entry significantly improved public access to the XP Trail in two ways. First, street vehicles are now able to access the trailhead, which is adjacent to the XP Trail. Second, volunteer work parties have a staging area for trail maintenance.

One of the most active volunteer groups on the XP Trail is BSA Troop 186 from Elk Grove CA. The 20 members of the troop adopted 11 miles of the XP Trail in 2018 and use the trailhead to conduct a spring work party for pruning and a fall work party for cleaning the many culverts. They also assisted in trailhead construction by placing rip rap (cobblestones) to control erosion at six locations, three of which protect the seasonal creek. MLU purchased tools for the scouts to perform these trail maintenance activities.

As a result of having access to the trailhead and the XP Trail, BSA Troop 186 simultaneously benefited the general public with 11 miles of improved trail for hiking or riding and empowered their own scouts to earn BSA merit badges, fulfill rank requirements, and earn rank advancements.



Picture: #111 Eagle Scouts

Every one of the 20 scouts fulfilled rank requirements for trail maintenance, conservation, and public service, resulting in a dozen rank advancements from hundreds of man-hours of Scout service. Additionally, as a direct result of work on the trail, five Scouts advanced to Life Rank (the second-highest rank in Scouting), and four advanced to Eagle Rank (the highest rank in Scouting). The 2018-2019 seasons were very productive for BSA Troop 186.

One of the Eagle Projects resulted in a digital map of their 11 miles of the XP Trail for the US Forest Service to develop a Recreational Opportunity Guide (ROG). The USFS will add driving directions and narratives describing the scenic points along the trail.

ROGs are handed out to trail users who stop at the various ranger stations. This ROG is planned to be ready for spring 2020.

KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE WITH YOUTH EVENTS

Submitted by Lyle Ladner

Events that involve our youth. Keeping history alive through the stories, presentations and reenactment. April 12, 2019, the Kansas Division asked the third and fourth grade students in Wetmore and Powhattan to write letters to be exchanged with the opposite schools. The riders divided and went to each school where they talked with the students about the Pony Express, then collected the letters and road out to meet the group of riders' half way. The letters were canceled with a special stamp placed back in the mochilas and delivered on to the schools and handed to students. The teachers discussed the Pony Express the prior week.



PONY EXPRESS HONORS OUR VETERANS

Pony Letters for Veterans Submitted by Petra Keller



Woof! My name is Siena and I am a spunky 2-year-old heeler mix. Oh myyyy, the adventures I have had with my mom Petra!

I enjoy going on trails rides where I get to run alongside and this past summer, I even got to come along on the Pony Express Re-ride!

I sure loved helping “Uncle Red” (mom’s horse) who was carrying the Mochila (the special leather saddle pouch) which had lots of letters in it.

Thankfully I didn’t have to carry it – it was heavier than I am.

Recently, my mom and I had a special mission – we had to personally deliver letters to veterans! I was all for it because I love to visit with people!

Let me tell you about the “Pony Letters for Veterans” project:

As part of the 100-year Reno Rodeo Celebration the National Pony Express Association organized a “Pony Letter for Veterans” letter drive!

We did presentations all over about the Pony Express and the special project – I even had a special Pony Express uniform I got to wear at the presentations!

Then we asked everyone to write a letter to a veteran, which would be carried during the Reno Rodeo 100’s Year Celebration and be delivered by hand in the fall to the veterans.



We collected over 1300 letters – they arrived from 14 different states and 3 countries!

There were letters from school groups, civic groups, and Pony fans from all over!

Handmade cards, postcards, colorful letters, beautiful drawings and heartfelt messages were prepared for our veterans.

A special stamp “Carried on Horseback by the Pony Express” was stamped on all of them and they were carried horseback in a special made leather Mochila on Patriot Night at the Reno Rodeo.

Photo: Siena & David Rifkin Honor Guard – Nevada Veterans Coalition

These last few months we have been delivering the letters with the Nevada Veterans Coalition Honor Guard – What fun!

I heard many stories from folks that have traveled to places such as Guadalcanal, Vietnam, Korea, Germany, Britain, France and so many more.

These folks served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard... Wow, the stories they shared!

I want to share some of my stories with you...



We were visiting one of the homes and had visited a few of the residents in their rooms – when I saw *him*... He had a twinkle in his eye and while sitting in his chair, he winked at me! Of course, I had to jump in his lap and just start giving him kisses! He started giggling so loud and then he exclaimed, “THAT is the most action I have seen in years!”

He shared that he was 94 years old and then started telling me about when he was a boy in Virginia City and all the work he did through the years – it was fascinating! I wish I could have sat there longer to hear all his stories.

Siena & Petra visit with Army Nurse Corps Veteran, Isabel (102 years young) Photo Credit: Hellen Newman, HandPict



On another visit, I spied out of the corner of my eye, one of my favorite things – a tennis ball! But, not just one, but TWO of them – “Oh myyyy! What a great place we have come to! With so many people around, I am sure I can get someone to throw the ball! I just need to grab it and bring it to someone. It will be such fun!” Or so I thought...

I managed to get mom to go talk to the gentleman that was nearest the two balls. I kept trying to grab the ball to bring it her – but it wouldn’t move! “Why can’t I get ahold of this ball so someone can throw it for me?” Then mom explained to me that the tennis balls are attached to this “walker” device this gentleman uses – no wonder I could not fetch it! They were stuck to it!



On another visit mom brought my big horse sister, a pinto mare named Tiara Nevada, but we just call her T. While visiting a couple places I got to go inside and meet folks, but T had to stay outside!

After we did our talk inside, folks swarmed out to go feed carrots to T.

Everyone enjoyed giving T carrots and I sure liked that T would share them with me!

I highly recommend that you take some time and visit your local veterans and hear the fascinating stories they have to share.

These veterans really appreciate spending time with others – and they love it when you bring your 4-legged friends like me!



*Pony Express members Diane Garland, Petra Keller, “T”, Nevada Veterans Coalition Honor Guard David Rifkin, Sharon Serenko
Photo Credit: Hellen Newman, HandPict*

*Giving out the letters
Photo Credit: Hellen Newman, Handpict*



Petra Keller and Diane Garland talk about the Pony Express Photo Credit: Hellen Newman, HandPict

*“T” visiting with one of the veterans – checking to see if she had more carrots!
Photo Credit: Hellen Newman, HandPict*

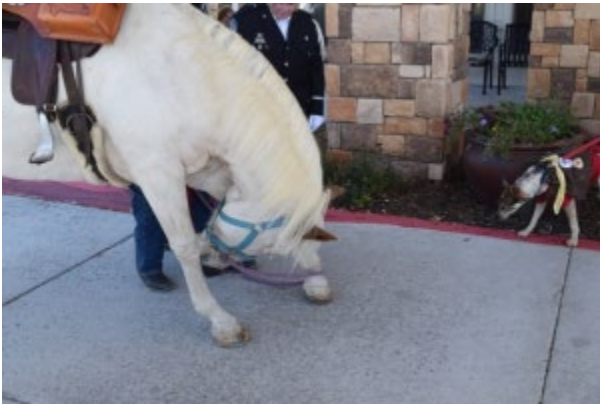




*Handing out the letters
Photo Credit: Hellen Newman, HandPict*



*"T" bowing for the
Veterans
Photo Credit: Hellen
Newman, HandPict*



PONY EXPRESS DELIVERS CHRISTMAS CARDS

California-Christmas Card Ride Submitted by Larry Carpenter

The 2019 Christmas Card Ride was held Saturday, December 7th. Riders in Relay transported two mochilas from the Folsom History Museum, along the American River Parkway to the Old Sacramento History Museum. The five-and-a-half-hour ride began with a beautiful clear morning but as time went on the riders hit rain.





Ride Captain Rich Tatman stamped last minute cards from Collection Box inside the Folsom History Museum.



Riders talking about the Pony Express.

Colorado-Christmas Card Ride

Source: Julesburg Advocate

Saturday morning eight riders from the Julesburg Pony Express Division, crossed seven miles between Ovid and Sedgwick to deliver the Christmas Cards. 135 cards were hand stamped with the official Colorado Division of the National Pony Express stamp. The local Pony Express has provided this service for the past several years at no charge.



Kyle and Carlie Brandt hand over their postal delivery to JoEllen Smith at the Julesburg Post Office, Saturday morning.



Pony Express Riders delivering this year's Christmas Cards were Linda Dolezal, Shelly Gerk, Meegan Lindsey, Destiny Frye, Jill East, Jenna East, Kyle Brandt, and Carlie Brandt.

Nebraska-Christmas Card Ride

Source: Gothenburg Leader

In several communities across the famed Pony Express trail, an annual tradition brings back a snippet of the past at Christmastime. With Gothenburg being dubbed the Pony Express capital of Nebraska, it only seems fitting this community would participate in the annual Christmas Card Ride - which took place on Saturday, Dec. 14.

This was the ninth year of the Christmas Card Ride between Cozad and Gothenburg, hosted by the Central Nebraska Pony Express. Members of the public were invited to place their Christmas cards with the appropriate postage in the Pony Express mailbox located at the Wilson Public Library in Cozad by 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13. Those cards were then picked up and hand-canceled with the Pony Express stamp, then placed in replica mochilas and delivered on horseback to the Gothenburg Public Library on Saturday.

Lyle Gronewold, member of the Pony Express Association and one of the organizers of the local Christmas Card Ride, said this year 593 stamped Christmas cards were delivered by the riders. With light snow falling and temperatures hovering below freezing, eight riders made a slightly more than two-hour trip.

The Christmas Card Ride is just one of the events the Pony Express Association hosts to pay homage to the horseback mail carriers who braved the plains nearly 160 years ago. In operation for only 18 months between April 1860 and October 1861, the Pony Express has become synonymous with the Old West. And association members like Gronewold and 80-year-old Victor Grasz, the oldest rider in the group, are doing what they can to preserve that history.



Wyoming-Christmas Card Ride

Photo Source: Facebook/Karen Bennett

Wyoming carried just under 2,900 cards from Casper to Glenrock, Douglas to Glendo and then Ft. Laramie to Guernsey through beautiful country.



*It was
snowing
hard from
Tank Farm
Rd. to
Guernsey.*



2020 RE-RIDE SCHEDULE

Sacramento, CA	Wed. June 3	2:00 p.m.	(23)
Woodfords, CA	Thurs. June 4	1:00 p.m.	(60)
Ibapah, UT	Sun. June 7	1:00/2:00 a.m.	(20)
-----Time Change (PDT-NDT)-----			
Salt Lake, UT	Sun. June 7	10:00 p.m.	(8.5)
Utah/Wyoming Line	Mon. June 8	6:30 a.m.	(56)
Lyman NE	Wed. June 10	2:30 p.m.	(12)
Chappell, NE	Thur. June 11	2:30 a.m.	(3.5)
Big Springs, NE	Thur. June 11	6:00/7:00 a.m.	(39)
-----Time Change (NDT-CDT)-----			
Neb/Kansas Line (Tri County Marker)	Fri. June 12	10:00 p.m.	(21)
Kansas/Missouri Line	Sat. June 13	7:00 p.m.	(.5)
St. Joseph, MO	Sat. June 13	7:30 p.m.	

2020 DEADLINES AND DUE DATES

January

- 31** Updated State Membership Applications
- 31** State Division officers to NPEA Stablemaster
- 31** State Re-Ride Schedule to NPEA Stablemaster

February

- 28** Gazette articles to Pony Express Gazette

April

- 15** Membership dues payable to National Treasurer (include roster)
- 15** Letter information to Letter Secretary
- 30** State Rosters to National Secretary

June

- 3-13** Re-ride

July

- 15** Newsletter articles to Newsletter Editor

August

- 1** Early Convention Registration
- 15** Nominations for National Honorary Members to National President
- 15** VIP Reports from State Presidents & National Directory Members to National Secretary
- 31** Convention reports Due to National Secretary

September

- 11-12** Convention, Kansas

October

- 15** Newsletter articles to Newsletter Editor

November

- 30** PNTS reports from State Presidents & National Directory Members to National Secretary

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