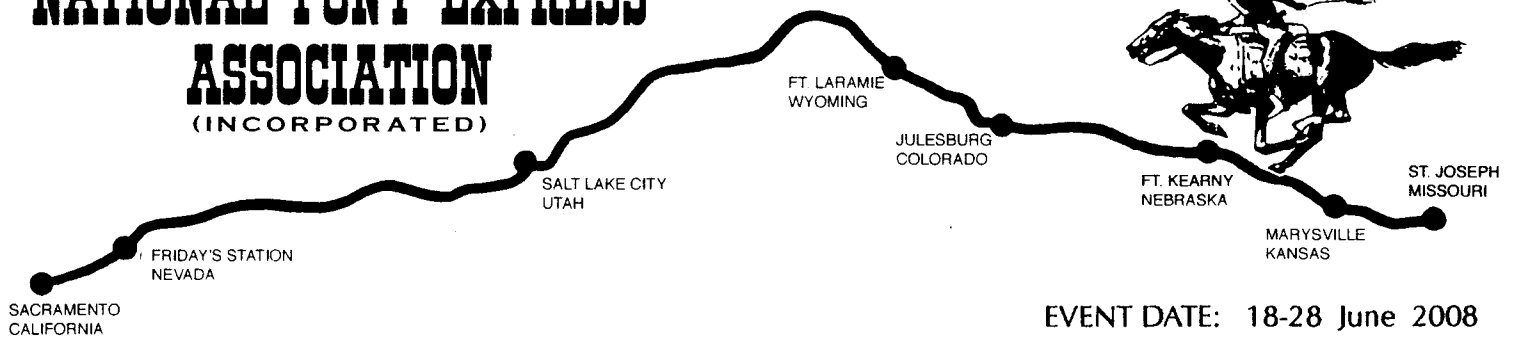


NATIONAL PONY EXPRESS ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED)



EVENT DATE: 18-28 June 2008
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NEWS RELEASE #3

2008 PONY EXPRESS RE-RIDE

A 148th Anniversary Re-Run of the famed Pony Express of 1860-61 will be made by the National Pony Express Association, June 18 - 28, 2008. The horsemen will follow the overland route from Sacramento, California, to St. Joseph, Missouri.

The first rider will depart Pony Express Plaza, 2nd & J Street, Old Sacramento, at 9:00 AM, Wednesday, June 18th and the last will gallop up to the Patee House, in St. Joseph, Missouri, with the mail on Saturday, June 28th, at 11:00 AM. The route will be across the Pony Express National Historic Trail, a 1,966 mile trail from California through Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas to Missouri. Welcome celebrations will be held in communities and at remount stations during the event.

The 10-day, 24-hour a day event will commemorate the 148th Anniversary year of the founding of the Pony Express. Owned by Russell, Majors and Waddell, a Missouri freighting firm, it carried letters and telegrams for 19 months on the Central Route, to prove it passable and win a proposed federal mail contract.

They failed to win the proposed federal mail contract but instead created a legend of daring enterprise and bravery. It became a symbol of the old west, and its story retold in books, movies, songs and re-enactments. The Pony Express Trail was added to the Federal Trail System as a Historic Trail in 1992, and the National Park Service preserves and interprets its history and historic sites. The NPEA has done annual Re-Rides since 1980.

The re-rides give a new generation of Americans the opportunity to be a Pony Express Rider: to take the Pony Express Oath, receive a Pony Express Bible, and ride with the mail. They face the same dust, the same heat, the same sun, and the same rain, hail and mud as the 1860 riders.

They will relay a mochila, a leather square with four pockets (cantinas) sewn in each corner. Designed for a western saddle, it will be relayed horse to horse over eight states. Commemorative letters and personal mail will be carried in the cantinas. Upon arrival in St. Joseph, the mail will be transferred to the US Postal Service for delivery world-wide.

Information and updates will be available from several sources - an old-fashioned mail service with high-tech coverage. The Pony Express Home Page, www.xphomestation.com will have real-time coverage including pictures and reports. The Sierra Intermountain Emergency Radio Association will host a hotline (775) 246-3756, June 19 - 21, with reports from mobile radio teams on the Nevada trail. A GPS unit in the mochila will transmit the location of the rider 24 hours a day for the duration of the entire event. The rider location can be found by calling (775) 867-3382, or on the web at PonyExpressNationalTracking.com.

POST OFFICE BOX 236 • POLLOCK PINES • CALIFORNIA 95726

XP June 2008

A National Organization to Re-establish, Identify, and Re-ride the Historical Pony Express Trail

