

NEVADA XP NEWS

JULY 2009

Nevada's Board & Contact numbers

President - Steve Notterman 775-425-3296

Vice President - Gary Nezos 775-241-7300

Secretary - David Kittle 775-867-4067

Treasurer - Dawn Nenzel 775- 782-7960

Events - Mary Kuckenmeister 775-267-2059

Quartermaster & Member at large - Jill Andrews 775- 423-4740

Ely Ride Captain - Wendy Anderson 775 -289-4397

Safety Coordinator - Kathy Davis 775-867-3590

Please take a look at the National Website it has entries from several of our members the site is xphomestation.com

XP Dates to remember.....

August 11th - Board of Director's meeting

August 13th - Monthly Meeting 7 pm @ Grandma Hatties, come early to
Eat and visit!

August 15-16 Ely Pony Express Relay Races - contact Wendy Anderson
For questions & details

Sept 5th Labor Day Parades in Fallon & Virginia City

Sept 12 XP Annual Dinner - Laura Springs Ranch 5:30 pm

\$20 per person - must RSVP & pay prior to 9/5/09

Please contact Debi Royer for tickets sadlmup@gmail.com

A poem by Nevada rider Sallie Joseph

The Trail of the Mochila

The smell of sagebrush smoke drifted up the narrow
canyon,
Just moments before he saw the flicker of a campfire's
light.
The pony rider pushed his almost spent and lathered horse,
Into the relay station on a deathly quiet moonless night.

A brilliant red and golden sunset had faded fast behind him,
And the threat of rain and consequent mud remained true.
But the mail must go on no matter what the elements bring,
As the Phantom of the Desert spurred his pony on through.

A sudden holler echoed in the silence "RIDER COMIN'
IN"
The remount pawed and danced in place waiting for the
swap.
With a spray of gravel, the rider stepped to the ground,
Even before the winded pony had come to a complete stop.

He jerked the infamous Mochila from atop the saddle horn,
And with an effortless motion gave the satchel a fling...
Onto the anxious, wild-eyed mustang, ready and rearin' to
go,
Then the horseman was aboard with a leap and a swing.
Gallop off into the darkness as quick as they came,
The pony rider's integrity is laced with lots of luck and
trust.

With the precious mail tucked neatly inside "La Mochila"
They left behind only tracks, a weary horse and some dust.

The sound of hoof beats disappeared quickly into the
silence The heavy breathing of a tired horse was the only
sound.

The salty, stinging smell of lather softly lingered there As
the pony's sweat dripped in puddles on the ground.

The excitement starts to rise and the anticipation begins...
As the station keeper's voice calls out "Rider Comin' in"
again

For another fast transfer and onto another fresh mount,
A saga endures, the legend remains, of The Pony
Expressmen.

Steadily racing across the deserts and mountain peaks,
Fording raging rivers and through blizzards of snow...
The route of "The Pony" supplied the West like a vein,
With the blood and sweat of a nation to nourish the flow.

Relentless in desire the loyal horse and rider sped...
"The mail must go through" even if life be the cost,
With bravery and courage and the will of a saint,
The trail of the Mochila was never tarnished or lost.
Pounding the changing terrain and challenging the wind,
Against all odds with sheer speed and superior skill...
The epitome of unity between horse, rider and country,
Stretched the limits of endurance and unbridled will.

The trail of the lettered word always remained connected,
Where a bond seemed in vain in the shadow of civil war.
History, heroes and horses ---the legend of the Pony
Express
Endures years of marvel, fascination and mystical lore.

Written after participating in the 2009 "Re-Ride" by
Sallie Joseph 6-17-2009

News from Wendy Anderson in Ely:

Schellbourne Re-Riders had a fun, eventful ride. We made up some lost time and got pretty muddy doing it too. Check out our reports and pictures on xphomestation.

We are planning an after the pony ride BBQ on July 31 at Steptoe Park at 6:00 p.m. to have some good food, talk about the ride, and wrap up some loose ends. We also will be planning the Pony Express Relay Race Event for the upcoming horse races in August.

We are looking for out of town teams to come and complete, so contact us at 775-293-1034.

We held an Educational Mail Run between We ran the mail between David E. Norman and McGill Elementary Schools which are 13 miles apart on May 22, 2009. That was interesting for all involved and successful. Thanks to all that participated. See picture below.

Hopefully, we will have some members in attendance for the Nevada State Annual Meeting in September!



Picture by Rudy Herndon, The Ely Times

Pony Express
VIRGINIA CITY
Memorial Day Parade
2009
Sesquicentennial
Virginia City's 150th Birthday



Pony Express Riders from left to ride

Sala Sherwood with the American flag on her grey gelding "Roper", Tom Sherwood on his chestnut Arabian gelding, Larry McPherson on his chestnut Arabian gelding and Annette Lancaster with the Pony Express flag on her grey Arabian mare "Zelda".

Annette Lancaster wanted to let everyone know that you are missing out by not participating in parades!! If you want to join her - all you have to do is contact Kathy Davis -Safety Coordinator @ 775-867-3590 - Kathy can get your riding certified (for insurance purposes) then you can participate in all the public functions you want to! And the club really needs the exposure, since we are always looking for new members!!

Education Committee History

By Mike Ryan

During our adventures into the wilds of Nevada it was brought to my attention that there are members that do not know about the beginnings of the education committee or how it was intended to function. As I write this article I only represent myself and not the committee as a whole. Some of my years or past member involvements may not be correct.

Some 20 plus years ago, Byron Clark since deceased, Neil Mehringer and others along with Jim Rankin, Bob Moore and Dale Ryan as active members and not necessarily original committee members had the idea to start a education fund with the intent of funding a perpetual scholarship for the college bound youth of Nevada. I remember the club was always struggling for money to fund anything. Some meetings a donated item would be raffled off and the proceeds would go into this special account other times something might be purchased and raffled. It was tough because if we had 20 of us in the same room that was a well attended meeting. As time went by the 50/50 raffle came into existence and it has been a great fund raising tool for this committee.

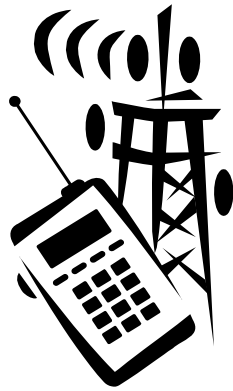
From the inception, (as I recall the idea), was to raise enough money to fund a yearly scholarship in any amount we could fund through the interest of the funds we had collected. And try is what we did to raise money. I did not think we would ever break a thousand dollars in the bank, but with the committee's persistence and the membership's generosity we have gone beyond that.

About the time Mona Dibble was president the idea came out to fund XP exposure for school children and the committee agreed to fund those expenses. I believe this is great exposure for our group. Byron and others had done these kinds of events whenever they could make it happen.

As long as I am involved with this committee it is my intention to maintain the funds in an account that will return money's on our investment in efforts to obtain the goal of a self sustained financial scholarship for our youth. The amounts of the scholarships have continued to grow as the years have gone by and to my knowledge we have not had a return large enough on our investment yet, that fully funded our scholarships. This day will arrive for us if we continue to carry on as we have or find other resources to add funds to it. I say it is a success beyond my wildest dreams of the past. Byron and other members that have passed on would surely approve of our current efforts and are whooping it up at the amount of the scholarships we have been able to present to the deserving youth Nevada. I will always dream for a scholarship that can be presented yearly that is at least \$1000.00 funded by our return on investment.

2009 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

The recipient of the 2009 - \$600 scholarship was Joshua Barbie a Carson High Senior with a 4.69 Grade average. He has enrolled at Colorado State University and plans to major in Veterinary Medicine. We wish him the best of luck!



The S.I.E.R.A ham radio group did a good job keeping us informed of where and when the pony was.

I am sure if you were hooked up to the internet that you watched the progress of the Pony via Joe Kelso's informative website - makes us realize how 'out of reach' much of Utah & Nevada truly are in relation to cell phone satellite service! Fun to see how fast/slow riders were going when the info got updated.

Big thanks go to both S.I.E.R.A ham radio group and Joe Kelso.

Here are some Ride Captains Reports from this years ride.....

Wendy Anderson - Utah State Line to Overland Pass

This will be a year to remember for many pony riders across all the states. Our group was no exception. One rider woke up early June 15, to find one of his prize horses had died during the night. He then spent half the day trying to give the horse a proper burial. More on this rider's bad luck later!

Our group set up camp at Hick's Ranch in Iapah, Utah. We were prepared to pick the mail up at the set time of 11:30 P.M., but received regular reports from John Abrott, our ham operator that the mail was between 4 to 5 hours late. A great supper was prepared and enjoyed by all. Steve Poole did his usual great job on preparing the tri-tip roasts. We were pleased to have some of the National Officers, Les Bennington, his sons, and Dave Sanner, join our camp for supper. (They would prove to be of great help later in the trip). A short horse back ride was enjoyed by part of the group while passing time during the evening.

At this point in time, we had not heard from Doc. Christensen, his two sons and his daughter-in-law, Valarie. I was getting pretty worried about them. Sometime around 10 p.m., I received a phone call that Christensen's truck had broken down on the trip out and they had spent a good share of the night just trying to get back into Ely. Doc said they would meet us at Schellbourne Station.

Some of us took advantage of the opportunity to get a couple hours of sleep, while others sat around the camp fire. Around 2:30 a.m. Rick, Dawn, and Bubba Brown packed it up and headed for the Pony Express Monument in Ibapah, Nevada for the mail exchange.

Calvin Kennedy was assigned to head out and open 6 gates up to Tippet Flats. Then we waited. The Utah group came riding in for the exchange which took place at 4:07 a.m. Nevada time. Dawn Brown was our first rider heading out on a young horse that was not too sure about what was happening and not too sure about the night riding. Rider and horse did extremely well. After the Browns, they passed off to Kathy Poole and then to Geno Ockert, (a first time rider). Then we all lined out from there clear to Tippet Valley, where we made the decision to go across the original trail, because it was light enough to see by now. We had previously decided not to go across this trail because it is full of badger holes. It can be very dangerous in the rain and the dark. This decision saved us some time.

Calvin Kennedy rode his newly acquired Arabian horse, Azem. He could be heard up and down the trail when the horse took off like a bolt of lightning. (Oh, he is going to be mad at me.)

Tom and Carol Love rode the dangerous badger hole trail (they are first time riders) and had a great ride. They handed off to Tony Zamora, who took off at a fast pace across the valley heading towards Rock Springs on his horse, Chato. I think my brother Lee Payne rode somewhere here too. I took 2 miles heading up to Rock Springs and handed off to another green horn, Ashley Giliespie, who was riding Bar Girl. She had a tough ride, up hill with 2 broken ribs from being crazy and racing around a race track in Ely a week or so previously. Ashley handed off to Keith Anderson and Savannah Anderson who raced each other up over the top of Rock Springs in record time. Both Cabio and Turbo were pretty tired when they reached Jim Bath's group consisting of Paul Bath and Rebecca Fouts. Most of our group has to head up the road and go around the mountain, where we meet at what we call the Y. At this point, we re-group and line out again at 1 1/2 mile sections up over Schellbourne Pass. The pass is very long and steep. Our horses and riders did a great job this year on this pass. We all came into Schellbourne Station around 9:00 a.m. and enjoyed a breakfast prepared by Coral Ockert and Christy Hurlbert. And yes, I was very happy to crest the summit and see pony riders in the valley, because that meant that Doc. Christensen's group had made it. They have great horses that are always in good shape.

Most of us enjoyed breakfast and waited for the mail to arrive at Schellbourne Station. Tom Love brought the mail into the Christensen riders. Chris, Brett, Valarie, and Doc. Christensen all made really good time across the trail and handed off, I believe to Paul Bath. (I'm not positive on this one though). Then Mandy Dickerman and Calvin Kennedy rode several miles to get the mail to what we call the seeding in Egan Canyon, where Rick Brown, Dawn Brown and Bubba McCall rode

across the seeding in some really terrible, wet weather. I hope they had their rain coats on!

Several trucks headed around the mountains again to get in line to cross Butte Valley. I don't know the exact hand offs, but I know Geno Ockert and Kathy Poole rode Butte Valley. I think my brother Lee Payne rode somewhere through here too. A few other riders were in there somewhere too. Some riders were trying desperately to get across the muddy, wet, slippery, rutted roads to get into position to ride the White Rock Pass. They included, Jordan Anderson, Jim Bath and Tony Zamora. This pass is very interesting; nothing can get into this area except horses. Exceptional horses and riders are needed to complete this section. And these guys love to challenge and race each other through this area. They do a great job covering the miles!

Doctor Chris's truck, my truck, and Tom Love's truck headed for the pass where the horses and riders come out of White Rock Pass. From here, we knew we were ahead of the riders and the trucks behind us would be hard pressed to catch the mail anytime soon. Butte Valley, Long Valley and Ruby Valley were a nightmare, if you had to stop, you were done and probably buried in the mud. We did a lot of unloading and loading of horses in trailers. We expected a muddy mess, but this was anything but fun, at this point!

So, our three trucks started lining out at 2 mile intervals heading towards Long Valley and Ruby Valley. But, now we had another problem. Doc. Chris's group was having vehicle problems, (this was their second truck problem) the truck was heating up. We went a short distance and had to stop and let the truck cool off. Finally, they decided to put 2 horses in Tom Loves truck and it worked. The truck started running a little better and was not heating up so quickly. So, we continued to line out across the valleys and waited for the mail to catch us. The other 6 trucks started catching us in Ruby Valley and the Mavericks. Thank goodness too; we were about out of horses at this point. Bath's and Christensen's left us to head home on Ruby Valley Road, so now we were down to 7 trucks left. At this point, most everyone is hoping it is about over. We told everyone left that we needed 10 horses to get us to the Huntington road in preparation for the last big ride across the valley and up to Overland Pass. Everyone with anything left lined out and we took off again.

When we reached the Huntington road, everyone got together to talk about the ride and visit for the first time since Schellbourne. The Benningtons, and Dave Sanner was there too. Keith Anderson and Tony Zamora outfitted the 2 young Bennington's with horses. As we were waiting for the mail, Steve Poole came driving up and stated that Geno's horse, Pony Boy, was done in and he needed help. I don't know which young Bennington it was, but he took off down the road on a new Arabian horse Tony Zamora had just picked up from the Nevada State

President, Steve Notterman. A few minutes' later rider and mail came blasting in for the next rider.

While all of this was going on, I was busy switching saddle and tack to a fresh horse to take up over Overland Pass. Keith Anderson was preparing to go up the mountain too!

The Bennington's rode horses across the valley, while Jordan Anderson drove Keith and I up as far as we could get in the truck with our horses. The Bennington's handed off to me and we were off at a fast lope up the mountain. Keith and I made that last ride to the handoff area at the top of Overland Pass in 35 minutes. We handed off and were 1 hour and 55 minutes late. Realizing we were still late, the next Nevada group took off in a hurry down the mountain. What a great ride, it was beautiful!

I later found out that the Bennington's and Dave Sanner were very instrumental in helping everyone get dug out or pulled out across all the muddy valleys. Thank you so much for all your help. Your dedication to Pony Express is wonderful. We love to see you come! We all had a great ride and will remember this year for many years to come. Just when we thought all the fun was over, we realized how wrong we were!

Some riders decided they had had enough fun and went home after the ride.

Among them was my daughter, Savannah Anderson, her friend and Tony Zamora. They met with disaster as they crested a ridge and found livestock. Luckily, no one was hurt, but Tony's truck won't be quite the same for quite a while.

Then, we were awakened in camp with a medical emergency that luckily turned out all right after about an hour's time and some good work on the part of EMT's Calvin Kennedy and Barbara Anderson. Thanks to them!

Tony Zamora thought his bad luck was all done by now, but it was not to be so! His dog got ran over later that afternoon. So, if you have the opportunity- please remind Tony how much fun Pony Express really is, we want him and his great horses back for next year! With all that said and done--see ya next year for more of the fun, we love it!

My riders were ...Barbara Anderson, Jordan Anderson, Keith Anderson, Savannah Anderson, Wendy Anderson, Jim Bath, Paul Bath, Dawn Brown, Rick Brown, Keirsten (Bubba) McCall, Bret Christensen, Chris Christensen, Norman Christensen, Valerie Pryor-Christensen, Mandy Dickerman, Calvin Kennedy, Carol Love, Tom Love, Gene Ockert, Kathy Poole, Steve Poole, Tony Zamora, Rebecca Foutes, Lee Payne, & Courtney Siber. Thank you!

[Nancy Hoggard, Ride Captain, Sand Springs, Nevada](#)

The Sand Springs Section in Nevada had a great ride this year. We had some apprehensive thoughts about the status of our trail after/during the rains. The results are both good and bad. We were unable to cross the playa immediately west of Sand Springs Station between 8 Mile Flat and 4 Mile Flat. We had made the crossing on Memorial Day weekend and looked forward to crossing the playa with the Pony racing along the remaining stumps of the telegraph, reminiscent of the poster we've all seen-except the telegraph poles were being installed on the poster instead of just a memory as it is today. Next year, we hope to provide that picture. Melody Johnson received the mail from Zip and Nancy Upham. Zip, Nancy and I have ridden in the desert for years. They gave me my start riding in the desert. It's GREAT to be Ride Captains of adjoining Sections. Melody Johnson passed the mochilla to her husband, Arthur Johnson. Hopefully you'll see them racing across the playa next year. Arthur then passed the mochilla to his daughter, Tasha Johnson. Rebecca Stacey and I accompanied Tasha to the Geothermal Plan at the base of Simpson Pass. Rebecca Stacy and I then took the mochilla over Simpson Pass and Tasha continued on with us. The connection at Pit Road with Tom and Sala Sherwood-great friends and awesome riders-was missed and Rebecca continued across Bass Flat. Tom and Sala caught up with her and all returned safely. The rains didn't compromise Bass Flat and the footing there was excellent. At the old Wildcat Freight Station, the mail was passed to Kathy Davis. Kathy came off the Reno Rodeo Cattle Drive for the evening to ride on the Pony. Kathy took the mail to Highway 95 where she passed off to Annette Lancaster's section. We were very lucky with the rain as most of the storms and lightening danced around us. We missed the moon a lot. Without it, it was darker than "the inside of a cow". That slowed us down and we were unable to make up any time as we had hoped. I think I can speak for all my riders when I say that I have come to love our section. It's incredible to think of all the history that has happened here. I'm thankful that the weather was our only challenge and that we didn't have anyone stealing our horses and shooting at us. Stay tuned for next year when we will again attempt to cross the playa heading east to Sand Springs Station.

[Annette Lancaster - Shurz Highway to Fort Churchill](#)

I'm proud to participate in the 149th annual re-ride. This is my second year as a national pony express member in Nevada. My name is Annette Lancaster also a first time ride captain for the Shurz Highway to the Fort Churchill section.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people that helped me make my job easier as a ride captain.

Larry McPherson for sharing his knowledge as a former ride captain for this section and for the do's and don'ts.

Deborah Dibble for her expertise in showing me and riding the trail with me before the re-ride.

Joe Kelso and his crew for helping mark the trail with mile markers and ribbons.

We expected the mochila to arrive at 9:30 pm from Nancy Hoggard - Sand Springs Shurz Highway section. We received the mochila at 11:45pm on June 17, 2009 it was about 2 hours and 15 minutes late.

Kathy Davis was the rider that passed it on to Sallie Joseph, first rider in my section.



Sallie did not have to ride by herself, in this moon less and cloud covered night, it was very dark that night! She was accompanied by her son Jay Joseph. Sallie rode a 12 year old TB gelding named Marwick and Jay rode a 5 year old quarter horse mare named Dally. After eight miles, about 1:35 am mother and son passed the mochila off at the 8 mile marker to Lani Davis.



Lani and her gray Arabian mare passed the mochila off at the 12 mile marker to Alex Andreasen.



Alex also did not have to ride by himself he was accompanied by me. Annette Lancaster, I was yelling out at him on the trail to slow down after galloping over rocks and seeing the sparks flying "**I can't see**" and Alex replied "**that's OK your horse can see**", we were going so fast that Alex's hat was like a sail in the wind and his hurricane straps broke, his hat soars away. Now we had to stop and pick it up, it was not easy to find a black hat in a black night. Alex rode his 12 year old tri-color $\frac{1}{2}$ Arabian $\frac{1}{2}$ Paint horse gelding named Taos. He passed the mochila off after 4 miles at the 16 mile marker to Deborah Dibble.



Deborah and her 12 year old bay Arabian gelding named C.D. after 4 miles at the 20 mile marker passed the mochila on to her husband John Dibble.



John and his trusted steed a 12 year old sorrel $\frac{1}{2}$ Arabian $\frac{1}{2}$ Quarter horse mare named Tango, passed the mochila after 2 miles at the 22 mile marker to Annette Lancaster.



After 4 miles Annette and her pony 11 year old chestnut Arabian gelding named Rocky passed the mochila at the 26 mile marker about 3:32 a.m. off to Joan McGrath.

Joan and her sorrel Quarter mare named Diamond passed the mochila off after 2 miles at the mile marker 28 to an old experienced Pony Express rider Larry McPherson.



Larry and his trusted steed Sundown chestnut Arabian gelding carried with expertise the mochila crossed highway 95A and the river into Fort Churchill after 2.5 mile at mile marker 30.5. Handed off at about 4:42 am to the next section, Debi Royer Fort Churchill/Carson City.

I think I had the best horse flesh and equestrian's that any ride captain can ask for. **Thank you riders for a job well done.**



Sallie, Alex, Annette, John and Deborah XP 2009

Debi Royer - Fort Churchill to Carson City



David Kittle, Milton Swinford @ Ft. Churchill



Gary Nezos @ intersection of Ft Churchill Road & Hwy 50

Mail arrived late at Fort Churchill @ 4:45 am on Thursday June 18. But, waiting was fun with David Kittle's Crew - there was a nice campfire, good food & lots of good company! Riders in my section were David Kittle, Milton Swinford, Claire-Marie Ward, Gary Nezos, Vicky Moya, Stephanie Pato, Nick Ryan, Dale Ryan, Jane Bailey and myself.



Stephanie Pato on Hwy 50



Debi Royer @ intersection of Hwy 50 & Hwy 341



Nick Ryan @ intersection of Hwy 50 & Hwy 341



Dale Ryan @ Hwy 50 & Arrowhead Drive



Janet Bailey on Hwy 50

Carson City Sheriff's Volunteers provided very adequate and appreciated escort. Mail was delivered to Bob Moore's section @ about 8:45 am. All of my riders did a great job and their horses were in good condition, I had several new riders to my section - David, Milton, Claire-Marie, Vicky & Stephanie and Vicky was a first time pony rider!! Thanks to you all & your support crews for making me proud to be your Ride Captain.

Bob Moore - Carson City to California State Line

The trail was in good condition all the way to Lake Tahoe with the exception of a short portion on the Kingsbury Grade where a wash out from the recent rain forced the rider to dismount and walk his horse. The mail was received about 3 hours late, my section made up a little more than an hour and the mail was passed off to a California rider about 2 hours late @ 1300. In addition to the spectators at the Capitol there were over 30 at the Genoa Museum exchange and another 10 at the bottom of old Kingsbury Grade and approximately 50 at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. My riders were Steve Adams, Marvin Davis, Austin Glenn, Carl Malkmus, Mike Murphy and myself.



Austin Glenn @ 3rd & Curry in Carson City

This is a call to all the other Ride Captains - get your story to me about this years ride & I will get it in the next newsletter!

Enjoy the Summer!

