



PONY EXPRESS SESQUICENTENNIAL ST. JOSEPH, MO

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Feb. 1- Dec. 15, 2010

Riders of the Pony Express Exhibit St. Joseph Museums

A fascinating overview of Pony Express riders' lives and times, including 19th-century photographs of actual riders, along with mochilas (mail bags), saddles, news clippings, drawings, maps and much more. www.stjosephmuseum.org; (816) 232-8471.

Thursday, April 1, 2010

Buffalo Bill Look-Alike Contest, Reception & Chuck Wagon Dinner 5:00 p.m., Pony Express National Museum

Do you look like Buffalo Bill Cody or know someone who does? Join in the fun as contestants compete to see who most resembles the famous, flamboyant frontiersman. Afterwards, join Buffalo Bill Look-Alike contestants, plus volunteers and re-enactors at a authentic chuckwagon dinner! **\$00.00** per person, available at the Pony Express Museum. www.ponyexpress.org; (816) 279-5059. *Sponsored by KQ2 and Cindy Barnes Productions*

Pony Express Sesquicentennial Banquet 6:30 p.m., Patee House Museum

Join us for a gala reception and dinner at the Patee House Grand Ballroom, where Pony Express riders danced with local girls in 1860. Patee House was a luxury hotel that housed Pony Express headquarters and accommodated riders prior to their departure on April 3, 1860. Featured guest Christopher Corbett, Professor of English at the University of Maryland, will discuss his book, *Orphans Preferred: The Twisted Truth and Lasting Legends of the Pony Express*. www.ponyexpressjessejames.com; (816) 232-8206. Tickets \$20.00 per person, available at the Patee House Museum.

Friday, April 2, 2010

Pony Express National Museum Celebration

Enjoy two days of celebrations, starting at 11:30 a.m. with the Daughters of the American Revolution's Tea Party and an exciting re-enactment starring the winner of the Buffalo Bill Look-Alike Contest. At 2:00 p.m., don't miss the thrilling re-enactment of the dramatic Otterville Train Robbery, in which the James Gang held up the Otterville train in Rocky Cut pass on July 7, 1876, to finance further robberies. And from 3:00-6:00 p.m., watch fascinating demonstrations and visit displays including live oxen, blacksmiths, Native Americans, settler stores and food booths. www.ponyexpress.org; (816) 279-5059.

Chris Corbett - Pony Express Book Signing Patee House Museum

Christopher Corbett, Professor of English at the University of Maryland, will sign copies of his book, *Orphans Preferred: The Twisted Truth and Lasting Legends of the Pony Express*. Museum visitors also will see the 1860 Hannibal-St. Joseph Railroad train that brought mail to St. Joseph for the Pony Express to carry west to Sacramento, California. Explore two floors of fascinating exhibits...enjoy a sarsaparilla in the Buffalo Saloon (soft drinks only)...ride the Wild Thing Carousel...and visit the Jesse James Home next door. www.ponyexpressjessejames.com; (816) 232-8206.

Saturday, April 3, 2010

Pony Express National Museum Celebration

The celebration continues, starting at 8:00 a.m. with the release of the Pony Express Stamp-First Day Cover, plus exciting re-enactments featuring Pony Express "riders" dashing on horseback from the original stables inside the Pony Express Museum to the Pony Express Post Office. At noon, watch the notorious James Gang rob the Winston Train. And from 2:00-6:00 p.m., see fascinating demonstrations and visit displays including live oxen, blacksmiths, Native Americans, settler stores and food booths. www.ponyexpress.org; (816) 279-5059.

Pony Express Bridle & Saddle Parade, featuring the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales 11:00 a.m.

Make sure you're on hand for this fantastic parade, starting at the Pony Express Museum and winding through the streets of St. Joseph to the Pony Express National Museum. You'll see Pony Express riders, period re-enactors including soldiers and settlers, Native Americans, St. Joseph officials, (who else to list?) and many others—plus the magnificent Budweiser Clydesdales complete with a historic beer wagon and traditional Dalmation.

Johnny Fry Ride

7:00 p.m., Pony Express National Museum

Johnny Fry rides again! Do not miss the celebration as Justin Rother—a direct descendant of a Pony Express rider--portrays the first Pony Express rider, Johnny Fry. Rother's riding skills and supposed resemblance to Johnny Fry make him one of the most popular Pony Express re-enactors. Watch him ride out from the original stables to deliver the mail, wearing his famous red bandana!

Patee House Museum Celebration

We'll continue to celebrate at the Patee House Museum, starting at 10:00 a.m. with fascinating demonstrations of Pony Express riding and mochila-exchange skills. At 11:00 a.m., see how people danced in the mid-19th century as the Village Dancers Heritage Dancing group performs period dances in authentic costumes in the Grand Ballroom. Chris Corbett will sign his book, *Orphans Preferred: The Twisted Truth and Lasting Legends of the Pony Express*, and entertaining Pony Express expert Joe Nardone will give short talks and answer questions in the original Pony Express headquarters at the Patee House Museum. Visitors also will see the 1860 Hannibal-St. Joseph Railroad train that brought mail to St. Joseph for the Pony Express to carry west to Sacramento, California. Explore two floors of fascinating exhibits...enjoy a sarsaparilla in the Buffalo Saloon (soft drinks only)...ride the Wild Thing Carousel...and visit the Jesse James Home next door. www.ponyexpressjessejames.com; (816) 232-8206.

Voices of the Pony Express

1-4 p.m., Mount Mora Cemetery

Join in a live exploration of this historic cemetery as you "meet" St. Joseph's legendary Pony Express riders and other mid-19th century individuals, and hear their amazing stories.

Advance tickets: \$5 adults, \$2 students. On-site: \$7 adults, \$4 students. Free for children under age 6.

Michael Martin Murphey in concert

8:00 p.m., Missouri Theatre

"Singing Cowboy" Michael Martin Murphey, best-selling singer-songwriter of American Cowboy music, will perform at the Missouri Theatre.

Tickets \$10-\$40, available through Robidoux Resident Theatre and Performing Arts Association.

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Apple Blossom Festival Parade, Barbecue Contest and “Sound of Speed” Air Show

Voted “Best Parade in St. Joseph” for 11 consecutive years, this year’s edition will feature the theme, “Expanding St. Joe Horizons: From Ponies to Planes,” referring to the Pony Express Sesquicentennial plus performances by the renowned Blue Angels, who will soar over the skies of St. Joseph in F/A-18 Hornets. Other performances will include aerobatics, a wing-walking piratess and more. The Apple Blossom Barbecue Contest, May 1-2, attracts a growing number of participants and spectators each year and fills the air with sensational scent!

Monday, June 2, 2010

National Pony Express Association Events Marysville, Kansas

Starting in the early evening, as part of the annual re-ride of the National Pony Express Association (June 6-26 over the 1,966-mile Pony Express National Historic Trail), the Marysville Chamber of Commerce will host family-friendly activities near the Pony Express Barn & Museum, including: a barbecue, a sing-along, children’s games, old-time skills demonstrations (rope, broom and basket making and blacksmithing), plus a musical performance by the Minihan Family of Blue Rapids...all leading up to the dramatic arrival of a Pony Express rider at 9:15!

Saturday, June 26, 2010

Patee House Museum & the National Pony Express Association Events St. Joseph, Missouri

In honor of the conclusion of the NPEA’s annual re-ride, at 10 a.m. the Missouri chapter of the NPEA will hold a colorful circa-1860 procession from the foot of Francis Street at the St. Joseph riverfront through downtown St. Joseph, past the famed Pony Express statue and original stables at the Pony Express Museum...ending with the arrival of the horses and mochila (mail bag) at the Patee House Museum, site of the original Pony Express headquarters. In a moving ceremony, commemorative letters carried from California will be turned over to the U.S. Postal Service for delivery in St. Joseph—just like in the days of the Pony Express!

August 20-22, 2010

TrailsWest! Festival

This exciting, action-packed three-day festival celebrates the arts and St. Joseph's unique cultural heritage with more than 80 events—this year, with a special focus on the Sesquicentennial of the Pony Express! Come enjoy arts and crafts, music, re-enactments, demonstrations, concerts, exhibits, presentations, historic tours, food, games, drama and much more, as we celebrate St. Joseph's significant role in the expansion of the American West! www.trailswest.org; (816) 233-0231.

September 15-16

Pony Express Trail Trip

St. Joseph Museums

Jackie Lewin, Executive Director of St. Joseph Museums and co-author of *On The Winds of Destiny: A Biographical Look at Pony Express Riders*, will lead a group from St. Joseph, Mo. to Pony Express stations in Kansas, including Marysville, Hollenburg and Rock Creek, to Fort Kearney, Neb. We'll also explore the Great Platte River Road to Archway Monument. Join us on this fascinating and informative journey! www.stjosephmuseum.org; (816) 232-8471.