



## **PONY EXPRESS SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENTS** **ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI**

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**February 1- December 15, 2010**

#### **Riders of the Pony Express Exhibit** **St. Joseph Museums**

A fascinating overview of Pony Express riders' lives and times, including 19<sup>th</sup>-century photographs of actual riders, along with mochilas (mail bags), saddles, news clippings, drawings, maps and much more. [www.stjosephmuseum.org](http://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 an authentic Chuck Wagon dinner! Tickets are \$15.00 in advance and \$18.00 at the door, available at the Pony Express Museum.

[www.ponyexpress.org](http://www.ponyexpress.org); (816) 279-5059. *Sponsored by KQ2, Cindy Barnes Productions and Robidoux Resident Theater*

#### **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](http://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 9:00 a.m. – 5 p.m. Pony Express National Museum**

Enjoy two days of celebrations, starting at 9:00 a.m. with the groundbreaking of the Pony Express School House. Other events for the day include the Daughters of the American Revolution's Tea Reception and an exciting re-enactment starring the winner of the Buffalo Bill Look-Alike Contest at 1:00 p.m. 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 throughout the day watch fascinating demonstrations and visit displays including live oxen, blacksmiths, Native Americans, settler stores and food booths. Events are free to the public and admission into the Pony Express National Museum is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students, [www.ponyexpress.org](http://www.ponyexpress.org) (816) 279-5059.

### **Chris Corbett - Pony Express Book Signing 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 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. Admission to the Patee House is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students; Admission to the Jesse James Home is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for students, [www.ponyexpressjessejames.com](http://www.ponyexpressjessejames.com) (816) 232-8206.

## Saturday, April 3, 2010

### **Pony Express National Museum Celebration 8 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Pony Express National Museum**

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 1:00 p.m., watch the notorious James Gang rob the Winston Train. And throughout the day, see fascinating demonstrations and visit displays including live oxen, blacksmiths, Native Americans, settler stores and food booths. Events are free to the public and admission into the Pony Express National Museum is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students, [www.ponyexpress.org](http://www.ponyexpress.org); (816) 279-5059.

### **Patee House Museum Pony Express Celebration 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Patee House Museum**

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-19<sup>th</sup> 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. Admission to the Patee House is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students; Admission to the Jesse James Home is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for students, [www.ponyexpressjessejames.com](http://www.ponyexpressjessejames.com); (816) 232-8206.

## **Pony Express Bridle & Saddle Parade, featuring the world-famous Wells Fargo Stagecoach**

**11:00 a.m.**

Make sure you're on hand for this fantastic parade 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, area officials, and many others—plus the Wells-Fargo Stage Coach. The parade will start at Civic Center Park behind City Hall and travel south on 9<sup>th</sup> Street, to the Pony Express Museum (where viewing stands are located) and return north on 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

[www.ponyexpress.org](http://www.ponyexpress.org); (816) 279-5059

## **Voices of the Pony Express**

**1:00 p.m. - 4:00 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-19<sup>th</sup> century individuals connected to the Pony Express. Chat with them about their amazing stories at Mount Mora Cemetery. Purchase tickets in advance at the St. Joseph Museum (816) 232-8471 or on-site the day of the event: \$7 adults, \$4 students. Free for children under age 6.

[www.mountmora.org](http://www.mountmora.org).

## **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 resemblance to Johnny Fry makes 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! [www.ponyexpress.org](http://www.ponyexpress.org); (816) 279-5059.

## **Michael Martin Murphey in concert**

**8:00 p.m., Missouri Theatre**

Today’s #1 Cowboy Music singer Michael Martin Murphey, will perform at the Missouri Theatre. Michael Martin Murphey, "singing cowboy poet", is not only the number one, best-selling singer/ songwriter of American Cowboy Music, he's one of the world's most respected singer/ songwriters in the Pop and Country-Western field. You can purchase tickets to the concert through Robidoux Resident Theatre 816-232-1778 or go to [www.ponyexpress.org](http://www.ponyexpress.org) and click through for tickets. Tickets \$10-\$40

**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, wing-walking pirates 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! Go to [www.appleblossomparade.com](http://www.appleblossomparade.com) and [www.appleblossombbq.com](http://www.appleblossombbq.com) for additional information.

**June 6-26, 2010**

**The Annual Pony Express Re-Ride  
National Pony Express Association**

The National Pony Express Association will conduct its annual Re-Ride over the 1,966 mile route of the Pony Express National Historic Trail from California, through Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas to Missouri, June 6 to 26, 2010. Riders will carry Commemorative Letters in a Mochila, Pony Express style. Normally, this Re-Ride is a 10-day, 24-hour a day, non-stop event by over 500 riders and horses. In 2010 the Annual Re-Ride will divert to all daytime hours in most places giving communities a chance to hold commemoration events.

Pony Express history is preserved in the federally designated Historic Trail, administered by the National Park Service, in museums, Pony Rider monuments, books, and the annual re-creations by the NPEA. Each of the eight "Pony Express" states (California, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, and Missouri) will also be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Pony Express with events of their own, as well as, creating their own souvenirs.

For additional information on the National Pony Express Association's Annual Pony Express Re-Ride please go to <http://www.xphomestation.com>.

**Monday, June 21, 2010**

**National Pony Express Association Marysville Event  
5:30 p.m. - 9:30p.m. 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 9:15pm! Hosted by the Marysville Chamber of Commerce and the Pony Express Home Station #1, you can find additional information by going to <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/kansas/towns/Marysville> or calling 800-752-3965.

**Saturday, June 26, 2010**

**Patee House Museum & the National Pony Express Association Events  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. St. Joseph, Missouri**

In honor of the conclusion of the National Pony Express Association'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! Admission to the Patee House is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students; Admission to the Jesse James Home is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for students, [www.ponyexpressjessejames.com](http://www.ponyexpressjessejames.com); (816) 232-8206.

## August 20-22, 2010

### **TrailsWest! Festival presented by Allied Arts Council 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Civic Center Park (behind St. Joseph City Hall)**

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](http://www.trailswest.org); (816) 233-0231.

## September 15-16, 2010

### **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 across the Pony Express Trail in Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska stopping at sites along the way including Pony Express Stations including Home Station #1 in Marysville, KS, Hollenberg Pony Express Station and Rock Creek Station and to Fort Kearney, NE. The trip will also explore the Great Platte River Road to Archway Monument. Join the St. Joseph Museum on this fascinating and informative journey! For more information, [www.stjosephmuseum.org](http://www.stjosephmuseum.org); (816) 232-8471.