Mission Statement:

“To develop the historic potential of Pompeys Pillar National Monument, the site of the only remaining physical evidence on the trail of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1803-1806.”

Working to Preserve and Protect Pompeys Pillar

Jonathan Peart

For the past 25 years, the Friends of Pompeys Pillar, under different but evolving names, has been working to preserve and protect Pompeys Pillar. In 1989, when the Foote family was seeking a buyer for the Pillar, the need for an organization was evident to a small group of individuals who staunchly believed that Pompeys Pillar needed to remain in the public sector. These dedicated individuals, whose names are permanently etched on bricks in the Honor Garden, went to work on the goal that remains today. First this group traveled the arduous path of finding a government agency to purchase the Pillar. They worked with the Bureau of Land Management to recruit volunteers to assist the BLM Rangers. They set up the gift store. They worked with passion to have the Pillar proclaimed a national monument in 2001. They then set about to raise the funding for the Interpretive Center that was constructed and dedicated to coincide with the Bi-Centennial event of the Lewis and Clark Expedition at Pompeys Pillar National Monument in 2006.

Today we have a beautiful national monument just a few miles outside of Billings, Montana. It is truly a national treasure because it contains the last physical evidence of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. On the historic day of July 25, 1806, Captain William Clark etched his name on what he called Pomp’s Tower. Today this site, rich in history, is managed by the BLM. But as Monument Manager, Jeff Kitchens, when asked who owns it, says “You do. The public owns it.”

As owners of this marvelous site, we have a responsibility to preserve it for today’s visitors and generations of visitors to come. Then as now, the goal of the Friends of Pompeys Pillar, in partnership with the BLM, is to preserve and protect Pompeys Pillar. We provide quality education and interpretive programs, work to improve the historic experience for visitors and students and support the volunteers at the Pillar.

Please become a member of the Friends of Pompeys Pillar to help us continue this important support for the Monument. Your financial support will make a huge difference to help us preserve and protect your national monument. Quoting Monument Manager, Jeff Kitchens, in this newsletter, “Pompeys Pillar National Monument is what it is today because of the continued dedication and support of the Friends of Pompeys Pillar.” We need your help to keep the Monument one of the premier national monuments in our country. Please become a member or make a donation today.
In the late 1980s the Foote Family began talking about selling their property around Pompeys Pillar. At the time, a grassroots effort of local citizens called the Committee for the Preservation of Pompeys Pillar, started with the goal of preserving this historic site for the whole nation.

When the BLM purchased Pompeys Pillar and some additional 450 acres in 1991, the folks who made it happen, now calling themselves the Pompeys Pillar Historical Association, started with the goal of preserving this historic site for the whole nation.

The Friends of Pompeys Pillar, formerly known as the Pompeys Pillar Historical Association, has provided hundreds of volunteers who have put in thousands of hours of service for more than 20 years. These volunteers have done it all. They have supported interpretive and educational programs; started youth shadowing programs; written numerous educational and interpretive publications; assisted in restoration and rehabilitation efforts; run the site’s gift store; acted as greeters and docents for the visitor center; supported special events; and been integral in all levels of site management. In 2014, more than 40 regular volunteers put in over 4,500 hours of service at Pompeys Pillar National Monument. These volunteers supported youth and education programs for over 2,000 students and made contact with almost 30,000 visitors.

The Friend’s Board, Executive Director, and Gift Store Manager all work collaboratively with the BLM to ensure the site’s management and outreach focus on preserving and protecting its cultural and natural resources for future generations. Pompeys Pillar National Monument is what it is today because of the continued dedication and support of the Friends of Pompeys Pillar. From attaining status as a public land site to becoming a premier destination in the BLM’s National Landscape Conservation System, Pompeys Pillar owes its success to the dedication of the Friends Group.

Jeff Kitchens
Monument Manager
Become a Member and Join the Fun!

This isn’t any old rock. It is “the rock” that provides a compass to one of America’s great historical narratives. For over 200 years “pompeys tower” has stood 200 feet above the Yellowstone River, near Billings, Montana reminding us that Captain Clark and his party stopped and explored the area. The story is threaded with details of the impossible. Some seem unbelievable. Every time I hear the stories I am reminded again of what all was accomplished.

At the pillar, the history is accurately preserved and an honor guard of “how it was back then” meets you at the inviting doors of the Interpretive Center from May to September. The rock and the river have been here forever. The Indian nations recognize the pillar as a famous landmark in their culture. It is located at a great geographical intersection of space, place, and time that needs to be remembered.

I love Pompeys Pillar National Monument. Don’t miss it, be a part of the fun. Be a member and share the story and the beautiful monument grounds. Grab your family and friends and come. Smiles will abound as they climb the boardwalk to see Captain Clark’s famous signature or take a walk to the river. Membership reminds us that we are connected to our history and helps preserve the legacy for our families for generations to come.

See you at the Rock!

Melody Dobson
“Friends of Pompeys Pillar”, Member

Letter from the President

November 11, 2014

Dear Friend,

This Veteran’s Day, I believe it is important to pay tribute to one of America’s famous Military expeditions led by Captains William Clark and Meriwether Lewis. Known as the “Corps of Discovery” it helped shape America into what it is today. At Pompeys Pillar National Monument we commemorate the legacy of these famous veterans. Many credit the success of their expedition for being a military assignment.

The only physical evidence of the Lewis and Clark Expedition remains at Pompeys Pillar National Monument where Captain Clark carved his name along with the date and then recorded it in his journal. People from all over the world visit every year just to see the signature and hear the stories shared by volunteers and staff. From May through September the Interpretive Center and Gift Store at the pillar are open with great gifts and books.

Let me take just a moment to personally invite you to become a member of the “The Friends of Pompeys Pillar.” Our members are stewards of the trail who help provide resources dedicated to preserving and telling the story. We look forward to meeting and visiting with you soon!

With high esteem,

Hank Deming
Friends of Pompeys Pillar, President

Greetings from the Pillar.

It makes me smile every time I greet a visitor and tell them where Clark’s Signature is and let them know they can see it for themselves. I remind them to be sure to take the boardwalk all the way to the top for a “one of a kind view of the scenery.” People from all over the world have journeyed to Pompeys Pillar to learn more about our area and the great Lewis and Clark Expedition. It’s been wonderful meeting them and making so many new friends!

Plan a visit this Summer!

Helen Bryson
Volunteer and Greeter
What We Do:

- Recruit, Train, and Support Volunteers
- Manage the Gift Store (order, pay, and arrange store)
- Host a Study Group
- Assist the BLM with projects
- Raise Money for Pompeys Pillar Projects
- Created and Maintained the Honor Garden

Photos by: Jonathan Peart and BLM
- Assist with Student Groups

- Help Organize and Host Clark Days

- Solicit Grant Funding and Sponsorships for Pompeys Pillar and Clark Days

- So, Please Help:

Photos by: Jonathan Peart and BLM
Volunteer Positions Available for the 2015 Season

- Gift Store
  Photos by: Jonathan Peart

- Greeter
  Helen Bryson: Best Greeter at Pompeys Pillar

- Interpreters

- Fee Station
  Your name here!

- Grounds Keeping and Maintenance
  Gen Becker

Don’t want to be a member, but want to support Pompeys Pillar? You can still do one or more of the following:

- Make a donation
- Buy a license plate
- Become a Volunteer
- Like us on Facebook
- Visit Pompeys Pillar

Thank you for your support in protecting and preserving the history of Pompeys Pillar National Monument.

Lewis and Clark: Fun Facts

Lewis and Clark met in 1795, when Lewis was transferred to Clark’s company of elite rifle shooters. The reason for the transfer? Lewis’s punishment for getting into a drunken brawl.

Lewis and Clark:  Fun Facts

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Image: http://www.robinsonlibrary.com/america/uslocal/west/history/lewis.htm

WE ARE UP TO 244 LIKES!!

Help us reach our next milestone of 250 Likes by the beginning of the 2015 season!
Thanks to our Volunteers and Members

2014 Members

Sandra Anderson
Bruce and Susan Barrow
Pete and Leslie Boothroyd
Helen Bryson
Roger Christenson
Michael R. Clark
Esther and Dru Cuthbertson
Ron and Nancy Deming
Hank and Kay Deming
Thomas Doneker
John and Patricia Eastman
Jean Ekwortzel
Jim and Peggy Good
Neal Gunnels
Carmen Hall
Carlota Holton
Julie Jackson
Joe and Temia Keel
Nancy Kemler
Daniel Keyes
Mike Lampier
Charles and Ruth Lechner
Stephanie and David Lefevre
John Levar
Arlie & Armand Lohof
Robert and Susan Lubbers
Richard and Cheryl Mankle
Barbara McGregor
Jerry Michels
Mark & Teresa Morse
Mary Jo & Jerry Noser
Roger and Pat Otstot
Mark Pagano
Jonathan Peart
Derry T. Pence
Michael and Donna Penfold
Margaret Ping
Rochejhone Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
Janet Scheevel
Norman Schoenthal
Don Stephens
Sheryl Stout
Vernon Sundberg
Loris Tangvik
Jimmy R Vanzant
Gregory Watson
Stanley Wells
Milt and Gloria Wester
Stephen Whisner

Support Pompeys Pillar by becoming a Member!

Help support the Friends of Pompeys Pillar by:
▪ purchasing a Lewis and Clark license plate
▪ apply online to be a volunteer
▪ or become a member!

www.pompeyspillar.org

Starting with our 2015 membership drive, memberships are valid for 12 calendar months from the date of signing up.

2014 Volunteers

Susan Barrow
Gen Becker
Leslie Boothroyd
Pete Boothroyd
Helen Bryson
Lois Canon
Hank Deming
Kay Deming
John Eastman
Larry Field
Joan Fischer
Judy Hugelen
Joyce Jensen
Carolyn Jones
Nancy Kemler
Jodi Kinn
Shirley Laird
Mike Lampier
John Levar
Armand Lohof
Cheryl Mankle
Jerry Mankle
Jerry Michels
Amber Moss
Jim Nichols
Tricia Nichols

Jerry Noser
Mary Jo Noser
Louise Olson
Pat Otstot
Roger Otstot
Barb Pollari
Ron Ramseyer
Clarence Robinson
Sue Robinson
Cathy Schliep
Leland Schliep
Jeff Sherman
Sheryl Stout

Donations
Anonymous
Baskin Robbins
Cold Mountain Pottery/ AWARE
Hank and Kay Deming

Memorials

A great way to honor or remember someone is to make a donation to the Friends of Pompeys Pillar.

Wills

Leave a bequest to the Friends of Pompeys Pillar to help us further our protection of our National Treasure.
**Vista Volunteer**

The grant for the Vista Volunteer position has been accepted and interviews have begun. A young woman from Kentucky has been considering the position and she will be introduced at a later date. The position will officially begin in January.

There are three major goals that the Vista Volunteer will be in charge of completing:

- Volunteer recruitment
- Raising money (grants, etc.)
- Work with schools that have a majority of low-income children and set up programs in the classroom setting that will teach about Lewis and Clark and the historical significance of Pompeys Pillar. After this has been done, bring the classroom outside and make a visit to Pompeys Pillar for a more hands-on educational experience.

We are very excited to introduce this position and cannot wait to see what great things come out of this experience. We will keep you updated on the progress of this great program.

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**Study Group**

The next study group will be held on December 3rd at 7:00 pm in the conference room at the Friends of Pompeys Pillar office located at 1523 14th Street West, Suite 2. The subject of the next meeting is:

- Roger Clawson: Pompeys Pillar: Crossroads of the Frontier

Please come and join us for the interesting discussion and conversation that takes place during these meetings. We hope to see you there.

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**Upcoming Lecture Series**

Montana State University-Billings will be hosting “Clark on the Yellowstone” lecture series in April, 2015. The sessions are open to the public and will be held on the campus in one of the library classrooms. The Friends of Pompeys Pillar has been invited to set up a table at the entrance to pass out membership brochures and answer various questions that are presented by attendees. The table will also include popular selling books from the gift store that will be available for purchase.

The lectures will last approximately 40-45 minutes with a short welcome and introduction in the beginning. Following the lectures, 15 minutes will be allotted for questions followed by a 30 minute light reception.

The tentative dates, times, and subjects of the lectures are as follows:

- April 7, 2015 at 7:00 pm - *Corps of Discovery in Montana Overview*
- April 14, 2015 at 7:00 pm - *Clark on the upper Yellowstone including Canoe Camp*
- April 21, 2015 at 7:00 pm - *Clark on the lower Yellowstone including Pompey’s Pillar and its History*

This is an exciting event for the Friends and we are expecting a great turn out for these lectures!