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.”

COUNTDOWN TO CLARK DAYS: 15 DAYS

Job Well Done!

Jonathan Peart

Clark Days is just two weeks away so everyone is busy preparing for this wonderful annual event. But this Clark Days will be bittersweet. It will be Jeff Kitchens last Clark Days and it will also be his last day as Manager of Pompeys Pillar National Monument.

In his four years at Pompeys Pillar, Jeff brought energy, new ideas, humility, an open mind and a strong work ethic to his role as Monument Manager. Simply put, through his leadership he made Pompeys Pillar National Monument a much better place….a better place for the visitors, a better place for the BLM staff and a better place for the volunteers.

The Friends of Pompeys Pillar are very grateful to Jeff for his willingness to partner with us. He has always been generous with his praise, and his expressions of gratitude for the volunteers and the organization have been frequent and genuine.

It has been a real pleasure to work with Jeff and we will miss him. We have watched him grow as a leader and are very proud of him and his accomplishments. He has earned his new position with the BLM and we wish him only the best in his new role as a field manager in Oregon.

So we invite all of you to come to Clark Days. Enjoy the festivities and wish Jeff well in his new adventure. Clark Days will be fun but it will be bittersweet at the end of the day to say goodbye to Jeff. From all of us, we wish you well, Jeff, and thank you for a job well done.
Awesome Job Jeff!!! We Will Miss You!!
A Word from Jeff Kitchens, Monument Manager

A Word from Jeff Kitchens, Monument Manager

Has it really been four years? In some ways it seems like yesterday that I came on board as the Manager of Pompey's Pillar. At other times I find it hard to remember what things were like when I arrived back in 2011. My first month at the Pillar was pretty crazy. In June of 2011 the Yellowstone flooded resulting in the Pillar’s closure twice. That same month a tornado or microburst touched down in the farm fields, a huge boulder broke off the Pillar and rolled down the hill smashing through the fence, lightning killed a number of trees in the lower area, and we had the oil spill on the Yellowstone. It was such a wild first month I have often wondered how I made it through. To help me remember I recently read through the journal I kept when I first got to Pompey’s Pillar, much in the spirit of Mr. Clark. In it I wrote the following on July 3rd, 2011

“I wonder how I have survived my first month, given all the natural disasters and other catastrophes. How did I make it through? I have had the support of the most amazing seasonal staff who have been there time and time again to support and help out. I could not have done it without them. Of course there were the volunteers, wonderful folk who give so much of their time. The members of the Pompey’s Pillar Historical Association have been great. They are so welcoming and supportive even though I feel as though I am making mistakes at every turn. The Billings Field Office staff along with several folks at the Montana State Office have been awesome. My boss, Jim Sparks, whose call one afternoon to make sure I had not thrown up my hands and headed back to Colorado, made me feel supported. Finally there was Irv, our Fire Management Office and previous acting Manager. He has been a great mentor and trainer throughout my transition into the position. All of the support of those individuals has kept me afloat and moving down river. I could not have done it without them.”

As I look back over the four years since that entry I realize little has changed in terms of how much I owe each day’s successes to those around me. The Pillar staff today are still top notch and do so much to make the place beautiful and welcoming. The volunteers have such a heart for the Pillar. Without their support we could not do what we do. The members of the Historical Association, now the Friends of Pompey’s Pillar, continue to carry on the legacy of preserving and protecting the site for future generations. The Field and State Office Staff continue to be “awesome” and support so many of the operations on site. Jim and Irv continue to be great and offer an ear whenever needed.

Today, the support network has grown. There are so many new partnerships and partners we work with monthly, weekly, and even sometimes daily to ensure the sites success and build awareness. Linda, our gift store manager, has been so much fun to work with and learn from. Finally, Mr. Peart has brought a new level of direction and organization to the operation. I have truly enjoyed working with Jonathan and often look to him and his dedication to our site as a continual inspiration.

Through these relationships, I have learned enough to fill two volumes of Moulton’s edition of the Journals. However, I feel much can be summarized by ten key lessons I have taken from my four years at Pompey’s Pillar. They are:

1. Enable and empower those around you and the achievements will be amazing;
2. Just because marmots looks cute, never completely trust them;
3. The key questions every manager must ask when approached with a new idea are: Is it safe, is it reasonable, can you afford it, and is it marmot proof (this goes with #2);
4. Never forget what it was like to be a seasonal, volunteer, or entry level employee. Through those eyes, look at yourself and those around you;
5. Baby steps can complete the marathon. It just takes longer;
6. Everyone will give you advice on how to do your job. Listen;
7. Patience is a virtue. Virtue is a grace. And Grace was a visitor who traveled many miles to see your place;
8. It is easy to ridicule and blame your predecessor. It is harder to learn why they did what they did and walk in their shoes. Take the harder road;
9. A manager’s strength comes from the relationships they form. These become the foundation for everything else;
10. It is easy to forget why we do what we do. Take time regularly to remind yourself.

Per the last lesson, I have often walked to the top of the Pillar to look around at the landscape and think about what Clark may have seen. That idea and the great views from atop the Pillar refresh me every time.

It has been a wonderful four years. I feel honored to have been the manager of such an amazing place with so many great people supporting it. Thank you for the remarkable experience and please keep in touch.

Jeff Kitchens
Monument Manager

“May you find the right path to travel on”
-Lailah Gifty Akita
Thank you to Roger Otstot for sending us this beautiful picture of the Pillar in the winter time for the photo contest.

To submit your photo of the Pillar, email it to info@pompeyspillar.org
Volunteer Spotlight

The Volunteer Spotlight for the month of July is Roger and Pat Otstot! They have volunteered out at Pompeys Pillar since 2014 and serve on the Riverwalk Committee. Roger and Pat also work in the gift store on Mondays and helped with Community Clean-Up Day at the beginning of the season. They are both very willing and dedicated individuals that go above and beyond the normal duties asked at Pompeys Pillar.

We would like to thank Roger and Pat for their hard work and dedication to the future of Pompeys Pillar National Monument!

Don’t forget to Volunteer and/or become a Member for the 2015 Season!!
We Are Now on Twitter!!! Please Follow @FriendsPillar

Volunteers Needed!!!

Volunteers are needed for the following events:

- CLARK DAYS!!!

The day will be split into shifts.

Please sign up by calling the office and letting Jonathan know if you are able to come out to the Pillar for Clark Days.

Thank you to all of the Volunteers for all of the amazing things that each and every one of you do for Pompeys Pillar National Monument.
**Study Group**

The next study group will be held on August 12th 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 for this study group is:

- Continue talking about *Pompeys Pillar: Snapshots at a Crossroads* by John Taylor

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

**Clark Days Sponsorship**

We are starting to think about sponsors for the upcoming Clark Days celebration. If you know of anyone or any business that would like to take part in this celebration, please contact the office. Thank you for your support with the Clark Days celebration.

---

**Lewis and Clark: Fun Facts**

[Clark]

Thursday July 10th 1806

last night was very cold and this morning everything was white with frost and the grass Stiff frozend. I had Some water exposed in a bason in which the ice was ¾ of an inch thick this morning. I had all the Canoes put into the water and every article which was intended to be Sent down put on board, and the horses collected and packed with what few articles I intend takeing with me to the River Rochejhone, and after brackfast we all Set out at the Same time [7] & pro-ceeded on Down Jeffersons river on the East Side through Sarviss [NB: Service] Vally and rattle snake mountain [8] and into that butifull and extensive Vally open and fertile which we Call the beaver head Vally which is the Indian name in their language Har na Hap pap Chah. [9] from the No. [10] of those animals in it & a pt. of land resembling the head of one this Vally extends from the rattle Snake Mountain down Jeffer-sons river as low as fraziers Creek [11] above the big horn mountain and is from 12 [NB: 10] to 30 [NB: 15] miles in width and [blank] [NB: about 50] miles on a direct line in length and Jeffer-sons river in passing through this Vally reives McNeals Creek, [12] Track Creek, [13] Phalanthrophy river, Wisdom river, [14] Fields river [15] and Fraziers Creek each throw in a considerable quantity of water and have immournerable beaver and otter on them; the bushes in their low bottoms are the resort for great numbers of Deer, and in the higher parts of the Vally we see Antelopes scattered feeding. I saw also on the Sides of the rock in rattle snake mountain 15 big horn animals, those animals feed on the grass which grow on the Sides of the mountn. and in the narrow bottoms on the Water courses near the Steep Sides of the mountains on which they can make their escape from the pursue of wolves Bear &c. at Me-ridian I halted to let the horses Graze having Come 15 Miles I ordered the [NB: canoes] to land. Sergt. Ordway informed me that the party with him had Come on very well, and he thought the Canoes could go as farst as the horses &c. as the river now become wider and not So Sholl, I determined to put all the baggage &c. which I intend takeing with me to the river Rochejhone in the canoes and proceed on down with them myself to the 3 forks or Madisons & galletens rivers. leaving the horses to be taken down by Sergt. Pryor and 6 of the men of the party to accompany me to the river Rochejhone and directed Sergt. Pryor to proceed on moderately and if possible encamp with us every night. after dinner had my baggage put on board and Set out, and proceeded on tolerable well to the head of the 3000 Mile Island on which we had encampmed on the [NB: 11th] of Augt last. [16] the Canoes passed Six of my encampments assend-ing, [17] opposit this island I encamped on the East side. [18] the Musquetors were troublesom all day and untill one hour after Sunset when it became Cool and they disappeared. in passing down in the Course of this day we saw great numbers of beaver lying on the Shores in the Sun. wild young Gees and ducks are common in this river. we killed two young gees this evening. I saw several large rattle Snakes in passing the rattle Snake Mountain they were fierce. [19]
Thanks to our Volunteers and Members

2015 Members

Sandra Anderson
Bruce and Susan Barrow
Pete and Leslie Boothroyd
Linda Brewer
Helen Bryson
Michael R. Clark
Bill Cole/Cole Law Firm
Nancy Curriden
Esther Cuthbertson
Hank and Kay Deming
Thomas Doneker
John and Patricia Eastman
Candace Forrette
Jim and Peggy Good
Carmen Hall

2015 Staff

Jonathan Peart - Executive Director
Linda Farnes-Gift Store Manager
Penny Feltner - VISTA

2015 Volunteers

Bruce Barrow
Susan Barrow
Gen Becker
Leslie Boothroyd
Pete Boothroyd
Linda Brewer
Helen Bryson
Hank Deming
Kay Deming
John Eastman
Larry Field
Ellen Hilde
Judy Hugelen
Joyce Jensen
Carolyn Jones

Carlota H. Holton
Julie Jackson
Joyce Jensen
Joe and Temia Keel
Nancy Kemler
Daniel Keyes
George King
Jodi Kinn
Mike Lamphier
Charles and Ruth Lechner
John LeVar
Arle and Armand Lohof
Richard and Cheryl Mankle
Michael J. Marsh/RASE, LLC
Jerry Michels

2015 Grants

Nemont Telephone Cooperative
Billings Gazette - Jeans Day
Downtown Exchange Club

2014/2015 Donations

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

John Eastman
Anthony Hayman
Dr. Chad Kriskovich
Mike Lamphier
Jonathan Peart
Charles and Ruth Lechner

Memorials

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

Carmen Hall, in Honor of Guadalupe and Jesus Galvan

Wills

Leave a bequest to the Friends of Pompeys Pillar to help us further our protection of our National Treasure.
Tentative Clark Days Schedule of Events

7:00 am: Bird Walk

7:00 - 10:00am: Pancake Breakfast

9:00 am: Kickoff (Clark coming to the Pillar) Clark up boardwalk, stop at top, and then go to signature.

9:30 am: Raising of the colors (Elk River Brigade presentation immediately following)

10:00 - 11:00 am: Cowboy poets/musicians

11:00 am - 12:00 pm: Native dancing

12:00 pm: Fiddle music performance

1:00 - 2:00 pm: Cowboy poets/musicians

2:30 pm: Native dancing

4:00 pm: Presentation Seaman the dog

4:30 pm: Presentation History of Pompeys Pillar

5:30 pm: Presentation TBD

6:30 pm: Campfire and ghost stories

MC will announce other presentations and demonstrations before they start.

There will be food available for purchase throughout the day.