



40th Anniversary

Rendezvous

FBRA NEWS LETTER

April 1, 2012



Fort Bridger

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello FBRA members,
(2012) and preparation
anniversary Fort Bridger



it's already a new year
is underway for the 40th
Rendezvous.

What's been happening!

1. In November of 2011 the board held elections for 3 new board members Dave Morby, Shalayne Hunziker and Debbie Ciminelli were elected. We will hear from them and have highlight from them in this newsletter.
2. Kash Johnson is no longer a board member and has resigned; his resignation was accepted by the board at the January 2012 board meeting.

This newsletter will contain greetings from this year's Booshway Eugene Fowles and Segundo Mike Chatelain.

The board has been faced with many important decisions that will affect the way the rendezvous has been run in the past. The most important problem that we are faced with is the downsizing of Trader

and camper spots on the Fort Grounds. I am sure all of you are aware of the damage the flood caused last spring to the fort grounds. The flooding has caused more historical foundations to be exposed. A walk through of the fort grounds was done on Oct 21 2011 by State officials who identified areas that are to be protected. After the walk through the State provided the fbra with a map with an historical overlay that identified approximately 30 camp spots and 15 Trade spots that could no longer be used.

The State has provided an alternate area to be used for the displaced camp spots and we actually made that move at last year's rendezvous. Ultimately the State has asked us to downsize but they have indicated that they would work with us and do what they can to see that it all works out. Kash Johnson has recommended that we eliminate 30 trader spots.

The board has fought with this issue, the question is" if we eliminate 30 traders how do we do it and make it fair? Do we need to cut 30 traders? The board has decided to make every effort to accommodate our past traders and cut as few as may be necessary. The board will work closely with the state to come up with a map and layout of trader's row that provides fire lanes and minimal overcrowding.

Safety is our main concern hopefully we can come up with enough room for are traders if not we may be forced to make cuts. A copy of the letter that was sent to traders will be included with this newsletter for your information.

We encourage everyone to access our web site at fortbridgerrendezvous.net for the latest updates on the 2012 Fort

Bridger Rendezvous. This year we are planning to provide more information on camping, parking, trader information and rules and regulations on the web site. If you have any questions concerning the Rendezvous please go to the contact page and call or email one of our board members. Again this year someone has been spreading the rumor that the rendezvous has been cancelled and that the FBRA board has no idea what we are doing, let me assure you that we have the best board of directors EVER! And for the first time all board members are on board and united in providing the best rendezvous ever. Please don't listen to viscous rumors contact myself or your Booshway or Segundo for any questions you might have.

The board is also reviewing the FBRA bylaws and some changes will be made and reviewed at the April meeting, these changes will be presented and voted on at the next FBRA general meeting.

The deadline for Trader and campers registrations have come and gone. We currently have 127 traders registered not including 8 blanket spaces and 6 food vendors, any late registrations that did not meet the deadline will be put on a waiting list. Last year traders count was 158.

Primitive campers registered this year are 193 with a few more spots still available. **Because of the restrictions from the State "Campers and Traders" who just show up at rendezvous expecting to get a spot like in years past just may be turned away this year.**

This year there will be an exciting memorial cannon shoot at the rodeo grounds. There will be a 21 gun salute in honor of cannoneer Howard Dutton who has recently passed away. Craig Kirkland has advised that you won't want to miss it..

40th Anniversary Fort Bridger Rendezvous

GREETINGS FROM THE BOOSHWAY



Fifteen to Twenty years is how long the original Fur Trade Era Lasted. Now we are going into the 40th year of the Fort Bridger Rendezvous, more than twice as long as the original Rendezvous lasted. This way of life must have been quite exciting, intriguing and a hard way to make a living.

Here we celebrating 40 years of reenacting the best way we can of that time period in History.

Our Rendezvous is not what we expected theirs to be. Due to laws, rules and regulations of our time period we have to do our Rendezvous in a completely different way than what was done in the 1840s. The Rendezvous of the past would be strung out for miles. Traders, Camps, Horses, Shooting Wrestling, Knife and Hawk throwing and just down out fighting were mixed up all together and not set up in rows, shooting ranges and camping sites. There was no set schedule. Things transpire on their own when the men got bored and overindulged.

I know that we are not as close to what a real Rendezvous would be like, but we are the best there is in portraying the History of the Mountain Men with the restraints of our time. I know that if we were able to step back in time and had to live; and work like these tough men had to that not a one of us would last for more than a week.

I have had a real opportunity to live for a short time in the ultimate wilderness of our time in Alaska. I have taken several trips to hunt Grizzly Bear, Moose, Caribou, Black Bear, Dell Sheep and Wolf. Modern hunting is nothing compared to what was done in the past. I had a chance to think of how tough it was at the time and what those great explorers and trappers would have given to have some of the equipment that I have had on these trips.

My name is Eugene Fowles and I am your Booshway for 2012. This year the Board was forced to make dramatic changes from how the Rendezvous has been in the past. As a Board we did the best to minimize the changes to no avail. Camp sites have been changed. Traders Row will be restructured in a completely different layout.

As a Board we tried to keep everything we are used to, such as events, entertainments, games and demonstrations.

I know these changes will make more work and take a lot of effort on us all. Everyone will need to let go of the comfort of the way things have been done in the past and understand that these changes are to preserve the Fort for the generations to come. I feel that if we all work together and support the board, we will make this 40th Rendezvous the Best Ever!

Like I said I am your 2012 Booshway and was your Booshway in 2006, so being my second time around I know how we can all pull together and work thru the hard parts, and enjoy the good parts.

We have a Great Board of Directors this year, putting the Rendezvous ahead of other things to put this Great Event together.

At this time I would like to Thank My Wife Maria for all of her support and help, for without her support and the support of all of the Boards Spouse and Families this job would be impossible to achieve.

So let's all work together and let's all have FUN!!!!

Your 2012 Booshway

Hello from the SEGUNDO

As you know we are in an era of change for the Fort Bridger Rendezvous. Flooding in the spring of 2011 exposed old foundations at the fort site which had previously been "out of sight-out of mind"; As the state sought Federal relief funds, there were mandates requiring that "no further damage be caused", This led the state to locate and isolate those areas of historical or archeological significance so that they would not be damaged further.



At the 2011 Rendezvous we adjusted a number of our Primitive Camp sites to facilitate the beginning of this process. In 2012 we will be losing a significant portion of our "Trader's Row". We may also see further changes in the layout of Primitive camp. We are still negotiating with the State to confirm what areas we will be

able to use. We know for sure that there will be significant changes in the lay out. We will be making every effort to accommodate your needs for trade spaces and camp sites.

We need to ask your help and support as we make these changes. We also ask your help in respecting those areas which the state has deemed to be archeologically significant. We will not be able to drive on these areas or erect any type structure, drive stakes etc. *We also need to make sure that we do not move or remove any of the markers surrounding the protected areas.*

We all have our traditions. We become set in our ways and we don't welcome change, but I am certain that if we all work together that the Fort Bridger Rendezvous will remain a great family event and will continue to be a tradition for all of us.

YOUR SEGUNDO.....MIKE CHATELAIN.

Introductions of the new Board members:

Back in 1992, my husband Jim, White Buffalo, was booshway for the rendezvous, but even before that, I Back then we did not have out his moccasins that year. Gabe was just four charge. We also had four guess we both had big jobs



helped Flora with registration. cell phones, or radios. Jim wore year. We had a baby boy that months old when Jim was in other children, so you can to do!

Then, back in 2000, I got were big changes from expensive to put on a board for four years. I

on the board of directors. There 1992 more complicated and rendezvous. I worked on the enjoyed it very much, and

decided this year to get back on the board and add my 2 cents worth!

I hope I can do a good job, and am anxious to get on a committee and get busy-- wish me luck!

Del Ciminelli

40th Anniversary Fort Bridger Rendezvous

Hello my name is Shalayne Hunziker. I have been rendezvousing my whole life and attending Fort Bridger as long as I can remember.



I LOVE TO HUNT!! I go hunting with my favorite hunting buddy my dad!!! I have been hunting since I was 2 weeks old. We never miss a hunting season. My most favorite hunts have been in Alaska with my dad hunting black bear and Caribou. I can't wait to go back!

My husband Paul and I live in Pleasant Grove Utah with our two boys Dylan 13 and Mataeo 15. I manage a local convince store B.J's short stop and I have worked there forever!!! But I love my customers!

I'm excited to work with our FBRA board and help them put on a rendezvous to remember!!

Hello in the lodge!

My name is Dave Morby I was the 2009 Boshway. My first Fort Bridger Rendezvous was in 1978. Things have changed over the years. The Rendezvous is the second largest event in Wyoming each year. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Fort Bridger Rendezvous.

I have been on the Fort Bridger Rendezvous association board of directors in the past. We are feeling growing pains at the same time working with the State of Wyoming to preserve historical findings on the fort grounds. I will be working with the Trade Committee in efforts to assure the Rendezvous Traders continue to show our visitors a historically correct display.

I look forward to a great Rendezvous and I am excited to be back on with the board of directors to serve with hard working folks that put on this grand event. See you at the rendezvous.

Keep your powder dry!

"Stink Eye"



40th Anniversary Fort Bridger Rendezvous



2012 fbra Board members

Front row left to right- Mike Chatelain (Segundo), Eugene Fowles (Booshway), Jeff Malan (Chairman).

Second row left to right- Tonya Hurst, Sue Bridge, Shalayne Hunziger, Traci Hardy, Deb Ciminelli.

Third row left to right- Randy McKinnon, Warren Will, Mike Larsen, Monty Bullock, Robert Leland & Dave Morby.

FORT BRIDGER RENDEZVOUS TRADERS

You have all received a letter which explained that there would be changes for the 2012 Rendezvous due to a loss of ground available for us to use at the fort site. This loss is due to the preservation of historic foundations and artifacts at the site. Some of these features were exposed by flooding last spring. This prompted the state to take actions to preserve those features which were exposed, along with some which may not be visible but are lying just below the surface of the ground. The state of Wyoming has provided us with maps indicating the areas to be preserved. Most of these areas may not be driven upon and stakes cannot be driven into the ground. This loss of ground affected our primitive camp last year and will cause some additional loss this year as well. We have also lost a significant amount of ground which we currently use for Traders Row.

If we were to maintain Trades Row as it is currently laid out, we would suffer the loss of about 30 trade spots. This would mean that 30 traders would not be invited to participate next

year or in the following years. The FBRA Board of Directors discussed ways in which this may be accomplished including a lottery draw or examining a traders past history of compliance with the trade rules. The bottom line is that most of us did not feel comfortable with any of the means which were discussed for cutting out 30 traders. We did agree however, that ultimately a reduction in the amount of traders may be necessary for the overall good of the rendezvous with this loss of usable ground.

The FBRA Board has resolved (by a majority vote) that we will ***“MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE ALL OF OUR EXISTING TRADERS AND KEEP TRADE FEES THE SAME FOR THE 2012 RENDEZVOUS.”*** We fully believe that we can accomplish this but it will require significant changes to the way the trade spaces are laid out. We are challenged with finding a lay out which will be safe for the amount of tourists we receive as well as for the participants.

The new lay out means that ***“YOUR TRADE SPACE WILL MOST LIKELY NOT BE WHERE IT HAS BEEN LOCATED IN THE PAST!”*** We have walked the grounds and taken measurements. We have come up with a lay out which will allow us to make much better use of the remaining space available to us. We are in hopes that most “Blanket” trade spaces will be located on top of locations with historic features below. There will be no structures or stakes allowed on these spaces. Unfortunately, the exact lay out will need to be completed on site so that we can make allowances for trees, dips, swells and the historic features. This final lay out will not be achievable until next spring or summer. ***This means that you will not know the exact location of your trade space until you arrive at rendezvous!*** You will need to check in at registration when you arrive. At this time you will be directed to the location of your trade space.

The new lay out will be crowded and will require your help and cooperation during set up and take down. It is possible that we will be asking you to advise us which day (Tuesday thru Friday) you anticipate on arriving or when you would like to set up. We will take this into consideration when assigning spaces to help reduce congestion. It will be more important than ever that you drop your stuff and remove your vehicle as quickly as possible.

Once again, this year’s lay out will be crowded and it most likely will not be the way that the rendezvous will continue in following years. The FBRA Board agreed that we will ultimately need to make some reductions in the number of traders to preserve the safety and atmosphere of the event. It has been pointed out in the previous letter that ***PARTICIPATION AT THE FORT BRIDGER RENDEZVOU IS BY INVITATION.*** There will be some changes in the way that trade rules will be enforced. ***YOUR FUTURE INVITATION WILL BE BASED ON YOUR VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE WITH THE TRADE RULES OF THE RENDEZVOUS!!!*** Most of you have been with us a good number of years. You are well aware of what items are allowed at our event whether you have chosen to comply in the past or not. There will still be a Trade Committee coming around to inspect your site. They will be taking pictures of your trade spot and goods. ***IF YOU***

ARE FOUND TO BE IN VIOLATION, YOU WILL MOST LIKELY NOT BE INVITED TO RETURN! As always if you refuse to comply with the trade committees requests you may be removed from the rendezvous. **If you have any question about an item, DO NOT PUT IT OUT until you have consulted with the trade committee or received approval at the Traders Meeting!** There will be a Traders Meeting held Thursday evening. If needed, we will hold a second Traders Meeting on Friday for those traders who do not arrive until Friday. **FAILURE TO ATTEND THE TRADERS MEETING WILL MOST LIKELY MEAN THAT YOU WILL NOT BE INVITED TO RETURN!** A roll of attendance will be taken.

We feel very strongly that we want to go the extra mile to avoid having to tell any of you that you are not invited to the 2012 rendezvous. This is going to be a huge change! We all understand that change is stressful. This will require everyone's help, understanding and cooperation! Please be cheerful when dealing with board members, staff and volunteers who are all working hard to make this rendezvous a success for you and everyone involved. Invitations for 2013 will be reviewed by the board before a declination is made. We will advise you as soon as possible if you are declined so that you can make other plans. If you feel that you are not interested in attending the 2012 rendezvous based on this information, please let us know so we can refund your application fees.

We value all of our traders and appreciate all you do to make this event successful and appealing to the public. That is why we are working so hard to accommodate all of you this year. **The registration deadline for trade spots will be extended to 1-31-12.** Please watch the web site for updates www.fortbridgerrendezvous.net Your FBRA Board of Directors



2012 Fort Bridger Rendezvous 40th Anniversary