

National Fur Trade Symposium 1824 The Eve of Rendezvous

at the Museum of the Mountain Man, Pinedale, Wyoming
A Bicentennial Event: September 12-15, 2024

In the spring of 1824, a small group of trappers entered the Green River Valley, where they found an abundance of beaver and friendly Shoshone willing to trade. The following year supplies were brought from St. Louis and the first rendezvous was held, launching the rendezvous era of the Rocky Mountain fur trade. Join us to celebrate the eve of the bicentennial of rendezvous.

Schedule (updated May 27, 2024)

Thursday, September 12, 2024 – Guided Auto Tours of fur trade sites

Auto Tour #1 – **Independence Rock, South Pass to Pinedale** guided by Scott Walker

Auto Tour #2 – **Pierre’s Hole, Teton Pass, Hoback to Pinedale** guided by Jim Hardee

Other Auto Tours – To be determined

5:00pm – 6:00pm **Tour of *One With the Land* art exhibit**

5:00pm – 8:00pm **Visit to Mountain Man Camp**

6:00pm – **Reception & dinner** at the Museum of the Mountain Man Pavilion.

Friday, September 13, 2024 - Symposium

8:30am – 9:00am: **Welcome & Naming of Horse Creek** – Clint Gilchrist & Tim Tanner

9:00am – Noon: Presentations at Pinedale Library

The 1823-1824 Enterprise of Jedediah Smith’s Fur Brigade

by Jay Buckley & Steve Banks

Who Led the First Trappers Across South Pass in 1824?

by Clay Landry

John Henry Weber’s Trappers Explore Green River and Beyond

by Jerry Enzler

Noon – 1:00pm: **Lunch served at Pinedale Library**

1:00pm – 5:00pm: Presentations at Pinedale Library

The Evolution of Rendezvous

by Jim Hardee

The Use of Elk Hide Tipis

by Brad Bailey

Booze of the Fur Trade

by Bill Gwaltney

Feast and Famine: Dining With The Mountaineers

by Doyle Reid

5:00pm – 8:00pm **Visit to Mountain Man Camp**

6:00pm – **Rendezvous Dinner Mountain Man Camp.** Museum of the Mountain Man.

Thurs, Fri, Sat: Museum of the Mountain Man open 9am-8pm.

Free Admission during Symposium with registration

Email symposium@mmmuseum.com to be added to email list.

For the latest information and schedule updates see

MuseumoftheMountainMan.com/symposium

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Schedule (updated April 2, 2024)

Saturday, September 14, 2024 - Symposium

9:00am – 11:00am: **Special Session at Rendezvous Grounds – DeSmet Monument**

Noon – 1:00pm: **Lunch served at Pinedale Library**

1:00pm – 4:00pm: Presentations at Pinedale Library

Andrew Henry

by Mark Kelly

William Clark: Tripod Stool Geographer

by Sheri Wysong

Mountain Man Hall of Fame: Who was the Greatest of All Time?

Panel Discussion

4:00pm: **Business Meeting**

5:00pm – 8:00pm **Visit to Mountain Man Cam**

6:00pm: **Banquet** at the Museum of the Mountain Man Pavilion. **Keynote Speaker Jim Hanson:**
A Swirling Mass of Humanity: Migration, Exploration and Trade before the Rendezvous

Sunday, September 15, 2024 – Guided Auto Tours of fur trade sites

Auto Tour #1 – **Pinedale to South Pass, Independence Rock** guided by Scott Walker

Auto Tour #2 – **Pinedale to Hoback, Teton Pass, Pierre's Hole** guided by Jim Hardee

Other Auto Tours: To be determined

All tours commencing at Museum of the Mountain Man and ending by 5pm or earlier.

Same routes as Thursday but in reverse.

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Special Programs

Mountain Man Living History Camp in partnership with the American Mountain Men.

The camp will be setup every evening Thursday, Friday and Saturday on the large lawn at the Museum for guests to visit and learn about camp and gear from the mountain man.

Rendezvous Dinner at Mountain Man Camp

The AMM will host dinner around the campfire in a series of messes (5 to 10) each around a campfire with at least one host and up to 20 guests. Each mess will be cooking a different period food and brave individual can have a taste. There will be no formal presentations, but hosts will be prepared to talk about food, cooking and daily lives in general.

Catered Food – The main meal will be based around smoked buffalo and side dishes prepared away from the camp and brought to fire side for serving with period authentic plates, cups and utensils. Guest are invited to enjoy their meal seated around the fire.

Alternative to messes – For those who do not want to sit around campfire to eat, tables and chairs will be setup on the small lawn adjacent to the camp to eat and guest can then join the camp when done. This will be the same main meal. Tasting of period food would be at the campfires.

Bad weather alternative – If too windy or wet weather, the same meal will be served in the pavilion with tables and chairs.

Rendezvous Grounds Session

Guests will be invited to a special Saturday morning session at DeSmet Monument overlooking the historic rendezvous ground to listen to the significant stories that happened there during the 1833, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1839, & 1840 rendezvous. The two-hour session will feature a series of short presentations by different speakers to talk about each rendezvous. Chairs, bathrooms and a speaker system will be setup on site. There is plenty of parking and good roads for guest to make the 20-minute trip to the site in their own vehicles. The session is timed in the morning to try and avoid afternoon winds/storms. But, the bad weather alternative is to hold the same presentations in the Pinedale Library and invite guest to visit Trappers Point or DeSmet Monument on their own at another time.

Auto Tours

A series of guided and self-guided auto tours from various directions will be developed for people to join on their way to Pinedale as if they are on the road to rendezvous. These will be during the day on Thursday coming to Pinedale and the same tours in reverse leaving Pinedale on Sunday. Using your own vehicle a series of stops will be developed for guests to hear the guide tell fur trade history that happened at those sites. Guest will all meet at a designated starting point and time. A map of all stops and itinerary will be distributed in case anyone gets separated. Bathroom stops will be arranged, but guest should bring along their own snacks, drinks and supplies. The guided tours are free, but an email reservation request will be sent to all registered symposium attendees in late August to help manage logistics.

Each tour will also be made into a self-guided booklet that can be download and printed from the symposium website for people wanting to travel on their own or take tours at a different time. These will be permanently available.

The Naming of Horse Creek by Tim Tanner

Artist Tim Tanner is creating an original painting depicting the story of Thomas Fitzpatrick and his small band of trappers having their horses stolen in the spring of 1824 on what has since been known as Horse Creek. This will be unveiled during the opening Symposium session, on display throughout the Symposium and will a permanent part of the Museum of the Mountain Man collection.

One With the Land Art Exhibit

The lower gallery of the Museum of the Mountain Man will feature over 70 original pieces of mountain man art by more than 35 contemporary artists through the summer of 2024. Guests are invited to a reception and viewing on Thursday (September 12, 2024) evening of the Symposium, or stop by anytime the Museum is open. The art will be on display May through October, 2024. All of the art work is on loan from the Peterson Family Collection.

Business Meeting – Bicentennial Discussion

The main purpose of the business meeting is to formally recognize Fort Union Trading Post NHS as the location of the next National Fur Trade Symposium, September 20-23, 2028 to celebrate the bicentennial of the fort. There will also be discussions on potential coordination of marketing of bicentennial events, especially at rendezvous and fur trade sites over the next two decades.

Banquet with Keynote Speaker Jim Hanson

The Symposium will conclude with a banquet at the Museum of the Mountain Man Pavilion. We are honored to be joined by the legendary Jim Hanson as our featured keynote speaker during dinner – “A Swirling Mass of Humanity: Migration, Exploration and Trade before the Rendezvous.”

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