Updates from Sonora

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Álamos History Association

Uncovers Pueblo’s Ties to Early California

by Jim Toevs, Álamos History Association President

“We welcome visitors to Álamos, as well as any information that can be provided concerning the role of Álamos and its residents in the Anza Expedition.”
Álamos residents played a significant role in the 1775-76 Anza Expedition and the settling of Alta California in the late 18th century.

Located 500 miles south of Tucson, in the southern part of the Mexican state of Sonora, Álamos was a magical place long before it was designated as a National Historic Monument and a Pueblo Mágico by various Mexican government agencies. The isolation of Álamos at the “end of the road” thirty miles east of Navojoa has been a major factor in preserving the enchanting ambiance of this Spanish Colonial gem, the northern-most colonial city in Mexico.

The Álamos History Association was founded in 1994 by the town’s foreign-born community. That year, a small group of residents began meeting weekly to explore the history of this colorful community.

Founded in 1682, Álamos has produced great wealth for the country of Mexico. This wealth has come not only from the silver mining boom of the 17th century, which continued for more than 200 years, but also from the richness of its people. Three of Mexico’s presidents and one vice president were born in Álamos, as were María Félix, the glamorous movie star, and Alfonso Ortiz Tirado, a world-famous operatic tenor. Today, Álamos is also known for its music festival, held each January in honor of Tirado.

Recently, the Álamos History Association adopted the Anza Trail and the role which Álamos residents played in the founding of San Francisco and Los Angeles as its major, ongoing project. The California Census of 1790 places Álamos third in the list of birthplaces of California residents at that time. We are in the process of having a relief map of the Mexican portion of the Anza Trail installed on a wall in the Álamos Museum, as well as having a plaque installed on the plaza acknowledging the Álamos residents who were a part of these expeditions.

The Álamos History Association meets every Thursday at 10AM, October-April, in the auditorium of the Álamos Museum. We plan to be in attendance at the Anza Society Conference in Banámachi this March and want to be an active part of the “Anza Universe”. We welcome visitors to Álamos, as well as any information that can be provided concerning the role of Álamos and its residents in the Anza Expedition.

For more information, please visit www.AlamosHistoryAssociation.org or email Jim Toevs at jamestoevs@gmail.com.
horseback riders from Arizona and Sonora made their 26th annual Kino Cabalgata (pilgrimage on horseback) this past December commemorating one of many rides for justice made by Padre Eusebio Francisco Kino, S.J. Sponsored by Por Los Caminos De Kino, the cabalgata departed Tumacácori National Historical Park on Dec. 27, 2013, and ended four days later at the Kino monument and mausoleum in the town square of Magdalena de Kino, Sonora. More than 25 riders participated in Arizona, and many more joined the ride through Sonora.

Cabalgata riders arrived to the Kino statue in Magdalena on Dec. 30, 2013

by Mark O’Hare of the Kino Heritage Society

The riders followed the southbound route that Kino rode to save the life of an innocent Native man. In less than 24 hours, Kino rode 75 miles from Tumacácori to San Ignacio to stop the execution scheduled at dawn. (generations later, the families and Franciscan priests of the 1775-76 Anza Expedition would retrace this same route on their north-bound journey to colonize Alta...
Kino’s heroic ride of May 1700 was made on his return trip to his headquarters at Dolores after he spent seven long days and nights traveling and ministering to the Native people living throughout the Santa Cruz River Valley. During that arduous week Kino called Native people throughout the Sonoran Desert to the historic Blue Shell Conference at San Xavier del Bac, and he started the foundations of its first church.

It was also during a Christmas season nine years before Kino’s heroic ride that he first visited modern-day Arizona at the invitation of the people of Tumacácori. Months later he established missions at Guevavi and San Xavier del Bac.

The members of Por Los Caminos de Kino promote the enduring legacy of the Jesuit missionary and explorer. Their activities have ranged from the living history cabalgatas to publishing books and Internet videos about Kino. The Association was founded in 1987 - the year of the celebration of the 300th anniversary of Kino’s entrada into the Pimería Alta - today’s northern Sonora and southern Arizona.

The Association’s name can be translated into English as “Following Kino’s Way.” The meaning of the name not only refers to the cabalgatas where members follow Kino’s trails; it also refers to following the example of Kino’s life and his teachings as a guide to living.

In commemoration of Kino’s life and legacy, Por Los Caminos de Kino has traversed desert, mountain, river and coast in today’s states of Arizona, California, Sonora, Sinaloa, and Baja California Sur and Norte. Frequently during the rides, members will speak at schools about Kino and people in towns will line the streets along the routes to welcome the riders.

In 1996 the Association rode the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail from Hermosillo, Sonora, to San Francisco, California, to commemorate Kino’s visionary plan to establish a seaport in Alta California. The 1775-76 Anza Expedition fulfilled Kino’s vision 65 years after his death in 1711.

The Association also traveled to Rome in 2006 when the petition for the cause for Kino’s sainthood and 150 pounds of supporting documentation were submitted to the Vatican. Kino’s sainthood cause is currently under consideration.

In 2010 a book named after the Association was published. The book entitled “Por Los Caminos de Kino” is about the history of the cabalgatas and the thoughts of its members about Kino and their experiences on the cabalgatas. Founding members Jesús Enrique Salgado and José Luis Salgado are the book’s authors.

For more information about Padre Kino and Por Los Caminos de Kino see the Kino Heritage Society’s website at www.padrekino.com or contact Mark O’Hare at padrekino@live.com.

[Editor’s Note: Eusebio Kino’s impact in modern-day Sonora and Arizona was felt generations before the Anza Expedition; but both of their stories share a geography and the same complicated legacy of missionization and colonial expansion into Native land.]
Question: This year is going to see some exciting developments in Arizpe, as well as in nearby Banámichi. What is this region’s importance to the story of the Anza Trail?

Phil Valdez, Jr.: El gran Capitán, as we Californios call him, Juan Bautista de Anza, is buried in Arizpe, Sonora. He is buried within la Capilla de Nuestra Señora de Loreto, a side chapel within the town’s church of Our Lady of la Asunción.

In 1963, a research team from UC Berkeley worked alongside the people of Arizpe to exhume what they thought were the remains of Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza. But these researchers used a flawed copy of Anza’s death certification provided earlier by a local priest to secure the widow of Colonel Anza her Monte Pio, or widow’s pension.

When writing the certification, this priest omitted the following line from the true death record: “en la capilla de Nuestra Señora de Loreto”. This document now resides in the Archivo General de Indias, Sevilla, España, and was the docu-
These remains lying in state in Arizpe were once believed to be those of Juan Bautista de Anza. They are now thought to be those of Colonel Manuel Echegaray, an officer working in Arizpe in the era of Anza’s death. Photo by Phil Valdez, Jr., all rights reserved.

Who should people contact if they’d like to attend an event in Arizpe or learn more?

Three or four little towns or hamlets in the area around Arizpe will be able to reap the benefits of more Americans coming to visit. To learn more at this early stage, people can email me at DeAnza8g@aol.com.

OK, and on to the Anza Society Conference at nearby Banámichi March 6-9; what do you have in store?

Banámichi is close to Arizpe and has three hotels to accommodate our group of 40. Registration to attend the conference is nearly full.

Thursday March 6, 2014, we will leave from Tucson and have a welcome reception in Banámichi that evening. Friday our presentations begin with an international flavor: Four are Mexican presenters and four are from the United States. Our keynote speaker is Dr. Lourdes Gabikagojeaskoa, professor at Santa Clara University. Her talk is titled, “From Santa Fé to San Francisco via Arizpe. The Basque influence in Nueva Navarra.”

Saturday, we tour Arizpe to see the remains currently in state and will visit the chapel to see where Anza is currently buried. We will visit the museum in Arizpe, have lunch with the Lady Lions of Arispe, and enjoy free time around the plaza; we then return and have our farewell dinner in Banámichi that night.

For more information, visit www.AnzaSociety.org.
For the past year I’ve been interning with Ron Morfin, the Recreation and Wilderness Lead of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Field Office in Yuma, on an inventory of the Anza Trail. Since the Partnership for the National Trails System chose Tucson as the site of its 14th National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference last November, we had a chance to share our work and meet with trail enthusiasts from around the country.

Personally, I was on the hunt for the elusive full-time government position. I felt I may have a fighting chance with two years of internship experience under my belt with both BLM and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. I had heard there would be many officials in attendance that would be good to add to my network of contacts for future employment opportunities.

A light dinner was provided at the welcoming banquet the first night. The 15 Trail Apprentices introduced themselves; the Trail Apprentice scholarship brings advocates aged 18-25 to the conference to provide the perspective of the next generation of trail stewards. Some were students, some had recently finished long-distance hikes, and some were interning for one of the agencies in the Department of the Interior.

Jonathan Rothschild, Tucson’s mayor, spoke about the wonderful trails in the area and Tucson’s long history; he also asked us to spend money downtown (for tax purposes, of course) when we went to the All Souls Procession. A local band played music for the welcoming banquet. They were a family band comprised of five generations of musicians, all Native people from the area. One individual from the crowd started dancing alone on the dance floor. By the last song, all the Trail Apprentices got up to
join in the dance.

The conference’s opening ceremony began the next morning with a Native drum circle and a color guard of Native American military veterans. Wend-sler Nosie, Tribal Councilman of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, shared his efforts to speak with Congress about working with Tribes to protect sacred sites on federally managed lands.

Two of the common themes of the introductory talks were the importance of recording the history and stories of the National Trail System and the role of stewardship that the government agencies have accepted in managing these trails.

The following day was filled with Mobile Workshops, including one on the Anza Trail. I chose the workshop about Trail Inventory at Catalina State Park. The workshop was broken into four portions with experts from the different federal agencies: cultural and historical resources, visual resource management, recreation and travel management, and vegetation and wildlife.

Rain began to fall during the follow-up discussion at the end of the workshop. It continued to rain during the ride to the Western National Parks Association, where we learned about the partnerships being made in the trails world and the direction things are headed in the future. The visitor center made for a great place to stop and compare stories with other conference attendees about the day’s workshops. Most everyone was in a great mood that made for easy networking.

The next days were filled with presentations by people from federal agencies, Tribes, universities, trail groups, and private contractors working for the trails. My favorite part of the presentations were the question and answer sessions which led to very interesting discussions.

The final day included a panel discussion by the Trail Apprentices. Topics concerned the current state of jobs for young people in the trail system, specifically the federal agencies that manage the trails. The apprentices felt disheartened by the expectations placed upon them to land a full-time government position after working as a volunteer or intern. They expressed how the hiring process in the federal government is very different today in a climate of budget cuts.

Young people are expected to work for free as volunteers or as interns with borderline subsistence wages for several years before having enough experience to compete for full-time positions. Many said they still needed their parents’ financial support despite working full-time internships.

Many of the federal employees in attendance expressed similar concerns regarding the current job prospects for young people in the trails system. Others explained how they started at an entry level out of school and had to work several years before moving up in the government. I have yet to make it into the round of ‘most qualified’ for the 100+ entry-level positions for which I have applied.

The close-out banquet lived up to the standards of the opening banquet. A mariachi band of local schoolchildren performed traditional Spanish music by the night lights of the outdoor terrace. An auction was held after dinner to raise money for the different volunteer trails groups. Awards were handed out to some of the most deserving members of the trail community for their years (or decades) of hard work dedicated to the National Trails System.

After the final awards were presented, the conference was officially finished. Everybody said their final good-byes of the evening and hit the long, dusty trail back home.
Experiencing the Beauty of Anza Ride

The October 2013 Anza Days in Santa Cruz Count saw an impressive 28 men, women, and children join the annual Anza Expedition Re-Enactment Ride from Tumacácori National Historic Park to the Tubac Presidio State Historic Park and Museum. Anza Days comes together through the work and resources of the parks, the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona, the ATCA Color Guard, the Tubac Rotary, and many more volunteers and supporters. New in 2013 was a companion Anza Days in Pima County, organized by Dawn Morley of Have Some Fun Tourism Media and the Historic Hacienda de la Canoa. Below is the heartfelt experience of one young rider during Anza Days 2013:

by Alex Brinckerhoff

Having the opportunity to ride on the Anza Trail was a great experience. This past ride I was able to ride with my grandfather, father, aunt, and uncle.

The ride let me experience the true beauty of Arizona, and having my father ride next to me made the ride even more exciting. Being thirteen and living in Arizona my whole life, I have been able to do things that not many others are able to do. Things like the Anza ride.

Waking up at 4:30 in the morning to drive down to Tumacácori, then riding horses for several hours is so fun. The feeling of being with family and riding horses with them for four hours is amazing. When you see all the people there as you arrive in Tubac, it is like nothing else.

People always ask how old I am whenever they see me doing the ride. When I say that I am thirteen, they’re shocked. I am always excited to do the Anza ride every time it comes around in October. This past ride was my second time participating, and I have loved every minute of it.

My grandfather rode in Tubac’s first Anza re-enactment ride back in 1978. My grandfather wore a cuera, which is leather armor. For Christmas I was given that cuera, and I wore it in the ride. When my grandfather saw me wearing it, he was stunned. I knew how he felt just from the look in his eyes.

For the first time my dad rode in the ride. He enjoyed the ride just as much if not more than I did. My aunt rode with us as well. She rode with my grandfather back in the 1970s. My uncle rode with us as well. He had never done the ride before, but when it was all over, he said he had a great time. Having the family there to experience something that I had experienced only once before made the ride even better.

Passing houses and desert showed the difference between man-made objects and nature. I love the ability to get on a horse and walk through the Ari-
zona desert and realize all the green that we have. It’s not rainforest green, but it’s pale green. A green that only deserts have. The desert is has a beauty that is like no other. It has its dangers, but so do other places. The Anza ride lets me experience that beauty. So does family.

My love for history and learning about historical events has brought me to do the Anza ride. It started off with volunteering down at the Tucson Presidio. I was asked to do the ride back in 2012. I loved it and was asked to do the ride again. I did the ride again and that’s when my father, aunt and uncle, and grandfather did it.

Waking up really early, dressing up in 18th century period clothing, driving an hour, and then riding horses for four hours truly is a lot of fun. I have loved what I have been able to do and thank the people who have given me the opportunity. My thanks go out to those people. I have done things that few others have been able to do, and I am truly thankful.

October is always exciting. Halloween is one contributing factor, but there is also the Anza ride. There is nothing like it. My first participating was in 2012. I was nervous not knowing what was going to happen. I had also not ridden a horse since I was four years old. I was not alone though. Another guy who was asked to participate had never been on a horse. I guess I wasn’t as nervous as he was.

I have always loved horses. My aunt had several at her house and they have always fascinated me. When I rode them when I was younger, I loved them, animals that could make me taller and move faster.

Getting to ride them again is an amazing feeling. Seeing so many of them in a long line. Riding two by two and arriving in Tubac. That’s when all the looks disappear. Going to eat at a restaurant when you’re exhausted and hungry is always fun. Filling your stomach with food after not having a real meal since five in the morning. These are experiences that I will never forget.

Every year I don’t know what horse I am going to have, who is going to be there, or what I will see, but it’s always a pleasant surprise. Doing the ride is always fun. Every time I do it I laugh and smile. Having family there makes the smiles bigger and gives me more reasons to laugh.

The 2013 Anza ride was a great one, and I look forward to next year’s ride. It is an experience that I will never forget, and I hope it continues when I have children and grandchildren. I hope that they will share my love of history and want to participate with me, just as I did with my father and grandfather. The opportunities that I have had and the people that I have met make me know for a fact that I am on the right track for my life.

People who have known me for less than two years tell me to continue what I am doing. They support me in my reenacting. Strangers say to continue on the path that I am going. These are the ones who I know are trustworthy people.

I will not stop learning about southwestern history. My grandfather learned about and wrote books about the southwest. My dad knows so much about history in general. I want to continue learning and continue reenacting. It is what I enjoy doing and I will continue until I can do it no longer.

People support me and I thank them for that. I appreciate everything they do for me, specially my father and grandfather who have supported all that I do. I love doing the Anza ride and will definitely continue in future years.
Volunteers with a Spanish-language choir in Martinez, Calif., brought *las posadas*, a bilingual holiday program, to park visitors on December 14, 2013.

In partnership with the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and the John Muir National Historic Site, the volunteer choir organized a musical procession that revealed the culture and history behind similar events celebrated throughout the Americas.

For many years, an 1849 adobe structure on the grounds of the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez played host to an annual *posada*. The adobe now houses a bilingual exhibit about the Anza Trail, which commemorates the impact of Spanish settlement on California.

Last fall, park staff invited the choir to organize a bilingual *posada* open to participants of all faiths and traditions. More than 100 people came to welcome *las posadas* back to the adobe. Participants sang along to Spanish-language holiday songs, made Mexican crafts, and broke a traditional seven-point star piñata.

With a large piñata from Alamos, Sonora – the historic southern end of the Anza Trail – decorating the adobe, the event connected the faith of the Spanish settlers with the diverse customs and traditions of today’s Bay Area.
A Return to Tumacácori –
A Touchstone Along the Anza Trail
by Rich Rojas, Anza Trail Foundation Chairman

For over four years now, members of our Anza Trail Foundation have spent many hours discussing the importance of the Anza Expedition, the expedition’s influence on settlements along the route, and how modern development (solar/wind power, cell phone towers, etc.) threatens what Anza and his party knew of Arizona and California. Too often, we search for reasonable mitigation measures to soften the blow of these changes or hope someone else (NPS, BLM, USFS, AZ or CA Highway or State Parks) is looking out for Anza Trail’s best interest. In reality, the protection, preservation, and interpretation of national trails belong to all of us, and not just Federal, State and local agency staff.

A recent trip to Tucson to attend the 14th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails, Nov. 3-6, 2013, was exactly the booster shot I needed to remember how critical our work continues to be. While my time at the conference was brief, the energy, excitement, and enthusiasm shared by the 180 other conference attendees – especially the young trail interns – was infectious. During our mobile workshop, “One Trail, Many Stories: the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail in Southern AZ”, the words shared by Luther Propst, former Sonoran Institute Executive Director and keynote luncheon speaker really got me thinking as our group rode the bus from our hotel to Las Lagunas de Anza. In his talk, Propst reminded us that if existing and new trails are to remain relevant and sustainable, we must make the trail experience more inclusive to a changing population.

While Propst offered few specifics, he suggested that new partnerships with individuals and organizations with overlapping interests would be key. Our stop at Las Lagunas de Anza, a privately owned, restored marsh along the Anza Trail, served as a great example of a public-private partnership where area youth

are learning about history, native plant restoration and interpretation first-hand, funded in part by a NPS Challenge Grant. Connecting local Latino youth with their cultural past, while also providing a window into their future is the kind of partnership Propst was asking us to grow! By creating relevance, you can create value. Meeting the young interns at Las Lagunas de Anza was very inspiring.

From there, our bus took our group to one of my all-time favorite places along the Anza Trail: Tumacácori National Historic Park. It was here in 2000 that I accompanied other members of our Juan Bautista de Anza National Trail Council and “met” Anza himself. Actually, we met the late Don Garate, a National Park Ranger who was a master interpreter and Anza re-enactor. Returning to Tumacácori and participating in an interpretive walk lead by NPS Ranger Hale Sargent to Tubac Presidio State Historic Park was like coming home. It reminded me of the lives that I once touched as an interpretive ranger and of the importance of the work we do every day in protecting, preserving and interpreting special places and trails. In talking to other participants, gatherings like this conference and visits to special places like Tumacácori and Tubac also serve as a touchstone for what’s important in our lives.

A segment of Don’s portrayal of Anza can be seen at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTJF-8ners4
Hike the Anza Trail through the Cardiac Hills of New Almaden Quicksilver

by Hale Sargent, Anza Trail Interpretive Specialist

A steep climb up, followed by a swift hike down: This 3-mile loop along the Anza Recreation Trail in New Almaden Quicksilver County Park (near San Jose) includes an elevation gain of more than 700 feet. Learn why this park, rich in history, is dubbed the “cardiac hills.”

TRAILHEAD DIRECTIONS AND ROUTE:

From the park’s Mockingbird Hill Lane entrance (free parking) the Anza Trail overlaps with the Virl O Norton Trail, whose trailhead is located at the eastern corner of the parking lot. Climb this trail, and after 1.2 miles, follow the Anza Trail signage to turn right onto the Hacienda Trail. Continue your climb.

After another 0.3 miles, you will reach a fork in the trail. While the Anza Trail veers to the left, you will wish to stay right, continuing on the Hacienda Trail to loop back to the Mockingbird Hill Lane parking lot.

PARK HISTORY

These hills were once home to a vast mercury mining operation and as many as 1,800 miners and their families. Almaden is Spanish for mine, and Almaden, Spain, is home to one of the largest mercury deposits in the world.

Cinnabar (mercury) was discovered here in 1844 and the area attracted world-wide interest during the Gold Rush. At the time, mercury was the primary agent to extract gold from ore.

Prior to the discovery of mercury in these hills, the land was part of Rancho San Vicente, a land grant given by the Mexican government to Jose Reyes Berreyesa in 1842. Berreyesa was the son of Maria Peralta and Nicolas Berreyesa, colonists who arrived to California as children on the 1776 Anza Expedition.

During the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846, John C. Frémont ordered Kit Carson to shoot and kill an unarmed Jose Reyes Berreyesa, an event that helped defeat Frémont’s presidential bid ten years later.

For more information and park rules, visit: http://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/parkfinder/Pages/AlmadenPark.aspx

*Connector Trail: Not a certified segment of the Anza Recreation Trail
Anuncios

Join the Anza Trail Foundation (it’s Free!) to receive a monthly email of expanded Anza Trail News & Events. Sign up at www.anzahistorictrail.org

January

Sun 12  Campo de Cahuenga (North Hollywood) Articles of Capitulation Re-Enactment, 1PM - 2:30PM, (818) 763-7651

Fri 24  Anza Trail Talk at Saguaro National Park (east), 11AM. Repeats Feb. 28 & Mar. 28. Contact albert_watson@nps.gov

Sun 26  Tour of Tuibun Ohlone Village site, Coyote Hills Regional Park, Fremont CA, 10AM www.ebparks.org

February

Sat 1  Anza Trail River Walk at Tumacácori National Historic Park, 10:30AM – 12PM. Repeats March 1 & 29. Contact albert_watson@nps.gov

5-9  55th Annual Tubac Festival of the Arts

Sat 8  Walk With Anza through the Presidio of San Francisco, 2PM; see the new boardwalk and other trail improvements. Meet at Presidio Landmark Bldg, (415) 561-4323

Sat 8  Living History Day at el Presidio San Agustin Del Tucson, 10AM – 3PM. Repeats Mar. 29. www.tucsonpresidio.com

14-16  Calif. Mission Studies Conference in Paso Robles; www.californiamissionstudies.com

Sat 15  Anza Trail program at Casa Grande Ruins National Monument; for times please call (520) 723-3172

Thu 20  89th Annual Tucson Rodeo Parade: The ATCA Color Guard will ride again!

March

15-16  Tucson Festival of Books (& National Parks Pavilion), University of Arizona

Sun 16  Kumeyaay Cultural Workshop at Satwiwa Native American Indian Cultural Center (Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area), 10AM and 1PM, (805) 370-2301
Congratulations to Dr. Rita Wells-Grandrud, ATF Board Member, on receiving the Volunteer Lifetime Achievement Award from the Partnership for the National Trails System (photographed with Jere Krakow at the National Trails Conference).