

Hello camp! Are we excited yet?

PPR is fast approaching and lots of hard work has gone into making your rendezvous experience a great one. I know the price of fuel has gone way up and Covid concerns are still at the forefront but I wanted to express my deep appreciation for those making the journey back in time. We have a nice schedule of events for you with a few surprises thrown in.

A little bit about this year's location and a brief history:

The rendezvous site is near Shirrtail Creek on the **Southworth Brothers Ranch** and we offer our sincere gratitude to **Jack Southworth** for the use of it. Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, antelope and plenty of other wildlife call this secluded and private ranch home. Views of the Strawberry Mountains and Bear Valley are incredible! The Silvies River that runs through the valley is named after Antoine Sylvaile, a member of Peter Skene Ogden's 1826 expedition. Sylvaile reported to John McLoughlin that he had found a valley 'abounding in beaver, more than any place he had been in the West.' The town of Seneca is also situated on the Silvies River and is in Bear Valley at the northern edge of the Great Basin. It's a nice small town in the high desert and has been called "the icebox of Oregon" because of how cold it gets in the winter. Indeed, the coldest temperature ever recorded in Oregon was in Seneca at 54 degrees below zero in 1933!

Peter Skene Ogden, a Scottish explorer/trapper working for the English, records the first written descriptions of the area in 1824-1827. Ogden was directed by the Hudson Bay Company to create a beaver "fur desert" in southern Oregon in an effort to discourage American trappers from entering the area and claiming it for the United States. His travels took him along the South Fork and Main Stem of the John Day Rivers and along the Silvies River to Malheur Lake. The first written descriptions of large numbers of indigenous tribes dying from European disease are recorded along the Columbia River. These same epidemics probably decimated most groups using the Malheur Forest. Indeed it is quite likely that many groups were entirely wiped out, which would account for the lack of early historic references to indigenous villages along the upper John Day River.

So there you have it! I'm looking forward to seeing all of you and watching the lodges go up to create our little settlement. Safe travels and wagons ho my friends!

Sincerely,

Gloria Schmidt

2022 PPR Booshway

