

Friends of South Pass



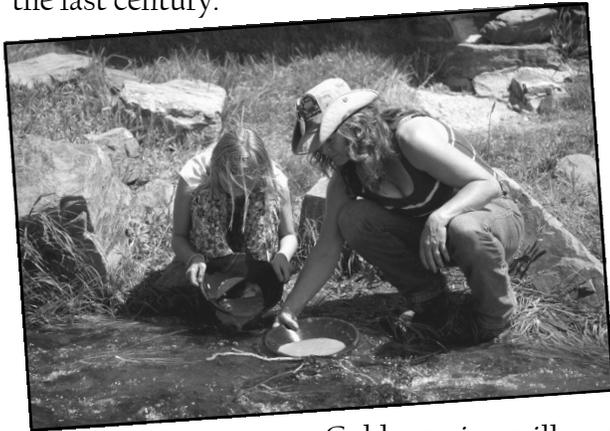
June 2019

The Williams Sisters, circa 1895 are prepared for Summer fun.

Gold Rush Days 2019

Gold Rush Days is here again! July 6th and 7th will be the days for this year's celebration of all things South Pass.

This year's events include the 19th annual vintage Base Ball Tournament between rival cities Lander, Hudson, Riverton and the home team, South Pass City. 2018 Champions, Riverton will have stiff competition from their rivals, especially South Pass City who has never won a tournament, but gives their all each year! The game is played in period uniforms and with rules from the turn of the last century.



Gold panning will again be held near the Price Street Bridge to fuel gold fever. Other mining activities are spread throughout the site. Demonstrations of the amazing arastra and stamp mill will be featured along the trails system. The Carissa Mill will be open and operational. There is a new and exciting demonstration space at the Carissa Mine. The pneumatic drills are now at the Carissa. Come see a stoping drill work to cut stopes into living rock like the miners of the Carissa.

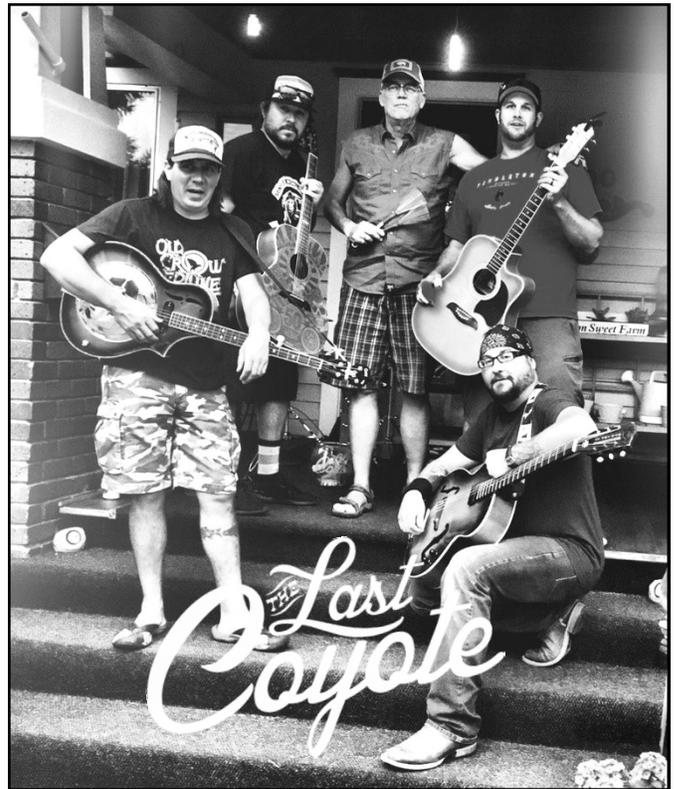


Music will again fill the streets of South Pass City. Daytime and evening concerts will run all day on Saturday. Performers include "Just Twelve Strings," and acoustic duo



from Riverton who sing a medley of old-time country, folk, and rock. "Jessica and Shelby" come from Meeteetsee and play acoustic folk and classics. The

evening concert on Saturday will feature "The Last Coyote" a folk rock group from Casper, will entertain until the big display of fireworks.



As usual South Pass City will feature many re-enactors and demonstrations, food trucks and activities for the whole family.

The gates open at 10 am July 6th & 7th
 Admission is
 \$5 per person
 Kids 4 & under are free

Parking is at the top of the hill with bus shuttles running every 15 minutes

Paint the Town Red:
A historical cocktail tasting
in a historic saloon

We have a truly special event on August 10th! Backwards Distilling Company of Casper, Wyoming, famous for their eye-twisting bottles of gin, whiskey & vodka, will be pouring historic cocktails in the Miner's Exchange Saloon. What are historic cocktails, you might ask? Well that would have been drinks miners in the early part of the 20th century would have known. Amber from Backwards will be showing off her mixologist skills so you can taste something reminiscent of the past.

Here we are in 2019! What would a libation from 1919 taste like? Or 1900? The Low Water String Band will perform during the event & visitors will be able to explore the candle-lit buildings.

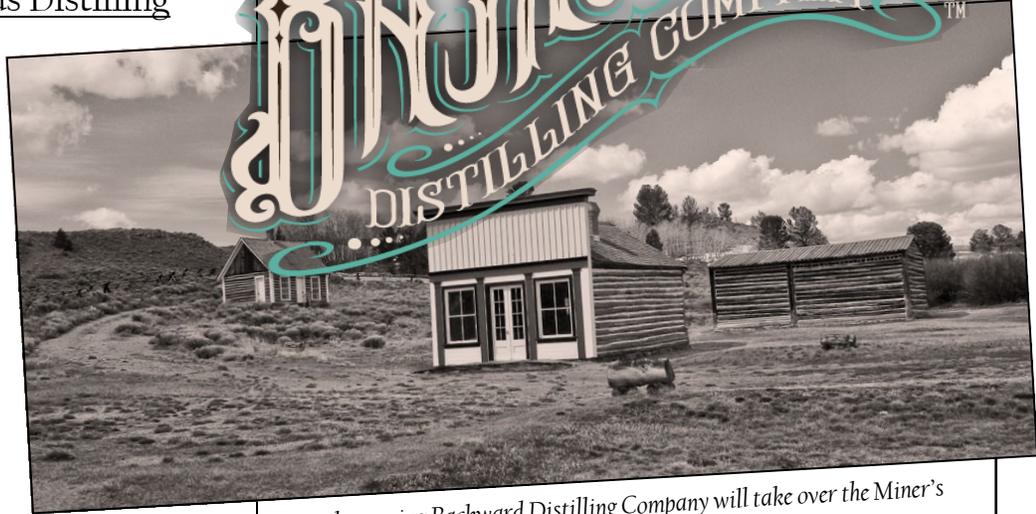
All proceeds go to the Friends of South Pass to help preserve & interpret South Pass City.

\$50 per person. Reservations are required. Call 307-332-3684 or visit

For reservations
www.southpasscity.com

South Pass City

Friends of South Pass



For the evening Backward Distilling Company will take over the Miner's Exchange Saloon.



The Low Water String Band will entertain guests while they explore a candle-lit town & sample historic libations.

The Path Less Taken: Trails at South Pass City

In 1868, when South Pass City was booming, nearly 2,000 people lived & worked in town & the surrounding hills. They built the industrial infrastructure necessary for a booming mine town. Ditches for water, mills, arrastras, & cabins were scattered over many square miles with SPC as the epicenter of activity. Things looked bright, but busts are inevitable. When the bust hit SPC, the property was abandoned as quickly as it was built & left silent.

Over the last 150 years, pine & aspen have grown up around the ruins, wildflowers brighten old foundations, & deer, moose & antelope move among the buildings. South Pass City State Historic Site has, over the last three years, built hiking trails that take you to these remote locations. Five miles of trail now wander the site. Signs tell the rich history of those that tried to make the Shoshonie Mining District profitable.



The Flood & Hindle Trail is a 1 1/2-mile easy hike up Willow Creek & is named after a company who built an arrastra. An Arrastra is a waterwheel driven crushing machine that used heavy stones to pulverize ore. The old Flood & Hindle site is interpreted & a reconstructed working arrastra sits nearby. Demonstrations are given Saturdays in July & August from 1 to 3 pm.



The Mohamet Group Trail is a strenuous 2-mile loop that takes you across many of the mine claims that make up the Carissa Property. The Mohamet Group Trail passes through Altoris Gulch. This gulch is where the first prospectors summered in 1867. A reward for your walk is a

large Aspen glen & the trickling of Mormon Creek.



The Hermit Creek Trail starts in South Pass City for a moderate 2-mile out-&-back hike along Hermit Creek. Along the way, you will walk on the South Pass City-Atlantic City Toll Road. Miners in 1868 were charged exorbitant rates to travel between the two towns on the road. No wonder town folk found their own paths to Atlantic & skipped the toll.

Aside from the history, nature is on full display along the trails. Wildflowers thrive in spring, birds in the summer & a spectacular display of autumn leaves make the trails at SPC very special.

Bring your family & check out our Family Trail Packs.



Trail of Firsts: Family Trail Packs @ SPC

Summer fun at South Pass City. South Pass City has an exciting program for the 2019 summer season, thanks to State Parks, Historic Sites & Trails & the Friends of South Pass.

During the winter of 2019 the staff of South Pass City applied for a “Park Tank” grant from State Parks & Historic Sites. “Park Tank” is based on the T V show Shark Tank. In this version, parks submit a proposed program & the proposals are voted on by all State Parks staff. Park Tank encourages partnership with other organizations. Our partners are the Friends of South Pass who provided matching funds, the Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge & Wyoming Game & Fish, to create a pack with lots of information & activities.

Our program is named “The Trail of Firsts,” after the first gold boom in Wyoming, the first mining claim & the first place a woman held public office in the United States.

The program is designed for families & encourages exploration of South Pass City & its trails. The visitors are asked to do at least four of the eight activities, like walk the Flood & Hindle Trail & use a mortar & pestle to crush ore, or visit the Slack Cabin & learn about Esther Morris.

We will be handing out 600 backpacks, along with a sheet of activities. When completed the family can come to the Smith Sherlock Store & receive a treat.

The program will run through August of 2019. Come try yours out today.



South Pass City

Friends of South Pass

June 2019

Friends of South Pass & Supporters of South Pass City,

Another summer at South Pass City has begun & the new season brings many exciting things at South Pass City.

In addition to Gold Rush Days - July 6th & 7th - we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of Women's Suffrage in Wyoming, a tasting of historic cocktails with live music, nature hikes, a trail run in the Red Desert, & the opening of a new trail system at South Pass Historic Site. Go to southpasscity.com/events for schedules, reservations, & information. As always, South Pass City State Historic Site will also be giving tours of the Carissa Mill, the English Tunnel, & the Flood & Hindle Trail this summer.

This summer & fall the Friends of South Pass Board of Directors will be working on our strategic plan which will set goals for the next five years & look for ways to improve our organization. We will be working with the University of Wyoming Extension Office, State Parks & Cultural Resources & the staff at South Pass City in these endeavors. Members of the Friends of South Pass are the center of what we do! If you would like to help, or have suggestions for us & our future as a friends group, please contact us at info@southpasscity.com. Your feedback will help us support South Pass City.

We hope you will come & join us, or better yet, volunteer for some of the activities, events & features at the South Pass City. Bring your family, friends, or company & spend a full day exploring South Pass City!

Thank you all for your support of South Pass City & the Friends of South Pass.



Ben Pearson
President, Friends of South Pass



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South Pass City
Friends of South Pass

June 2019

Friends of South Pass,

The Wyoming Abandoned Mine Land Program (AML) was established after the Surface Mining Control & Reclamation Act (SMCRA) was passed by Congress in 1977 to address the regulation of surface coal mining in the United States. SMCRA also established an Abandoned Mine Land program to provide a means to reclaim mines abandoned prior to 1977 for which there was no responsible party to conduct reclamation at those sites. Across the country, many historic mines were un-reclaimed posing serious hazards to the public. The State of Wyoming accepted primacy for AML activities within the State in 1983.

One of the early AML projects addressed a tailings & industrial waste cleanup at the Carissa Mill site. This was followed by a number of other actions that were intended to remediate public safety hazards at what was to become part of South Pass City State Park. The heavy public visitation at the site, even before it became public property, raised the hazard priority ranking of this site because it had open mine shafts & adits, numerous unstable & dilapidated buildings, including the massive mill building, & large volumes of remaining industrial wastes. There was abundant reason & urgency for AML to remediate Carissa's hazards.

It needs to be noted up front that the AML program is funded through the assessment of an abandoned mine land fee on every ton of coal mined in the state of Wyoming. That fee is currently twenty eight (28) cents per ton of coal mined. The State is very aware of the source of funds & has been dedicated to being good stewards of those funds & uses those funds in the most efficient manner. All expenditures for this, & every AML project, are consistent with all federal & state laws regarding appropriate use of AML funds.

Since the inception of the AML program in Wyoming, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) AML program has reclaimed hundreds of mines & thousands of acres of land disturbed by historic mining. That work continues today & will continue into the foreseeable future as new abandoned mine features are identified.

One of the successes of the AML program in Wyoming is the Carissa Mine & Mill & the partnership with the Department of State Parks & Cultural Resources. The mill site had numerous open mine shafts that posed significant safety hazards to the public. The condition of the mill before the start of the work was such that it also posed a significant health & safety hazard. AML mitigated the hazards of the open mine shafts by closure but did so in a manner that still retained the character of those mines for the public.

Although AML funding cannot be used to restore the mill to its historic character. AML funding could be used, however, to address the safety & health issues posed by the aging structure & the industrial waste that was a legacy of the historic milling process.

Through the partnership with the Department of State Parks & Cultural Resources, AML conducted activities to specifically address the public health & safety hazards. Funding for the restoration of the Carissa Mill was provided separately by the Department of State Parks & Cultural Resources. They managed the multitude of activities that were required to restore the mill to reflect the condition & nature when it was in active operation.

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality Abandoned Mine Land program is proud to have been a partner in this project. The Carissa Mine & Mill are a true jewel for Wyoming & a model of the historic legacy that we are all proud of.

Alan Edwards
Administrator, Abandoned Mine Lands Program



Sailing at SPC?

Mrs. Connelly sat near the window of her cabin in South Pass City, working as much by lamplight now as daylight. It was nearing the end of August, 1871 & she could see that the days were getting perceptibly shorter, & cooler, too. Glistening white frost had blanketed the ground earlier that very week. Her needle worked the canvas deftly, back & forth, each stitch cinched tightly against its neighbor. A couple more hours & Mrs. Connelly would be able to claim that, here in the middle of Wyoming Territory, miles from any ocean, or even a boat, she had fashioned her very first sail!

South Pass City gold rush pioneer, James Smith, kept a Cash Book of a number of his projects throughout the years. Among them, & perhaps the most unusual, was his record for the expenses of the work on the English Tunnel. Following an overseas trip to London, Smith had succeeded in motivating a firm to take an interest in the eastern extension of the Carissa, then known as the Wild Irishman Lode. Enough exploration had been completed in the local mining district that Smith felt he had a sure thing in this location. Or, at least something that might tide him over another season or two in the faltering boom town of South Pass City. No one truly knew what riches lay beneath the ground, but Smith was certain that he could find out.

Smith's initial bankroll amounted to about a quarter of a million dollars in today's value. Work kicked off the first week of May, with a proper "Who's Who" of early South Pass City & Fremont County represented as materials suppliers & contractors. J. D. Farmer for blasting powder, Ed

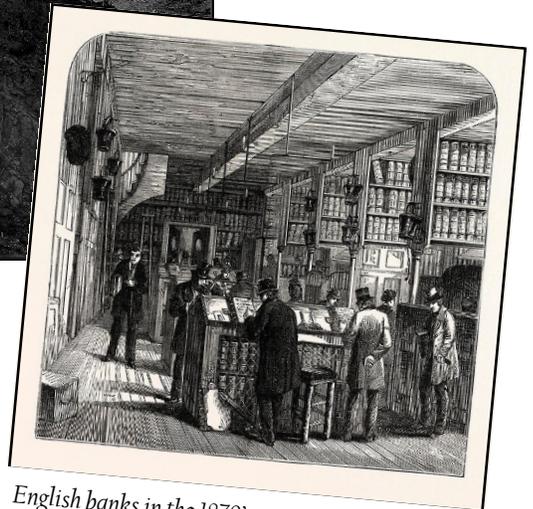
Lawn for a stove & furnishings, James A. McAvoy for office construction work, the Union Pacific Rail Road for freight, & Western Union for telegrams. Smith wired London to advise that, with work now ongoing, more funds would be required. By the end of May 1871, before a single shovel of soil had been moved, two thirds of the start-up capital had been expended!

Within days, Smith received another \$70,000 from London. Certainly, the designation, "English Tunnel" would be well-deserved, if it ever got started. A veteran, not only of the United States Navy, but also of the California Gold Rush, Smith's mind was awash with images of the mines & camps that he had seen elsewhere in both California & Mexico. Almost completely without formal schooling, Smith possessed a keen mind & a sharp eye for detail.

As he ruminated over maps of the area, & of the rich Carissa diggings just two hundred yards away from his project, Smith now conceived of a two-



The earliest known photo of South Pass City was taken in 1870, by William Henry Jackson near the English Tunnel



English banks in the 1870's invested worldwide.

pronged assault on what he anticipated would be a

massive ore body, with abundant gold. He would stick with his tunnel, both as a way to avoid time-consuming hoisting & to act as a drain for the mine workings into Hermit Gulch. But, Smith also determined contract to sink a vertical shaft from the hilltop above.

This change of plans would mean still more expenses. W.C. Ervin for sundries, John Swingle for office furnishings, Jules Ecoffey for iron, Esther Morris' son, Archie Slack, for lumber, & Sidney

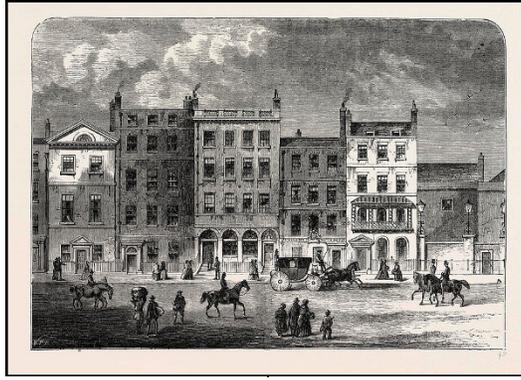


Ticknor for everything from pick handles to candles. Finally, on June 19, 1871, Woodruff & Company took their first draw on the account for ten feet of tunnel work. A day later, George Arnett received payment for the first ten feet of shaft work. As with the Transcontinental Railroad only two years earlier, two separate crews were at work from opposite side of a landmass, placing trust in Smith's foreman Henry Rickard to guide them successfully toward each other some distance below ground. If Smith's instincts proved correct, they would intersect an ore body long before, & could extend their operations on profits derived from the as-yet unseen gold.

Smith's 1871 Cash Book is sufficiently detailed to allow the modern day reader some pause to consider that the English Tunnel work advanced at the rate of about a foot & a half per day. Shaft sinking is always slower than driving a tunnel, & Arnett's crew only succeeded in lowering the shaft between eight & twelve inches per day. For Smith, the English financiers, & the laborers themselves, the summer months of 1871 were filled with a mix of tension, anxiety, & physical exhaustion as the work slowly advanced. By mid-August, Woodruff & Company struck a fault that steadily seeped groundwater onto the men laboring by candlelight in the dim workings. Whether they rejoiced for its coolness in mid-summer's heat, or cursed it for complicating their work is not known. Arnett's crew, now descending over forty feet of ladders into the darkness of their mine works, choked on the combination of foul air & the fumes of their spent explosives.

Enter Mrs. Connelly & her seamstress skills. Smith & Rickard knew of a way to help the men breathe in the asphyxiating confines of the deepening shaft, but it would take a woman's hand's to construct. Connelly listened to the men explain that they had previously learned of how to ventilate a mine shaft using the power of the wind

alone. They may know drills & explosives, but not a needle & thread. Now, the miners needed her! She had ideas about some of a mining boom

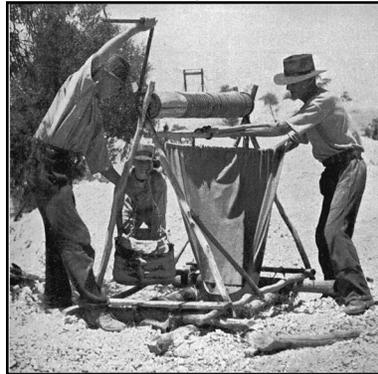


London was the center of the financial world in the early 1870's

town's "needs", based on her short time in South Pass City, & she had heard her neighbors speak of the corruption of Atlantic City, just a few miles away. Connelly's suspicion was that each town spoke of the other in terms that diminished the blemishes of their own community & exaggerated their neighbors' sins. Still, what a marvel to see the resolve & daring work of Smith & Woodruff & Arnett & the others!

All for a little gold. Her thoughts returned to Smith & Rickard, & Mrs. Connelly agreed that an honorable woman could make a contribution to the mining men, & maintain her good name!

Now, snipping the last threads of her sewing project, Mrs. Connelly must have wondered about those men in London who had spent so much, yet



Miners in Australia using a sail to catch wind & ventilate a shaft.

recovered so little. She never dreamed that she would have a hand to play in the great gamble that was gold mining. Connelly's canvas sail would soon be erected on the hilltop shaft of Arnett as means to redirect the incessant South Pass winds into the suffocating air that had almost permanently settled into its workings. Her contribution was to be placed at the very highest point of the Englishmen's project for all to see. She would tell her children & grandchildren one day that, she too, had taken part in a gold rush.

children one day that, she too, had taken part in a gold rush.

Mrs. Connelly had seen the elephant, & made \$500 in doing so!

The English Tunnel is open for tours
Saturdays in June, July & August
Tour is limited to 8 people

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
southpasscity.com/tours

In a Gulch with John M.: A nature walk in Altoris Gulch

John Mionczynski is one of the most respected biologists & naturalists in the Rocky Mountain Region. He has extensively studied Big Horn Sheep, Rocky Mountain Grizzly Bear & Native American use of medicinal plants.

This year John will explore Altoris Gulch, a remote corner of South Pass City State Historic Site full of Aspen, songbirds, & other surprises. Altoris Gulch is just one of the beautiful locations on South Pass City's new trail system. Altoris Gulch is among the first spots explored by prospectors in 1867. The gulch may take its name for Altoris, California. John will guide a two-hour walk through the flora & fauna & answer your questions.

The tour is July 19th, at 10 am. Admission is free courtesy of the Friends of South Pass. Tour is limited to 25 people.



Reservations are recommended.

Call 307-332-3684 or
www.southpasscity.com

Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund & South Pass City

A pivotal partner in the restoration & interpretation work at South Pass City is the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund. Over the last few years, many of the historic site's projects have been funded by the WCTF. This past fall, South Pass City finished a grant intended to help exhibit & interpret the Carissa Mill. The Grant was matched by State Parks, Historic Sites & Trails & the Friends of South Pass. The Bucket Elevator was restored, cyanide tanks now have moving mixing arms &, most recently, a new space has been developed to demonstrate rock drilling. Used to drill holes for dynamite, rock drills are thrilling to see in operation. An area outside the Carissa hoist now boasts stones



The Thickener Tank in the Carissa now functions so visitors can see the motion of the rakes that mixed water & cyanide.

for tunnel driving shaft sinking & stoping as well as pneumatic fittings & water. Demonstrations will begin at this year's Gold Rush Days.



South Pass City 2019

Friends of South Pass



Tours

Carissa Tours

Memorial Day to Labor Day
Thursday through Sunday
2 pm

Reservations

HIGHLY recommended

southpasscity.com/tours for reservations or
307-332-3684

English Tunnel Tour

Saturdays

June through August

11 am—1 mile hike & candle tour
of a real mine!

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

southpasscity.com/tours for reservations or
307-332-3684

Stamp Mill

& Arrastra Demo's

Saturdays in July & August

1 to 3 pm—A self guided walk
On the Flood & Hindle Trail

southpasscity.com/tours for reservations or
307-332-3684

Lots more information at

southpasscity.com

Events

Gold Rush Days

July 6th & 7th

In A Gulch with John

A native plant walk with
John Mionczynski
July 19th

Paint the Town Red

A Historical Cocktails Tasting with
Backwards Distilling Company
& The Low Water String B&
August 3rd

An Interesting Question:
The Legacy of Suffrage in Wyoming
Talks & Panel Discussion with Women Leaders
from Around Wyoming
August 10th

Sequencing: The Carissa Mine
Women Artists Residency—Artists Talk
August 10th

RUN the RED

A Race for Open Spaces

50K & 100K Run in the Red Desert
Start & Finish Line at SPC—Nature Walks & Special Tours
September 28th

Join the Friends of South Pass

The Friends of South Pass are a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving & interpreting South Pass City & the Carissa Mine. Through annual contributions the "Friends" have funded some of the largest & most important restoration projects here at SPC .



Membership includes:

- ◆ Swag from the Smith Sherlock General Store
- ◆ Free Admission to SPC
- ◆ This Newsletter
- ◆ Acknowledgment in the Dance Hall at SPC
- ◆ Contributions are Tax Deductible
- ◆ & much more...

Scan
& Join
Online!



South Pass City

Friends of South Pass

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