

CEDAR CITY CHAPTER, SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS...

Saturday, July 19, 2014

“NIGHTWATCH” AND CAMPFIRE PROGRAM!

On Saturday, 19 July 2014, at 7:00 PM in the evening, the Cedar City Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers will sponsor a campfire “Nightwatch” program, together with The Old Spanish Trail Association, Southern Utah Chapter. The event will be held at Iron Springs, Utah, 13 miles West of Cedar City, Utah. (landfill road, first structure on the right)

The Nightwatch will include an introduction to the summer night sky, major constellations, major star, star identification and a lecture on the ephemeris and reduction of star data for navigational use. Demonstrations of night navigation techniques and the equipment used by Spanish explorers (such as the Dominguez and Escalante party) on historic will be given by Col Alva Matheson, a Master Navigator and president of the local Old Spanish Trails Chapter.

The program will include actual period instruments such as nocturnals, astrolabes and quadrants. Participants will also have an opportunity to make their own observations for star derived Latitude and geomagnetic variation. The program will continue as long as persons are interested. Portable chairs, drinking water and a flashlight for attendees are encouraged.

Children are definitely encouraged to attend; all participants will have the opportunity to ride a National historic and/or pioneer trail in one or more period, including buggies, buckboards, Conestoga wagons, etc. Interpretive information and docents will provide information on the National Historic Old Spanish Trail and Pioneer Trails such as the Salt Lake Trail, California Trail, 49r Gold Rush trail, Union Trail, etc. Trail rides will be available throughout the evening, or until the sky darkens for the Nightwatch program.

Campfire “hot dog” roasting and marshmallow “toasting” will be included during to the NIGHTWATCH program. Attendance is free to the public, all are encouraged to attend.

Note: Donations will be accepted for some trail rides and other activities not involving the Nightwatch. The Pioneer campfire program is under the direction of Neuman Duncan, President of the Cedar City Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers, hosted by Spencer Bowman and members of the Old Spanish Trail Association.

Questions may be directed to Col Matheson at 586-9762