

BCARES and CMRA Activate TR11 at Franklin



Our radio clubs will be operating /Portable from the origin of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail (TR11), Franklin, MO on March 10, 2016 in support of the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) program of the ARRL. We will be setup near the banks of the Missouri River at the site of the former Franklin, MO where only a flag pole remains of that 1820's settlement.

The Great Prairie Highway

(<http://www.nps.gov/safe/index.htm>)

The Santa Fe Trail stirs imaginations as few other historic trails can. For 60 years, the trail was one thread in a web of international trade routes. It influenced economies as far away as New York and London. Spanning 900 miles of the Great Plains between the United States (Missouri) and Mexico (Santa Fe), it brought together a cultural mosaic of individuals who cooperated and sometimes clashed. In the process, the rich and varied cultures of Great Plains Indian people were caught in the middle and changed forever. Between 1821 and 1880, the Santa Fe Trail was primarily a commercial highway connecting Missouri and Santa Fe, New Mexico. From 1821 until 1846, it was an international commercial highway used by Mexican and American traders. In 1846, the Mexican-American War began.



When the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the war in 1848, the Santa Fe Trail became a national road connecting the United States to the new southwest territories. Commercial freighting along the trail continued, including considerable military freight hauling to supply the southwestern forts. The trail was also used by stagecoach lines, thousands of gold seekers heading to the California and Colorado gold fields, adventurers, fur trappers, and emigrants. In 1880 the railroad reached Santa Fe and the trail faded into history.

Franklin MO also faded into history as the continually flooding Missouri River forced the settlement a few miles north out of the flood plain, and was named New Franklin. Meanwhile Boonville, directly across the river grew into the region's center. Thus our radio operations for this NPOTA will come from the memorial park commemorating the origin of the Trail from near the north bank of the Mighty Missouri (Big Muddy).

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