

La Sociedad de la Entrada

After Action Report for Oñate Event 6/19/09

Event

Last Friday our 16th Century Spanish living history group, La Sociedad de la Entrada, assisted in opening Spaceport America. La Sociedad de la Entrada, had been asked by the groundbreaking organizers to pass the Camino Real "torch" from the 16th Century explorers to those of the 21st Century. It was a nice idea, and it represented the continuing history of El Camino Real. We were recommended to the organizers by Pat Beckett of the Camino Real Trail Association (CARTA). Mileage reimbursement was available.

The spaceport website is located at <http://www.spaceportamerica.com/>

Directions to site: From the North, take 79 South from T or C 33 miles to Engle, then 11 miles to Spaceport; from the South, take 75 North.

Musters

Participants:

Roberto Valdez

Jose Guzman

Sam Ulibarri (and wife in support - photography)

Gil and Josh Sarabia (with daughter in support - photography)

Dwight Thompson and his wife and two daughters

Mike Bilbo (and wife in support - photography)

The Ceremony

We had to be there no later than 10AM. Our part in the ceremony was not mentioned in the program as it was to be a surprise. For some reason, even the Governor was taken aback. Perhaps they did not tell him either. Roberto really worked it up nice, bowed to the Gobenador General and spoke a formal, eloquent greeting to him in Spanish. At about 10:30 on June 19th we Camino travelers approached the site on foot. The plan was to give a symbolic scroll to the governor, which connected the past to the future – a human continuum of commerce (it being a commercial spaceport).



At a signal, the Entrada proceeds towards the Governor.



Roberto Valdez greets Governor Richardson and gives him the scroll.



Roberto and Mike.



The Entrada forms a line as the speakers continue.

I also wanted to share what Gil Sarabia had to say.

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Mike,

Yesterday was a moment which was loud enough to echo for the next 500 years. I am really sorry some reenactors weren't there. I wish they could have been there. We spend much time bringing back the shadows and reverberations of history, and we rarely have a chance to be involved in the making of history. This time we weren't just reliving history, we were a part of history. It was never about us, or our individual goals, or ethnicities, it was about a moment of definition and advancement for Southern New Mexico and the future generations of the lower Rio Grande Valley, no, the whole state of New Mexico! This next thing: And our children shall know all things light.

Gilbert M. Sarabia

Conclusion

Many thanks, Gil. I received a phone call from Spaceport director Steve Landeene, who said we absolutely made the event thrilling, and a huge amount of thanks to us. All photos courtesy of the Spaceport Website.

Al Ferez Bilbo

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