

# Best of America Trail Club

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Issue 10, April 2011

## 2011 Ride Schedule

- April 11-13 - White Stallion Ranch, Tucson, AZ (PS)
- April 15-20 - Catalina State Park & Superstition Mountains, AZ (PS)
- April 19 - 21 - Tejon Ranch, CA (PS)
- April 24-25 - Challenge Ranch, El Cajon, CA (PS)
- April 29-May 1 - Reed Valley Ranch, Hemet, California (GT)
- May 6-8 - Norco "Horsetown USA", CA (GT)
- May 13-15 - Circle E Guest Ranch, Belvidere, Tennessee (GT)
- July 14-17 - Potato Blossom Festival & Trail Ride, Fort Fairfield, Maine (TR)
- July 22- 24 - Steve Edwards Mammoth Cave Mule Days, Mammoth Cave, KY (GT)
- October 7-9 - Brushy Creek Lodge & Resort, Black, Missouri (GT)
- October 21-23 - 3rd Annual Fall Colors Trail Ride @ Leatherwood Mtns, Ferguson, NC (GT)

TR=Trail Ride - GT=Grand Tour - PS=Production Shoot

## Tom's Words of Wisdom

As I write this, we are driving to the Big Bend area of South Texas. We will be at Lajitas Equestrian Center Resort with some of our viewers before we head West to El Paso and Tombstone. Sometimes the 1,000 of miles of driving and travel can be difficult, however, when we are able to meet new people, ride with old friends, and discover great places for you to visit, it all becomes worth while. We work hard to discover and bring you beautiful locations everyone with virtually any horse or mule can visit and enjoy. On this 56 day trip, we will produce 13 new shows for you, including historic Tombstone, AZ. This will be a spot you will want to put on your "bucket list". You can see our schedule for the rest of this year, including rides at Circle E in TN, Brushy Creek in MO, the Potato Festival in ME, and one of my top favorites - Leatherwood in NC, on our website. Mark Laney, our CEO, will be announcing a production tour in the Northwest, USA next season. Regardless of your age, riding ability or limitations, I want you to plan on riding with me. We live in such a beautiful country. As I grow older, I want to share the beauty of so many riding locations I have seen with my grandchildren and with you. Please plan to come ride with me!

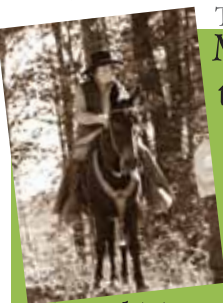
*-Tom Seay*

## On the Trail w/ Mark Laney

My article is the last to be submitted this month... While not nearly as involved in the day to day logistics of our Mexico to Canada Ride is 2009, juggling our rides and events for our 2011 Grand Tour is a major job, mapping out the dates for the locations we are shooting, to coincide, geographically with our schedule on our 3000 mile travel circuit and minimize having to backtrack. It has been a real frustrating but rewarding experience.

As this is being written, Brenda and I are in day 6 of our almost 2 1/2 month long Grand Tour with Best of America by Horseback and Tom and Pat Seay. We have our schedule filled with exciting locations that I am sure you will enjoy seeing on upcoming shows. Our attention is turning back to completing the 2012 Grand Tour Schedule in the Northwestern quarter of the US. We will be visiting the Half Moon Bay area in Northern California and are in the process of scheduling events for Oregon, Washington State, Idaho, Wyoming, South Dakota and many others. We hope to see you on the trail during this year's tour, next year's tours or any time that we are riding. You owe it to yourself to experience the best of America on horseback with us!

*Life's a Journey, Enjoy the Ride! -Mark*



# Dutch Henry Howdy Folks!

## Crusin' the Western Caribbean with the BOABH Family



Debbie Sempter and Paula McDowell had gone on the 2008 Alaskan cruise with Tom Seay and the Best of America by Horseback family and had so much fun they knew they would do many more. "Any time you go to a BOABH event you can count on it to be well managed and fun." Debbie said. "On our Must-Do list was to ride horseback on a Caribbean beach so when they announced the Western Caribbean Cruise we signed up immediately!" Debbie and Paula are big time trail riders and go riding somewhere most weekends. "We are always riding and camping with our horses and horse friends." She explained that going on a cruise with other horse minded people is a terrific way to do new things and explore new places.

On the first day, the cruise from Miami to Belize, everyone had the chance to get to know each other. There were several other folks who had also done the Alaskan cruise and everybody had a chance to get reacquainted and catch up on family stories. Toward evening Tom held a get together to visit and chat, show some different horse products and talk horses while he went over the exciting agenda for the trip. The first day off the ship was in Belize. They trekked about an hour inland to a river, which they were ferried across in an aluminum boat guided by a rope, scaled a steep bank to their destination, the "Banana Bank Lodge". They were soon saddled up and on the trail. "This was not your normal tourist trail ride." Debbie laughed. "There were a lot of steep hills, up and down. We saw monkeys, lizards and other jungle wildlife, and rode right into the Belize River! It was the best trail ride I've been on in a long time!" Debbie said this is where they filmed the show that will air on June 7, 2011. "You'll want to mark your calendar." The next day they docked in Costa Maya, Mexico where they split into two groups. Tom took his group to the Mayan ruins, Debbie and Paula went out on a glass bottom boat to view the corral reefs. "It was very beautiful and we had never seen anything like that. It's hard to explain how beautiful it was." said Debbie. When they got back to port they had a few hours to shop and everybody found something they just had to have. Every night the group would gather together for supper and tell each other what they did that day if they had gone their separate ways. "If you can imagine having supper with 30 people, who are all horse people, you can sit around and talk horses the whole time. It was just a blast!" Debbie laughed.

## Del Shields American Cowboy, Singer & Poet

Whew...It has been a whirl-wind for the past few weeks. We have kept the trail a blaze with our travels. What a wonderful experience we had with the Best of America By Horseback out-fit and friends who traveled with us to Belize and on the Caribbean cruise. We had the good fortune of riding horseback in the jungle of Belize at the Banana Bank Lodge. It was exciting to see Howler Monkeys and Iguanas in the trees above us. It was also a treat to travel to the Mayan Indian ruins and a Mayan village to experience some wonderful food and culture of the people. As soon as Shevawn and I returned home, I packed a clean suit-case and headed off to Nashville, Tenn where I spent a week recording a new album. I was blessed to have some incredibly talented musicians play on the set, who have played for all the big names in the industry. Along with this, Kerry Marx and Larry Paxton who are in the Opry band got me a back stage pass for the Opry on Saturday night. I spent the evening on stage with Jim Ed Brown, Jean Sheperd, Little Jimmy Dickens, Diamon Rio, George Hamilton the IV, Terri Clark, Jack Green and Bobby Osburn. Unbelievable!! The CD?? Oh yes, it is sounding great. It is featuring songs like the much requested, LISA DREAMS, GRANDPA'S BUCKAROO, EL CERRRITO, THE BEST OF AMERICA, COWGIRLS AND CAMP-FIRES to name a few. I hope to have the first copies out the first of May. For pre-orders, you can contact me by e-mail [singingpoet\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:singingpoet_1@hotmail.com). Also, start looking for my new web-site at [delshieldsmusic.com](http://delshieldsmusic.com) Be safe. Hope to see you soon on one of our rides, and don't forget, *Always Ride The High Trail.* *Del Shields*

# Best of America by Horseback Gear!!

*We've partnered with Stagecoach West, one of the biggest online tack stores in the Northeast, to bring you exclusive, high quality BOABH merchandise!*

Many more items to choose from. Call 800-648-1121 or visit [www.stagecoachwest.com](http://www.stagecoachwest.com) to place an order today!

## SHOW TIMES!

Tuesday (Premier)	Wednesday (Encore)
4:00 pm Pacific	6:00 am Pacific
5:00 pm Mountain	7:00 am Mountain
6:00 pm Central	8:00 am Central
7:00 pm Eastern	9:00 am Eastern

Coffee Mugs - \$9.99



Ball Caps - \$21.99



Screen-Printed T-Shirts - \$21.99



Western Button-Down Long Sleeve - \$49.99

## Steve Edwards...the MULE MAN w/ ANSWERS



Here we will help you learn how to use your hands to teach a rein. Now to begin I need you to understand my guide lines...our donkey must be as calm when we end each lesson as when we began. Make the lessons enjoyable for you and your donkey! Use the right tool. A smooth snaffle bit will teach the donkey to brace and gap the mouth. This is why you should use the Mule Rider's Martingale with a double twisted wire snaffle. With the Mule Rider's Martingale, you are guiding your donkey on a string not on a rein. The only time you have to use the reins is when he isn't following your previous instruction or you want him to do something new. Use the technique of ask, tell, demand. Most of the time you are trying to hurry the donkey and pull on the donkey when he does not respond as fast as you think he should. However, you'll get much better results if you first ask, then tell, and demand only when necessary. As an example, if you want your donkey to back up, you should first ask him by using a light wrist rolling motion with your right hand to communicate to the right side of the brain. If he refuses, then tell him what you want him to do by using more pressure, pulling with your forearm. If he still refuses, you should use your whole arm to bump, bump, bump him, rather than steadily pull him. This is a demand. When he has done this correctly three times in a row or at least he tries and you can tell he is thinking of backing up then repeat the same procedure on the left side to communicate with the left side of the brain.

Keep the lessons short and set a goal. Consider that you have reached your lesson's goal when the donkey tries to respond correctly three times in a row to what you ask of him. Don't expect that your donkey will respond exactly the way you want right from the start. Give him time to figure out what you are asking of him and reward him when he gives you even a small try towards what you ask.

Happy Trails - *Steve Edwards*

## NATURES COMPOSITES

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We are the market leader in green composite building materials. Our

composite lumber products are made from recycled plastics reinforced w/ wheat straw cellulose, a rapidly renewable resource & byproduct of the agricultural industry. With research & development efforts dating back to 1994, our technologies are not only the first full product line of commercial agri-fiber/polymer composite materials in the market, but the most reputable w/ manufacturing proudly based in the United States of America. Natures Composites main product lines are TerraFence, which is a full scale line of composite fencing products that includes privacy, ranch rail and ornamental styles. TerraDeck is a full line of composite decking material & products and hand railing that offers the composite decking market a superior alternative to the many wood composite & vinyl products available. Terra, meaning "from the Earth", is a perfect description for Natures Composites various products & product lines. Our goal is to continue to chart the path to sustainability through strong research & development efforts, partnerships with University and nonprofit organizations around the world, plus making contributions to the composites industry to advance and broaden the overall synthetic building materials category.

[www.naturescomposites.com](http://www.naturescomposites.com) 307-532-9942

## Upcoming Shows

April 5 - Maui, HI Part I  
 April 12 - Maui, HI, Part II  
 April 19 - Cleveland Metro Parks, OH  
 April 26 - Mammoth Cave, KY

## Dutch Henry...Continued

Day 5 they landed in Cozumel, Mexico where they assembled at "Mr. Sancho's Beach Club". Part of the group went horseback riding on the beach. "So wonderful, Paula and I had our beach ride on the most beautiful white beach you can ever imagine with the spectacular blue ocean in the background!" That night they gathered at the main pavilion with chefs cooking on open grills and waiters serving exotic drinks and swapped stories of the day's adventures into the wee hours of the morning.

The last day, which came entirely too fast, was cruising back to Miami. Del Shields sang and entertained while folks gathered together and made plans to keep in touch. Like every time they gathered on the ship Tom and Del put on quite a show. Debbie says to ask Tom about the conch shell.

Debbie said she would recommend any cruise going anywhere, anytime with BOABH. She guarantees you will have a blast and Tom and Pat are great hosts who work very hard to make sure every day is jam-packed with fun. "It was such a wonderful time." Debbie said. "The trip went by way too fast. We did so many varied things crammed into a short amount of time. It doesn't get any better than this. I had a smile on my face from start to the end. Paula and I can't wait for next BOABH adventure." Debbie said every adventure she's gone on with BOBH has exceeded her expectations.

So folks check the schedule and sign up for your next Must-Do adventure!

Gitty Up, *Dutch Henry*

www.dutchhenryauthor.com • dutchhenry@hughes.net  
If you'd like Dutch to write your story, email or call him!

## PARADISE RANCH - The Name Says It All



Dress Me Once More in a Big Hat that Flaps –  
Spurs, Flannel Shirt, Slicker and Chaps –  
Out Where the Sagebrush is Dusty and Gray –  
Make me a Cowboy Again for a Day –

Celebrating 100 years of FUN in 2007. Paradise Ranch lies tucked away in the scenic Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming. The ranch features luxury log cabins with fireplaces, outdoor decks & spacious living rooms. In addition a heated pool & spa, old western saloon & dining room featuring hearty ranch meals with a gourmet flair await you after a full day of adventure. Get matched to your own horse for a week. Our riding program offers team penning, barrel racing, instruction, riding with or without children & yes, we lope!

For those with a penchant for angling we offer an excellent fly fishing program with instruction, trout ponds, a full array of guided trips and even a full service fly shop. For those that are a little more adventure-some Paradise offers pack trips to our high mountain fishing camp near the Cloud Peak Wilderness.

Enjoy a quiet hike with our naturalist guide through wildflowers to see the red rocks of Crazy Woman Canyon. Hikes are available throughout the week and include adventure trips & historical excursions. Nightly activities include but are not limited to: square dance, cowboy swing dance, chuck wagon ride with dinner and a low pressure family talent night.

Paradise has become known for it's Young Bucks kid's program with full time kid's counselors, crafts, pony rides, kids overnight & teen pack trips. The program is designed to reattach your children to the great outdoors and give parents a chance for some solo time to enjoy their own pursuits during the day. *Visit The Jewel of the Big Horns.*

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# 2011 March Western Caribbean Cruise!

