

# Best of America Trail Club

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Issue 14, August 2011

## 2011 Ride Schedule

October 7-9 - Brushy Creek Lodge  
& Resort, Black, Missouri (GT)

October 21-23 - 3rd Annual Fall  
Colors Trail Ride @ Leatherwood Mtns,  
Ferguson, NC (GT)

Oct 29-30 - Trail Ride at the  
Anita-Alta BRHA Horsecamp,  
Lenoir, NC

TR=Trail Ride - GT=Grand Tour

PS=Production Shoot

## Tom's Words of Wisdom

Dear Friends & Members: There are a few things I want to highlight to you in this month's newsletter.

**First**, we have asked several of our show sponsors to supply our members with valuable coupons for many of the products you buy. We are putting the mailing together to be mailed to you. It is very important that you login to the Trail Club site to make sure we have your correct mailing address. Simply go to our website, [www.bestofamericabyhorseback.com](http://www.bestofamericabyhorseback.com) and click on Trail Club to log in. This is a continuation of our efforts to keep your membership meaningful and financially valuable to you. We look forward to expanding the benefits and opportunities for you.

**Second**, I want you to know how much I deeply appreciate emails and letters from you telling me about your family, your horses and where you like to trail ride. I enjoy reading these emails and letters which do help guide the direction of the television show. It is a personal goal of mine is to personally write back to each one I receive, so don't hesitate to contact me. I appreciate your membership in our Trail Club so very, very much.

**Third**, I am extremely excited about our upcoming tour in the southeast. Although we don't get the extreme winters in Virginia like they do up in the most northern states, we do have our fair share of chilly weather so we are planning to take a short escape and visit the warmer climate of the Southeast. The dates will be announced soon but we will be targeting March 2012 to... include visits to the Southeast's historic cities and...

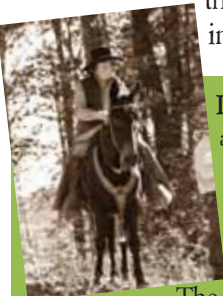
Continued on Pg. 3

## On the Trail w/ Mark Laney

**Little Known Facts about Horse & Mule Trailer Insurance** -- What should be course 101 for horse trailers? What does the average person do when he/she buys a horse trailer? What most folks typically do is they call their auto insurance agent and add it to their auto policy - this is NOT what should be done. The following will illustrate why adding your trailer to your auto policy is the wrong thing to do, for all trailers, but especially with high dollar LQ trailers. What "should be done" is to get a separate policy of what I am going to call RV type insurance. RV insurance was designed for high dollar RV's and has been available for years in the RV industry. It is now available for horse trailers, but only through 2 or 3 agencies that I am aware of.

The following example will illustrate dollar wise, why you do not want to add trailer to your auto policy - and if you did, why you will want to change it to RV type insurance. Say that you pay \$100,000 for a new LQ trailer, and finance it for 15 years. Your auto policy covers the actual cash value in the event of a total loss. What happens to the actual cash value of your new trailer in relationship to your loan balance? The value declines at a much more rapid rate than does the loan balance declines. An example using relative figures: Say your trailer is on your family auto policy and in the 4th year, you suffer a total loss of your trailer. Your loan balance on your 15 year note is about \$80,000 but the actual cash value of your trailer is about \$65,000. Result: your auto insurance pays your lender \$65,000, leaving you still owing \$15,000 --- and even worse, you also have no trailer! Same example but with RV type insurance: in the first 5 years, your insurance replaces your trailer with the same make and model -- even if that same model trailer now costs \$140,000!! And in the 6th year & years following, for a total loss, your insurance will pay you the original purchase price, \$100,000, even if the actual cash value of your trailer is only \$35,000. Whether it is in the first 5 years or after, you are able to still have a replacement trailer immediately and not be in a deficit position. The premium? - The last time I checked a comparison, the RV type insurance was \$30.00 more a year than adding the trailer to my auto policy.

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



# Dutch Henry Uncle Ray Larson Meets Tom's Pilgrims at Howdy Folks! Sherriff's Posse Headquarters El Paso, Texas

Tom asked me to touch base with Uncle Ray Larson and write a few lines about him. Well folks, it would take a bit more than a few lines to tell you about Uncle Ray, but we'll cover a few of the high points. The first thing that jumps up to greet you about Uncle Ray is his outgoing, friendly and happy demeanor. His basic philosophy is that he never met a stranger he hasn't liked. He met up with Tom and the BOABH family when they were looking for a place to gather to kick off the Mexico to Canada ride in April 2009 at the Sheriff's Posse Ranch near El Paso. Now, I have heard this part of the story from both Tom and Uncle Ray. Tom had told me some months ago that when they gathered at Sherriff's Posse Headquarters he met a fellow there who warned them that they had quite a challenge lying ahead of them. Uncle Ray told me when he first laid eyes on them he thought they would have a tough time lasting 2 weeks. He wasn't even convinced that Tom had it in him to ride plum to Canada. "I remember thinking, this bunch of Pilgrims are biting off a mighty big mouthful." Uncle Ray laughed.

After spending a few days with them and several meetings with Tom, Uncle Ray's opinion began to improve. "Right from the get-go I knew they were a great bunch and loved showing them around and sharing my knowledge of the area." Uncle Ray said. "It didn't take me long to figure out that ol' Tom was a top-shelf kinda guy, and these Pilgrims were in capable hands."

Uncle Ray explained that the first 200 miles would be some of the toughest real estate a man and horse could travel across. "Tom wanted to start right at the Mexico and USA border so the folks could truly say they rode from Mexico to Canada." Uncle Ray took them to the best "Jumping Off" place and got them safely on their way. He drove with the "Pilgrims" for the first 3 days, just helping out whenever he could. He didn't ride a horse. "I've become more of a truck cowboy in my later years. A lot of my old bronc injuries have begun to catch up with me." Uncle Ray chuckled. He kept in touch with the BOABH family as they traveled on to Canada sharing the adventure. "We've become friends for life and I feel as if I made that ride with them!"

Tom, Uncle Ray and the BOABH family met up again this spring when folks were gathering together on their way to the Grand Tour at Lajitas Equestrian Center. "We had a great visit, and it was sure good to see them again." Uncle Ray is a past president, and active member of El Paso County Sherriff's Posse. Formed in 1936 as a horseman's organization it is the oldest active volunteer Sherriff's Posse in the United States, and over the years has become very involved in community affairs. The Sherriff's Posse

Dutch's latest novel *"We'll Have The Summer"* (recommended by Tom Seay) is available on Amazon or his website, [www.dutchhenryauthor.com](http://www.dutchhenryauthor.com)

Christmas Toy Program is one of their very successful benevolent programs. It is Uncle Ray's favorite. What started in the 1960's as a fund raising Christmas Party to bring toys to needy children at a few local churches has grown to also include the children in the local elementary and middle schools and local shelters and rescue missions. Each year the Posse's "Santa Claus" arrives in a vintage 1860's stage coach to deliver presents. With the help of numerous local organizations and generous donors, hundreds of children receive gifts each Christmas. "Sometimes it is the only gift they will receive." Uncle Ray said. If you're ever down El Paso way be sure to look up Tom's friend Uncle Ray. He told me to let you know any friend of BOABH is a friend of his. Oh yea, if you have a small Christmas present, bring it along. He'll find a home for it!



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Gitty Up, *Dutch Henry*  
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If you'd like Dutch to write your story, email or call him!

# Tom's Words of Wisdom

Continued from Pg. 1

...plantations. I want you to join me. Despite all the things that make life tough....financial worries, medical concerns, our horse back riding abilities, you deserve to enjoy your horse and to pursue happiness. I want you to ride with me and I look forward to having the opportunity to ride with you.

Contact me anytime! [tom@bestofamericabyhorseback.com](mailto:tom@bestofamericabyhorseback.com)

*All the Best,  
Tom Seay*

Do you have an idea for a future show? Think your barn is an ideal location for us to come and film?

Would you like to speak to Tom about a past ride experience?

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## Product Spotlight



*The Horseshoe Bend* saddle is ideal for Competitive trail or an All-Around saddle because it has a reinforced wood tree suitable for roping, dragging, or ponying. A latigo rope strap

attached to the swell keeps your rope handy. It features a close contact skirt shape, cut out under the rider's leg, for precise cueing and the Adjustable Position Close Contact rigging so you can use one of three rigging options to best suit your horse. The Horseshoe Bend is a work-horse, but it still provides Ultimate Trail Comfort with the Tucker patented Gel-Cush™ shock absorbing seat and preset fenders with ErgoBalance™ stirrups. Your choice of stainless steel or brass slotted conchos-or dress it up with a Tucker concho package. Tooled version features an attractive basketweave border tool. Apache leather seat has a little more "stick" than a standard grainout seat.



*Beta®*

*BioThane®* looks and feels like quality leather with some great advantages: durability, strength, easy to clean, lightweight, antimicrobial properties, and it's waterproof. The material is a great choice for trail riders who want easy to care for tack. Clean with soap and water and hose off. Visit [www.shopatron.com](http://www.shopatron.com) to see the entire collection of BioThane® tack

*The Meadow Creek*

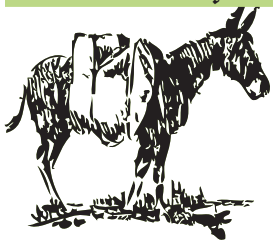
features a close contact skirt shape and Adjustable Position In-Skirt rigging for close contact and less bulk under the rider's leg. The tooled version showcases beautiful floral tooling (also available in a smooth finish). Engraved stainless steel conchos look great and resist rust. Available in brown, black or golden. Brown and Golden saddles come with brown seat and saddle strings, black saddles come with black seat and saddle strings. Three rigging choices, four seat sizes, two tree widths and three colors make this saddle customizable just for you and your horse. With the patented Tucker Gel-Cush™ seat and ErgoBalance™ stirrups, you can ride in Ultimate Trail Comfort for hours.



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## Items for your Saddle Bag



### First Aid

#### Items: Disposable elastic bandages:

Stop bleeding long enough to return to the trailer, plus seal and protect wounds, and help keep them clean. Because bandage adheres to itself, it doesn't require pins or tape.

**Wound powder:** Sprinkle powder on wounds to help clot minor bleeding.

**Nonstick gauze pads:** To clean or cover wounds, or to apply pressure to bleeding areas.

**Feminine-hygiene pads:** To stop bleeding from gunshot or other wound.

**Water:** Most backcountry trails don't have potable water for humans.

#### Nice-to-have items:

A small rasp: To bevel a splitting hoof.

Nippers: To pull a mangled shoe or to trim a splitting hoof.

Needle-nose multipurpose tool: Offers several handy tools in one unit.

Benedryl liquid in a calibrated bottle and bee-sting or allergy medication: To relieve insect bites, bee stings and allergy attacks.

An extra set of reins: Carry in case a pair breaks and to use as a tourniquet in a pinch.

Flashlight: You need this if you horse becomes injured or you become lost after dark. It might be wise to pack an extra set of batteries, too.

Pocketknife: Make sure it's sharp to cut rope in case your horse becomes tangled.

Cell phone: Check for coverage in the area you're riding. If not, save that space for another item.

Rain gear: Include a slicker and hat cover.

Insect repellent: Pack horse and human varieties for pest protection.

Antacid and pain reliever: To prevent pain, discomfort and inconvenience along the trail.

## Del Shields

### HOWDY ALL!

I hope you are having the summer of your life-time and staying cool doing it. It has been a scorcher here in Kansas and one of the driest we have seen in a long time. However, I have had the pleasure of riding nearly every day, as I have been riding a lot of out-side horses for the public this summer between shows. Mornings and evenings prove to be great opportunities to work horses, and then bathing time for them gives a time for bonding and gentling. Caution for horse and rider should be used when heat is severe. Ride smart, Ride safe!!

Well friends, its here. The new CD "Let The Cowboy Sing" is now available for purchase. Take a sample listen on my website [www.delshieldsmusic.com](http://www.delshieldsmusic.com) If you wish to own one or more, I am making a special offer to you, our club members. You may receive a 10% discount off of the original \$15.00 price, making your cost \$13.50 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling totalling \$15.50 Just call me personally @ 620-433-1819 and tell me you are a trail club member to receive your discount. Also visit me on Facebook and press LIKE on my band page. I love keeping up with what you all are doing, and sharing my life experiences.

*Keep Safe, Trust the Lord and "Always Ride the High Trail"*

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*Del*

## Upcoming Show Schedule

August 16- Spring ride production shoot

August 23- Reed Valley Ranch, CA

August 30- Fort Fairfield's Annual  
Potato Blossom Festival & Trail Ride, Maine

September 6- Fort Valley, Virginia

September 13- Western Caribbean Cruise  
to Belize, Cozumel & Costa Maya



## Steve Edwards The Mule Man with Answers

### Mules and Foundering



All equine are subject to founder (laminitis). Unfortunately all the stories that we have heard about mules not needing any type of trimming or shoeing are absolutely incorrect. I hear all the time from folks that they believe mules do not founder, colic, etc. I wish this was true, but unfortunately it is not. The mules father and mother are equine - they are susceptible to all diseases. Jeanette Carlson, of the DJ Bar Ranch, had a great breeding Jack that foundered and completely sloughed off the outside hoof. She ended-up putting the donkey down. Biotin supplement is an excellent product but it will not fix or keep the mule from having founder. Founder can be caused by overheating, overfeeding, over drinking, and "over doing what we think is natural". We must remember that our mule is made up of a donkey and a horse and that together make the one factor called mule. The mule is not "bomb proof", he can have just as many problems as you and I can. I DO NOT put all of my livestock in one pasture - I DO feed each mule according to what the nutritional needs of that mule are. A pasture is like a smorgasbord to the mule. Both you and I know we in America have an obesity problem and so do our mules and horses and donkeys. Now...I know it's cheaper and easier to just put your mule out in a pasture, but you are not preparing your mule for slaughter as you might a steer. PLUS, you will have a mule that may last you 30 years.

I personally monitor a proper diet for my mules, each mule has his own corral with shade and freshwater. This way, I can on a daily basis monitor the health of the mule's I feed. Each mule's needs are met according to its dietary and training requirements. When I am heavily riding or training a mule, I change the diet. When he is just standing as a maintenance, I change the feeding program. This cannot be done on the pasture and most people do not understand nor have they had their pastures tested see what the makeup is of the pasture. I will expand on this topic in next month's newsletter, so stay tuned. If you have a topic that I can help with, please don't hesitate to call or email me any time! Thanks so much!  
[steve@muleranch.com](mailto:steve@muleranch.com) - 602-999-MULE (6853)

### Monthly Member Spotlight

## Samantha Yeager

I have been on the back of horses or a pony since I was born. I began riding our pony "Ginger" when I was 8 years old. When my Aunt Robyn bought me my first horse, APHA Pride's Casey. We call her "Cassie". I broke her to ride by myself and then used her for trail riding and Equine Search and Rescue until I was 12 y/o. Because of my parent's divorce, I had to leave the farm and my horse. Cassie was later traumatized in a trailer incident and that forced me to take her out of Search and Rescue and just keep her at the farm for trail riding. I raised one baby from her. She will always be my first love.



Last year, when I moved back to the farm Aunt Robyn surprised me at a trail ride. I had taken our Appy gelding to ride and had a blast, but at the end of the ride she told me to go and get our cousin's horse and untack him and put him in our trailer, we were going to haul his horse for him. Well, DS Incahoots now has a new home. Hootie and I competed at the 2010 Leatherwood/BOABH Super Trail Horse Challenge in October - the first time either of us had done anything like that and we placed 10th. I was so happy. We have 6 horses and a boarding horse. I love to work with disabled children and horses. I would love to own my own therapeutic riding center one day.



Photos from the trail ride at *Circle E Guest Ranch, Belvidere, TN* on May 13-15, 2011.

TO VIEW OR ORDER PHOTOS FROM THIS RIDE, PLEASE CONTACT:  
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