

Best of America Trail Club

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Issue 8, February 2011

2011 Ride Schedule

March 26-27 - LBJ Grasslands, Texas (benefit TR)
March 28: Pole Canyon Ranch,
Quitaque, Texas (TR)
April 1-3 - Lajitas Equestrian Center, Lajitas Golf
Resort & Spa, Lajitas, TX (GT)
April 8-19 - Tombstone, Arizona (TR)
April 15-17 - Arizona location TBA (GT)
April 22-24 - Arizona location TBA (GT)
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

Tom's Words of Wisdom

As the cold weather is upon us, we often turn our thoughts to where we would like to ride when the weather breaks. I often tell folks at large speaking venues that this is the time to get yourself a cup of coffee and think about places you would like to take your horse and go riding. Maybe it is a local trail within an hour of your home for a day ride with friends or maybe it is the special trip you have wished to take to the West. What is important is for you to get your calendar out and simply mark the days or weeks that you will, in fact, make this happen. Then back up the dates to do all the little things to get ready. Arrange for someone to look after your things, arrange the time off from work, and get the coggins up to date. Make a list of things to do or get done on the trailer.

These are tough times but it is important to take care of yourself and to enjoy life. Plan that trip and make it happen. Next year may never get here.

I am looking forward to seeing you and many old friends on our rides this year. You can find them listed in this newsletter. I ask you to pick one of the rides and join us. I can't wait to ride with Mark, Brenda, Del and so many of our friends again. Most of our best friends are folks we have met on rides, and many of them were all by chance. The lifetime friendships have added so much to our lives. Take the time to join us. You deserve the break and we want to see you. Let us

know how we can help to enrich your life and show you the beauty of this country. You will not regret it!

-Tom

Howdy from Mark Laney!

We would love to ride with each of you on one or more of our trail rides that we film for our show. Come be on TV with us!! If you have ever been around Tom, you know that he loves to be with people, especially trail riding people. They are the best in the world! If you have not been around Tom before, you owe yourself a real treat - escape the winter cold by coming with us on our Caribbean Cruise February 27- March 5 & trail ride in Belize. You should also join us & be on television on one or more of our Grand Tour Rides in perfect 60°-70° weather this spring in Texas, N.M., Arizona and Southern California. Norco, California, is one of the Grand Tour rides in May, 2011. Norco has trademarked its descriptive name "Horsetown, USA". There are literally more horses in the town of 25,000 than there are people. There are trails along every street in town. Want to stop and shop or stop for lunch in town? There are corrals and hitching posts in front of the businesses to tie your horse while you shop and eat. And then, on the edge of town is great country trail riding. Brenda and I scouted out Norco last year after & knew right away that we had to film a trail ride at Norco. You cannot beat the hospitality of Norco residents & officials!! The filming of the ride at Norco is the first time we have featured an entire city, its trials, its history, and its place in the equine world. This will truly be a ride of a lifetime with Best of America by Horseback, so do not miss it. Register now online at our website www.bestofamericabyhorseback.com or call Becky 940-829-9555

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



Dutch Henry

...Freelance Writer, Author,
and Staff Writer for ACTHA



Howdy Folks,

Ernie Rodina has been a sales representative for Purina Mills for 33 years and has a passion for horses. In fact Ernie says he doesn't even feel like he has a job because he gets to do what he loves to do; work with horses and horse folks as he covers a district of about a 150 mile radius of Kansas City. Purina Mills is a long time sponsor of BOABH.

"What I love about Tom and BOABH is the way they create a family feeling on their rides." Ernie rode with Best of America on 3 rides in the Flint Hills, and last year rode in the Yukon during the Alaska cruise. Ernie also participated in the BOABH Christmas Show for our troops at Fort Riley Kansas. Ernie's most recent ride with Tom and the BOABH family was in September on the eleventh Dream Ride in the foothills down by Cottonwood Falls Kansas, a national ride called, The Pink Fifty Ride, a company fundraiser for breast cancer awareness. Held at the Flying W Ranch there were 160 riders coming together for a lot of fun and a good cause. In keeping with Ernie's desire to serve horses and horse enthusiasts he developed, "Better Horses Network," a print and web magazine to help promote the equine industry and equine events. Have a look at www.betterhorsesnetwork.com.

"Purina's aim is to help take their customers' horse experience to a higher level. That's the same spirit I feel with Tom Seay and the Best of America By Horseback family. We're just a good fit." Ernie said. "Tom Seay always gives more than he takes and I think our association with him has been a big blessing to our company."

Ernie told me Tom has a way of making everybody feel special and he is looking forward to his next ride with the Best of America family, and urges anyone who has thought about joining them in some fun to hitch up their trailer and come along!

Gitty Up, *Dutch Henry*
dutchhenry@hughes.net

NORCO CALIFORNIA

FROM A RESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

During a trip to Norco in 1982, Liza Rogers was introduced to "Horsetown, USA." and the "horse-crazy-girl trait" resurfaced with enthusiasm. In 2002, Liza and her husband, Wade, moved to Norco, and the following year, Liza's horse-owning dream finally came true. A grown-up version of the paint pony from childhood photos.



"We wanted to be able to work and live in a rural environment, Norco was that affordable option, where a person with a modest income could own a nice home, and afford to have a "animal keeping lifestyle" while living in a City. There is no place like it! I like to brag...on my private street of 12 houses there are 23 horses, and not every home has a horse living in the backyard. In addition to our equine neighbors, we have goats, pigs, cows, dogs & lots of chickens. Norco has approximately 75 farriers in town & Norco is home to more horses than people - Approximately 27,000 people and 33,000 horses all in 15 square miles!

Norco is just not a rural community, we have 180 miles of trails right out my driveway. There are any number of different types of trails for me to enjoy, a city ride to my favorite lunch spot to tie up and enjoy, Nature Preserve trails or rural hills are all within a few miles of my house. With this all said, Disneyland is 37 miles West as the crow flies, so Norco is an Equine Island surrounded by a sea of concrete. We hope you come and ride, play and enjoy your stay. Visit any number of our equine retail establishments and feed stores...yes feed STORES...within two miles of my house - there are "5" places to purchase feed and supplements. It is the perfect partnership of having to work, and the reward of coming home to your animals every night.

Hope to see you here!

-Liza Rogers





NORCO CALIFORNIA SHOW TIMES!

An upcoming GRAND TOUR RIDE!



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

Norco is a unique community...

located in Riverside County, it fully embraces its title of "Horsetown, USA." www.ci.norco.ca.us There are more trails throughout town than there are paved streets. The groomed horse trails are our sidewalks, with a combined 180 miles around town. Norco's northern border is Hidden Valley Nature Preserve, part of the Coast to Crest trail system. The Santa Ana river, a natural river runs through it, providing an additional 80 plus miles of marked trail adventure, wildlife is bountiful and water crossings a plenty. This ride will take you through neighborhoods where you will see "pocket" public arenas, we will be visiting 6th St. where hitching rails are well used in front of popular lunch spots, feed stores and tack shops. This ride will also enable participants to enjoy a ride on the historic

Steve Edwards...the MULE MAN w/ ANSWERS



Mules have become very popular riding the past 10 years; folks are finding out that they are a wonderful animal. Mules are sterile and therefore the donkey can be the father and the mother the horse. In order to communicate with the mule and donkey, we must use tools; these tools are reins, bit, spurs and saddle just to name the main four. In addition to those for tools we must use communication skills such as voice, hands, legs and seat. These four communication skills we use to direct our mule or donkey in the direction we want to go. Since mules skeletal structure comes from the donkey, we can see that just by looking at the head, legs, hooves, hip and shoulder, it is very important that we use proper fitting gear, for mules or donkeys to be comfortable when you are riding, drive, or packing. If your mule is not comfortable, they will not perform to the best of their natural, amazing ability. More to come next month!

Happy Trails - *Steve Edwards*

"Norconian Hotel" property www.lakenorconianclub.org/old. The property is closed to the general public, special permission has been obtained to take you through and around the lake. This is a suburban ride, where properties are zoned "Agriculture", so don't be surprised when you encounter, sheep, llamas, emu, pigs, camels, and a wide range of other critters that call Norco home, in a residential environment.

Don't want to sleep in a trailer or on the ground, the Hampton Inn is right in town, and your horse will enjoy similar accommodations, while being pampered at our Ingalls Equestrian Center...this event will be like no other you can attend, where else would you have the opportunity to ride your horse through a drive-thru...for lunch.

Come Ride, Come Play, Come Stay... in Norco, CA - Horsetown USA.



At EasyCare, it's all about the horse and their human partners. Our business is manufacturing and distributing proven equine products that will enhance performance, provide protection, increase comfort for the horse and rider, & enrich the overall human-horse experience. Throughout five thousand years of domestication, the horse has had a more significant impact on human history than any other animal. Our goal is to help make the future of the horse/rider relationship as fulfilling and exciting as the past.



We provide an excellent alternative to iron shoes. We develop products that provide comfort, support and performance for our equine partners. VISIT US - www.easycareinc.com

Del Shields American Cowboy, Singer & Poet

Winter has hit these Kansas plains, and though I love singing about the cowboy life, I also love living it. We are busy here at the ranch chopping ice for the horses and cattle, making sure the hay rings are full of hay and watching for new calves to arrive. The snow hit and the temperatures dropped which pushed me inside a little more. However, it has allowed me to write some new music. I just finished writing a song I'm calling "Into The Wind." Guess what inspired that? The wind always seems to blow here and thus I was dubbed the title "Son of the prairie wind". That became the title track for my second CD. As I write we are working on the planning of a new CD I hope to be able to record this spring. It will feature several new songs I am excited to share with you, my supporters. This includes "Lisa Dreams" and "A Danged Hard winter". I plan to write more material in the coming weeks to put on this project. Thanks for continuing to watch the show and we hope to see you at one or more of our rides this year.

Be safe, smile pretty and "Always ride the high trail."
-Del Shields

Trail Club Member Featured Rider

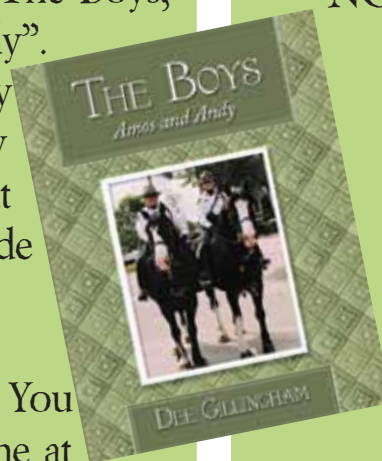
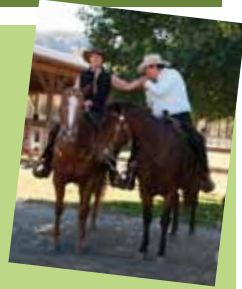
Dee Gillingham

Dee Gillingham, born in New Jersey on July 12, 1943. Got her first horse named Buddy, at age seven. She has had a passion for horses her entire life. Dee had spent her adult life as a nurse. Her and her beloved husband, Paul, currently retired to Southern Virginia, where she owns and operates the Cherry Hill Farm Bed & Breakfast Inn., which caters to people traveling with horses.

Dee has recently written a book called "The Boys, Amos and Andy".

It is a true story of two ordinary draft horses that became the pride of the Broward County Florida Mounted Unit. You can find it online at www.authorhouse.com. Simply search for "The Boys" on the site - you can preview the book and also purchase it.

"I am going to donate a portion of the proceeds of the book to cancer research. So many of my friends have cancer or have died from it. Presently my husband, who lost his left eye six months ago to cancer, now is developing liver cancer. We are going through a tough time here. There have been many doctor visits to Duke University Hospital in Durham, NC."



Dee's husband, Paul is an talented singer and musician and likes to preform at BOABH functions.



The Horse Corner...what to do with all that poop??!

Animal manures have been used as a soil amendment for centuries. They are a wonderful source of nitrogen and microorganisms which are necessary for the formation of compost. Manures can be composted by themselves, added to other ingredients in a compost bin, or they can be placed directly around the base of trees. If you have a pile of manure sitting outside of your animal storage area I would bet that the older manure at the base of your pile is probably already partially composted. Those wonderful little red worms that you see in the manure are called "red wigglers". Their waste or "castings" are the second most expensive form of organic fertilizer on the market. Many people are now starting to "vermicompost" using these worms to break down their food waste and then mixing the castings in with soil when planting.



NEW WEBSTORE!!

Best of America by Horseback has partnered with Stagecoach West, a leading retailer for over 25 years of Equine Supplies, Trail Riding Gear, Western Wear and Unique Gifts for the whole family. Stagecoach West's large retail showroom is located in Irving, New York, but offer the same outstanding pricing and quality products on their webstore too! This is where you can now purchase any of the Best of America by Horseback television show episodes on DVD and exceptional clothing items with the Best of America by Horseback logo!

www.stagecoachwest.com



KID'S ONLY!

Did you know that the name of the horse that played Mr. Ed was Bamboo Harvester. He died in 1970. Actor Alan Young, who played Wilbur, was born in England and raised in Scotland & Canada. Besides Wilbur, he is perhaps best known for his roles in the George Pal pictures Tom Thumb and The Time Machine. The speaking voice of Mr. Ed was done by B-Western star Alan 'Rocky' Lane; the singing voice was done by Sheldon Allman. The original pilot for the show was based on a short story called "Ed Takes the Pledge" by children's author Walter R. Brooks. Mister Ed was the first of several fantasy-based sitcoms, including I Dream of Jeannie, Bewitched, and My Favorite Martian. On the show, Mr. Ed loved to watch television, but not Westerns - he said he hated to watch his relatives get killed.

Upcoming Shows

January 31 - Eastern riding locations

February 7 - Valle de Bravo, Mexico

February 14 - Tips for traveling with horses

February 21 - Ride to the White House & Lincoln's Cottage

February 28 - Midwest riding locations

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