

Best of America Trail Club

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Issue 12, June 2011

2011 Ride Schedule

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

Summer is now in full swing and with the kids out of school you may be thinking about plans for a vacation, whether it be a short getaway or a long extended trip. As we all know, times are very, very tough but don't let that rob you of the great pleasures of enjoying the great outdoors with your horses and mules. This is a great opportunity to contact old friends to plan a summer get together to that great riding destination you have dreamed of. I am very pleased with equine locations offering our members exclusive discounts when you visit. These locations and their offerings are listed on the member's website....simply log in to review them all and the discounts you'll receive! These places are truly one of a kind and their staff treat you just as if you were family. Don't have the opportunity to travel this summer?? Take a "staycation!" This past weekend, the grandchildren visited and we saddled up for a trail ride here at home. It was interesting that we did not have to hook up the trailer or move the truck and we had a wonderful time!! Set aside some time this summer to enjoy a ride there at home, maybe a picnic by horseback, or plan a moonlight ride. Whatever you choose to don't forget to invite some friends over to join you and cherish the time together. Regardless of whether you take an vacation to a wonderful trail riding destination or do a simple "staycation" mark your calendar and treat yourself to some well-deserved time with your family or your friends and enjoy the pleasure of the great outdoors by horseback.

All the best! -Tom

On the Trail w/ Mark Laney

Thank you for your continued suggestions of venues to trail ride and film during our mid July - mid September Grand Tour for 2012, mostly in the Northwestern quadrant of the U.S. We would like your additional suggestions for venues anywhere in the U.S., as well, so that we can have them for future planning. Please send to me at mark@bestofamericabyhorseback.com

We also welcome any suggestions for improvement of our show, things you would like to see more of, things to see less of.

If you have not already joined (for free) our new Trail Club, please do so immediately while it is still free!! Contact Becky at becky@bestofamericabyhorseback.com or 540-829-9555.

Even though the virus scare from the cutting horse event in Utah had an adverse effect on the attendance and participation of Bishop Mule Days in Bishop California, we had a great time during the weekend. It was a hoot! Stay tuned for 2012 trail riding venue announcements. Keep up to date with the listings on our website which are updated as new locations are scheduled. www.bestofamericabyhorseback.com

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



Dutch Henry Howdy Folks!

PAUL GILLINGHAM - WHAT A WEEKEND AT LEATHERWOOD

Russ Singer and Paul Gillingham became friends a few years ago and it quickly became a deep and meaningful



friendship. Paul was one of those fellows who right away you felt as if you had been life long friends. Russ told me he and his wife moved to Virginia from North Carolina about four years ago and that's when they crossed paths with Paul and his wife, Dee. Their friendship immediately took root and grew stronger by the day. They loved watching Best of America By Horseback together. Of course Paul would be telling his tales and playing his guitar, but boy howdy, he really loved that show. It was Dee's idea last summer that they go together on the fall BOABH ride at Leatherwood. Ever since they had met and become friends, Paul had said he wanted to ride with Tom Seay. He would often say, "I'd sure like to meet Tom and shake his hand." So they made plans to load up and join them in the fun.

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side and his wife was always teasing him about needing to loose weight if he was going to ride one of her horses. Well when ol' Tom Seay sat down with them, as soon as conversation allowed, Paul points a finger at Tom and announces, "Heck, he's as fat as I am and they let him ride a horse!" Tom got such a kick out of that he asked Dee to retell the story all weekend! They rode everyday together and whooped it up each evening in the pavilion. When the talent show commenced Paul grabbed his guitar and jumped up on the stage where he performed Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues" to a standing ovation. He won third place! The friendly joking and even a few

The adventure turned out to be all Paul and Russ had hoped for, and more. You see by the time the big event came around Paul had started treatments for melanoma cancer. In fact he'd lost his left eye. But Paul being Paul wouldn't let it stand in his way. Nor did he complain about it. When they arrived at Leatherwood they were only settled in the pavilion a few moments when Tom Seay and Del Shields came and sat with them. "We were so thrilled to meet them right off. And Tom sat right down with us and started visiting and crackin' jokes. He has a way of making you feel like you've been neighbors for years." Paul said. The best joke though was on Tom. Paul was a bit on the heavy

practical jokes went on all weekend between Paul and Tom. "You know I've been around a bit, but I must tell you," Russ said, "the way the BOABH outfit makes you feel like family is too wonderful to describe." The ride at Leatherwood turned out to be Paul's last ride. "It sure did give him a few more stories to tell and joke about, and he loved telling them over and over." Russ said. "We're all so happy that Paul got to meet and ride with Tom, it meant so much to him." A few months after the ride Paul's health began to fail, and Russ gave Leatherwood a call to tell them that the fall weekend ride had meant so much to his friend; he needed to thank them one more time. That was the first anyone at BOABH knew Paul was ill. Every now and then over the next few months Tom Seay would call Paul to tell him a tall tale or two and cheer him up. Paul passed away on April 25.

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

"Paul and I were only friends a short time, but it was a deep, close friendship." Paul said. "We miss him terribly. He had a full fun life, had more adventures than most of us could have in two lifetimes. And I'm darn glad I got to be part of his final adventure."

Cruising with BOABH



Western Caribbean Cruise to Belize, Costa Maya and Cozumel featuring trail riding at Banana Bank Lodge (can be seen on RFD-TV on Tuesday, June 21, 2011)



Best of America by Horseback crew and over 30 of their trail club members recently traveled to the western Caribbean via cruise ship and during our stop to Belize we were hosted by local ranch owner, John Carr. Carr is a true to life modern day adventurer who moved with his family from Montana to Belize and has been offering trail riding packages since 1985 to their guests. Banana Bank Lodge of the finest places in Belize to ride that offers its guests week long vacations or just day rides for those visiting via cruise ship. There you can ride gentle horses through pristine jungles and see the local wildlife up close! Guests also had the opportunity to visit



some Mayan ruins while visiting Costa Maya and some even had the opportunity to fulfill a live long dream of riding on the beach while visiting Cozumel. The trail club members that joined us on this trip had a unbelievable time and although were together for just a week, made lifelong friends.

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





TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE BREEDERS' AND EXHIBITORS' ASSOCIATION

The Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association (TWHBEA), headquartered in Lewisburg, Tennessee, is the oldest and most prestigious organization devoted to the promotion of the breed. Founded in 1935, the breed registry was established to record the pedigrees of the Tennessee Walking Horse. Its goal is to maintain the purity of the breed, to promote greater awareness of the Tennessee Walking Horse and its qualities, to encourage expansion of the breed, and to help assure its general welfare. There are more than 500,000 registered Tennessee Walking Horses throughout the world. TWHBEA protects the investment of Tennessee Walking Horse owners by establishing policies and requirements, and maintaining the breed registry. A 14-person Executive Board, selected from the International Board of Directors representing members in all 50 states and several foreign countries, plays the key role in establishing these policies. The success and popularity of the Tennessee Walking Horse is the result of thoughtful organization and strong leadership by the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association, and it is the essential organization for the continued success of the breed. www.twhbea.com

ThorSport Farm is home to numerous Champion Tennessee Walking Horses, including two-time World Grand Champion "Roll The Gold." Located in Sandusky, Ohio, the ThorSport Farm facility includes a large indoor training arena with multiple viewing platforms, outdoor pastures, indoor meeting facilities, and a tennis court. ThorSport farm is also the showcase site of ThorTurf Equestrian Surfaces and FarmPaint.com product lines. Allison Thorson and her Tennessee Walking Horses have won countless blue ribbons at virtually every major competition in the United States. She was also selected as one of 14 riders to perform in the Tennessee Walking Horse exhibition at the 2010 World Equestrian Games in Lexington, KY.



Midwest Trail Ride

Norman, IN - Hoosier National Forest

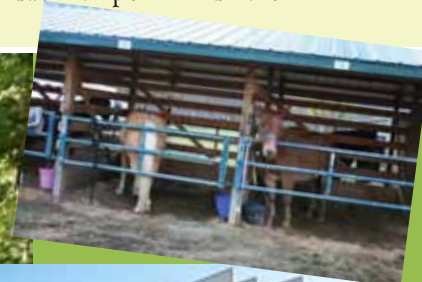
Midwest Trail Ride is located in the hills of southern Indiana's treasured, Hoosier National Forest. We are twelve miles south of Bloomington Indiana, off Highway 446; or 45 miles west of Seymour and I-65.

About the camp: Midwest Trail Ride is open every day April 1st thru Nov. 5th. We have 108

electric & water sites, 385 horse stalls that are right behind your campsite (so you can see and be with your horse all weekend). We have 12 cabins and 8 bunkhouses for people to stay in that do not have a trailer to sleep in. We have a large mess hall that seats 250 people, a large commercial kitchen and a stage. We can cater large or small group events, weddings and often have saddle clubs hold their group rides at MTR. We host the AQHA/IQHA ride event, Miami Valley Foxhunters, Indiana Trail Riders Assoc., Northern Kentucky Horse Network, etc. MTR also has a large tack store on site, MTR Outpost, that specializes in trail rider's gear. Carrying various tack, saddle bags, rain gear, Ariat boots, T-shirts and various other misc.

Camping: We have two different riding type weekends; open camping and scheduled rides. The scheduled rides are an all inclusive package price for the customer. They include 3 buffet meals per day, camping, stalls and activities....only thing not included is cabin rent. For example: Labor Day Weekend package price is \$170 and includes camping, meals, stalls, band night, clinician, extreme trail rider competition and stalls. Open camping is much like camping at your local state park. Campers pay their camping fee for camping; \$1900 per person, that includes a stall. If you purchase meals in the mess hall you pay separately or you may cook out over the campfire at your campsite.

Trails: There are over 150 miles of marked trails to ride in the Hoosier National Forest. Purchase of a trail tag is required for riding on forest property. We have 1-2 hours of riding right here on our trails that do not require a trail tag. Trail Riders have immediate access to the Hickory Ridge trail system. The Hoosier National Forest also has a wilderness area that borders beautiful Lake Monroe.



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Steve Edwards...RIDING & TRAINING IN EGYPT!!

Rocky Mountain Rider, October 2010

Arizona mule trainer Steve Edwards and his family recently returned from a visit to Egypt. There, he was able to train a mule in at a farm in Cairo, ride around pyramids in the desert just outside of the city, and then voyage down the Nile, deep-sea dive in the Mediterranean Sea, visit Saint Catherine's Monastery on the Sinai Peninsula to see ancient Bibles, and climb Mount Sinai. Steve had been invited to Egypt to train a mule owned by Bill Keyes, an American working for an oil company there. "We stayed in an apartment less than 500 yards from the Nile River, and could look out the window and see pyramids and lots of sand, people and cars. Cairo has more than six million people," writes Steve. On Steve's second day in Egypt, he accompanied Bill to a farm in the agricultural district of Cairo where Bills boards his molly mule. The owner of the farm, Marianne, is the widow of an Egyptian, and speaks fluent Arabic. She holds dual citizenship in Egypt and the U.S., and is a life-long horsewoman who gives riding lessons to oil company employees. Bill's mule, out of an Arabian mare, had been having problems leaving the farm. She insisted on being be led or following another equine. Steve had brought one of his mule saddles and tack, and he and Marianne (on an Egyptian Arabian) headed out on a training session into the desert. "I began teaching the mule from the saddle what I expected of her. Using hands, legs and seat, I spent about 10 minutes training this mule until she willingly went through the gate," writes Steve. "There were donkeys, horses and mules pulling wagons and carts everywhere in the traffic. It was difficult to navigate all the roads and people as we rode to an Arabian Horse stable, where we could access the desert. "We rode around the pyramids and the desert for about an hour, and then went back to the stables, where the stable hands told Marianne that I should be riding a fine Arabian. I explained that my preferred saddle animal was a mule. "Visiting Egypt was never something on my 'bucket list' but I am so grateful that I was given the opportunity to travel there and meet the people of this land steeped in tradition. My visit to Egypt gave me cultural experiences I never knew I was missing and spiritual insights I had never known before."

Steve Edwards will soon have a new DVD available for purchase: "Training Mules in Egypt." Visit www.muleranch.com for more information, or call 602-999-6853.

Upcoming Show Schedule

June 21 - Western Caribbean Cruise & ride at Banana Bank Lodge, Belize

June 28 - The Kenneth Goodwin Benefit Trail Ride" at the LBJ Grasslands in Texas

July 5 - Pole Canyon Ranch, Texas

July 12 - Lajitas Equestrian Center at Lajitas Golf Resort & Spa, Lajitas, Texas

Bringing you 13 NEW SHOWS starting June 21!



Winner of the Leatherwood Mountains Fall Colors Ride Drawing



Jodie Bingham was surprised – but delighted -- to receive the call from Tom Seay telling her that she had been selected as the winner of the drawing for the Best of America by Horseback 3rd Annual Fall Colors Ride at their Headquarters in Leatherwood Mountains, North Carolina on October 21st - 24th, 2011.

Jodie and her husband David are relatively new to the wonderful experience of trail riding. For the past few years, the Bingham's have enjoyed owning two Kentucky Mountain Pleasure horses. They've taken "China Doll" & "Lucky" on trails in Kentucky and Tennessee as well as riding often around their farm in Georgetown, KY.

"I've been blessed to have these years to trail ride with my husband -- who was diagnosed with stage 4 lymphoma ten years ago -- but is now an amazing success story having just passed the '5 years in remission' milestone!" Jodie said. "So we continue to create wonderful memories of our time together each time we have the chance to go out on the trails."

Jodie's passion for horses began with responsibility for that 'first pony' as a child on the family farm in Amanda, Ohio, and has continued throughout her life. Before moving to Kentucky in 1998, she has raised and showed Arabians. But shortly after becoming a Kentuckian, she was introduced to mountain trail riding by a neighbor in Southeastern Kentucky and the 'search began' for a true trail mount.

A trip to the Red River Gorge resulted in a chance encounter with an old-time breeder of Kentucky Mountain Pleasure horses. From there, Jodie and David's research lead them to love that breed for signature traits that include smooth natural four beat gaits, sweet dispositions, beauty and versatility.

Jodie works in the Foundation office at the American Association of Equine Practitioners at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY. Her career spans more than 25 years in development and public relations. It includes serving as director of the University of Kentucky's Center on Aging Foundation, as the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation's director, and vice president for advancement at Union College. She also spent many years in Ohio at both Otterbein College and Ohio Wesleyan University.

She and David golf occasionally, raise a vegetable garden each year, and volunteer with local cancer society events and fundraiser.

As the winner, Jodie will be treated to an all-inclusive 3 nights/4 day stay at the Premier North Carolina Equestrian Community, Leatherwood Mountains. While there she, her husband, and 2 guests will enjoy a private luxury rental cabin with amazing views, gourmet kitchen, hottub and other awesome amenities, 4 stalls, and all meals and entertainment. Leatherwood Mountains is excited to have Jodie come ride their trails and experience this wonderful community first hand! For more information about the ride or to make reservations to attend, please call 800-462-6867 or visit www.leatherwoodmountains.com! Space is limited, so call today!