

Best of America Trail Club

Your Member's Only Access
to all things related to Best
of America by Horseback!

www.bestofamericabyhorseback.com
Visit Us!

Issue 9, March 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 "Horseshoe 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

Our "Best of America Trail Club Member Only" newsletter this month is being sent to all trail riding folks we have email addresses. We want to introduce you to, and invite you to become members of our Best of America Trail Club - for free! The old saying "what is free is not worth anything", does not hold water when it comes to our Trail Club membership offering, free till November 1. Why are we giving free memberships? A major reason is that we want to give something back to our loyal riders and fans. The pivotal benefit to our trail club members is that, as a member of the the Best of America Trail Club, you enjoy a 5% discount of over 99% of Stagecoach West's (www.stagecoachwest.com, the largest western and tack store east of the Mississippi) 30,000+ equine related items! And for each purchase, you get an additional 3% of current purchases reward/credit, that can be applied to your future purchases, making your discount as much as 8%. We require no

credit card, nor are you automatically renewed unless you opt out of the system. We believe you will see that there is way more value to extending your membership than the cost, and you will have an opportunity to extend your membership beyond November 1 for a reasonable annual fee. Another reason for the period of free membership is to help us build our membership numbers quickly and to a level which will open doors to our being able to add 25-50 or more additional valuable benefits to make available for our members to enjoy. On the horizon are plans for building a bank of trail riding destinations which will offer discounts to Best of America Trail Club members. If you have a recommendation for us to consider, please email Esther Vance at esther@bestofamericabyhorseback.com. Now that the plug for the Trail Club is taken care of - please come join and ride with us, on our Caribbean Cruise & any of our scheduled rides the rest of this year. Register online at bestofamericabyhorseback.com or call Becky 540-829-9555. Watch for our trail rides to be scheduled in the Northwestern quadrant of the U.S. from mid July to mid September in 2012. We welcome your suggestions of Trail Riding destinations - please email your suggestions to me at mark@bestofamericabyhorseback.com



Tom's Words of Wisdom

I would like to personally invite you to become a member of our **Best of America Trail Club - for no charge**. Yes, it is "free". The new Trail Club is being set-up to return to my fans and viewers a little something for all the years of their loyalty to me and our show. Our members enjoy our monthly newsletter which is normally for members only, but this month it is available to all trail riders to give you more information in the hopes that you accept my invitation to join the Best of America Trail Club.

Sign-up quickly through the Trail Club link on
www.bestofamericabyhorseback.com

(free through Nov. 1, 2011)

All the Best and Happy Trails, Tom Seay

Howdy from Mark Laney!

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

Dutch Henry Howdy Folks!



Dutch's Dinner Date

Holy Cow what an evening my wife Robin and I had recently as dinner guests at the home of Pat and Tom. Well, we didn't actually eat at their home, they took us to a nifty bistro in Culpeper for a meal that would be fitting the President. Of course since the chef was once the White House chef, they kinda know how to do that sort of cooking there. I know, you might be thinking how you enjoy juicy steaks or hotdogs and smore's over a campfire, and that's a great meal too, but every now and then it's exciting to be treated really special. That my friends, is the magic of Pat and Tom, helping all of us realize we are special. We started with a brief visit in the family room. Tom told us about how they remodeled the magnificent old farm house, and some of the rich history that Andora Farm enjoys, like having been surveyed by George Washington. During the Civil War, Andora Farm was an alternate base camp for General Custer and John S. Mosby and other history making figures. It was even used as a hospital, which is undoubtedly what saved it from being burned to the ground. After a fun drive around the farm to show us their cattle, horses and the lay of the land we headed for town, and that rib-busting meal. Now it's a challenge for some of us to talk and chow down at the same time, but ol' Tom, he's got that art polished like a first-rate gemstone and, while we enjoyed some of the finest prime rib I ever stuck a fork into, he kept us laughing with hilarious stories about his and Pat's early years in television. Soon we were nestled back in their family room and this time their dogs Annie and Greta joined the conversation. Even Pepper, their cockatiel considered Robin and me family and flew over to visit and listened with his head tilted as Pat and Tom shared a few more stories about their days in radio and live TV. One of our favorites is the time he reported live, on the day the Berlin Wall came down, that the wall between West Virginia and Virginia had broken through, too. Be sure to ask him about it the next time you ride with him. There is a very serious side to Pat and Tom, too. While they showed us letters and photos of wonderful folks who have ridden with them, their genuine love and desire to help others shone in their eyes as they told us the stories that went with each picture and letter. Some of the stories made us tear up; some made us laugh 'til our sides hurt. Some left us in awe. They all shared a common theme – How going on a ride with Pat and Tom and the entire BOABH family is something that changed their lives and gave them memories to treasure for the rest of their lives.

I plan on going on a ride or two with Pat and Tom this year so maybe we'll meet around a campfire and swap stories together. Take a few minutes and study their unbelievable roster of rides for this year and pick one, two or three that works for you and your family and have a humdinger of a time making your own memories with the Best of America family...

They'll last a lifetime!

Gitty Up, *Dutch Henry*

Water temps affect livestock intake

By *On the farm: Carl Stafford, Published: February 09, 2011*

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

In case you have not noticed, the days are longer and we have spring just ahead. Despite the bitter cold at the end of January and some during December, winter has been easier when compared to last year. Farmers in Southwest Virginia will disagree on this as they speak of more days with snow cover in their area. Overall compared to last year though, we are faring well. This brings me to a discussion of feed and water for livestock. I learned last winter that some horses refuse to drink if their water is too cold. I just assumed that water is water and if they are thirsty, they will drink it. Not so, say the equine experts around me, who point out with some vigor, that horses refuse water unless provided at the correct temperature. This is probably as a result of their experience more than a peculiarity of the species. Indeed scientists study water intake by livestock and as we would expect, find that intake is higher during the hot months and lower in winter. The temperature of water itself is also a factor. Extremes on either end can reduce intake. Acceptable temperatures for livestock drinking water would fall between 40 and 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Studies with sheep have proven that they will not need water in spring when grass is very lush. The same is true with cattle grazing through wet snow. There is plenty of water in their diet and they do not find the need to drink as much as when eating dry winter grass. This brings me to the effect of air temperature and hair coat condition on feed requirements of livestock. Cold and dry is better than cold and wet. Livestock use hair to insulate themselves. Hair traps air and improves its insulation effect. Wet hair does not trap much air. Add in some wind and even a slightly cool temperature and your livestock start to suffer. Wet animals under windy cold conditions should have extra feed as they start to burn energy just to stay warm. If allowed, they will also seek out a windbreak during these tough winter conditions. This should tell you something. As good managers know, winter will require extra energy for the livestock to maintain body temperature and wet windy conditions are the worst for our outside critters. If your livestock have free access to feed they will increase intake on their own to compensate for these extra calories needed to keep warm. All you have to do is keep it in front of them. You can also offer them supplements during these tough conditions, helping them through temporary weather extremes. Your eye is a critical part of making management fit animal needs. Your experience is an important guide and observations become key to improving conditions for your livestock. Spend some time watching their behavior and ask yourself what you saw.

Carl Stafford is the extension agent for Culpeper County, VA. He can be reached at ccstaffo@vt.edu.

A No-Nonsense Approach to Being Prepared

by Tom Seay

Almost everyone knows the Boy Scout motto is “be prepared”. When I was ten years old, my mother was deathly ill and spent the better part of two years in the hospital. My father arranged for me to join the Boy Scouts. Even though the age was 11 to join, I realize now they fudged the dates to get me in. Within a couple of weeks, our scout troop went on a ten day hike along the APPALACHIAN TRAIL.

I faithfully followed the Boy Scout Manual and carried everything that was recommended plus what I thought I needed. This included my pillow and pajamas, ha, ha, ha. Within a couple of days, I realized what I REALLY needed, and somewhere in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, there is a pillow, pajamas, and other things I really did not need.

That was fifty years ago. Today we are in an economic slump that is not going to go away quickly. On the extremist side, there are a bunch of survivalist that will tell you what you need or what you should do. On the other end of the scale, there are people that say everything is going to be fine, don't worry. The reality is this...you need to take care of yourself, your family and your animals by being prepared. The real threat to you and me would be a tornado, ice storm or hurricane. In February here in Northern VA and in DC, an ice storm left tens of thousands of people without power. Many had no power for over a week. I suggest the next time you are at Wal-Mart, buy that cheap decorative oil lamp that sells for about \$5 (I have one in each room).

Steve Edwards...the MULE MAN w/ ANSWERS

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.



This month, let's start with the reins. A single rein was introduced for Team Ropers who needed speed - they use a rope in one hand and a single rein in the other. This is a very dangerous reining technique for trail riders. If the mule puts its head down to get some water, he can place his leg over that rein. When his head comes up, the rein is hung-up and the rider will have a very serious problem on their hands.

My suggestion for reins: an 8 foot long split rein. These reins can be crossed and feel the same as a single rein, yet they give you the ability to give the mule his head when needed and communicate with him to canter or slow-down.

Happy Trails - *Steve Edwards*

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

I suggest you try to stay at least two weeks ahead on your hay, grain and salt supplies. I suggest you also have enough canned goods to last two weeks. I suggest you keep your propane grill tanks full and the propane tanks on your horse trailer full. Run you generator once a month for at least 20 minutes under a load. I also suggest you have at least two five gallon containers of extra fuel in case there is no electricity at area fuel stations. Pretend your electricity will go off today and prepare for how you will do without it for the next week. Perhaps the most important suggestion may be this. When the next man made or natural disaster occurs, have a pre-arranged evacuation plan at least 100 miles away in each direction. Arrange with friends in those locations to be able to give temporary housing to you, your family and your animals. By choosing four locations in different directions, north, south, east and west of your home, you have choices and options. Likewise, have a reciprocal agreement so you may also be a host. Your plan may not include your pillow and pajamas, but you will certainly sleep better at night knowing you have prepared yourself and family for an emergency.



Dutch Henry's NEW Novel "We'll have the Summer" is NOW AVAILABLE on AMAZON.COM for \$18.95

Be sure to pre-order your copy TODAY!!

"We'll Have the Summer is a magnificent story about, life, love and horses. Dutch Henry paints vivid and realistic scenes with compelling characters. These days there are many books and writers

but I have ridden with Dutch personally. Dutch is the real deal. His talents are equal to the best I've ever seen. He can take us with his words to those places we want to visit or re-visit."

--Tom Seay, host and executive producer of RFD-TV's popular show, Best of America By Horseback

Del Shields American Cowboy, Singer & Poet

Could it be that spring is just around the corner? In spite of what the furry fellow said, I am ready to be on horseback in the warmth of the summer sun, surrounded by good friends. I hope you all wintered well and your horses came through the cold and snow as well as could be expected. WOW! what a year this is going to be for the Best Of America By Horseback outfit and all who choose to join us. Our line up of events this year are spectacular, and the horse-power that is behind us is you. Tom, Pat and Mark as well as the rest of the crew have put together events that you are going to want to be part of. From Tennessee to California the view looks great. Get your ponies groomed and fit and check the dates of the shows you want to be part of. We will be looking for YOU. Well, its finally happening and I am excited to be able to share the news with all our riding friends. I am heading to Nashville, Tennessee to record a new album.

The music is all mine, and the producers and musicians are top notch. You are going to love this album which will feature the much loved, "Grandpa's Buckaroo", "Lisa Dreams", "El Cerrito" and others that will put you back in the saddle. Stay tuned...Its coming soon. Be safe until we meet again, and...

**"ALWAYS RIDE THE
HIGH TRAIL"**
-Del Shields

Paul Gillingham



After watching Best of America by Horseback television shows for several years, we were delighted

to see a ride coming up that was not too far from our home to attend. Our good friends Linda and Russ Singer joined us and we rented a beautiful house at Leatherwood Mountains. Our first evening there we all were sitting on the patio outside of the restaurant, when a truck pulled up and Dee exclaimed, wow it is Tom and Pat Seay. Tom came right to our table and sat down. For the next two hours we exchanged stories, to us Tom is quite a celebrity and all of us were so flattered that he spent so much time with us. Dee, told him she thought he was so easy to approach, and that brought up a lot of laughs. Everyone involved with putting on the ride exceeded our expectations. The entertainment provided by Del Shields, was awesome, he is such a talent, and you have to see him in person to really appreciate it.

During May of 2010, I lost my left eye to cancer, since then it has spread to my liver. Our friends Linda & Russ Singer called Tom to tell him this, Since then, Tom has called many times to speak with me and wish me good luck. Words do not express how grateful I am for his kindness, to think he can spare the time to call me with all the people he knows and the hectic schedule he keeps is heart warming. Horse people are a special breed of great people. With luck I will be able to attend another ride.

Leslie Sickels



BOABH Featured Rider

My name is Leslie Sickels from Lagrange Ohio. My love for horses started in my late teens, when I first met my great uncle from Arizona and started riding with him. I now have horses of my own "Lilly" & "Luke" (Rocky Mountains), "Coco" (Quarter Horse) and the late, but never forgotten "Shadrack", my arabian. Riding for me gives me the time to relax, appreciate and enjoy the surroundings as well as the wonderful people I may be riding with on the trail. My favorite place to ride is at the Alltop family farm in W. Va. The BOABH fall ride at Leatherwood Mountains was great riding too. And I am looking forward to go back this summer. I also love the week long trail ride each year at various ranches in Arizona that my great uncle, now in his eighties, and I still continue to enjoy!



Today, after more than a century of experience, horse owners can still depend on solid and consistent nutrition from the most innovative, highest-valued products available. It's our tradition of industry leadership and it all starts with RESEARCH.

Purina Mills

The 1,188-acre LongView Animal Nutrition Center in Gray Summit, Missouri opened in 1926. Our PhD Equine Nutritionists and Veterinarians play a critical role in our commitment to research in developing the highest-performing diets possible for horses. This research allows us to continue developing state-of-the-art nutritional products in a way no other feed company can. They're unique products using the highest-quality ingredients that deliver the performance, health and happiness your horses deserve.

One of the best things about working in Research, Discovery & Development at Purina is that no two days are the same. Every day we learn something new about horses. Thanks to our state-of-the-art research facility at LongView Animal Nutrition Center, we're able to translate those discoveries into exciting nutritional breakthroughs.

Today, horses are living dramatically longer than they were just 20 years ago. We're proud of the role we've played in that.

In fact, with over 50 patents, it's safe to say no other national brand of horse feed has invested more time in research and in understanding the needs of animals and the people who love them than Purina.

Please take the time to visit their website: <http://purinamills.com>

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



RANCH HAND TOOLS

Jerry Simmons
Owner/Inventor



ranchhandtools.com

ranchhandtool@live.com

Upcoming Shows

March 1 - Midwest riding locations

March 8 - Leatherwood Mountain Resort (2009), North Carolina

March 15 - M Lazy C Ranch, Colorado

March 22 - Mountain Top Inn, Vermont

March 29 - Bitterroot Ranch, Wyoming

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TR = TRAIL RIDE

GT = GRAND TOUR

Register online at bestofamericabyhorseback.com

or call 540-829-9555

to make your reservations!!