

# Best of America Trail Club

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## 2011 Ride Schedule

July 22- 24 - Steve Edwards  
Mammoth Cave Mule Days,  
Mammoth Cave, KY

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

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

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

I have been blessed to meet and get to know so many people during my trail riding trips. In fact many of my closest friends are those I've met while horseback riding. It is something magical about the friendships that develop between "horse people." Best of all these friendships are sincere and last a lifetime.

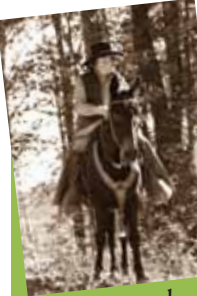
There are four upcoming opportunities that making joining us on a ride and being on the TV show a reality for you I invite you to come and ride with me.

Today, we are announcing a new ride this fall! We will be riding at the Anita-Alta BRHA Horse and Youth Camp in Lenoir, North Carolina on October 29-30, 2011. Brad Caldwell of the Blue Ridge Horseman's Assoc. (BRHA) invited us to visit their horse camp that has been rejuvenated by the local 4-H Club. We will produce a television show on this location and offer this opportunity up to you our Trail Club members to join us. We have arranged for a special member only discount of \$100 per person that includes the trail riding, entertainment, and the after ride banquet and Sunday Cowboy Church. Camping is primitive and only \$3 a night per vehicle. You may bring your portable corral or they have high ties lines available. Please check out our website for registration information and more details.

October 7-9, 2011 Grand Tour trail ride at Brushy Creek Lodge and Resort in Black Missouri. This ride is going to be such a fun-filled weekend! We have teamed up with Ernie Rodina of Purina Mills and other great Purina folks to bring you a great weekend of riding and equine education as well. Come ride with us in the Eastern Ozarks of Missouri!

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## On the Trail w/ Mark Laney



A few questions to ask yourself, think about, and ponder...What do I love doing? How often do I do what I love? What is my favorite place to ride? How often do I ride there? When is the last time I rode there? When is the last time I crossed something off my bucket list? Is my bucket list the same as it was last year? -- the same as the year before? Is my bucket getting longer, because I am adding things to it, and not marking anything off the list? How often have I said I am just too busy and do not have time to do something that I like to do and enjoy doing? It's funny that when we are "too busy" and we think we "just do not have the time", in times of tragedy or death of

a loved one, somehow we "make the time" to go visit them in the hospital or attend their funeral.

Putting things off until tomorrow is very easy. The problem is "tomorrow" really means "not today" and putting things off easily becomes a habit, but suddenly the next day, the next week, the next year is still "not today". Are you a "Imma gonna doer" and never do the things you want to? I call the "Imma gonna doers" -- those who say they are "gonna", but never get those things done -- "flat biscuit" people. A flat biscuit is a biscuit that squats to rise, but gets "cooked in the squat".

**Will you "make the time" to enjoy life and do what you want to do?**

"Today" -- and not put it off until "tomorrow"? Remember that life is like a roll of toilet paper -- the closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes, so enjoy life while you have life and health - while you can. Whatever you enjoy - make the time and "Just do it!" or as Larry the Cable Guy says "Git-R-Done!" "Life is short: Break the rules, Forgive quickly, Kiss slowly, Love truly, Laugh uncontrollably, And never regret anything that made you smile." -Mark Twain

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

# Dutch Henry

## Howdy Folks!

# Adventure of a Lifetime...

Bea Gill met Tom Seay at the Equine Affaire in Springfield MA in Nov of '09 and she was intrigued by the thought of riding with the Best of America family, but it was a year later before she and her 5 long time friends would put a plan together

that would see them off on a fabulous adventure. The adventure they chose to take part in was Best of America's spring "Grand Tour 2011" ride. Starting at El Paso, TX and traveling all the way to Horsetown USA in Norco, CA visiting and riding at 6 fabulous ranches and resorts along the way. This would be a 3 month trek, and while Bea was very excited, she was apprehensive, too. "I worry a lot." Bea told me. "And I can get lost in a paper bag!" It was Tom's reassurance that finally convinced Bea to join up. "He told me that Best of America never leaves anybody behind, if someone breaks down they stay and do whatever it takes to get everyone moving on together." Now the six friends, who are known as "The Six Pack Bucket List Ladies," have been riding together for 20 years, even though they are scattered over the eastern states. Bea in VT, Bunny Joseph in CT, Sally Cooke hails from ME, Julie Loftus in CT, Judy Parry makes NY her home and Aileen Livingston hangs out in FL. While each member of the six pack had ideas for the group it was Aileen who had on her "Bucket List" to ride in every state, and she lobbied for them to join up with BOABH and do the Grand Tour to Norco, CA. So Bea and her husband, Roland, along with her horse, CoCo, set out for Florida on February 25 with a new truck and Bea's belly full of knots. "My plan was to make it to Florida and then decide if I was going to be part of the journey." Bea said. Bea and Roland have been married 45 years and have fostered 72 children. Bea conquered 4 bouts with cancer, and retired after 32 years as a firefighter, but this trip worried her. "All the way to Florida I kept thinking, at least I'll go to Florida then decide about California." The Six Pack assembled at Aileen's home on March 3. "I was still worried but everybody was so excited, and the trip from Vermont to

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)

Florida had gone so smoothly, and there was Tom's reassurance that no one ever was left behind. On March 5th I declared, I'm taking Coco to California!" Bea put Roland on the bus for Vermont. Six ladies, six horses and five trucks set out bright and early on the

morning of March 18. Destination El Paso! The trip west was flawless ... until Bea's new truck broke down. 110 miles short of El Paso. Tom was true to his word and when Bea called he said he would unload his horses and come immediately to get her. Fortunately that proved unnecessary, for US Rider was able to send a flatbed which hauled Bea, Coco, truck and trailer the rest of the way, arriving at The Sherriff's Posse Ranch near El Paso on March 23rd. "The first person to greet me was Tom." Bea said. "He marched right up and gave me a big hug and asked what he could do to help. He asked if I needed money or any kind of help. Am I okay? I mean it was like my Dad was there to greet me!"

Continued on page 3!



### Check out the NEW Best of America by Horseback Grand Tour 2011 buckle!

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All riders and BOABH family gathered at Lajitas Equestrian Center in Texas on March 30 for the start of the "Grand Tour" which would visit Tombstone and the White Stallion Ranch in Arizona, the Reed Valley Ranch in California, and end with a grand finale in Norco, California, Horsetown USA on May 8th. "Everywhere we went we made new friends, and I got to see so many things I've never seen, blooming Saguaro cactus, which has been a long time dream of mine. The Grand Canyon, too. We were camped just 40 miles outside Joplin Missouri when those terrible tornados hit. And we crossed the Mississippi when it was flooded. Horsetown USA, I never thought I'd ride Coco in Horsetown! What a remarkable place. And the first time we rode into the desert in Texas, Coco just stopped and stared. I think we were both overwhelmed."

The trip for Bea was what she called a life changing experience. She said she came home a different person. "And my horse a different horse. We are both so much more confident! Now when somebody calls and asks if I want to ride, I say, I'll be ready in 10 minutes!" Bea said it was the longest and best adventure of her life. "And every step along the way, Tom made me feel like a princess in a fairytale. There were just no worries. Everything fell in place everywhere we went." The Six Pack Ladies are already planning their next adventure with Tom and the BOABH family, and Bea encourages everybody who wants an adventure of a lifetime to call Tom Seay. "It'll change your life!" Bea laughed.

Gitty Up, *Dutch Henry*

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

## Product Spotlight



Branson Tractor was founded in the US in 1998 as a tractor distribution company. Kukje Machinery in South Korea is their parent company and has been in business since 1968. Kukje not only manufactures the tractors, but also the engines for

the tractors. They are known world wide for the engines.

Branson Tractors has two warehouses. The Rome, Georgia location not only has a warehouse, assembly and distribution center, it is also the Corporate Office. Another warehouse, assembly and distribution center is located in Plainview, Texas.

Branson Tractor now has approx 160 dealerships in the United States and Canada. Dealers can be found across the United States with the exception of New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Hawaii. We have dealers found in Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia Canada. Branson Tractors has tractors ranging in horsepower from 24 to 80. The 00 series tractors have 4 models available, two with manual transmission and two with hydrostatic transmission. Their 20R series tractors have 5 models. The 10/20 series have 2 models available in hydrostatic. The 40 series tractors are available with or with air-conditioned and heated cabs. The 50 series tractors will be introduced later this year and has 80 hp. Each model has a loader and backhoe available as well.

<http://www.bransontractor.com/> to find a dealer near you!



### BRANSON TRACTOR 00 SERIES

Some applications for this series of tractors are Vineyards, Fruit & Vegetable Growers, Food plots for Hunters, Small Landscaping,

Hobby Farmers and Homeowners. This series of Branson

Tractors are perfect for narrow rows and tight turns with a quick turn radius for easy operation.

### BRANSON TRACTOR 20R SERIES

Some applications for this series of tractors are Horse Owners, Hobby Farmers, Homeowners, Small Farms, Chicken Houses,

Landscapers, and Turf and Sports fields Management.

This series of tractors have conveniently located levers and a wide operator's platform for comfort of the operator. Easy open hood latch makes maintenance simple. A toolbox located on the side is standard on all models

### BRANSON TRACTOR 40 SERIES

The 40 series tractors have a 66 horsepower model available- the Branson 6640 tractor. This tractor has an enclosed cab with heat and air conditioning. The cab is spacious and designed with the operator's comfort in mind with conveniently located levers. This model also comes with a small refrigerator for inside the cab.

Applications for this model tractor are Horse Owners, Mid-sized Farms, Hobby Farmers and Hale Baling.



Tom's Words of Wisdom...continued

Continued from page 1

October 20-23, 2011 3rd Annual Fall Colors Trail Ride at Leatherwood Mountains in Ferguson, North Carolina. What can we say, we love the Leatherwood Mountains and we know you will too! Join us at our headquarters for our annual Fall Colors Trail Ride and let yourself be embraced by the beauty of the fall foliage and southern hospitality!

The fourth ride I'd like to mention is actually a series of two separate ride opportunities that are in infant planning stages at this time, but I'm so excited about I wanted to share it with you now! We are planning two "Southern Homestead" riding trips in February and March of 2012. We have begun to plan this trip series from the requests of our viewers and trail club members that want to ride in warmer climates during the winter months that is still easy to travel to. These rides will be different than our ever popular grand tour rides.

Please join me on a ride. The people you will meet will be the kind of people that you will make lasting friendships with. Keep in touch with us and watch our website and future newsletters for updates on the southern tour.



See you soon!

Tom Seay

## Del Shields- new album!

Howdy All!

I hope your summer is going well and you are getting some riding done in the cool of the day. It is hot and dry here in Kansas, but the work goes on here at the ranch. I have had the opportunity to work with some young horses which has allowed me some quality time in the saddle. All the while I have been working and waiting on the completion of my new CD project which is now available. YEE HAW!! I am very excited to share with you a product of a quality that I had only dreamed of in the past. I hope you will be as excited about it as I am when you hear it.

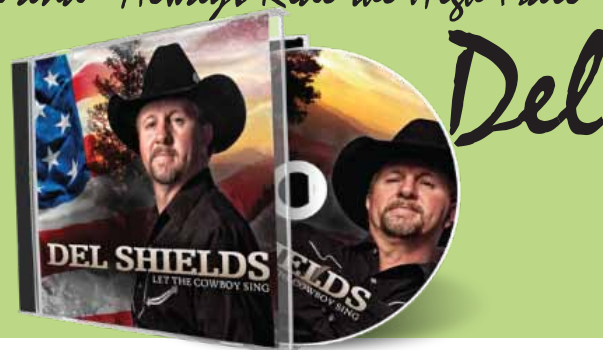
In conjunction with the new album, I also have been able to get my new web-site launched which you can see at [www.delshieldsmusic.com](http://www.delshieldsmusic.com) Ride over and take a gander and drop me line. I'll be glad to hear from you.

We will be up in Fort Fairfield, Maine this month for the fourth year in a row. What a great bunch of friends we have made there. Be sure to check out my web-page schedule to see if I'll be in your area this year, and if so, I sure do invite you to come visit me. Thank you all for supporting me and all of the out-fit at Best of America by Horseback. We love having you all as saddle Pals.

*Keep Safe, Trust the Lord and "Always Ride the High Trail"*  
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## Upcoming Show Schedule

July 19 - Tombstone, Arizona

July 26 - White Stallion Ranch, Arizona

August 2 - Norco, California

August 9 - Circle E Guest Ranch, TN



## TRAILER TIPS By Keith Reynolds

### Advice from a viewer...

*This article came to me in email from a viewer/fan. I felt like it was good advice for all who travel with horses. I hope you find it useful. -Tom*

Twice I have seen both tires flat on one side of a trailer and you could not use the ramp. I would recommend having both a low profile jack and blocking. It is also a good point to check your break away battery and charger. If you test your system by pulling the break away while the truck is plugged in, there is a risk of a surge of power that will short your break controller. Another thing I did was to buy a spare set of wheel

bearings. If you ever have a bearing go out on a weekend, you can usually find someone to fix it, but they have no parts to do it with. I purchased a spare set (appx 15 dollars) then I bought a small can of grease, scooped out some of the grease, then put the bearings in this, resealed and put in a plastic bag and hopefully, I will never have to use them, but I will have them with me. Also with most people using diesel trucks, water in the fuel can be a problem if you were to get bad fuel at the stations. I carry a spare filter at all times. Also if you don't carry the owners manual, make a copy of the page of instructions for changing and priming your system. fold this up and put it in the filter box and then put that in a good ziplock storage bag.

Its amazing how little things like this can save a weekend. I also do an Excel spread sheet on all my horse camping items. Mine is broken down in to the Truck, Trailer, Personal supplies and Horse supplies, The truck sheet is a check list of checking fluids, tires and so on. Then when I get ready to go on a trip, I just pull up the file on the computer and check items off, as they are taken care of.



## MONTHLY MEMBER

## Lori Freeman-Creasman



*The Early Years* - My folks have often shown me home movies of when I was younger when my daddy would put up on my very own pony----oh how I would laugh and sing with a big grin, especially when they would let me actually ride. As the years went by My love of horses (and ponies)has surely grown. As a young adult I worked as an instructor then camp director at Weddington Farms in NC that is when I realized my true passion



was not only for the horses but in educating people about the care and love that horses need and deserve .I have done rodeo ,went to World in Barrel Race'n & Western Pleasure, got to check out the clinic tour life as well and then in 2002 I helped a friend (Cindy Morrison) start a camp program at Rocky River Stables in Midland NC. The next year in 2003 I moved back to my grandparents ol' home place still in Midland NC and started "Our Barn".We made a wonderful safe place for kids and adults alike to enjoy horses after many successful years of lessons and camps I met the love of my life.

*The Present Years* - Nov. 2007 at the American Heart Asso. Beach Ride Tom Creasman swept me off my feet, We were married by Jeff Smith at his cowboy church in Midland, NC. We now lease a 1000 acre track of land in Ridgeway SC and we have converted a 500 ft. chicken barn into a humble horse house for a herd of around 35 or so. We have trail rides daily and offer lessons and camps as well as clinics. We also have the Praise & Graze the 3rd Sat. of each month with a cover dish dinner and trail ride with wonderful fellowship and family fun. When the trail club ask me about my favorite place to ride I would have to say for a country ride "Our Barn" trails are

WONDERFUL and full of beautiful scenery and wildlife, but to be honest the Beach ride is my all time favorite ride. Not only because I met my wonderful husband there, I was a fan for years before that great event but because you get to ride 20 miles on a SC beautiful beach with a thousand other horses WHAT A SITE TO SEE! As an affiliate for ACTHA I must let you all know that "Our Barn" will be hosting the 2nd annual ACTHA CTC ride @ the 30th annual Jack Monroe Beach Ride at Myrtle Beach SC in Nov. Check out ourbarn.org to get all the details on all these rides & come join us! Riding still makes me smile & as the owner of "Our Barn", teaching Western Horsemanship & sharing Gods grace in life is a dream come true.



# Snapshots from our adventure at Lajitas Equestrian Center in Texas!

