

Best of America Trail Club

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Issue 11, May 2011

2011 Ride Schedule

May 13-15 - Circle E Guest Ranch, Belvidere, Tennessee (GT)

June 15 - Fort Valley Ranch, Fort Valley, VA (PS)

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 - PS=Production Shoot

Tom's Words of Wisdom

As I write this for you, I'm driving to Circle E Guest Ranch in Belvidere, Tennessee from California to do our last show in this spring ride series of the Grand Tour, which took us to locations in the southern United States. We are producing a series of all new shows in high definition that will be airing on RFD-TV in mid-June. We will take you to riding locations such as Pole Canyon Ranch in the Texas panhandle, to the LBJ Grasslands in central Texas then to Lajitas near Big Bend in southern tip of Texas. In Arizona, we rode at the beautiful White Stallion Ranch near Tucson, in the Superstition Mountains and down the streets of historic Tombstone, where anyone can bring their own horse and ride. In California, I'll give you a peek at the Ronald Reagan Ranch, show you our ride at the working cattle ranch, Reed Valley Ranch and then visit Norco, California (aka: "Horsetown USA") which needs to be on everybody's "bucket list" to visit and ride.

There are several things I'd like to mention to you in this newsletter. Recently in a national magazine article I wrote about being prepared for local and regional emergencies. Natural threats to our animals and property are real. Driving across Alabama we saw the devastation of last month's fatal tornadoes that stretched from Oklahoma to North Carolina claiming hundreds of lives. CONTINUED ON PAGE 5...

On the Trail w/ Mark Laney

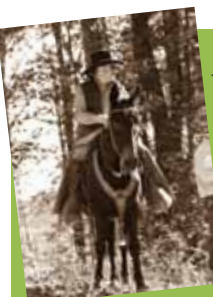
Although spanning more than 6 weeks, like a whirlwind, our Grand Tour has quickly come to an end, seemingly lasting only a few days. Pat filmed a boo-coo of new shows that you will all enjoy. As always, we continue to meet some of the greatest people. Tom and Pat, along with Del, make the final ride at Circle E, at Belvidere, TN before heading on home for Tom's now, not a surprise, 60th birthday party.

Brenda and I stayed over to visit with our son Ryan, scout out Half Moon Bay area, and then take in Bishop Mule Days before heading on back to Texas just a few days before our daughter Whitney's wedding on June 4. As we continue to schedule and piece together our mid July - mid September Grand Tour for 2012, mostly in the Northwestern quadrant of the U.S., again I would like to remind you that we would welcome your suggestions of Trail Riding destinations that would fit for our show - please email your suggestions to me at

mark@bestofamericabyhorseback.com

Happy Trails!

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



Dutch Henry Howdy Folks!

Riding Across South Dakota

TinaMae Weber loves an adventure so when she heard about last year's Border to Border ride she was ready to go. Family obligations would not allow for her to ride the entire route from the Rio Grande to Saskatchewan but she wanted to be part of this historic trek so she kicked it around with Tom Seay and settled on meeting them in South Dakota.

Then, mere weeks before time to set out, her employer closed their doors and TinaMae found herself unemployed. "With losing my job, and two teenage boys, I was hesitant to go." TinaMae said. "But my husband, Tim insisted I go. He said it was the chance of a lifetime and I couldn't miss it." So after some heartfelt discussions she hitched her trailer, loaded Nugget and left Spring Bluff Missouri with her sights set on Pringle South Dakota.

"Everything about the trip was wonderful!" TinaMae told me that it was thrilling to ride with folks from all across the country who each had different reasons for being on the ride but all had one thing in common; the love of horses and riding horseback to explore the splendor of America. "This is God's country and I want to see it. I just prefer to see it from horseback."

While TinaMae has ridden many rides in her life and explored a great deal of God's country on horseback she had never been on an adventure quite like this and she found it life changing. From meeting new life-long friends to riding in parades with riders from forty states, to making a connection that would soon lead to a new job, and allow her to design a brand new saddle. "The people on the ride were simply awesome. That's what I remember most." She said. "We started each day with a prayer by Del Shields and had Cowboy Church each Sunday and Del's sermons were very inspiring. And I've got friends and memories that'll last a life time."

There's a large frame, that Tim put together, hanging on the Weber living room wall displaying a signed picture from Del Shields and Tom Seay, a certificate for riding the length of the George S. Mickelson Trail and a letter from the Governor of Missouri. "Every time I walk by it I smile and remember that wonderful three week adventure across South Dakota with a great bunch of people and horses!"

TinaMae would like everyone who wants a wall of special memories to sign up and ride with the BOABH family. At least once. "It'll change your life."

Gitty Up, *Dutch Henry*

www.dutchhenryauthor.com • dutchhenry@hughes.net
If you'd like Dutch to write your story, email or call him!
Dutch's latest novel "We'll Have The Summer"
is available on Amazon or his website



Del Shields American Cowboy, Singer & Poet



We are welcoming in spring-time at last here in Kansas. Hope you are as well in your neck of the woods. However, it has been great getting to travel to the warmer, Western states to enjoy thier climates during the cooler spells here at home. We want you to know that YOU, our friends and supporters, each and everyone are impportnat to us. For this reason we are sadend by your tragedies and mis-fortunes. This month I wish to remember a dear friend that was made just last year by the name of Paul (Johnny Cash)

Gillingham who just recently went home to his reward. In the midst of all our joys, we are touched by sadness and wish to express to his wife Dee and his family and friends our deepest sympathies. The BOABH family continues to grow and we thank each of you who touch our lives with your passion and enthusiasm for what we do. Your stories are our stories (however, nobody tells them like Tom LOL). As an up-date, my new CD is still being mixed and mastered out in Nashville and is sounding incredibly good. If you would like to advance order to get in on the first 500 numbered copy, contact me at singingppoet_1@hotmail.com to do so. I hope you have a great summer wherever you plan to ride. I just hope it is with us. Be safe and don't forget to...

"ALWAYS RIDE THE HIGH TRAIL" - Del Shields

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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



Now entering its 92nd year, Wahl Clipper Corporation is an international industry leader in the manufacture of products for animal care, consumer personal care appliances and products for the professional beauty and barber salon trade. Wahl is headquartered in Sterling, Illinois. "Wahl produces champions. You see, our strength is based on simple principles: Know what your customers want, then provide an affordable product they can count on."

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Featured Member - Natasha Bueker

Natasha Bueker is a horse lover. To the right, you will see her with a picture of her Missouri Fox Trotter, Chopper. He was 29 in this picture. Unfortunately, he recently passed away. Natasha could take him anywhere and do anything with him. She has yet to find an equal replacement & we miss him dearly. You can see in the next picture that Natasha uses a special saddle and is ponied. Natasha's disability is Metachromatic Luekodystrophy. This is a metabolic disease affecting her central nervous system. The disease came on when she was in high school. In 1998 she had an experimental bone marrow transplant to stop the disease from progressing. Soon after the transplant she could not walk anymore. This is where horses entered our lives. She started out riding as therapy with the Exceptional Equestrians. This proved to be very beneficial both mentally and physically that we ended up getting Chopper so we could do the therapy at home. Within a couple years, we had 2 more horses, a barn, truck and trailer, etc. Our family loves it. Horses have changed our lives. Natasha loves going on trail rides and meeting new people. We are looking forward to the Brushy Creek ride with Best of America by Horseback and all the activities they have planned.



Best of America by Horseback is so honored to have Natasha attending our upcoming ride!

This is the other love of Natasha's life, Green Bean! He is Natasha's support dog. He likes to go trail riding with us. He helps her by picking up things for her, opening the gate, but mostly he is her buddy.



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Steve Edwards...the MULE MAN w/ ANSWERS



HEY TRAIL RIDERS,

Before you head out on your next ride, have a long look at your cinch latigo. In fact, every time you place your saddle on your equine, take a look at the latigo. Is your latigo

made of leather? Leather latigos must be properly maintained. Leather latigos must be oiled to maintain a snug fit on your animal. Every bind in your leather latigo has a chance of



cracking and breaking from stress. When leather latigos get wet and salty during a ride, they harden and become hard to cinch up. The next time you go for a ride, the hardened latigo will bind up as you pull the cinch on the equine belly. The equine will add extra air to the rib cage to make himself more comfortable then you will not have the saddle and cinch properly sung. This will be evident as you go down the trail and the equine lets the air out. You will have a very loose saddle. To avoid this problem, every spring you should remove

your leather latigo, place it in a can of oil and soak it overnight. I recommend Lexol brand oil. The next day, take it out and hang it up to drip dry. When it is dry to the touch, you can put it back on your saddle. Check your latigo each time you ride. It may need to be soaked in oil more than once a year.

For easier maintenance, strength and longer life, I use and sell only nylon latigos. To maintain a nylon latigo, all you need to do is pour some water on it. This simple step will wash off the salt and dirt. The nylon in the latigos I sell is similar to that used for a car's seatbelt. It should last you the life of the saddle with this very simple maintenance routine.



Happy Trails - *Steve Edwards*

Upcoming Show Schedule

May 17 - 2nd Annual Fall Colors Ride

2010 at Leatherwood Mtns, North Carolina

May 24 - Expedition Alaska 2010

May 31 - Flying Bee Ranch, Nebraska

June 7 - Western New York--Part I

June 14 - Western New York--Part II



Bringing you 13 NEW SHOWS starting in June!!



Tom's Words of Wisdom...continued

In our four-day drive from California to Tennessee we encountered high-wind areas creating dangerous sand storms, drove through areas with extreme high-fire danger alerts and witnessed wildfires burning thousands of acres in Texas. We crossed the swollen Mississippi River, which is experiencing historic flood levels where loss of crop land, wildlife and livestock cannot be calculated; not to mention the devastating loss of homes and property. The good news is there was ample warning for what was coming. As each of us enjoy the upcoming summer vacation and trail riding season, I urge each of you to stay prepared and keep your trailers ready to be able to evacuate your family and animals in an emergency. Keep your propane tanks filled, spare fuel containers full, keep the numbers for relatives and friends in your vehicles and also include a "get away place" at least 100 miles in each direction from your home in your emergency plans. Perhaps most importantly, prepare yourself to be able to assist friends and neighbors who may be overwhelmed in a disaster. Few things are more comforting during a crisis than a friend calling to say, "we're on the way to help."

On another note, Best of America by Horseback is expanding. We are asking trail ride locations to give our members discounts when you go to visit their location. We are asking our sponsors to give you all free gifts and downloadable discounts on products we use everyday...just for our members. We've arranged with Stagecoach West equine superstore to give you discounts on every item imaginable. As we expand, I want you to plan on riding with me, perhaps at Brushy Creek Lodge in Black, Missouri or at our 3rd Annual Fall Colors Ride at Leatherwood Mountains in North Carolina this October. Mark Laney and Becky Seay are working on a new list of ride locations for next season where you will also have more opportunities to join us.

Folks, we are just getting started and I'm taking you with me! *All the best! -Tom*

Recent Images from the Best of America Grand Tour Ride in Lajitas, TX

Visit Lajitas Golf Resort & Spa yourself! Go to www.lajitasgolfresort.com for more information!



The Star behind the scenes, Pat Seay

Special thanks to all the riders who we have made this 2011 Grand Tour Ride a success so far. The friends that we have made on this tour are part of our lives now and we can not wait to ride with you again! There are still other opportunities to ride with us this year...July in Fort Fairfield, Maine and in October at Brushy Creek Lodge in Missouri and at Leatherwood Mountains in North Carolina!