



Buffalo River Gang

October 2004

Well gang, for those of you who weren't there, we had the most amazing, different, unique, interesting, hmmm.....wet... trail ride that any of us have ever been on!



David, Matt, Roger, Colonel, and David V. getting the fire started.

There is so much to tell, I don't know where to begin. This is my version of the story. For those of you who were there, be patient with me. I love to write almost as much as I love to talk.

We arrived on Saturday, got the camp fire going and had our annual Saturday night dinner (which was great). Sally and Johnny had smoked a turkey and a ham, I did white beans, Linda is the Queen of Greens (they were good!) and we had salads and brownies and pies from Rosie and her Florida gang, and Becky and Sandy (new cheesehead). We ate great food, started the visiting around the camp fire, and started planning the morning ride.

My dog Pearl will sit in any lap that becomes available. So, watch out sitting down at our campsite. She especially liked our friend Roger, it seems he has a soft spot for small furry creatures such as herself.

Well, Sunday came along, the clouds looked threatening, but never did produce rain that day. Sunday's ride was a good one. But, that night it started to rain. And it rained. And it rained. In the morning the camp was damp, the fire was out and everything was wet. We sat under Boyd and Linda's awning and visited, with no lack of stories to tell. We went to bed praying for clearer weather.

Tuesday morning Tim announced the evacuation of the lower camps near the river. All trailers would be pulled up and given primitive camp sites in the upper camp.

Everyone got their trailers hitched, some smart ones pulled out early. The Mississippi boys stood on their hill wondering when they should go. They mosey'd over to see how swiftly the water was flowing across the back of the camp, and when they turned back to the sites they were surprised to see how fast the water had risen and knew it was time to retreat. We had to ride a pickup truck bed back to our trucks it had risen that high, that fast.



Pearl and her friend Roger. Roger, just remember, Pearl is a "chick magnet."

We ran for the trucks to start the convoy. Getting up top we scouted out new sites and then I headed back for horses. When I got back down below, everyone was helping to lead horses out. The water was rising fast. Jill (Cheesehead Jill) helped me and we each took several horses.

It was like herding cats, trying to get all of the horses up the hill, we went up the back hill that leads up to the main entrance, ya'll know it. We usually ride out that way.

Very important lesson, when you see Tim and Tracy using a truck and a tractor to pull out the ice machine, the hay trailer, and the stuff from the store, then you know its time to go. They saved the bath-houses (near M barn) and pulled them up away from the water. Too bad, we could have used some nice new shiny bath-houses.

Packing in like sardines in the upper camp grounds, people were friendly and helpful. Of course we were scattered all over, but soon figured out where the gang was, got the fire started, and began the visiting and fun all over again.



A side note here: during this mayhem, we had one accident. Rosie Prokop got kicked by her mule, Thomas. It was bad enough to have to call the ambulance. Seems that Thomas is a little blind in one eye and with all of the commotion Rosie came up on him on his bad side and scared him. He kicked her hard enough to land her in a tree.

Rosie ended up with a fractured Humerus bone in her shoulder and fractures and damage to the muscle in her knee and thigh. Roger and I drove out to get her from the hospital on Wednesday and by then she was smiling and happy again. She has got to be the most cheerful person I know, nothing ever seems to get her down. [Rosie, if you are reading this, God bless you, and I think I can speak for us all, we want you to get all better and join us again next year.]

We did get in some real good days of riding, we made some new friends, and we ate plenty of food. Therefore, it was a successful trail ride. Although I think its one we will remember for a long time to come. Now, I can't wait till next year!

Carriages and Other Things

Other things I wanted to talk about: Roger Gore brought some big Belgian mares up to pull a wagon around the camp. They did cause a commotion wherever they went. Horses who have never seen a cart before get a little upset the first time they do. Good de-spooking lessons for the riding animals. The team was real nice, I didn't get to go for a ride, every time he hitched up, I was out riding on the trails. Did anyone get pictures?

Another thing I noticed on this ride, we sure did find a lot of Yellow Jackets out on the trails. I got stung along with one of the new guys in our party, Matt Cushman. Were they worse this year for some reason?

New Rogerism's

Every year our friend Roger seems to come up with new sayings we have never heard before. Here are a few from this year:

"She'll only get as fat as her Hide 'el Holder"

That was in discussion about me getting fat from the Chow Hall. And if you say "Hide 'el Holder" real fast, we decided it sounded like German.

Then there was:

"We had a Toad-Strangler at Buffalo. (meaning the rain)"

I think I am writing too much, running out of space, but not out of things to say. We all talked about spring rides, we want to go back to Illinois to Shawnee, some want to go to Many Cedars or East Fork.

Wherever your travels take you, may you stay safe, ride a lot, and have fun! God bless you all.

Our Troops

Our boys are leaving the states late December, they should be gone 12 months, so we will not see them at the next Buffalo ride either. I was thinking I could put their mailing addresses here, but I have found out that, because of them moving around, mail it going to be hard to do. So, I have designated Jill D. and Shannon, as the "Care Package Person", if you want to send a card to David, or Greg, send it to Jill with a note what its for. For Kevin, of course, send it to Shannon. They will be forwarding stuff on to the guys.

God Bless you and keep you strong and healthy:

SSG Freeman, David W.

SSG Hatton, Kevin

SSG Taylor, James G.

Yours ever loving editor

Lisa "Mrs. First Sergeant" Seaburg.

Happy Trails to you, until we meet again.

Buffalo River Gang T-Shirts

By now ya'll have figured out I am either crazy (well I married First Sargent didn't I) or very creative. I put together t-shirts for this years ride. I only wish I had done this before. I think it would be fun to be able to wear shirts from the rides that actually mean something to us all. Anyway, if I missed you, here is how you can order yours.

The price was figured out so that we could send SGT. David Wade Freeman, SGT. Kevin Hatton, and SFC. Greg Taylor their t-shirts in a care package as they were unable to join us this year because they are heading for Iraq with the National Guard Forces. As we send these to them, a little piece of our hearts go with them. We also gave one to Rosemary as a belated birthday and "Get better soon" present.

If I missed you, or you didn't make the ride. You can still order a shirt here. Fill out the form below and check the sizes. I only have a few of each left (listed below) and will do a reprint if I get enough orders.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Check here if you want to be added or updated on the mailing list?

Order Form

Tan Shirt	Quantity	Price	Blue Shirt	Quantity	Price	Total
		\$17.00	Small (2 left)		\$17.00	
Medium (2 left)		\$17.00	Medium (1 left)		\$17.00	
Large (2 left)		\$17.00	Large		\$17.00	
XLarge (1 left)		\$17.00	XLarge		\$17.00	
2X Large		\$17.00			\$17.00	
					Subtotal	
					Shipping & Handling	\$5.00
					Total	

Mail a check made out to Lisa Seaburg, to me at: 322 Cottonwood Cove, Senatobia, MS 38668

If you need a size not listed here, just let me know. It may take longer because I will have to get a reprint order together.

Next years shirt will not be a chonology of the years, I already have a design figured out! Can't wait to see ya then!