



Buffalo River Gang

October 2005

Good Morning, ya'll. Well, there goes another year. It makes me sad to have it done and gone. I could have stayed there another week at least.

This year's ride had probably the best weather we have seen in awhile. A little on the dry side, so there was some dust. But, no rain and beautiful clear skies. It's those cool crisp mornings that I so love much.



First day, Jill and Becky, sitting a spell to watch the men put up the bucket light.

Our Saturday night dinner was Brat's and Beer with fixin's brought by the gang. It was a good way to start out the week. Sitting by the fire talking and sharing a meal. First Sergeant say's next year we do fish! Linda brought her famous greens again this year, but says she wants to do something different next year. Maybe I can talk her (or Sally) out of their green's recipe so I can make them. They are the best I have ever had.

I think we all agree the trails at Buffalo are the best around. It was great getting out there and being in the quiet of the woods again. There wasn't as much mud as last year, that's for sure. We made it to Blue Rock, Blue Hole, past the Bat Cave, past the Yellow Truck, down and up the Goat Trail and many others. The Boot and Bucket is now the Two Boots trail, seems the bucket has finally rusted away.

We took our regular breaks, but for some reason didn't seem to get in any naps on the trail this year.

Rosie and her sister, Susie, made it to the ride this year. We were so happy to see Rosie in one piece and also we sent her home in the same shape. No more mishaps for that girl. She has had her share.

And sister Susie is proving to be a horse lover like the rest of us. Sally brought both Quigley and Rusty this year, and Susie and Rosie both had their turns riding the Quig's around camp and trails. It's great when someone brings an extra horse, several people got to ride because of this generosity on Sally's behalf. Plus she gets both horses exercised. My David said "Boy, why didn't I think of that, we have several horses at home that need to get ridden!"

Becky Wickesburg, our token Cheesehead for this ride, flew down to Memphis and came with Jill Diedrich. Becky rode Little David's Appaloosa horse, Bunny, and loved her.

We only had one mishap, and that was Linda Findley's horse Dutch slipped up on the deep trail coming back from the Goat Trail and he fell and so did she. She broke her left arm. Sally and I had been running errands in town that morning; we were driving back down the dirt road and came upon Roger standing on the side of the road holding his horse waiting for help to arrive.



Linda (with two good arms) and Boyd Finley – lunch stop the first day.

He told us the story of what had taken place on the trail. I offered to take David's truck back down the dirt logging road to where she was, but Roger didn't think that was a good idea. It was pretty rough road to get out there. Instead we waited with him for Tracy and Tim to show up. Tim, who has done this before, took his truck back into the woods to get her.

We have always known what a trooper Linda is. Through all our years of rides, she never complains,

never whines...well she was great through all of this. Boyd took her to the Murray Regional Medical Center (where Rosie was last year) and they came back to camp later that night. With her arm in a sling she stayed and continued to enjoy her time at Buffalo.

Okay and now you all know, me, Lisa, I can dance. I made it to the dance hall every night of the ride. I have been going through a bout of insomnia and so decided to try out dancing instead. And, because of Linda's arm, I danced with the Boyd Man and boy can that man dance!

Doris and Carol made it from Rockford, Illinois. That is a long drive, and we sure are glad they make it every year. Doris rode with the gang every day and Carol rode some shorter rides around camp. She is still recovering from the last wound.

Jill Biddle and Gina Brazil made it to the ride on Thursday morning in time to go out with the gang (not that they leave very early) and also rode with the gang on Friday.



The gang at the Blue Rock. Roger, Roy, Doris, Becky, Jill, Lisa, Colonel, and Buck.

Time for some reflection: We are all so blessed to know one another. Over the years we meet and talk, either at the dance hall, the chow hall or on the trail.

Doris and I had the pleasure of sitting with James and Patsy Grant this year in the chow hall and hearing all about the trails they had been working on cutting. **Whenever you see plastic ribbons tied to trees off to one side of the trail, if you follow them, they will lead you through a new trail.** It may not always go somewhere, because it may not be finished. But it will be interesting.

Doris and I followed one the last afternoon we were there, I guess that was Friday. We got quite far into the woods, I had my GPS going, but as it started

to look like rain and along with the gathering clouds it was also getting darker, we turned back and retraced our steps. I got a little nervous thinking, a person could get lost out there in them thar' woods!

Roy Wooten and his daughter Amy got a chance to do the father – daughter bonding thing. Yes, Amy, your Dad is the guy who brought the Fart Machine! Let's face it, we can't all be that lucky to have a Dad like that!

Okay, wrapping things up. Let's count our blessings! Number one, it did not rain and we saw no flooding at the Buffalo this year! This is the biggest blessing of all. Number two and all the rest, thank god for each and everyone of you!

Spring Rides?

We always say we want to do a Spring ride, but never quite get it together. Well, this may be another year like that, but let's at least make an effort.

Sally is thinking maybe East Fork at some point during the year, David and I definitely want to go there. We have heard so much about that place. We also want to get back to Natchez State Park, they have such great facilities. We also have so many other great places to go. Anybody have any ideas? Dates?

Our Troops

Our oldest grandson, Brandon, has enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard. And his Dad, Little David, along with the rest of our boys are heading home soon. We have really missed them over this past year. Kevin has a new son (Lee) he needs to come home and spend time with. Little David and Jill are planning a wedding in June. Greg is the first to get home with the advance, he arrived in this week! The rest of them will be heading home in December. None too soon, if you ask me.

For all of you who have been keeping them in your prayers, just a few more months.....

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.
