



Buffalo River Gang

October 2006

I do apologize for being late with the Newsletter this year. It's been a long year of surgery and healing for David with me as his support, but I do see the light at the end of the tunnel. Just know, we have been thinking of you all.

We started out this year with both Kevin Hatton and David Wade Freeman "Little David" with us. These guys were in Iraq for the past two rides. Fiancée and now wife, Jill has been with us during those rides keeping the campfire burning for David. The rest of us were so thankful to have our boys there and enjoying the fellowship and the freedom. We all owe a big Thank you, to the American Soldiers who are doing their jobs overseas to assure us of our place in the world.



Shannon and Little Lee Hatton

Kevin's wife Shannon and little boy Robert E. Lee Hatton came for the first weekend to see what the ride was all about. We sure did enjoy having a little young one around and he certainly had lots of energy.

Our first night, like every year, is our camp cooking! We had fried fish, fries, hushpuppies, and fried bull's testicles (Yuck!) Our buddy, Mitchell, brought them. He got them from a buddy of his in Starkville. The guys sure did think it was a treat. I don't think any of the ladies did, I may be wrong. I certainly had trouble stomaching even the smell.

The dinner was fabulous (except those things!) and the visiting around the fire went on for hours. I think this is one of my favorite parts of each ride. I have

my trouble relaxing and getting into the vacation mode, but once I am there – watch out!

The weather was brisk on some days, but we did have some great weather. We had a couple of rainy days, but it was a really nice mix, not too much of any one thing. Pearl had her sweater with her just in case it got cold.



Pearl wore her sweater when it got cold out.

So, we rode six days and my husband, First Sergeant David D, rode three out of those six days. He was sore going home, but very happy. FYI, 9 weeks before the ride he had major surgery. So he did really well and I think was very happy to be there and share the fellowship with his friends.

We did notice there were lots more areas of cut over timber and one day we got behind it somehow and traveled back through the "cross-roads" in the rain, it did not look the same and the machinery every where was very menacing. I think I heard they are finishing up there and they won't be cutting more. I sure hope so, because it seems we are losing our riding areas.

We got into some really pretty places out in the woods. One afternoon we rode up past the old chimney and did some rough riding looking for a trail. We ended up riding a pretty steep ridge with the river down below on one side and the woods down

below on the other. It was so pretty it took my breath away. I know I had been there before, but it was an old unused trail, so it's been years.

We had lots of different faces with us this year. One, Don Estepp had been with the original group years ago. He doesn't know why he didn't come back. He had so much fun, I think he is making reservations for next year too. He rode a really cute gray quarter horse, that was kinda young and green, but it sure is broke now.



Don Estepp and his horse, must have been giving directions!

Rosie and her sister Susie came again from Florida and Georgia, and Susie rode this year. Yeah! Another convert. We are so happy to have her joining us and she seems very happy with the group. We miss you Susie during the year, can't wait to see you next October.

As always we talked about riding in the spring, we always do that and never seem to organize anything. Sally and I have been talking about it and we may try to organize it.

Sally's husband Johnny came with the dogs the first part of the week. I know Johnny came for the cookin' on Saturday night. We were sure happy to have him visiting around the fire. It's also good to know we aren't the only couple who is owned by their dogs. Precious and Cowboy are lap dogs!



Loving Puppies/Overgrown laps dogs.

I met one of the ladies that the "Boot and Bucket" trail was named after, right here in the Memphis area. I was shopping in our local Cowboy Corner's and the sales lady and I started talking trail riding. She rode the Buffalo 20+ years ago and her and a group got lost for over 7 hours, after they were found, Tim decided to start naming trails. The Boot and Bucket was one of the first. She and I had a wonderful chat, though I don't think it was part of her job description!

Boyd and Linda have become quite experienced carriage drivers. They had Mark and Doc hitched to their carriage and drove all around the camp grounds. Even Shannon and Lee got a ride. What a sight to see!

The really good part of this years ride. No one got hurt, there was just the right amount of rain, the food was tolerable, the dances were fun, the horses did a good job in the hills, the people were/are great! What more can you ask for?

Yours ever loving editor

Lisa "Mrs. First Sergeant" Seaburg.

Happy Trails to you, until we meet again.
