

# **Eva's Admonitions**

## Texas XXXs RFC -- Buenos Aires Tour Guide Issue: Numero Dos

**Hola** – The first edition of *Eva's Admonitions* was so well received and the feedback so overwhelming, we decided to add a “Letters To The Editor” feature. However, since we received no actual letters, this idea will be put on hold. But we did get several nice comments ... *gracias*. Many of you have surely been surfing the web to find interesting tid-bits on what to see and do in Buenos Aires, or learning of its history; when you find something particularly interesting, send us the article or a link.

### **BREAKING NEWS – IMPORTANT!!!**

The Tour Organizing Committee – a group of self-important, self-appointed harumphers – has voted to open the roster for a limited time, allowing anyone who wants to join the tour the opportunity to do so. As noted in the last newsletter, we currently have 28 “players” and 22 supporters signed-up and (pretty much) current on their payments. A waiting list was established with the expectation that we would have a few drop-offs, but this hasn't been the case. To accommodate those on the waiting list, and also to address the issue of playing time even with 28 players, we have decided to enter a second team.

We have communicated with the tournament organizers, and they have assured us the matches for both sides will be scheduled for the same venue, but not at the same time. This will allow some of you – those we affectionately refer to as “rugby whores” – to participate in all the games you could possibly want. And if we do need a few reserves, it is well within the spirit of the tournament to invite a few new-found friends from other clubs to join us.

Soooo ... if you want to grab this chance of a lifetime, please e-mail your intentions at once to either Pooh-Bah Dave Tutten, or records keeper Ken Coulter. We have links to both on the website, or their direct addresses are [dtutten@msn.com](mailto:dtutten@msn.com), or [kenneth.coulter@hp.com](mailto:kenneth.coulter@hp.com). A few have already sent money, and you can square you account with Ken. Others will need to get caught up pronto.

Also, in all likelihood, our hotel will not be able to accommodate any more us. If a room or two in the Aspen Towers ([www.aspentowers.com.ar](http://www.aspentowers.com.ar)) does become available, we will assign these rooms to those who were first in with cold, hard cash. However, our extra tourists will be assigned to a very nice hotel within the same block. In fact, we have been assured that this tournament hotel is actually a bit nicer than the Towers, but at the same cost.

Again, act fast. Tell your friends. And make sure you have a current passport.

**Tour Practice** – Don't pass out ... we aren't planning any actual rugby practices, but the upcoming match on Galveston Island May 6 against our friends, the Anasazi of Santa Fe will allow us to have a full blown "tour" practice. The cardinal rules of touring, as passed down from Cactus Jack Montgomery (or was Rex Curtis our Moses?) are: no sleeping, and no watching TV on tour. So for those among us who have come to enjoy a nap while sitting in the ol' barcalounger (while watching golf on TV), it's time to get back in fighting trim.

Joe Luna and Al Mazur have done an outstanding job with all the arrangements for the weekend, including golf, a great hotel, game venue hospitality, and a big Saturday night shrimp boil. And the opportunity to practice a few trick plays for use in BA is also valuable. For more information on the event, go to our website, [www.texasxsrugby.com](http://www.texasxsrugby.com). Most importantly, this will be a great chance for all the tourists to begin the pre-tournament bonding ritual, particularly those on the distaff side.

**Vino, Vino everywhere, so why drink the water?** – When we traveled to Toulouse, one of the favorite pre-tour methods of "getting in the mood" was the drinking of French wine. Obviously, we had lots of choices. Similarly, Australia has been turning out fine wine for some time, and no doubt a good many of the Brisbane tourists became well educated on the subtleties of Shiraz before heading down under. So the next time you are in Spec's, or a fine store like Costco, or in a restaurant with an extensive wine list, be sure to sample a Malbec, the red wine for which Argentina is best known.

Given the love of red meat by the *portenos* (as the locals are called), it should come as no surprise that the wine of choice would be medium to full bodied red, able to stand up to their hearty appetites (much like Texans). Malbec typically features ripe fruit flavors of plums and blackberry. The Mendoza region, just over the Andes from Santiago, is said to produce the best Malbecs, but other areas produce fine product, as well.

Sounds like a good bottle should also be shared with a good cigar!

**Kit Update** – Dave Brzezinski is working very hard on our Tour Kit. You should be receiving an order form any day now for a whole host of items. These will include shirts of various varieties (dress, polo, t-shirts), belt buckles, trading pins, blazer patches, beads to toss during the parade, hats, jerseys, etc. It's a BIG job Dave is undertaking. He must come up with designs and have them approved by the very particular old women who fancy themselves as arbiters of good taste (or is that things that taste good?). He must get bids from and work with suppliers. He has to produce an order form, get it out and back from everyone – hopefully with a check that won't bounce like Charo – and then distribute seemingly tons of stuff back to each of you. And remember, not everyone is in Houston or even in Texas.

A few thoughts to keep in mind when ordering kit: First, this may be your only chance to get tour merchandise, so order plenty. Yeah, we know the cost adds up quick. And this comes at a time when you will be asked to be making your final tour payment, followed shortly by a big hit for the airfare. Part of the fun on tour is trading items with teams from all over the world ... and anything with the word "Texas" on it is a hot trade item. But we always end up liking our own gear so much, that it's sometimes hard to part with. So order one to keep, and some to trade.

The team will be supplying game jerseys, so there is no *requirement* to buy one just to play in (but don't forget to buy/bring blue stockings and clean, white shorts).

It is a tradition that we wear coats-and-ties and cocktail dresses to the closing banquet. (John Galloway prefers Vera Wang, but they don't make anything in size Tent.) We will be selling Yellow Rose logo patches appropriate for affixing to blazers and other items.

Finally, you will be given the chance to buy a kit bag. We buy these bags from Night Train Luggage in Houston and they feature a Lone Star flag on the side. The bags will come in various sizes and with several options, such as a boot compartment sewn on the side, and your name embroidered on the top. Night Train offers many different pieces, including hanging garment bags, toiletry kits, etc., so you may wish to make a trip to the store to check out their merchandise for yourself, or at least to get a hands-on look at the various styles. Night Train is located in the corner of the strip-mall at 5545 Richmond, conveniently located near the Richmond Arms Pub!

**Parade Ideas** – As you know, the parade of teams through the streets of BA makes for a fun and colorful beginning to the tournament. In the past, we have attempted to dress in matching Texas Flag shirts, and we have also just allowed everyone to "free lance" a western-themed look for the parade. The floor is now open for suggestions. Also welcome are your ideas on parade choreography, props, and organized goofiness in general. Go to the website and send your thoughts to the Pooh-Bah's link.

**Ask Eva** –

*Dear Eva,*

*My husband is dragging me to your city in September for a full friggin' week of rugby. I can't even get him to take me two-steppin', much less Tango. So even in a city of 12 million people, I'm worried there won't be enough things to see and do for that long (although I once spent a week in the Galleria, and that was just the top two floors!). But I hate the thought of going all that way and not seeing something besides your grave. Any ideas on places near BA I can drag his sorry carcass off to when he's finished playing with the boys (not that there's anything wrong with that)?*

*Wondering In Texas*

Dear WIT(less),

With an attitude like that, you're lucky you're not one of the Exes in Texas ... the kind George Strait sang about, not those good looking kind on the Texas XXXs.

To begin with, Argentina is one damn big place. I know you don't like hearing this, but it's bigger than Texas. And since it's only about five months until you get here, if you are serious about making a side trip, you had better get on the stick. There are some terrific places once you are so far down south. Mar del Plata is an ocean-front resort with blue water that is only 45 minutes by air, and four hours by rail; the famously breathtaking Iguazu Falls near the Brazilian border is a flight of just under two hours. The wine country of Mendoza and the ski resort Bariloche (with wonderful Spring amenities like golf and fishing), are both 2 hour flights. Usharia, the jumping off point for glacier viewing, is three hours by air. By the way, the Argentina National Glaciers Park is home to 200 glaciers and is the biggest continental ice extension after Antarctica. Of course, the way you guys are heating up the environment with your hairspray, SUVs and "What Global Warming?" leader, we're lucky to still have enough ice to put in our Bloody Marys.

Keep in mind that there is no requirement that you make every official tournament event or match. Consider disappearing from the tour with your honey (or another rugby widow or couple) for a day or two mid-week, obviating (to use a Bill O'Reilly word) the need to add days to either end of the week. Also, there is an "official" day trip by ferry being offered by the tour organizers to nearby Montevideo, Uruguay. The culture and architecture here are quite a bit different than what we will find in BA, so it's worth considering.

But trust me, honey, you will find more than enough to do here ... a week won't seem like enough. And in the meantime, kick that lazy-ass husband of yours down to the local ballroom and make him take some Tango lessons with you. Sure, he's going to be pissed about it, but deep down he loves you, so he'll make the effort.

Love and Kisses, my people. Eva

**Travel Tip** – Now would be a very good time – before you find yourself rushed with other last minute details – to check on procedures required by your medical insurance company in case of sickness or injury while on tour. We have had cases of both on past trips, and it wasn't easy finding "preferred providers" in foreign countries. And if you think it's hard finding a doctor here who will take Aetna ....

**Payment Reminder** – The final payment for the ground package is due June 1. You will be receiving in the next couple of weeks an individualized statement with the total due. The hold on our group flight must be finalized in June and any unused seats will be released. More details, including the furnishing of credit card information to our local agent, will be forthcoming. But be prepared for the hit on your card in July. Those not flying on the group flight should already have made other arrangements.

**Fun Web Sites** – [www.virtualtourist.com](http://www.virtualtourist.com) is loaded with tons of photos and personal reviews by real tourists like us gringos. Includes items on the typical “must see sights,” as well as restaurants, local customs, tourist traps and warnings.

Also, have some fun by downloading a free version of Google Earth ([www.googleearth.com](http://www.googleearth.com)). You can virtually fly right into BA and view high resolution, spy-type aerial photos of the city and get a feel for how really big it is. Once you find the Obelisk, move up seven blocks on the large avenue, then over two, toward the park, and you will see our hotel with the small roof-top pool. And located mid-way between our hotel and the marina is Avenida de Florida ... an easy walk to this popular shopping destination.

**What time is it?** – Now that you have finally reset all the clocks in your house to reflect the change to Central Daylight Time, you may be wondering what time is it in Buenos Aires? Well, that’s not really relevant. What’s important is the time difference when we are actually there in September, which will be two hours ahead of us. For instance, when it is 8 p.m. here, if someone tries to phone you in BA, you might not answer. Not because you will be in bed at 10 p.m., but because most clubs are just opening. In fact, going to dinner at 7 p.m. in BA is the equivalent of going to Denny’s at 4 p.m. for the AARP Early Bird Special.

*See you in Galveston!*

*Entre más viejo el violín, más dulce la música*

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