

Eva's Admonitions

Texas XXXs RFC -- Buenos Aires Tour Guide Issue: Numero Tres

Only 12 Weeks To Go! – Have you been paying attention to the e-mails you have received on various house keeping chores from Dave, Ken and Max? These guys are doing a terrific job, but with upwards of 60 folks now on tour, it's important that we all accept personal responsibility for taking care of our business so they aren't forced to send out nagging e-mails.

In the past couple of weeks, you have been prompted to send in the necessary credit card and passport information needed to reserve your seats on the **group flight**. (If you are not flying with the group and have not yet made flight plans, well, good luck!). To date, not many of you have sent in the required information. If you need another copy of the form Pooh-Bah Dave sent out, request another one (dtutten@msn.com). Keep in mind this form must be signed, dated and faxed back to International Tours ... e-mailing your credit card and passport info will not suffice. If you let this deadline pass, you will be in deep sheep dip, so please take care of reserving your spot in the next day or two. This deadline is on us.

Everyone was sent a "final invoice" to cover the **ground package** (hotel, transfer, tournament entry fee and special events). Our payment to the tournament was due on June 1, so if you haven't yet sent in your final payment, we have been having to carry you. If you are uncertain whether you have completed the payment of your ground package, please contact Ken at once (kenneth.coulter@hp.com). This deadline has passed!

You were sent an e-mail from Dave Brzezinski containing your **kit order form**. This deadline is July 1! As the kit nazi might say: "no form, no kit for you!" In truth, this order **MUST** be placed by the deadline so that we can get it back in time to be distributed. Other than clean white shorts and navy blue hose, you are not required to purchase any kit (as we provide playing jerseys). However, experience has shown you will want to purchase polos, t-shirts and other gear for trading and as a souvenir. Also, it is important that you buy at least a yellow rose logo patch to have sewn on a blazer. We do wear blazers and ties to the closing banquet (hopefully the distaff side will opt for short, sexy cocktail dresses, complimented by hot tango shoes with four inch heels). If you need another form, ask Ken or Dave david.brzezinski@bakerhughes.com.

Finally ... a souvenir Vintage Games **rain jacket** will be included in everyone's welcome bag. We need sizes for all. If you make us guess your size, you may get a size "tent," or something which may end up looking more like an unflattering halter top. The deadline for this information is July 12. As in really ... not rugby time. The sizing information

provided us is: small = 51 inches; large = 54 inches; XL = 56 inches; XX = 57 inches. Send this info to Dave as well.

Okay ... everyone understand your homework assignments? Print this out. Paste it on your computer. Do whatever it takes to get all this info back to us ASAP!!! A link to the Pooh-Bah is also on our website, www.texasxsrugby.com.

Trivia Quiz – The president of Argentina is (a) Ashton Kutcher, (b) Senor Winces, (c) Nestor Kirchner, or (d) Nestle Tea? Answer: El Presidente Kirchner, who was recently reelected and is a Peronista, or the party of the left. He is generally credited with Argentina's robust economic rebound (recently noted by no other authority than the *Houston Chronicle*). His wife, Cristina, was also elected to the Senate by nearly a margin of nearly 3-to-1 and is said to have presidential ambitions herself. Talk about deja vu.

Galveston – what a blast! – We won't take a lot of space here to report on the happenings at our 25th Reunion match versus Anasazi of Santa Fe in Galveston last month, but a tip of the ol' Hatlo Hat goes to Joe Luna, Al Mazur and the Old Salts crew for a fantastic job (and also to Joe's son, Jason, who catered the enormous shrimp boil). The Santa Fe boys sent a note of praise and said it was simply the pinnacle of their touring experience. You can read a full write-up of the weekend on the website, www.texasxsrugby.com.

Name the Mascot – In addition to our official logo, we now have a new mascot. To have a look at ol' ?????, go to the website ... he's at the bottom of the left side menu. He was created by Joel Hickerson who designed our 25th Anniversary T-shirts. Joel then graciously allowed us to have ownership of the character for use in other ways. The only problem with the rootin'-tootin', beer swillin', boot wearing rugger is that he has no name. Go to the following link for more info and to send in your suggestion for a name - <http://www.texasxsrugby.com/News.htm> I'm partial to a take off on Gus, as in the Lonesome Dove character. Maybe "Guzzlin' Gus"? Can a children's book be far behind? In any case, I'm sure there is a swell prize for the winner of the name the mascot contest.

Currency Watch – Of course, the exchange rate between the US dollar and the Argentine peso is a somewhat moving target, but as of this writing, a dollar will fetch you three pesos. In other economic news, the cost of beef in Argentina has been rising dramatically thanks to the robust economic recovery. It was so "bad" that El Presidente suggested that the nortenos (that's what the locals are called) should actually boycott to force the price back down. It didn't work ... like Texans are to pickups, they are hooked on beef, no matter the cost.

Worker Bees Buzzing – Now that the kit order forms have been distributed, the final payments made and airline plans finalized, you would think there is not much left for the organizing committee to do. You would be wrong, Oh Backrow Breath. The self important pool of past Pooh-Bahs, Potentates and other pretenders is meeting nearly weekly now (well, we should be) to iron out the fine points. This coming week, we will

be making assignments as to the Officer of the Day for each day on tour. ODs are those who have been on an international XXXs tour before, and who may also have served an apprenticeship as an aide-de-camp to an OD (aka "bitch"). Once we have selected the various ODs, we will furnish them with a list of tour "rookies" whom have never served as either an OD or an ADC. Keep in mind that if selected by the mysterious ways of the council, these honors cannot be refused. It is also tradition that each OD tries to outdo the job of the previous day's OD.

The Committee will also be discussing ways to bring some of us together for pre-tour events. But with only 12 weeks to go, take it upon yourself to ring up another couple, go to an Argentine restaurant, or think of other reasons to get together and get excited collectively about the tour. Or maybe all the women could get together and beat up whomever was supposed to organize the Tango lessons? (Hint: it's gonna be a long tour for that guy!) Or maybe we can all go find a bar where the Argentina ex-pat community is watching the World Cup?

Ask Eva

Dear Eva,

How do I say this politely? My husband is a bore. No, I don't mean he's boring, though "who's your daddy?" when we're in the throes of ecstasy is getting a tad old. I mean he's boorish. He thinks the whole world ought to speak American, use the dollar as universal currency and drink Lite beer. His idea of culture is visiting a 30-screen movie theatre. Any tips on getting him ready for our adventure to your lovely country?

Need Advice and Guidance.

Dear NAG,

Well, for starters go out and buy a couple of bottles of Malbec and encourage him to try this instead of the brew for a while. It's a stout red we are famous for, and not a sissy wine. That should open him to other possibilities. When he's hung over, instead of coffee, see if he's got enough cojones to try mate – our very strong tea. Do some research on mate and you'll see what I mean. If, like most guys, he's cheap, he will worry about tipping. We do tip, but not as much as you are probably used to. For casual places, or when the bill gets a bit on the high side, 10% is fine. Leave a 15% propina in a nicer place if the price is still reasonable. However, watch the bill and don't be surprised if some places add on a cubierto. This is a fee for "table service" and is not a tip to your hard working waitstaff. I guess it's sort of like the "environmental fee" your garage mechanics charge for rags and hand soap. Also tip folks in the hotel. And don't count change too closely ... it is our custom to "round up" so we don't have to worry about those pesky coins which are basically worthless.

This is a biggie ... tell him to leave the camouflage clothing at home. Not even a hat. Camo gear is illegal in Argentina ... you can understand how we might be a bit nervous

about all things military. And should he find himself wanting to talk about why anyone would let a foreign country claim an island so close to its shores, he better damn well refer to ours as the Malvinas, not the Falklands. In your defense, at least that island off Florida has some strategic value, the Malvinas are inhabited mostly by sheep and Brits ... and both are happy.

Finally, in place of a movie megaplex, we have the fabulous Teatro Colon, one of the top five opera houses in the world, and it's close to your hotel. But let him know he won't actually have to take you there for a full four hour opera, as the theatre offers tours and short variety shows mid-week just so you can have a look. I understand the Texas XXXs actually sang at the Sydney Opera House in 1983, so you most definitely should reprise your performance!

I hope these few pointers help. Although it would be even better if he would tear himself away from Dukes of Hazzard reruns and actually learn a few basic phrases in Spanish, something more enlightened than donde esta el bano?

Your Sister, Eva

Websites – In case you have misplaced previous copies of the newsletter, the website for the tournament is www.vintagerugby.com. The website for our primary hotel is www.aspentowers.com.ar.

Viva la Independence! – July 9 is Argentina's Independence Day. Do something to celebrate and get you in the mood for our tour!

Pretend You're Into The World Cup – Yeah, I know, it's still soccer. But even if you're not a fan, go check out www.foxsports.com, click on the link for the World Cup, then click on the hard-to-miss box, "Babes of the World Cup." Now, aren't you glad you read all the way to the end?

Entre más viejo el violín, más dulce la música
www.texasxsrugby.com