

Eva's Admonitions

Texas XXXs RFC -- Buenos Aires Tour Guide

Issue: Numero Quatro

Special Focus: Officers of the Day

Officers of the Day Named! Aides Soon to be Deflowered!! – The tribal council has spoken and Officers of the Day have been assigned for each of the days on tour. The naming of ODCs traces its roots to the 2001 Toulouse Tournament after many years of the poor beleaguered Pooh-Bah being asked the same stupid questions day-after-day on tour, making it nearly impossible for him to enjoy the trip (e.g. what time is the bus; what position am I playing; where are we going for dinner; how do I convert celsius to fahrenheit?). Putting one person in charge of one particular day doesn't reduce the number of dumb questions, but it does spread the load.

Another benefit we have enjoyed from the OD process is that each OD attempts to surpass the efforts of the others. This is thanks to Charlie MacMaster who passed out favors to everyone at our first assembly on his day, including sweet smelling soaps for the ladies. Others have expanded this with special daily themes, koozies, pastries, booze, clothing items, etc., or by simply arranging something for the group away from the official tournament program.

The ODs – who will be presented medals in an elaborate ceremony the evening before their day – will be assisted by an Aide de Campe. The ADCs are often referred to as the OD's "bitch," but as this is a family newsletter, we'll stick with ADC. In a break with tradition, the potentates decided to go ahead and assign ADCs now (for reasons too boring to list). While the OD may be the "vision guy" and assign all the heavy lifting and gofer duties to the ADC, the credit or blame for the day rests squarely with the OD. Also, since we are entering two sides, it was decided to appoint two ADCs on game days, with one ADC being designated for each team, or not, at the Pooh-Bah's discretion. Likewise, since there are two distinct events on Friday, we will have two sets of ODs and ADCs.

Duties for each day differ depending on the event. For instance, on game day, the ODC must make sure everyone is aware of transportation details, who we are playing, make sure the kit is distributed and collected, water on the sidelines, know when and where we are playing, choose a line-up (or delegate to an appointed game captain), etc. Similarly, on days when other events are planned, such as Gaucho Day and the Closing Banquet, everyone needs to be made well aware of transportation details, tickets confirmed, dress codes, etc. Parade Day will be a very special themed day requiring lots of planning, choreography and keeping up with a lot of folks, while the ODs of the Free Day should plan at least a couple of different options such as optional day tours, or perhaps plan an evening event as folks drift back in.

ODs are encouraged to contact their ADCs immediately to start the exchange of ideas, and to communicate their plans for sharing in subsequent newsletters. With only 10 weeks left before we leave, it's time to start thinking, researching and planning. Here, then, is the list of the lucky, the proud, the not-so-few:

Sunday, September 17, "Parade Day": Kevin Griggs, OD; Chris Bugge, ADC.

Monday, First Game Day: Bill Crawford, OD; Buzz Marconi and Eugene Murphy, ADCs

Tuesday, Free Day: James Anhauser, OD; Brian T. Hanlon, ADC.

Wednesday, 2nd Game Day: Dale McMorrow, OD; Guy Manning and George Duncan, ADCs.

Thursday, Gaucho Day: Bryant Winn, OD; Abner Burnitt, ADC.

Friday, Final Game: Don Baetge, OD; James Harper and John Dreiss, ADCs

Friday, Gala Closing Banquet: Orlando Perez, OD; Michael Dowling, ADC.

But wait, there's more! Just because you are not on the list, do not think you're "home free." It is inevitable that this list may change due to unforeseen circumstances (despite the fact that appointment to these positions cannot be refused), so the possibility still exists that you may be called upon to fill a role. Also, spouses (or "special friends") are very much encouraged to join in on the planning and execution, especially so that the distaff side will not be overlooked by a churlish, chauvinistic OD and his staff.

Homework Assignments – This pretty much concludes this special edition of the newsletter ... we will return to regular programming soon. However, we can't pass up a chance to nag a bit. Have you: sent in your kit order? Have you provided credit card information to hold your seat on the airplane? Told Pooh-Bah Dave your size for the souvenir rain jacket? Made your final payment? Deadlines for ALL of these requirements have passed ... if you haven't taken care of one or more, DO IT TODAY.

Finally, we have ended up with an odd number of singles. These are guys who are too odd to find a date and so we have paired them with other tour members, save a couple of fellows who are too odd to share a room with anyone. The problem is that someone is going to get socked with a higher-than-expected ground package (but at least he'll get a private room and some peace and quiet). So, if you know anyone who could jump on the tour at this very last minute, contact them TODAY. Conversely, if there is a single who may be considering having to drop out, the time to tell us is NOW.

Entre más viejo el violín, más dulce la música

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