

## Eva's Admonitions

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

#### Countdown: Ignition and Lift Off!

**Kit Has Arrived** – A tip of the ol' Hatlo Hat to Kit Boy, Dave Brzezinski, who has been working hard to get all the kit orders fulfilled. A most enjoyable Kit Distribution Party was held at the venerable Cadillac Bar in Houston this past weekend to hand out the treasure to the locals. Chris Bugge of Austin missed out on the travel trophy when Leslie Houston of Fort Worth (who will be traveling with Guy Manning), turned up to add a touch of class to the proceedings.

Of particular note is the Texas Tango themed T-shirt artwork of Joel Hickerson, featuring an armadillo dancing with a puma, while Eva Peron and Masticulating Max sing from her famous balcony. Other references include the flags of Texas and Argentina, and a nod to our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a club this year.

***Important reminder:*** Dave has enough to say grace over just hauling two sets of jerseys and assorted other gear to BA, to say nothing of Linda's two foot lockers and his collection of belt buckles, suspenders and one really sad hat. He cannot be expected to haul your gear, too. If you have not made arrangements to have your kits, t-shirts, hats, etc. sent to you, better do it now. Otherwise, it will stay here in Houston awaiting your post-tour delivery instructions.

**Tango Classes Complete** – At least 10 Houston couples have completed Tango lessons, which apparently are rendered useless by alcohol if their attempts to show off their footwork at the après-class drink-up is any indication. Double points go to Bill Crawford who took private lessons with wife, Liz, who – unfortunately – may now be a last minute drop-out (but we continue to keep our fingers crossed that she will turn-up at the hotel, with or without Bill).

The hope is that there will be a band/DJ at the opening event who can play us a tango to show off our skills and wow the crowd with boot-scootin' tango. After that, we will slip the DJ a CD of Ernest Tubb's famous *Waltz Across Texas*.

**More Tour Details** – While the ODs and ADCs have been keeping their plans close to the proverbial vest, we can only assume that each day will be better, more organized, and packed full of more surprises than the day before. We have previously covered the welcoming ceremony, game days, and the Tuesday open day.

On **Thursday**, OD Bryant Winn and ADC Abner Burnitt will lead us to Estancia La Cinancina for the Big Day Out at one of the region's top Gaucho ranches. There we will be treated to lots "free" booze, a huge asado, free booze, equestrian demonstrations, free

booze, entertainment, free booze ... you get the drift. You can do a web search and find this particular ranch ... lots of purty pictures. It is apparently some distance out of town among the pampas, so it will be a nice change of pace from traffic and the hustle-and-bustle of the city.

**Friday** is the last official day of the tournament, and it's a full one. First, it's onto the buses and back to Belgrano Atletico (they also have a right-nice website) for our last two matches. (By the way, we hope you have been training, as a bunch of you – not me – are going to be playing in two matches each game day.) The OD for the athletic part of the day is Don "I'm-being-followed-by-a-chap-who-enjoys-strolling-along-the-Hershey-Highway" Baetge; he will be assisted by James Harper and John Dreiss.

A note to all the Game Day ODs and ADCs: As part of your duties, you must register each of our two teams on each of the game days. At registration, you will present the insurance form, receive our locker room and field assignments, make arrangements to safeguard our gear, and arrange for the pick-up and/or return of our playing kits from the laundry service, etc. The OD of the first game day will be given a team ball for us to use throughout the week. Woe be to the OD or ADC who loses the ball! Also, the official team portrait will be made on one of the game days.

Friday night's gala will be a glittering international affair, and we have selected international leadership in the form of Orlando Perez and Michael Dowling. About the only details of their planning they have shared thus far is that some sort of "court" event is likely in the offing. The closing banquet will be held at the Hilton beginning at 7:30 p.m. As has been noted several times, this is a dress-up affair, with our guys expected to be in blazers (with yellow rose patch), ties, and the ladies just generally glam as ever. The event will consist of free booze, speeches, free booze, awards, dinner (crab-stuffed salmon, lamb, veggies, dessert), free booze, dancing, free booze, ending at 11:30 ... so take a bottle of free booze on the bus. The rest of the city's night spots will just be getting going, and with no activities planned the next day and late flights, take advantage and pull an all-nighter.

**Possible Parade Day Change** – As you know, the Texas XXX MEN traditionally parade in cowboy boots, playing socks, shorts, Texas/Western shirt/jersey, and cowboy hat. There is some consideration being given to petitioning the OD to alter this slightly, as some of the guys have expressed concern over the look of their legs in shorts. So stay tuned, and if there is an update or change, we will send out a special bulletin.

**Hotel Contact Info** – Here is important information you will want to print/copy and leave behind with loved ones in case of emergency.

**Aspen Towers Hotel**  
**857 Paraguay Street**  
**C1057AKK**  
**Buenos Aires, Argentina**  
**Phone: (5411) 4313 1919**  
**[www.aspentowers.com.ar](http://www.aspentowers.com.ar)**

**IMPORTANTE** – Copy, laminate, tattoo, brand ... whatever, but keep this address with you at all times on the trip (along with your passport or a photocopy of your passport); you may need it to show a taxi driver, a bail bondsman or cop, or to the local shelter or hospital when you come out of your alcohol induced coma.

Besides the old fashion phone, the hotel does have a Business Center, which it can be assumed might have a computer for use/rent. Wireless connections are available in the rooms for an additional fee, and it appears the lobby is WiFi. There are also many internet cafes, with the rates running only about one peso an hour (though it is polite to also order something, such as a mate/coffee). Remember, one peso is about 33-cents, US.

**There goes the neighborhood** – Speaking of the hotel, our home will be dominated by us, with no other teams assigned to our hotel. The closest hotel to us will house a team from South Africa, The Durbell Maestros, from the Capetown suburbs of Durbanville and Bellville. Just thought you would want to know in case you're looking to trade for some Springbok gear.

Also nearby are a number of beauty salons which offer moderately priced, full body massages to both sexes. Many of the Delta employees head over to Glorias on Maipu near the Sheraton. There will also be masseurs offering their services at the fields for \$20 per massage.

Other eatery suggestions nearby include La Chacra on Cordoba, about two blocks away and featuring good steak, and Dora's, also a steak joint, near Kilkenny's pub. A bit farther away in the Recoleta area is Shoeless Joe's Alamo and U.S. Grants. The nearby Puerto Madero area (marina) features variety and upscale dining. La Parolaccia was recommended by an ex-pat.

**Clip and Save from the Archives** – Over the past many months, these newsletters have passed along a ton of tips and suggestions. Now you're packing and you wish you had saved them for review, right? Well, fear not; WebBoy Ken Coulter has placed all the back issues on the website, [www.texasxsrugby.com](http://www.texasxsrugby.com). Just click on Archives.

Much feedback was received on the tip to take only old underwear on the trip, discarding it as you use it one final time. Another tourist points out that dollar stores sell irregular briefs as disposable prices, and you can even buy an 8-pack of Hanes tighty-whities at Walmart for less than \$6 ... use 'em and toss 'em!

**Teatro Colonoscopy** – One of the must-sees – as reported before – is the *Teatro Colon* opera house. Most will find that merely taking one of the daily tours of this landmark to be sufficient. However, if your name is Mark Vaughan, you may actually be into what's going on. There are apparently two performance halls in the building, so if you are looking to take in a performance, make sure it's in the main theatre. There are evidently some short, afternoon performances for a couple of bucks just to give you a taste. In any event, if you'd like to plan a real cultural evening, here is the schedule for our week, as best as can be determined from a website which doesn't use American English: Sunday, 11 a.m., some sort of Family Symphony, but it somehow involves veterinarians?;

Monday, arias by a noted baritone (may be in recital hall); Tuesday, ballet with the BA Philharmonic, featuring the principal dancer of the American Ballet Theater; Wednesday, baritone arias again, and also Opera, probably in the large theatre; Thursday, “Tango and Mozart” with the Philharmonic Orchestra.

**Opera Alternative** – The main soccer websites were equally confusing, but it appears as if neither the top two futbol clubs, River Plate and Boca Juniors, are playing home matches at convenient times. The best bet here is to check with the concierge, as a number of services are available and will provide a taxi, tickets and a guide who will accompany you to local matches ... the better to make sure you get in and out without a problem.

**Joke’s on Us** – You will want to be part of the circle when three of the best story tellers on tour share their signature jokes. And if you’re not, make sure they share them with you before the end of the tour. The Hall of Famers are Marty Parrish telling a “precious” story; Ken Coulter’s story of the proctologist and unrequited love; and finally Tawana Dawson’s famous tale of how she got her Tennis Bracelet. The latter will have to be told by husband Chris when he lands his Delta Jet to join us on Tuesday and Wednesday.

**Ask Eva** –

*Dear Eva,*

*I can’t believe our trip is almost here! And I can’t believe Kinky Friedman will be elected Governor of Texas ... but that’s another letter. You’ve been so wonderful and sharing, any last minute tips and thoughts?*

Totally Apprehensive and Naive Gal Obsessing.

*Dear Tango,*

*Release all concerns and anxiety, my dear. You are going to have a wonderful time. Yes, your companion will expect some hotel nookie on your first night, but after that, he will be too sore and full of the malbec. Not even a strong yerbal mate and a blue pill will spoil your trip from that point. A few simple things to remember: like your home, just dial 911 if you have any real trouble. Remember that motorists here regard pedestrians like a Texan sees an armadillo crossing the road: something to aim at. The greeting “un beso” means “a kiss,” usually of the double-cheek air kiss variety. Keep your cool in the airport, as no less than eight flights from the US and EU arrive almost simultaneously every morning (it’s a good thing you will have all day Saturday to process, so be patient). The shopping in Palermo may be better than that on Florida; take Radio Taxis ONLY; enjoy the cafes mid-week in San Telmo while ignoring the child beggars; check out Cafe Tortoni; check out the Frida Kahlo exhibit; and of course, leave a yellow rose at my crypt.*

*Don’t worry if the leather pants you would NEVER buy at home DO make your ass look big ... you’re on tour and you look marvelous. Be good to yourself and worry about the credit cards later, because in another couple of weeks, you’ll be back home, in the grind,*

*driving the kids (or grandkids in your case) to school with the music of Gardel dancing through your mind. He keeps getting better every day, you know.*

*And to those thinking of going to the Vintage Games in New Zealand in 2008, make sure my counterpoint, the Maori Princess Waytooamuchmoola, shows you as good a time as I will. Have fun, my children.*

Eva

**Weather Report** – Today's weather in Buenos Aires is remarkably similar to the last report. The extended forecast for the week of our tour remains about the same, and nearly identical to the historical average for each day on tour, that being a high 67, low of 46. Sunrise is about 7 a.m., with sunset of 6:45 ... so nearly 12 hours of day and night.

**Tour Day Added** – For those in the Houston area who want to jump start the tour by a day or two, Paul Mabry is organizing a Thursday morning golf outing, September 14. If you are interested in squeezing in a final round on one of the city's premier courses at a special rate, reply to [paul@mabrytexas.com](mailto:paul@mabrytexas.com).

**Newsletter Shuttered** – This is final edition of *Eva's Admonitions*. Lost our lease. However, there will probably be a need to communicate a last minute detail or two, such as plans to meet at the airport (for the Houston group) or to meet up in BA on Saturday. You can thus probably expect to receive one or two brief e-mails before the trip. If you have any last minute questions, go to the website and address concerns to Pooh-Bah Dave. And finally, remember Rex Curtis' two main tour rules: no sleeping and no watching TV, and his one overarching tour truism: the tour ain't over 'til the tour is over! Meaning the fun starts in the airport bar, and doesn't end until your dog welcomes you back to reality. Safe and happy travels everyone.

*Entre más viejo el violín, más dulce la música*  
[www.texasxsrugby.com](http://www.texasxsrugby.com)