



Old Ways Survival School

OWSS

PO Box 504

Victor, MT

406-546-6993

info@owss.org

www.OWSS.org

"Survival has everything to do with confidence. Confidence has everything to do with the ability to survive!"^{TM, SM} --Hawk

HORSE TREK NEWS BULLETIN

Founder of OWSS (Rik "Hawk" Hurst), members and friends will begin their most primitive and long ride yet. The 2,500 mile horse trek begins in March 2010 at the Texas/Mexico border for a duration of approximately three months ending at the Montana/Canadian border.

There will be no technology (except for cameras to document the trek) and little to no communication. We will attempt to rendezvous at a couple of locations and obtain updates about their long trek. We will provide those updates and pictures to you as soon as possible. If you have any questions or interest in a future horse trek, please contact us at info@owss.org. Now here's a note from Hawk....

Well it's finally here. Years of preparation and dreaming coming together. So here's a little history of how and why this ride came together. Most people want to do something different that stands out in their life. My dreams have always been adventure one way or another in the wilds of nature. When I was a kid growing up very young I was always sought out the woods or forest, even if it was just a little patch somewhere in the middle of the city. I would go there everyday and look for frogs, tadpoles, snakes, nests or whatever I could find to fulfill my inquisitive young mind. I was always yearning for the knowledge of what was out there to be explored. I watched movies of Davy Crockett, Daniel Boone, Kit Carson, Jim Bridger and Indians on the plains or in the deep forest. I wanted more than anything to be like those guys! Real men! Who lived 200 years ago with the Indians exploring and learning how to live off the land. When I went to school I was known for staring out the window thinking about when I could get back into the woods. I got in trouble a lot for that (smile). My desire for adventure grew rapidly and intensely. I never ceased thinking of someplace new to explore and find out what was there. That was how I developed in this world when I was young. Lots

of kids grow up with grand ideas of what they want out of life, but somehow many end up losing all of what was in their heart as a child. The world chokes out dreams and eventually they are left with nothing but broken dreams and ideas they once had when young. It's sad but true. This world can be rough on dreams and always is if we allow it to happen. We are in control of our own lives for the most part, yet somehow many people let the drama of life take over like a cancer and then before they know it they have become someone they wouldn't even recognize if they went back in time to when they were young. So live your dreams...life is a gift. So enough of that (smile)....

We have done numerous horse treks across the American West, but this will be the longest. I only participate in primitive pre-1840 treks. The amount of knowledge you learn from doing primitive horse treks is incredible. It teaches you so many different aspects about your life that it's hard to believe. It teaches you that you can do things you never thought you could. It gives you confidence for life itself. You learn so many things about yourself you never knew existed within you. I have ridden thousands of miles on horseback across this great country of ours. In March 2010, we begin the longest one yet. There will be four of us traveling from the Texas/Mexico border on the Rio Grand to the Montana/Canadian border just east of Glacier Park. We will traverse seven states through many mountain ranges and deserts. We will carry no modern items other than a camera to document our trek. Food will consist of buffalo, elk and deer jerky, salt pork, dried beans, flour, dried fruit and nuts, a few cans of peaches and anything we can scrounge along the way. We have several caches along the way to re-supply. Our clothing will be brain-tan buckskin shirt, pants, leggings and moccasins. Bed rolls are buffalo hides and Hudson Bay or Whitney wool blankets. Our guns are flintlock rifles. Knives, bean pots, gourd canteens, beaver felt hats and head scarves for when the sun is not too hot. Canvas mantes' which doubles as a rain shelter in bad weather. This is just a general list of our gear. We will each have a pack horse to carry our gear that does not exceed 150 pounds. We've been five years waiting to do this ride for Clay to get out of the U.S. Special Forces and Afghanistan. Now, he is finally tough enough to ride with the best mountaineers in America!(smile) We are ready and eager to hit the trail. Many adventures await on the journey. So when you look out across the desert or on the side of a mountain and see several lone figures that seem to have come straight out of history, it could be the ghost of Jim Bridger, Hugh Glass, Jedediah Smith, Joseph Rutherford Walker or it could be us riding long and hard on our border to border mountaineer ride! Give us a shout and we will yell the war cry back at ya!!! Adios Amigos! Time to Ride!!!

**We Ride the Same Trails as Men of the Past
We Ride the Same Trails
We Won't Be The Last....**

Rik "Hawk" Hurst©

