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Local man on a patriotic mission

by Andre A. Rodriguez published March 27, 2008 12:15 am

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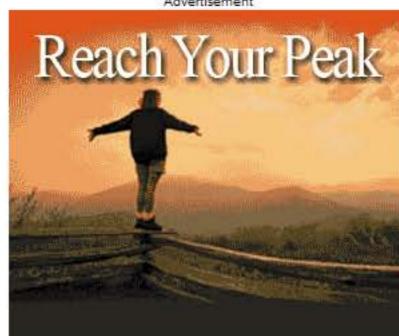
WAYNESVILLE - Peter F. Smith is on a mission to spread the good word about this country.

His Web site, AmericaTheBeautiful.com, is trying to spread pride in the United States from sea to shining sea through the sale of patriotic merchandise and his latest DVD, "The Spirit of America," a collection of classic Americana music and video to celebrate the United States of America as the greatest country in the world.

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"In the wake of the events of Sept. 11, I was disappointed to find that with all of the amazing video available, there were no video tributes to our nation's most cherished patriotic music," said Smith, founder and president of AmericaTheBeautiful.com. *I have made a heartfelt commitment to produce new media which honors and celebrates the true

The DVD includes arrangements of "America, The Beautiful," "God Bless America, "Star-Spangled Banner" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic" as well as

spirit of America."

the Pledge of Allegiance and quotations of famous Americans and a waving flag video loop. The video also has accompaniments for male and female vocalist and children's choirs.

Smith said the video has been doing well since it launched in October, but he is really excited about his latest venture. Beginning in July, a film crew from AmericanTheBeautiful.com will be hitting the road to visit cities and towns all around the nation for a new video project, "See America."

*Over course of six months been developing this tour and figure out the best way to see America and show citizens of this country what a great country we live in." Smith said. "I think the news is too focused on the bad happening in the world and forget how good we've had it in this country.

"I'm extremely excited about our mission, which is more than go and video tape the landscapes of the country. That already exists. We want to take it one step forward and interview the people of this country who make it the great land that it is."

The plan is for the film crew to visit all 50 states, Smith said. As they progress across the country they will be posting snippets of stories online for people to check out. They will produce a broadcast quality video series suitable for cable and network distribution.

In fact, Smith said he has already been contacted by a Hollywood television producer interested in what he's doing, but Smith is remaining mum on who this mysterious producer is except to say, "When I heard the name I nearly fell out of my chair."

Smith, never missing a chance to spread a little patriotic cheer, last October strapped on the stilts after a 25 year hiatus and re-launched Super Sam, his super tall Uncle Sam persona. Visitors to last fall's Apple Harvest Festival may remember his star-spangled self strolling down Main Street shaking hands and handing out flags.

"I will do occasional appearances as Super Sam. To see the amazing response to my presence there was unbelievable," Smith said. "It was amazing. That as well has helped me in my mission to reach out and spread the good word about this country.

"If I can make a difference just a little bit and touch some hearts in the people in this country and make a difference and make them a little prouder of the country they're in and supporting the promise of this country, I've done a great thing."

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Peter F. Smith, left, spreads a little patriotic cheer as the stilt-walking Super Sam. Smith, president and founder of AmericaTheBeautiful.com, is trying to spread patriotism in the United States from sea to shining sea.

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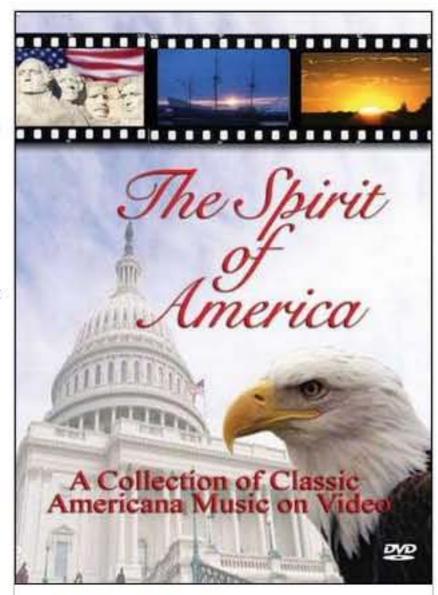
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"The Spirit of America," a DVD collection of classic Americana music and video to celebrate the United States of America as the greatest country in the world, is available at Peter F. Smith's AmericaTheBeautiful.com.

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