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Borderlands USA: or, How to Protect the Country by Car

A travel yarn by local author Ben Batchelder explores what it means to be American post 9/11 via an adventure around the U.S. borders

The country's edge reveals much about its core

Miami Beach, FL, October 22nd, 2014

Many years overseas as a expatriate, Ben Batchelder was caught by surprise when 9/11 struck. Dumbfounded, he wondered: What could he do to help?

Packing up his bags, he returned to the U.S. and decided to do the rounds of the continental U.S., kicking the tires and fixing the fences. He met many unheralded borderlanders, whose stories of hard work, patriotism, and dedication create a portrait of our borderlands far from the usual headlines. The work that resulted, called *Borderlands USA: or, How to Protect the Country by Car*, explores our multi-faceted country by its edge. Batchelder develops a concept that the large and diverse corner states (FL, ME, WA, CA, & TX) are especially emblematic of the American character. In the end, the author returns home after months on the road to an immense sense of gratitude.

“In my silver-plated VW Beetle, I drove as close to our remote borders as possible without getting arrested,” Batchelder says. “What surprised me was the quiet patriotism, striving, and dedication of our borderlanders – especially those far from the touristed tracks.”

Borderlands USA is the author’s first work. Published by Earthdog Press, May 2014, in paperback at \$14.99 with eBooks at \$3.99 and a special \$5.99 color version with 38 full-page photos, it is available at www.borderlandsusa.com/thebook or www.benbatchelder.com/books, by calling 917-273-1840 or emailing benbatchelder@gmail.com.

Batchelder has traveled extensively on backroads throughout the New World. Nothing in his background, from a degree in Visual & Environmental Studies at Harvard to an MBA from The Wharton School, adequately prepared him for the experiences. Nevertheless, travel, if well done, is a wonderful teacher.

So come follow a roadmap of discovery by visiting the author’s site www.benbatchelder.com/books or by continuing the journey at www.borderlandsusa.com.

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About the Author



Batchelder is a writer/photographer since college days who took a two decade detour through other careers before returning to old talents. A corporate career transferred him to Brazil, where he stayed on, moving inland to his writer’s retreat in the mountains of Minas Gerais. He now leads a bi-hemispheric life, coming down from the hills to the sea at Miami Beach, where he spends much of the year to not lose his English. He can be reached at benbatchelder@gmail.com or 917-273-1840, or by contacting him at benbatchelder.com or borderlandsusa.com.