

# CABIN CLIPS

June 2014

Volume 1, Issue 2

## 2014 Board Members:

Pat Baird, President

Jeff Baird, Treasurer

Ione Fejfar, Secretary

Marty Mahrt

Carol Johnson

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Debby Crowley, Editor



## Welcome 2014 OBHC Families

Preparations for the OBHC families have kept board members and volunteers busy. The first family arrived May 11.

To date, there are 18 families scheduled through September. Geographically the families are expanding. OBHC will host families from many states this year:

Florida	Tennessee
Kentucky	Ohio
Indiana	Nebraska
Colorado	North Dakota
Minnesota	Michigan
Texas	Pennsylvania
Kansas	

There are a few spots left in September for a week respite at the cabin. If you know of a qualified veteran, encourage him to apply by downloading the application on the OBHC website.

### Save the Date:

### Black Hills 2-Fly Fishing Tournament

September 19-20

**\*See Page 4-5 for Details\***

**OBHC  
Volunteers Are  
Incredible**

**OBHC Volunteers  
Logged 3,558  
Hours in 2013**

**At the Current  
Value of  
\$22.55/hour, that  
Equals \$80,233**

## Finding A New Normal Documentary

When a combat injured veteran returns home, life as the family knew it changed forever. Finding A New Normal is a documentary film that chronicles the challenges, heartache, and victories of this New Normal. Pat and Ione traveled to 3 states to interview 5 wives of injured veterans.

In this compelling film, the spouses relate how the dynamics of family life and marriage have changed. They also tell how their experience at OHBC changed their lives and allowed their family to reconnect.

Four of the five families that were interviewed have been hosted by

Operation Black Hills Cabin and the fifth family is the inspiration for this project.

Brendyn Medina of KEVN Black Hills Fox produced the documentary. Finding A New Normal won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Lunafest Film Festival for local entries.

Watch the video at  
[http://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=em-share\\_video\\_user&v=fRfXY08TSSg](http://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=em-share_video_user&v=fRfXY08TSSg)

Or visit the OBHC Facebook page

*Continued on Page 3*

## The Healing Hike



*Ellsworth 34<sup>th</sup> AMU Airmen  
And  
SD School of Mines Veterans  
Club*



*Have you met the "bravest families" in America? That is the way Tom Brokaw describes combat disabled veterans and those that support them. Our project is about giving thanks for their service to our country.*

Imagine relaxing in a swinging chair while listening to the whispering pines and smelling their pungent scent. Wildlife might be sighted or a variety of birds that live in the Black Hills. The wild flowers are stunning in the spring and summer.

It was a beautiful spring weekend in April 2014 when the Ellsworth 34<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Unit Airmen and the SD School of Mines Veterans Club came to Custer to build a Healing Hike at the Operation Black Hills Cabin. They donated their time and material for the design and development of the Healing Hike. A portion of the money used for the materials was raised by flying US flags on B1 aircraft over Iraq and Afghanistan. Individuals donated money for the memorial flags.

The volunteers enjoyed their stay in Custer at a local campground and were able to experience Custer's hospitality first hand.

The Healing Hike is a path that meanders through the OBHC property, including a picnic table, swing, and hammock.

The Healing Hike provides a setting for a veteran and his/her family to reflect and find much needed peace within nature's soothing atmosphere. Portions of the hike are accessible to wheelchairs.

Future plans include more benches, lengthening the gravel/pavers, and the addition of rocks inscribed with inspirational quotes to enhance the experience.



## New Business & Individual Support

Many thanks to new business and individual support of OBHC families. We couldn't welcome and thank our vets without the outpouring of generosity from the community.

Jon & Gail Crane	Don Fogal	Brule	1880 Train
Miner's Merchantile	Custer State Park Resort/State Game Lodge		
Top Pin Archery	Mile High Pilates & Yoga	Pizza Mill	
Buglin' Bull Sports Bar	Everything Prehistoric	Studt Construction	
Claw, Antler & Hide	Rockin' R Trail Rides		



*Pierce and Payton hold their stuffed buffalo toys given to them by Studt Construction. The boys named them Green Arrow and Red Arrow*

## Continued Support

Jewel Cave National Monument	Xanterra (Mt Rushmore)
Custer/Hill City Subway	Presidential Parking (Mt Rushmore)
Frontier Photo	Bear Country USA
Custer County Candy Company	Reptile Gardens
Alpine Inn	Crazy Horse Memorial
Custer County 1881 Museum	Four Mile Old West Town
Captain's Table	National Museum of Woodcarving
The Mammoth Site	Flora's
Dairy Queen	VFW 3442/VFW Auxilliary 344
Jenny's Floral	Baker's Bakery
Custer State Park Buffalo Safari	Beaver Lake Waterslide
Jeep Ride	Cattlemen's Steakhouse
Circle B Chuckwagon	Custer County Market
Espresso and More	Evan's Plunge
Grand Magic Show	Grizzly Gulch Mini Golf
Bobkat's Purple Pie Place	Wheels West RV Park & Restaurant
Custer Quilt Guild	Flintstones
Scotty Terrall	



## Finding A New Normal *Continued from Page 1*

The documentary gives the viewer an understanding of the challenges a family of a combat injured veteran faces in everyday life. What was once a hectic schedule of baseball games, dance recitals, and neighborhood potlucks, becomes a daily struggle filled with doctor and therapy appointments. This new life becomes the New Normal.

What is the New Normal for the spouse? She carries too much stress as her challenges can be overwhelming and frustrating. Her life is put on hold as she is on call 24x7. A new circle of friends consisting of other wives in the

same situation is formed. These new friends are not as judgmental or competitive as their former social group has become. Their future will never be easy. His life will be shortened due to his injuries and resulting medical condition. There is a financial burden as the veteran will most likely never work again. The spouse needs to stay healthy because the entire family depends on her.

*"The best part of the Custer area is that everything moves a lot slower and the whole town is so welcoming. Custer truly honors and respects veterans."*

*Zachary Robertson*

An estimated 1.1 million Americans—parents, spouses & friends—presently tend to hundreds of thousands of veterans who have returned from the post-9/11 conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan with debilitating injuries and illnesses requiring long-term care. The majority of those caregivers lack the physical, emotional, and financial support to accommodate their charges. (RAND Corp study)

## 2014 Fundraising



### Black Hills 2-Fly Fishing Tournament September 19-20, 2014 Rapid Creek & Canyon Lake

- In collaboration with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc., and South Dakota Vets on the Fly
- 24 Teams of Two, one veteran & one civilian (\$200 per team)
- Silent Auction, Fly-tying, BBQ & Awards

- Prizes for largest fish, most fish & traveling team trophy

#### Ways to Participate:

- ☛ Register a 2 person team
- ☛ Register yourself & host a veteran
- ☛ Sponsor a two-person veteran team

See Page 5 for  
2-Fly Fishing Flyer

Operation Black Hills Cabin offers a week long respite in the Black Hills to qualified combat injured veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. This enables the families an opportunity to unwind, relax and reconnect as a family. They experience smiles, laughter, and compassion, reminiscent of their previous life. The families take these good feelings home with them to resume everyday life, hopefully with a feeling of interconnection as a family. They are rejuvenated and stronger to go on with the challenges they face.

Operation Black Hills ♦ P.O. Box 855 ♦ Custer SD 57730 ♦ 605-517-1830

OperationBlackHillsCabin@gmail.com

www.OperationBlackHillsCabin.org

#### Many Thanks...

Media coverage from the  
Sioux Falls Argus Leader,  
South Dakota Magazine &  
the Custer County  
Chronicle editorials

To All the Individuals and  
Organizations Who  
Support OBHC in Many  
Different Ways

## What's Needed at OHBC?

The OBHC Board voted unanimously to give \$100 to each family to help with gas expenses and transportation. Donations are welcome as always for support of Operation Black Hills Cabin.

*As of May 30, 2014, 52,022 men & women have come home from combat with life-changing injuries*

# FISH WITH OUR HEROES



## Black Hills 2-Fly Fishing Tournament Friday, September 19 and Saturday, September 20, 2014

*Join us for our first fly fishing tournament as a benefit for two veteran organizations*

*South Dakota Vets on a Fly, affiliated with Project Healing Waters and Operation Black Hills Cabin (OBHC)*

**Friday, September 19 at 6 pm:** Registration and Wild Game Feed for tournament participants at Outdoor Campus West Rapid City.

This is where you will find out where you will fish on Saturday and participate in a fly tying event.

**Saturday, September 20 at 8 am:** Tournament begins.

Each team will fish on a stream and a lake during the tournament. A box lunch will be provided.

**Saturday at 5 pm:** Back at Outdoor Campus West

Join us for a barbeque, silent auction, prizes and hear the "fish stories of the day".

Entry fee is **\$200** for a two person team and includes all meals. Limit of 24 teams.  
Additional meals for family and friends are \$10 each for Saturday night BBQ

### Ways to Participate:

- Register a two person team
- Register yourself and host a veteran
- Sponsor a two-person veteran team

Registration forms are available by

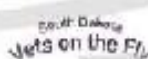
- emailing [bh2flyfishing@gmail.com](mailto:bh2flyfishing@gmail.com)
- calling 605-517-1830.
- visiting [OperationBlackHillsCabin.org](http://OperationBlackHillsCabin.org)
- stopping by Outdoor Campus West  
4130 Adventure Trail Rapid City

Make your check payable to Black Hills 2-Fly Fishing  
Tournament and mail to

PO Box 855 Custer, SD 57730

Project Healing Waters teaches fly fishing to disabled veterans or active duty military receiving treatment for a disabling condition.

Operation Black Hills Cabin provides a week respite to qualified combat disabled veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts so their immediate families can experience a supportive, relaxing environment. Both groups are 501(c)(3) charitable organizations.



Operation Black Hills Cabin  
PO Box 855  
Custer SD 57730