

CABIN CLIPS

November, 2019

2019 Board Members:

Pat Baird, President

Jeff Baird, Treasurer

Ione Fejfar, Secretary/Newsletter

Marty Mahrt, Member

Larry Zimmerman, Member

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ANOTHER SEASON, #9

Our 9th season is now behind us. We have “put the cabin to bed” for the winter and once again, we will begin our planning and scheduling for next summer. 2020 will be our 10th anniversary . . . WOW, where have the years gone? It has been quite a ride and we have learned so much. To establish and maintain a non-profit has stretched us in ways we didn’t even know we could stretch!

The most memorable moment from our leader and President, Pat Baird has been, “When we started, a saying that was a perfect fit was, ‘One rock standing alone is just a rock...many rocks together become strong and sturdy and form a wall.’ Little did I know 9 years later, that saying would still be so true. It is pretty hard to do something by one’s self, and I know that with just the few of us involved in this project, it would have been insurmountable. Because of our faithful volunteers, our awesome business owners, and our generous donors that we could not exist without,



OBHC continues to grow and bring a breath of fresh air to the hosted families that we know as American Heroes. Thank you all for being a rock in the Operation Black Hills Cabin wall!”

And from our ‘captured-and-rescued-from-Vietnam board member’, Marty Mahrt, “I feel great pride to shake the hands of these wounded vets each week. After the welcome and briefing of their week’s activities, it always ends with hugs and many times tears, because of the overwhelming support of Custer and the surrounding communities.”

For me, I have been touched the most by the care-giving spouses of our wounded veterans. I admire their determination and tenacity, and their ability to persevere through any and all hardships and still remain a role model for their families as well as their ability to find “themselves” in their chaotic lives. They are truly amazing and deserve and need this respite just as much as the wounded veteran.

We look forward to providing this healing week for 18 more families in 2020. ***If you know of any combat wounded veteran from Iraq/Afghanistan, please help us spread the word and encourage them to apply.*** The application is on our website along with any additional information they might need. Again, we thank all of our weekly sponsors, our volunteers and donors. We could not have made a difference to 115 families from 34 states without you! If we’ve healed but one veteran, reconnected just one family or prevented one suicide, we’ve accomplished our mission.

NEW SPONSORS!

We were happy to add 4 new sponsors in 2019. These sponsors were wonderful additions to the various restaurants, attractions and recreational activities already offered to our families each week. Here are some of the comments received:

DAVE'S WORLD TOURS – “One of a kind! We loved this tour. Thanks for all the wonderful memories.”

CUSTER YMCA/SWIMMING PRIVILEGES – “Outstanding, kids loved it!”

BUFFALO RIDGE ADVENTURE RENTALS - “Very fun, great way to see your area!”

THE LOST SOCK – Tara graciously washes, dries and folds the sheets from all the beds used in the cabin each week. This is a tremendous time saver for the volunteer cleaners. We love you, Tara, from the Lost Sock.



WE NOW HAVE MUSIC!

It never ceases to amaze us what thoughtful people think of to add to the cabin.

As you know, we have no TV or internet at the cabin, only reconnection items such as books, board games, puzzles, corn hole, and scavenger hunts. One of our families from 2019 brought a brand new Gibson acoustic guitar, complete with case, which was donated by Mike Fuller of Fuller Guitars of Houston, Texas. Research and studies have proven music to be very therapeutic and healing. What a great addition to OBHC!



We WILL BE on TV!

We were very fortunate to be contacted by **Scott St.Sauver** from **American Heroes Outdoors**, requesting to do a segment highlighting **OBHC** and one of our families. This past June, his crew spent 3 days in Custer filming and interviewing and the results were amazing! Although the actual show will not appear on selected **FOX** networks and **MIDCO** cable until April of 2020, you can see a portion on YouTube at **American Heroes Outdoors – Operation Black Hills Cabin**. **Check it Out!** Many thanks go to **Scott** and his crew and to the **Matt and Darci Drinkwalter** family of Montana. It was a fun experience for all.

We are so Thankful!

'Tis that time of year when we all reflect and give thanks. We at OBHC are thankful for so many things, too numerous to mention them all, but here are a few:

1. Our faith which sustains us;
2. The wonderful country we live in and the freedoms which we enjoy;
3. The brave men and women who protect those freedoms;
4. The Custer community and surrounding areas that join us in this project;
5. The many volunteers who selflessly give of their time and talent;
6. The many donors, individuals, groups and organizations who give so that we can operate.

FEELING
GRATITUDE
 AND NOT
 EXPRESSING IT
 IS LIKE
**WRAPPING A
 PRESENT**
 AND NOT
 GIVING IT.

~WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD~

Angela Lee

As we approach our 10th year of operation, we will continue our efforts to say “Thank You” to our combat wounded veterans and families because we are **“The Healing Place.”**

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Each newsletter, we attempt to highlight “one of our own”, whether it be a board member, a committee, a donor or an individual. This issue we will highlight a person who works behind the scenes, all year long. This person provides a wonderful and much needed service to OBHC in many ways:

1. He provides constant vigilance all year, watching and informing us of any unwanted activity at the cabin. He lives just next door.
2. He uses his own riding mower to cut our lawn. This prevents the outdoor maintenance volunteers from having to trailer in a mower each week. The outdoor maintenance volunteers continue to do the hand mowing, weeding and spraying and many other tasks that Jeff assigns.
3. He plants and maintains “Gerald’s Hillside” with wildflowers throughout the summer.
4. He donates several jars of fresh honey from his bees that we use as door prizes at our Appreciation Evenings.
5. He shares his grapes, cherries, flowers and love with all of us.
6. He continues to be the best neighbor we could ever hope for with his neighborly chats, advice and suggestions.

THANK YOU, GERALD SCOTT!

