

# CABIN CLIPS



## IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR . . .

A Way to Say Thank You

### "WHY WOULD THEY BE SO KIND?"

It was a question a disabled veteran asked about the people and businesses in Custer, SD. Suffering from "depression, memory loss, cognitive issues, hearing loss, sleep apnea, anxiety and numerous other issues...these are some of the things that my husband faces every day. He rarely smiles; he spends his days at the VA and detests to do anything that is out of his routine," his wife wrote to the organizers of Operation Black Hills Cabin. After less than a half week in our cozy cabin nestled in the pine trees, "my husband is playing blocks with his children. He is laughing

and smiling — something that I can't remember the last time I saw. Honestly, it is not because of me or our kids, it is because of you—the town of Custer, SD. Thank you all for opening your hearts, your business and your friendship to my family. This is our once-in-a-lifetime experience and we recognize this." This is one of many stories from our veteran families that have unfolded because the town of Custer and surrounding area rallied around the idea of doing something special for disabled veterans. In 2014, we hosted eighteen families from

eleven different states.

It is reactions like this that make Operation Black Hills Cabin and all its volunteers certain that they are doing something meaningful to help heal those who have sacrificed so much for our country. We are currently taking applications for May through September of 2015. Applications can be found on our website.

We look forward to your continuing partnership with OBHC!



"Healing Hike" Rock

## WE ROCK IT!

Many thanks to the 34th Aircraft Maintenance Unit at Ellsworth Air Force Base for the sixteen inspirational rocks placed and anchored on the "Healing Hike". The path meanders through the property at the cabin and provides a setting for a veteran and his/her family to reflect and find much-needed peace within nature's soothing atmosphere. Sixteen additional rocks have been ordered to complete this healing walk with funding from the First Interstate Custer Area Fund.



Volume 1, Issue 3

November, 2014

#### 2014 BOARD MEMBERS

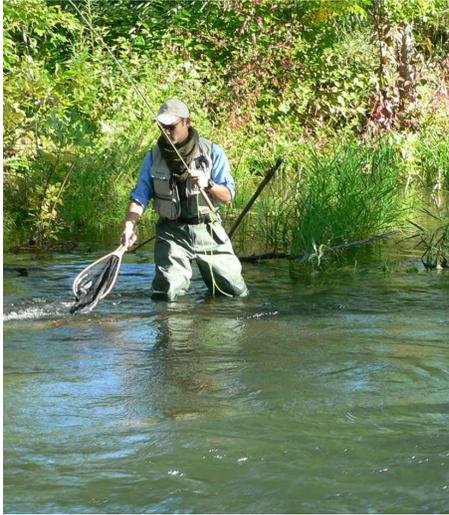
- Pat Baird, President
- Jeff Baird, Treasurer
- Ione Fejfar, Secretary/ Newsletter
- Marty Mahrt
- Carol Johnson

#### Inside this issue:

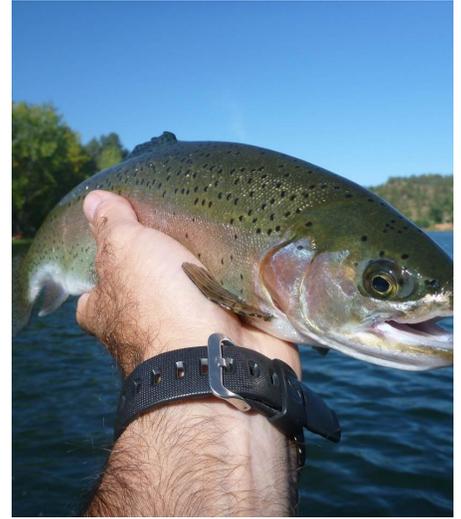
It WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR . . .	1
WE ROCK IT!	1
FISH TALES	2
WE WON 1ST PLACE!	2
ON OUR WISH LIST	2
DID YOU KNOW?	3
GIFTS RECEIVED	3
WHAT OUR FAMILIES ARE SAYING	3
WE GIVE THANKS	4

**As of October 31, 2014, 52,281 men and women have come home from combat with life-changing injuries.**

# FISH TALES



A great time was had by all at our first Black Hills 2-Fly Fishing Tournament in September held at the Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City. Anglers fished in Rapid Creek and in Canyon Lake. The weather could not have been better, with the exception of some afternoon winds, and the fish were biting! Winners were awarded for Most Fish and Largest Fish. A big THANK YOU from OBHC and South Dakota Vets on a Fly, affiliated with Project Healing Waters, to all team sponsors, participants and donators.



## WE WON 1ST PLACE!

Thank You to the 300 plus taste testers who voted for us at the Buffalo Wallow Chili Cookoff held in Custer State Park in conjunction with the Buffalo Round Up. \$500 will enable us to host one family in 2015!



"It is great to see how a community pulls together for people they don't know, and recognize the sacrifice our families have made. You have a true heart here in South Dakota." Shepherd family, Col Springs, CO

## ON OUR WISH LIST

With the holidays soon approaching, Operation Black Hills Cabin has a few wishes on our list:

Event Photographer/videographer - Must be available at OBHC events and special activities.

Scrapbook Enthusiast - Will compile a Shutterfly Book commemorating each year of OBHC.

Digital Resource Manager - Will monitor and research all digital and social media sites.

Cabin Cleaners - We can always use more cleaners so we can have a week off!

People with innovative ideas and a giving heart - to help in all areas of OBHC.

We are 100% volunteer so if you can spare some time to help, give us a call at 605-517-1830 or email us at [operationblackhillscabin@gmail.com](mailto:operationblackhillscabin@gmail.com).



Bryana, Colton and Sulley find "GOLD" during their week at OBHC!

# DID YOU KNOW?

- OBHC has hosted a total of 41 families so far from 21 different states.
- 12 restaurants, 18 attractions, 12 gift shops and 6 services are currently offering coupons to each family.
- 110 active volunteers have helped OBHC in 2014.
- The value of a 6 night/7 day stay is approximately \$4,000 per family.
- We have NOT had one family from South Dakota!
- Colorado boasts the most families probably due to a Traumatic Brain Injury/PTSD facility located there.
- It takes \$12,000 per year, based on current expenses, to keep OBHC operating.
- Transportation costs are the responsibility of each family. We do provide them with \$100 in Custer Bucks to spend locally.
- Getting the word out continues to be our biggest challenge.



# GIFTS RECEIVED

A big THANK YOU shout goes to the following organizations who have donated so generously to date in 2014:

- 34th AMU, Ellsworth AF Base
- Lynn’s Dakotamart pie sales
- BH Chapter Military Officers Association
- Custer Pool League
- Xanterra Jeans Day
- Custer Lutheran Fellowship, WELCA
- Star Academy Jeans Day
- Willow Lake Lions Club
- Women Veterans of Black Hills
- Keystone Congregational Church
- George Thomas Memorial
- FICAF grant
- Ketel Thorstenson Jeans Day
- Lynns Dakotamart We Care Program
- Spyder Riders of America Club
- Rotary Club of Hot Springs
- Rushmore German Club
- Dacotah Bank
- Claw, Antler & Hide
- Corps League Warrior Detachment
- SD Federation Republican Women
- Potter County Republican Women
- Cenkota Republican Women of Pierre

We appreciate the many individual donations we have received as well, and honor your privacy. We know there are many worthwhile charities and organizations to whom you can donate your money and we are forever grateful that you picked us!



# WHAT OUR FAMILIES ARE SAYING . . .

“There are angels on Earth, and a pocketful right here.”

“Custer is truly a gold mine of America’s truest patriotic people.”

“Truly an amazing experience that allowed a break from our frantic life and allowed us to focus on our family and heal together.”

“This opportunity came at a time in my life where I needed to be reminded of the good in this world. Everyone involved with this operation is a blessing. Thank you for making us feel special.”

“OBHC is a blessing to all wounded veterans. The way the community comes together and supports us is astounding! The cabin is beautiful and so serene. My husband and I were able to connect with each other on a level we can’t in everyday life. We will be sure to tell our family to come to Custer, SD for their vacation!”

“The entire experience has been unbelievable. It has made us appreciate each other as a family in a less distracting setting, but with powerful experiences!”

## Operation Black Hills Cabin

---

PO Box 855  
Custer, SD 57730

Phone: 605-517-1830  
E-mail: [operationblackhillscabin@gmail.com](mailto:operationblackhillscabin@gmail.com)  
[www.operationblackhillscabin.org](http://www.operationblackhillscabin.org)



On this Veteran's Day, 2014, and on everyday, we at OBHC are thankful for many things:

- \* For all the men and women who give their lives and service to protect our freedom.
- \* For all the volunteers that give their time and talents to help us.
- \* For our own cabin, thanks to the State of South Dakota and the City of Custer!
- \* For the generosity and support of all the wonderful people of Custer, the Black Hills and beyond.
- \* For the beautiful world in which we live. Haven't we had the most awesome Summer and Fall?
- \* For all our freedoms, too numerous to list.
- \* For time to think, ponder and reflect.

We at OBHC hope that you will find the time to think, ponder and reflect and, in some way, say Thank-You to those who have given so much for us.