

# The Coot & Holler Gazette



Vol. 21 #5  
Post-OTR Edition

Progressive News of the Old Timers Reunion

## It Finally Happened!

After 2 years of COVID cancellations, we FINALLY were able to meet for the 71st Old Timer's Reunion! I can tell you that Shack is relieved to get that one done and pass the Chairmanship for the 72nd OTR off to Ben Mirabile. Registration Count of 1257 and lots of green space for you!



## Coot & Holler has a new editor

Carol and Bill Jackson, the editor and roving photographer/reporter for 20 years, decided to retire from the late night editing and printing and early delivery throughout the campground. They were presented a plaque thanking them for their services over the years at the Sunday night Awards Ceremony. As the new editor, I (Ruth Williams) accepted on their behalf as they were not in attendance.

Following in Carol's footsteps is not a small task but I was lucky to have the support and writings of Jim Kramer and Joel Jacobs as well as the cutest paperboy ever! Shack's son, Jonathon, delivered copies to various camps some mornings. His stint as paperboy was short lived as he decided that he was not an early morning person!

Did you know that you can submit articles and personal ads? You can email them to [cootholler@otr.org](mailto:cootholler@otr.org) or place them in the box on Cooters bar. Pick up the Coot and Holler at the yellow boxes by the bulletin boards or at Cooters for you reading material over that morning coffee.

## Cha-cha-changes

Along with the Coot and Holler editor change, there have been a couple others to note. After 15 years, Mike Oatney stepped down from acting as the **OTR Treasurer** and Pat Cuttier, out TRA Treasurer performed the duties this year. Mike was presented a plaque at the Sunday TRA Board Meeting at the Event Tent to commemorate his years of service.

Norma Dee Peacock is in the process of retiring as the **OTR Vendor Coordinator** after many years in the position and spent this year showing the ropes to Dave Fricke who will be taking over for her.

Look for new features in the next OTR's C&H like a Grotto Spotlight and "Do you Remember when..."



Stephen "Doc" Mosberg has also turned over the reins of the **First Aide** operations to Phil Goldman. This is part of what Phil had to say about his appointment with the complete statement posted on [otr.org](http://otr.org)

"This was my first year as the Assistant Director of First Aide and man do I have some difficult shoes to fill! Doc's years of service to OTR and TRA has set a very high standard of care for our attendees, and I hope to be able to continue to maintain that. Fear not... Doc will still be in charge of 1st Aid medically; I've just taken over the

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

daily operations. I love working with him and every year I learn new things from him. His depth and breadth of knowledge are vast, and his willingness to share it really adds to the culture of First Aide. I've been a volunteer in First Aide for about 5 years now (I haven't exactly kept track) and my background is as a 911 paramedic in a busy urban fire house. First Aide is run as a team, and all skill levels, from layperson to ER Physician have an important role to play."

## Event Tent Happenings

Did you happen upon the Event Tent this year? You may have encountered a Yoga Session, Paint and Sip or Print Making. You may have attended a WVACS meeting, a 1950 Society Gathering or a History of OTR talk. The Event Tent was created to be a venue where cave related talks and activities could take place, a little further down Vendor's Row and away from all the activities at the Pavilion. We welcome everyone interested in sharing an update on their caving activities; be it a survey, scientific study, cave exploration. Look for their schedule next year and, if there is something you want to present, email [EventTent@otr.org](mailto:EventTent@otr.org) to get on the schedule. Visit [OTR.org](http://OTR.org) for pictures from the events.



## In case you missed it...OTR 2022 Highlights

**Thursday:** At the Lutz Rock Memorial Garden, we raised the flags officially opening the 71st OTR at 6:00 pm and remembered 24 of our friends and family who passed since our last reunion. We then gathered around the Bonfire at dusk to welcome the first-timers to OTR, affectionally named 'Virgins', and lit the Bonfire in the shape of a Family Tree...and the merriment of all being together again commenced!

**Friday:** Yes, we had contests! From the young to the old enjoyed the Obstacle Course, Poster Making, Sleeping Bag Contest, Lamp Assembly and Chugging Contest...How do they do that?!? (Vertical Contests to return next year) There was also music! A jam session at noon at the river stage followed by the ROOTs and TOOTs Social at Cooters. Did you know that ROOTs attended 40 OTRs and TOOTs 60? Stop by next year's gathering and chat with some of these fellow Old Timers! Back again for I lost count of the number of years, The Shanty Irish, played their traditional Irish music at Cooters in the evening. Following up the Shanty Irish was a local band, The Jesse Milnes Band, who played on the Pavilion Stage their Country mixed with old time Appalachian music mixed with Rock and Roll....and the beer flowed at Brew Crew while the bonfire once again was lit and surrounded by old friends! And the Dome was hopping over the bridge...

**Saturday:** The Annual Doo-Dah Parade kicked off Saturday Morning with Grand Marshall Emily Davis of Speleobooks leading a very small but energetic parade through the campground. After the Doo-Dah Parade, the 5th Bubbles Fun Run gathered at the Pavilion to start their Hash Run through the campground. There were young and old, men and women, all in red dresses and feather boas to remember the fun that Bubbles brought to life. Look at this crowd! I am sure that Bubbles is smiling!



And there was more merriment with Batman the Magician performing his magic for the young and young at heart crowd followed by more music with the Jam at the River Stage and Grateful Gary at Cooters. There was Todd Burge in the Pavilion to enjoy while eating your BBQ Pork dinners followed up by the amazing Black Masala, with complete horn section, rocking that full dance floor!

**Sunday:** Sunday morning was quite busy with the Yard Sale and TRA Elections in the pavilion and the Fall TRA Board meeting at the Event Tent. Did you vote for the two TRA Board members? Bud Shaw and Norma Peacock were the winners. Of course, all of this was overshadowed by the ever well-attended River Party. The Wild Rumpus performed on stage and the people came. There were chairs set up, floats inflated and a good time was had by all until the rain came down and the band had to move to the Pavilion as not to damage their equipment.



Later Sunday evening, was the Award Ceremony where there were 2 Stevens Awards and 12 Fellows award-

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

ed covering the last 2 years when we did not meet. After the contest awards, Buzz City played in the 10th Anniversary Band Aide and raised \$1100 as well as receiving an anonymous donation of money to purchase an AED.



**Monday:** Somehow, Monday always sneaks up on us...We all have to pack up the gear and say our goodbyes to our friends, many who we will not see until next year. Of course, Mother Nature decided to grace us with some liquid sunshine so we all had some of that West Virginia mud to take home with us.

### Now the planning begins for OTR 2023!

Ben Mirabile will be the 2023 Chairman for the 72nd OTR and he is the most prepared Chairman ever having been in the role of Vice-Chairman for 4 years! Ben is planning to bring back **The Roaring 20s** so get that imagination going and plan a Doo-Dah Parade entry. Ladies, get that Flapper dress and cigarette holder ready and Guys, that bow-tie and suspenders out. Don't forget your newsboy cap or derby hat for the Speakeasy that I am sure will be rocking!

