

The Coot & Holler Gazette

Vol. 21 #3 Saturday
September 3, 2022

Progressive News of the Old Timers Reunion



IT'S GREAT MAN! By Jim Kramer

"One man in a hundred thinks it's a privilege to cut his own grass." Thorton Wilder

Terraforming from swamp to pasture to manicured lawn dotted with mature shade trees, we've come a long way. Like the roads, water lines, electricity and structures, these well-groomed grounds did not just happen...and they are still evolving.

In 1980, 15 yr-old John "Mowdacamp" Harris came to Alpine Shores. By the 90's he was a regular peon at TRA Work Weekends when Bud Shaw asked if I could run a weed whacker. Since then he says, "I've done lots of jobs, but I gravitated toward the grounds." For years, he commuted 35 miles from Laneville to cut the grass. "They would reimburse me for belts, oil, and fuel, but other than the old Gravely, I supply the equipment." John started with a 48" Cub Cadet, he upgraded to a 58" Massey and now he has a 62' 0-turn Toro that lets him mow the whole property in two days. But grass never sleeps and since he retired two years ago, he spends more time at the site. "I pretty much live here." He has a trailer and a carport to garage the equipment, but during work weekends, he hosts the grounds crew and a bunch of regulars. No wonder with a kitchen, a fine bar great eats and animated conversation." John inherited Glenn Koonie's mobile cooker, so he roasts pigs for the people. "I guarantee you," he says. "that Glenn is smiling in heaven."



The core grounds team includes Angie, Lucian, Brent and Jonathon, but keeping up with John is a challenge. "Over the years I've worked my ass off. I love to feed the people." He looks over the fiends and grins, "Every tree you see here is one that I didn't cut down

Saturday

7:30am OTR 5K Run/Walk (meet at Front Gate at 7am)
9am - 9pm Registration open
9am - 5pm Contests resume
10am The 34th Annual Doo-Dah Parade
10am-12pm Sauna opens - Textiles Only
11am Cooters Pub opens
11am-4pm OTR Museum open
11:30am 'Batman the Magician' Pavilion
12 Noon The 5th Annual Bubbles Fun Run
12 Noon The Raunchy River Jam!! River Stage
12-1:45pm Live music: Grateful Gary @Cooters
12:30pm Children's Activities (after 'Batman')
1pm TRA Town Hall Meeting @ the Pavilion

4:30pm Panoramic photo (we need everybody!) Bonfire
5:30pm 'Family Reunion Dinner' - Pick up meals from caterer on Vendor's Row
6:30-8pm Live music: Todd Burge @ the Pavilion
8pm Brew Crew opens
Dusk (±8:30) Movie Crawl-In Theater
9pm - 12:00am Live music: Black Masala @ the Pavilion
2am Last Call at Cooters Pub (may close earlier)
2am Last Call at Brew Crew Pavilion
4am Sauna closes

Saturday Night Featured Band: Black Masala



They are back again for an encore performance! Black Masala's Brassy Midnight Party Grooves from NoLa to Punjab on Trains and Moonlight Destinies. You want to have a good time? You need brass. This is what DC's Black Masala blasts to the world, harnessing all the good times sunk in the Romany, second-line, bhangra, and funk horn parts that have gotten huge swaths of the planet up and dancing. With rock drive and a willingness to be as weird and wonderful as the party demands, Black Masala woos fans and new listeners with their album Trains and Moonlight Destinies, a tribute to the ins and outs of love, fate, and wanderlust.

Gate Volunteers

Have a few hours to spare? Gate Volunteers are needed both today and Sunday. See Roger June or Brad Smith to sign up!

Thank you to the Randolph County Health Department for the donation of over \$1000 of lifesaving medical supplies!

Family Dinner

Don't have dinner plans tonight? Meal Tix for the Family Dinner still available! Stop by the Merch tent (Between the Security and Chairman's Trailer) between 3 and 5 to purchase. \$20 cash and

What's up? By Joel Jacobs

The North Star, Stella Polaris. The Pole Star. Just one degree from the celestial pole. There is a southern one, too, but we can't see it from here. Looking at the sky it is the only star that does not appear to move. All the other stars seem to rotate around it. The closer a star is to it the less it moves. Stars that set, always in the west, are far from it. To find it, locate the Big Dipper, Ursa Major, and trace a line from the two stars at the end of the giant ladle to the alpha star in Ursa Minor, the Little Dipper, about the distance of three fists held at arm's length. Do this early in the evening, go party and look up five or six hours later. Notice how all the other stars have moved but it has not.

Editor's Note: In case you are interested, The Artmis 1 launch is scheduled for 2:17 pm EST

OTR History Continues...

Davis 1950-1953

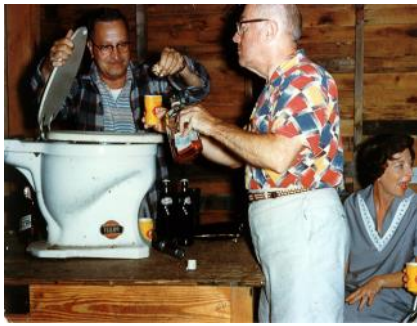
These reunions quickly became a NSS pilgrimage to Davis with attendance reaching 100 participants. Annual activities included a trek to The Sinks of Gandy and all who went through were inducted into the "IBINTHROUGHTHESINKS CLUB". Rappelling demonstrations were held from the hotel. The Davis VFD gave rides to cavers on the fire truck, there was square dancing in the streets, trip to Mystic cave, concerts, cakewalks, and banquets were popular activities.

Franklin 1954-58

In 1954, OTR moved to Dahmer's Hotel in Franklin, WV (later the Franklin Hotel) where partying went from room to room. Registration was \$1.00 and camping was free. NSS members with numbers under 100 were given special privileges. The usual activities took place including a hayride to Smoke Hole caverns in Tommy Watts' flatbed trailer. The highlight in 1957, was a treasure hunt in Schoolhouse Cave. Tommie Watts hosted the reunion for 1955-56 and Marguerite Klein Miller hosted the 1957-60 reunions. In 1958 the reunion moved to McCoy's Mill.



Marlinton 1959 - 60 Before returning to Franklin for 1961-1975



For the years 1959-60 a shortage of accommodations in Franklin as a result of the construction of the Naval radio telescope, resulted in the reunion being held at the Kelley Hotel in Marlinton with camping at Watoga State Park and the Sugar shack.

1961 saw OTR moved back to McCoy's Mill in Franklin, WV. This would be the home for over a decade of gatherings.. Here many traditions were made, and others broken. Several awards which were given that include "The Little Brown Jug" to the biggest, continuous lush; the "Party-Pooper-of-the Year" to the former partier gone sober; "the Granny-of-the-Year" to a lady who had appeared to have stopped caving; and the "Life-of-the-Party" which needs no explanation. After all the awards had been given, the OTR chairman always called out: "...so let's have a BRANEWPARDY!".

During this time OTR grew from 100 to 850 attendees.

There were memorable events during these years such as Canadian Bagpipers playing at 6:00 am, doing the Limbo, Polka dancing and even the Mill being stuffed with balloons. The party became the highlight of OTR and they started using black lights and stobe lights for the over 800 now in attendance.

More to come tomorrow.

Cooters Pub is excited to announce that we are offering, for the first time, a beverage from Big Timber Brewing that is suitable for all ages of our OTR Family. Big Timber makes an incredible non-alcoholic root beer, and it is available for purchase at Cooters Pub either via a "root beer" punch card or by single sales. The "root beer" punch card costs \$5.00 and is good for four 12-ounce servings. A single 12-ounce pour of root beer can be purchased for \$1.50. Bring the whole family to Cooters and enjoy a high quality, locally brewed craft beer or root beer. Make sure stop by during the evening hours as Cooters will once again be providing complementary popcorn for you to enjoy at OTR.

TRA Elections

TRA Elections for 2 elected trustees will take place on Sunday in the Pavilion.

Do you want to help make decisions for TRA? Run for TRA Trustee! To submit your name, please see Ruth or Charlie Williams at the Coot & Holler new headquarters behind Cooters at Cooter-ville to have your picture taken and officially sign up.

There is RECYCLING at OTR!

Plastic #1 & 2, cans, & cardboard. NO glass. Please separate your recyclables and put in the appropriate hole in the big white bin!

Be Mindful

There are A LOT of kids in attendance this OTR and we LOVE it. Please be careful when driving on site and backing out onto the roads.

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Obstacle Course and Contests

Congrats and KUDOs to Sterling Dawson and the rest of the AWESOME DAWSONs for an amazing obstacle course. You all really stepped up and provided such fun energy to the river and that course!!!



Join the National Speleological Society or pay your dues at the Speleobooks tent on vendors row

Custom router work at the FART corral on Saturday 1:00 pm ~TRAWWG

Today I am marrying the one who makes us whole. I love you, Carly with all my being. RSO

Shorah, New ages now open in the Caverns. ~Caver 1

Amanda hit it out of the park with the graphics for this year's logo! Thanks for all you do!

Yesterday, Bud Shaw had a milestone birthday. Happy, Happy Birthday!!!

Congrats to Eddie Whichard and Bud Shaw for becoming ROOTS this year!!! ~ Ruth and Charlie

Fang, Thanks for bringing back the OTR Stickers!!! What a surprise!!!