

The Coot & Holler Gazette

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Progressive News of the Old Timers Reunion



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Like many members of TRA's sprawling organization, TAFO's own Dave and Denny Woods – yes, they ARE brothers, and yes, they ARE twins sharing the same ripe age of 72 – have been working behind the scene. Their dirty deed is cleaning up OTR's trash. A constant since 2005 when then OTR Chair Lizette "Lizzie" Molina commandeered them into action, the duo rise before 7am each morning of OTR when many are just climbing into bed after a night of partying. They previously drove Jim Forsythe's old truck around, but now steer a United rental truck over the crisscross of OTR's roadways, making multiple stops along the way to load the black garbage bags into the bed of their vehicle.

When it's time to heave-ho the debris into the containers along Old Timers Road, Dave and Denny keep their fingers crossed that the 55 gallon heavy mil bags stay intact. There's that storyline they relate where one of the heavier bags literally split wide open dousing the guys with, as they say, "beer, blood and mud." They're a lot more cautious now and they've seen it all ... the good, the bad, and the ugly, yet they still stick with their three times daily routine. No Sleep – No Rest, Dawn to Dusk was their earliest motto when ice delivery was another of their duties. TRA has awarded both Dave and Denny the Fellow award, and Lizzie further honored them with the coveted Golden Brush award.

An unusual incident happened one morning as they collected garbage at the Pavilion following the previous night's partying. A young attendee sleeping near the bonfire climbed into their vehicle and promptly fell fast asleep on the steering wheel causing the truck horn to blare non-stop. Security team escorted the inebriated lad up to First Aid for a nap.

The brothers welcome assistance when OTR's members step up to lend a hand, but also know the hazards that can occur. Just this weekend, a kind Good Samaritan at one pick-up location unceremoniously dumped the trash bag contents onto himself. Yuck!

Both brothers are now retired and usually arrive the weekend prior to OTR to help set the message boards into place around the campsites and prepare for Old Timers Reunion. Denny recently moved to Avon, Colorado after selling his former home in Farmington, New Mexico where he was a nurse anesthetist. Dave served his professional time with the federal government administering Workmens Compensation programs. He hails from Cleveland, Ohio. Thanks for all you do, Denny & Dave!



Sunday

8am, Gathering of Believers, Memorial Garden

9am – 6pm, Registration Open

9am – 1pm, OTR Yard Sale, Pavilion

9am – 4pm, TRA Elections, Pavilion

9am – 10am, Sauna closed for cleaning

9:30, TRA Board Meeting, Event Tent

10am, Sauna Opens

10am, NCRC Eastern Regional Annual Meeting (All Welcome), Dome

10am – Noon, OTR Quilter's Guild Annual Meeting, Cooters Pub

1pm, Cooters Pub Open

1pm, Contest Awards for Vertical Contest, Obstacle Course & Chugging, Pavilion

2pm – 5pm, River Party, Tygart River

2pm – 5pm, Wild Rumpus performs, River Stage

8pm, TRA / OTR Awards Ceremony, Pavilion

9pm, Brew Crew Opens, Pavilion

9pm, 10th Annual Band-Aid featuring Buzz City, Pavilion

Midnight, Last Call at Brew Crew for OTR 2022

Midnight, Last Call at Cooters Pub for OTR 2022 (may close earlier)

4am, Sauna Closes for OTR 2022



Sunday River Party Band: The Wild Rumpus

Originally formed in 2007, The Wild Rumpus has been spreading their Appalachian Stompgrass to a worldwide audience. Their first album "Love, Trains, Home" garnered critical and national acclaim, culminating in winning the "Fans Choice Award" for best new band from the Alternate Root Magazine, the #1 magazine for roots/Americana music in the US and Europe, topping bands such as Mumford & Sons, Elephant Tent Revival and a host of other bands and were awarded a spot in the Americana Music Festival in Nashville TN. They released their second album "304" in Oct.2010 and immediately their name became well known by fans and critics alike. 2011/2012 saw them playing festivals to thousands of fans, including Merlefest, Bristol Rhythm and Roots, The Americana Music Ass. Festival once again along with tours all over the US. They were featured in various magazines and television shows, including a taping for Martin Guitars at their world-famous headquarters in Nazareth PA for a promotional video along with Yarn and Brian Molnar. They have toured and played shows with such

luminaries as The Hackensaw Boys, Old Crow Medicine Show, Holy Ghost Tent Revival, Langhorn Slim, Ricky Skaggs, Tony Rice and many others.

Honors...

George Dasher was honored and awarded a plaque for editing The West Virginia Caver for 40 years! Now that shows passion and dedication. Congratulations, George!

What's up? By Joel Jacobs

Legend has it that a giant scorpion was created by the Earth goddess Gaia to chase after and kill Orion, the hunter, because he was such a braggart and threatened to kill all the animals. There are many myths associated with this story but in the end Zeus stepped in and placed them 180 degrees apart in the sky so they could not continue fighting. Look for Scorpio with the scarlet red giant Antares at its heart after dusk and Orion with the bright orange red Betelgeuse in the hunters shoulder just before dawn.

West Virginia Cave Conservancy Acquisitions

WVCC has been able to acquire a 3.5 acre parcel containing Friars Hole Cave and Icebox Cave on August 4, 2022. This means that WVCC is preserving access to over 150 miles of cave to qualified NON-COMMERCIAL cavers. See more information on the WVCC website: wvcc.net/cave-preserves/



OTR History Continues...

Petersburg 1976

OTR continued to grow and in 1976 the reunion was held at 4-H Camp Echo in Petersburg. It was to be the only year the reunion would be held at this location. The word had gotten out and although entry was restricted, there were way too many non-cavers present. It was decided that another location for the reunion would be necessary the next year.

Bowden 1977-1885

The Old Timers Reunion is growing, and a larger campground was needed. The organizers decided on Alpine Shores campground in Bowden. This had great facilities for our event, complete with a large pavilion and a river for water activities. We had become a tent city and it was becoming more difficult keeping locals and biker gangs out. were created and the obstacle course became every more creative and torturous.

TRA is Born

In 1978 it became very evident that the Old Timers Reunion had grown to such proportions that some formal structure was necessary. The attendance at our event was growing very rapidly and many non-cavers were attending. Eventually a group consisting of prior OTR Chairs and other key individuals formed a governing board known as The Robertson Association (TRA). This was named after Robbie Robertson who organized the early reunions. TRA incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and provided memberships to the new organization and you had to prove to be a caver for membership. In 1985, TRA was able to purchase 24 acres of land with enough space for our future reunions and that space is where we still are meeting today. It was developed it into a campground containing a 40' x 100' pavilion, gravel roads, a water well with storage tank and distribution lines, electricity, gas, phones, benches, showers, and bathrooms. We planted 1,500 trees on the property. All of this was done with donations of time and money from cavers to prepare the site for OTR 1986. With support of its members, the mortgage on the property was paid off in record time and a fake mortgage was burned at OTR 1989.

Dailey 1986 – Present

Over the years reunions have become more organized. There are schedules to be followed, bands to be booked, beer, ice and porta-johns to be ordered and the property to be kept up. Attendance grew to 2,400 people for our 50th reunion in 1999 though it has since dropped to a more manageable number of 1,500 attendees. In 2011 we replaced the aging pavilion with the wonderful new building you see now. 2015 the Cooters Pub was built, 2018 the showers were replaced with modern facilities, and in 2020 the hot tub was replaced with a rather large in ground version.



OTR is still the party. There is still campground wandering, beer bumming, lie swapping, good talk – just like old times.

Contests have continued to evolve. We have had from time to time, tug-a-war, zip line, raft race, tiki bar and campsite decorating, fun run, beer chugging, and more.

We have an event tent for presentations and grotto meetings. A memorial garden where our friends and fellow cavers who have passed are remembered each year in a memorial service.

The party continues for 4 days with bands, free beer and other entertainment and, since 2001, each reunion has been theme based which allows the party goers to participate in some way or another.



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. Andy Celmer, Norma Dee Peacock, Bud Shaw and Ruth Williams are on the ballot.

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!

Psychiatric Help

Two volunteers possessing therapeutic skills have offered to continue The Spider Hacheis tradition of offering Psychiatric Help for the competitive rate of 5 cents. Working out of an open-air facility beneath the Dead Puppies Grotto banner, the doctors will be in following the River Stage show on Sunday afternoon. Don't be shy about stopping by.

Olde Timey Photographs

Old timey images using time honored methods are offered free of charge on Sunday at the mini-dome in the Dead Puppies Grotto camp. Because of technical limitations, this opportunity is for individuals or couples only. Hours are from 11am-1pm, or by appointment. Please dress appropriately.

“Band Aide” Please make plans to attend the 10th annual Buzz City Grotto “Band Aide” Benefit Concert Sunday night in the Pavilion. If you didn't get the special edition “concert” T shirt there are a few available for purchase at First Aid. \$25.00 with all profits to benefit the Medical Equipment Fund.

Gate Jam After the Buzz City Grotto Benefit Concert, head on up to the Gate for some low-key jam. See what goes on up at the Gate around the fire and consider volunteering for a shift or two.

The Great Gate Raffle Find Roger June to collect your prizes 370019, 318025, 318216, 370128, 318299, 370130, 318323

Many Thanks to Carol and Bill Jackson for 20 years of being the Coot & Holler editor and roving reporter. You set a high bar for me. Thanks also to Jim Kramer and Joel Jacobs for continuing to provide content.

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

SQUIRRELS ABOUND! Stop by Cooters and ask to see 'THE KING OF SQUIRRELS'! He will regale you with stories of his

Creative Creations-Lynne (Taylor) Smith will be at the Yard Sale.