

Check out what WWIA has been up to this summer!



Notes from the Field: June & July, 2016

Summertime at WWIA means spending time on the water. From halibut fishing in Alaska to red snapper, grouper and amberjack fishing off the coast of Alabama, our Heroes have experienced some once-in-a-lifetime adventures on America's waterways. Fishing with fellow Purple Heart recipients gives these Wounded Warriors a chance to bond with other veterans who share similar experiences and challenges. Coupled with the power of the Great Outdoors, this gives our Heroes the chance to have fun, unwind and heal. See what our Heroes have been up to so far this summer!

CALL FOR SPONSORS: Purple Heart of the Bay

We still have a few corporate sponsorship slots available for the Inaugural Purple Heart

of the Bay Charity Fishing Tournament the weekend of September 11th. Gold-level sponsors receive top billing on all promotional items, plus a chartered fishing vessel with a licensed Captain and a Purple Heart Hero to fish on your team! Call us at (813) 938-1390 or visit



www.purpleheartofthebay.com for more info.



Events and Fundraisers



Inaugural MoKan Catfishing Event May 5-8

Three Lucky Heroes went fishing on the Missouri River and surrounding lakes for trophy cats. While the MoKan chapter has been holding events for WWIA for the past seven years, this is their first ever catfishing event. That

didn't stop our Heroes from experiencing some MoKan magic: In one day, the WWIA crew caught over 250 lbs of catfish, including a 50+ lb flathead catfish and multiple 35-45 pounders! Our Heroes had an awesome weekend on the water!

I just wanted to start by saying I really appreciate WWIA for what they do for me and other vets. We are on the first ever MO-KAN Catfishing. It has been one of the best weekends I have had in a long time. The crew here is a wonderful group of guys. The best thing on this trip is there is no hustle. It's so laid back and peaceful. They have put me on the biggest catfish I have ever seen in person! We caught 225lbs of fish. I cannot say enough good things about this fishing trip. WWIA is truly an amazing group.

3rd Annual Alaska Halibut Fishing Event June 10-14

WWIA held the 3rd Annual Alaska Halibut Fishing Event, with four Purple Heart recipients spending three full days fishing and sightseeing in beautiful Seward, Alaska. The Heroes on this trip were met by a warm and caring community in Seward--John Moline, owner of In-and-Out Charters and Kenai Fjord Bed & Breakfast, guided them on the water, gave them a tour of the area's natural beauty, and provided accommodations. American Legion Post 5 hosted the Heroes for multiple dinners and get-togethers during their stay. Once the Heroes brought back the fish, Ella at Captain Jack's Seafood Market made sure everything was processed and packed for them to take home.



"Even days after, I can't believe that happened to us," Says John French, WWIA Lead Associate and one of the Purple Heart veterans on the event. "I'd never been deep-sea fishing and it's an experience I will never forget. That's the incredible effect Seward, Alaska had on all of us."



Healing Heroes in Action Tour

June and July

OPTIMA® Batteries and elite angler Edwin Evers have teamed up to give deserving Purple Heart veterans once-in-a-lifetime fishing experiences in the OPTIMA Batteries Healing Heroes in Action Tour. Beginning June 1, OPTIMA Batteries and Evers invited fans on Facebook to bid for a

chance to fish against Evers and his deserving veteran partner at one of four events. The tour has raised and continues to raise funds for WWIA via Facebook auction on Evers' page, giving fans a chance to face off against the champion and his veteran partner, as well as a valuable prize pack. The final bidding is still open! Visit Edwin's Facebook page for details: <https://www.facebook.com/EdwinEversFishing/>

4th Annual Alabama Inshore/Offshore Fishing Event

June 16-19

WWIA headed to Alabama in mid-June for some world-class inshore and offshore fishing. Heroes were able to catch red snapper, grouper, amberjack and other species thanks to incredible guides and a warm and welcoming community. Thank you to hosts Ira Everett and Ritchie Russell for providing another fantastic event for our Heroes.



I would like to thank everyone for this trip. Not only was this trip a success, it brought complete strangers together who will have a bond forever. Words and "thank you" is not even remotely close to thanking the people that made this happen. I will forever be indebted to this fine group of people.

Every person here was a prime example of an American! The time spent here took my mind off everything that usually keeps me awake at night. Can't say thank you enough!

--R. T. Horne, SSGT USMC



St. Croix Casino Fundraiser

Spring and Summer

The fourth annual fundraiser for WWIA at St. Croix Casinos Danbury raised \$21,936.23!

This fundraiser's success was all thanks to casino employees, vendors and area

businesses. These great Patriots have been working tirelessly over the past four months on candy and t-shirt sales, employee donations, a Survivorman Les Stroud concert, a cash donation box, and other fund-raising activities. The \$21,936.23 raised during this year's fundraiser brings the St. Croix Casino Danbury's total contribution to WWIA since 2013 to \$54,807.56!



Hudson Farm Clay Shooting Fundraiser

June 28

WWIA's New Jersey chapter put on the Hudson Farm Clay Shooting Fundraiser to support WWIA missions across the country.

This invitation-only event included an afternoon of sporting clays with some Wounded Warriors at the exclusive Hudson Farm in Andover, NJ. Shooting was followed by an award ceremony and dinner. The

Foundation owes a big thank you to Mike Carrara, our partners at Hudson Farm, and all the generous sponsors that made this event possible. The Heroes all had a fantastic time and look forward to next year!

Middletown

Sportsman's Club Fundraiser

June 29

The South West Ohio WWIA Shotgun Shoot at Middletown Sportsman's club was a great success! Just like last year, there was a friendly competition between the five branches of service and the Air Force won the service team competition for the second year in a row. All had a great time--big thank you to organizers Dave Studenka and Dan Doll as well as Heidelberg Distributing Co., Cabella's and all our sponsors..



Upcoming Events



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Purple Heart Patriots

Become a Purple Heart Patriot by donating monthly to WWIA and the Heroes we serve! Monthly contributors receive an introductory gift and mention in next month's newsletter.

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