

Check out what WWIA has been up to this month!



Photo credit to WWIA Guide Jon French who captured this scenic river shot at the 2017 3rd Annual N Bar Ranch Fly Fishing Event

Notes from the Field : August 2017

Late summer at WWIA means it's time to bait hooks and cast lines, and our Heroes had plenty of chances to challenge their fishing skills on the water! August was a busy and exciting month as we sent Heroes on 6 world-class events throughout the country. In addition, there were also some outstanding fundraising events in support of our Heroes. As we are starting the turn into the fall season, we welcome more outstanding event opportunities for our Heroes.

Thank You for 10 Years of Serving our Heroes!



This month we celebrate a decade of proudly serving our Heroes. We could not do what we do without the dedication and support of so many amazing people! We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to all of our Hosts, volunteers, Associates, Guides, supporters and donors for partnering with us throughout these past 10 years. It has been an amazing journey, and we look forward to continuing to bring honor, connection and healing to every Purple Heart Hero as we move into the next 10 years and beyond!



Events and Fundraisers

6th Annual Lake Erie Fishing

August 4-7

Eight of our Heroes came together in Ohio to participate in some quality fishing and fellowship during the 6th Annual Lake Erie Fishing Event. In addition to their time on the water, our Heroes also toured an aviation manufacturing plant, took a ride on a Higgins Boat, and were treated to a wonderful steak dinner by the local [American Legion Post 103](#). This four-day event provided excellent opportunities for our Warriors to form new friendships as they shared meals, stories and outdoor activities with their fellow Purple Heart recipients. We would like to recognize and thank Larry Fielder for hosting this event as well as his tremendous team of volunteers and supporters for all their hard work in making this event possible. Additional thanks to WWIA Guide Mark Broda for his outstanding leadership throughout the event.



"I had a great time attending the WWIA, meeting fellow veterans that have a lot in common with me in events exposed to me in the military and the healing process that occurred after and ongoing. All the volunteers at this event made me feel welcome from the start like family. Learning how to fish was great therapy for me. Thank you."

Ranch Fly Fishing

August 4-7



Four of our Heroes ventured to scenic Montana for the 3rd Annual N Bar Ranch Fly Fishing Event. This beautiful environment was an ideal backdrop to help relax and renew our Warriors. The event provided plenty of world-class fishing on the Smith River and all of the Heroes caught a great deal of fish. This trip allowed our Heroes to connect with nature, bond with their Purple Heart peers, and enjoy a way from the demands of everyday life. Special thanks to Dan and Farris Wilks for providing the use of N Bar Ranch for the event, and to Mike Sedgwick and the staff of the N Bar Ranch for hosting our Heroes. Additional recognition and appreciation goes to WWIA Guide Jon French for his outstanding support throughout the event.

"Awesome. Did I say Awesome? Words cannot explain my gratitude to WWIA for this amazing opportunity. The Hosts are amazing and took top notch care of us all day and even when the fishing day was over. All the Guides were so helpful and made this experience a life changing opportunity. The Ranch is an amazing place. It looks like a scene from a movie down at the river. It's such a peaceful place and easy to just relax. Meeting my fellow vets was a great experience and made me feel so comfortable to be around them. This has been an amazing experience, a truly once in a lifetime experience. Thanks again for WWIA and the Ranch for making this trip awesome. Thanks Mike, Dale, Shawn, Ryan, for making this a life changing memory for me."

Inaugural Saltgrass Lodge Red Fishing

August 11-14

Three of our Heroes went to Louisiana for a brand new WWIA event as we introduced the Inaugural Saltgrass Lodge Red Fishing. There was no shortage of great fishing along the delta, as our Heroes were mentored by professional fishing guides, catching their limit each day and fishing until all their bait was gone! The Saltgrass Lodge chef cooked incredible meals for our Warriors throughout their stay, and this beautiful coastal location afforded our Heroes a perfect setting to build new relationships and bond with nature. High praise to [The Saltgrass Lodge](#), Raymond Schmitt, and Audie Murphy for hosting this event, and special thanks to WWIA Guide Mark Broda for his contributions and care throughout the four-day event.



"You guys have more than surpassed any and all expectations. This weekend was exactly what I needed to refresh and recharge my batteries! Thank you to everyone involved. Mark-keep up the

good work! Thank you for doing all that you do to make our nation's Heroes heal. I look forward to many more good times to come."



Inaugural Kodiak Salmon Fishing

August 17-20

WWIA was excited to offer a new adventure this month with the Inaugural Kodiak Salmon Fishing Event. Three Heroes took part in some outstanding fishing and fellowship in the beautiful Alaskan wilderness. This was an ideal environment for outdoor sport and camaraderie among our Warriors. Our Special thanks to Ranger Kiel of [Ranger Kiel's Kodiak Adventures](#) for hosting and leading our Heroes, and also to WWIA Guide John Keeney for his assistance throughout the event. This event would not have been possible were it not for the tremendous

support and contributions from the following individuals: Jessie Glamann, Capt. Mark Morin, Ryan Sharratt, Frank Bishop, CMC Anthony Izzo, BMC Ross Blaylock, Jeanning Aidrete, and Richard Carman.

"This is the first fishing trip I've been on as a Wounded Warrior. I had the best time ever, with the best people ever. Alaska was awesome and although I already know Ranger Kiel, I felt like I was hanging out with family. John, Mark, and I got along like reunited best buddies, like we knew each other forever. During our 3 days of fishing and adventuring we built amazing key friendships with our Hosts and caught just about everything in Alaska that swims in water, I mean seriously, I even caught an octopus. This was an awesome adventure and fishing trip and I hope to do it again someday. John Keeney is a great ambassador of WWIA and a fellow sportsman and veteran as well. I couldn't imagine this trip being this awesome without John, Mark, myself, Ranger Kiel, Ryan, the Skipper and all the supporters in Kodiak, anyone else in the trip just would not have been the same."

9th Annual Florida Gator Hunt

August 18-21

We proudly celebrated the 9th year of the Annual Florida Gator Hunt! This year's hunt featured six of our Heroes bringing in some of the largest alligators to date, with the largest one caught in the history of the event measuring at just over 11 feet!



This unique hunt allowed our Heroes to connect with other Purple Heart recipients, and to interact and bond with a wonderful community of people and businesses from the local area. Thank you to Pat Corcoran and all of our outstanding Hosts, volunteers and supporters from the [American Legion Riders Post 81](#), [Brevard County Airboat Association](#), Hollywood Limousine LLC, and many others who ensured that this was a memorable world-class event for our Heroes. Special thanks and recognition also to WWIA Guide Nate Allen for his work and service throughout the event.

"WWIAF is an excellent organization that inspires Heroes to be sportsmen. I found the hunt to be amazing and the camaraderie even better. The community was so genuine in their appreciation for our service. Something I have never seen or experienced. Words could never express my gratitude for all you have done for my fellow brothers and me."



3rd Annual Galveston Fishing August 18-21

The 3rd Annual Galveston Fishing Event brought four Purple Heart Heroes together to enjoy some fellowship, food, and amazing fishing along the beautiful Galveston coastline. Our Heroes were treated to some amazing

dinners and entertainment along with plenty of fishing that garnered some outstanding catches! The scenic location and picturesque sunsets provided the perfect backdrop for some much-needed camaraderie and relaxation for our Warriors. Special thanks to Brad and Julie Boisen for graciously hosting our Heroes, and also to WWIA Guide Crystal Masek for her outstanding efforts throughout the four-day event.

"I am so happy I found this organization! It has been quite a while since I actually made time to do something for myself like this. It's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of life, allowing your perspective to become skewed and to forget what really matters. Making new friendships, renewing old ones, finding common ground across the miles with people you have never before met. Glaring experiences, triumphs and failures alike, with no fear of judgment or pity, but just compassion and understanding. Brad, Julie, Crystal, Connie, Brad, Drew, Shay, Corrina, Mar & Cathy....you all remind me that a place is only as good as the people you know in it, and the Boisen home is without a doubt "among the best" (as we say in the Army). You reflect great credit upon WWIA and I am a better person because of you."

Inaugural Beaufort Yacht Basin Purple Heart Tournament Fundraiser

August 5

Our SINCERE THANKS to everyone who participated in and supported the [Inaugural Beaufort Yacht Basin](#)

[Purple Heart Tournament Fundraiser](#). This new fundraising event in beauful Beaufort, NC raised over \$5000, featured a seafood Captain's dinner, a keynote address by Coast Guard Rear Admiral Dean Lee (Retired), and featured over \$2500 in cash and prizes. Thank you to major sponsor [Stevenson](#)



[Chevrolet](#) and to planum sponsor [Bojangles'](#), and [The Crystal Coast](#). Additonal thanks to [WCTI NewsChannel 12](#) and to the many individuals and businesses that supported this event on behalf of our Purple Heart Heroes. Special apprecaion and gratitude to Tournament Director Jesse Hines for organizing this outstanding event, and to WWIA Field Coordinator Sam Mormer for his help and support.

Phillip's Chain of Lakes Fundraiser August 19



THANK YOU to the [Phillips Chain of Lakes Steve Schneider Memorial Charity Musky Classic](#) for their generous donation of \$2,830. This fundraising event featured 34 entry boats and one angler brought in a tremendous 49 & 1/4lb Musky! Thank you to everyone who participated in this event, and to all of the sponsors and volunteers for your support. Special recognition to Doug Alderton for hosng this special fundraising event.

North Channel Yacht Club Karoake Fundraiser August 5

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the [North Channel Yacht Club](#) Karoake Fundraiser. This outstanding fundraising event raised a total of \$2252.50, featured lots of singing and plenty of fun! Our sincere apprecaion goes out to Trish and Jaybird Corcoran for hosng this unique and creav e fundraiser.



Upcoming Events



Sponsors and Friends

Bayfield County Whitetails Unlimited

Dan Bourassa from the Bayfield County Whitetails Unlimited presented a check to WWIA Associate Jamie Vee in the amount of \$1641.07 to support WWIA events in Wisconsin. THANK YOU to Bayfield County Whitetails Unlimited for your generous donation. We sincerely appreciate your dedication to our Purple Heart Heroes!



Please Consider a Pledge to WWIA!



#94512

The Combined Federal Campaign season will be starting soon, and we hope you will consider making a pledge to WWIA (CFC #94512) this year. You will find us in your charity listing as a member of Military Support Groups of America. Thank you for your support of our Nation's Purple Heart Heroes!

****NEW THIS YEAR**** -Federal retirees can now make donations in the form of monthly annuitant payments to the preferred CFC charity of their choice!

WWIA is a Top-Rated Nonprofit!



WWIA is honored to be a top-rated non-profit once again. Thank you to everyone who took me to share your story and experience about how WWIA has impacted you. If you have yet to share your own WWIA story, we would greatly appreciate if you would consider taking a few minutes to leave us a review by clicking [here](#). Thank you!

Donate Today



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.

[JOIN TODAY!](#)



(813) 938-1390 | info@wwiaf.org | wwiaf.org



STAY CONNECTED:

