

CABIN CLIPS

May, 2024

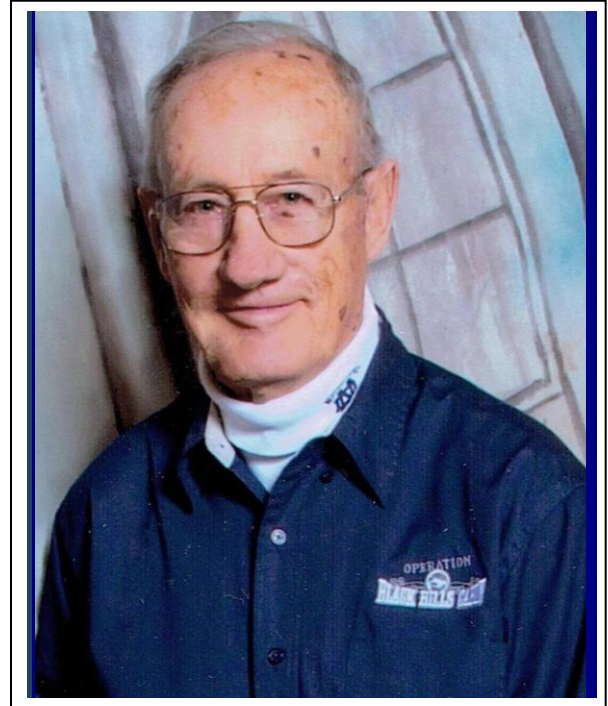
2024 Board Members:

Pat Baird, President
Jeff Baird, Vice President
Mary Burns, Treasurer
Ione Fejfar, Secretary
Dale Christensen, Member
Deb Hanagan, Member
Chris Mueller, Member

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TO MARTY



On January 19, 2024, we lost a founding member of Operation Black Hills Cabin. We share many fond memories of our time spent with Marty Mahrt. For 13 years we have gathered for countless hours of meetings, events and cherished time with our hosted families. Marty was an influential member of the Board adding his expertise in all aspects of military life. He was normally very quiet but when he spoke, it was always pertinent and made the rest of us take note and rethink our position.

Marty and his devoted wife and constant companion Colleen, spent many hours greeting our families. They had a special knack for making our families feel welcome and deserving of their week at OBHC to reconnect away from normal routines and begin the healing process so desperately needed. Marty's favorite time was when he presented them their travel stipend to offset their out-of-pocket expenses traveling to Custer. Many tears were shed by all.

We will miss you, Marty. We will miss your sheepish grin, your raspy voice and your dedication, integrity and devotion in helping us make OBHC the best that it can be. We know you are enjoying your time in Heaven flying your airplanes, singing your songs and doing what you did best for all of us. You have left a large hole in our hearts and in Operation Black Hills Cabin.



NEW ROOF

Once again last summer, the Custer area received what appears to be an annual large hail storm. After much contemplation, the Board decided to replace our existing asphalt shingles (our 3rd or is it our 4th? new roof in 11 years) with rubber shingles. This will hopefully stop our never ending insurance claims with a 20 year fix. It is beautiful. Stop by and take a look!

FAMILIES ARE ON THEIR WAY!

We currently have June, July and August weeks filled with families and are working on September. They are coming from Missouri, Georgia, Minnesota, Tennessee, Iowa, Indiana, Connecticut, Ohio and another from eastern SOUTH DAKOTA! Much work and time goes into each application to insure they meet our qualifications and are worthy of a week at OBHC. We are constantly aware of the many donations and coupons offered by both individuals and businesses and want to protect all of our supporters. We could not operate without you and we thank you! We are anxiously awaiting our 153rd family!

WE WON!

The Northern Hills Chapter 11 DAV nominated OBHC for the DAV Department of South Dakota Veterans Support Award 2023-2024. And we were chosen! We feel very honored to receive this award. Many thanks go out to Dick Turnwall and the members of the Northern Hills Chapter 11 DAV. They have been loyal supporters of OBHC for several years.



Thank
you ❤️

SPEAKING OF SUPPORTERS . . .



OBHC Board Members Mary Burns and Deborah Hanagan accepted children's books from the Harney Peak Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The books recount the stories of two exceptional people who lived during the Revolutionary War era. A copy of the author-signed book "General Crane, Hero of the American Revolution" will be given to every family hosted at the cabin from this summer and until our nation's 250th birthday in 2026. An additional book, "Her Name Was Mary Katharine" will be placed on the bookshelf in the cabin. Thank you, DAR!

IN ADDITION, our very own local BLACK HILLS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION has been a phenomenal supporter of OBHC for many years. They have held yearly fundraisers such as raffles and basket sales, many of which were assembled and donated by their employees. To be remembered, year after year, is truly an honor. Thank you, Diane and all your employees.

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF SUPPORTERS . . .

New business supporters this year include:

**Sylvan Rocks Climbing School and Guide Service
Custer's Last Stop
High Country Guest Ranch**

They will join the other 35-40 supporters of OBHC who provide ample opportunities for our families to enjoy their respite week, reconnect, begin the healing process and make wonderful memories. Our families thoroughly enjoy each and every opportunity they receive. They would never be able to enjoy these times without the involvement of our supporters. They are able to return home and relate stories of their adventures and in turn, entice many of their friends and neighbors to visit our beautiful Black Hills. **Win, Win, right?**