



CAMP BULLWHEEL
Accessible Outdoors

2018 Inaugural Year Highlights



“Our bold new vision is already being realized... creating opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy the outdoors with their chosen companions.”

CAMP BULLWHEEL

Providing quality outdoor experiences for people with disabilities and their chosen companions.

A Note from the Board of Directors

Peter Pauwels, Frank Bell, and Chris Clasby

*2018 was our inaugural season with our first guests arriving mid-June and the last guests departing late September. **We are overjoyed at the response** we have received from a variety of people from all over the country.*

The month of April ranged from full-on winter to delightful spring weather, but Peter and Frank prevailed as the house, out buildings, and property were adapted with the goal of hosting their first disabled clients in the middle of June.

Pauwels has volunteered at Craig Hospital in Denver for over twenty-five years and has a strong team of fellow volunteers supporting his every goal.

With a phone call here, and an email there, Peter's followers heeded his call and an amazing plethora of like-minded, caring individuals arrived to help move the project forward. As an example,

Jerry Horn hustled up from Denver intending to help for a couple weeks. Those weeks turned into months as Jerry became our grounds go-to guy, highlighted by erecting our very own Osprey platform! In a nutshell, our team of volunteers is awesome and growing rapidly. The Craig connection also provided our very full first season roster of guests because of Peter's ongoing relationship with many of the patients.



We are extremely proud of our first season and already have bookings for 2019. This being an organic process, we are open and excited about what the future holds with high hopes to build a new facility with the help of generous donors as we jointly honor those that are most deserved.

2018 By The Numbers



9

PEOPLE WITH
SPINAL CORD
INJURIES SERVED



950

MEALS COOKED
(and dishes hand washed!)



24

VOLUNTEERS



5

VETERANS WITH
TBI'S SERVED



15

VETERAN DAYS ON
THE RIVER



560

MILES OF RIVER
FLOATED



4,800

SHUTTLE MILES
DRIVEN



\$12,500

DONATIONS RECEIVED
(INCLUDING IN-KIND)

In Addition

33 people total
(family and
participants)

4 Paraplegics

5 Quadriplegics
(including first fish
caught with the
Fishinator!)

465 Person Days

70 Boat Float Days



**“ THANKS SO MUCH
FOR THE GREAT
WEEK!**

Thanks so much for the great week! Everything was perfect – from the lodge, the weather and the fishing. We are looking forward to working with the Bullwheel Camp in any way that we can. Again thanks so much for the wonderful time!

**Jim and Barb Sullivan,
Grass Lake, Michigan**
accessibleoutdoors.org



Equipment – Fishinator



Fishinator a HUGE Success!

Fishing with quadriplegics required the development of adaptive fishing rods with integrated circuitry and casting functions for various levels of SCI. For high quads we developed a fully automated system dubbed the "Fishinator" that works with a Quadstick controller. Developed in collaboration with Craig Hospital's Adaptive Engineering Department (Peter Pauwels and Patrick Wagner), this device allows users to **control the action of fishing using only their lips and chin to sip, puff, move up, down, and actuate a lever.**

[Click Here to see the video of the Fishinator in action!](https://youtu.be/iLE-NRceO4c) <https://youtu.be/iLE-NRceO4c>



Our Fleet

ADA Accessible Pontoon Boat - In 2007, we successfully navigated the first wheelchair accessible raft down the North Platte River in Wyoming. We continued refinement, and after design modifications we found a low centered platform design capable of safely navigating the river with a 600-pound wheelchair and three participants. **We currently have one "big green" boat and are looking to fund and build a second 18' boat to increase our capacity.**

Blue and White "Friends and Family" Rafts - These boats add our capacity to 5 additional guests (2 rowing).





“ GREAT WEEKEND!

Hey all, thank you for such a great weekend. I feel like I made some lifelong friends and had an experience that I will remember forever. The fishinator worked like a dream on the river and felt completely natural. I am going to make a trip to Camp Bullwheel an annual event.

Thanks again,



**Tyler Stosich, Missoula,
Montana**



Founding Members

The contributions of these members set in motion the necessary actions to make this first year a huge success.

Peter Pauwels – provided the boats, fishing gear, and numerous other items necessary to carry out these trips.

Frank Bell – provided the use of the property and homestead house



Charitable Contributions

Thank you to all of our donors whose gifts in 2018 directly contributed to making the Camp BullWheel vision a reality.

Organizations

Trinity Episcopal Church, Ennis MT
Deep River Alliance
Bill Mercer Re/Max Real Estate

Individuals

Carol Farren
Graeme Bell
Chuck Lambert
Jim Kaiser
Jim Sullivan
Eric Sullivan
Katie
Roger Bell
Bob Andwar
Dave Hall

Volunteers

This year would not have been possible without the financial in-kind contributions of our generous volunteers. Many thanks to the following individuals who put their energy and gifts to work by purchasing extra flies, gear, or food.

John Eisenach
Jim Kayser
Mike King
Charlie Messina
Chuck Lambert
Mike Curd
Richard Wheeler
Jerry Horn
Brendon

Gerry Mooney
Jackie Kirtley
Susan Bell
Jennifer Ziel
Tom Riggs
Susan Campbell
Tyler Stosich
Ty Wheeler



Volunteer Snap Shot

“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.” – Erma Bombeck

Volunteers

These individuals answered the call and came from across the country to put the magic in Camp BullWheel. This year we were lucky to have such an incredibly talented team of compassionate individuals. A retired Army Chaplain, rehab engineer, and incredibly talented and competent professionals joined our ranks. Thank you for your service this year!

Construction

Jerry Horn

Photography

Gerry Mooney

Camp “Chef”

Mike Curd
Chaplain, US
Army, Ret

River Rowers

(Listed in alphabetical
order by height)

Richard Wheeler
Frank Bell
John Eisenach
Jim Kayser
Mike King
Charlie Messina
Chuck Lambert
Ty Wheeler
Jennifer Ziel

Community

Outreach

Jackie Kirtley
Tom Riggs

Admin/Donor

Tracking

Jackie Kirtley
Susan Campbell

Website Design

Tyler Stosich

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT SNAPSHOT

22 Volunteers

gave

2,800 Hours

over

286 Volunteer
Days

giving

\$8,500 Donations In-
Kind



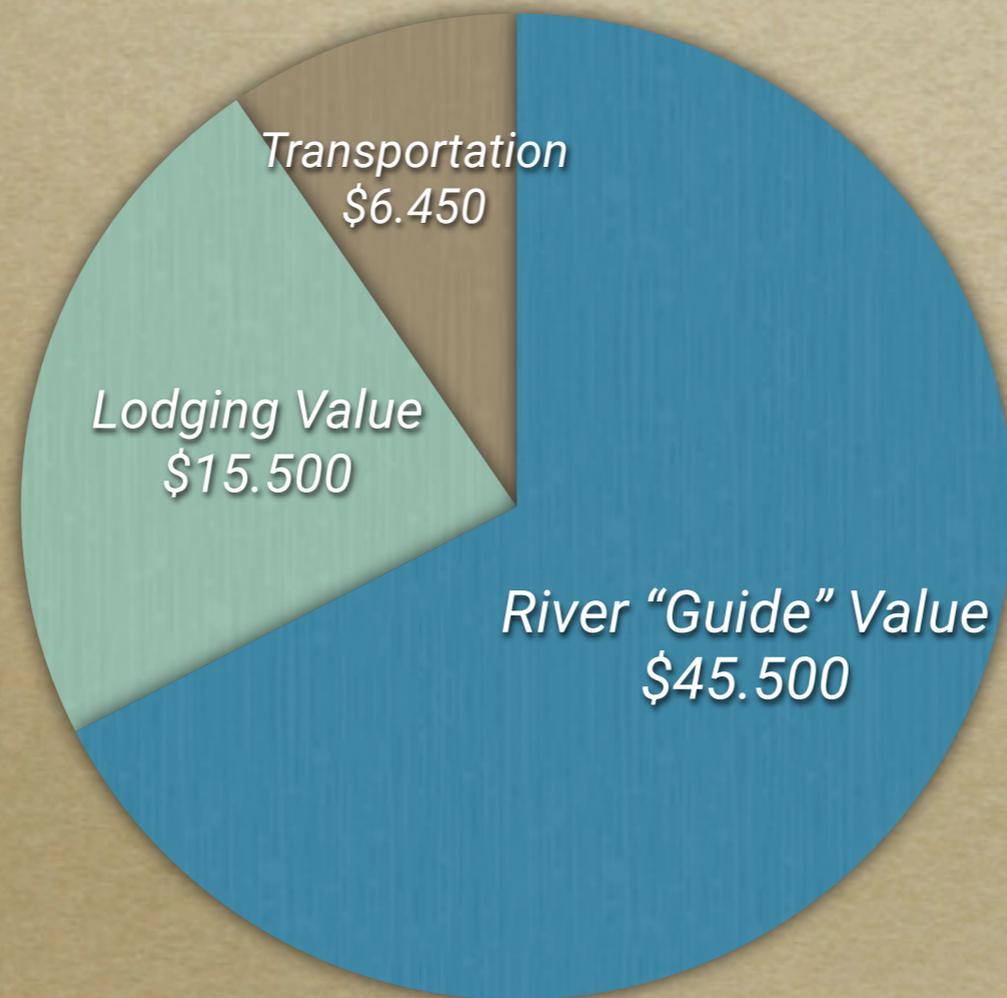
Finances

This year, as our first year in operation, the organization really survived and thrived through the founding donation and funding of Frank Bell, our volunteers, and donors. The gas in our tanks, the flies on our lines, and the grease in our pans came from these sources. Everyone gave something to do what it took to get our boats on the river and provide truly unforgettable experiences to our guests. Literally 100% of our funds go directly to getting folks on the water and providing ADA improvements and renovations to the Camp Bullwheel rustic heritage home. Just the fishing part of our operations has an estimated value in the chart below. What a return on investment! Our financial goals moving forward are:

1. **Becoming more financially stable for year after year operations** – The majority of our volunteers, while passionate and young at heart, are getting up there in years. Cooking, shuttling, and rowing can lead to 10+ hour days for up to 6 days per week. To ensure the continuation of these incredible and unique opportunities for years to come we will need to hire permanent staff under the age of 70!
2. **Widen our reach financially and geographically** – By letting people know about our program we can provide world class fishing experiences for more qualified individuals who don't even know our one-of-a-kind opportunities exist.



Estimated value of services provided- 2018



The BullWheel Difference - Family Time

At Camp BullWheel, it's a family affair! We understand the magic that can happen when an entire family can vacation together. By bringing the whole family, everyone gets to take a break and have fun!



The BullWheel Difference - Companions

Guests with mobility above the waist enjoy a day on the river with their chosen companions while building healthy, strong bonds. By including companions, we are serving the support network as a whole and providing experiences that bring community and family together.





Snapshots from this year - Brendan and Chris Clasby chat at the Fly Fishing Festival in Ennis (left); Guests, Companions, and volunteers sit for a homecooked meal in the dining room (*upper right*); Volunteers Jackie Kirtley and Susan Campbell take a bid from a visitor to the booth at the festival (*bottom right*)

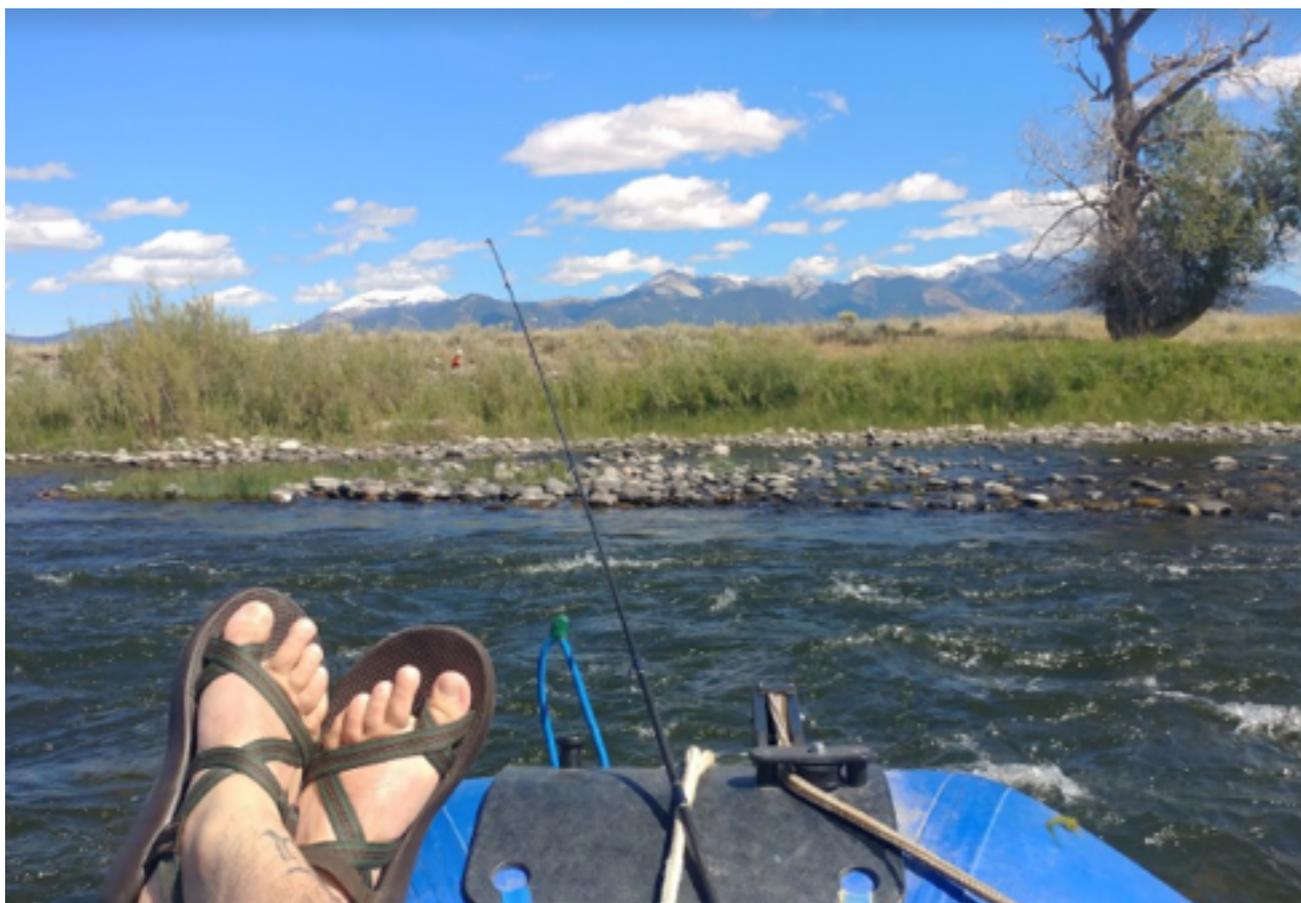


“How big was your biggest fish this week?”

This year we hosted 5 veterans with diagnosed Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI's) sustained in combat with the Army River Deep alliance. Over a one week period, Mike Curd, a retired Army Chaplain, volunteered as the camp “chef” and counselor. Mike has a true capacity for service with his professional skills to quickly identify angst and effectively bring someone back to the room.

Mike's combination of military lingo and compassion was felt by those in attendance this week. Spending afternoons in the serenity of the Madison valley with fellow veterans allowed those in attendance to integrate with their surroundings and find a sense of peace. The program was such a huge success, we are planning on having a second group attend in 2019!

From the front line to the Bow line...
“I don’t want to go back to the city. Out here... on the river... it’s just so beautiful, so calming. I feel like I’m home.” - Fishing Guest with TBI, 2018



More than just fishing...

Having a full week with our volunteers gave our combat veterans the opportunity to learn the nuances of lure fabrication. A bounty of Bald Eagles fittingly accompanied us on our floats.



Core Values

Like a solid foundation built in stone, our core values create an unwavering guide which we carry out our day to day operations to achieve our organizational goals as we look to 2019 and beyond



Immersion in Unspoiled Nature

Unspoiled nature is why we're all here. Is there anything better than spending a day floating down a river with a beautiful trout on the line under big blue Montana skies? Reconnecting gives us all a sense of place.



Teamwork

With days that start at 7 AM prepping breakfast, shuttles to be driven, floats on the river that last for between 3-4 hours, and houses that need to be cleaned for the next guests teamwork is key to a successful week.

Innovation

Camp BullWheel's founders invented the world's first sip-and-puff fishing device, and in doing so they've given world class river access to many individuals with spinal cord disabilities.



Professionalism

Providing a free service to guests and their families doesn't mean we cut corners. Running each trip with our best foot forward ensures a safe and enjoyable vacation for everyone involved.



Camp BullWheel In the News

Getting the word out!

We had some amazing media coverage this year, and we'd like to share it with you!

TV - Channel 7
Bozeman, MT



The Madisonian

Print - The Madisonian

“River Access For Everyone”
Wonderful article written by
Reagan Colyer

<http://www.madisoniannews.com/features/river-access-everyone>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IN3GCOFPaEa>

Longterm Vision

Providing a Sense of Place in “the last best place”

This past year we underwent a significant amount of restoration, renovation, and planning to get the old homestead ready to accept our first guests in June. Our mantra of providing quality outdoor experiences for people with disabilities and their chosen companions remains the paramount goal of Camp BullWheel. Having safe and ADA compliant accommodations is an integral part in the BullWheel experience. Our little homestead is cozy, but as we look to the future we are working on plans to construct a larger facility with more amenities and easier access.

(right) Volunteers extraordinaire Peter Pauwels, Chuck Lambert and Tom Riggs pose with an architectural rendering of a possible future facility.

(Below, left to right) View of Camp BullWheel with the famed Varney Bridge and the Madison River in the background, sunset views from the camp sign, and the iconic Bull Wheel with an evening glow.



Longterm Vision

Not Re-Inventing the “BullWheel”

As I sit here in the camp dining room, the quiet ambience exists in a stark contrast to the hustle and bustle of this past summer. The previous 5 years I'd spent my summers leading cycling trips for wealthy Americans visiting posh European towns. Going through the guest demographic statistics, I found something interesting. **Of the almost 400 guests I had on my trips over the years, only 3 were veterans. Of those, only one was enlisted** -- a semi-retired Army Ranger. As I cycled through the countryside, day after day I would read the stories of my fellow veterans struggling to re-enter civilian life -- taking their lives in record numbers. It's a statistic buried under the heap of fear based media. My purpose felt shallow and adrift from deeper meaning.

As a country, we are throwing more and more money at this ethereal problem, and we seem to lack an answer to this heart wrenching epidemic -- and therein lies the crux. While the intentions of the VA are good, and many do incredible work, I truly believe that to effectively help... to really be with someone it takes a village. It helps if that village lies in a peaceful, healthy, and beautiful unspoiled setting away from the triggers and influences of modern life.

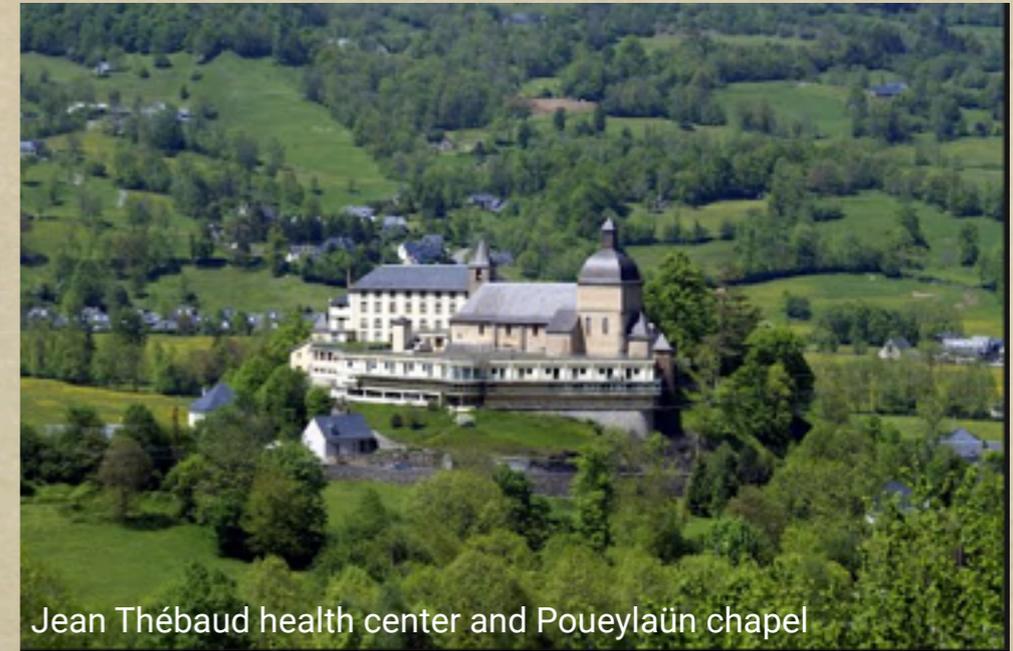
Arrens-Marsous, a quaint French hamlet, lies in a mountain valley nestled in the heart of the Pyrenees. Just outside the town center lies a magnificent building perched atop a hill at the confluence of two beautiful trickling mountain streams.

“Who lives there?” I asked the townspeople... “Surely they must be quite wealthy”.

“Alors, monsieur Ty, **this is where we cared for those from the Great War who returned without the ability to care for themselves.** Some looked physically OK, but they were not right in the mind. Today it is used for those unable to care fully for themselves.”

We would watch as caregivers took the patients through the beautifully carved arches and out into the sun for a spin around town, grabbing a pastry and espresso en route. You could see the joy and peace on their faces as they soaked up the sun as they wheeled their way around the café my guests had traveled 4,000 miles to experience. **Unsurprisingly, like a fine french patisserie, the proof is in the pudding.** France's mental health and longterm care outcomes rank number 2 and 1 in the world, respectively. I personally believe these rankings lie in the communal over clinical nature of such a care system.

In another turn of events, I lost a good college friend, Alec, who had become disabled from the neck down in a motorcycle accident a few years ago. We had planned on floating and fishing the Brooks Range in Alaska. Sadly, that opportunity would never come to fruition as Alec passed away last year due to complications with his health. This year, with all of the right pieces coming together, we could have made that dream a reality.



Jean Thébaud health center and Poueylaün chapel

Floating down the Madison River with Tyler Stosich as he expertly operated the fishinator, it all seems to be coming together. Watching as he sip-casted into pocket water 6” from the shore made me so thankful that I was able to partake in something this summer that I was not able to do with Alec. What a treat!

In a time when our moral compass as a country seems to oscillate wildly in all directions; in a time when our country is so divisive, eating away at our ability to live a civil and peaceful existence, it has been this summer volunteering with Camp Bullwheel that **I see the net value and change in people when given the perfect cocktail of amazing community, cutting edge equipment, and a beautiful place to partake in America's truly wonderful fishing pastime.**

Wherever our path leads, and with whatever capacity our community grows, I will always remember the evenings spent around a dinner table in an old Montana homestead with people steeped in integrity, honor, and a determination to live life to its fullest.

Bon Appétit, and tight lines!
Ty Wheeler
Veteran, USAF
Camp Bullwheel Volunteer

In Memorium

Evan Munchmore - Craig Hospital Alumnus, passionate fisherman and family man. We were truly blessed to have the opportunity to provide a week of vacation for Evan and his family. Sadly, Evan passed away from a health complication this fall. As one of the first users of "The Fishinator", his legacy will remain a part of the Bullwheel fabric.



Be a Part of the Action! Camp BullWheel's Giving Levels ensure your donations go 100% to the facilities and programs of giving experiences to those who deserve them the most.



Founders Club	Fishinator Level	Varney Level	Lure Level
<p><i>Those who put forth to secure the longterm future of the Camp Bullwheel mission.</i></p>	<p>\$2,000+ <i>Sponsor one week of fishing for a Guest and their companion(s)</i></p>	<p>\$500+ <i>Equivalent of buying a rod with an adaptive motorized reel for participants</i></p>	<p>\$100+ <i>Buy a box of flies and lures for guests at the ranch</i></p>
<p><i>Name put on "Big Green" as a Founding Sponsor</i></p>	<p><i>Receive a Camp BullWheel Shirt in the mail plus a hat (\$58 value plus shipping) Sponsorship included in year end summary</i></p>	<p><i>Receive a Camp BullWheel Shirt in the mail plus a hat (\$58 value plus shipping)</i></p>	<p><i>Receive a Camp BullWheel Hat in the mail (\$20 value plus shipping)</i></p>



501 (c)(3) Status Pending
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