

IN A GOOD SPACE

DIVIDE CAMP WELCOMES WOUNDED VETS FOR BOW SEASON

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September 30, 2015

Where do veterans go who suffer the mental or physical wounds of war? Divide Camp, located about 22 miles from Joseph, offers one answer. The camp, located high in the mountains, allows veterans time and space to decompress from combat by hunting, fishing, reflection and a variety of other pursuits while staying in rustic but comfortable log cabins.

With the advent of bow season, three veterans are enjoying the camp's amenities. Ramiro Flores of Federal Way, Wash., is a combat-wounded veteran still on active duty who is taking time to reboot while on leave.

Tom Walton of Myrtle Creek is an Afghanistan war veteran, and Trevor Phillips, of Onalaska, Wash., saw duty in Iraq, where he lost the lower half of his right arm. Kyle Wieland is a veteran who stayed at the camp while hunting on private property elsewhere.

Enterprise Iraq war veteran Joshua Tarvin was on hand to provide training in archery skills. In fact, he and Phillips worked together to create an adaptation that allows Phillips to draw and shoot a bow, using his teeth to activate the device that releases the bowstring.



Before: Iraq war veteran Trevor Phillips draws back his bow with the aid of an adaptation device both he and Enterprise veteran Joshua Tarvin manufactured to allow Phillips' use of the bow.

Courtesy photo/Scott Stuart



After: Phillips' 3D target suffers a mortal wound after the shot.

Courtesy photo/Scott Stuart

Wounded vets have chance to reboot

In true Wallowa County fashion, part of the device was created from a leather fencing tool sheath. The two vets are looking into possibly patenting the adaptation.

As a bonus, several devotees of the camp arrived from the west side of the state bearing gifts, including a \$2,600 Two-Star General Mak Grill donated by the Dallas, Oregon company that manufactures them.

Scott Stuart, who was instrumental in obtaining the grill, cooked up steaming pounds of beef brisket, pork ribs and three whole chickens for the Divide Camp crowd, which included several of the camp's neighbors. Tiffany Ryan, visiting from Williams, cooked up blueberry cobbler, rice and other dishes utilizing her Dutch oven skills for the get-together.

After the late lunch, Divide Camp Director Julie Wheeler talked about the ups and downs for the year. Through donations of time and money, several cabins are well on their way to complete restoration, and the National Rifle Association bought the camp some 3-D deer targets, and most importantly a Track Chair, which is similar to a wheelchair, only with tracks similar to a tank's. The chair allows people with physical challenges to access areas inaccessible to wheelchairs.

A grant from the Wildhorse Foundation funded purchase of a solar energy system that supplies the majority of electrical needs for the camp, which formerly used a generator that was expensive to run.

On the down side, this year's drought dried up the camp's spring, requiring water to be brought in. Wallowa County Grain Growers offered the use of a 1,000-gallon tank to haul water to the site. A funding drought also forced the cancellation of a scheduled five-day veterans raft trip down the Snake River.

Besides financial help, Wheeler said the camp really needs construction volunteers to for cabin renovation and fence construction for the 40-acre site.