

## 70th Annual Old Timers Reunion Update

Chairman, OTR 2019

Greetings fellow cavers, TRA Members, & OTR attendees!

We're getting closer to our annual reunion and I hope that you are as excited as I am to reunite with friends and spend a groovy weekend together while we celebrate the 70th OTR!

In this mid-summer edition of the Coot & Holler, you will find an update on the Sauna and the amazing plans for the Sauna Project that awaits you in the future.

There is also a chance for you to become an OTR ambassador. What better way is there to spend a couple of hours than to welcome OTR attendees to OTR and also assisting to keep OTR an event for registered OTR attendees?

I plan to send out at least one more summer Coot & Holler but time is running short and there is much to do before OTR. However, there are many things to convey to you concerning OTR before you arrive. Please make sure that you check the OTR website and official Facebook page regularly.

Please feel to contact me at: [OTR2019@otr.org](mailto:OTR2019@otr.org) if you have any questions, suggestions, or comments.

Cheers,

SHACK

### A Word from the OTR Sauna Master

Rich Geisler

#### 2019 at the OTR Sauna....

First of all, I'd wish to say welcome back to all the participants of that most unique of environments that is the OTR Sauna. It goes without saying that this off season has had its fill of trials and tribulations starting before OTR 2018 even ended. But we're not here to dwell in the past – however, this year's theme of the '70's does give pause to reflect on how far things have come. Gone are the days of that forgotten muddy weed patch with butt blue tarps draped over tree branches and dragging hot iron from the fire pit. This year will be a step back from recent times with only the dry saunas, fire pit, field, and river available for regular use. It won't be the slice of paradise we've all come to love and enjoy. But in the grander scheme this is still far forward from our humble beginnings.



Overview looking East

So yes – we will endure this year and look towards the future. Let me assure everyone that there is a grand plan; one that had always been long in the dream state. This off-season kicked it fully into motion. The plan has already gone from the minds of the designers; been put on paper with extensive attention to detail; passed through the TRA long range planning process; passed through the TRA feasibility review; gained approval of the full TRA board of trustees at the spring 2019 meeting; and phase 1 of construction is already underway. These are but a couple of the renderings of what's to come. More will be around the area for your viewing as well as copies of the full design report we submitted.



Overview looking South

It takes but a quick look around at recent site improvements such as the shower houses to know that the sauna improvements will be of a high build quality. But it also goes without saying that this will be the largest and most complex project to date that the TRA build team has undertaken. TRA has already agreed to step up with initial funding but we still need everyone's help to realize our dream of making your sauna area into the world class, one of a kind facility it should be. There are already 2 very generous anonymous benefactors that have agreed to match dollar for dollar everything we fund raise up to \$10,000 until the end of OTR ... every dollar pledged becomes three dollars towards the project. So, I'm asking everyone (individuals, groups and

grottoes) to help us reach this goal and all donations are still tax deductible. Online donations can be made at... <https://www.otr.org/tra-and-otr-donations/> (scroll down to sauna). Donations can be made while registering for this year's event – online or in person. Donations can be made to our box in the sauna area. And donations will be accepted at our special event.

Special event??? Well we knew we had to offer something above and beyond the norm to restore fun and keep everyone entertained. So ... Saturday night (11pm - ???) we will be hosting a late-night light and music foam dance party (weather & conditions permitting) in the grassy area in front of the sauna stage. Admittedly we are venturing into experimental territory but were looking forward to making the Sauna Area at OTR 2019 and beyond a memorable experience for all.

Many Thanks, Rich

## Military Tribute



This is the “last call” to either submit your information or for you to gently remind your friend that has served our country in the military to submit their information so that all deserving current and past members of the military present at OTR are properly celebrated and recognized. On Saturday evening during the Disco Party, we will take a short break to recognize and celebrate OTR attendees that have served in the military.

If you are currently serving in the military (whether it be US or Canadian), or if you have previously served in the military (again it can be either US or Canadian); please send an e-mail to: [OTR2019@otr.org](mailto:OTR2019@otr.org) that includes the following information:

- Name of the OTR Attendee that will be attending OTR 2019 that either currently serves in the military or has served in the military (either US military or Canadian military).
- Military Rank of the OTR Attendee that will be attending OTR 2019.
- Branch of Service of the OTR Attendee that will attending OTR 2019.

This information will need to be submitted to: [OTR2019@otr.org](mailto:OTR2019@otr.org) by July 18th, 2019. Please indicate “OTR Military” in the subject line of the e-mail. Please don't delay on getting this information submitted, as I want to make sure that all deserving members of our military family are included in the military tribute at OTR.

## OTR Gong Show

Now is the time to sign-up to participate in the OTR Gong Show. The OTR Gong Show will be on Friday evening before the band takes the stage. Acts can be of any type, singing, comedy, magic, musical, etc. Right now, there are only 14 slots available for inclusion in the Gong Show. Please try and limit your act to about 2 minutes. Prizes will be awarded for both Solo and Group categories.

In order to make sure that you and / or your group is included in the show, please sign-up by visiting:

<http://bit.ly/OTRGong>

## OTR Auction

Remember to clean out your garage and closet of all unused and unwanted caving / camping gear. The OTR Auction that started back in the 1970's will be returning again this year with the Auctioneer that began the OTR Auction back in the 1970's. More details will be available soon on the OTR website, the OTR Facebook page, and in the next Coot & Holler.



committee” but you will also help us to make sure that those attending OTR have properly registered before beginning their OTR experience.

You can sign-up to volunteer at the gate by visiting: <http://bit.ly/OTRGate> .

This is a very important volunteer position at OTR. Did I mention that it comes with complementary snacks, beverages, and a warm fire for the evening / night shifts?

## OTR Day Passes

The OTR Day Pass fee for OTR 2019 will decrease from \$20 per day to \$10 per day. The decrease in the fee for day passes has been established in order to allow those cavers within the immediate geographic region more economical access to OTR in order to visit with friends and fellow cavers. Day Pass attendees will also be able to visit the many vendors on Vendor's Row at OTR. Day Pass attendees will be required to either exit the TRA property by 6:00 or they can convert their Day Pass admission into a full admission to OTR by visiting the Registration Pavilion and completing the proper registration documentation.

## OTR Pre-Registration is Now On-line

As of July 1st, you are able to pre-register for OTR 2019. No more waiting in long lines at the Registration Pavilion. Visit [www.otr.org](http://www.otr.org) to get registered for this year's OTR.

You will also have the opportunity to purchase some amazing souvenirs and merchandise to commemorate your OTR 2019 experience. There are lots of great merchandise selections from which to choose and some of them are only available if you pre-register for OTR. Also, back by popular demand, we will be having two Wine & Paint Parties at the Event Tent. Each of the sessions will paint a different painting. Last year the session sold out before OTR. Don't be left out, make sure to sign up when you pre-register.

## Become an OTR Ambassador

How would you like to be one of the first friendly faces that greet excited OTR attendees as they enter the campsite?

Please consider taking the opportunity to become an ambassador for OTR and volunteering a couple of hours at the gate. You will not only be part of the “welcoming

The Coot & Holler Gazette is published four times annually, on consecutive days, during the annual gathering of the Robertson Association members. This gathering is known as The Old Timers Reunion. The views and opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editor. Circulation is limited to 350 printed copies each issue, so hang on to these priceless limited edition copies, and watch their value increase. Editor, Carol S. Jackson, photographer Bill Jackson. Reporters A. James Kramer and Joel Jacobs. Published by Carol's Carriage, North Field. Contributions are welcome, and may be submitted at collection boxes located at the Carol's Carriage office, in the registration building, or at “COOTers, located on Vendors row. Deadline for submissions is 7pm each evening.