

December 4, 2017



## As 2017 Comes to a Close...

We are reflective and excited for the coming months. We are expecting and planning for new or revitalized things to happen at camp in 2018. First of all we are so excited to be celebrating our 30th Anniversary on December 7th! Because of celebrating the anniversary we decided that we wanted to launch the 2018 camp list and registration early! On **December 7th at Noon MST** we will be launching the 2018 camp registration! This gives you the opportunity to purchase camps as Christmas presents, take advantage of the Early Bird pricing (until January 15th), and plan further in advance what your summer will look like! The classic 8-9 camp and 10-12 camp are back but revitalized with a plan to reach further into the wilderness with more outtrips. There are a few camps that have been added or reintroduced including the fishing adventure. We are excited to offer Winter Family Days again this year, be sure to check out the website for details.

Take the time to invite your friends or your kids friends, take the time to like us and share us on Facebook so we can reach even more campers and families for the Glory of God.

The family cabin project is still in progress with the roof and tin on. The inside framing is done. Electrical is started. We have all the windows onsite. What we need is help putting the siding on and we could use some scaffolding if anyone has any. The windows and doors also need to be installed.

## Ride-A-Thon 2017

This year we held our 19<sup>th</sup> annual Ride-A-Thon. Leading into the week before Ride-A-Thon there was uncertainty if we were going to be able to operate it from Willow Creek. We continued to pray and look toward God for providing the necessary needs to proceed with our fundraiser. Three days before the schedule start of Ride-A-Thon, the Lord answered our prayers and the forest closure was lifted. It was a great weekend of fellowship and beautiful weather for riding in mountains. We had a chance to hear from staff testimonies from the summer, an update from one of our Board members Kent Lien and to see how much our community raised for Blue Bronna. For our 19<sup>th</sup> annual Ride-A-Thon, **we raised a total of \$25,356**. Wilene Pronk took home the top prize saddle with \$4450. Our Ride-A-Thon fundraiser continues to be a large financial support for our ministry and we could not operate without this support. Thank you to all of you who came out to support and ride for this ministry. Special thanks to Frontier Western Shop for donating the prize saddle.

## Volunteers

Thank you to those who have devoted their time, money, prayers, and support to Blue Bronna this summer. Some individuals came to support the ministry with their skills and time in building the family cabin. Some of you came out to lend a helping hand during camp, whether it was in the kitchen, barn, or cabin leading. Many of you supported Blue Bronna financially by giving individual campers and families the ability to come to Blue Bronna with no cost. There were donations of hay, horses, and tack that furthered excelled our horse program. Most of all, thank you for your constant support of prayers. From the entire Blue Bronna team, we thank you for your support.

### Blue Rendezvous 2018

Blue Rendezvous will be held January 27th, 2018 at 5pm at Willow Lane Barn (just east of Olds). Please visit the website and social media for updates and to register, or call us 403-803-4776.

### 2018 Staff Applications

We will be posting Staff applications online January 15th, 2018.

### Wish List

We need the following:

- A new truck for hauling horses
- New wall tents to retire old ones
- Heavy duty tarps
- One new chainsaw or new chains/bar (16")
- Hay squares and round bales
- Sound horses
- Archery supplies (arrows, fletching, tips, backdrop net, targets)



## Update from the Board of Directors

Howdy folks,

I trust that everybody is starting to get excited about the Christmas season, which is right around the corner. For as much as I'm not looking forward to the craziness that comes with the season, I am looking forward to getting together with family and friends, the opportunity to meet new friends, and remember the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

As we said in our fall Board letter, we are diligently working towards bringing stability to the operations of BBWC in order to pursue the camp's purpose:

"To evangelize and disciple adults and young people to the good news of Jesus Christ through a wilderness camping experience, and to develop Christian character and growth in faith through outdoor adventures, relationships and time spent in God's Word and His creation"

Speaking of purpose, we are privileged to tell you that we had a very successful 2017 camp season with just over 700 campers! Of those 700, 14 accepted the Lord and 185 were challenged in their walk or to a deeper commitment with God.

To further our purpose, we have started a process that will over time review every aspect of camp and camp life. One of the key decisions we have made as a Board is to take ownership of Vision and Strategic planning. This move guarantees that we as a leadership team are all striving towards the same goals. We are excited about the process and the positive changes it will bring to the camp.

On behalf of the Board, I would also like to bring to your attention the 2 main areas that we are currently focussing on: Staffing and Finance. On the staffing side, we are looking at our 1 year, 3 year and 5 year staffing strategy. What is becoming very obvious is that in the short term, until the camp is in a more stable financial situation, we are inviting you, as our camp family and supporters, to join us in additional volunteer opportunities. A critical role that we see is for someone who may have a heart for coordinating our ever-expanding network of volunteers. For this reason, we are looking for a volunteer who would be willing to manage our volunteer pool. If this something that you feel the Lord may lay upon your heart, please get in touch with me.

The second thing is the financial situation of the camp. Our goal is to bring a solid financial footing to BBWC and create additional revenue generation through year-round use of camp facilities.

Despite unique challenges in 2017 like closure of the forestry area due to forest fires, we managed to hold our own in terms of meeting our operational financial obligations as we ended the year in the same financial position as we started. Nonetheless, the overall financial picture of the camp is an area of concern for us going forward. It seems that every year the camp starts the New Year in a deficit position. This severely limits us in maintaining staff year round, which in turn affects preparations for the next camping season and limits what we can offer in the off season to create additional revenue-generating opportunities. We have been relying on our annual Blue Rendezvous in January to bring the camp finances back in the black before the start of camping season. This year we would like to change that trend and start the New Year in a positive financial position and then use the proceeds from Rendezvous to prepare the staff and the camp to welcome our seasonal staff and campers for the 2018 season. We are asking for your help. Your help with a year-end donation toward eliminating the debt would go a long way to helping us prepare for an amazing year at camp.

We are approximately \$20,000 in the red as we near the end of 2017 and our goal is to eliminate this debt prior to Rendezvous. Bottom line is: We would ask you to pray about what you could contribute to further the ministry of BBWC and ensure that we are starting 2018 on solid financial ground.

Finally, let me finish with some exciting news. As a Board we have been discussing the need for a very special ministry within Blue Bronna: A Prayer Ministry. Given the work we do of expanding God's Kingdom there is a constant need for protection from the enemy, prayer provides that covering. I am very pleased to announce that Wilma Pronk has agreed to take on the leadership of this ministry. Over the next few weeks, we will be working out the details around the ministry and then send out an email letting you know how you can be part of this important ministry.

On behalf of the whole board I want to take this opportunity to wish every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a very Blessed New Year full of God's Love, Joy, and Peace.

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