

# AFTER ACTION REVIEW



Salute 2 Service - Lake Norman  
Victory Lane Karting

In the inaugural year of Operation Wake Surf our team set out to give back to those that protect and serve this country. This year, we far surpassed the goals we set out to accomplish. How did we do it? With a village of like minded individuals using their strengths and talents to help us coordinate and execute these events. We are extremely fortunate to have such immense support from around the country. You didn't have to be a huge financial contributor to have made a huge impact on one of our participants. Every individual dollar donated or minute spent volunteering is as valuable as the next and we couldn't have accomplished what we did without any of you.

For the lover of statistics we have the following... In 2021, we were able to travel over 20,000 miles, visiting 13 states to put on 23 events. During these events we had the honor of pulling 324 heroes over the course of the 404 hours spent on the water. For the lover of a more abstract metric... Founder Robby Maschhaupt always reminds me "Our goal isn't to be big, it is to be great at what we do." I encourage you to draw your own conclusion by reading through the following pages about our inaugural year and the impact it had.

## Kicking Off the New Year!



As you may have guessed, January is a slow season out on Lake Norman, NC. However, the cold does not keep us from being able to pay it forward and support our local communities. Our crew had the honor of volunteering with local non-profit, Hungry Heroes. At their event, we were able to send volunteers to help feed the heroes with the Mooresville Police Department. Hungry Heroes has been a long time supporter of ours and has

continually helped to feed the heroes at our Salute 2 Service events. January was also the official start of our Operation Wake Surf FUNdraising. We kicked off the year with a direct give campaign by using the fundraising tools available on Facebook. Thanks to our generous followers, we were able to raise \$6,105.00.

## Heading to Sunny Florida

In February, we set off to Orlando, FL for our first Salute 2 Service event of the year. There we spent the day on the Butler Chain of Lakes. We worked with 20 Heroes that were a mix of Fire, Police and Paramedic First Responders as well as Military Veterans.



In February, there was also a user generated Facebook FUNdraiser. This one was in memory of the late Rose Maschhaupt and the amazing life she lived. Rose was the mother of Operation Wake Surf founder, Robby Maschhaupt. Her memory will live on as the namesake of our Centurion Ri265; "The Rose". In her honor we received gracious donations totaling \$1,628.00.



March brought us another opportunity to visit the Sunshine State. This time we were off to the southernmost point of the Continental US. After a 14 hour drive, we arrived in Key West, Florida where we were honored to be taken aboard a United States Coast Guard boat. We were able to spend the day getting to know twenty five courageous heroes from the United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

## Spreading the Word

One of the hardest parts about being a new non-profit, is letting the community know that we exist. This led to our mission for April. We wanted to meet as many heroes as possible and let them know what Operation Wake Surf is all about. On April 1st, we had the honor of hosting 40 local law enforcement officers for a meet and greet on Lake Norman. Here we were able to speak with heroes from Charlotte PD, Huntersville PD, Cornelius PD, Davidson PD, Mooresville PD as the NC Wildlife office. This not only broadened our contact database to find those in need, but let people from local departments know that they can use us as a tool in their toolbox. Following this event Robby flew to Merced, California for a similar event. This time the meet and greet was with a group of officers from the Merced Gang Unit and was hosted by our generous partners at the Centurion Factory. Next on the docket was a trip to see our partners at PCM Marine Engines. This visit was for Robby to speak with their staff and explain what we do and the impact that it has on our heroes.

## Taking on Texas

In May, our Ri265 ‘The Rose’ made a 3-day, 1200 mile journey in order to reach the heroes of Austin, Texas. Here we were honored to put on a Salute 2 Service event in conjunction with Operation Get Out, Get Out Girl, Ski Dock and Centurion Boats. The 22 heroes of this event were from Travis County STAR Flight, the Austin Police Department, the US Army National Guard as well as a few local ER, Trauma and ICU nurses. On Thursday, Get Out



Girl hosted an all female hero day that started with an introduction to the science behind Wallace Nichols Blue Mind theory, stand-up paddle boarding, a group lunch and then closed the day with wake surfing. On Friday, we did another outing with two wake surf sessions and a catered lunch. We closed the day with lakeside community and fellowship. On Sunday, our heroes were fortunate to be hosed by NASCAR at the first COTA race in Austin, Texas.

## The Tour de Wake Surf

On May 28th we journeyed to Lake Keowee, in South Carolina to host a one day Salute 2 Service event. This time we teamed up with Upstate Marine and two Tour de France cyclists. We coordinated with George Hincapie and Christian Vande Velde, who have both won stages of the Tour de France, to take our Heroes on a 20 mile bike ride. After a scenic ride through the hills of The Cliffs, the participants were treated to lunch at the clubhouse where they swapped stories about life in the military. Following lunch was an afternoon of wake surfing, with many having no prior experience.



## Living it up on Lake Norman



Our biggest event of the year takes place on Lake Norman in Mooresville, North Carolina. It is set up as a 3-day retreat style event for 6 first responders and 6 military personnel. This retreat is packed full of team building events, competitions and guest speakers. While these days are all about making an impact on our 12 Heroes, it never fails to make an impact on our volunteers as well. I could find no better words than those of our volunteer wake surf coach Tarzan from Wake Surf Orlando. Here is what he had to say: “This event isn’t about wake surfing. It isn’t about kart racing or pit crew challenges. It isn’t about boat sales or product endorsements either. This event is about honoring those who have placed their lives on the front lines defending the freedoms of this country and protecting their fellow Americans. Despite never having met you, these men and women have dedicated their existence to protecting ours. They come together for several days without ranks, titles, or uniforms, to share their stories. The past few days has been an emotional rollercoaster filled with joy and laughter yet simultaneously sadness and tears. I find myself struggling to find words to do justice to what this event experience has been but if I had to use a single word, it would be “inspirational”. Simply thanking these individuals for their service is not enough

for the sacrifices they have endured on a daily basis. If there is one message you should draw from this, know that you have the ability to do so much more than you believe and that power begins with helping others. We are honored and humbled to be a part of this family celebrating true American heroes.” Operation Wake Surf thanks all of the volunteers and partners that worked hard to make this event such a success.



## Arizona Adaptive Water Sports

On a beautiful June morning, in Carefree, Arizona a group of like minded individuals gathered on the dock at Bartlett Lake Marina. Here we were given the opportunity to bring together those with a passion to develop a better wake surfing program. Robby was there to educate the volunteers about adaptive wake surfing. This educational component encompassed how to teach adaptive wake surfing, the best way to operate the boat for a successful experience and the importance of communication with the boat driver, wake surfing instructors and support staff. After finding calm waters we practiced all the scenarios that had been discussed. The afternoon snuck up quickly but the volunteers were ready to serve the six First Responder and Veteran participants and their families. The day brought much excitement and a new zest for getting on the water. The next morning, a calm and welcoming lake was the perfect beginning to Arizona Adaptive Water Sports first adaptive wake surf clinic. There were twelve participants on three Centurion boats provided by Century Marine. This clinic was open to those with prosthetics and limb loss. That afternoon was a game changer for adaptive water sports in Arizona as we were able to get their adaptive wake surfers up using adaptive cages. These cages were made and donated by Tidal Fabrication a company created by OWS's very own Robby and his friend Brandon Milvihill with the purpose of making adaptive cages more affordable. Clinic day two was all about the kids. Thirteen children with all types of amazing abilities had a great time while the instructors, boat drivers and family members cheered them on. We are so thankful that we were able to be an integral part in improving their adaptive water sports program. At Operation Wake Surf, nothing fills our hearts more than when we receive messages after

our events letting us know what a positive impact we are having. A member of AAWS reached out with the following message. “At the lake we talk a lot about fear and overcoming it. We know that Fear is a Liar and Refreshing Your Soul happens when you participate in these types of adaptive water sports programs. With the education and resources, we received from Operation Wake Surf it will no doubt add to the lives we serve. Thank you, Operation Wake Surf for donating two wake surfing boards that worked great with our 2 new cages. We are very excited about the direction we will now be able to go thanks to Operation Wake Surf!”

## Lake Texoma, Texas

We had awesome turnout for our first event on Lake Texoma in Texas. It was HOT but that didn’t keep our local veterans and heroes from the Dallas Metro Police Department from joining us for this two day event with Action Water Sports. When asked about the event, Operation Wake Surf coach Mary said that it was really cool to know what a small difference we can make in the lives our first responders by simply giving them a day on the lake. They get to enjoy time to surf, look at the views or just hang out with new and old friends. She said one officer had just gotten his prosthetic leg a few months before and to see him successfully surf and the smile on his face reminded her why we do these events. Her favorite part of these events is witnessing the encouragement given to one another and seeing our participants succeed behind the boat.



## South Town Wake Park



With this Pass the Handle event, we partnered with South Town Wake Park in Rock Hill, SC. Here we were able to reach twenty three veterans and first responders in just one day. With this unique event our participants were given the opportunity to experience what it is like to ride on a cable instead of behind a boat. Cable wake boarding allows a rider to be pulled by an overhead cable ski system. South Town Wake Park is equipped with two custom lakes to accommodate riders of all skill levels. Their beginner system helps first time riders to have quick success. General Manager Kyle Dickman said that he was happy to see a few familiar faces from the event for return visits. Both South Town Wake Park and Operation Wake Surf are looking forward to growing this event and making it a consistent part of our schedule.

## First Responder BBQ

In July we took a break from the water to give back to our first responder community in other ways. Our crew teamed up with Pleasurecraft Engine Group (PCM) and Hungry Heroes to host the 2021 First Responders BBQ. This event took place in Little Mountain, South Carolina. Here we were able to feed over 250 first responders from local police departments, fire departments and sheriff's offices. At the event PCM surprised OWS with a second donation of \$5,000.



## Alexandra, MN



In August, our crew headed north with the Rose to pull 10 heroes in 2 days. After the event our hearts were filled when we received this message from a participant... "You know, I've been thinking about this since yesterday. You kept saying that we are hero's, and honestly it's just what we do. We care for people and for the community, even when they can't care for themselves. And the people I met, and things that I witnessed from you and your team was the exact same thing. I am so thankful that you and your

team are doing the work that you are. It is truly making a difference. You guys are hero's as well, and deserve more thanks than I can say. Thank you again for the amazing day and experience. You & your team are all such kind, caring, compassionate and driven people. It doesn't go unnoticed! Hero's need hero's too, and that's what you are for me. You gave me so much more faith in people and in the world. It's so refreshing to see good people doing great things. -Autumn"

## Golf Tournament



In September, our partner Joystick in Utah, chose Operation Wake Surf to be the beneficiary of their Annual Memorial Golf Tournament. Thanks to their generosity we received a donation for \$3,000 to further our mission. Their next memorial golf tournament will be on 9/11/2022 and will also benefit Operation Wake Surf. They hope to raise even more money for us next year. They believe in our mission and are happy to have the opportunity to pay it forward. It is generosity like this that gives us the ability to provide unforgettable and unique experiences to the first responders and military personnel who keep our communities and country safe.



## Southernmost Point



In September, our crew made a second appearance in Key West, Florida. This time we spent 3 days pulling 15 members of Homeland Security and the U.S. Coast Guard. One of the Homeland Security participants told us that our crew was a great blend of fun and professionalism. He also said “This event produced a remarkable interaction between our different agencies. While the participants arrived not knowing one another, we easily talked and interacted and I know that wouldn’t have happened as easily without the OWS crew to guide us. This was one of the coolest recreation events I have attended.”

## Texas Worlds

In October, prior to the 2021 Centurion World Wake Surf Championship we set up a one day Salute 2 Service event. At this event we split 20 heroes across 4 Centurion boats for a powerful experience proving you do not need to know how to swim to get out behind the boat and surf. One of our participants had this to say “For me, never learning how to swim and never wake boarding before, I was very nervous about going out on the water. However, because of the instructors I felt comfortable. After I was able to finally get up on the board and surf for the first time, I just wanted to do it again and again! For anyone going through tough times, this event is so helpful. My experience on the boat and on the water was such a great relief. For a few moments, I finally felt “peace”. I felt free from all the stress. I knew it was temporary and I knew when it was over, I’d still have to go back and face everything again. But, with everything I’ve gone through and all the challenges I’m still dealing with, I needed that so much. It was so worth it. Thank you for inviting me out there. It was such a great day for me.”

## Wakesgiving



On October 16th, 30 participants showed up for the 6th Annual Wakesgiving event. We split up on 5 Centurion boats for an afternoon of camaraderie and wake surfing. We ended with some amazing hotdogs from our partner and favorite food boat, Nautical Dawgs. Admission to this event was a donation for, local food bank, Angels and Sparrows. This year we were able to collect 2800 pounds of food and \$4,100 cash for Angels and Sparrows.

## 12 Hours of Wake Surfing

In October, athlete Sean Silveria became the mastermind behind another unique fundraiser to benefit Operation Wake Surf. He and other Phase 5 athletes live streamed 12 hours straight of wake surfing. This all day event raised an astounding \$24,000.

## The City Beautiful



In November surf season is winding down in most places. We decided to end the 2021 season of events by heading to a warm city with over 100 lakes. In conjunction with the Orange County Sportsman Club, this 2-day Salute 2 Service event was held on Lake Butler in Orlando, Florida. Special guests Ashley Kidd, Ashley Inloes and Danny Harf surprised our participants by showing off their wake boarding and wake surfing skills.



## Icing on the Wake

We set out with one main goal this year; to put on great events that honor those who protect and serve this country. As a crew, we are stoked about what we were able to accomplish. With Robby as the inaugural winner of Wakeboarding Magazine’s Pass the Handle Award in 2017; we were honored to be nominated this year. We were even more humbled to be chosen as the winner of the Wakeboarding Magazine 2021 Pass the Handle award. It is with great appreciation that we accept this award knowing that we could not have achieved this without the immense support of our partners and volunteers. Thank you to all who have helped us. This is YOUR award.



## Looking ahead to 2022

We are extremely excited to announce that Robby was able to achieve one of his personal Operation Wake Surf fundraising goals. At the beginning of 2021, Robby set out determined to find a way to raise \$5000 that would be used to purchase 1000, \$5 gift cards for coffee. The purpose of these gift cards is another way to thank our heroes for their service. Robby thought that if we were to be out and about and saw a first responder or military personnel we could walk up and hand them a gift card and say “thank you for your service”. These gift cards will be handed out nationally by our partners on the west coast, in the mid-west, Texas and the east coast. We would like to thank Matthew Reynolds and Reynolds Trucking for their donation that will cover these gift cards for 2022.



Operation Wake Surf is a 501.c.3 non-profit company. We rely on the generosity of others to help fulfill our financial needs. This allows us to host first-class events for the heroes of this great country. Thank you for your continued support of our organization.

# Thank You To Our Partners:

**Centurion Boats**  
**Enovation Controls**  
**Everett Chevy GMC**  
**Floatair Boat Lifts**  
**Fox Docks**  
**Gator Step**  
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**Joystick**  
**Lake Wake Life**  
**Let's Tie Up**  
**Lokal Media House**  
**Lone Rock Clothing**  
**Mission Boat Gear**

**Monster Energy**  
**Nautical Dawgs**  
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**Reynolds Trucking**  
**Roswell**  
**Southern Charm Vacations**  
**Tidal Fabrication**  
**TMS Custom Designs**  
**Victory Lane Indoor Karting**  
**Wake Surf Orlando**  
**The World Wake Association**