



DECLASSIFIED

Mission Debrief



OPERATION WAKE SURF

MONTHLY UPDATE

Operation Wake Surf has logged over 2,000 miles this month, but the true measure of our journey lies in the lives we have lifted. The calm waters of Lake Norman hosted a collection of 60 heroes throughout the month. The next scenic stretch took OWS to Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire, where 20 more found healing through the wake. Among those heroes were 12 firefighters, 5 police officers, and 3 veterans—all locals from towns like Salem, Nashua, Loudon, and Dover.



One of those moments belonged to a hero with a recent return from Fallujah. His words echo the heart of Operation Wake Surf: “My life has been black and white since my deployment. Since living in the world of boating and surfing, I now see my life is in color again.” Inspired by his experience, he began designing and selling T-shirts to help fund transportation for future heroes—ensuring others could find the same clarity and joy he did. His story is a reminder that healing does not end at the shoreline; it ripples outward, carried by those who have felt its power.

MEET THE SUPPORTERS

THIS IS 918 BOATS

918 Boats teamed up with Operation Wake Surf in 2024 after years of trying to align schedules, finally finding a moment that fits between other events. The partnership brought a powerful opportunity to honor more local Heroes and deepen community connections. Founded in 2010 and rebranded in 2018, 918 Boats is co-led by Hank Spencer and Todd Brooks—have a shared goal for 2025: keep growing impact by connecting more organizations and showing appreciation to those who serve.





SALUTE 2 SERVICE

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Salute to Service initiative was designed to teach veterans the healing power of surfing. At Silver Sands Marina, Rick Trotter led a two-day event that brought 20 heroes to the water, each one stepping onto a board and into a moment of connection, courage, and camaraderie. The Centurion boats program continues to honor those who've served by offering not just waves, but a renewed sense of purpose.

[SEE EVENT PICTURES](#)



UP NEXT

EVENTS

Future events: Partnership focused –
High Fives Foundation – Truckee,
California

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

HERO SPOTLIGHT

OMAR DELGADO - POLICE - RETIRED

Omar was a dedicated police officer from Eatonville, Florida and carries a profound story of service and survival. In June 2016, he responded to one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in U.S. history – the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando. Inside the club for three hours, Omar witnessed unimaginable scenes. Though praised for his bravery, the trauma left deep scars. Since that day, June has become a month of emotional weight and reflection for him, marked by the memories of that tragic night.

In the midst of grappling with PTSD, Omar discovered Operation Wake Surf (OWS) through a post by The Partner Foundation. “The timing couldn’t have been more crucial” says Omar. “What began as an invitation to take a mental vacation out on the water quickly became a lifeline”. Surrounded by others with their own burdens and battles, Omar found comfort not only in the stillness of Lake Norman but also in the camaraderie of those who understood his pain. “For me, OWS wasn’t just a getaway—it was a step forward in healing” says Omar. “What was once a month of darkness has begun to feel more like a season of renewal, it was transformative”.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

OPERATION WAKE SURF IS A 501.C.3 NONPROFIT COMPANY

Whether you donate time, talent, or financial support, it allows us to host free and unique events to honor the heroes of this great country.

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