

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER VHPA
HELICOPTER WAR MUSEUM (HWM)
WESTCLIFFE, CO 13 MAY 2017**

The chapter was invited by chapter member Charles Bogle of Westcliffe, CO to attend the Community and Veterans Appreciation Event at A Painted View Ranch on 13 May 2017 with the HWM. We accepted the invitation despite the distance because several members volunteered to attend as docents. The docents were Rick Beaver, Bill Bates, Ben Prieb, Doug Neil, Eric Brettschneider and Jim McNamee. Rick, Bill, Ben and Jim got there Friday afternoon, but Rick and Ben were the ones who did most of the work to set up the museum. Doug and Eric were there Saturday for the event. We were co-located with RMC members Bill McPherson and Ken Overturf and their crew with their Mike Model gunship.

The HWM's transportation was arranged by Charles and Dale House. It took a lot of effort on their parts to coordinate a driver exchange between a Sawaya driver and a Westcliffe driver to avoid one driver having to make the whole trip. In addition, when Rick and Bill set up the HWM on Friday, they discovered an electrical problem. They resolved it after 3 hours or so on Friday afternoon and Saturday, just in time for the event.

The event was not as well attended as anticipated, probably because it was a very windy day. We had about 150 visitors in the HWM, and only \$19 in donations, with no clothing or model sales. Although we didn't have many visitors, the ones that we had were very interested and appreciative. Most stayed for quite a while (especially one-ask Ben about him). We had several children, and the cockpit was a prime attraction. .

Those of us that were there Friday night and Bill, Ken and their crew were all treated to a dinner at the Alpine Lodge (nice restaurant in the Sangre de Christo foothills) by Donna and Ralph Hood, the owners of A Painted View Ranch, where the event was held. Great people and a great dinner. The event was sponsored by Outdoor Buddies, which is a volunteer, nonprofit organization that pairs able-bodied volunteers with disabled individuals to enjoy Colorado's natural resources