

September 2017



THE SIERRA CLUB NEWSLETTER FROM CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE (CTL)

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 24 - 30 - Sierra Club National Outing - [Volunteer Vacation at Clair Tappaan Lodge](#)

October 1 - 7 - Sierra Club National Outing - [Autumn Hiking and History in the Sierra Nevada](#)

October 13 - 15 - Volunteer Work Party - Help CTL get ready for another winter; get free room and board

October 28 - Haunted Lodge Halloween Party

November 23 - Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner and Welcome Winter/Pray for Snow Celebration

For more details on all events please visit our [website](#)

RAISING \$\$\$ FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ED

By Diane Boyer, CTL Committee Member

Our annual fundraiser was held at CTL August 18-20. About 25 loyal supporters attended and enjoyed a campfire, a hike, music with wine and cheese, an art auction, a delicious dinner, some interesting travel photos, and the companionship of fellow nature lovers.

The primary focus of the weekend was to raise funds for youth groups who come to the lodge to study environmental education with support from the CTL Environmental Education Fund. These kids will be our next generation of stewards of the land and we want them to love it, and understand how and why we all need to take good care of it.

An anonymous supporter has challenged us to match a generous donation of \$10,000 by September 21. With proceeds from the art auction and fundraising weekend, along with additional donations, we have made \$7,895. This is an amazing amount from so few people. We just have a little over \$2,000 to go to receive the full matching donation; more than that would be even better!

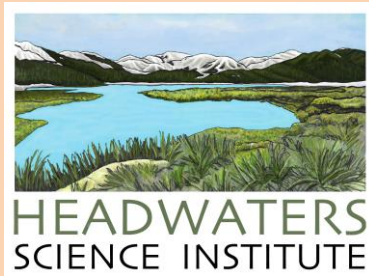
Please help us reach our \$20,000+ goal.

If you do NOT need a tax deduction, you may make your check payable to "Clair Tappaan Lodge." If you want a tax deduction, make your check payable to "Sierra Club Foundation/CTL." Note environmental education on the memo line, and mail to CTL, PO Box 36. Norden CA 95724. The lodge can then record the donation as part of the challenge match. Thank you!



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LETTERS



The Headwaters Science Institute recently led a group of students in environmental education at CTL. Students submitted cards of appreciation:

Sierra Club,

Thank you for supporting us by [letting us] stay for three days in this amazing and beautiful place.

- *Pedro Vargas*

Thank you very much for helping commission this trip. As a person who needed a little help paying for the trip, it was great to have the help. Thank you!

Thank you! I really enjoyed this trip!

- *Miguel*

Thanks so much! Had a wonderful time learning about science and being in nature!

Thanks bunches for everything! We learned loads and had lots of fun!

- *Molly*

Thank you, this was a fantastic trip

- *Robert*

RECENT REVIEWS ON FACEBOOK

To stay connected with all happenings at CTL, please like us at [facebook.com/clairtappaanlodge](https://www.facebook.com/clairtappaanlodge)

Courtenay Willis - August 10, 2017

We loved our stay at this lodge and only wish we could come more often! Thank you to everyone who made us feel at home. We will be back!

Peg Naylor - August 17, 2017

We loved our stay at Clair Tappaan Lodge! The staff are so friendly, helpful, and welcoming, the food is homey and amazing (thanks Denny and Peter!), the setting is stunning, and the grand, historic lodge is rustic and comfortable. The lodge is full of cozy nooks for curling up and reading, lots of balconies and porches for taking in the scenery, and lots of great places for doing activities with others, be it drinking coffee and talking, painting, or looking up and discussing plants and plant taxonomy together (thanks Ben!) We really enjoyed the sense of community CTL consciously fosters--doing chores with other guests as well as kitchen staff--setting out table wares for the next meal, washing up and cleaning afterward. Also, though CTL is rustic, it is also spotless--kudos to the staff who manage to keep this grand old lodge so comfortable and clean! We felt like we'd lived there always, and would like to continue to do so...

2



Sierra Club Clair Tappaan Lodge
19940 Donner Pass Road
Norden, CA 95724
530-426-3632
www.clairtappaanlodge.com



CTL FUNDRAISER WEEKEND

A group of people dedicated to the Lodge met on August 18-20 to celebrate friendship, volunteerism, art, music, and giving.

Diane Boyer and Wally Juchert were honored for their many years of work at Hutchinson Lodge. All volunteer time, and I am sure a lot of donated money, were spent to make Hutchinson a comfortable, well-lighted, well-built place for visitors to enjoy for many decades to come. Thank you Diane and Wally for all you do!

Front yard gathering



Enjoying nature



Chatting around a campfire



Art work was donated and auctioned



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Our wonderful, knowledgeable hike leader – Rick Ramos



Checking out Native American Rock Art...



Songwriter and jazz guitarist Nancy Davis



And the views



Photos by Stefan Stadler and Pat Mikkelsen



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A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE TO CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE

By Ernie Malamud, CTL Committee member

My first visits to CTL began in 1951 while I was an undergraduate at UC Berkeley. I went there often, learning to ski on the trails around the Lodge or at Sugar Bowl. In those days there were rope tows, a Warming Hut on Signal Hill, T-bars, and no I-80.

I made frequent treks to Peter Grubb to spend the night, but it took longer than now. To reach the Benson hut without the Mt. Lincoln chairlift, we strapped skins onto our skis, hooked our cable bindings to the front hitch, and climbed up. At the top, off came the wet skins, we wrapped them around our waists, admired the view, rehooked our bindings for downhill, and continued on our way.

Once, a small group of four, all UC students, were returning from Peter Grubb and were caught in a blizzard, a "whiteout" with visibility of only a few feet. I had a tiny round metal compass in my emergency kit. We couldn't see a thing and I asked each of my three companions which way they thought would lead us back to Clair Tappaan. One said north, one said east, one said west, and one said south! So I became the self-appointed leader and chose a direction.

For hours we plodded blindly through the deep snow, taking care to not lose sight of each other. Night approached. It was tense. Some began to recite the Lord's Prayer. We worried about the many steep cliffs we knew were somewhere in the vicinity.

Suddenly, there in front of us, ghostlike in the obscurity, was the entrance to Clair Tappaan!

It was a frightening experience but it's a great story to tell now.

Many years later, that same little metal compass was used again in a whiteout on a glacier in the Swiss Alps. Night came and our group of 18 was lost. To get the

compass, I had to take off my gloves, reach in my pack, untie the fastening on my emergency kit, and fish out the compass. Our group finally was rescued, but my right hand was frost-bitten and had to remain bandaged for six weeks while I learned to write on the blackboard with my left hand. But that's another story.

The Sierra Club was much smaller in the 1950s and one frequently ran into club VIPs at the Lodge. One time I needed a ride back to the Bay Area and Dave Brower, then the Sierra Club Executive Director and Editor of many beautiful Sierra Club books, gave me a lift back to my dorm in Berkeley.

I returned to California in 2000, and Olivia, my wife, and I began using CTL again, both summer and winter. Twice we celebrated Thanksgiving there. We took friends there who wanted to learn to snowshoe and to experience the nearby backcountry huts, the beautiful surrounding mountains, and the unique Lodge ambiance. We took grandchildren and their friends to sled down First Hill. In the peaceful atmosphere around the fireplace, we met many friendly people from all over the country, people who share the same values we do. My fervent hope is that CTL and the Club properties at Donner Summit remain for future generations to enjoy.



**CONTACT THE LODGE FOR
RESERVATIONS:**

530-426-3632

or email:

reservations@clairtappaanlodge.com

5



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