



THE SIERRA CLUB NEWSLETTER FROM CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE (CTL)

THE LODGE IS OPEN

The Clair Tappaan Lodge reopened on April 1, 2022, after a hiatus of more than two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. CTL has been accepting reservations since the reopening on a modified occupancy basis. You can book your next stay online at clairtappaanlodge.com.

To mark the occasion, a Grand Reopening celebration was held Saturday July 9th at CTL with live music, and artisan craft sales.



HEADS UP: FUNDRAISING

For more than a decade, an annual Summer fund-raising weekend has been held at Clair Tappaan Lodge (CTL.) However, again this year because of Covid uncertainties, it will not be held.

We are expecting schools and other groups to return to CTL to experience Donner Summit and to learn about its environment. These groups may apply for grant funds to help pay for food and lodging.

The Advisory Committee has prepared a fund-raising letter to send to you, friend of Clair Tappaan Lodge, in the near future. Please watch for the email message and I hope you will be able to give generously to maintain our ability to enable schools and youth groups to bring students to Donner Summit to experience the beauty of the area.

NEW GENERAL MANAGER

The Clair Tappaan Lodge extends a warm welcome to Christopher Marlatt as the new General Manager. With over 20 years of experience in business management focused in the recreation industry, and more than 20 years in the Tahoe region, Christopher, who goes by Topher, brings valuable local knowledge to the operation, as well as the ability to help the organization thrive. Topher joins the lodge after spending over a decade helping cultivate Tahoe Treetop Adventure Parks into a 5-star, #1 rated activity in the North Tahoe region.

Topher feels blessed to call Truckee home, and to share his life with his beautiful wife Alexis, who is the heart and soul of their family, and the Executive Director of the local nonprofit Mountain Area Preservation. Several years ago, Topher and Alexis welcomed their amazing daughter, Finley Sage, who brightens up their world every day with her huge smile, fiery red hair, and vivacious personality.

With the support of his loving family, the Sierra Club, and Vista Recreation (parent/acquiring company of Basecamp hospitality), Topher is excited to take on his new chapter in life, and plans to drive the mission of the lodge forward, in growing the business, and caring for this historic property, and all its guests, who seek its shelter, and warmth of character.

SIERRA CLUB AT DONNER SUMMIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Advisory Committee for Sierra Club at Donner Summit met April 22-23 at CTL to reorganize and welcome new members to the committee.

Committee Members Attending
(In person): Diane Boyer, Wally Juchert (Chair), Scott Mattoon, Mike Pechner, Sarah Pender, and Dick Simpson.

(By Zoom): Ká Hering

The meeting agenda covered the reopening, as well as planned work parties for lodge and hut maintenance, capital improvements, environmental education programs, fundraising, and a potential forestry project for the forest surrounding CTL and Hutchinson lodges.

The committee wishes to thank Pat Mikkelson for her role as Editor of the Goshawk, the Sierra Club at Donner Summit newsletter. For ten years Pat gathered information, wrote and edited articles, did layout, and made sure each issue was distributed to subscribers.



Committee Chair Wally Juchert (left) and General Manager Topher Marlatt in the CTL kitchen discussing improvements to the Lodge.



THE SIERRA CLUB AT DONNER SUMMIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE: A SHORT EXPLANATION

Sometimes friends of Clair Tappaan Lodge, like you, forget or perhaps don't know, that the Sierra Club owns a considerable amount of land and buildings at Donner Summit and surrounding area. In addition to Clair Tappaan Lodge and the land around it, there is Hutchinson Lodge across the ravine. There is also a complex of remote huts in the National Forest including Benson Hut, Bradley Hut, Ludlow Hut, and Peter Grubb Hut owned by the Sierra Club and administered by Clair Tappaan Lodge staff.

That is why there is a reference to The Sierra Club at Donner Summit in the rather long name of the Advisory Committee. But the name correctly indicates the breadth of what we routinely refer to as Clair Tappaan or CTL. It is also why we routinely refer to ourselves simply as the CTL Advisory Committee.

JUNE SIERRA CLUB VOLUNTEERING EFFORTS...

Long Weekend Improving Lodge

By Bill Glenn, Sierra Club Outings Leader

Two groups of Sierra Club volunteers from across the country spent a long weekend in late June carrying out projects to maintain and improve Clair Tappaan Lodge. Just a few of the projects included digging culverts to direct runoff, building/painting and planting window

boxes, sewing new curtains for the dining room, clearing vegetation, and improving signage to the lodge. The 25 volunteers came from California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas and Wisconsin.



The Sierra Club's National Outings program has long offered week-long service trips (aka 'volunteer vacations') at lodges like Clair Tappaan, national parks and wilderness areas, and other locations. The June 'Weekend Service at Clair Tappaan Lodge' outing was its first four-night service trip, with one group working on projects on Thursday and Friday, and a second group working on Monday and Tuesday. Both groups enjoyed local hikes, kayaking and other activities over the weekend.

Another Sierra Club service group will be coming to the lodge in August. To learn more about service trips and other Sierra Club outings, visit www.sierraclub.org/outings



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firewood, and prepping the hut for the upcoming winter season. They found the hut to be in reasonable condition, requiring only minor repairs.



Ludlow Hut work party at CTL readies for a weekend of service at the remote hut.



There are two upcoming Sierra Club National Outings at Clair Tappaan Lodge in 2022 (these are filled to capacity, but you can add your name to the waitlist for both):

- [August 7-13: Work and Play, Tahoe National Forest, California](#)
- [October 21-26: National Outings Training Trip](#)



New signage near CTL commemorates the history, scenic access, and recreational opportunities in the area.

Seasonal Hut Volunteering

Another group of Volunteers spent a weekend at Ludlow hut making repairs, cutting



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