



THE SIERRA CLUB NEWSLETTER FROM CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE (CTL)

HELP NEEDED!

New Year's Eve Party Coordinator

For years, CTL Committee Member and former Chair Rich Johns, along with his family, took on the joyous task of organizing our New Year's Eve celebration. With the help of other Lodge guests, they would create a festive atmosphere by decorating the dining and living rooms. Rich would select a volunteer MC/coordinator for the all-ages talent show. He would also create and prepare an appetizer and refreshment menu to be served after the talent show when music, dancing, and socializing would ensue until the midnight hour and beyond. The New Year's Celebration has been on hiatus for the last couple of years, but it is now time to resurrect this long-standing tradition at Clair Tappaan Lodge. If you are interested in the Party Coordinator role, or even a portion of it, please contact Lodge Manager Peter Lehmkuhl at 530-426-3632.

ENVIRONMENTAL ED UPDATE

WE MET OUR FUNDRAISING MATCH!

With an anonymous donor willing to match \$10,000, we reached our goal and contributed \$20,000 to the Clair Tappaan Lodge Environmental Education Scholarship Fund. The Fund subsidizes underserved students and Sierra Club's *Inspiring Connections Outdoors* program (<https://content.sierraclub.org/outings/ico>) to help kids experience the High Sierra while participating in high-level environmental education and conservation programs and group activities in a comfortable environment.



Clair Tappaan Lodge, November 2017

On behalf of all of the students who benefited from the Scholarship Fund, we thank all who contributed, and especially our very generous matching donor.

Tax-deductible donations to the Scholarship Fund are always accepted and greatly appreciated. To donate to the fund, please make your check out to "Sierra Club Foundation-CTL" and mail to: Clair Tappaan Lodge, Attn: Peter Lehmkuhl, PO Box 36, Norden, CA 95724

If you are interested in applying for a grant, please contact j2risk@gmail.com

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A CONNECTION WITH THE PAST AT PETER GRUBB HUT

By Dick Simpson

Photos by Robin Whitmore

Three of the four Sierra Club huts managed by Clair Tappaan Lodge were built as memorials to Club members.¹ The three associated families were part of a tightly knit Sierra Club core in the San Francisco Bay area that dates back to at least the 1920s. The Club maintains contact with the Ludlow and Bradley families, but relationships have loosened over the years. An exception is the family of Peter Grubb; his sister, Elizabeth Lampen, has contributed to the maintenance of the Grubb Hut in substantial ways for decades, and she helped organize a 50th anniversary

celebration for the hut in 1989 which drew about 50 people, including family members and other guests. She recently set up an endowment for the hut through the Sierra Club Foundation, which will provide funds for continuing maintenance. Her sons decided that a plaque should be installed at the hut commemorating the occasion.

It took a year for the principals to agree on a procedure and dates, but everything was eventually aligned with a regular Grubb Hut work party scheduled for October 7-8. Five members of the family and two friends joined in the work party, along with 14 other volunteers. Among other tasks, the work party brought firewood to the hut from a remote cutting site, cleaned the wood stove and its stovepipe, and boxed shingles from an old roof that can be used as kindling.



¹ Benson Hut is also a memorial, but its origins are less clear. When sorted out, a Benson history may become the subject of a future *Goshawk* article.

Grubb family and friends prior to mounting the new memorial plaque to Peter. Left to right: Steve and Michael Lampen (Peter's nephews), Ken High (family friend), Dick Simpson (work party leader), Henry Bridges (family friend), and Deborah Moskovitz (Peter's niece).



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After lunch Saturday, the Grubb/Lampen/friends team posed for pictures with the new plaque, then cleared a space on the west interior wall, applied adhesive, and mounted the plaque. It was held in place by duct tape, two fire irons, and a stick of firewood in hopes that the adhesive would cure before departure. It didn't, as everyone discovered Sunday when removing the tape and supports; so family and friends will plan a second attempt sometime in 2018, perhaps when the wall is warmer, after chipping away some of the paint, or investigating alternative mounting techniques.



Michael Lampen adjusts the new plaque. A portrait of Peter, drawn by his mother, is to the left.

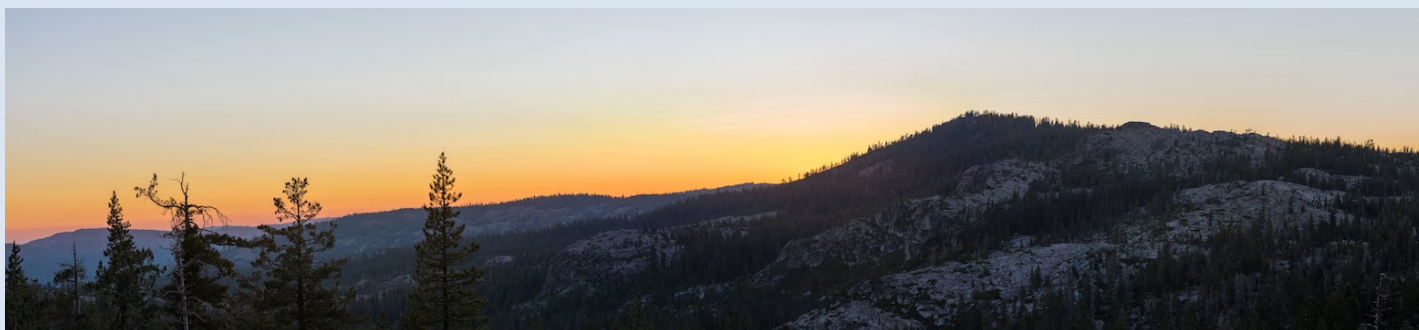


Reneé Moskovitz (Ted Grubb's granddaughter and Peter's grandniece) looking westward, while Henry Bridges cleans the stovepipe in the background. Renee's father, Bob Moskovitz, is the only family member not captured in these photographs.

By 4:00 pm, almost all of the cut firewood had been brought to the hut. Those interested took a couple of hours to relax before dinner; there were reports that a few went swimming at Sand Ridge Lakes.

As cleanup proceeded after dinner, Steve recounted several stories about Peter Grubb and his family, including the somewhat mysterious circumstances of his death. Officially, Peter died of sunstroke on a bicycle trip near Capri in 1937; but family members believe he may have been ill for several days before he died.

There was frost on the grass in Round Valley Sunday morning. Several people slept outside, where the main problem was the intense light from the just past full moon. Those who slept inside remembered that the smoke alarm had gone off about 5:30 AM when too much smoke escaped from the wood stove during an attempt to refresh the fire.



Saturday sunset from rocks west of the hut, a familiar view to those building the hut in 1938-39.



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The primary task Sunday was to move more than five cords of firewood from the enormous pile outside the hut's north door into the east wing of the hut, where it would be available to winter users. With 20 people forming a chain, this task was completed in a couple of hours. Interleaving cleanup and lunch, the group was ready to head out by 1 PM, leaving the hut as well prepared as it ever has been for its 80th winter season—this time with the added benefit of some of Peter's family spirit.

2017 HUT WORK PARTIES

Text and uncredited photos by Dick Simpson

The biggest hut work party of the 2017 season lasted four days and involved nearly three dozen people. Benson Hut had been structurally damaged by heavy snow last winter (see *Goshawk*, summer 2017, page 4). Snow and ice moving down from Anderson Peak had pushed in the south side of the hut, buckling an interior wall, breaking windows, and fracturing barge rafters on both ends of the building. The hut was habitable, but this wasn't a good starting point for winter 2017-18.

John Jackson took a day from his normal duties at Clair Tappaan Lodge to survey the damage once the snow had melted in mid-July. He passed his assessment to Jim Gannon, who led a wood cutting work party to Benson the following weekend and took a look himself. Jim then recruited a second work party for the weekend after Labor Day, which was

divided into two teams. The Relay Team delivered food, tools, and materials to the hut, while the Repair Team used the cargo to carry out the repairs. By driving vehicles nearly to the top of Sugar Bowl's Mt. Lincoln, the Relay Team was able to keep the supply line to about three miles (each way); but there was never enough time to make more than one round trip each day.

Most of the hauling was completed on Saturday and Sunday by the dozen Relay Team members, who stayed overnight at Clair Tappaan Lodge. There were about 20 at the hut Saturday night; that number dropped to 10 Sunday afternoon as the weekenders headed home. Dave Rust, a former contractor who also did winter damage repair at Peter Grubb Hut in August, led the Repair Team. I guided the Relay Team, learning how heavy a 20-foot 2x10 can be, and also how difficult it is to find one within 60 miles of Donner Summit on a Saturday evening or Sunday morning (we underestimated the lumber requirements for repair).



South side of Benson Hut after barge rafter demolition (photo by Peter Race).

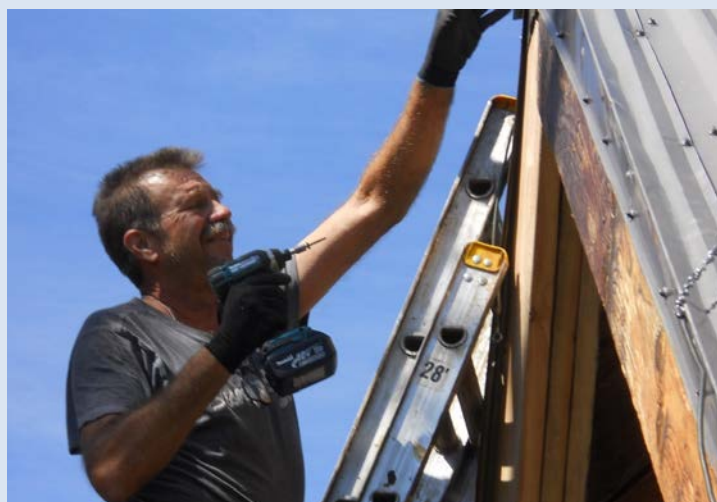


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With a smaller and more experienced crew, the work fell into a routine by Monday. That evening everyone in the Donner Summit area (including at the hut) was treated to a spectacular electrical storm with thunder and hail. As the storm cleared, the sunset burned through the clouds to the west making it appear that the Summit was engulfed in an enormous forest fire.

Vertical roof supports were installed under the barge rafters Tuesday morning, and the crew headed out with a wary eye toward new clouds moving parallel to the Crest and dumping rain into the North Fork watershed to the west.



Paul Dickson installing a metal plate at the peak of the Benson Hut roof.



Repair Team wrestles with north side barge rafter and supports.

The September Benson work party was the biggest during 2017 in terms of both length and number of participants. But Peter Grubb had four weekends of its own, attracting more than 60 people total. Hal Tompkins led 10 people to Bradley Hut on the same weekend as the big Benson work party, and Jason McLachlan had 20 at Ludlow Hut in mid-October for a weekend of (mostly) wood cutting that was so successful he may not need to cut wood next year.



Bethany Hinchliffe (left) and Chris Edmands (center) staining 4x4 rafter supports at Benson.



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HAUNTED HOSTEL

By CTL Staff

Werewolves and vampires were creeping around Clair Tappaan Lodge on October 27 and 28, as we hosted our first annual *Fright Factory at the Haunted Hostel*. With the help of Truckee Dance Factory and their petrifying performances, we were able to entertain over 260+ ghoulish guests for this weekend event!

With the Boogie Bots performing Thriller every half hour, hot food available, pumpkin & costume contests, ghost sack races, witches broom limbo, raffles, and an abundance of carnival games for the kids to play, there was never a dreadfully dull moment!

The mastermind behind this creepy creation was Clair Tappaan Lodge's one and only Cassandra Maas, Group Coordinator, who has been working here for a little over two years. With a passion for special-effects make-up and Halloween, she dedicated endless hours not only to finding a cast and crew to make the Haunted Hostel possible, but even hand-making many creepy decorations and doing a lot of the set up inside and outside for this event. Many mentioned that Cassandra was a "one woman show," doing the set up and running the creepy carnival for the kids. She said "It would not have been possible without the help of the Truckee Dance Factory and all the volunteers who came to help out both nights." This eerie event was able to raise over \$3,000!! Three cheers for Cassandra on her successful event!

If you didn't get a chance to creep through the Haunted Hostel, don't worry! The Fright Factory at the Haunted Hostel will be coming back around Next October!

Check out the Truckee Dance Factory's trailer on what you missed!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r3pXCfQ1RNw>



CTL employees John Jackson and Cassandra Maas.



It's snowing on Donner Summit!



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WINTER WILDLANDS ALLIANCE

Clair Tappan Lodge was honored to host the [Winter Wildlands Alliance](#) Grassroots Advocacy Conference in November. The Alliance is the “first and only national organization of its kind for human-powered snow sport enthusiasts and winter wildland conservationists.”

Their mission is “to ensure a safe, quiet, tranquil experience for every winter wildlands adventurer, now and always.” To find out more, go to:

<http://www.moonshineink.com/news/five-ways-keep-winter-wild>



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OUTREACH AND MARKETING TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

By Claire McLean

More and more, residents and businesses in the area are finding out about Clair Tappaan Lodge. Peter Lehmkuhl, Lodge Manager, and Claire McLean, Outreach and Marketing, feel that bringing local awareness and building community is important.

On October 10, Clair Tappaan Lodge hosted its first Truckee Chamber of Commerce Mixer. Being a member of the Chamber, we wanted to show area businesses our Lodge and entertain them at the same time. The Tahoe Truckee School of Music and Conscious Container co-hosted this event with us.

We had donations from D.B.I. Truckee (Beer Distributor), Beyond the Rails (Grass Valley band), and several other local businesses. Our chefs made yummy appetizers, and Peter gave a tour of the Lodge and answered many questions. We were told by the Chamber that our mixer was a huge success.

Here are some links worth exploring:

<http://www.truckee.com>

<http://www.tahoemusic.net>

<https://www.facebook.com/beyondtherails/>

<http://consciouscontainer.com>

On November 3, we hosted a Holiday Dinner for 55 local residents who live in Truckee. This group has been having their holiday dinner at the Lodge for several years. Our chefs created an amazing meal, and Peter had an opportunity to share facts about the Lodge and give a tour. Everyone was in awe! We received endless compliments.

We are now on Tahoe.com (the largest and most successful search engine in the area). This was a great

decision, as we now have people calling to inquire about and book a reservation at the Lodge.

Check us out at: <https://tahoe.com>

Go to: Home Page - Top of Page (Truckee/Northstar) - Places to Stay - Location: Donner Summit

Clair Tappaan Lodge is working with the Donner Summit Association. Please check out their website: <https://www.donnersummitca.com>. We have put their website on our website (under *Activities*).



CONTACT THE LODGE FOR RESERVATIONS

530-426-3632

or email

reservations@clairtappaanlodge.com

HELPING OUT

We appreciate any donations to help offset general operating expenses at Clair Tappaan Lodge; however, they are not tax-deductible.

Please make your check out to *Clair Tappaan Lodge* and mail to: Clair Tappaan Lodge, Attn: Peter Lehmkuhl, PO Box 36, Norden, CA 95724. Thank you!



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