



**THE SIERRA CLUB NEWSLETTER FROM CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE (CTL)**

P.O. BOX 36, NORDEN, CA 95724 - PHONE: 530-426-3632

**IN SHORT**

By Pat Mikkelsen, editor,  
member CTL Committee

**SUCCESS!**

The Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee and all those who support the lodge were successful in reaching the goal mandated by the Sierra Club of breaking even by September 30, 2008. **THE LODGE WILL NOT BE SOLD!**

The fourth annual Summer Fund Raiser helped us to reach our goal, bringing in \$21,000. Weekend activities included hikes, movies, live music, campfire, raffle, special dinner, and a silent auction with wine and cheese reception. A total of \$1,553 was raised by the Silent Auction, \$10,880 came from people who could not attend, and the balance was from those in attendance and the raffle.



**SAVE THE DATE**

Celebrate Clair Tappaan Lodge's 75<sup>th</sup> and Hutchinson Lodge's 85<sup>th</sup> birthdays—August 14-16, 2009, at Clair Tappaan. We are setting up an organization committee; all help welcome!

**CHECK OUT OUR WEB PAGE**

Please add our web page <http://ctl.sierraclub.org> to your list of favorites. It details all the lodge's activities, national outings, and local group outings; contains past Goshawk newsletters; and is current on all the news and happenings (thanks to Ernie Malamud for keeping the web page up-to-date).

**EDUCATION**

One of the more important experiences in a child's life is getting into the great outdoors and appreciating its wonder... The Lodge has participated in many such educational programs, including: "Building Bridges to the Outdoors" sponsored by the Sierra Club; the Gateway Mountain Center which "connects people to nature" (see article, page 6); and The Woods Project, a program of Houston Inner City Outings (see article, page 7). These and many other groups and activities are the future of Clair Tappaan Lodge!

**EDUCATION FUND**

The Clair Tappaan Lodge has a small Educational fund in the Sierra Club Foundation. We use these funds to underwrite school or youth groups to participate in the educational programs at the Lodge. The Clair Tappaan Committee disperses the funds on an as-needed basis as long as the funds last. Donations specifically designated for this fund are tax-deductible; please send to Peter Lehmkuhl, Clair Tappaan Lodge P.O. Box 36 Norden, CA 95724.

**WINTER IS SOON HERE - TIME FOR SKIING LESSONS**

Clair Tappaan Lodge offers beginning, intermediate, and advanced classes in cross-country skiing. Our philosophy and teaching methods emphasize fun and learning functional skills for greater enjoyment.

Clair Tappaan holds classes on weekends and holidays, as well as on weekdays when there is sufficient interest. Classes

typically start at 10 AM and cost \$16 for a one to two hour lesson (depending upon class size). The minimum age for children is eight years old.



**MANY MANY THANKS**

The co-chairs of the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee, Diane Boyer and Olivia Diaz, have been incredibly busy and successful, organizing meetings, phone conferences, and the fundraiser; maintaining communication with committee members; and making things happen. We want to sincerely thank them for all their tireless work in the successful effort to save the lodge.



Olivia Diaz and Diane Boyer  
CTL Committee Co-Chairs

## Fall 2008

### 2008 FINANCES

We are grateful for donations to maintain and support the Clair Tappaan Lodge. Donations are not tax-deductible; however, the money goes directly to support Lodge operations. Checks can be made payable to Clair Tappaan Lodge and sent to Peter Lehmkuhl, Lodge General Manager, Clair Tappaan Lodge P.O. Box 36 Norden, CA 95724.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

For information about staying at the Lodge, visit <http://ctl.sierraclub.org> or call (800) 679-6775. To volunteer for the effort to keep the lodge profitable, please contact one of the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee Co-Chairs: Diane Boyer ([dianeboyer@hughes.net](mailto:dianeboyer@hughes.net)) or Olivia Diaz ([odiaz@foothill.net](mailto:odiaz@foothill.net)).

## THE SIERRA CLUB IS NOT IN THE LODGING BUSINESS, IT IS IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION BUSINESS.

By Ernie Malamud, past-chair CTL Committee and Sierra Club Member since 1951

For the conservation mission of the Sierra Club to be vigorous and effective in future decades, a new generation of conservationists is essential. Where will this influx of young people come from? All entities of the Sierra Club need to be concerned. The “Sierra Club at Donner Summit”—70 acres of mountains, forests, trails and two historic lodges—has responded to this challenge by making a major paradigm shift over the past two years. Besides the clear need to interest young people in conservation, another driving factor has been climate change. Winter in the Sierra comes later in the year, and spring arrives earlier.

The Clair Tappaan and Hutchinson lodges have become important centers for environmental education programs. Those who participate are not only from the surrounding region but also come from other parts of the United States.

There are many conservation organizations, all of which are doing important work to protect our planet. So what

makes the Sierra Club different and unique from these other organizations? Our “brand”—our name and logo—ties us to our past history. And our outings programs and the first words in our motto “Explore, enjoy, protect” give us a special place. Exploration and enjoyment of the beautiful mountains and forests at Donner Summit lead young and old to a desire and need to protect.

The Sierra Club Board of Directors in November 2006 gave us two challenges: to reach break-even status by September 30 of this year (see following article by Olivia Diaz) and to produce a Strategic Plan. Competent and dedicated hard work by many allowed us to reach both goals. The Sierra Club at Donner Summit serves the Club in two ways: as a revenue center and as a part of the important work of generating new, young conservationists.

These successful efforts can be reproduced elsewhere. The concluding paragraph in our Strategic Plan states:

*Our vision for the future is that the Education Center and its rich and varied programs can be replicated elsewhere in the United States. There surely exist old historic and underutilized lodges and buildings in other parts of the nation. The Sierra Club can acquire or rent them and adapt the full menu of programs developed at Donner Summit to local conditions.*

## WE DID IT!

By Olivia Diaz, Co-Chair, CTL Lodge Committee

At their fall meeting, the Sierra Club Board of Directors accepted the following resolution offered by the Finance Governance Committee:

*The Finance Committee accepts the third quarter report from the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee and acknowledges success in overseeing the operation of CTL to meet the Board of Directors' resolution (November 2006) to break-even by September 30, 2008. The [Finance Committee] thanks volunteers and staff for their outstanding effort. The CTL*

*Committee is encouraged to continue to maximize their contribution to working capital to the extent possible to support the Club's conservation mission.*

In the final figures for the third quarter (September 30, 2008), the Clair Tappaan Lodge complex not only broke even, but we ended with a surplus of \$45,579! In addition, occupancy increased during the third quarter by 22.3% over the same period in 2007.

This is a major accomplishment. Last year at this time, it wasn't clear we would make it. Many people contributed to this success. The credit goes not only to the hard working CTL staff and members of the CTL committee, but to the many of you who showed your support by staying at CTL, Hutchinson Lodge, or the backcountry huts, and those of you who attended or donated to our August Full Moon weekend.

What made the biggest difference is our launch into outdoor education, offering programs in the environment, history, culture, and science. In the first two years of that program we served nearly 1,000 students and their teachers. It was a major paradigm shift that was clearly stated in our Strategic Plan published in 2007.

We went after a new market while continuing to serve our base, Sierra Club skiers and hikers. To stay in the clear, we must keep it up.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW CHAIR

By Jim Balsitis, with Aurora Roberts

Out of the Sierra Club Project renewal, a new entity has emerged—the California/Nevada Outings Subcommittee (CA-NV-OS), effective October 4, 2008. I am very pleased to announce that Claudia Hillgoss will be the chair of the new subcommittee. Claudia has been very active leading more than 20 trips since 1995 and has been working closely with me for the last year in this Subcommittee. I am confident that Claudia will be a fine presence in the Chair position.

As you know, a Chair can't do it all without committee members. Jan Lockie and Guy Brown, current CA-NV-OS leaders, will be co-Vice Chairs alongside Claudia. Jan has been invaluable as Vice Chair for CA-NV-OS and Guy has recently stepped back into leading and is the Records Chair. Marti Greason will be stepping down as Finance Chair. Sy Gelman will continue as the united CA-NV-OS Finance Chair and help us in our fiscal responsibilities.

## A TRIBUTE TO AURORA ROBERTS

By Claudia Hillgoss, Chair, CANVOS

Aurora Roberts is an extraordinary Sierra Club volunteer. She participated in her first national outing in 2001 at a Clair Tappaan Lodge Family Camp. She instantly fell in love with the Lodge and the Tahoe National Forest, like so many of us, and quickly became active as a National Outings leader.



In June 2003, Aurora became Chair of the Sierra Club's National Lodge Outings Subcommittee. In this volunteer leadership position, she has contributed countless hours to insure that the Lodge Outings Subcommittee maintains the proven trips and develops new ones.

During Aurora's tenure, the total number of annual trips led by Lodge Outings increased from 19 in 2003 to an all-time high of 29. In 2008, fourteen of those trips were based at Clair Tappaan Lodge. This success can be directly attributed to Aurora's commitment to keeping Clair Tappaan Lodge alive.

Aurora is an excellent communicator. Everyone appreciates her approachable, caring manner. She has gently guided the

Outings Subcommittee through a period of great change. She nurtured the committee's leaders through the Sierra Club's new leader certification requirements and quality-improvement process. She was also responsible for organizing the annual meetings of the Outings Subcommittee and establishing a new website.

According to Marti Greason, the Outings Subcommittee Treasurer, Aurora has been a strong financial manager who always balanced the budget.

In everything she does, Aurora has always promoted the Sierra Club mission. She has continually challenged those of us who are outings leaders to design each of our trips to be the trip of our dreams, to show our participants the beauty of nature, and to help them want to buy into protecting these beautiful but limited places.

Aurora will remain active with the new Outings Subcommittee as the training and development officer. In this capacity, she will be responsible for guiding the new leaders' training and certification process.

She will also continue to be a friendly face at Clair Tappaan Lodge as she plans to lead a "Families with Teens" trip next July along with her husband Hurston. Aurora and Hurston presently live in Manassas, Virginia. Now that Hurston will be retiring in November, they are taking a year to travel the country in search of a new home. We wish them well!

## DOUG PORTER 1945-2008

By Dick Simpson, Back Country Hut Coordinator and friend.

Doug Porter passed away in early November after a two year battle with cancer. Although his real passion was river rafting, Doug enjoyed snowshoeing and worked his way into leading winter outings with the Redwood Chapter.

Because of his background as a building contractor, he was a natural choice for the work parties at Benson Hut in the



mid 1990s and for construction of the new Bradley Hut in Pole Creek. It was primarily through his efforts that the new hut was completed and opened for use in time for the 1998-99 winter season. Doug met his future wife Annie on a trip to Bradley in February 1999, and they eventually retired to a self-constructed off-the-grid home in the Coast Range west of Geyserville. Together, they joined in the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the new Bradley Hut five weeks before his death.

## IMPROVEMENTS AT CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE

By Rich Johns, Repair Guy and CTL Committee Member

What a work party we had!!! Peter Lehmukhl, Forrest Berg, Wally Juchert, and other volunteers dug in with a trenching machine to begin preparing for the new driveway lights. Only complaining of sore muscles and fatigue, they all fared quite well. Running the trenching machine was apparently quite a bone shaker as they were man-handling the beast attempting to avoid the granite boulders. Hitting one unexpectedly would take Peter off his feet.

When I got there Saturday morning to head up the conduit-laying phase, spirits were up and muscles ready. A large bowl of CTL oatmeal helped.

The Saturday crew included Forrest, Paul Porch, and me. Weather was not cooperating; thirty-four degrees and rain made fingers and toes cold. I periodically requested a coffee break only to be rebuked by Paul always saying "Let's do just a couple more lengths of conduit," or "lets go around the next crook in the

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trenches.” By 5:00 PM we had 80% of the conduit in place.

Paul's persistence paid off. Sunday, the weather was cold but dry and we were able to complete the conduit in relative comfort. Peter got into the fray and took a turn at bending rigid conduit. He had been apprised that it was not easy and found the comments to be accurate.



Wally joined the gang and started with backfilling the trenches, a thankless task. By late afternoon we had all of the mainline wire pulled and all boxes closed.

One bid on the trenching and conduit installation came in at over \$16,000. After some clarification of some of the specs, the bid was adjusted down to \$11,500, still over our planned budget. Our energy saved our lodge a considerable chunk of money.



The work party was just like the old days!! Our Lodge is improving every year both in the physical plant and ownership by the members of the Club.

The driveway lights are on schedule. The contractor has dug the holes for the concrete bases for the light poles along the driveway. The concrete has been poured and the steel set. Also, the driveway has been repaved and the Loading Zone created.

There are many other projects to work on. There is still quite a bit to do to get

the old building ready for snow which is not long away. Call Peter or Andy at the lodge if you would like to offer your skills, or just your assistance, at maintaining the Lodge.

## HISTORIC WARMING HUT BEING READIED FOR SKIERS

**Ernie Malamud, CTL Committee Member**

The goal of the new owners of the Warming Hut, Marshall and Janet Tuttle, is to return the building to use this winter season. Joel Brody, Olivia Diaz, and I recently snow shoed there to see their progress in bringing back this lovely, historic structure into use.

Later I called Marshall to discuss their plans. He advised me that electricity has been installed. By the time this Goshawk reaches you, PG&E will probably have activated service. They are also going to replace the roof. The hut will be staffed, and hot drinks and snacks will be available to cross-country skiers coming from Clair Tappaan.



The 23.25-acre warming hut parcel was sold to the Tuttle at the end of 2007. The Tuttle, known for their interest in restoring and preserving historic structures, own the neighboring Donner Ski Ranch ([www.donnerranch.com](http://www.donnerranch.com)) and also the Rustic Cottages at Lake Tahoe ([www.rusticcottages.com](http://www.rusticcottages.com)).

Before the warming hut parcel and the hut on it were sold, anonymous parties made a generous donation to the Donner Truckee Land Trust to purchase a Conservation Easement from the Sierra

Club. The Conservation Easement allows access by the public to the property and its trails in perpetuity. That allows CTL guests to use the property as a gateway to the Tahoe National Forest. The easement also preserves the building and prevents logging except that needed for the health of the forest.

The warming hut was built in the 1950s as a rope tow building, but the rope tow hasn't been used for the past 25 years. In the past, the rope tow transported skiers from the structure to the top of Signal Hill. The hut was designed by well-known San Francisco architect George Homsey and for a few years the building was used by the Sierra Club as a "warming hut" for cross-country ski activities. Donner Ski Ranch and the Tuttle have been good neighbors. We look forward to the reopening of the warming hut.

## BRADLEY HUT WORK PARTY AND 10TH ANNIVERSARY

**By Dick Simpson, CTL Committee Member**

On September 27 and 28, a group of volunteers got together for a work party for the Bradley Hut and to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its relocation. The work party attracted about 15 volunteers, and about 43 folks attended the Sunday anniversary event.

Tasks accomplished on Saturday included cleaning and refilling the wood rooms; cleaning up around the hut; and staining, painting, repairing, cleaning, and general inspection of the hut itself.

On Sunday, for the anniversary, attractions included a light lunch catered by Peter Lehmkuhl of Clair Tappaan



Lodge, a slide show, an audio tape of *Sierra Song* (composed by Richard and David Bradley and performed by the Choir and Orchestra of Colorado College in 1994), photo albums, a guest book (which no one signed), a birthday card for

the hut (which nearly everyone signed), and four birthday cakes. Activities began about noon, with guests parking in the meadow below the hut, and walking the remaining one-third mile. The afternoon ended with Doug Porter (builder) and

Dick Simpson (developer) sharing some memories about the relocation project with members of the audience.



## PAINTING ALONG THE SIERRA TRAILS

By Jane and Jerry Risk, CTL Committee Members

From August 24 - 30, we led the *Painting Along the Sierra Trails* National Outing, based at Clair Tappaan Lodge. Susan Barry, a fabulous watercolor artist from Nevada City, was our art instructor. Each day we hiked in a different scenic area - along a creek, to a mountain lake, on the granite boulders overlooking Donner Pass, up a winding mountain trail, through the pine forest. Since there were two of us leading, participants could choose to take either a shorter or a longer hike each day, before settling down to paint the scenery. In the evenings we gathered in the living room for a friendly

critique session led by our resident artist. Outing participants came from all parts of the country and had a wide range of artistic experience. Most of them had never painted in *plein air* before. Everyone had a wonderful time together and many have told us that they plan to return next year.

Actually, we will be leading two *Painting Along the Sierra Trails* outings in 2009: Susan Barry will be offering another watercolor painting outing from August 23 - 29. Mary Fassbinder (a participant in this year's outing), will be the instructor for a pastel painting version of the trip from October 4 - 10.

### QUOTES FROM PARTICIPANTS:

"This was one of the most memorable trips of my life!"

"Clair Tappaan Lodge is a wonderful place to enjoy nature. It was nice seeing whole families come to the Lodge... I wish I would have known about the Lodge when my daughter was young!"

"The art instructor was excellent. This was by far one of the best vacations I have ever taken. I enjoyed every one of the hikes and it was fun meeting people

from all over the country coming together to enjoy art and nature."

"Loved the beautiful trees and mountains and the weather. Coming from Kansas, the low humidity was great."

## SIERRA CLUB INSIDER, SEPTEMBER 4, 2008 GRANDPARENT'S DAY IN THE HIGH SIERRA

By Jane Risk, CTL Committee Member

National Grandparents Day is in September, and that is when it is a good time to remind young and old alike that the Sierra Club's Outings program features "Just for Grandparents and Grandkids" outings, which often fill up as soon as the dates are announced.

"It's an amazing experience for grandparents and kids to be at the lodge together" said Jane Risk, who with her



husband Jerry led their first grandparents and grandkids outing last September at the Clair Tappaan Lodge. "When people walk in they see the huge fireplace, the library, all the decks and porches level with the treetops. Many grandparents say they wish they'd known about the lodge when they were children."

Of course, grandparents and grandkids are welcome at the Lodge year-round, so you don't need to wait until next September to have a grand time in the Sierra.

In this issue of the Goshawk, we feature Gateway Mountain Center, one of several organizations bringing youth to the lodge. Future issues will feature other educational programs, such as Inner City Outings, Space Science for Schools, Synergia Learning Ventures, etc.

### **GATEWAY MT. CENTER PLACE-BASED EDUCATION AT CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE REPORT - JULY 2006 - AUGUST 2008**

By Peter Mayfield, Executive Director

Over the last two years the Gateway Mountain Center in Truckee California has developed and delivered high-quality environmental education and human history curriculum for over 1,000 middle and high school students from Northern California and beyond. Most of them were lodged at the Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge at Donner Summit.

Typical programs are three to four days long. On foot we venture out for field science activities including forest surveys to understand components of healthy forest ecosystems, streamside bio-assessments and wetland delineations to understand healthy watersheds, and exhilarating ridge-top hikes to directly experience the unique geology of the region.

The students do a "walk back in time," passing through Tunnel Number Six, infamous as the most difficult section of the entire Transcontinental Railroad, to the craggy gap that the emigrant Stevens

and Donner parties struggled through with their wagons, down to some of the oldest petroglyphs found in the Sierra. Students do creative writing assignments describing a "day in the life" from one of the periods studied.



The curriculum is rounded out in a variety of ways: nature games, art, sensitizing and reflection activities, as well as evening programs with campfires, student skits, environmental films, and music from the historical periods studied. Students also enjoy rock-climbing, challenge hiking, swimming in mountain lakes, snowshoeing, and skiing or snowboarding at nearby resorts or in the Sierra backcountry. Uniquely dynamic, the stunning beauty of Donner Summit on its own is a powerful teaching tool.

Additionally we challenge our students to relate to their personal health in new ways. Through hiking challenges, evening programs on health education, food preparation to fuel the day's activities, and reflection exercises on mind and body practices to achieve peak experience, we tie our lessons on ecosystem health and environmental stewardship back to personal well-being - becoming a steward of one's own mind and body.

As a testament to the quality of our program we are very pleased to have a 100% retention rate, meaning that every school we have served has signed up to come again the following year. In two cases schools have now signed up for their third year! Increased funding is currently being pursued so that we may offer our programs to a larger number of low-income youth.

## **PETER MAYFIELD**

Peter Mayfield is a mountain guide, ski instructor, and world-renowned climber. A career climber in Yosemite, he pioneered routes on El Capitan and Half Dome in the 1980s. After seven years as Chief Guide for the Yosemite Mountaineering School, Peter now runs Gateway Mountain Center. Working mostly with groups who stay at Clair Tappaan Lodge, he educates youth about the Donner Lake area: history hikes, nature hikes, challenge hikes, team-building, and rock climbing.



Peter was the founder and general partner of CityRock, the first indoor climbing gym in the US. He has climbed in Peru, Patagonia, and Alaska.

He was the alternate for the US climbing team for two years. He performed with Project Bandaloop for ten years, a dance team that performs on cliffs and the sides of buildings. He has competed in sport climbing and World Cup competitions.

We need your help! Our most effective marketing comes from direct referrals to teachers and school administrators. If you can connect us to anyone in a school who wants to get their students outdoors, we will set up a meeting and work to make a great trip happen. If you have connections to any potential funding source, let us know. Please contact Peter Mayfield, Executive Director, Gateway Mountain Center, (530) 205-6245, [peter@sierraexperience.org](mailto:peter@sierraexperience.org).

By the numbers: **935** students at Clair Tappaan Lodge from July 2006 through July 2008; **2,172** room nights at Clair Tappaan; **\$72,098** of new revenue brought into Clair Tappaan Lodge by Gateway's school programs.

## HOUSTON INNER CITY OUTINGS

Abridged from Donner Pass Gazette, Events at Donner Pass, July 12-26 2008

In July 2008, The Woods Project, a program of Houston Inner City Outings (ICO), hosted twenty-five high school students from Texas, California, and North Carolina. Students spent two weeks at Sierra Club's own Clair Tappaan Lodge.

The Woods Project founder Steve Rosencranz has long wanted to provide disadvantaged youth with intense wilderness experiences, similar to Outward Bound. Last year, Steve raised \$60,000 to send 35 youth to the Glacier Institute's Big Creek Outdoor Education Center. This year Steve raised \$150,000 to send 88 kids to three camps: Glacier, Yosemite, and Donner Pass.

Trip preparations took Steve an entire year. As overall coordinator, Steve negotiated with the three camps on program and costs; he recruited the 22 adult leaders; and he led one of the backpacking trips in the Desolation Wilderness.

Everyone stayed at Hutchinson Lodge, owned by the Sierra Club. ICO contracted with the Gateway Mountain Center (Gateway) to provide team-building activities and experiential learning activities, as well as lots of hiking. Gateway guides taught students the geology, flora, fauna, and history of the Donner Pass area.

For one activity, sixteen students backpacked for six days along the Tahoe Rim Trail in the Desolation Wilderness, carved out by glaciers and filled with snowmelt lakes.

Another trip began with a three-mile hike to nearby Flora Lake, which introduced students to the granite rock formations in the area. Along the way, guides Peter Mayfield and Aaron Hagen taught students how to identify the various plants and especially the trees.

While one group of backpackers left for Echo Lake, everyone else learned tree botany. Hands-on learning was key as students learned how to get a tree's diameter from its circumference; they learned how to determine tree height; they practiced their tree identification skills. Later, students painted watercolor drawings of the plant life.



Guides Peter Mayfield and John Olmstead led a hike up to the top of Donner Pass. Students walked the 700-foot-long train tunnel that took Chinese laborers two years to build. From what they learned, students then wrote a letter home, from the perspective of a Chinese laborer.



The scheduled teambuilding activities were almost redundant as the students cooperated to wash clothes, cook meals and keep the Lodge clean. Students shared their journals, their leftovers, and clean-up duties.

These young men and women took pride in cooking breakfast. Cooking breakfast quickly became The Thing To Do, and not just because waking up early meant that you got to the showers first.



That last night at Clair Tappaan, students had a traditional campfire. Led by guide Annie, students sang songs, listened to traditional Indian stories, played guitar, did skits, and then finished it all off with s'mores.

### COMMENTS FROM THE KIDS:

"Things I Want To Remember"

— Ashlee

"Walking up Dick's Pass and having the feeling that I was gonna die. And making it to the top.

Having snowball fights and sliding down the patches of snow.

Steve going straight to sleep every time we got to camp and then waking up at dinner time!

Seeing a squirrel or chipmunk with a stripe down its back.

Learning about the Donner Party and about bear cans."



"This trip changed me in many ways spiritually, physically, and emotionally. Every day I was given a challenge that when I was done I felt different. Every accomplishment made me feel more confident. I really enjoyed these two amazing weeks in California.

Thank you ...."

— Andrea

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"I was given the opportunity to meditate in front of beautiful scenery with amazing lakes... I have learned that I have more self meditation than I thought... I have learned to connect to the environment."

— Francisco

"We have learned how to take care of our environment and the things we can do to protect it for future generations.... I think differently about the forest. I am no longer scare[d] of it."

— Yaritza

"I have learned to be more independent and not depend on technology."

— Carol

"There's no better experience to me than this. I mean I get to sleep in a tent, try new foods, swim in freezing cold lakes and feel the wind whipping across my face."

— Ashlee



"I wanted to come here because I wanted to experience new things ... all my life I have wanted to touch snow."

— Karina

"I interviewed a tree ..."

— Jose



"We also learned about the many things that happen to a tree when it dies..."

—Cody Wooten

"...I learned ... there is always a balance between soil and vegetation suitable to survive. I also searched a creek for ventric macro invertebrates that served as indicator species for the quality of water."

— Noe



## CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE FOREST PROJECTS FOR 2008-2009

By Joel Brody, CTL Committee  
Member

The forestland that is owned by the Sierra Club and its adjacent Tahoe National Forest property is a major reason for folks to come up and stay at Clair Tappaan Lodge when there is no snow on the ground. 'Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet' is proclaimed on the Sierra Club's Home Page, and these activities are integral to people who come up for a break, vacation, or volunteer opportunity in the spring, summer, and fall in conjunction with our local forest.

Progress on the following list depends on the level of interest and the number of warm bodies available to help.

**Fire Safety:** Concentrate on clearing brush and thinning the area toward the Rose Cabin, and initiating other important measures to insure the fire safety of Clair Tappaan and Hutchinson lodges.

**National Outings on Tahoe Forest:** Use forest resources to bring more Sierra Club Outings to the Lodge.

**Exhibits for CTL:** Rotating pictures and exhibits for education and enlightenment of our visitors and to get more emphasis on snow-free activities.

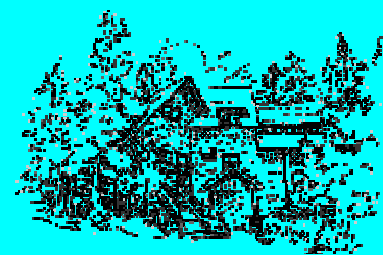
**Education:** Provide support for CTL education programs by providing guides and experts for classes and nature walks

**Forest Issues:** Educate ourselves in local, national, and global issues that affect the forest.

**Learn and Explore our Local Environment:** Map the CTL forest; plan paths to unused portions of CTL property and adjacent forest lands; study fascinating diversity of flora on ski slopes in the spring and summer; study impact of mountain biking on the forest; study ecology of snags and downed trees.



## Hold Your Meeting at Clair Tappaan Lodge



### TEN GOOD REASONS TO HOLD YOUR MEETING OR RETREAT AT CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE

**Flexible Meeting Spaces:** Your group can meet in comfort in our cozy library, spacious living room with fireplace and piano, dining room/classroom for up to 80, on a deck, on the lawn, or around our fire circle. Sound and video equipment are available.

**Hearty Food:** Two hot meals and a generous bag lunch are included in our daily rates. Vegetarian fare is available at every meal.

**Location, location, location:**

Beautifully secluded on Donner Pass Road (historic Route 40), Clair Tappaan Lodge is nestled high and cool at 7,000 feet among the pines and rolling hills - within minutes of Interstate 80 at the Soda Springs exit.

**Opportunities:** Within 15 minutes...

- Pacific Crest Trail
- Hole in the Ground Mountain Bike Trail
- Donner Lake and Donner Lake State Park
- Historic Summit Tunnel and Chinese Walls of Union Pacific Railroad
- Historic Truckee for great shopping
- Numerous hiking trails
- Meadow Lakes
- Guided hikes available with advance notice

**Recreation:** At the Lodge, enjoy volleyball, soccer, Frisbee, and croquet on the lawn; ping pong table and hot tub on the lower level; and books, games and puzzles in the library.

**Weather:** Join us for warm summer days, cool fresh nights; plenty of snow in winter and crisp colorful autumns.

**Hospitality:** Congenial staff welcomes you!

*Group rates and children discounts available.*

**Exclusivity:** Depending upon the time of the year groups as small as 20 - 30 can be the primary group in the Lodge and receive special benefits.

**Variety:** Ideal for a variety of groups:

- Non-ski winter retreats
- Book clubs by the fireside
- Children outdoor education classes
- Church and social club retreats
- Family reunions
- Weddings
- Geology clubs
- University faculty get-a-ways
- Sports and hobby clubs (hiking, rock-climbing, mountain bike riding, birding, horticulture, botany, forestry etc.)
- Groups from 20 to 120





**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

Clair Tappaan Lodge  
P.O. Box 36, Norden, CA 95724

Address Correction Requested

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

(go to <http://ctl.sierraclub.org> and click on "Activities" for more details)

- **Full Moon hike or snowshoe**  
*December 12 (Friday)*
- **Backdoor to the Backcountry: Introduction to Snowshoe Tour**  
*Dates 12/6/08, 12/20/08, 1/31/09, 3/14/09*  
*Tour begins at 9:00 AM, lasts 5 – 6 hours; Level of difficulty – Intermediate; Price - \$25 (reservations required)*
- **Backdoor to the Backcountry: Nordic Ski Tour**  
*Dates 12/13/08, 1/10/09, 1/24/09, 2/7/09, 2/21/09, 3/7/09, 3/21/09, 4/4/09*  
*Tour begins at 9:00AM, lasts 3 – 4 hours; Level of difficulty – Beginner; Price - \$15*
- **New Year's celebration at Clair Tappaan Lodge**  
*December 31, 2008 (Wednesday).*
- **Castle Peak Backcountry Ski/Ride Tour**  
*Dates 1/3/09, 2/14/09, 3/28/09*  
*Tour begins at 9:00 AM, lasts 7 – 8 hours; Level of difficulty – Intermediate-advanced; Price - \$40 (reservations required)*
- **Silver Peak Backcountry Ski/Ride Tour**  
*Dates 1/17/09, 2/28/09, 4/11/09*  
*Tour begins at 9:00 AM, lasts 8 hours; Level of difficulty – Intermediate-advanced; Price - \$40*
- **August 14-16 Anniversary Celebration. Clair Tappaan Lodge 75 Years and Hutchinson Lodge 85 years!!**  
*Celebration committee being formed; contact Diane Boyer ([dianeboyer@hughes.net](mailto:dianeboyer@hughes.net)) or Olivia Diaz ([odiaz@foothill.net](mailto:odiaz@foothill.net)) if you would like to participate.*