



THE SIERRA CLUB NEWSLETTER FROM CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE (CTL)

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**IN SHORT** by Pat Mikkelsen, Editor and member of the CTL Committee

This is a special edition of the Goshawk to report on our Gala Anniversary Celebration of Clair Tappaan Lodge turning 75 and Hutchinson Lodge turning 85. We had an incredibly successful, fun weekend of hikes, good food, great music, and good company. We present here many pictures of the event, and people's thoughts about the celebration and the lodge. Ernie Malamud, who led all the preparations for this celebration, along with Olivia Diaz, co-chair of the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee, share their descriptions of the events here. We want to thank them, along with Diane Boyer and Wally Juchert who always work so hard for the lodges they love. Rick Ramos put an incredible amount of effort to insure that the hikes went smoothly, and we sincerely appreciate his efforts.

Please go to <http://sierraclubatdonnersummit.shutterfly.com> to see the pictures taken by Rich Johns and others (thanks to Carol Vellutini for sending me a disc of pictures); you can go to <http://ctl.sierraclub.org> to see a color version of this newsletter. The Winter Goshawk is coming out in February; please submit articles to [patplus10@gmail.com](mailto:patplus10@gmail.com) by the end of December.

We particularly want to recognize the efforts of the Clair Tappaan Staff, including Peter Lehmkuhl, Manager; Michael Smith, Chef; James Lehmkuhl, Maintenance/Chef; Andy Sexton, Office Manager, and Forest Berg, Lodge Assistant.

The final numbers are in: Gross Revenue: \$27,838; Expenses: \$12,205; Net: \$15,633, with about 200 people attending. About half of the net went into the CTL account in the Sierra Club Foundation and will be put to good use in partially supporting schools and inner city outings groups who come to the lodges for environmental education.

Please make sure you visit the lodge this fall. It will be quiet, and the hikes will be beautiful.

**GALA CELEBRATION WEEKEND A SLAM-DUNK SUCCESS!**

By Ernie Malamud, Chair, Gala Celebration Committee, and Olivia Diaz, Co-Chair, Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee

What fun! The Gala Celebration of the Anniversaries of the two lodges at Donner Summit owned by the Sierra Club was a great success. The weather was mild, as it usually is in August at Donner Summit in the Sierra Nevada, and there was music, music, and more music all weekend long. It began Friday night with Claudia Kirkpatrick and friends playing Celtic music in the Clair Tappaan Lodge (CTL) Living Room after dinner while others enjoyed s'mores and brandy around a campfire in the meadow.



## Special Gala Edition 2009

There were many highlights to the August 14 -16 weekend. Saturday afternoon, the wine and cheese reception was at Hutchinson Lodge. Bill Muir, great-grandson of John Muir, donated some of the wine from the Muir-Hanna vineyard in Napa. Steve Rasmussen of *The Milk Pail* donated the cheese.



In the woods, the Lost Quartet, members of the Santa Rosa Youth Symphony, played. People sat around on tree stumps, benches, and chairs in the shade while the Sierra breezes caressed us. They played beautifully and professionally. Mozart and Schubert sound great in the woods and participants were totally charmed. The afternoon felt magical and blessed.



## THE HIKES



The 15 different hikes, all led by Sierra Club certified leaders and superbly organized by Rick Ramos, were highly popular. Every year at the August event participants tell us that the hikes are the highlight of the weekend.

Destinations were:

- Castle peak
- Basin peak
- Andesite peak
- Mount Judah Loop
- Pacific Crest Trail
- Flora Lake
- Sand Ridge Lakes and Peter Grubb Hut,
- Bird watching,
- GPS training
- The Natural and Unnatural History of Donner Summit

A special guest was Melissa Hutchinson, a great grand niece of the Hutchinson brothers, Lincoln and James, who built the Lodge. She was pleased to stay at Hutchinson Lodge, having grown up hearing about her great uncles and their adventures at Donner Summit. Susan Barry, a Nevada City artist, created the mural in the entrance to the lodge.



## THE WARMING HUT

Another highlight was a bag lunch at the Warming Hut and a reunion of old timers who built the Hut and used or operated the Signal Hill rope tow. Some of the stories were hair-raising since those were "pre OSHA" days. This event drew over 50 people. Diana Vanderburg and her father George Homsey, well-known San Francisco architect who designed the Warming Hut, set up a magnificent photo display, now in the Clair Tappaan Lodge library.



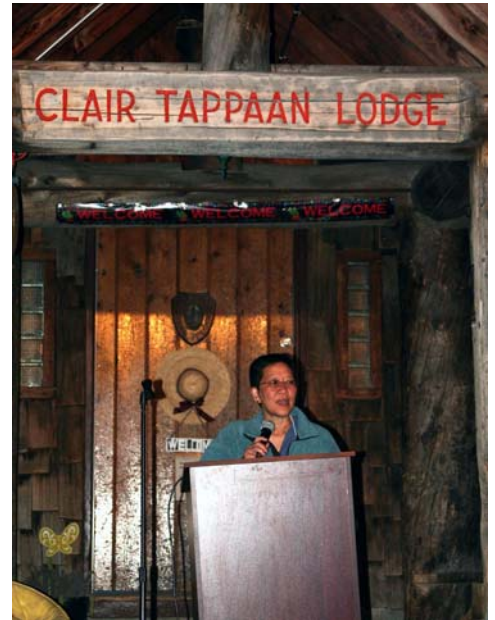
## SATURDAY EVENING PROGRAM

Ernie Malamud, Chair of the gala, presided over the evening program. The President of the Sierra Club, Allison Chin, was our keynote speaker on Saturday night. She was impressed and moved by the spirit of volunteerism.

*"Part of celebrating where we are today is remembering from whence we came and wondering what tomorrow will bring. In this last 24 hours I have been moved by so many stories that I have heard about this very special place. What I have felt from your stories are: pride in building and caring for these lodges with your very own hands, timeless friendships, importance of passing this onto the children, heritage, and love"* Allison Chin, CTL Gala Celebration.

Allison wrote us after the event:

*"There was a splendid turnout last weekend for the 75th anniversary of the Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge and 85th anniversary of Hutchinson Lodge. Multiple generations of loyal visitors showed up to enjoy hikes, music, arts & craft workshops, great fellowship and, of course, raise funds. Special guests included Milton Hildebrand, who helped build the lodge in the early 1930s! The first CTL Music Festival was held on Sunday, which featured four ensembles and brought in new visitors from the neighborhood. Hats off to the CTL committee and staff for a glorious celebration!"*



Other speakers were Milton Hildebrand, one of the builders of CTL, who was 17 at the time, and two young people, Christa Baker of Nevada City and Kevin Brown from Reno. The program emphasized the importance of preserving the history and tradition that make the Sierra Club unique among environmental organizations, also emphasizing how the "Sierra Club at Donner Summit" through its expanding program of environmental education is nurturing the next generation of activists.

The drawing for two grand-prize raffle tickets was held and the winner announced. The grand prizes were a Sunday morning plane ride and a weekend for two at Rustic Cottages in Lake Tahoe. A few people gathered in our new loading zone for stargazing through Paul Guttman's magnificent 15-inch telescope, continuing what is now a five-year tradition at our fundraisers.

That night, there was a sing-along in the living room while others star-gazed outside.



## THE MUSIC FESTIVAL

The music festival on Sunday was a great success, too. The barbecue lunch and draft beer were delicious. The bands were good: blue grass, country, and reggae. Many local people came to hear the music. It was truly a mellow scene.

Squads of volunteers ran the event; many of the key volunteers were from local Sierra Club groups, with others from North Carolina and Tennessee. Participants came from northern and southern California, Nevada, Virginia and Texas. Donations to the event will benefit the 501 c 3 CTL Account in the Sierra Club Foundation to help underwrite groups and schools to bring students to Clair Tappaan and Hutchinson lodges for environmental education programs.



## DEMONSTRATIONS and ACTIVITIES

As if this wasn't enough, there were also a solar oven demonstration and a fly-fishing demonstration in the meadow, and loom knitting, rock painting, and stick painting, a water color technique.



## THE FOOD

Chef Michael outdid himself with Saturday night's dinner in an elegant break from tradition. The music festival barbeque was also a wonderful treat.



## THE CTL COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

The photo is of Olivia Diaz and Diane Boyer, hard-working co-chairs of the CTL Committee, a group of volunteers charged with:

- marketing to increase year round use of the Lodge
- planning and implementing programs and work parties for the Lodge and associated properties
- publicizing the lodge and its activities both within the Sierra Club and to the media
- volunteer recruitment
- setting policy and goals for the Lodge

Clair Tappaan's success is due largely in part to the dedication of our volunteers. Want to help? Let us know what special skills and interests you have. Please contact Diane Boyer ([dianeboyer@hughes.net](mailto:dianeboyer@hughes.net)) or Olivia Diaz ([odiaz@foothill.net](mailto:odiaz@foothill.net)) for more information.



The sixth annual fundraiser to benefit Clair Tappaan and Hutchinson Lodges and environmental education programs at Donner Summit will take place

August 13-15, 2010. **SAVE THE DATE.**

A committee to put on the event is now being organized, chaired by Ernie Malamud. Please let Ernie ([malamud@foothill.net](mailto:malamud@foothill.net)) know if you'd like to help out.

## COMMENTS FROM THE GUEST BOOK

*It's a great joy to be here to celebrate the spirit of this beautiful environment, rustic and historic lodge, and gracious staff and guests. Thank you! Shera Banbury*

*So wonderful to be here and appreciate 75 years of loving nature. Ted Smith (75)*

*What a magical place to be a part in creating! Thanks. Sarah Pender*

*Wonderful seeing so many people here. First time we've ever eaten in the living room. Jay and Dean, Santa Rosa, CA*

*I've been coming to CTL only since 2002, but it is a significant place for me - community, no TV, truly an immersion into rusticness and nature. There are many motels and hotels I can go to in the Tahoe area, but only ONE Clair Tappaan. Diane Gleason.*

*It was a really memorable weekend! - especially hearing Milton Hildebrand talking about the old days and hearing about what the CTL committee has been doing. Thanks for everything. Susan Stangeland, member since 1957*

*This was an event at CTL full of memory and nostalgia, beautifully planned, organized and executed. Here's to many more! Judy Richards*

*Thank-you for such a great celebration! I'm a member since 1964 and learned snowshoeing and cross-country skiing here! Thank you! Christel Flueter, 2009*

*What a great celebration weekend. I've been coming to CTL since 1949 and have felt CTL was my home away from home. I've skied, work partied, hostessed, ski patrolled, and lots of other wonderful activities. Barbara Southwell Morrey and family.*

*All the hard work to put this event together paid off to the benefit of all - Thank you so much. The spirit of this place empowers everyone here - to find what gives us bliss. Heidi Feldman, Pacific Grove and Santoshí*

*Dear Staff: You've surpassed yourselves - thank you for a great celebration - Rose-Marie Ullman, SF*

*May Clair Tappaan Lodge be here 75+ years from now. The locale, the staff, the food, the excellent Sierra Club volunteers (esp. the CTL committee!) make it a place that is the best symbol of what the club should represent. Thanks to all! Grace M. Marvin, Aug. 16, 2009.*

*Great weekend! First time here. Will come back again. Jody Bradford.*

*First time here was Dec 1986 - Spent many good years with my young family here from the 50s to the 80s. Bob Morrey, 8/16/09*

*Ken & Karen (Brodén and Morliengo) spent their honeymoon at Clair Tappaan 26 years ago and there have been many more wonderful times since then!!*

*As usual the CTL Committee and the staff outdid themselves. A great idea to combine a Music Festival with all the other activities. First occasion for CTL was 1957 for a work party putting in the hardwood floor under the cubicles. Clifford Cain, Rumsey, CA*

*It was wonderful to spend the weekend with such caring people. Everyone we met was kind and cheerful. I've added another set of memories to my treasure chest of Clair Tappaan memories. I think the shift in focus to environmental education is wonderful. I hope it fills Clair Tappaan with future generations for many years to come. John Cordes, Sunnyvale, CA.*

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)

- November 26, 2009 (Thursday) - Thanksgiving dinner at Clair Tappaan Lodge is always a fun event.
- December 31, 2009 (Thursday) - Plan now to attend the traditional and wonderful New Year's celebration.
- Introduction to Snowshoe Tour - 12/19/2009, 1/2/2010, 1/23/2010, 2/7/2010, 2/13/2010, 3/6/2010, 3/27/2010
- Full Moon Snowshoe Tour - 1/30/2010, 2/27/2010
- Nordic Ski Tour - 1/9/2010, 1/30/2010, 2/20/2010, 3/13/2010, 4/3/2010
- Castle Peak Ski/Ride Tour - 1/16/2010, 2/6/2010, 2/27/2010, 3/20/2010