



Goshawk

THE SIERRA CLUB NEWSLETTER FROM CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE (CTL)

CTL AND COVID-19

By Lesley Ewing, CTL Committee Member, and Alice Harten, CTL General Manager.

Clair Tappaan Lodge is currently closed, at least until June 14 because of the coronavirus.

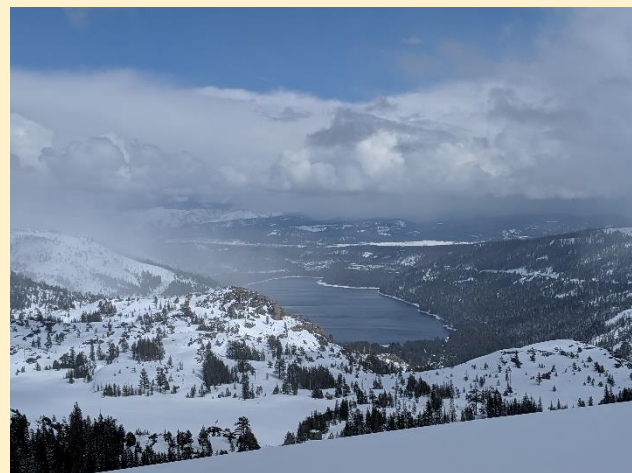
Larry Foster, Director of Facilities, Sierra Club; Mike Han, Regional Vice President of Operations, Basecamp Hospitality (management firm for CTL); and Alice Harten, General Manager, Clair Tappaan Lodge, conferenced on March 17 to determine an appropriate response to the COVID-19 threat. All agreed to shut down operations as soon as was possible. Most of the previous weekend's guests and groups had already cancelled or left early, and the team felt that a complete closure was best for the safety of guests and staff.



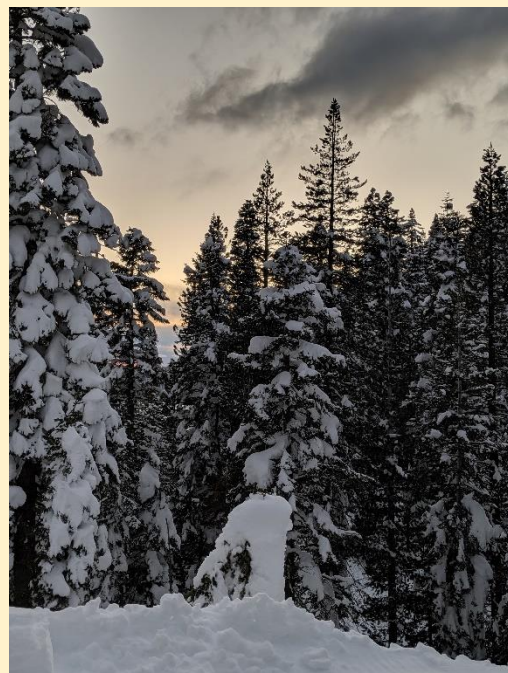
A few guests were in the lodge for a day or two, but by March 19 they were gone. Staff members currently remain working to contact future guests about the lodge closure, deal with cancellations, and do a deep lodge cleaning.

Just before the shut-down, the area got about seven feet of snow. Under other circumstances, it would have been a great boost for spring snow sports. The CTL staff continue to groom the trails, albeit less regularly than when in heavy use, with the hope that if folks can come up in May, the trails will still be in decent shape.

CTL is obviously not the only property in the area affected by the virus, nor is it working in a vacuum. Ski resorts have shut down for the season and the



Forest Service has shut down all its facilities. For now, the Forest Service is keeping the trail heads open, but people are advised to keep at least six feet apart while



skiing or snow shoeing. If people decide to hold parties and large gatherings, the Forest Service might change its policy. With no facilities, people will need to pack out all their trash and waste.

On March 27, Truckee’s Town Council and Nevada and Placer Counties announced significant limitations on short-term rentals and vacation-based accommodations amid the state-mandated shelter-in-place order. This effectively shuts down all lodging until May 23. In addition, the Sierra Club has mandated closing all operations and sheltering-in-place until June 14.

All Basecamp Hospitality team members at Clair Tappaan Lodge are seeing reductions in hours or pay and they are doing lots of washing, sanitizing, painting, and repairs. They are taking advantage of this time to take on routine spring maintenance and other tasks that are easier to do without also tending to guests.



Alice Harten is working on a five-year plan for lodge repair and upgrade. She found a stash of historic photos along with design plans for the lodge and some nearby features, like Highway 40. Over time, she hopes to put many of these on display. She also has her

staff working on website and property management system upgrades. The CTL reservation system will be moved to the same web service used by other Basecamp facilities. This will allow visitors to see what rooms are available and to make on-line reservations. At first this will be just for the lodge, but eventually will also be



available for the huts once they are set up with automatic door locks.

Lots of great things are coming to CTL. It’s sad they are coming during this horrible pandemic. It is also disappointing that few people were able to enjoy the seven feet of new snow. But for now, stay safe, stay healthy, and stay at least six feet apart. If you do decide to venture to the snow for a quick visit, you can use your poles for a good six-foot guide—if you can each reach out and touch poles, you are probably as close as you should get.



(Photos by Marc Woods)



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MEET MARC WOODS

Marc is the new Lodge Assistant at CTL. Former firefighter, emergency medical technician, ski patroller, pre-hospital caregiver, and cannabis grower, he was attracted to the lodge because of its association with John Muir and the Sierra Club. He loves Muir's writings, quest for knowledge, rebelliousness, and ability to find so much beauty through so much hardship. Marc strongly supports environmental education and getting people outside.



Sitting at the front desk, he is responsible for answering the phone, reservations, the web page, marketing, and social media; he also runs the snow cat when he can and takes great photos.

He has already grown to love the lodge and wants to get the word

out through a strong marketing campaign, partnering with known brands like Jeremy Jones snowboards, and even making a movie short about the lodge—it's history, current situation, and future potential. He is full of ideas for lodge activities when we reopen, like cross-country lessons, Taco Tuesdays, family sled day, organized hikes, and avalanche survival training.

Marc has three kids and loves surfing, back-country snowboarding, rugby, being out in nature, and living at the lodge.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Given the current virus situation, continuing environmental education at the lodge is on hold. Furthermore, the CTL Environmental Education Grant Committee has already turned down several applications to come to CTL this year as there are no more funds available.

The CTL Committee (also known as the Sierra Club at Donner Summit Advisory Committee) recently met with Sierra Club Associate Advancement Director Eric Lombardo to work on getting the word out about environmental education, an important issue for the Sierra Club and a crucial factor in keeping the lodge thriving. We will be preparing an article about environmental education at CTL for the Sierra Club Magazine and will try to enlist the help of all California Sierra Club chapter newsletter editors. In anticipation of future funding from generous donations, teachers can apply for these grant funds by submitting a [funding request form](#). Detailed information on the Foundation, the program, and our educational partners can be found at <https://clairtappaanlodge.com/environmental-education-programs-and-partners>. The following article is an example of the tremendous value this program has for underprivileged and urban youth. To donate to this very worthy cause, please go to [CTL Environmental Education Donations](#). Thank you!



Soccer Without Borders at CTL, Winter 2019



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OAKLAND SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE WINTER '20 PROGRAM RECAP

By Spenser Eusden, Program Director, Headwaters Science Institute

This past March, 7th-grade students from the Oakland School of Language, a Spanish-English public middle school in Oakland, California, came to Clair Tappaan Lodge on Donner Summit for a three-day snow science program with Headwaters Science Institute. This was the first time many of the students had seen snow and the trip presented a very special opportunity for them to study the source of much of California's water. One of the unique aspects of this program was that many of the students did not speak English. While some of the Headwaters instructors could teach in both Spanish and English, other instructors communicated to students using teachers as translators. One of the most powerful moments came when students and Headwaters instructors dealt with this language barrier. This was centered around two students who were creating a project around density and snow water



equivalent in the snowpack. While waiting for their teacher to translate, they started using Google Translate on their computer. The group was then able to communicate directly with their Headwaters instructor and continue analyzing their data and creating their research presentation. This system of text-based Google translation worked quite well, allowing their teacher to step back and spend more time with other

groups. At the end of the program, these students walked up to their teacher and told him "See, look what we did" [referring to their presentation] "and we did it all without you with an instructor who didn't even speak Spanish." The teacher later described this event to Headwaters staff as "the best snubbing he has ever received."

Clair Tappaan Lodge was instrumental to this learning breakthrough. Many of these students face significant hurdles to education in their day-to-day lives. The lodge setting provided a safe environment teeming with



academic support and inspiring natural surroundings which allowed students to not only complete rigorous, independent research projects but also prove to their teacher and themselves that they could successfully complete complex tasks with someone who could not speak Spanish. The pride they took in this accomplishment shows in their declaration of independence from their translator. Language barriers are massive and daunting hurdles, but these students were engaged in their research projects and met this challenge with determination and a problem-solving mindset. While these science programs typically don't set out to help students break down language barriers, the critical thinking and self-motivation demonstrated here are exactly what we aim to pass on to every student we work with.



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This program would not have been possible without support from many members of the Oakland community and the Sierra Club (CTL) Funding Committee for their lodging scholarship. Thank you all for making this great educational experience possible.



Dear Sierra Club,
 Thank you for making Oakland SOL up to Headwaters possible. The lodging was enjoyable and the staff amazing. As an educator working with a population that usually does not have opportunities, I am eternally grateful. It was a beautiful experience to witness the amount of joy my students experienced.
 Thank you, Yacovine, educator

Dear Sierra Club,
 Thank you for making our Oakland SOL trip to Headwaters Science Institute possible! My favorite part was having students come up to me and tell me that they figured out an awesome ^{field} research investigation to pursue. The opportunity to do field science in a exciting and comfortable environment will provide lasting memories and inspire science explorations for the rest of their lives.
 Beto Bracho Oakland SOL Science Teacher

Dear Sierra Club, 3/12/2020
 I want to extend my deepest gratitude for helping Lodge the Oakland SOL students. What an amazing program this has been for all of the children. They have been engaged and very excited to learn. Thank you for providing this opportunity that may not otherwise have been for these kids. Them also seeing snow for the 1st time ever... Priceless!! Hope to be back again soon.
 Parent Chaparona
 Meg Lamberton



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PARIS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

By Olivia Diaz, CTL Committee Member

Paris is known for its lively street life, cafes spilling people onto sidewalks, students chatting in groups over a glass of beer, cars and motorcycles speeding along the boulevards, and tourists moving in groups with a leader holding a pole with a flag on it to keep them all together. These are all common associations with Paris.

A tiny cup of espresso, fizzy mineral water, a glass of wine or a beer sitting in front of a customer for hours, at times, in the sunshine, or even under a café awning during the rain, are also common scenes in Paris. My son, on a recent visit from Phoenix, Arizona, said he could throw a stone in any direction and be likely to hit one of five different restaurants.

In the picture below, there are five different restaurants, some not easily visible, without patrons or staff, standing silently on an empty major street.



It is jarring. But life goes on. There is a lock-down order and people are expected to stay indoors except for necessary trips. If we go out, each person must carry a form with a check list of the five allowed types of trips—exercise your dog or yourself, buy food or

medicine, seek medical help, work, or take care of some business. We fill out our name and address, check the appropriate box, sign and date the paper, and produce it when asked by a policeman. We are expected to stay within a kilometer of our home.

I'm lucky to have the company of my husband Ernie Malamud (current CTL Committee member and former CTL Committee Chair and Goshawk editor). We live in Paris as expats. Even though it was still cold and rainy, spring arrived and I got a picture of Ernie in front of a corner park near our apartment.



I am surprised at how well the neighbors within one kilometer are following the rules, despite the reputation of the French for being unruly. I have watched police stop walkers and runners and each person has produced a white sheet of paper and then has been allowed to go on. There are fines if you cannot produce the sheet. I have found the police to be friendly.



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The parks have been closed so children are using the sidewalks and streets to play on their scooters or run and jump. In the afternoons, we enjoy walking on the Isle Saint Louis where I have found a lively scene of other walkers and people standing at their balconies conversing with people standing on the street. It feels neighborly. In the past few days the sun has come out and people are enjoying the warmth.



Even though the restaurants are closed, grocery stores and pharmacies are all open and doing a lively business. The shelves are stocked and I have not seen panic buying. There are a handful of our favorite specialty restaurants that are selling their food as takeout—empanadas, pizzas, lasagna, and of course wine.

Another sweet artifact of our forced stay is the 8 p.m. clap when people open their windows and clap to honor the brave medical staff and first responders who are on the front line battling the virus. We open our window and clap along. It helps us feel a part of something bigger than our temporary enclosed living situation.

STAYING AT HOME

By Wally Juchert, CTL Committee Chair

Eight years ago Diane and I were living in the country outside of St. Helena. We had a one-acre Merlot vineyard. It was taking me six weeks to prune and Diane six weeks to tie the vines. It was too much work and we couldn't drink all the wine we were making anyway.

We sold our home and moved to Oakmont Village in Santa Rosa. Our new home has a large backyard where Diane raises flowers and it has a studio where she paints watercolors. Beyond our backyard is the 10th hole of one of our two golf courses where I can often be found.



For the past two years I have been active in the Oakmont Democratic Club and involved with a group advocating actions to fight the climate crisis—WECAN - Working Group of Emergency Climate Action Now!

Two months ago, with my 1998 Subaru on its last legs, I went shopping for an electric vehicle. It soon became clear to me that I could not afford a new one (\$45,000+). I was able to find a used 2015 Kia Soul for one-third the price of a new car. While its range is just 90 miles, it works fine for local travel. It charges at home on a regular 110-volt circuit.



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With the COVID-19 crisis and stay-at-home orders, air quality has greatly improved, even in China. Every action we can take to reduce our carbon footprint is great for us and the planet. The fossil fuel industry (much like Big Tobacco) has known for decades that burning fossil fuels damages the environment. We know that at least 50% of the greenhouse gas emissions we create are from transportation. NOW would be a great time to end subsidies for fossil fuels, to curtail all oil and gas exploration, to cap oil and gas wells, and to shut down refineries. The Sierra Club has demonstrated that it can shut down the coal industry. Now that wind and solar power are cheaper than coal and gas power, it is time to concentrate on transitioning from fossil fuels.

The number of manufacturers producing electric cars is increasing and there are a lot of used electric cars available. Are you in the market for a new (or used) car?

In addition to flowers we've grown tomatoes. Prior to stay-at-home orders, I decided to create our own Climate Victory Garden. A few of you are old enough to remember that during WWII many families grew Victory Gardens. I was motivated by the notion that growing any plant sequesters carbon and produces oxygen and that really fresh vegetables taste great. I've built two raised beds and fenced the area to keep out deer. I'm now planning what I'll grow.

Oakmont Village is a 55+ active community with over 3,000 homes. There are three activity centers that have meeting spaces, pools, courts, and a wide variety of clubs. During the wildfires of 2017 our community was evacuated. Fortunately, only two homes here were lost. Since then we have had (far too many) power outages. The village is going to have parking shades with solar panels installed at all three activity centers. Workshops have been held and residents encouraged to consider installing solar panels on their homes. Diane and I have solicited bids for a new roof and solar panels but with the stay-at-home orders and the stock market condition, our plans are on hold for now.

Fortunately, just before the lock down, Diane and I visited our Oakmont volunteer library and came away with several books and a jigsaw puzzle. When we're done with all of them, I guess we'll be buying more of the same.

So, that's what we've been up to. The Sierra Club has taught us that everything is connected to everything else. That is surely evident in this crisis. We are all in this together. Be well.



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