



News from the Cabin

Spring Edition - 2016
Volume 7

Greetings from the cabin!

This is the spring addition of, News from the Cabin, my summary of the goings on and cabin update for the Tilly Jane A-Frame on Mt. Hood.

Spring came early this year and cabin reservations are tapering off but some are still making their way up and enjoying the area. We hiked up in mid-May to check on the place and begin to review the upcoming rehab plans but more on that shortly. Current snow level (from our visit) is just at/above the cabin elevation with a complete melt out below and a dwindling snowpack at the cabin. There's still plenty above but that too is on borrowed time. The road is still closed but I'd expect the Forest Service to open it before its typical early July opening. You'll need to contact the Hood River Ranger station for up-to-date info on this front.

Overall, we had a good winter, snow-wise, with a correspondingly strong rental season. In fact, the wood supply was running on fumes by mid-April. This is unfortunate as we brought in six cords which should have allowed for some summer carry over. If you are enjoying outdoor bon fires, please stop this wasteful practice or at least use the wood (rounds) that are stacked out back and to the sides of the cabin. **If everyone is respectful, there will be enough wood for all to enjoy.** On a positive note, congratulate yourselves! We only lost one woodstove glass panel! Thanks to everyone who paid attention and did your best to avoid over filling the stove with wood and dripping water on the glass door. It really makes a difference! We continued to experience several break-ins over the winter season including someone attempting to kick in the door and eventually breaking the lock hasp which required a quick repair. As a reminder to renters: The door lock code is located within the Security Alerts section of the rental confirmation letter. If you encounter or identify any problems, please contact us at: tillyjanecabin@gmail.com this helps to bring attention to the situation and allows for speedy repairs. Half of the battle is being informed on what's going on. **To a major extent, the cabin relies on YOU, the user base, to keep an eye on the place and discourage this kind of behavior.** It's a shared resource that we all want to continue to enjoy for years to come!

Switching gears, **I've been focused on the planning and funding options for the phase 1 rehabilitation project work.** As mentioned in past newsletters, this was looming and it appears project work will begin this summer. A public fundraising campaign will be launched in the near future so be on the lookout for more information! Your help will be critical to this work from both a donation and time/volunteer perspective. Project work will include:

- grading the area around the cabin to channel water away from the structure
- removing and replacing the current concrete footings with the original rock piers
- replacing the log rafters
- purchase of new roofing shingles

Unfortunately, I don't expect we'll have the funds to install the roof this year. Funding for Phase I has/will come from public fundraising (you), cabin rental income, donations from the ONC-PDX chapter, Hood River/Portland area businesses and a matching grant from the Forest Service. I have also submitted the paperwork for a major grant from the Oregon State Parks and the Hood River Lions Foundation Trust. We can also decrease the total \$\$ needed by your volunteer efforts when called upon. I'm expecting to have multiple volunteer work parties over the

summer months (July/August) which will help offset the required funding gap and allow for the planned project completion this year. **Please make it a priority to attend one of these events beyond the standard October volunteer wood haul! As a primer, please hold July 16th and/or the 23rd and plan on joining us for one or both work parties.** As the construction schedule comes into focus, additional work parties will be scheduled for Aug/Sept. More information will be shared as we get closer!

The single most expensive rehabilitation line item involves replacing the roof at \$82k. Some interesting background on this front: Because Tilly Jane is a historic structure; we are required to replace the roof with materials matching the existing/original roof. This means it will require a new Western Red Cedar shake roof, but not just any roof. The current roof is the original dating back to 1939, all shingles were hand split and manufactured on site using a froe and mallet AND each shingle is 32" long! Fast forward to today, this is a custom project from a manufacturing perspective and only available commercially through BC Canada. We can save many thousands of dollars by securing the raw materials and having this product manufactured locally. I continue to work on finding local cedar logs within the Mt Hood Forest that will allow us to reduce costs and source locally. This is just one example of the project complexity which also results in higher rehabilitation costs, while meeting the requirements of a historic structure! **You can also help by STAYING OFF THE ROOF!!!!!!** Or if you have access to straight grained Western Red Cedar (old growth wood), contact me immediately!

I'm looking forward to seeing many long time and new volunteers over the upcoming summer months. Summer is a busy time for everyone, me included! I ask that you, like me, **make time for Tilly**, it will be VERY important for you all to carve out some time and plan on attending one or more work parties! As noted, I'll be reaching out with more information on this front. Please think of your cabin and make plans to come up and help with the different projects. Bring a tent, spend the day/night with others who have a passion for the outdoors and historic community spaces. It makes a difference!

For more information, please visit: [ONC-PDX](#) then follow the Tilly Jane drop down box. You can also direct specific questions to: tillyjanecabin@gmail.com

Cheers,

Andre'
Oregon Nordic Club