



News from the Cabin

Fall Edition - 2017
Volume 9

Greetings from the cabin!

This is the 2017-Fall edition of, “News from the Cabin”, a summary of what’s happening with the Tilly Jane cabins. It’s been a year since I last provided an update and what an amazing and crazy time it’s been with lots to report! Last, I wrote, we had kicked off the capital fundraising campaign and completed Phase 1 of the **Cabin Restoration Project** with planning underway for phase 2. Here’s a full recap of cabin activities since then.

#savetillyjane - How You Can Help!

- This past July was our one-year anniversary of the capital fundraising campaign to rehabilitate the cabin.
- As of September, cabin funds (rental and donation income) are \$133K of the \$213K goal - that puts us at 62% of the way there!
- We held two fundraisers in 2017; the first at **Base Camp Brewing in Portland** and the second in **Hood River at Kickstand Coffee and Café**. These two events raised \$10K thanks largely to the donation support from both hosts as well as [Sling Shot Sports](#), [Patagonia-Portland Store](#), [Blue Collar Agency](#), [Hop Works](#) and [Double Mountain Brewing](#). In addition, we held a benefit concert in Hood River with music by [Prollyatta](#) and sold t-shirts/pint glasses at the annual October work party. We received a grant from the Hood River Lions Club and received a donation from the Oregon Splitfest. These donations totaled \$3,700.
- Finally, we received another \$3,600 in individual donations from people like you over the past year.
- ***We continue to sell T-Shirts, Pint Glasses and accept donations through [PayPal](#). Please donate today and pass this request on to fellow cabin supporters during the holiday season!***

Cabin Rental

The 2016/17 season saw an amazing snow year with multiple snow cycles generating some awesome powder conditions throughout the season. It’s been quite a while since I’ve seen the cabin buried by snow, as it was this past winter. Someone finally had to dig out the windows to provide a little light inside the cabin. We are transitioning into the downward cycle of La Nina which should provide us with another decent snow year before it bottoms out over the next 2-3 seasons.

2017 will be another strong year for cabin rentals; I’m expecting \$21K in rental income, representing over 1,100 user nights! Reservations continue to be strong for 2018 with most Saturday nights being booked. If you weren’t able to secure a weekend stay, continue checking [Reserve America](#) as cancellations do occur. If you have some flexibility, midweek is the best way to go. Get your group organized and book your stay sooner than later!

As in year's past, the cabin is "closed" to public rentals one weekend each month for ONC club/volunteer use. Please consider becoming an [ONC](#) member or volunteer at one of the work parties to take advantage of this amazing benefit.

Cabin Operations

The annual October work party saw the largest volunteer attendance on record. We had just over 100 people who turned out to help! **Thank You** to everyone who came out and gave back to the cabin. We hauled 11 cords of wood between the A-Frame and Guard Station cabins and cut/split another 3.5 cords from the on-site supply. Both cabins really should have enough wood to make it through the season. The annual pot luck was AMAZING with tons of food brought by our volunteers and beverages supplied by [Base Camp](#), [Double Mountain](#) and [Thunder Island Brewing](#). This year we worked through snow showers and cooler temperatures but nothing that you amazing people couldn't handle. We were even treated to 3 inches of snow for those who stayed over Saturday night!

How to keep the Cabin ready for the entire Peak Winter Season:

- If you have a fire outside, please use the stacked firewood near the fire ring and limit the size of the fire, **PLEASE - NO BONEFIRES!** This will ensure everyone has enough wood to keep the fire going in the wood stove throughout the winter season.
- Please **REFRAIN FROM OVERFILLING THE WOOD STOVE AND SPILLING WATER ON THE GLASS DOOR.** These are the main reasons the door glass breaks.
- The A-Frame woodstove was refurbished this year. A damper was installed on the stove pipe, a new door was purchased and installed, a new bypass valve was installed, and the chimney was cleaned. The stove isn't the most user-friendly model on the market but it's what we've got. An operation "cheat sheet" was created with the goal of helping you understand how to get the most heat out of the stove. Please follow the instructions posted on the wall.
- We also request that you **LOCK THE CABIN AND CLEAN UP** before leaving for home. It's the responsibility of the renters to re-secure the cabin before leaving. This may require you to ask any day-trippers to depart.
- Finally, the cabin will soon be snow covered. Please **DO NOT CLIMB ON THE ROOF**, it's fragile and we need to baby the shingles for another season or two until we have enough funding to replace the roof.
- **AND REMEMBER**, if I don't know what's happening up there, we can't address it so please let me know about any issues you find! You can also, "do your part" by calling out behavior you deem inappropriate! Remember, it takes a village to maintain the cabins!

Restoration Project Phase 2 - Cedar Roof Replacement

As mentioned above, we'd planned on completing the next restoration phase (phase 2) over the summer months but many factors thwarted this plan. First, there were scheduling conflicts and then the forest was shut down due to extreme fire danger. Secondly, we're still struggling to acquire the necessary Western Red Cedar which will allow for the manufacture of the new roof shakes. Not all was lost due to these factors, as we do gain additional time to continue and raise the necessary funds and more time to find that SPECIAL CEDAR TREE(S)! We estimate that it'll take at least 25 squares (each square will cover 100 sq ft) to put a new roof on the cabin. We have 100sf ready to go, and in late October, just days before the snow began to build, we were able to partner with the Forest Service - Hood River district and pull two large trees out of the Lost Lake campground. This work produced another 2 cords of material that was trucked to our friends at Sandy Shake. They are now working on grading and prepping the material for shake manufacturing over the winter. Here are some [pictures](#) and videos for your viewing pleasure. We don't know how many squares these loads will produce but I'm really hoping it'll produce, at least, enough to complete one side of the roof! Regardless, we'll need more so keep your eyes/ears open and pass along any information you may run into on this front.

2017 Project Recap

Ultimately, we were able to accomplish some nice improvements. First, here's a collective, "THANK YOU", to Chad Klaas. Chad is an Boy Scout with Troop 282 out of Hood River. He approached me several years ago with an idea to earn his Eagle Scout badge. His idea was to build a new picnic table to be placed out back near the fire pit. After some back and forth on type and style of table he began the fundraising and planning to complete the project. Not only did he come through, he went above and beyond and secured enough funding to purchase and install TWO heavy duty tables. He brought them up disassembled, for easy transport to the cabin, then worked to site and assemble them. This was quite a feat given that each table weighs just over 1 ton! Please follow this [link](#) to read Chad's overview and see some pictures of our new tables. Again, **Thank You Chad!**

We changed out the old door lock mechanism and installed a new metal security gate to take its place. The front door has taken a beating over the past four years. We encounter 2-3 break-ins per season and it's just too challenging to get up and fix it each time. Next time you stay, you'll see the new set up. It consists of a double door, locking gate system. We still ask that you gather all wood splitting tools from the alcove and place them back inside the cabin before you depart. As discussed earlier, you'll also need to work with your fellow cabinmates to make sure that the last overnight party locks the place up before leaving. This may require you to ask any day trippers to depart before you leave. Here are some [pictures](#) of the new security system. **"Thank You" to Ed Powell Welding**, out of The Dalles, for fabricating and installing the unit.

All this work should put us in a nice position to continue the restoration work at the A-Frame next drive up season. Planning will take place over the winter and I'll be reaching out next summer with more volunteer opportunities. It will be critical that you answer the call and make time in your schedules to come out and help with the work. A special, thank you, goes out to Elliot Martin and Ken Wenzel for showing your support with all the work that was completed this year. Finally, please follow us on [Facebook](#) if you'd like more real-time updates on what's happening at the cabin.

I hope you enjoy the winter and hope you'll make time to come up, spend a night at the cabin and see what's been done for yourself. Maybe I'll see you on the trail or at the cabin. As noted above please come out and help with a work party or two and/or make a cash donation to support the rehabilitation efforts.

Cheers

Andre'
Oregon Nordic Club