



News from the Cabin

Fall Edition - 2018
Volume 10

Greetings from the cabin!

This is the 2018-Fall edition of, “News from the Cabins”, a summary of what’s going on at the Tilly Jane cabins. I’ve got tons to report as it’s been a busy year for us! Last time I shared that we completed phase 2 project work involving a new security gate, the installation of 2 new picnic tables out back of the A-Frame and the removal of 13 hazard trees around the Guard Station. The restoration fundraising efforts continue, and planning was taking place for phase 3 project work. Here’s a full recap of cabin activities in 2018.

#savetillyjane - How You Can Help!

- We are now into our third year of the capital fundraising campaign to rehabilitate the cabin.
- As of September, cabin funds (rental and donation income) total \$175K of the \$214K goal - that puts us 82% of the way there!
- We limited our fundraiser events in 2018 to a hosted event sponsored by **Andrew Stoner** and the annual **Oregon Splitfest** event donation. THANK YOU to you and your crews for the \$3K combine donations.
- I was also successful at obtaining several grants; one from the **Oregon State Parks, Preserving Oregon**, \$20K matching grant and the second from the **Kinsman Foundation** in the amount of \$5K.
- Finally, we received another \$1500 from the community of supporters, people like you.
- **You can now purchase [TILLY JANE GEAR](#) on-line and have it shipped directly to you! We have t-shirts, pint glasses and just added stickers, patches and hats. Check them out and grab one! We also continue to accept donations through [PayPal](#).**

Cabin Rental

The 2018-19 season is shaping up to be another strong rental season: I anticipate the cabin will host over 1200 guests which will generate over \$22K in rental income. The federal reservation system was recently upgraded which resulted in the cabin being taken offline due to some transition issues. These have been fixed and the cabin is now available for booking. You may be required to delete any saved bookmarks or favorites and search for the cabin landing page again. Please visit [Reserve America](#) to book your stay! Book early if you’d like to stay over a Friday/Saturday night! You shouldn’t see many changes to the booking process, BUT you will now be required to PRINT your reservation permit (up to 7 days in advance of your stay) to obtain the door lock code information.

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 another strong volunteer showing. We had around 50 people on Saturday October 6th! **Thank You** to everyone who came out and gave back. We hauled 6 cords of wood between the A-Frame and Guard Station cabins and cut/split another 4 cords from the on-site supply. Both cabins should have enough wood to make it through the season. The annual pot luck was AMAZING with tons of food brought by volunteers and beverages supplied by [Base Camp](#) and [Widmer Brothers Brewing](#). **Remember**, the cabins rely on YOU.....volunteers to remain open and affordably priced!

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 BONFIRES!** 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.
- Please **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 before you leave.
- The cabin will soon be snow covered. Please **DO NOT CLIMB ON 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!

2018 Phase 3 Rehabilitation Project Recap

We successfully completed phase 3 project work between July and September! This was anticipated to be the largest project phase and included the completion of the structural stabilization efforts at the A-Frame. We were able to complete the final rock footing and rafter replacements, the alcove/wood storage area log walls were rebuilt, all the log ends were restored by using a liquid epoxy and wood filler restoration system, the roof apex rafters were structurally secured to halt any further log spreading and the worn out roof was removed and replaced with a new cedar shake roof to match the original. Check out our Instagram and Facebook sites for pictures of the cabin, or better yet, book an overnight stay and look for yourself – then post your pictures and share!

The work was led by me with **Wells Construction** and the help of donated materials from [Tum-a-Lum Lumber](#) in Hood River. The project took 5 weeks to complete with the help of 75 individual volunteers who donated over 1100 hours to the effort! **Thank you!!** Sack lunches were provided for a portion of the work by [Rosauers Supermarket](#) in Hood River, breakfast bars donated by [Kind Bars](#) and after work beer donated by [Hopworks Urban Brewery](#) in Portland. The project budget was \$138,373 but we came in under budget at \$88,870.00. We had another \$2,596 in donated materials. All in all, I'm proud to say that we saved \$52,100 off the original bid through the efforts of our volunteers and donated materials! THANK YOU to everyone who donated your time and effort to the cause, as you can see, every bit of help adds up to a meaningful contribution!

As noted above, I would also like to call attention to the **generous support** we received associated with the following grants; we secured a \$20,000.00 matching grant from the [Oregon State Parks, Preserving Oregon](#) and a \$5,000.00 grant from the [Kinsmen Foundation](#). This along with previously obtained grants from the [US Forest Service](#), the [Oregon Nordic Club-Portland](#) chapter and the [Hood River Lions](#) provided the bulk of the project funding.

Looking Ahead

We are actively in the planning stages for Phase 4 project work which includes: a new composting toilet, replacing the cabin shake wall siding, stabilizing the sleeping loft, replacing the current loft ladder access system with a real stairwell, improving the loft balcony and other smaller efforts to improve the cabin. We'll also be improving the Guard Station Garage by pouring a new foundation and replacing the failing shake roof. Phase 4 in 2019 will be another great accomplishment for cabin sustainability! We do plan to host fundraising activities and will share more on this later.

Finally, I have some sad news to share: [Skip Tschanz](#), the long-time caretaker of the Tilly Jane Guard Station recently passed away. Skip was a mainstay of the Gorge chapter of the Oregon Nordic Club and was one of the founding members of the volunteer efforts to help students from the Washington State School for the Blind learn how-to cross-country ski. Skip will be deeply missed within the Tilly Jane community.

Cheers

Andre'
Oregon Nordic Club