
Summit Huts Association

HUTMASTERS' JOURNAL

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A Newsletter & Update for Friends of Summit Huts

Rethinking Volunteerism

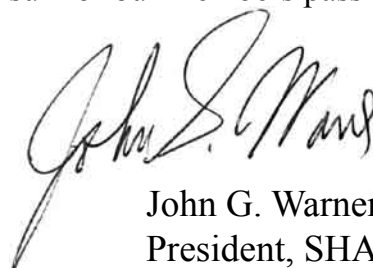
Greetings Friends of Summit Huts Association,

In 1997 I was fortunate to climb Anconcagua with the well-known Boulder climber, Gerry Roach. Gerry was great fun to spend several weeks with and I have been a fan of his books ever since. While reading Gerry's latest book, "Transcendent Summits", I came across a passage that resonated for me and I hope will for Summit Huts Association. The passage concerns "positive momentum" on climbing expeditions of great summits. For me, his thought relates to the "positive momentum" SHA needs to cultivate and maintain for volunteerism. Summit Huts Association can create this positive momentum by each of us doing "just a little more than his or her share". To paraphrase Gerry, "the difference between a little more and a little less than your share is trivial, but that small difference controls an organization's spirit."

Because we have several volunteer needs in the near future and long term, I would like to call on each of you to contemplate doing just a "little bit more" for SHA. Our list of needs includes:

- 1) Helping with The Backcountry Ball; we need help with set-up, clean-up, the silent auction, public relations, etc. (talk to Hannah)
- 2) Creating a housekeeping group whose goal is to raise the bar on our cabins' level of cleanliness. (talk to Mike)
- 3) We will need help with our many maintenance projects this summer and fall. (talk to Mike)
- 4) We would like to have a group of contractors who continually evaluate our cabins' long-term maintenance and capital improvement needs.
- 5) Attend an extra board meeting (Annual Meeting is September 6).

To borrow from Gerry again, by doing "just a little bit more" I believe we can "move forward with an energy that is greater than the sum of our members passions" for a better Summit Huts Association.



John G. Warner
President, SHA



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Operations Update June 2007

Mike Zobbe

What shall I talk about, the past winter or the coming summer? Since the past winter is currently impacting the coming summer, I think I can talk about both and still be relevant to the present.

As I write in early June, there is still a great deal of snow on the ground. This affects access to the huts to get them ready for the summer. The more snow, the later we are able to get important work done before the summer season. Francie's Cabin has a hundred foot long, five foot deep drift blocking the road a quarter mile below the hut. Boreas Pass Road, which normally opens Memorial Day weekend, is still closed going into the second week of June. I haven't been up the Colorado Trail to Janet's since we closed down the hut in mid May, but judging by conditions on similar trails, I'm sure the top third of the trail is either a mud fest or covered with drifts several feet deep. Late May and early June are often a waiting game, even in drier, warmer years, but it seems we're going to be waiting a little longer this year.

Francie's spring projects and summer preparations should be fairly routine, but we have major work plans for both the Section House and Janet's. We plan to install a French drain around John's John at the Section House to keep water from draining into the vault during runoff. Presently water fills the vault to the brim, which increases the pumping fees two to three times what it should be. It currently costs roughly \$1,300 a year to pump the toilet. We expect that figure to drop to \$500 or less, and should subsequently recoup the cost of installing the drain in savings quickly.

As you almost certainly know, Janet's Cabin will open for summer use on July 13 of this year and there are several projects planned to get the hut ready. The biggest task will be building an access trail from the Colorado Trail down to the hut. This trail will be about 500 feet long and should take five or six people one or two days to build. We had hoped to build this trail last September during the helicopter weekend, but an early season snowstorm covered the ground with three feet of snow. Hopefully the snow will be gone by the three day work weekend we have scheduled for July 6 through 8. If you are interested in helping out for any or all three of those days, please contact us for more information or to sign up. Other volunteer work days currently scheduled at the huts are August 24 and 25 at Francie's Cabin. Dates for Janet's and Section House/Ken's Cabin will be determined later in the summer. You may sign up for any of the volunteer days online (www.summithuts.org/Signup), by emailing us (summithuts@colorado.net) or by calling the office at 970-453-8583.

Friends of Summit Huts

December 1, 2006 - May 31, 2007

The generosity of all our contributors is key to the success of our organization. We apologize if we missed anyone. Please notify us of any errors or omissions.

Life Hut Tripper (\$1000 or more)

Sturm Family Foundation

\$500-\$999

Breckenridge Lands, LLC
Tim & Patti Casey
John & Neide Cooley
Susan & Don Craig

\$250-\$499

Charles & Kathleen Cannon
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The Summit Huts Association is a Colorado non-profit 501(C)(3) tax-exempt corporation (I.D. # 84-1072451) dedicated to providing venues for educational, community and professional programs and refuge to self-propelled backcountry recreational users. All donations are tax deductible as allowed per extent of the law

Summit Huts Calendar

July 2007 - January 2008

July 1 Francie's Cabin Opens for Summer	August 24 & 25 Francie's Cabin Volunteer Days	September/October TBA Janet's Cabin Volunteer Days	November 21 Huts Open for Winter 2007/2008
July 6-8 Janet's Cabin Volunteer Days	September 3 Janet's Cabin Closes for Summer	September/October TBA Section House/Ken's Volunteer Days	January 12-14 Avalanche Workshop Janet's Cabin
July 13 Janet's Cabin Opens For Summer**	September 30 Francie's Cabin Closes for Summer	October 27 6th Annual Backcountry Ball	January 26-28 Avalanche Workshop Francie's Cabin

Please note that summer occupancy at Janet's Cabin is 14

Summit Huts Association Summer 2007 Newsletter



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Hut Reservation Information

Availability: www.summithuts.org **Hut Reservations:** 970-925-5775

Hut rates for the 2007/2008 winter season at Summit Huts will be \$31/person/night at Janet's & Francie's Cabins, \$28/person/night at the Section House, and \$69/night (up to 3 people) for Ken's Cabin. Rates at the 10th Mountain Division Huts are \$28/person/night. Rates at other hut systems range from \$26-\$36/person/night.

Odds & Ends

New Hut Development

Summit Huts is continuing to pursue the development of one to two additional hut sites in fulfillment of the organization's original master plan. The first draft of the Hut Site Proposal has been submitted to the Forest Service for review and has received some initial feedback. The Hut Development Committee, comprised of seven members of the executive and advisory boards, was formed in September of 2005. Since then, the members of the committee have examined and evaluated six potential hut sites that were included in the proposal to the Forest Service. We expect to be able to move ahead in the near future. If you choose, your contribution to Summit Huts can be applied directly to the New Hut Development Fund, just let us know.

Staff News

Congratulations to Mike Zobbe, who is stepping into a new role as Executive Director of Summit Huts

Winter 2006/2007 Wrap Up

As anyone who tried to book a last minute hut trip might suspect, the 2006/2007 winter season was another busy and successful one for Summit Huts. Janet's, Francie's, Section House and Ken's Cabin saw a combined total of 6,106 visitors, for a combined occupancy rate of 65%. Thanks for a great season!



Summit Huts Association operates Janet's Cabin, Francie's Cabin, The Section House & Ken's Cabin under special use permit with the Forest Service, USDA. SHA is an equal opportunity provider.

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