

Cliff Camp Log Sheet

2013 - 1

Names: Who was in your party? Steve Kliewer, Carol Schmidt & Dennis Young

Dates: What days were you here? Sunday, June 23, 2013 to ~~July 2~~ June 24

Comments: How was the weather? What animals did you see? Any problems or funny anecdotes?

We arrived Sunday and made several trips in carrying hardware and supplies to repair several issues. I was going from a detailed list supplied by Greg Davis. Greg had warned me that the sink basket needs to be replaced as well as some repairs to wheelbarrow, shower heater, shed, and beds. (Please note that the hardware to repair the sink was not brought down before we left and is still needed)

The cabin was closed cleanly but with several glaring oddities. Greg's list of foods, condiments, and other supplies was apparently out of date and completely wrong. Someone had cleaned out all food and almost all condiments. There was no fuel up there. Every lantern and stove was bone dry. I hadn't expected to need fuel the first night.

When we started to work on the spring we found the greatest problem. The water system has been destroyed.

First we noticed that the creeks were all dry. However, the spring had a minimal but adequate flow even though the connection at the dam leaks badly. Then we found out that the pipe was crushed and plugged somewhere in the first 30 feet below the spring. After replacing this we began to notice that the pipe has been severed into many short portions and that each and every coupling has been removed from there on down with several sections completely missing.

Chris (owner of Wishon Village Resort) was very helpful and worked with us to repair the water system with the materials on hand. However, we were all exhausted and finally gave up. The next morning we packed up and came home. Although we left a lot of supplies and food for the next party, we were not able to complete opening camp before lack of water forced us out.

I am at a total loss to explain or understand this situation. The emptying of cabin supplies is odd enough. However, the destruction of the water system baffles me.

Currently the cabin is uninhabitable. When you [Phil and company on July 5] go in I can propose three options:

1. Take in at least a dozen $\frac{3}{4}$ " barbed poly-pipe couplings (plastic fittings that slip inside $\frac{3}{4}$ " black polyethylene pipe). They are commonly available at most hardware stores and certainly at Orchard or farm supply stores. Enough short pieces are lying around that you might be able to splice enough together. (This option is risky)
2. Take in at least 200 ft of new $\frac{3}{4}$ black poly pipe (in addition to several couplings) to rerun the top section from spring to trail as one piece and then use the balance lower down as needed. (I would feel confident with this option)

3. Take in at least 800 ft of new $\frac{3}{4}$ black poly pipe to rerun the entire length. Be sure to route and secure any new pipe so that it doesn't creep downhill year by year and bury it (at least under duff) to keep it cooler and out of sight from coyotes and bears. Always minimize the number of couplings as that is almost always where breaks and stoppages occur. (This would be the best option)

In each option I would also suggest taking something that will allow you to make a better fit at the spring. A 2" dia galv pipe is embedded in the dam. However, the threads rusted away a long time ago. A plastic 2" threaded coupling is attached to a galv. 2" to $\frac{3}{4}$ " reducer which then has a coupler to $\frac{3}{4}$ " poly pipe. Currently a rubber ring is used to loosely bridge between the pipe in the dam to the plastic coupling. I would suggest that the 2" coupling and reducer be permanently attached to the 2" pipe at the dam using underwater putty or at least some more secure and tighter fitting attachment than now exists.

This trip was the latest in June that I have gone up in many years and one of the driest I have seen. However, you have observed a shortage of water in the past. The spring has always gotten very slow each summer (July and August) but I now wonder if it may have been adequate if you had not also had so many leaks.

When I installed the existing system, I bought 1200 feet (3 rolls of 400ft) of $\frac{3}{4}$ blk poly with about 300 feet left over. I used 3 couplings. Since then, the pipe has been cut and spliced several times (apparently because of animal bites). One year it took a major hit when rocks and a tree fell on it where it crosses the trail. Each year it has crept downhill putting more and more tension on the pipe.

Maybe it is time to completely refurbish the system.

Chris (at Wishon Village) has some experience in this with their similar water system and is young and energetic. Perhaps we should look into hiring someone to do this heavy work.

What do you think? Give me a call at 805-801-2245 and I will be happy to discuss this with you further.

Another thought: My wife no longer feels up to hiking in after taking several falls. I understand that the Johnsons (of Crown Valley) recently hired a helicopter to take some of the older family members in and out. Rumor has it that the cost was about \$1500 (mostly due to the flight from Fresno to the Wishon heliport). I know that Patty stopped going in some time ago. Is this something that you would like to look at?

Cliff Camp Log Sheet

2013 - 4

Names: Who was in your party? Steve Kliewer, Steve Derks, Mikey Manning

Dates: What days were you here? Wednesday Thru Saturday, September 25 - 28, 2013

Comments: How was the weather? What animals did you see? Any problems or funny anecdotes?

Steve Kliewer:

Wednesday, 9/25: Arrived by 2pm, Very cool (low 50's) with dense clouds forming. The spring was barely trickling. However, the work on the system earlier this year was great. Water at the cabin was completely adequate for cooking, drinking, and cleaning. I understand that 0.5" of rain fell the previous weekend. Greg left the cabin in great shape and we settled in very comfortably. Despite the cold temperatures we had a great campfire. The moon was in last quarter and the Milky Way was magnificent.

Thursday: Cool temperatures with massing clouds. Rain by late afternoon, changing to some snow flakes but no dusting. Overnight low below freezing. I completed a detailed inventory of the shed and the cabin and made measurements for future repairs and replacements.

Friday: Last night was frigid. Much of the ground is covered with frost and crunches. The day quickly warmed up, the sky became a deep blue, and, while cool, the day has been extremely pleasant. Fall in the mountains is the best!

Mikey has learned how to fire up the stove and keeps it going all the time. He has also learned how to fill the lanterns, light the lanterns, light the gas stove, chop wood, use a GPS, follow recipes, find routes, identify granite, basalt, xenoliths, glacial moraines, glacial polish, flow marks, and more. He has been a great help.

Today we marked the South East corner of Section 12 (and the Cliff Camp property). We used 3 GPS units each working with 6 to 7 satellites. We placed a 4x4 redwood post with a presumed accuracy of 20 ft. The post and the location are from the official notes of the original surveyor.

We proceeded to place piles of stones at the projected locations of the quarter quarter section points to the West and the North West. The remaining corner (to the North) is too far up on a bench of the cliff below the trail.

We walked over to the old cabin and located the NW corner of the original property. On the original patent deed. The cliff camp property is described as "East 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Section 12". The current property is described as "SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 12". This means that the 40 acres neighboring the current property to the north was at one time part of the Cliff Camp property. The North boundary ends just south of the old cabin on the West side of the creek.

We then walked over to the pond at Lava Mountain. It was totally dry, no open water at all. We located the center of Section 12 just to the West of the narrow part of the pond and between the pond and Lava Mountain.

Next we walked across the narrows, found the old blazed Sugar Pine tree and measured its location.

Saturday: We put everything away, packed up, and closed the cabin for the winter.

On the way home, we hiked out to the township corner. It was a rocky scramble up and over the top. We found 3 witness trees and the Witness corner. The GPS location of this corner matches within 10ft of the location previously use. However, there was no sign of the actual corner. It should have been 99ft further south on solid granite.

It has been a very dry year but this trip was outstanding.