

Cliff Camp Log Sheet

2014 - 1

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

Dates: What days were you here? May 9-12, 2014

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

Mikey Manning (Steve Kliewer's grandson, age 15)

On Friday we came up to the cabin around 3:30. When I come up to the cabin I enjoy the time with my grandpa and whoever comes up here with us. It is always fun to be up here and I don't ever not like the trip. Every time I come up here my grandpa seems to be organized with what he like to bring on the trip. During the time we were just getting here we didn't do much unpacked and got the fireplace set up and going. As always I always keep the fire going so that everybody will stay warm.

On Saturday the next day we went back to the car to pick up some more supplies that we needed. I was able to find the way to the car and got lost on the way back to the cabin. I was told that I should look for things that will help me remember the trail easier. During the evening we always play a game on the trips and the games that we played were hearts and Yahtzee which the were both very fun to play. I got got my butt kicked for a little bit in hearts but at the end I only lost by two points. In Yahtzee it was y first time playing it but I thought I did pretty good.

On Sunday morning we had some breakfast and then we went to the cliff were my uncle and grandpa were going to cut some wood. I was sent to get some more needed supplies from the car and my grandpa said you have an hour it only took me 25 minutes and they were surprised that I was able to do it that quick. Then we did some projects like I assembled some saw horses to make a table to work on and it was fun but challenging. Then I played some golf and I hit some pretty good shots and then I lost the ball.

On Monday we are leaving which I do not like to leave but in a couple of weeks I get to come back for a longer stay. I always enjoy the stay. I can't wait for the next time I learn how to do new things every time I come up here. I always hate to leave this place.

Steve Kliewer

We arrived on Friday. It was a beautiful but cool day. Scattered clouds but a definite chill. Snow was seen along the McKinley Grove road but none at or near the cabin.

It is always a joy coming up. However, I am coming to expect surprises. Last year it was the sudden absence of a water system. This year we had other, milder surprises.

First thing we noticed coming in was that the wheelbarrow was left out in the rain (probably all winter) along the trail at the bottom of the steep section.

The second thing we noticed was that the front door was wide open. It had been kicked-in, breaking both the deadbolt and the latch and ripping out part of the door holding them.

Next we noticed that empty boxes, beer bottles, and cans were littered on the table, sink counter, and in the cabinets. All of the food had been removed either wholesale or leaving behind empty boxes.

Last September 28, I had closed the cabin neatly and completely with an extensive and accurate inventory of all food stuffs in the cabin. Over 60 items have been removed.

The bedding chest was wide open but still full. The stove and stove pipe were still in the cabin as we had left them. The cables were still in place.

The Shed was still locked although things inside were not as neat as I had left them. The tarps were piled on the floor and some of the mattresses thrown diagonally over the tarps. Everything still appeared to be there including the chain saw. Then we noticed that the inside bottom foot of the door showed scratching. Perhaps a small animal had been trapped inside and knocked things awry. However, no body was found and no entry holes larger than 1x3" were found.

The front door will need a new deadbolt and door latch with security plates. The back door will need to have the hinges moved. It should also have a deadbolt (w/security) and will need to be shaved to fit the door jambs better. Bolts should be used to secure the splitting door jambs. I plan to bring in the materials and tools needed to fix all of these on our next visit in 3 weeks.

Upon arrival on Friday, We worked hard to get the chimney mounted straight through the roof (instead of a dog-leg out the side of the cabin. We found an old roof jack and modified it to work. The new installation seems very secure and the stove draws better. We are hoping that with little extra work, the stove pipe can be left in place over the winter.

On Saturday, we went to Shaver Lake hardware to get gasoline for the chainsaw and a padlock/chain to secure the front door. We also visited the Wishon store to replenish expected but now lost food supplies. Mikey and Rick got lost coming back in. I also took the opportunity to do a recon above the spring. Notes below.

This afternoon and night were much cooler. The new shower system works great and despite very cool breezes we each enjoyed a hot shower.

On Sunday, we hauled the chainsaw up to the spring to clear the fallen logs for access to the spring, cleaned up the chimney install, assembled the Solar charging stand, assembled the new saw horses, and inventoried the shed and cabin.

Monday, we will pack out expecting to return in 3 weeks for a longer stay. Great trip as always. It is difficult to leave.

Recon Notes above spring and proposed corner relocation – 5/10/14

I climbed above the current spring and found a point directly above the spring. This area is a small boggy meadow with some standing water in the center. Although there is evidence of a dry channel leading from the cliffs above to this meadow, it does not appear that the meadow is normally served by surface water but instead by underground springs. Therefore it seems likely that our “spring” is in fact a true spring. Slightly to the north but apparently in another drainage, flow the streams that we cross on the trail and that form our fall near the cabin. Above this bench is another spectacular fall from which these streams are fed. I marked all of these points using GPS in the table above. In many cases I used a theodolite to measure the inclination to other points I could see such as the cabin, 4A, and 3A. This will be used to measure relative altitude.

Images were taken of each of these locations.

From the meadow I walked south to locate an appropriate point for our SE property boundary such that the property would include the spring and meadow. I originally projected a location. However, I was only able to get within 20 ft of the location about halfway up an 80 deg rock bluff. I marked an alternative location at a large fir tree.

Spring elevation from Cabin by theodolite – 5/11/14

The Sight Point on the bench is 584 ft (horiz) from the cabin and the Spring is 192 ft (horiz). Both points were sighted as 13° above and below. This means that the bench is 135 ft above the cabin and the spring is another 45 ft above the bench. This is a total elevation difference of 180 ft. This should develop a static water pressure of 80 psig.

Cabin to Parking lot – 5/12/14

The cabin is at elevation of 6460 ft. The parking lot is at 6790 ft. The rough distance is 3600 ft. This is a climb of 340 ft over $\frac{3}{4}$ mile or an average grade of $9\% = 5$ deg.

The first part from cabin to hose crossing is 1200 ft and a climb of 135 ft. This is an average of 12% or 7 deg with sections as much as 30 deg.

Cliff Camp Log Sheet

2014 - 2

Names: Who was in your party? Steve Kliewer, Mikey & Rick Manning, Judey & Scott Miller, Steve Derks, and Royden

Dates: What days were you here? May 29 thru June 8, 2014

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

Mikey Manning (Steve Kliewer's grandson, age 16)

When I got here on Thursday afternoon I was just ready to relax but we had to unpack and set up for our time here. Later that day Steve D. came for dinner. On Friday there was only three of us. On Saturday I went on a hike that lasted all day from about 7:00am to 5:30pm and it was a 14.6 mile hike from Courtright reservoir and then going to Dogtooth Peak. The next day on Sunday Grandpa's cousin Judey and her husband Scott. They came in around 12:15 . I was so happy when I found out that Steve's trailer had wi-fi so that I could call home to see how my mom was doing.

The next day on Monday she made some great cinnamon rolls and she made some cake as well for our dessert. On Tuesday we went for another hike and this time it was Scott, Steve D. and me. The hike that we took was to a place called Spanish Lake. It was a fairly large lake that was very beautiful and had jumping fish in it. Grandpa's cousin and I played a game called Krypto which is a math game that is so fun.

On Wednesday we just did really small projects that were left. Then we just relaxed for the rest of the day because of the hike that I did. I chopped some wood with the axe after Steve chopped the pieces smaller so I was able to use the axe. We set up a new shower system and next year when we come up we will make a shower stall to prevent the wind from coming in. On Thursday we had breakfast and then we helped Scott and Judey pack and get ready to leave. I helped with one of their packs by taking it to their car. Then I came back and took the one that Scott had so that he could Judey get up the trail easier.

On Friday we went for a small hike that was 3 miles to the old cabin and up to lava mountain which is huge and filled of rocks. There were orange, purple, white, and yellow flowers up of the mountain.

I was using the outhouse when I heard steps I looked and I saw a coyote trotting by. It was the first animal that I seen besides a lizard, squirrel, or a bird. On Saturday I will be leaving to go home which I always have a hard time doing because it is always a good time up here. We are going to be leaving after breakfast like always.

Can't wait to come back. I hope Judey can come back for good company and cook.

Judey Miller

How wonderful it is to be back up at Cliff Camp! It's been about 6 or 7 years since we were last up at the cabin. The last time Scott and I were on our way up to join Cousin Steve, we had to cancel our trip (we were halfway there!) when I was notified that my sister Patsy had unexpectedly died. A lot has happened between then and now...

Hiking in to the cabin brought back a lot of memories. This was my first time hiking in on my two new titanium knees. It took me about an hour and 20 minutes but considering that I never would have been able to make it before my knees were replaced, I am thrilled that I successfully made it!

In the past, our family has usually come in later in the year, so coming in on 1 June afforded us with the opportunity to again view all of the beautiful wildflowers. It was surprising however, to see that the usual stream and waterfall over the cliff had already dried up. I missed seeing the tiger lilies at the stream that bloom later in the summer when we

usually come in, but the little pussy paws and penstemon are in full bloom. I don't recall ever seeing the little purple flowers that Steve has identified by the common name of Chinese Houses." They are gorgeous.

My contribution to camp life is to act as the camp cook since my mobility is a bit limited. With Scott, Mikey and Cousin Steve making more than one trip, we have a ton of food. One of the greatest pleasures of being at Cliff Camp for me is to invoke the spirit of Aunt Betty while cooking on the wood-burning stove. It takes me a day or so to get back into the pattern of initially building the fire to heat up the stove and then stoking it to maintain the proper heat level so that we can do some baking. Cousin Steve brought in a new recipe for cinnamon rolls (a wonderful rich, eggy yeast dough). I doubled the recipe so we could enjoy them for more than just a single meal. These cinnamon rolls are so good and are so treasured that we could consider using them for currency... (I'm just sayin'.)

Our first evening we enjoyed a fire and then, thanks to Cousin Steve and his telescope, we were able to observe at least two of the moons of Jupiter. Mercury and Mars were visible and Saturn was supposed to be to, but I couldn't really catch a glimpse of it. Even the sliver of moon was fascinating to observe through Steve's telescope. An incredible sight for me was to view, with no magnification at all, the International Space Stations (ISS) cross the sky. It was incredible. And yes, I waved at the ISS. Strange feeling to know that humans were traversing the sky above us, which seems so far away when standing on the earth looking up, but it is incredibly close when compared to the distance that light from the closest star must travel. Very humbling.

I had to earn my keep so while Scott, Mikey and Cousin Steve's friend Steve were hiking to Spanish Lake, I played apprentice to Cousin Steve as he worked to better secure all of the doors.

Evenings and down time have been fun. We brought up a math card game with us called Krypto that Mikey is really enjoying and last night we played Hearts. Haven't played in years but I managed to successfully 'Shoot the Moon' on the very first game!

One of the highlights for me was finding a newly-emerged adult wood borer beetle (either a cerambycid or buprestid) on my fleece jacket in the cabin. We managed to take a couple of pictures but none of the photos do justice to its beautiful iridescent elytra. It is interesting to think that the larvae can be so destructive (and non-descript) while the adults are so flamboyantly beautiful.

A big thank you to the Collins clan for the new shower (well, new since we were last here) and all of the work on the cabin itself. We appreciate all the time, money, and energy that has gone into these improvements. With Cousin Steve doing the planning and purchasing of all of the parts, we helped with several projects. We even re-organized the pans and griddle hanging on the wall by the stove as well as the drawers full of cooking implements.

Also a big thank you to whoever brought in the French press coffee maker. We did leave some good Peet's coffee that (40% French roast, 30% Gaia blend, 30% Sulawesi-Kalosi) that works really well with the French press. We are rather particular about the coffee we drink, preferring a blend of Peet's to most commercially available coffees so being able to use fresh, cold mountain spring water with Peet's coffee in the French press has been a highlight of our morning.

Steve Kliever

This has been a great 10 day trip. Beautiful weather (sunny, high 68-74, low 38-43). Great astronomy (Mercury, Jupiter, Mars, Saturn, ISS, Moon in days 1-9). And best of all, Great friends and family.

Several different people have been arriving and departing throughout our stay. Mikey and I arrived on Thursday and got things setup. Steve Derks arrived later that day, had dinner with us each day, but stays in his travel trailer at Wishon Village. We greatly enjoy his regular deliveries of ice and removal of trash besides his company and willingness to help with chores. Rick arrived on Saturday but got lost and injured his knee. He ended up dropping off the food he planned to bring in but returned to Fresno instead.

Judey and Scott arrived on Sunday and our meals have not been the same. Judey is a great cook and we have had many great discussions about all of the old gang at Cliff Camp 40 years ago.

We replaced the deadbolt and latch on the front door. We also added a deadbolt to the rear door and to the shed door. We also added full security reinforcement to all three doors. On the front and rear doors we moved the hinges so that the doors can easily open to 90 degrees.

A new key will open all four locks to the cabin. A different new key will unlock the shed deadbolt. I will mail copies of the new cabin key to Phil and Bill Easely. The new shed key is hanging next to the cabin rear door.

The sink drain is extremely slow and the strainer does not work. We replaced the drain and it now works great.

The sides of the stove firebox are eroding. We installed a new iron baffle to protect it.

We brought up a variety of new tools and hardware. The cabin and shed are completely inventoried on separate lists that I will email out.

The Water system is working beautifully - clear and full. The new pipe has removed all leaks and this has helped tremendously. However, in the 3 weeks since I was up previously this spring, stream flows have dropped markedly. This probably means the springs flow will also drop markedly sooner than usual.

The shower heater system works extremely well - even too well. Showers easily get too warm. Thanks to everyone who made these things happen. You did a great job.

Cliff Camp Log Sheet

2014 - 4

Names: Who was in your party? Steve Kliewer & Walt Reil

Dates: What days were you here? September 25-29, 2014

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

Thursday, Sept 25:

Walt and I arrived at the cabin about 3pm. The weather was pleasantly cool (high of 78) with some windy moments. Clouds passed over but the sky remained mostly blue.

The cabin had good water flow throughout the day.

As noted by Bill, the outhouse was pretty devastated by a fallen tree. Today, we cleared the debris and temporarily restored function to the outhouse. Hopefully it will last the winter. I will provide dimensioned plans for a replacement outhouse as Bill has offered to build next summer.

Almost all food, staples, and kitchen supplies had been exhausted with many empty jars and boxes left in the shelves and drawers rather than being disposed of.

I have attempted to provide a detailed inventory for others to know what supplies are at the cabin. Most items on that list are now gone. I have also tried to maintain a supply of common staples (oil, salt, sugar and such) very little of this is left. I am wondering if my efforts are on the wrong track. Is this the way we want to proceed?

Friday, Sept 26:

Today we woke up with no water flow. Luckily we have about 15 gal in the hot water tank, 5 gal in the blue tank, and 8 gal in water bottles. Today it is markedly cooler and windier. Low clouds (fog) and higher dark clouds have built up through the day to the East.

Heavy rain fell overnight from 9:30pm till midnight.

We packed out the bottles and other refuse left behind by previous visitors and packed in lumber for repair of the outhouse.

We also brought in posts and markers for marking out the property corners.

NE corner (near trail from parking lot to cabin): 36 59.066'N 118 58.154'W

SE corner: 36 58.858'N 118 58.157'W

SW corner: 36 58.858'N 118 58.425'W

NW corner: 36 59.063'N 118 58.425'W

These corners represent the "Long-standing usage" and include both the spring and the cabin as well as most of the adjacent meadow lands. They have been found to be displaced by about 350 ft NE from the positions projected using the township corner at the reservoir. However, this projection is not a legal survey and in its absence we are hereby establishing our legal property by "long standing usage". If a legal survey later establishes any discrepancy in location, legal precedence would then allow our property to be redescribed to match our usage.

The water system seems to be in fine condition thanks to all of the work done last year. However, the spring is dry and no water is coming down the line.

Heavy rain between 9:30 and midnight.

Saturday, Sept 27:

Light rain today off and on starting at noon.

Walt: This is my first entry to this log. Steve and I arrived around 3 PM on Thursday in gorgeous weather. It was invigorating being back in the Sierra's. It was also invigorating putting on my heavy Danner backpacking boots that have seen service from Mt. Washington in New Hampshire to the Sawtooths and White Clouds of Idaho, to Mt. Silliman in the Sierras. Now they get to enjoy the treks to and from Cliff Camp. Then putting on my 60-pound pack was another enjoyable experience.

So far the visit has been wonderful. Although I will admit the I have not yet found the pool or plethora of wildlife that the Cliff Camp brochure said would enjoy. And, sadly, there were no short-skirted bar maids to serve up the alcoholic beverages at the enjoy of the day. I am still looking for the large, flat-screen TV. Another questionable Cliff Camp brochure item.

But, the serene and relaxed atmosphere are wonderful, as the brochure promised. No freeway noises and no cars driving by with their pounding woofers of music.

Another thrill, for some reason not outlined in the brochure, was spending several hours splitting firewood. Now there is a fantastic exercise for vacations ... bringing back many memories of past wood-cutting days.

Topping it off so far has been trudging through the brush to locate property corners and find the headwaters of the famous Cliff Camp spring. Oh No ... No water in the spring! Sure glad we lugged a couple gallons of water in with us. There we go again ... another item not mentioned by the Cliff Camp brochure. I guess I will have to have a heart-to-heart discussion with the brochure's editor.

Now ... looking forward today's tour bus trip up to Courtright Reservoir and the five-star restaurant overlooking the reservoir that the Cliff Camp brochure promised would be the highlight of a visit to this beautiful area. But, having to walk about an hour up hill to get to the bus was also not mentioned in the brochure. Hummm ... Must get with the editor!

Yee - Haw!

Sunday, Sept 28:

Heavy rain this morning at 5:30 to 6:30am. Light rain of and on starting at 11am.

Walt saw shiny eyes from some medium sized animal last night. No sound. May have been the pine martin Bill mentioned last month.

We have seen many small birds (mostly oregon juncos) and the ubiquitous noisy crows. Many squirrels are about. Pine cones are falling all around. I am worried about the huge Ponderosa pine tree to the south west of the cabin. It is growing on the lower bench and is leaning directly toward the cabin.

We disconnected the in-line filter and replaced it with a short length of pipe. I plan to leave the water system connected but shut off to minimize debris clogging the line this winter.

Monday, Sept 29:

Emptied the stove of all ash. Emptied the blue water container. Dried and sealed all of the empty gal water bottles for next year. Removed and stored the screen doors. Stored all bedding in the shed. Took inventory. Installed the cables.

Walt and I plan to have lunch at Courtright dam on our way home.

Great trip.

The Fall is, in many ways the best time of the year. The Sierra seems to tranquilly settle into the coming winter. The temperatures started off warm and pleasant and got somewhat chilly. However, the nights were not especially cold even while heavily raining. Mid 50's to 60's during the day and upper 30's to low 40's at night. Snow had dusted the ground at Courtright.