

# 2018 May - Journal

Monday, May 21, 2018

## Cliff Camp Journal Sheet

2018 — 1

**Names:** Who was in your party? Steve Kliewer

**Dates:** What days were you here? Thursday, May 17-22, 2018

### Comments:

Fall creek was running across all three streams but rock hopping was sufficient.

Water system:

The spring dam was overflowing. The reservoir had little debris but the siphon was blocked.

The water tank was empty.

The pipe to the cabin was separated at two places along the steepest slope. Tension is building up each year.

Dead tree near outhouse may need to be felled to prevent outhouse being crushed.

Trail blocked by one new log near outhouse.

Opening Camp:

Removed cables

Setup up Solar panels

Erected chimney

Cleaned mouse droppings

Shower and Outhouse in good order

Setup Shower

Garden:

Garden is growing well.

Tilled, fertilized, and revamped drip system with auto timer

Planted wildflower mix.

Other work:

Added shelf in cabin

Added mag latches on cabinets to make them mouse proof.

Added new adjustable shower head.

Added mortared steps along trail where it descends narrow crevice.

Trail through meadow is blocked by 3 logs. The meadow is thoroughly swamped edge to edge and blocked by

much debris and much overgrown aspen brush.

Weather Report:

17 Thursday: Partly sunny, high of 62, low of 42

18 Friday: partly sunny, high of 64, low of 45

19 Saturday: Mostly sunny, high of 64, low of 42

20 Sunday: Sunny, blue sky, high of

21 Monday:

22 Tuesday:

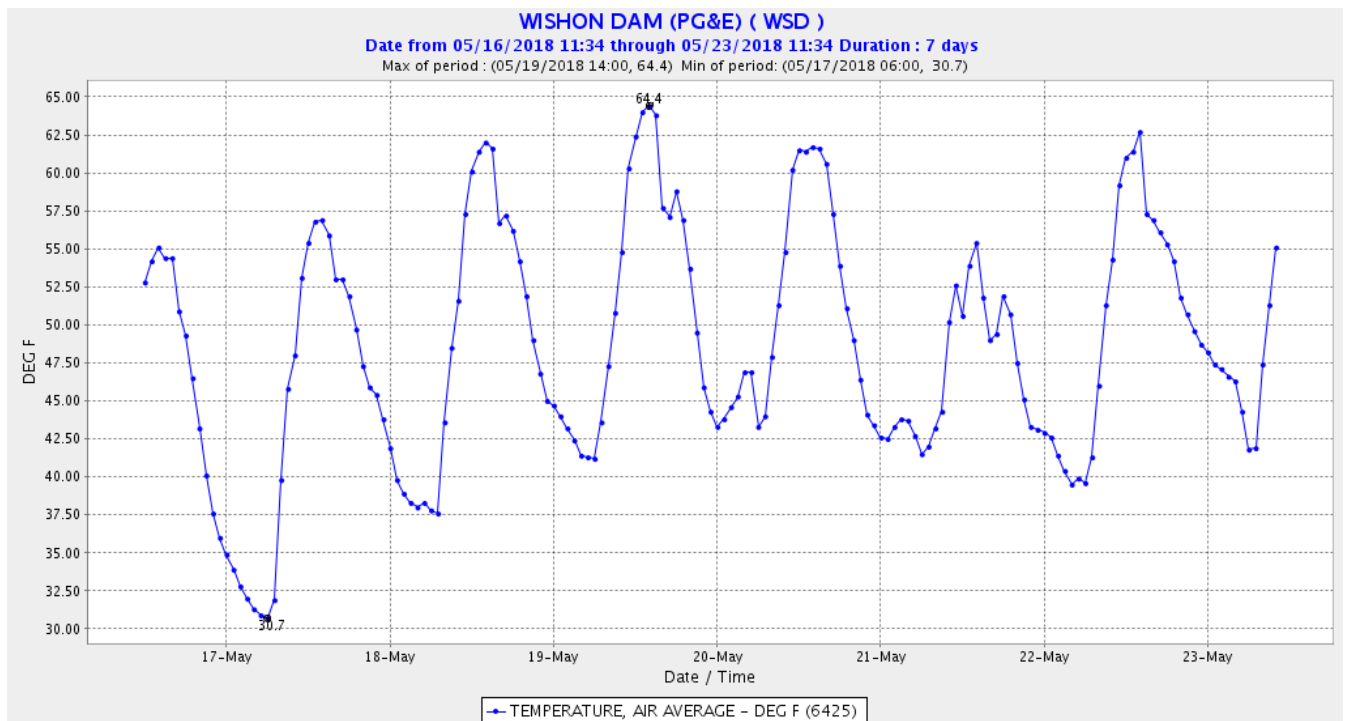
Wishon reservoir water level:

6530 ft (10 ft below spillway),

110,000 Acre-ft (85% of capacity)

### Weather Report:

Sept	Day	Desc	Low	High	Notes
17	Thur			57	part cloudy
18	Fri		38	62	part cloudy
19	Sat		41	65	mostly clear
20	Sun		43	62	part cloudy
21	Mon		41	55	light rain, 0.05"
22	Tue		40	-	clear



# Cliff Camp Journal Sheet

2018 — 2

**Names:** Who was in your party? Steve Kliewer, Steve Derks, John Derks, Tom Edholm

**Dates:** What days were you here? Thursday, June 7 - 19, 2018

## Comments:

The weather was outstanding.

The garden is doing well. It is a LABOR of love. The soil is a good sandy loam with a pH of 7.0. But the nutrients (NPK) were all "Depleted". I have fertilized, and the levels are creeping up to "Sufficient" with the exception of phosphorus which is still "Deficient". The southernmost 8 ft of the garden (with the ooze tubing) is planted in wildflowers. The apple trees, strawberries, and blackberry are clearly marked and watered by drippers. The drip system is on a timer for 15 min every day.

For any garden enthusiasts, there is still much available space to plant. Have fun but be sure to keep me informed so I don't work at cross purposes with you.

The Solar power system is functioning beautifully. Plenty of power for USB devices, GPS, CPAP, and lights. Please note that the red Power (aka "Load") button must be illuminated to provide power to all devices. I usually leave it in the OFF (nonilluminated) condition. You will need to press the button with the label "POWER" to use.

I added 3 photo albums (2 of Building the Cabin 1960-63 and Betty's photo album) and a copy of the Rancheria Environmental Impact Report 1976.

Jupiter was high and bright to the South. Venus was very bright in the West. The Moon was last quarter through new and therefore no problem for observing stars, meteors and satellites. Friday night, Venus went through a very strange series of jumps as it bounced very noticeably for about 20 minutes. Presumably, this was due to an unstable atmosphere. But UFOs did come to mind. :-)

ISS made three majestic passes overhead on 3 consecutive nights. Hubble also passed over on two evenings. Iridium communications satellites flashed us very brightly as spots of reflected sunlight from their large solar panels briefly passed over us.

The meadow is delightful. It is lush with many flowers, birds, and butterflies. It is slowly drying out but still very boggy and deep in some places. A trail was cut and a bridge added over the worst areas.

I have been making a determined effort to use the GPS to map the area in detail. For anyone that is interested and has Google Earth Pro (Free for download), I can send you KML files that will map local features, trails, meadows, & streams.

I also have transcripts of Surveys: Original (1883), Triangulation (1973), Established Usage (2014); and Original Letters Patent (1897)

Please let me know if you have an interest.

There are several interesting mysteries in the Cliff Camp area. Most are documented on our website: <http://cliffcamp.net/Information.html>. Find out more about Wes Eversol, the mysterious mountain man and his camp; Jim Ambrose has written about the secret route to Hell Hole; and don't miss out on underground adventures in Kings Caverns. The gate was opened early this year and you can drive to within 1/2 mile of the caverns.

A new screen door was built for the front door. It still needs some work but is functioning pretty well. Please try to minimize slamming until I can get some bumpers installed.

The shower works like a dream. It is the high point of my day to take a hot shower. The tank is calibrated, a new mounting for the shower head has been added, and new steps down to the shower have been mortared.

The 40 lb. bag of mortar hardened over the winter and is useless. About 5 lbs. of the other bag remain and are double bagged in the black tray.

Thanks for being willing to re-align the water pipe. The pipe is under a great deal of tension and joints are getting weak. It parted in two places this spring and again between my May trip and my June trip. Be sure to use the Blu-Loc connectors as per manufacturer suggestion. (Square cuts, smooth pipe, insert fully, do not reuse). Route the pipe around rocks not over them. Contour or snake down the hill not directly. Bury or secure the pipe where ever possible. An extra coil of pipe is located behind the water tank.

Recommendations:

Bring: Wesson oil, gas for chainsaw, sugar, bicycle pump, charcoal, 2 double-bitted axe heads.

Don't bring: oatmeal (instant or cooked), instant hashed browns, toilet paper, paper towels, spaghetti and other pastas, insect repellent, ground coffee, shampoo.



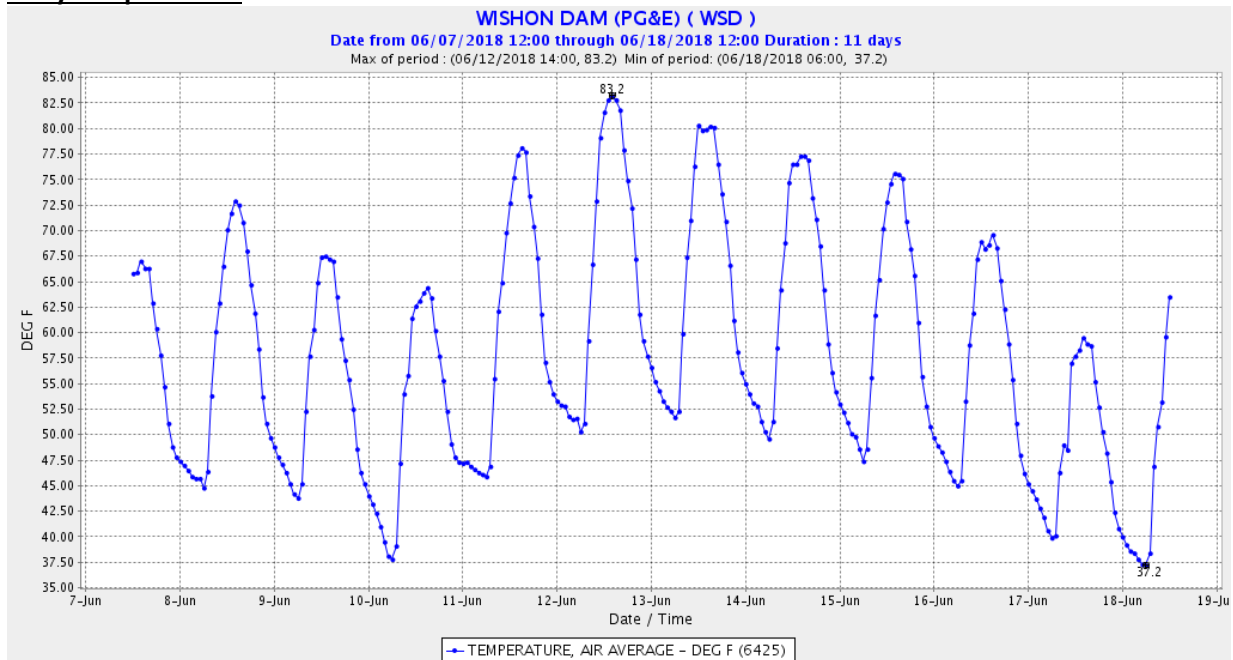
The new foot bridge in the meadow.



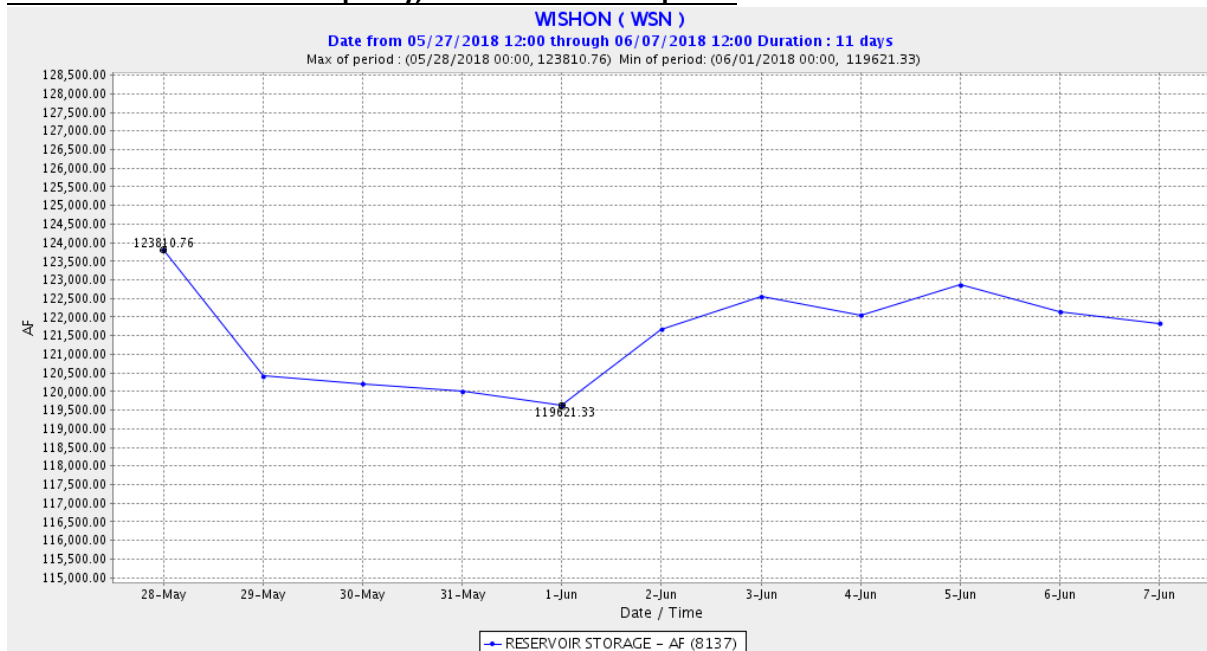
The garden.



## Daily temperatures



## Lake was near maximum capacity, but no water was spilled.



## Bottom of Spillway:

Storage of 115,500 af = elev of 6539 = depth of 250'

## Maximum level:

Storage of 128,300 af = elev of 6555 = depth of 266'



# 2018 Sept - Journal

Monday, September 24, 2018

## Cliff Camp Journal Sheet 2018 — 3

**Names:** Who was in your party? Steve Kliewer, Mike Kliewer, Chris Kliewer, & Jarod Coffman

**Dates:** What days were you here? Sept 7-12, 2018

### Comments:

The fall is a great time to be in the Sierra. It is as if the mountains are settling into a resting period through the winter. All is calm and pleasant. It is great to be alive and in this place!

The weather was very warm each afternoon but very pleasant each morning and evening. Mosquitoes were noticeably absent but yellow jacket wasps were annoying. The birds were a-flutter busily eating birdseed and finding invisible tidbits on the ground while ignoring humans.

It was very significant to me to share this trip with my brother, Mike, and nephews, Chris and Jarrod, again after so many years. Mike now lives in Salt Lake City. Chris in Las Vegas, and Jarrod in Marysville.

### First Day:

Trail condition - good

Fall Creek - All three stream were dry

Water system:

As reported by Coop (Aug 19), the tank was empty and the spring full. This anomaly was found to be caused by a blockage in the pipe about 10 feet from the dam and reservoir where an insert-type connector had gathered enough debris to completely block the flow to the tank. This old connector was removed and replaced with one of the new Blu-Lok connectors and the tank rapidly filled. These new connectors are preferred because they present no flow restriction point. However, they must be fully inserted. A mark, 1" from the pipe end, should be made before installation to be sure of full insertion.

The steady state spring flow was measured at 0.3 gal/min or 430 gal in a 24 hour period.

### Garden:

The garden was growing very well. Thanks to Phil for daily watering.

No further deer damage was observed but stronger and larger enclosures were built using chicken wire for the trees and wire baskets for the strawberries.

The wildflowers had grown very well but most were past their blooming season. Seeds from Tiger Lilies and Columbine (found along trail near Fall creek) were planted.

Soil nutrients were measured and additional fertilizer added.

Weeds were hoed and removed.

### Astronomy:

Sunrise = 6:33am Sunset = 7:11pm

Moon: New to 3 days old - Perfectly dark evenings. The Milky Way was majestic.

Planets: Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars stretched along the ecliptic.

Satellites: A beautiful and very bright Iridium Flare on Sunday evening and a sighting of ISS on Tuesday morning.

Many other satellites were seen each evening. However, Sunday evening was remarkably full of them.

### Other Work:

The NW property corner marker was strengthened for the winter.

The plank bridge was reset and reinforced.

A new work bench was hauled in to replace the old spindly sawhorses.

New adjustable shower head holders were added.

## Closing Camp:

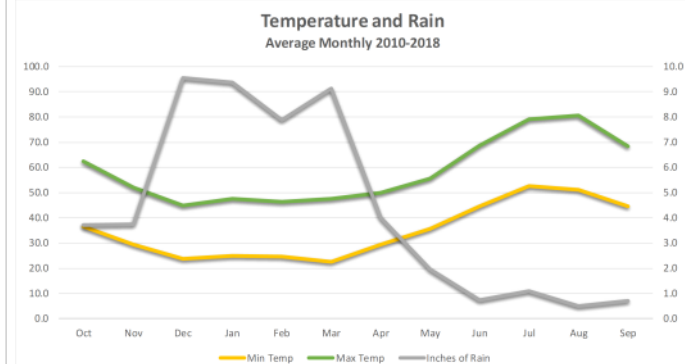
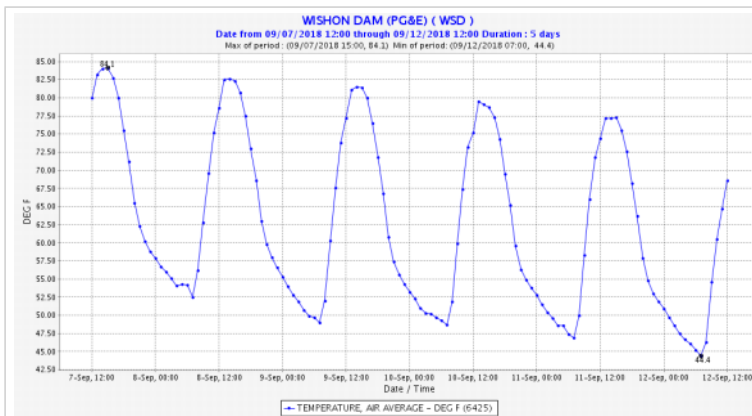
Besides storing all chairs, tools, beds, and bedding; the BBQ, shower, solar panel, and garden were secured. All remaining foods and shred-able materials were put into tightly closed cabinets or other enclosures. The shower faucet was left open with a flow rate about 1/2 of the current spring flow. It is hoped that this will allow the water system to run through the winter with no freeze damage. Lastly, the cables were tightly installed and the doors locked for the season.

## Weather Report:

Sept	DOW	Desc	Low	High	Notes
7	Fri	Clear, hot	-	84	No rain
8	Sat	Clear, hot	53	83	No rain
9	Sun	Clear, hot	48	81	No rain
10	Mon	Clear, hot	48	79	No rain
11	Tues	Clear, hot	46	77	No rain
12	Wed	Clear	44	-	No rain

The only rain since May 20 was 0.26" on July 12 and 0.11" on Sept 4.

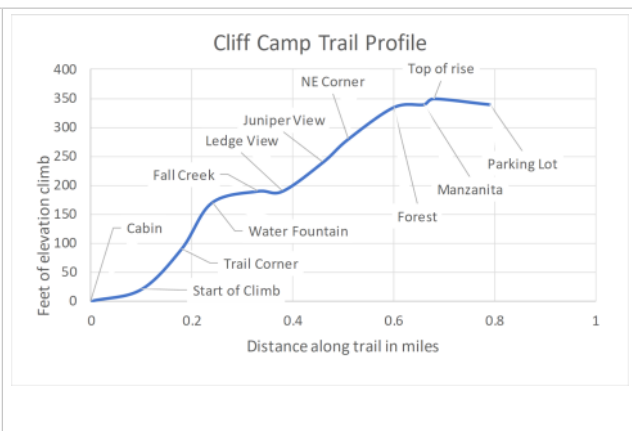
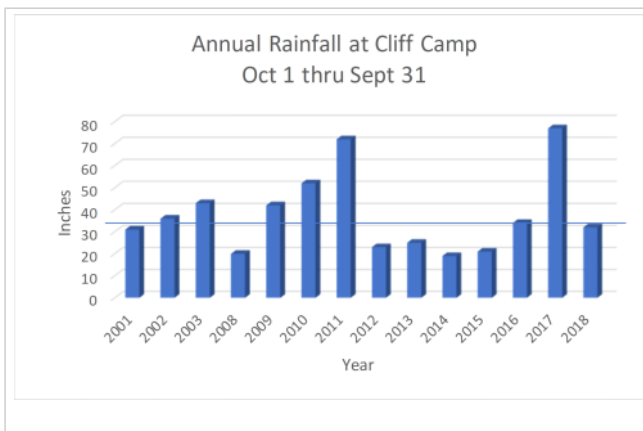
The overnight low is measured on the outside thermometer around 6 or 7am and the high around 2 or 3 pm.



Wishon water elevation = 6510 ft (30 ft below spillway).

Storage = 95,000 acre-feet (max = 128,300 af) = 74%.

The Annual Rain Year is defined as Oct 1 through Sept 31.





### **Mike Kliewer's Comments**

My sons and I had talked about this on our way to Wishon, as we reminisced. We arrived at the parking spot and my mind was very active; it seemed that every turn of my head brought back different memories.

As I slid out of the car and stood up, I gazed out across the tree covered granite. Flashes streamed in my mind's eye of Uncle John, Aunt Betty, Dad and Mom.

"Dad," Chris said, and I swung around, "are we going to do this or what." I grabbed my pack and began loading it up with supplies to take down to the cabin. As it turns out I probably had the lightest pack of the three of us.

It has been some 7-8 years since I have been up here. I am now retired and no longer in the shape that I should be. We finish dividing up the supplies, close-up our packs and wrestle them on to our backs.

As I stand there squirming to adjust my pack, I look across the roadway. I envision in my mind Uncle John, Aunt Betty, Alfred, Barbara Lynn and Steve beginning the arduous trail to the new cabin just like so many times before.

Jarrold, Chris and I start our trip in to the cabin; I soon find that my legs aren't ready for this kind of punishment. As I proceed along the trail, I watch every step and the placement of my feet to keep from tripping.

The memories that swarm in my head are so vivid. I can see Alfred stopping every now and then to take pictures of the gorgeous views, or of some wild flowers that had just bloomed.

As we continued our march down this carefully chosen path, we got to one of the many wonderful views. I reflected on years gone by, when as a younger person, I remember Uncle John standing at the edge of the cliff and surveying his domain as far as you can see.

Aunt Betty would be near and looking down at the cabin as if some part of the family was down there looking back at her.

I can hear in the distance someone calling to me. "You all right back there?" Just one of my kids checking up on dear old dad.

As I come back to present time, I follow my feet as if they have walked this very trail hundreds of times before—they have.

As a younger person I can remember making this trip in and out, 2 to 3 times in a single day, bringing in supplies.

When we were developing this very trail to become the main route to and from the new cabin, we must have walked back and forth moving rocks and cutting brush to clear a path 500 times.

Now moving down the trail around the rocks and through the trees and brush, I reach another overlook. As I approach the edge of the cliff I look down and see the same view that I had seen a thousand times before.

I never got tired of this view. The Cabin. It looks the same, but different. In my memories I see family members moving about down there.

I bounce back to present time and see the cabin—it looks darker—they had to coat the logs with a sealant to preserve them as much as possible. The surrounding area has experienced little change—the shed, beds, the shower tank, the campfire pit, the barbecue pit, the area where we tied the horses.

Oops, wait a minute—the shower tank looks different. The blue barrel is gone; the brown barrel for the fire box is also gone. There's one black tank with something green on top of it—very different.

### **Chris Kliewer's Comments:**

It has been about 5 years since I was last here at Cliff Camp. While the time has passed and changes certainly have been made, this place still remains a place that is sealed off from the outside world and time in a sense. This place has always been special

to me and I hold it in high regard. This trip was a culmination of bringing family together and sharing in the majesty of this place that we have all come to love.

The weather was beautiful, a tad on the warm side, but the nights were cool and could be cold but well worth the price of admission to this place. While much work was done to secure and close up the cabin for winter, we also made progress on other areas such as the garden and the shower area. We made sure that time was well spent on also venturing out to the knoll and the old cabin. Specifically, to reinforce a make shift walk way in the meadow and to also keep the trail in relative good condition.

One of the most iconic and majestic sites surrounding Cliff Camp is the waterfall that at times can be a dull roar all through the day. Sadly, this late in the year the fall was completely dried up. It's an absolute pleasure when it is in action and is one of the many highlights. While it may not have been cascading over the cliff. If I listened closely enough, I could hear the crashing of the water down to the creek below. Which may be the magic of this place after all these years. All time seems to merge as one here. The memories and sights I see tonight all have blurred into one distinct experience so few ever find in their daily lives...Peace.

### **Jarod Coffman's Comments**

My trip to cliff camp was from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of Sept 2018. The first day I came up I didn't see anyone up there even though Uncle Steve was there. I was lost in my own little world and was just enjoying being back up in the mountains and Cliff Camp, so my first day was spent walking around looking at nature and taking in the surrounding area due to it feeling great to be back there. Then I set out my sleeping gear and slept under the night sky. The next morning came and I packed up and headed back into town to get a few supplies, which happened to lead to talking with my brother Chris and I asked if he wanted to come back up to Cliff Camp and he said sure as long as we can get back down to pick up our dad from the airport. I assured that we can, and we got his gear and headed back to cliff camp. We hiked in and were enjoying the hike and the trail until we were at the door of the cabin.

We looked into the door and saw the silhouette of Uncle Steve to which I said "Hidey hoo neighbor." We came in and started talking to Steve about everything then before we knew it, it was midnight, so we said good night and went to sleep. We woke the next morning and had breakfast then we hiked out and got to the airport on time. We picked up our dad and picked up some more supplies for the time we would be at cliff camp till we closed it up for the winter. While we spent the time till the day we would close up the cabin we did some chores for closing up, camp fires, looking at the stars, hiking to the old cabin and knoll plus some shooting at targets.

The talking of the times when we came up when Chris and I were younger made us remember the fun time but all the lessons about what we do around the cabin and also the most important lesson when it comes to opening and closing the cabin for the winter season. This trip was one of the best trips to cliff camp I have had, and I am looking forward to making more trips there. I hope to make more memories with my family and my wife who has not been to Cliff Camp.



L to R: Chris Kliewer, Jarrod Coffman, & Mike Kliewer