



10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION
HUT SYSTEM NEWSLETTER
SUMMER HUT SEASON
2018

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hut System Improvements

*Completion of
the new Base of
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and taking good
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into the future.*

The 10th Mountain Division Hut System continues to improve thanks to diligent work on the part of all the owners/operators. The System, as you may know, is comprised of 34 huts owned/operated by a strong coalition of non-profit and privately-held entities. People who book the huts may not know this—or care, for that matter—because they are seeking a particular experience when they reserve a hut in the System and those expectations are usually met (and more often exceeded). Providing this consistent high quality experience requires vision, commitment, support, and a lot of work for all owners.

This summer's work includes regular repairs, restocking, cleaning, etc, and some notable projects: **Summit Huts Association** is constructing a new hut to help meet demand (see enclosed article); **Grand Huts Association** is acquiring use of private land to fulfill its vision of huts connecting Berthoud Pass to Grand Lake; **Alfred A. Braun Hut System** is investing in capital improvements and developing long term strategic goals; and private hut owners of **Vance's, Polar Star Inn/Seipel Cabin, Shrine Mountain Inn**, and **Continental Divide/Pt. Breeze Cabins** continue to do capital repairs and replacements.

10th Mountain is working hard to hold up its end of the bargain and recently completed its new **Base of Operations in Leadville**; installed a new phone system, improved its website and online reservations and continues to invest in its huts. All this work is intended to improve the backcountry hut experience and ensure that a first rate backcountry hut experience is available far into the future.

BASE OF OPERATIONS DEDICATION

10TH MOUNTAIN celebrated the completion of its new **Base of Operations** in Leadville with a marvelous dedication event on June 16th. It was a significant day in a number of ways. The event carried special significance for the Garrett Family because the facility



The Garrett brothers after the war.
Tip, Max and Carl



Cousins John, Keith, and Michael
Sons of Tip, Max, and Carl

honors the memory of Max, Tip and Carl Garrett, three brothers who served in World War II (10th Mountain Division, 70th Division, and US Navy, respectively). The facility also honors, on a broader scale, the full 86th Regiment of the WWII 10th Mountain Division which Max Garrett trained with at Camp Hale and fought with in Italy.

For Leadville/Lake County, the dedication showed that 10th Mountain was now a permanent member of the community and better positioned to help further the goals of the community.

And, finally, completion of the facility showed the Hut Association's commitment to providing a good work environment and taking good care of the huts far into the future.

The event was well-attended and included many members of the Garrett Family who traveled from all over the United States; local dignitaries; partners including the Colorado National Guard and the 10th Mountain Division Foundation; contractors, 10th Mountain Board members and staff, and others. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this project so successful!

PARTICIPATION

10TH MOUNTAIN encourages you to get involved in local, state, regional and national land use issues. If you value a certain type of recreational experience on public lands, the odds of that experience continuing will be greater if you get involved.

As **Julie Mach** points out in this newsletter, numerous bills are being considered by some lawmakers that would remove and/or reduce conservation protection for public lands, change ownership of public lands, and otherwise change

the experience available on public lands.

Some changes are positive—others are not—and you can help determine the outcome. Know who your elected representatives are and how to contact them; know which bills are being proposed and what they mean; become informed, aware, and let your opinions be known.

In addition, consider supporting organizations that advocate for your interests. For example, 10th Mountain understands that the vast majority of its visitors prefer a human-powered winter backcountry experience, so it works diligently to provide an experience consistent with these preferences.

In addition to participating in the process, 10th Mountain also supports the **Colorado Mountain Club** and its **Backcountry Snowsports Initiative (BSI)**, and the **Winter Wildlands Alliance**, both of which have proven to be very effective partners.

BSI focuses on regional winter travel management, recreation mapping, and developing local partnerships with a wide variety of stakeholders to achieve long term, sustainable, solutions to preserve, protect and improve winter human-powered recreation.

The **Winter Wildlands Alliance** advocates on a national level to support quality human-powered recreation experiences by working closely with the US Forest Service and elected officials to adopt policies that support winter human-powered recreation. More information can be found at www.winterwildlands.org and www.cmc.org.

— BEN DODGE | Executive Director
10th Mountain Division Hut Association

Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones, provides youth and young adults with long-term positive adult mentors through our drop-in centers in Carbondale, CO. Our centers are open five days a week and have something for youth of all interests, providing a diverse, bilingual atmosphere where participants and staff feel comfortable sharing meaningful life experiences and challenges. To meet the varied needs of our unique participants, **Stepping Stones** offers essential services and programming free of charge to every family. Our unique programs include outdoor adventure, community engagement, and exposure to new hobbies and interests.

Our annual trip to **Margy's Hut** has become the highlight of our participants' summer. Every August, we gather a group of teens to spend a couple nights hiking and exploring the great outdoors. Last year, we kicked off the trip with a two mile hike, running around dirt trails and enjoying the sunshine. The afternoon provided valuable learning experiences splitting wood and preparing the cabin. As the day ended, our teens helped make dinner and start a cozy campfire to share ghost stories. We stayed up late playing flashlight tag, and enjoyed the cool summer morning making breakfast burritos.

Many of our participants do not get the opportunity to take advantage of the natural beauty of our valley, and look forward to this simple getaway before the stress of a new school year begins. It also provides a necessary break from the cellphones and video games that fill up their free time during the summer.

This year, **Stepping Stones** is excited to offer this trip to a younger age group as well. We relish every opportunity we get to share diverse experiences with our youth, and we are grateful to the 10th Mountain Division for preserving these natural spaces! www.stepsstonesrftv.org 720.207.7646



What is Winter Wildlands up to this Summer?

IN PARTNERSHIP with **Outdoor Alliance**, **Winter Wildlands Alliance** and the **CMC Backcountry Snowsports Initiative** are running a survey to evaluate backcountry snowsports on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests in western Colorado. If you love skiing in western Colorado please go to <http://bit.ly/COrecreation> and take the survey!

The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison National Forests stretch from the high Sawatch Range peaks of the Continental Divide to the plateaus and canyons of Colorado's Western Slope, encompassing some of the most remote and beautiful landscapes in the state. They are centrally located among Colorado's most iconic outdoor meccas including Crested Butte, Gunnison, Grand Junction, and Telluride. These forests contribute to a thriving outdoor recreation economy, vital to health and wealth of the western slope and the wider region.

The results of this survey will help us better understand and quantify the economic impact of outdoor recreation. Economic impact data is a powerful tool we will use to better protect human-powered outdoor recreation in Colorado. Again, the survey can be found at <http://bit.ly/COrecreation>.

— HILARY EISEN

10th Mountain Medical Course

Earn a Wilderness First Aid (WFA) Certificate!
Courses will take place over two 8-hour days.

November 3-4 | **Anschutz Medical Campus, Denver**
December 1-2 | **Anschutz Medical Campus, Denver**
December 7-9 | **Sangree's Hut**

The course is equivalent to a Wilderness First Aid Course, but is contextualized for 10th Mountain Hut travel and extreme winter adventure, including topics of avalanche safety, high altitude, hypothermia, frostbite, immersion, snow travel, trauma, musculoskeletal soft tissue issues, dislocations/fractures, navigation, and lost persons.

Expert faculty from the CU School of Medicine will teach through a combination of lectures and hands-on practical skills, and participants will receive a certificate from the School of Medicine attesting to a WFA in the 10th Mountain Medicine Course.
Cost: \$345, Sangree's Hut \$495

Sign up | www.huts.org | 970/925-5775

— BECCA ROGERS

10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION HUT ASSOCIATION | AUGUST 2018

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The 10th Mountain Division Hut Association is a privately funded not-for-profit organization located in Aspen, Colorado. The purpose of 10th Mountain is to plan, finance, build and manage, for public use, a mountain hut system that promotes understanding and appreciation of the natural mountain environment while developing individual self reliance. We welcome any comments or suggestions you may have. 10th Mountain Division Hut System Newsletter (Vol. XXXVI, No. 2) is published twice/year (January and August) by the 10th Mountain Division Hut Association, a 501(c)(3) organization, 1280 Ute Avenue • Suite 21 • Aspen, Colorado 81611.



SUMMIT HUTS TRAGIC LOSS

Hannah Taylor

ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, July 21, 2018 Summit Huts Association Managing Director Hannah Taylor suffered a fatal fall in the Gore Range northwest of Silverthorne. The loss is devastating beyond words to the Summit Huts family.

Hannah was an indispensable part of the SHA team, but more importantly, was a part of the heart and soul of SHA and a friend. Our deepest condolences to her family and to her partner in life Will. She will be missed.

HANNAH TAYLOR'S DISTINCTIVE DEMEANOR and do-it-all ambition also stood out to Mike Zobbe and his colleagues at the Summit Huts Association when they originally hired Taylor more than a decade ago.

Coming out to Colorado with a background as a Nordic skier for Middlebury College in Vermont, and with experience working for the Appalachian Mountain Club, Taylor's first gig with Summit Huts was officially as an office manager. But even when interviewing for that entry-level position, the executive director Zobbe knew Taylor had the kind of beaming confidence and articulate approach to master anything thrown her way. She'd eventually work her way up to doing most anything and everything for the association as its managing director, the effective right-hand woman to Zobbe.

"We had quite a few very, very good candidates," Zobbe recalled of hiring Taylor, "but I think everybody on the interview team was pretty unanimous we wanted Hannah. She became an indispensable part of Summit Huts."

In recent years, Taylor lived with her longtime boyfriend, Will, in Silverthorne and her trusted dog and adventure buddy Saco, who was a mainstay at the Summit Huts offices. Alongside Summit County friends and colleagues like SNSC coaches Olof and Whitney Hedberg, Taylor excelled at and enjoyed ultra-endurance races. Just last summer Taylor won the High Lonesome 100 Miler, an ultra-endurance race across the peaks, valleys and forest surrounding Salida.

In remembering his colleague and friend, Zobbe commended Taylor for never wavering from being forceful about the things she believed in. At the heart of her belief was her adventurous personality, a sporting soul custom-made for the mountains of Summit County.

"She lived here because she wanted to live here," Zobbe said, "because she chose to live this lifestyle. She embraced the lifestyle and community and she really got it."

"She was made for a place like this."

—ANTONIO OLIVERO | *Summit Daily*



Hannah competing in a race where she'd eventually take first-place overall for women at the first-annual High Lonesome 100 Miler ultra-endurance race in Salida on July 28, 2017. Taylor finished in 29 hours and 59 minutes—nearly two hours ahead of the next-fastest woman on the course.

SUMMIT HUTS BREAKS GROUND

Sisters Cabin

GREETINGS FROM BRECKENRIDGE, where Summit Huts Association is hard at work bringing **Sisters Cabin** from concept to reality! **Sisters Cabin**, the fifth backcountry hut in the Summit Huts system, is located high in the Weber Gulch drainage on the northern flank of Bald Mountain (a.k.a. Baldy) in Breckenridge, at an elevation of 11,445 feet. a

While the planning process was all very rewarding in its own way, it has been thrilling to see years of work come together in the last six weeks as the hut has started to take shape in a very real way. This phase of the project began in earnest on June 4, when the construction crew began driving in the mini-excavator that would do the site work. The route in is an administrative access trail that was rough cut last fall. As the mini-x drove in, the trail was smoothed out enough to make it passable for the ATVs that will supply the hut and bring in smaller construction materials. It took about four days (and plenty of snow excavation) for the mini-X to make it the 1.3 miles to the hut site.

Just over a month ago, on June 8, Summit Huts Association held the official groundbreaking ceremony for **Sisters Cabin** and it has been non-stop since then. As of yesterday, the foundation walls for the main building are complete and the foundation walls for the sauna are about half done. The size, shape, and orientation of the building are apparent to even the most casual observer now!

Because there is no full-sized vehicle access to the hut, all supplies must be flown in by helicopter or driven in by ATV and trailer. Helicopter time is expensive and the more a helicopter can lift, the more expensive it is. The helicopter time line item in

the **Sisters Cabin** project is over \$100,000 for six days of flying, which makes each day a big-to-us but small-to-them project of its own. Keeping everyone who is working safe is always the number one priority, but maximizing loads is also important! When it comes to scheduling a helicopter day, a machine that can't lift at least 1,000 lbs as an external load is not very useful for this project. Lift capacity at altitude is dramatically reduced from lift capacity at sea level, and these machines must get up to about 12,000 feet. So far in this project we have had three helicopter days and used two different helicopters—a Huey with a (local) lift capacity of 1,300 lbs and an hourly rate of \$2200 and a Blackhawk with a (local) lift capacity 4,400

lbs and an hourly rate of \$6,000. There has also been the additional challenge of helicopter availability during the start of an active fire season when many helicopter companies take fire contracts. We were very happy to see what that rapid air response looks like when the Buffalo Mountain fire broke out within sight of our office on June 12.

Looking ahead, the timber framers are due on site starting July 23 and they anticipate being "substantially complete" by August 3. There are fly days scheduled for July

13 and July 18 to have everything ready for the install process. Looking at the SIPs panels, lumber, and composting toilet currently sitting at the staging area, it does look a lot like a giant puzzle just waiting to be put together!

Summit Huts Association is optimistic that **Sisters Cabin** will be completed in time for the 2018/2019 winter season but will not begin taking reservations until that is more certain. Summit Huts Association is extremely grateful for the time and expertise that so many people have invested in this project and especially to the donors who are making it all possible, The Sturm Family Foundation. ▲



Welcomes the Pat Tillman Center

TINDER DRY, BLUEBIRD DAYS were a mixed blessing when **Huts For Vets** welcomed nine representatives from the Pat Tillman Center to Margy's Hut in early July 2018.

Included in the group were the head of veteran services for the state of Arizona, administrators with Veterans Affairs (VA), veteran advocates, university professors, the former head of the Arizona Humanities Department, and therapists and writers who specialize in the post-traumatic stress many veterans suffer.

The Pat Tillman Center is named for Pat Tillman, an army soldier and noted collegiate football player at ASU, who was killed by "friendly fire" during a mission in Afghanistan in 2004. His tragic death was temporarily covered up by the Dept. of Defense, which claimed it was the result of enemy fire, until the truth came out from Tillman's fellow soldiers, one of whom was his brother.

These representatives from the Pat Tillman Center formed a select cadre that was led through the **Huts For Vets** approach to nature healing at the 10th Mountain Huts, inviting them to explore staging similar programs in the mountains and deserts of Arizona. Their four-day program began with a night at the **Huts For Vets** teepee base camp on the flanks of Mt. Sopris, followed the next morning by the ten-mile, 2,700-vertical-foot hike from Lenado to Margy's via Woody and Spruce Creeks.

Moderated discussions based on a preassigned notebook of readings began with an essay about green exercise and the therapeutic benefits of nature—what the Japanese call "Shinrin-yoku"—a phrase that translates literally to "forest bathing."

Shinrin-yoku is a medical prescription for Japan's often over-stressed workforce, which suffers another Japanese expression—"Karoshi"—or "work-to-death." In the deep spruce-fir forest of Spruce Creek, the Tillman Center group paused to consider the healing benefits of trees that provide scientifically-proven stress reduction by countering the effects of the stress-inducing hormone, cortisol.

For the many veterans who have experienced



trauma as a result of their service, respite from stress offers a calming influence that makes the hike to Margy's, while long and arduous for many, a first step, literally, in defusing psycho-emotional injury to body, mind and soul.

The Tillman group spent three days in the Hunter-Frying Pan Wilderness, absorbing the beauty and healing power of nature, enjoying camaraderie with their peers, and gaining a deep appreciation for Margy's Hut and the vision that went into building it as one of the first huts in the 10th Mountain system.

One Vietnam War veteran mused on the rare blend of influences he discovered at the hut, which was funded by Robert McNamara, Secretary of Defense during the Vietnam Era. "My role in the Vietnam war was getting an accurate body count. Now, here I am at a hut built by Robert McNamara, and I'm wearing hiking shoes manufactured in Vietnam."

Huts For Vets will take five groups of veterans to Margy's in summer 2018, serving a total of 50 veterans by inviting them to find peace and healing in the wilderness at the 10th Mountain Huts.

Thank you, 10th Mountain for making these trips possible! They change lives for the better.

For more information on Hut For Vets, please visit our website, which describes our unique healing opportunities—www.hutsforvets.org ▲

— PAUL ANDERSEN | Executive Director
Huts For Vets

BSI NEWS

EVEN WHEN THE SNOW is long-gone from the peaks, the **Backcountry Snowsports Initiative** (www.cmc.org/BSI) is working to protect human powered winter recreation across the state.

In partnership with **Winter Wildlands Alliance**, we just submitted comments on Forest Planning in Western Colorado to highlight the need for winter recreation planning around Crested Butte, on the Grand Mesa and in the Northern San Juan Mountains.

A citizens proposal in that area also aims to designate **Wilderness and Special Interest Areas** that protect skiing and snowshoeing near Ophir, Lizardhead Pass, Wilson Peak and Mt. Sneffles (www.gmugrevision.com).

Meanwhile two Wilderness bills in Congress will help preserve access in the 10-mile range in Summit county (www.contientaldiverge.org) and southwest Colorado (www.sanjuanwilderness.org).

BSI has also been working to oppose expansion of Heli-Skiing operations near Silverton which threaten to encroach on prime backcountry ski terrain but has thus far been unsuccessful in the land management appeals process.

Another forthcoming project will be the analysis of proposed snow cat tours near Loveland Ski Area—if you ski in Dry Gulch, we'll need your input and expertise as this project develops!

To stay tuned to all the latest winter recreation issues in Colorado, please join our **BSI** e-news list at www.cmc.org/BSI ▲

— JULIE MACH

Hard-Working Interns | 2018

Blanca Labato Roberts

"I'm from Fort Collins, Colorado and will be a sophomore at Western State Colorado University next fall. I'm studying to be a wildlife biologist and have a passion for taking care of the environment. I love to mountain bike, ski, rock climb and just be outside! I also really enjoy working on my Jeep and playing guitar. One day I hope to own chickens and lead hikes at a national park."



Grant Lanier

"I was born and raised in Dallas, Texas and I always loved being in the outdoors. My passion for the outdoors started from going to Lake Tawakoni with my family and hunting and fishing with my dad. From there I joined Boy Scout Troop 33 which provided me the opportunity to camp and hike all over Texas, New Mexico and Colorado. My most memorable trips were when I went on trips to Colorado; I stayed in multiple huts owned by 10th Mountain Division Hut Association and was able to hike and summit multiple mountains including Mt. Elbert. I am extremely excited to start the next chapter of my outdoor adventures working with 10th Mountain Division Hut Association!"



Nick Rogers

"My name is Nick Rogers and I am from Boulder Colorado. I have lived in Colorado my whole life and just this year finished my first year of university at Santa Clara University in California. I am studying mechanical engineering and take my academics seriously. I would describe myself as an avid outdoorsman taking part in activities from surfing and rafting to backpacking and fishing. I also played soccer all through my childhood and continue to play on the club team at SCU. I am incredibly excited to get this opportunity to spend more time in the mountains that I grew up in. I have loved the 10th Mountain Huts and have participated in hut trips since I was so little my dad would have to pull me on a sled up to the huts. In conclusion I can't wait to become more a part of the great community that is the 10th Mountain Huts... It also doesn't hurt getting to spend my whole summer in the beautiful Colorado Mountains!" ▲



Tenth Mountain Division Hut Association
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The Benedict 100 Hut to Hut Ski Trip

THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION HUT ASSOCIATION in conjunction with Paragon Guides is offering the 2019 Benedict 100 from January 27th through February 1st, 2019. This is an extraordinary opportunity to ski-tour from Aspen to Vail on a guided and supported six-day adventure that will cover over 80 miles of mixed terrain with accumulated ascents approaching 17,000 vertical feet for the journey.

The Benedict 100 is a very strenuous trip. It not only requires a strong training base, physical endurance, and good backcountry ski experience, but also demands mental focus and determination. All this to cover nearly 100 miles on skis, in six long days, in potentially cold temperatures, and while on remote trails in varying snow

Participants will be guided by experienced backcountry ski guides to Margy's Hut, Betty Bear Hut, Uncle Bud's Hut, Jackal Hut, and finally to the warmth of the Shrine Mountain Inn. Hosts will provide simple support in the huts with drinks and a hot meal on arrival and breakfast before departure each day.

The physical and mental challenges of the Benedict



100 are off-set by the camaraderie that is shared in the group and the personal satisfaction and accomplishment of moving through the Central Rocky Mountains. Always in mind can be the history and memories of the ski troops of the 10th Mountain Division. 🏔️

Reservations and additional Information:
Paragon Guides | 970/926-5299
www.huts.org/Community/benedict100.php