

## NOTES FROM THE HUTMEISTER

Well hello to you all! Temperatures are starting to fall and snow is in the air (at least we hope it is). I trust all of you had an excellent summer season full of off the wall adventures. Now it is time however to do your snow dances and various other sacrificial dances to Ulr in the hopes of a great snow year. I had heard the El Nino pattern was in the works for the year but the great weather guessers have toned that rhetoric down in the last two weeks. I hope that Ulr can prove them wrong. Thanks to all of you for a great 2008-2009 season. Jess and I look forward to seeing you all again and doing some fine skiing. Here are some thoughts for the upcoming season.

Some things never change. Please make reservations if you are planning on staying at the hut. Please do not show up at the Hut with out reservations and expect to sleep inside or use the facilities. **DO NOT FORGET TO BRING THE COMBINATION TO THE FRONT DOOR WITH YOU!!!!** This can be found in your paper work when you make your reservation (or in the email confirmation). Do not assume that the combination will be the same as last year. The Hut is a federally owned historical structure. The placard on the front door states: "The Pear Lake Ranger station is a historical structure. Any damage done to the premises is punishable by a fine of \$500 or up to six months in jail." It is a federal crime to damage or otherwise compromise the building.

Thanks to the NPS historical structure construction crew the Hut has a new shingle roof this year. We were out there in the early part of October and it looks great! There have been some other minor repairs to the building as well. Thanks to Thor and his crew.

While the snowpack in the Sierras is generally on the more stable side of things it always pays to be attentive to conditions. Observe what is going on around you and practice with your beacons before you come out. Check out weather forecasts here: <http://www.noaa.gov/>. The zip code for the forecast area is 93262. You can do a pin-point forecast in the Pear Lake area. I am including a few links to various avalanche tutorials and on line lessons that I have discovered. This one, <http://www.fsavalanche.com> is a Forest Service website with some very good information. This one is a Teton Gravity Research tutorial from their lead guide and is a good refresher. There is a little video lesson that has some food stick figure skiing. <http://oldschool.tetongravity.com/conwayscorner/avilesson.htm>

Ok, here are a few housekeeping items that we have come up with for this year. First off there will be a bottle of bleach out at the Hut this year along with a second dish basin. The Hut sees many users and can be a bit like a Petri dish, if you get my drift. In an effort to prevent Swine Flu from invading the backcountry we would appreciate it if you all would use this bleach when rinsing the dishes. ONE Cap full in the rinse basin does the trick and will go a long way towards killing the little piggies. Seriously though, it is very important to make sure that the dishes get clean. It just makes for a better evening. You are all very good at this and I just put it in here so that it continues to be that way. On the same note, if you are sick or feeling like you are coming down with something before your trip, consider trying to reschedule or even canceling your trip. I know that it is difficult to stay home, but being stuffed into a hut with ten other folks while sick isn't the best thing for you or anybody else. Just use your common sense.

## GETTING THERE

Most of you know that getting into the Hut can be on the easy side or a bit more difficult depending on conditions. Most people that I talked with last season did not have very much difficulty getting out. During the heaviest storms it can be challenging. Low visibility along with large amounts of snowfall can make getting into the Hut a full day ordeal. In the event of a snowfall of more that a foot, I suggest leaving as early as possible (7:00 or 8:00am). Take turns breaking trail so that the entire party can arrive safely at the hut in good spirits and not completely wiped out. Follow the yellow triangles on the trees after the junction and you will get there. I know that there are many of these triangles and that some of them go off in odd directions but they all lead to the Hut.

Okay one last section and we can get to praying to Ulr for snow. What follows are a few general housekeeping guidelines that will ensure the continued use of the Ranger station for winter activities. Here goes:

1. Please do not leave extra food in the cabinets. I have plenty of food for myself and end up having to pack out that extra food in addition to the trash that I produce. Heavy! **DO NOT PUT EXTRA**

FOOD IN CLIVUS!!!!!! He has a hard enough time doing his regular duties in such cold temperatures. Thanks.

2. Follow the "Before You Leave List" that is posted on the back of the front door. It covers everything. If you have questions just ask me.
3. Leave the hut better than you found it. Police yourselves. Let's continue this Privilege of The Hut.
4. HAVE FUN!!!!!!

I look forward to another great season at The Hut. I can't wait to see all of you again and to meet those of you I have not met. Take care of one another and be mindful of one another. Sign the log and leave snow conditions. Even if it is just things like "it was windy today" or "John ate it on the upper bowl". I like to read of your adventures and so do others. I put out all the old logs for every one to read and some of them go back to the sixties. Above all have fun and I'll see you all out there.

Cheers, safe travels.....

Miles and Jess

