

Nordic Gazette – September 2018



“If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain.”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 8: Club picnic at Montclair Park in Piedmont from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oct. 20-21: VSC cabin work party

VSC Cabin’s 70th Anniversary: Reflections on Work Parties

It’s no accident that the club cabin, which started as a World War II surplus Quonset hut 70 years ago in 1948, continues to serve its vital role a place for us to gather year-round and enjoy shelter, warmth, comradery, fine dining, hot showers and good sleep. It actually takes a lot of work to keep a building both functional and safe in a location like Donner Pass, infamous for some of the harshest winter conditions that California has to offer. And that’s why the club requires that all of our several dozen active members contribute some sweat-equity every year – it really does “take a village” to do the upkeep and repairs and cleaning necessary to keep our cabin open for business.

This year, teams of dedicated members already have staged two work weekends in July and one in August – and there’s an opportunity for more members to sign up for the final party of the season in October (indoors) before winter arrives. To celebrate the cabin’s 70th year still standing, here are personal perspectives from a couple of veteran members on work parties.

VSC Member Curt Haney: “The One-Man Work Party”

Carol Reed and I attended the July 4th work party and we got a lot done, but not enough! Last summer we had a couple of lightly attended work parties, so many of the chores flowed over to this year. I took some notes at the last work party of what still needed to be done, and what I could accomplish on my own. I assembled my tools, purchased what supplies I did not have at home, talked it over with club vice president Rick Haglund, and headed up to the cabin. I went up to the cabin for three weekdays, and came home because I had to move my truck for street cleaning, or I would have stayed another day. I had the place to myself so all I had to do was work from dawn till dusk, sleep and eat, with no distractions. I love spending time in the cabin in the summer! Here is what I was able to accomplish:

- Patched holes in walls near front door and upstairs storage room and men’s bathroom ceiling
- Completed shelf Carol started working on in “Alpine” and painted table Carol made for patio
- Repaired walls in “Siegfried” (near window) and in women’s dorm
- Scraped and repainted outside windows in “Siegfried” and “Brunhilda”
- Replaced screen on back door
- Purchased, donated, and installed a new elongated, taller toilet in men’s bathroom



Curt Haney, a Navy plumber for 22 years

VSC Member Gemma Roche: "You have options"

We all love our getaway second home at the Viking Ski Club in Tahoe, but like all homes it needs TLC to keep it safe and secure. Weekend work parties are the most fun way to achieve great results in a short span of time.

But if the scheduled work party week ends don't work with your schedule, you can always reach out to Cabin Maintenance Chairman (currently Mike Masek) and he can give you a job to do on a weekend that suits you. This reduces the number of maintenance jobs necessary to keep our second home in good condition, and functioning during the ski season. But we would miss seeing you, and hanging out with you. Lastly, if you can't attend a work party or arrange for a personal work assignment, you can pay a \$125 fee, but this should be a last resort, as the job you would be doing would be far more valuable to the club over the long term. (Editor's note: Attending a regularly scheduled work party is the only way to also earn a club meeting credit.) I have utilized all three scenarios, and the most satisfying was the work party. I have met members I might not have met otherwise, and hanging out with the members and getting to know you all was so fun.

President's Message and Report: August 22, 2018

AUG. 18 WORK PARTY REPORT: Eleven people did the work of many, hauling 4 cords of firewood into the cabin and storing them for the coming season, also sealing cracks and applying slurry to another section of the parking lot. Adult members earned Work Party and Meeting credits, assisted by 11 year old Cole Kurin (son of Jeff) who did the work of a grown man and even contributed ideas at the meeting on Saturday night. On Sunday morning, Cole and Jeff worked with Aiden Wylde to improve the benches in our back patio area and apply fresh wood seats. Barbara Sorenson did some quality cutting on the new Viking Ship papercutting drawn by Alice Masek, and we hope to have that in place by the beginning of the season. Many tasks, small and large, were completed, and we are in good shape moving towards the October Cleanup Party.

MEETINGS: The Pool Party Sunday August 19th in Novato was attended by nine members, with little Lily Higgins/Doleman entertaining us in the pool. The poolside meeting covered many of the same issues as that at the cabin on Saturday. We discussed progress on the web site upgrade, including online reservations and pay for nights, and some options around that service, which we hope to have in place by the time the snow comes.

TELEPHONE SERVICE: Board members in both locations (6 total) voted support for changing our telephone service from our current AT&T land line (which has been inoperable for extended periods, and when finally "repaired," the broken switch was in their equipment elsewhere...) to a cellular fixed phone, at a lower cost, with greater dependability. Paul Thompson will be handling this change.

VSC CALENDAR: Barbara Sorenson suggested strongly that we assign someone the job of building and maintaining the VSC Calendar, at least 6 months in advance, so Vikings can plan ahead to attend events, and know when they are happening. (We are definitely moving in this direction.)

VCS MEETINGS: The Board has pretty much agreed that Wednesday evening meetings in the Bay Area are no longer workable due to traffic issues, though we may occasionally schedule a weeknight meeting at the Englander in San Leandro, as some enjoy that setting. Virtual attendance may expand options for those living at a distance.

SEPT. 8 PICNIC: Members have already received an emailed bulletin about our ``September Smorgasboard'' from 11 am to 3 pm at Montclair Park in Piedmont. Note that there will be a brief club meeting at this delicious mixer and you can earn a meeting credit for attending.

OCT. 20 KID-FRIENDLY WORK PARTY: People may come the night before, Friday the 19th. In order to get full credit, you need to show up ready to work at 9am on Saturday morning. As always, if we get the work done in a timely fashion, those who would like to can hike together on Sunday the 21st. Children will be welcome at this work party, with age-appropriate tasks available, and a rotation of parents to provide care and alternate activities for children during some time periods. As with most work parties, lunch will be provided by the club. Organizers are Richard Doleman and Jeanie Wedekind. Please check for details and register with Richard at e-mail: rdoleman@comcast.net or Jeanie at e-mail: jeaniewedekind@mac.com, and also notify our reservation angel, Penny Bair, at e-mail: yogibair@comcast.net, if you plan to attend. Thanks, Jeanie Wedekind

IN MEMORIAM: A relatively new VSC Family, Karen and Erik Dohemann and their sons Carson, Trevor, and Scott, have lost Erik to an inoperable brain tumor as of August 10th. At only 59, Erik knew for about a year that his days were numbered, and he resolved to die well. He did what was needed to provide for his family and wrote a song and more. The Dohemann family helped load firewood into the cabin at a VSC work party several years back, so we were thinking of them over the August 18th work party weekend as we did that task again. Their fellow members of the Viking Ski Club extend sympathy and support to the Dohemann family as they move through this time. Karen and sons live in Novato, and we hope to continue to enjoy their company at the club in future years.

San Francisco Viking Ski Club Officers – 2018/2019

President: Alice Masek, alicehelenpapercut@gmail.com

Vice-President/Membership: Rick Haglund; haglund.richard@gmail.com

Corresponding/Recording Secretary: OPEN

Treasurer: Paul Thompson, Paul@pthompson.com

Cabin Chair: Mike Masek, Paul Kensinger

Board Members: Paul Kensinger, Barbara Sorensen, Rex Haber, Mike Masek, Stephanie LaCarruba, Ed Russell, Rory Hayden

Nordic Gazette Editor: Peter Blumberg

Info: vikinginfo@prodigy.net

Cabin: 530-426-1231

Cabin Reservations: Penny Bair, Tel: (707)480-2234 or yogibair@comcast.net

Cabin Fees Winter: Members: \$12/night, Guests: \$21/night

Summer: Members: \$8/night, Guests: \$17/night

Web Site: www.sfvikingskiclub.org