

Sierra Club — Loma Prieta Chapter Ski Touring Section

Types of Outings and Examples

Types of Trips Sponsored by STS*

- Drive to Lodging: overnight beds and meals, day ski trips
 - Staffed Lodges (*e.g.*, Clair Tappaan Lodge)
 - Do-it-Yourself Lodges (*e.g.*, Hutchinson Lodge)
 - Rental Cabin or Condominium
- Hut Trips (put your skis on in order to sleep)
- Snow Camping Trips (erect your shelter before you sleep)
 - Proof-of-Concept (one night; wet bag doesn't matter)
 - Epic Voyages (*e.g.*, Trans-Sierra Traverse)

*with occasional references to SF Bay Chapter Backcountry Ski Section (BCS)

Full Service Lodges

Beds
Meals
Rentals
Lessons
Groomed Trails



Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge

Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge

(Norden, CA)



Living Room



Dormitory Bunks
(other rooms available)

Representative Member Rates:

Bunks	~\$75/night
Dinner*	~\$15/day
Rentals	~\$20/day
Groomed Trails*	\$15/day
Parking	free

*included in bunk charge for registered guests

<http://clairtappaanlodge.com>

Example Trip to Staffed Lodge

Jim Weaver Memorial Clair Tappaan Lodge Beginner's Ski Trip

Beginner and Advanced Beginner

Experience the joys of cross-country skiing on gentle terrain in the Soda Springs/ Norden/ Donner Lake Area. This trip is named in honor of the late Jim Weaver, long time Sierra Club trip leader, who led this trip for many years. On Saturday we'll **ski the groomed trails of the Clair Tappaan Lodge system** (cost \$10 unless you are staying there). We will meet at 9:30 am Saturday in the Clair Tappaan living room. The lodge also has **ski rentals onsite**. On Sunday, we will venture into **beginner level backcountry in the area**.

Sign up by contacting the leader, but please make your own lodging reservations by calling Clair Tappaan Lodge (530-426-3632) or try other lodging nearby. The CTL fee is ~\$90+ tax for two nights lodging and includes all meals. Meal plan is optional. For more information about the trip, contact the leader.

Do-It-Yourself Lodges

Walk in from car
Sleeping Lofts
Self-prepared Meals



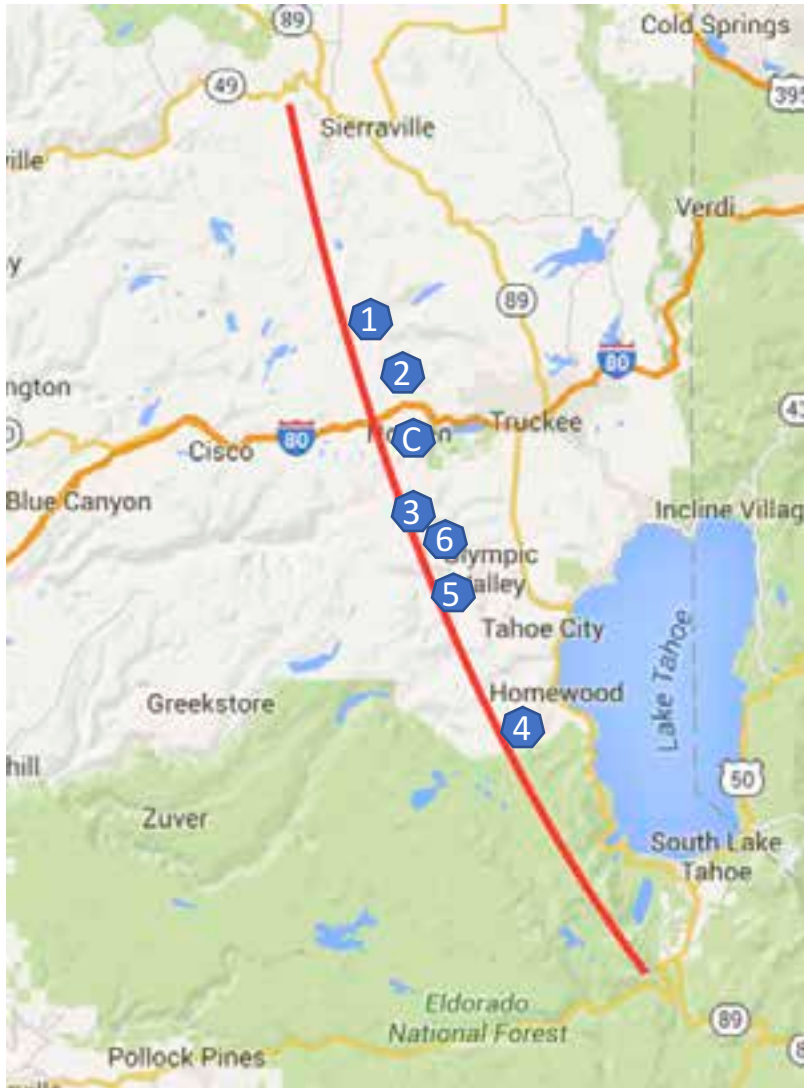
Sierra Club's Hutchinson Lodge



Hutchinson Lodge Living Room

Maximum 30 people
\$450/night weekend (\$300 weekday)
Provide your own sleeping bags
Cook your own meals (or eat out)
Perform your own housekeeping

<http://clairtappaanlodge.com/hutchinson-lodge>



Sierra Club Huts

The Sierra Club's Winter Sports Committee (appointed in 1929) originally envisioned a string of huts stretching from Yuba Pass to Echo Summit (red line).

Clair Tappaan Lodge (C) was its first 'hut' (opened Dec '34)

Six outlying huts have been built since; four remain and sleep about 60 skiers or snowshoers per night:

- 1=White Rock Lake (1937-1952?)
- 2=Peter Grubb Hut (1937-)
- 3=Benson Hut (1949-)
- 4=Ludlow Hut (1955-)
- 5=Bradley Hut (1957-1997)
- 6=(New) Bradley Hut (1999-)

Two wars, the Wilderness Act, and financing intervened.

Sierra Club Huts

Distance: 3-6 miles

Elevation gain: 800-1400 ft

Sleeping Loft

Self-prepared Meals

Access via Skis/Snowshoes

Backpack Food and Equipment



Bradley Hut

Bradley Hut



upper level (sleeping loft)

Interior



lower level (kitchen, eating)

Sierra Club Huts

\$20/person/night

Most huts accommodate 15 overnight

For more information:

<http://clairtappaanlodge.com/backcountry-huts>

For reservations, phone:

530-426-3632

Sobering statistic: total Sierra Club hut reservations in Nov-May 2017 were 3982.
Reservations for Nov-April 2018 were already at 3796 in early Dec 2017.



Example Trip to Sierra Club Hut

Peter Grubb Hut

Intermediate

Ski 2 miles and climb 800 ft from I-80 at Donner Summit to Castle Pass, then go another mile and down into Round Valley and Peter Grubb Hut. The hut is nearly 80 years old, but has been equipped with solar electric lighting and has recently undergone a major upgrade to improve its structural integrity (new roof including reinforcement for heavy snow loads, new sleeping loft floor, and seismic reinforcement). Enjoy good snow on the north side of Castle Peak or tours to Sand Ridge Lakes. \$40 covers hut fee, Saturday dinner, and Sunday breakfast; you bring lunches and snacks.

Ostrander Ski Hut

Operated by Yosemite Conservancy

Available December through March

Distance: 10 miles

Elevation: 7000 ft start – 8500 ft hut

Capacity: 25 (no single party larger than 15)

Reservations Required (\$50/person/night)

Bunk beds (no bedding)

Woodstove

Outdoor toilets

Shared cooking equipment

Information and Reservations:

<https://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/ostrander-ski-hut>





Photo by Roy Lambertson

Pear Lake Hut

Operated by Sequoia Parks Conservancy

Available December through April

Distance: 6 miles

Elevation: 7200 ft start – 9200 ft hut

Capacity: 10

Reservations Required (\$40/person/night)

Bunk beds (no bedding)

Pellet stove

Composting toilet

Coleman propane stoves (bring your fuel)

Cooking utensils

Information and Reservations:

<http://www.exploresequoiakingscanyon.com/pearlakewinterhut.html>



Example Trip to Pear Lake Hut

Pear Lake Hut

Advanced Intermediate

Pear Lake Winter Hut is a unique place located in a scenic cirque at 9200 feet in Sequoia National Park. Friday morning we'll meet at Wolverton. We'll get an early start for the six-mile trip in that includes about 2400 feet of cumulative climbing. We'll have all day Saturday to do a day tour. Possible destinations include "Skier's Alta" peak, or the Tablelands and the overlook above Big Bird Lake, depending on conditions. Sunday we should have time to do some skiing/snowshoeing nearby before packing up and leaving for the trailhead. To reserve a spot, please first call or email the leader to check availability. If there is, mail a check for \$100. For this trip the check should be payable to STS. The fee covers two nights at the hut and two group dinners. The leader will need to get your phone numbers, email address, a description of your experience and equipment. Also any dietary restrictions, medical conditions.

Rental Cabins and Condominiums

Home away from home

Sleeping lofts (with or without bedding)

Bedrooms

Kitchen/dining area (or eat out)

Plowed parking

TV/WiFi

Ski out the back door

Ski at a local resort (*e.g.*, Royal Gorge, Kirkwood)

Drive to a dispersed skiing trailhead

At Donner Summit try:

<http://www.castlepeak.com>

<http://www.donnersummitrentals.com>

<https://www.donnersummitca.com>



Rental Cabins and Condominiums

Google "VRBO Serene Lakes"

\$190/night (2 night minimum)
sleeps 8
dog friendly

Google "AirBnB Serene Lakes"



Snow Camping

Backpacking on skis (or snowshoes)

Overnight (doesn't matter if bag gets wet) or

Multi-day (serious discomfort if there are equipment problems)

Long trips often involve car shuttle

Need tent, winter sleeping bag, and pad

Backpacking stove that works in cold weather

Tolerance of cold, wet, sun, and variable weather and snow



Snow Camping at Thousand Island Lake

Bloody Canyon to Mammoth Lakes: 11-15 March 2017 (photo by Steve Cochran)



Snow Camping: View from Inside Out (photo by Richard Contreras)



Snow camping sometimes requires mixed mode travel (photo by Richard Contreras)



Snowcamping Seminar

**Classroom Orientation Plus Two Weekend Field Trips
Open to Almost Anyone**

A Snowcamping Seminar is offered by the San Francisco Bay Chapter each year. The Loma Prieta Chapter offers similar instruction in alternate years, subject to interest. The Bay Chapter Snowcamping Seminar begins with a one-day class in Emeryville. Then there are ten options for pairs of weekend trips from late January to mid- March.

Trip Classifications

Beginner: Includes first time cross-country skiers. Leaders frequently provide some type of beginner instruction. 1-2 miles on gentle terrain. **Lodges, Rentals, Day Trips.**

Advanced Beginner: Skiers in good condition who have learned the basics of the diagonal stride on the flats and on easy hills. 2-5 miles over rolling terrain. **Lodges, Rentals, Day Trips.**

Intermediate: Uphill and downhill skiing on slopes that can be traversed if too steep. An intermediate has developed skill and confidence to snowplow, step turn, and control downhill speeds. Overnight **hut trips** with a moderate pack load. 3-10 miles. **Could also be Lodges, Rentals, Day Trips on challenging terrain.**

Advanced Intermediate: Same as Intermediate plus skills for poor snow and weather, winter navigation, greater endurance, and **snow camping.** 10-15 miles. **Challenging hut trips.**

Advanced: These tours are for the hardy skiers who can ski 10 to 30 miles in one day, are able to climb high mountains using skins, and descend with Telemark/Alpine turns. The advanced skier must be in good shape, acclimatized to high altitudes, and have a working knowledge of map reading, compass, avalanche hazards, and winter survival. **Snow camping or challenging hut trips.**

Expert (BCS only): Very solid double black diamond downhill skiers with multi-day **snow camping** experience, Avalanche training and skills, snow climbing on steep slopes, and basic rock climbing skills (Class 3). Trips emphasize skiing steep mountain slopes and couloirs. Excellent physical condition. Typically 15+ miles/day, 6000'+ climb per day.

Trip Schedule

Dates	Setting	Level	Sponsor	Description
6-7 Jan	Lodge	Beg-Adv Beg	STS	Jim Weaver Memorial
20 Jan	Classroom	Beginner and up	BCS	Snow Camping Seminar
TBD Jan	Cabin?	Adv Int - Adv	BCS	North Tahoe Peaks
20-21 Jan	Hut	Int	STS	Bradley
26-27 Jan	Hut	Int	STS	Peter Grubb
TBD Feb	Cabin?	Adv Int - Expert	BCS	Mt. Tallac
10-11 Feb	Hut	Adv	STS	Benson the Hard Way
17-19 Feb	Hut	Int	STS	Bradley
TBD Mar	TBD	Adv Int - Adv	BCS	Carson Pass
9-11 Mar	Hut	Adv Int	STS	Pear Lake
TBD Mar-Apr	Snow Camp	Adv Int - Adv	BCS	Crest Tour
TBD May	Snow Camp	Adv - Expert	BCS	Mt. Shasta



End