



10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION
HUT SYSTEM NEWSLETTER
SUMMER HUT SEASON
2016

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Legacy of 10th Mountain

10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION HUT ASSOCIATION owes its name to the WWII 10th Mountain Division which trained at Camp Hale, Colorado and fought with valor in Europe. These remarkable soldiers specialized in mountain warfare and were proficient with weapons and skis, snowshoes, mountain climbing gear, and winter camping. These men were extraordinarily capable and tough: while conducting military training, they skied for days carrying heavy packs, bivouacked during nights, and learned to function as a top-notch fighting Division. The 10th Mountain Division was deployed to Europe in January 1945—the last U.S. Army Division to do so. They fought in Italy for almost four months and heroically won every battle they fought but suffered terrible losses with over 1,000 soldiers killed and many more wounded.



Climbing Paramount
Pinnacle in Camp Hale,
1945

The legacy of these soldiers—their remarkable achievements, values, ideals and reasons for going to war—must be remembered. Multiple organizations serve to honor and perpetuate their heritage including the Tenth Mountain Division Foundation, National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, the Tenth Mountain Division Living History Display Group, and the 10th Mountain Division Descendants. These organizations can be found online and offer a tremendous amount of information. In addition, many books and films are available and, if you prefer first-hand accounts, the most comprehensive collection of personal papers, documents, records, photographs, and maps of the men of the 10th Mountain Division is available at the Denver Public Library's 10th Mountain Division Resource Center. If you haven't already done so, please learn more about these remarkable men. If nothing else, it will add meaning the next time you visit one of the huts. Please contact me at ben@huts.org if you have any questions or are looking for specific materials. 🏔️

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

Hut Run Hut

Hut Run Hut is a six-day, one-hundred-mile, Aspen-to-Vail Mountain running adventure with a priority of fun over fast. Running ten to twenty-five miles (15-40 kilometers) per day along the iconic and breath-taking



Continental Divide, participants will traverse a portion of the Rockies while resting at the secluded 10th Mountain Division Huts along the way.

We will be staying in the 10th Mountain Huts and will be joined by a private chef and several well-known trail runners. This year Ricky Lightfoot, Scott Jurek, Anna Frost, Jenn Shelton and Rickey Gates will be guiding our runners from hut to hut from Aspen-to-Vail.

July 18-23 | August 1-6 | September 19-24
www.hutrunhut.com 🏔️

Benedict 100 | Interconnect 2017

The **Benedict 100**, skied in honor of 10th Mountain Division veteran and hut system founder, Fritz Benedict, is a ski traverse from Aspen to Vail that follows the legendary 100 mile backcountry route that connects 5 of the 10th Mountain Division Huts. The 6-day, 5-night tour covers 11-18 miles per day in the high alpine between Aspen and Vail. January 22-27, 2017. Paragon Guides at trips@paragonguides.com 970/926-5299

Alternatively as the perfect precursor to the Benedict 100, check out the **Legacy Tour** offered this season from February 2-5, 2017 by Aspen Alpine Guides. This 3-night, 4-day tour traverses to three 10th Mountain Division Huts and is a great way to get a taste of the Benedict 100. Contact Aspen Alpine Guides at guides@aspenalpine.com or 970/925-6618 for more details. 🏔️

Backcountry Snowsports Initiative

Where in the world is Winter Travel Management Planning?



OSV RULE UPDATES

ALTHOUGH we are still awaiting directives from the DC office of the U.S. Forest Service, BSI is hopeful for opportunities to begin implementation of the new **Over-Snow Vehicle (OSV) Planning Rule**. Here's the latest from Colorado Forests and beyond:

- **Rio Grande National Forest** • Will NOT include formal winter travel planning during their Forest Plan revision process but they will be considering OSV suitability during this planning process which will lay the groundwork for future travel management decisions.

- **Pike San Isabel National Forest** • Still considering whether to include winter recreation in their current Travel Management Plan revision. Contact your District Ranger or Forest Supervisor today to tell them why winter travel planning is urgent and important to you!

- **Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison National Forests** • Beginning Forest Plan revision in 2016 but will not include formal winter planning. Encourage the GMUG to consider OSV suitability during this planning process!

- **San Juan National Forest** • Likely to be the first forest in Colorado to initiate formal Winter Travel Management Planning in 2017, stay tuned for details!

- **Across the Nation** • Only a few forests have begun Winter Travel Management Planning under the new rule including the **Bitterroot, Lassen, Tahoe, Eldorado, and Stanislaus National Forests**.

Read more and find out how you can encourage your forest to initiate a Winter Travel Management Planning process. www.cmc.org 🏔️

10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION HUT ASSOCIATION | JULY 2016



FOUNDING DIRECTOR | Fritz Benedict (1914-1995)

EXECUTIVE BOARD | Bob Moore, Bonnie Downing, Jean Naumann, Howie Mallory,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS | Bjorn Dahl, Bonnie Downing, Jamie Duke, Buck Elliott, Boots Ferguson, Hank Fisher, Molly Jacober, Clint Jewell, Howie Mallory, Bob Moore, Peter Mueller, Jean Naumann, Kirsten Newhard, Chuck Ogilby, Willy Powell, Tim Tyler, John Wells, Suzanne White

HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hugh Evans, Beth Fergus, Fred Fisher, Lorraine Higbie, Bob Parker

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Ben Dodge

STAFF | Ted & Carol Billings, Jenifer Blomquist, Daniel Brown, Cindy Carpenter, Patrick Essig, Debbie Krohn, Dave Lee, Scott Messina

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. XXXV, No. 2) is published twice/year (January and July) by the 10th Mountain Division Hut Association, a 501(c)(3) organization, 1280 Ute Avenue • Suite 21 • Aspen, Colorado 81611.

Lessons Learned

BACK IN MARCH, I flew from San Francisco to Denver with my wife and two near and dear friends, for a snowshoe trip way up to Fowler/Hilliard Hut. With the hut at about 11,500 feet of elevation I was vaguely concerned about altitude sickness striking me or my wife (we're sea-level dwellers who have only been at high altitude once or twice before). I certainly wasn't concerned about my good friend—oh, let's call him Wheezy—who, though he lives in the Bay Area now, spent years in Colorado, and has summited many a 14er. But, as I now know, altitude sickness can strike anybody.

After a bit of confusion about where the trail actually began, our small group of eight—my wife and our Bay Area friends, and a few Colorado locals—departed from the Pando trailhead near Camp Hale at about 11:00 am, far later than we'd hoped. It had been snowing for days and the trail was completely covered. Because we started so late in the morning, we pushed ahead faster than we might otherwise have. In retrospect, this was a bad, and potentially fatal, idea.

Our group soon split into two groups: the Coloradans in front, and the Bay Area residents huffing and puffing long behind. Those of us who live at sea level arrived in Denver the night before to allow at least a little time for acclimatization, but it quickly became clear that wasn't nearly enough time. We're all fit, experienced backpackers, but one by one, the four of us less accustomed to altitude hit a wall. Wheezy, normally a gung ho trailblazer was asking for breaks more than any of us, which, again, had we thought about it at the time, should have been a sign that of potential danger.

We had expected the trip to the hut to take us five hours, and decided that if we weren't close by 4:00 pm, we'd turn back for the car. But at 3:30 we were only a mile and half away, so we

decided to push on. Problem was, we weren't entirely sure that we'd be able to find the last turnoff from the trail to the hut, so we pushed harder and harder, up and over the 12,000-foot saddle near Resolution Mountain's peak. Wheezy was clearly spent, but unwilling to arrive after dark, he found another gear, and we all arrived at the hut tired and relieved.

All of us were dehydrated and exhausted that first night, with rapid heartbeats even hours after we'd finished the hike, but everybody felt pretty good. Once we went to bed though, it was clear that Wheezy was struggling. Through the night, his coughing kept us awake, but nobody thought much of it, except his fiancé, a practicing nurse. When the next morning Wheezy complained of a headache and a bit of nausea, we were concerned, but he still seemed in good spirits.

On the day after our hike in, most of us snowshoed or skied the nearby mountains, but Wheezy stayed in and rested, strumming the guitar somebody had long ago left in the hut. We were joined by a group of Forest Service skiers, who jovially skied the bowl fronting Resolution Mountain, and who made us all feel a little better about Wheezy's prospects. They had radios, and surely would know what to do if his condition took a turn for the worse. Unfortunately, it did that night.

Wheezy's breathing had grown ragged and wet sounding, with erratic, quick breaths, and broken snoring lasting the entire night. When we woke up, we immediately asked the Forest Service guys for help. They suggested that if



Skiing up Hornsliiver Mountain from Fowler/Hilliard Hut

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

MEET THE 10TH SUMMER INTERNS

Ian Huschle is a junior at Colorado College, and is interested in environmental science, history, and music. He is from Dedham, Massachusetts, and has built a love for the outdoors of New England and Colorado over the past few years. Ian loves to climb, run, bike, and swim. Ian also enjoys spending free time playing music or reading. He's looking forward to a challenging, fun summer with the 10th Mountain Division Huts! 🏔️



Ryan (Marty) LaRocque was born and raised in Denver, Colorado, and is an avid skier, hiker, biker, and rugby player. In 2015, his rugby team won the Colorado state championship. He will be attending CU Boulder as a freshman engineering student in the fall of 2016, and is excited to be working with 10th Mountain. 🏔️



Ford Rundell is a freshman at Colorado State University in Fort Collins who is passionate about spending time outdoors. He spends most weekends (and more school day afternoons than he should) mountain biking, rock climbing, skiing, fishing, camping and taking pictures of it all. Coming from Boston, the mountains are a novelty which won't ever wear off. 🏔️



Ricky Wojak is a sophomore at Aspen High School. Ricky moved around a good amount as a kid (born in Geneva, Switzerland, then travels with his family to San Francisco, and Shanghai, China). Ricky says moving around so much gave him an opportunity to experience a lot of different things, and choose what he loves best—being outside! Ricky is a Nordic skier and hopes to compete at the national level. 🏔️



LESSONS LEARNED CONTINUED

Wheezy felt that he had enough strength, we could take an easier but longer route back down the mountain along heavily used snow cat roads. Wheezy was game, and wanted to avoid any full-on search and rescue drama, so he decided he'd chance it that way. Using the Forest Service's guidance we emptied Wheezy's pack, distributed the weight amongst ourselves, and slowly made our way down the mountain without incident. Immediately after arriving in Vail, Wheezy decided to continue back to Denver to get even lower in altitude. Once there he recovered quickly, and returned home a little shaken and a lot wiser.

In hindsight, we should have recognized early on that Wheezy was too strong a hiker to be struggling in the difficult, but not overly strenuous conditions. Encouraging him to

move faster didn't help things, either. Fortunately, Wheezy's fiancé had the medical experience to recognize his condition—HAPE, or High Altitude Pulmonary Edema—and knew to keep him warm and well hydrated till we could get down in elevation. Having the Forest Service crew on hand at the hut was an invaluable bit of information and a little bit of a security blanket. But looking back, we should have turned around when it was clear that Wheezy was hurting. Thankfully, it all worked out just fine. Though nobody should really cut it that close. 🏔️

JUSTIN HOUSMAN is a San Francisco-based surfer, writer, and editor. His work can be seen in SURFER Magazine, where he is features editor, and at the Encyclopedia of Surfing, where he serves as editor and blogger.

HUTS FOR VETS

Training Veteran Wilderness Leaders

ALL VETERANS are familiar with the challenges of leadership. Many have witnessed leadership in the field of combat where it can mean life or death. Few veterans, however, have led their brothers and sisters into the wilderness to the 10th Mountain Huts.

That's about to change this summer through **Huts for Vets**, a non-profit based in Aspen that offers healing opportunities for trauma-stricken veterans in the wilderness at the 10th Mountain Huts. With the goal of expanding our programs, HFV is fielding alumni to become wilderness guides and program leaders.

The idea is to eventually enroll veterans to run Huts for Vets programs for their fellow veterans, a goal that will come to fruition in the next few years. For example, one Special Forces veteran who served 12 years in Afghanistan just completed his first year studying philosophy at St. John's College in Santa Fe. Jon Engle, who attended a **HFV** program in 2014, will return in July to co-moderate a men's program at Margy's Hut along with another alumni, Tony Yusup, a veteran parajumper (PJ), who will serve as co-moderator and First Aid trainer.

A number of **Huts for Vets** alumni have been inspired to activism, like Emily Vorland, a veteran who was recently featured in a two-page spread in *Time* magazine describing the sexual trauma she endured in the military. Emily will attend the August training program to share her experiences and insights with other women veterans within the safe familiarity of Margy's Hut.

Huts for Vets team psychologist Dr. Gerald Alpern endorses this approach in his new book, **Vets for Vets**, which describes the incomparable healing that can come from veterans helping other veterans as peer mentors. **Vets for Vets** is receiving favorable nationwide reviews and will take its place among important veteran literature.

In May 2016, **Huts for Vets** won a prestigious



grant from the **National Endowment for the Humanities** in Washington, DC. The Chairman's Grant is an invitational grant of \$30,000. While the funds are very welcome, recognition from the NEH is even more important because it validates our humanities-based curriculum. This is

especially meaningful since the NEH Chairman is a veteran of the Vietnam War.

In this, our fourth year at **HFV**, we are gearing up for our largest ever summer. We will take over 50 veterans into the wilderness to the 10th Mountain Huts, serving men and women who gave of themselves for military service and are now struggling with the consequences.

Our progress has been strong and positive, with powerful endorsements from the veterans who have experienced our wilderness methodology. It's all been made possible by support from the 10th Mountain Hut System and from numerous donors, including the 10th Mountain Division Foundation.

Huts for Vets is grateful for the beauty of the wilderness and for the beautiful mountain huts that have become safe havens for veterans. A new generation of veteran leaders will walk the wilderness trails this summer. 🏔️

—PAUL ANDERSEN
Executive Director | **Huts for Vets**

Huts For Vets is an Aspen-based non-profit that offers healing opportunities in the wilderness at the 10th Mountain huts, at no cost to veterans. www.hutsforvets.org

Welcome New 10th Mtn. Board Members

JAMIE DUKE, JR. works for Schaeffer Manufacturing, an oil and grease manufacturing company. Schaeffer manufactures a wide array of products used in the operation of heavy equipment. Prior to working for Schaeffer, Jamie was a commercial loan officer at both Sunflower Bank and First Citizens Bank. He focused on sourcing commercial relationships and underwriting commercial real estate loans. Before his banking career, Jamie lived in Vail, CO and worked in the accounting department of Vail Resorts. Jamie grew up in Denver before attending Middlebury College and then the Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver. Both his father (Jamie Duke, Sr.) and his grandfather (Ben Duke) have served on the 10th Mountain Division Hut Association Board. Jamie and his wife Jesse currently reside in Denver and enjoy skiing, playing golf, biking, and spending time in the mountains with their yellow lab, Reiver. 🐕



Jamie Duke, Jr.

CHRIS TYLER is Colorado native, growing up in Denver then spending his school years in Phoenix. To escape the Arizona heat he attended Washington State University where he studied marketing and finance while playing collegiate lacrosse. After completing his undergraduate degree he moved to Seattle where he spent ten years exploring the Pacific Northwest while working in finance and the medical device industry. In 2014, Chris was given the opportunity to move back to his home state of Colorado, which he gladly accepted. Today, he works for a medical device firm, specializing in anesthesia and patient monitoring, managing Colorado and New Mexico. He and his fiancé Megan live in downtown Denver where they plan to marry in August 2016. Along with their five-year-old son, Chris and Megan spend nearly every weekend skiing throughout Colorado. Chris' grandfather, Tim Tyler served in the 10th Mountain Division and has been an active Hut Association member for many years. Chris is excited to be part of such an amazing organization and looks forward to continuing his family's legacy. 🐕



Chris Tyler

TODD KENNEDY comes to the 10th Mountain Board of Directors as a 16 year veteran of extensive hut use. Having spent countless miles traversing from hut to hut, both winter and summer, Todd has spent time at all but two huts. Todd brings a clear understanding of the hut users experience, an intimate knowledge of the terrain around and between the huts and a passion for outdoor adventure to the Board. Outside of his travels to the huts Todd is a Project Architect with CCY Architects, located in Basalt, Colorado. At CCY he manages complex hospitality, resort amenity, and residential projects throughout Colorado and around the country. His management skills and detail oriented approach to problem solving steeped in over 20 years of architectural practice will be a significant asset to the board. Todd is married to a dedicated, hut loving, school teacher and a father to a rad nine-year-old who was born into the hut system, having taken three hut trips in utero and who now enjoys family trips into the huts. When Todd isn't being a husband and a father or designing buildings, you might find him lost on a trail somewhere. 🚲



Todd Kennedy

STAFF NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to **Dave Lee** for marrying his best friend **Jess Holdorf**.

Dave served in Bosnia as a member of the 10th Mountain Division (1997-2000) stationed at Fort Drum, New York. An avid backcountry skier, climber, and overall mountain man, Dave helps keep the huts in perfect order on the East side of the system.

"We got married on September 17, 2015 at Mt. Princeton Hot Springs resort," shouted Dave. "It was beautiful! So many of our friends and family came out to celebrate our day. We danced, laughed, toasted, and best of all—I married my best friend!" 🐕

Best wishes to Jess and Dave!



Mrs. & Mr. David Lee

KIDS LOVE THE HUTS

IF YOU CAN, think back to the first time you spent the night at a 10th Mountain Division Hut. If you were anything like me, you were incredibly excited! Remember that special awe you had overlooking the amazing landscaping? Through the Summer Science Camps at Walking Mountains Science Center, we have the joy of taking campers to local huts for two to three-night overnights. Each trip is an opportunity to relive that first hut experience and see the transformative experience a hut trip can provide.

A hut trip is so much more than a fun summer experience. For many of our campers, this is one of their first experiences away from home. Campers gain independence in a safe and nurturing environment. They participate in hut chores, helping to build responsibility and group camaraderie. Common chores include preparing food, cooking meals, stocking wood, sweeping, and more! It is always impressive to see how willing children are to participate in these tasks and the pride they take in contributing to the group's wellbeing.

Another valuable aspect of hut life is the step away from technology. Allowing children to spend several days in Colorado's magnificent backcountry is only made sweeter knowing that this is accomplished without iPads, TVs, or cell-phones. Campers spend their days and nights engaging with their peers as they explore the great outdoors. Allowing children to



Summer Science Campers on the deck of Peter Estlin Hut

relearn these forgotten skills is something we don't take for granted, and it's immensely gratifying to see them learning to find enjoyment in the moment, a skill we all can work on.

Each and every hut trip is a new and exciting adventure, offering new experiences and opportunities for growth. At Walking Mountains, we are grateful for the chance to get kids outside and exploring with the help of the 10th Mountain Division Hut system. Happy Trails! 🏔️

— RACHEL ZACHER

Rachel is the Summer Programs Coordinator at Walking Mountains Science Center. In her free time she enjoys spending time outdoors with friends and family.

10TH MOUNTAIN MEDICINE COURSE

WHETHER YOU'RE A VETERAN OF BACKCOUNTRY ADVENTURE or a first timer, preparation is the key to a successful hut trip. The 10th Mountain Division Hut Association has partnered with the University of Colorado School of Medicine's Wilderness & Environmental Medicine program to offer a tailor-made course in backcountry first aid, specific to the high altitude winter environment of Colorado.

The course 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.

October 1-2 in Vail | **November 5-6** in Denver • \$345 • www.huts.org





Tenth Mountain Division Hut Association
1280 Ute Avenue | Suite 21
Aspen, Colorado 81611

Moving? Please give us your new address
by calling 970/925-5775, through our web site: www.huts.org or
by mail. Thanks

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage

PAID
Permit #34
Grand Junction
Colorado

» HUT IMPROVEMENTS «

10TH MOUNTAIN invests substantial funds into its huts every year to make sure they continue to offer a first-rate experience.

This summer, planned hut improvements include constructing fresh air intakes for woodburning heat stoves at all the huts in order to improve stove function and interior air quality. New kitchen countertops and shelving will be constructed at **McNamara Hut**, and new dining tables and benches installed at the **Peter Estin Hut**. At the **Harry Gates Hut**, we plan to renovate the area around the woodburning heat stove to make it more of a common area and less of a sleeping area.

We completed a similar renovation at the **Peter Estin Hut** last summer and it was very well received so we're replicating the concept. This entails moving the six beds currently on the main level to the former outfitter/guides quarters on the lower level, and constructing comfortable bench seating around the stove on the main level.

At the **Jackal Hut**, we plan to enclose the area under the deck to mitigate wildland fire risk and increase the capacity of the woodroom to make sure there's an ample supply of convenient firewood.

The exteriors of four huts (**Margy's, Betty Bear,**



Fowler/Hilliard Hut kitchen

Skinner, and Uncle Bud's) will be treated with oil and a water-based topcoat to maintain aesthetics and integrity of the wood. In addition to these tasks, all the huts will be fully restocked, thoroughly cleaned, meticulously repaired, and otherwise prepared for another year of happy hut visitors.

It's important to point out that this work is made possible only by a dedicated, experienced and skilled 10th Mountain crew and equally qualified general contractors, and 10th Mountain remains grateful for all their hard work.

Finally, as you visit the huts, please let us know if anything requires our attention or if you have ideas on how we can improve the back-country hut experience. 🛠️