



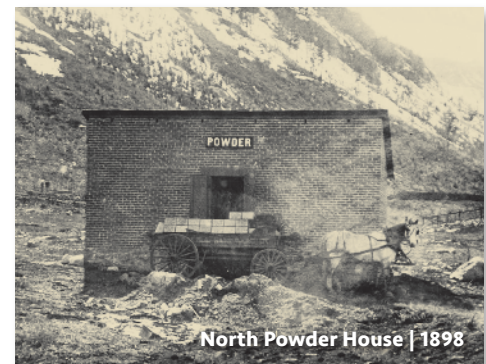
10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION
HUT SYSTEM NEWSLETTER
WINTER HUT SEASON
2025

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

North Powder House

Given that this powder house contained up to thirty tons of dynamite, neighbors were very concerned about the building's design and location and the potential for catastrophic damage if it exploded.

YOU ALREADY KNOW that 10th Mountain owns and operates fourteen huts, but you might not know that 10th Mountain also owns a base of operations in Leadville and administrative headquarters in Aspen, Colorado. Each of these facilities and structures has its own history, quirks, and maintenance requirements, and one in particular (aka the North Powder House, in Aspen) is by far the most historic and complicated.



THE STORY | The North Powder House was constructed in east Aspen in 1897 and served to store powder for sale to miners. It is a small, relatively nondescript 336 square foot building with a stone foundation, 17" thick brick walls, ½ inch steel doors, non-dimensional floor joists, flooring, roof rafters, and roof boards.


10th Mountain currently uses this building for archival and operations storage. However, the condition of the exterior brick walls has gradually deteriorated, and 10th Mountain is working to rehabilitate the brick and mortar to help ensure that the building remains in good condition for another 100+ years.

The historic nature of the building carries, as you might imagine, varied obligations/responsibilities including adherence to local, State and Federal historic preservation standards and partnerships with stakeholders such as History Colorado, the State Historic Preservation Office and its State Historical Fund, City of Aspen Historic Preservation Department, Aspen Historic Preservation Committee, Aspen Historical Society, adjacent owners, and the community at large.

To ensure that this work is done correctly, 10th Mountain has contracted Form+Works Design Group (Leadville) to produce architectural drawings and document the scope of work that will be submitted for approvals, and we expect to hire a General Contractor and rehabilitate the brick exterior this summer. 10th Mountain is grateful to History Colorado, the State Historic Preservation Office and its State Historical Fund for its experience, guidance, and generous grants that make this project possible.

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE | The story of the North Powder House begins with another powder house located a short distance to the west. There are no records of when

Today, these buildings are known as the North Powder House and the South Powder House and both are standing firm with no evidence of structural deformity and inform us of the 1890's history of

This success is due to Fritz' vision and perseverance, and it seems fitting to help preserve this Powder House because, simply, he would do the same if he were here today. 

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Elderhood and Randonnées

ORIGINALLY TITLED "Aging and Skiing with Grace," I have the aging part covered, but grace implies an elegance I lack, especially when skiing breakable crust with a heavy pack. Even so, turning 74 this season, I remain eager for another winter in the backcountry and the luxury of cozy huts.

From the late 1970's I worked with Fred Braun and the Braun Huts, then with Fritz Benedict and the 10th Mountain Huts. Both men were about the same age as I am now—wise elders breaking trail for me! Now I am on the Board of the Friends Hut, where I am joined by a large cadre of strong septuagenarians. I mention age only to say that there are many seasoned skiers, alone or as a group, competent, confident, and comfortable with the challenges of safe travel in the backcountry.

The transition from my 210 cm Europa 99s, aluminum edges, three pin bindings, leather Asolo boots, and an avalanche cord, to the AT gear which I most often use now has made my touring easier and safer. However, the telemark turn, as the origin

of the sport, still puts a big smile on my face.

My life has been measured by countless days of skiing in the backcountry and enjoying the comfort of the huts. While not as fast as I used to be, age has done nothing to diminish the joy of being out there, breaking a safe trail routed to flow with the terrain, focusing on the weather and snow-pack, and immersing in the singular beauty of being on my skis in the mountains. 

—ROB BURNETT

10th Mountain Division Hut Association



Rob Burnett, Elizabeth (Holecamp) Boyles, and Fred Braun at Margo's Hut, 1982

10TH MOUNTAIN HUTS ARCHIVE

Linking the Legacy

10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION FOUNDATION

Jackal Hut | February 10, 1990

THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION FOUNDATION has adopted a motto: "Linking the Legacy."

This mantra stems from a strategic effort to engage with the 10th Mountain Division (LI) headquartered at Fort Drum, New York, to support efforts to re-introduce winter alpine training—the focus of the WWII Division—into the modern soldier's curricula. Since the re-activation of the Division in 1985, there has been little emphasis on winter training. As the military role in global situations changes, and as the young 10th soldiers of today learn more about the legacy of the soldiers that

came before them, a new interest in winter alpine training has emerged. Resonating with me personally, this new motto has opened a door of reflection on my journey to link my legacy.

My first hut trip was in 1989. Two dear friends invited me to join them on a climb into the Fowler/Hilliard hut via McAllister Gulch—not necessarily a first time experience I would wish on anyone. The warm weather, sticky conditions and grade of the climb challenged all of us -beginner to expert. As it turned out, the joy of being in that hallowed place far outweighed the pain of the journey.

The following year when they invited me on another trip—I jumped at the chance. It was on that 1990 trip that I realized the significance of place and the legacy gift had been bestowed upon me. My father had passed away 10 years prior, yet sensing his guiding spirit in the hut and in the mountains, I was offered an opportunity to reflect and be grateful.



Nancy Kramer near 10th Mtn. Division Hut holding her father's WWII field medical flag.

NANCY KRAMER


Dear Dad,*
Your spirit and those of your fellow WWII 10th Mountain Division buddies are alive in this home away from home. My ever-increasing awareness of the outdoor/mountain legacy of the 10th brings added meaning to this trip and my journey to Fowler-Hilliard last year.

At the time of your service at Camp Hale and Italy, I am sure you could not have imagined the gift and the infinite value of it you would leave me. Only, as a family, when we ventured to Mt. Rainier for a rollicking slide down Tin Pants Ridge or when I shared my first ascent of Mt. Hood, would you have an inkling that your love of the mountains would be endowed to the next generation.

Gone from this mortal life for nearly ten years, coming here helps me to heal wounds of your sudden departure from this earthly place—your beloved mountains. This place, these mountains and with the presence of your guiding spirit have allowed me time to reflect on our lives—good times and bad (I know I was not the easiest kid to raise—oh but it could have been worse). Yet, in the end, being in a cozy hut, high in the Rocky Mountains reignites the enduring love I have for you and your gift to me—a love of the mountains—a path to creating my own legacy!

Thank You and I love you!

Nancy

Still, after dozens of hut trips, this letter stands as my compelling example of Linking the Legacy! Although my story may be unique, as a descendant, it is only one of hundreds that are and can be made every year. The 10th Mountain Division Hut Association is the conduit for you to ignite your passion for the outdoors and mountains. I hope you find the hut—the trail—the cohorts that will allow you to find a way to Link the Legacy! 

—NANCY B. KRAMER | Chairman
10th Mountain Division Foundation

*Nancy's father was William "Ropesole" Robertson
87-G Medic, 10th Mountain Division, U.S. Army, Italy, 1945

Action for Climate with Protect Our Winters


IF YOU'RE EMBARKING ON A HUT TRIP this winter, we hope you'll notice a new adornment on the wall: a poster designed in partnership with our friends at **Protect Our Winters (POW)**. A fellow Colorado-based nonprofit organization and community of passionate outdoor enthusiasts, POW's mission is to "... bring together those from all backgrounds to advocate for the outdoor spaces we love most."

As we think about our own mission and the work, we do here at 10th Mountain Division Huts Association to promote understanding and appreciation of the natural environment through public use of our mountain hut system, we find strong alignment with POW, and are eager to help support their goals and work.

We are acutely aware of the importance of advocating for our climate and protecting the places and experiences we love from the impacts of climate change—because, to put it simply, hut trips could look very different in the future than they do today. We want to do our part to help preserve the hut trips we

all know and love, protect the beautiful spaces that surround us, and encourage our hut users to do the same.

In creating these posters and placing them across the huts, our goal is to inspire hut visitors to think about the impacts of climate change, promote discussion around this pivotal topic, and help advance engagement with POW's expert resources and advocacy efforts.

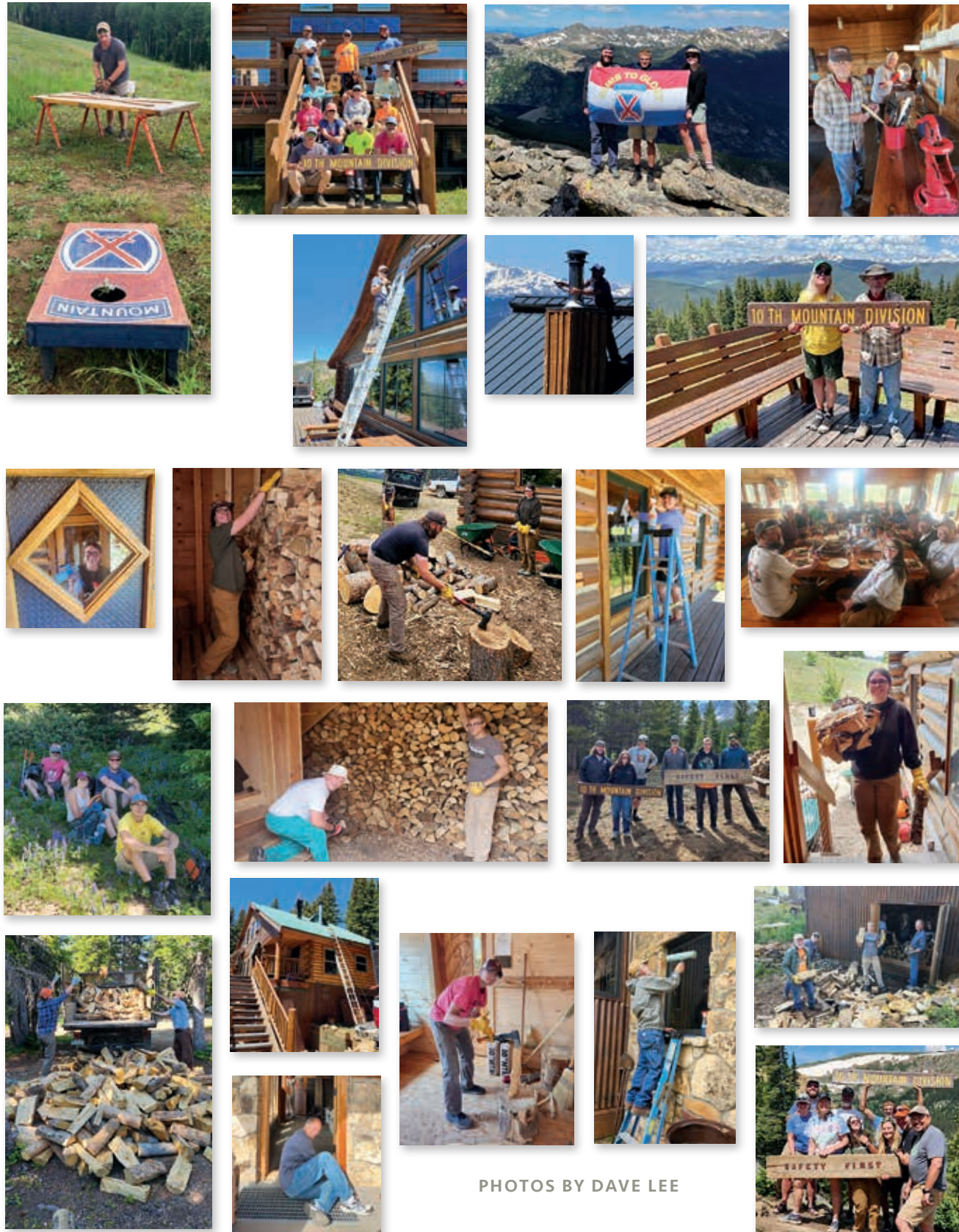
Want to learn more about meaningful steps you can take today toward becoming a climate advocate? Visit POW's website at ProtectOurWinters.org. 

—KARA LAPOINT



Hard-Working Hut Volunteers | 2024

We just can't say it enough about these folks...**Thank You 10th Mountain Volunteers!**



PHOTOS BY DAVE LEE

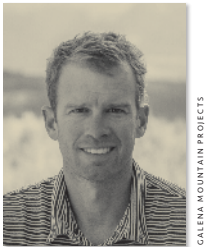
Welcome New 10th Mountain Board Members

Ethan Greene grew up in Boulder in a large family that spent ample time pursuing outdoor recreation. Ethan moved to Bozeman, Montana to study snow at Montana State University and work at the Big Sky Ski Resort writing weather forecasts and quickly realized he didn't know much about meteorology. After completed his undergraduate studies in meteorology, he returned to Colorado to study atmospheric modeling and snowdrifts at Colorado State University (CSU). Ethan's studies eventually led him to split his time between CSU in Fort Collins and the WSL Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research in Davos, Switzerland. In 2005, he joined the Colorado Avalanche Information Center where he currently works as the Center's director. He lives in Leadville with his wife and son—and misses his daughter attending college in Duluth, Minnesota.



GREENE FAMILY

Justin Talbot comes to the Board of Directors with a deep-rooted passion for outdoor adventure, coupled with extensive experience in wilderness education and risk management. As the Director of Wilderness Programs and Risk Management at the High Mountain Institute in Leadville, Colorado, he has spent nearly two decades orchestrating expeditions and managing risk in the wilderness. With HMI he has annually visited the huts in the Leadville area since 2006 running winter travel training and other programs.



GALENA MOUNTAIN PROJECTS

Justin is also a co-founder and CEO of Galena Mountain Projects, an outdoor apparel and guidebook brand, where he has equipped adventurers with the knowledge and gear, they need to embark on their own journeys with confidence and respect for the environment. Justin is excited to share his insights from two decades of work and play in the Leadville area. 🏔️

LIVE BY LIVING

WE HELP CANCER SURVIVORS and caregivers manage the emotional and physical challenges that cancer and cancer treatment present—things like anxiety, depression, fear of recurrence, "chemobrain," and being physically weak and de-conditioned.

We combine the proven benefits of exercise, the solace of nature, and the camaraderie of shared experience. Our walks, hikes, and retreats help survivors and caregivers connect with nature, each other and their own inner strengths.

Since 2009, we've held over 100 retreats with over 1600 participants and volunteers. Many volunteers are former participants or survivors or caregivers themselves.

Our first retreat was at **Peter Estin Hut**, and we continued to hold retreats at the huts. We're grateful to the 10th Mountain Division Hut Association for supporting us through the Backcountry Explorers Program. 10th Mountain's generosity makes it possible



LIVE BY LIVING

for us to reach more survivors and caregivers.

For people who might struggle with the hikes to the huts or the altitude, we've also added retreats at YMCA centers in Estes Park, Fraser and Deckers, as well as private homes.

Live By Living is a volunteer-based charitable organization. To volunteer for one of our hikes or retreats, support our work, or learn more about us, go to www.livebyliving.org 🏔️



Tenth Mountain Division Hut Association
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Aspen, Colorado 81611

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by mail. Thanks

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Summit Huts | INDEPENDENT RESERVATION SYSTEM

SUMMIT HUTS ASSOCIATION is thrilled to announce a significant milestone in its 35-year history. As stewards of Francie's Cabin, Janet's Cabin, Sisters Cabin, Section House, and Ken's Cabin, Summit Huts has consistently worked to provide unforgettable experiences for outdoor enthusiasts.

For over three decades, Summit Huts has relied on the expertise of the 10th Mountain Division Hut Association to handle reservations and guest relations. The 10th Mountain has been a leader in hut experiences and a valued partner, sharing insights that have shaped Summit Huts' approach to operations.

"We are immensely grateful to the 10th Mountain Hut Association for their partnership and the support they've provided over the years," said Brandon Bailey, Summit Huts' Board President.

Beginning in the coming months, guests will be able to book their stays directly on Summit Huts' website. "Our goal is to provide our community with direct access to our cabins

and enhanced communication, backed by the same commitment to excellence our guests have come to expect," added Bailey.

As part of this transition, Summit Huts' properties will no longer be available in the 10th Mountain Division's winter lottery. Instead, winter reservations for Summit Huts cabins will be available exclusively on summithuts.org starting September 1, 2025. Summit Huts members will have early access to reservations, with a priority booking window from September 1 to September 14. Beginning September 15, reservations will be open to the public, with members also able to make additional bookings at that time.

The 10th Mountain Division will continue to manage winter 2025 reservations and take bookings for summer 2025. Later this spring, Summit Huts will take over upcoming summer bookings and begin managing new reservations for future dates.

For questions, please contact: Greg Guevara, Executive Director | greg@summithuts.org | 970.389.2902