

Cabin design study update February 09, 2011

In the Ax & Saw report we promised to provide everyone with periodic updates and while much later than we expected here we go.

Summary points:

1. While donations have not reached the level expected we have received over \$7500 so far.
2. We have received comments pro and con from over a dozen alumni spanning 60+ class years.
3. Comments so far have been nearly universal in the desire to not have to approach the College for funding but many have recognized that the scope of this problem is probably beyond what the Alumni Association can reasonably expect to fund alone. We have a choice here but need a greater level of participation to handle this in house.

Technical questions/comments: Mark Place Alumni Cabin Manager

I have exchanged thoughts with several concerned alumni regarding the scope of the proposed work and the cost. The three key points that I would like to share are these.

1. This study is not to select a specific way to deal with the condition of the cabin but to layout the options and costs for a future vote. Support for this study does not mean a vote for any particular solution.
2. The structural problems with the cabin are real and are increasing every year. The water problems are not going to go away. Keegan pointed out that we have mushrooms growing on floor joists in places and that is not a viable fundraiser. ☺
3. We need professional help with identifying and dealing with all of the state and federal agencies and regulations that apply to a non-residential building.

Financial support: Tom Ronksley, Alumni Treasurer

We have received support from the following alumni so far. The class year shown if noted on the check or note. I receive my mail weekly so if you have contributed and are not listed your contribution will show up in the next report.

\$200 from Robert Brandes in memory of
 Jessie Park Brandes
\$1000 from Terry Clever
\$200 from Sean Dippold
\$50 from Michelle Dixon
\$500 from Dan Fischer '98
\$50 from Carole Thomas Gillard
\$100 from Red Gordon '50
\$250 from Tacki Hammer
\$10 from Keegan Hange
\$500 from Isabelle Hine
\$150 from Glenn Kelly

\$200 from Elaine Korhonen
\$1000 from Tim Mahoney '09.5
25 from Heidi Messner
\$25 from Pat Oswald
\$1000 from Mark Place '77
\$100 from Dennis Reidenbach '77
\$50 from Bill Robinson '09
\$1000 from Tom Ronksley '77
\$100 from Frank Shaffer
\$100 from Nancy Shelly
\$500 Pat Spath
\$500 from Dan Young

Total: \$7610

Several alumni have noted that times are still difficult and that their ability to contribute is limited. We certainly understand that and appreciate support at any level. What may be critical if we approach the College for support for the study is the number of participants. We need to make a case that the design project has wide support and that the Outing Club serves a key role in student life.

Funding from foundations has also been asked about but has not been pursued as the Outing Club is really a private entity and we do not think foundation support is out there.

Report and discussion on comments and concerns received: Kegan Hang Alumni Secretary

My dear fellow OC Alumni,

I have been asked to write an update on the reactions we have received from our bit in the Axe and Saw on the money that is needed to research what possibilities there are for maintaining a place in the woods at which we gather. There have of course been quite a range of responses.

Some members have raged against the whole notion of ever changing anything. I find this stance short-sighted and selfish. Maintaining any one person's memory of a place that has been evolving over nearly 75 years will keep future students from being able to make memories there because the building will have fallen down around our ears. Additionally, if we do not fix the cabin now, we leave the potential for people to be seriously injured by the decay. The venerated Doc Kase noted that many things that come must eventually go. Hopefully our cabin is not one of those, and there are certainly measures we can take to stave that off.

There are a great many who have encouraged the objective of researching options we have to keep the cabin as a place that our progenitors enjoyed and that our progeny may continue to use. The preferred method of procuring funds for this varies. Josh Meeder would like to see the design process go ahead without involving the college. Abby Barr '07 does not want us to include the college in any stage of this project. Rob Macomber '74 is also reticent to approach the college about funding due to "more cabin restrictions and less autonomy for the club" and suggested that we pursue some kind of fundraiser, jokingly mentioning that we could auction off a Caribbean island if anyone of us was lucky enough to possess such a thing. Some have said that they would hate to see the club indebted to the college and thus gave generously to this campaign. Those contributions are certainly greatly appreciated. Others have embraced the idea of approaching the college, as it will let us proceed as soon as possible with the assurance of funds. Herb Hahn, student president in '78, thinks that "a partnership between alumni and a willing college administration would be the best of both worlds" but admits his removal from the situation does not make him aware of all the details or potential risks. Lisa Johnston, wife of the late Michael Johnston '87, did not express an opinion either way, but gave a memorial contribution noting that her husband "loved the Outing Club and cabin." Another memorial contribution has been given by Frank Brandes in the name of Jesse Park Brandes, who said that the Outing Club was her "second major."

As I have said, some have sent money, and our treasurer has given you a rundown of the particulars. As you have seen there have been several donations of \$1000. These are most definitely appreciated. However, smaller donations are what are going to set this project in motion. Donating even \$10 dollars shows you care. If we do indeed approach the college for funding at some point, it will certainly give us more clout to be able to demonstrate that a high percentage of our alumni are willing to support the cabin's longevity. There is greater meaning in having 80% give \$10 than having 0.2% give \$1000. It has been suggested that people could give \$10 for each year that has passed since they graduated, or for each year they have had a full-time, permanent kind of job.

There are many of you who have expressed ambivalence, intentional or not, by not letting your opinion be known to us. From the list of about 600 people we have gotten about twelve or so responses. That's only two percent! I have not received even one piece of postal mail regarding this subject. I cannot imagine that it is because you do not care at all. Remember that by not acting on your suffrage, you give other people permission to make decisions for you.