



Sorensen's Resort: First PCTA "Trailside Inn"

By Barney "Scout" Mann

Since July 1, guests at Sorensen's Resort are greeted by something new on their cabin or room table. There is a glossy photo of the Pacific Crest Trail in a Lucite stand and the text on the page states:

A \$1.00 a day surcharge has been added to your bill to join with this establishment in helping the Pacific Crest Trail Association achieve its mission. You may request this charge be removed from your bill when you leave.

If you let your imagination run and daydreamed about a 35-room and cabin resort built of logs and knotty pine in an enchanting Sierra forest, you might come up with the venerable Sorensen's Resort. You might even imagine the owners, convivial hosts, a couple who'd raised a family on-site amid the cabins and the stream running through the property. You imagine them hard working, civic and outdoor-minded.

In that case you'd have imagined the Sorensen's owners and hosts, **John and Patty Brissenden.**

Sorensen's is located just eight miles from the PCT where the Trail crosses Carson Pass on Highway 88. The resort is near Lake Tahoe in Hope Valley. On the PCT, it's 1078 trail miles north of the Mexican border, but most folks simply drive there. It is a four-season resort and in winter, many use it as their base for Kirkwood Mountain Ski Resort.

The Brissendens have owned Sorensen's Resort for almost thirty years. A Hope Valley historian wrote: "John and Patty showed a charitable streak from the start. They gave away nights at the resort, recently up to as much as 400 nights a year, to charities all over California." Today, stretching that charitable streak one step further,

the Brissendens enthusiastically volunteered to be the PCTA's pioneer Trailside Inn.

The "Trailside Inn" fundraising program seeks resorts, hotels and other overnight establishments willing to add a voluntary surcharge, a \$1 per night, to help the PCTA achieve its mission - protect, promote and preserve the PCT. Guests may opt out if they choose. Hotel owners have the satisfaction of contributing to a remarkable recreational resource and receive mention in the *Communicator* and on the PCTA website.

John Brissenden, the first Trailside Inn pioneer, reports at press time that over \$1,500 has been collected in less than three months. More than half the guests accept the charge on the bill. When they learn the purpose of the surcharge, it is not unusual for a guest to donate more than the \$1 a day.

Two PCTA board members recently stayed at Sorensen's Resort and had this advice: Make your dinner reservations early at the resort's six-table dining room. There are eight more tables outside when the weather's nice. At any rate, it fills up fast. And don't miss out on Sorensen's signature dish, the Classic Beef Burgundy Stew.

The PCTA is already in talks with other possible Trailside Inn pioneers. If you know of a resort, hotel, motel or inn owner who might be interested please let PCTA Board member **Ed Bergeron** know at: EdP Bergeron@cs.com.

To send your own thank you to John and Patty Brissenden or for more information about Sorensen's Resort go to www.sorensensresort.com.