

THE HUNGRY BEAVER

The Journal of the Kekekabic Trail Club



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Nov 2004

Gear Essentials

By Derrick Passe

Everybody has that special piece of gear. You know what I am talking about, you take on every trip you take, you buy another in case it is discontinued, you break into a cold sweat in the middle of the night because you think you forgot it in the car. This is your opportunity to share your favorite gear with others.

My favorite top usually goes on when I leave my car at the trailhead. I sleep, eat and even swim in it. On weeklong trips, I may take it off long enough to dip it into water and wring it out, then it goes right back on to dry. It is called a Mid Weight Capilene Zip Crew Neck by Patagonia (\$38). It has a collar that zips up two inches higher than a t-shirt in cold weather, but opens down to the breast-bone in warm weather. It is long sleeved for mornings, but stays rolled up when you are busy nipping or hiking. Capilene has an almost cotton feel to it, but has the warm-when-wet qualities of wool. If you don't have one already, I recommend that you go out and buy one before your next trip. I have three of them, the first one has been with me for over 15 years. Keep them away from sparks and they are virtually indestructible.

Please send in stories of YOUR favorite gear.

Sponsor Profile: Bear Track Outfitting Co.

introduction by Terry Serres and Derrick Passe

The Hungry Beaver is launching a series of short pieces profiling the sponsors so important to our success. We're inviting sponsors to write the articles themselves, so we capture them in their own words. Our first Sponsor Profile comes from Bear Track Outfitting Co. Bear Track has been owned and operated for 32 years by David and Cathi Williams and their family. Bear Track has three facilities: their outfitting operation in Grand Marais, cabins at Bally Creek Camp six miles from downtown Grand Marais on Gunflint Trail, and group lodging at Seagull Outpost 54 miles up Gunflint Trail near Seagull and Saganaga Lakes.

Bear Track has been helping our east side (Gunflint) trail-clearing trips for many years. They have hosted the Eagle Mountain trip at the Bally Creek Camp cabins, and the Agamok Bridge trip has long bunked at their Seagull Outpost at the end of Gunflint Trail. In February of 1997 they hosted a memorable Board of Directors retreat at their winter-wonderful Bally Creek cabins. It's the Bally Creek facility that Cathi Williams has highlighted in her article below. Its location and features make it an ideal destination for a peaceful winter getaway while staying conveniently close to Grand Marais.

We say it a lot, but can't say it enough: the work of the Kekekabic Trail Club would be much harder without the friendship and support of our sponsors, especially those who see to the comfort of our volunteer crews. We hope you'll make the acquaintance of the great folks at Bear Track, and do consider them

when making your personal travel plans in northern Minnesota.

Bally Creek Cabins ... the Path less Traveled

by Cathi Williams

The last mile to the Bally Creek Camp is filled with anticipation as the gradual ascent on the meandering gravel road brings a colorful surprise around each curve during Fall Colors—the surprise sometimes including a resident moose. Although the cabins at Bally Creek Camp are only six miles from Grand Marais, you seem to be at the end of the Earth, particularly in the winter as snowplowing stops beyond the cabins. Vehicles stay in a central lot to eliminate traffic through the camp, enhancing the quiet retreat Bally Creek Camp is intended to be.

David and Cathi Williams are the owners and hosts of Bally Creek Camp. David designed each cabin to have a unique personality. In the style of old logging camps, the cabins are fashioned with rustic knotty pine interiors, well insulated and stove-heated. Seven variously sized cabins can accommodate from two to ten and have names like Dunlookin and Mooselips. Their charm and the charm of the scenery are reflected in the stories and warm memories in each cabin's guest log. At your disposal are four quaint outhouses and a Finnish sauna ("Barely Behind"). Visitors can use the showers at the municipal swimming pool in Grand Marais. In town you'll also find a variety of restaurants if you like to dine out, and another nine miles brings you to the Lutsen Mountain Ski Area.

Each cabin is furnished with a wooden table and chairs, wash basin, teapot and propane lantern. Guests bring their own linens, though most simply throw their sleeping bags and pillows on the beds. Cabins are also stocked with

stove wood and birdseed. Water, in five-gallon containers, comes from the artesian well on the Williams' farm, Rosebush Creek Ranch, which also serves as the check-in stop for October through April visits. Summer season check-in is at Bear Track Outfitting in Grand Marais, on Highway 61 across from the Gunflint Ranger Station.

Equipment rentals are available at the check-in stops and include skis and snowshoes in winter, canoes and sea kayaks in summer. Other seasonal options are private ski lessons and guides for fly fishing, spincasting, canoeing, or kayaking expeditions.

Bally Creek Camp is designated for silent sports only, and cross-country enthusiasts will find a veritable paradise. Situated at a higher altitude than the shore, the camp receives more snow earlier and holds onto it longer, with an average 90 inches annually. Twenty-five kilometers of groomed ski trails weave through the grounds, as well as a Superior Hiking Trail spur for snowshoeing and a 2-km skijoring trail for dog lovers.

Cabins are all non-smoking. Dogs are allowed in all but one of the cabins and on all trails during summer but only the skijoring trail during winter. More flexible and impromptu travelers are likely to find midweek vacancies and can book four nights, Monday through Thursday, for the price of three.

One guest wrote: "I get more relaxation here in two days, than in a week's vacation anywhere else." No matter the season, Bally Creek Camp will satisfy your inner longing for a peaceful but invigorating retreat.

Bear Track Outfitting Co., Bally Creek Camp, and Seagull Outpost: <http://www.bear-track.com/> and 800-795-8068.

Upcoming Member Meetings:

by Terry Bernhardt

Friday, November 5, 10 to 2 PM, Cassidy's Restaurant in Hinckley – Planning meeting with the USFS staff. KTC, North Country Trail Association, Parks and Trails Association, the Rovers and MN Canoe Assoc are expected to take part. This meeting is meant primarily for KTC Board members, but members who are not on the Board are welcome. Please contact Terry Bernhardt if you are interested in taking part in the meeting. We will need to get a head count of those attending.

Tuesday, November 9, 7 PM at Midwest Mountaineering– USFS staff will update us on SNF plans for trails, planned burns and other issues.

Tuesday, December 7, 7 PM at Midwest Mountaineering – ANNUAL MEETING and Holiday Party. We will share photo slides from the spring trail maintenance trips.

Tuesday, January 4, 7 PM at Midwest Mountaineering – Open meeting, speaker not yet determined.

Tuesday, February 1, 7 PM at Midwest Mountaineering – Sue Mulhlland, Forest Historian for the Superior National Forest will be the speaker.

Be sure to check www.kek.org for current information on KTC meetings and activities. Meetings and events are kept current on the web site.

KTC SCHEDULE

1st Tuesday = 5:30 PM Board Meeting
7:00 PM Member Meeting
2nd Tuesday = HB Article Deadline
3rd Tuesday = Volunteer Mailing Night

November

Tuesday, 11/9, 5:30 PM = Board Meeting
7:00 PM = Member Meeting
Tuesday, 11/16 = HB Article Deadline
Tuesday, 11/23, 6 PM = Volunteer Mailing Night

December

Tuesday, 12/7, 5:30 PM = Board Meeting
7:00 PM = Member Meeting
Tuesday, 12/14 = HB Article Deadline
Tuesday, 12/21, 6 PM = Volunteer Mailing Night

January

Tuesday, 1/4, 5:30 PM = Board Meeting
7:00 PM = Member Meeting
Tuesday, 1/11 = HB Article Deadline
Tuesday, 1/18, 6 PM = Volunteer Mailing Night

February

Tuesday, 2/1, 5:30 PM = Board Meeting
7:00 PM = Member Meeting
Tuesday, 2/8 = HB Article Deadline
Tuesday, 2/15, 6 PM = Volunteer Mailing Night

March

Tuesday, 3/1, 5:30 PM = Board Meeting
7:00 PM = Member Meeting
Tuesday, 3/8 = HB Article Deadline
Tuesday, 3/15, 6 PM = Volunteer Mailing Night

April

Tuesday, 4/5, 5:30 PM = Board Meeting
7:00 PM = Member Meeting
Tuesday, 4/12 = HB Article Deadline
Tuesday, 4/19, 6 PM = Volunteer Mailing Night

Monthly Board Meeting Summary Minutes

The KTC Board met on Wednesday, October 6th, 2004, at Midwest Mountaineering. In attendance was: Terry Bernhardt, Derrick Passe, Mark Stange, Connie Van Valkenburg, Lynn Glesne, John Koffski, and Liisa Beckman.

The membership committee reported 125 members. A nominating committee is necessary to identify three members to run for the upcoming board vacancies. The promotional slide show is underway, Terry Serres and Lisa Pazdernik are working on this project. John Koffski has many photos from 1992-present to share in this effort. Various articles to be written for local publications promoting the KTC were discussed. Friday, November 5 is the annual trail meeting and will be held in Hinckley, with the USFS and KTC board members in attendance. Also invited are representatives from The Rovers, MN Canoe, and Parks & Trails. Ideas for future member meetings were proposed. Among those ideas were a USFS archaeologist and a noxious plant specialist. Work on securing speakers is ongoing. The Mystery Shopper program is due to be completed on Tuesday, October 19th. Many volunteers are needed in order to collect the \$500. Plans for the 2005 National Trails Event were discussed; further research is required before final plans are made.

With Many Thanks

We wish to express our appreciation to the U. S. Forest Service for their generous grant given to the Kekekabic Trail Club to help defray the

expenses of clearing trails in the Boundary Waters.

We also wish to express our thanks to Galyans for their kind donation of water filters to help us keep healthy while we clear trails in the Boundary Waters.

BOOKREVIEW FOR ALL HUNGRY BEAVERS

By Lynn Glesne

Authors Christine and Tim Connors donated two of their books to our club for review: "Lipsmackin' Backpackin'" and "Lipsmackin' Vegetarian Backpackin'."

Gleaned from their own experience and from other backpackers when they lived near the Pacific Crest Trail, these recipes clearly tell you what you need to do at home and on the trail. Weight, # of servings and nutritional information are clearly highlighted. A number of recipes include items you dehydrate yourself and drying tips are given. In many cases you are assembling your own mix which has to be less expensive than the prepackaged versions.

There's a lot of variety, so if you need to spice up your menu contact me to check out these books. They are also available in paperback for \$15.95@ at your local outdoors store.

CLEARING THE CLOSET

By Lynn Glesne

A hardy group of 8 approached the Kek closet at Midwest on Sept 21 with determination. Fred and Ginny Base brought carpet, shelves and cabinets thru

rain and traffic from Eau Claire. Excavation revealed supplies from a former coffee shop and strange unwashed rectangular glass dishes. Also our own nightmare of endless leather gloves and T shirts but we organized and inventoried. We also folded and stamped the latest Hungry Beaver brought by Liisa Beckman from Bill Burt through Kinkos. At the end of the evening the items were placed in the newly organized closet and pizza enjoyed by all (Jason Johnson, Terry Bernhardt, Mark Stange & Connie Van Valkenburg). Ask for a tour the next time you come for a meeting or better yet volunteer on the 3rd Tues at 6 at Midwest.

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KTC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name _____ Home Phone () _____
 Address _____ Work Phone () _____
 City, State, Zip _____ E-mail: _____

YES, sign me up at the following Annual Membership Level (all levels include a 1-year subscription to the *Hungry Beaver*):

_____ \$20 **Individual**

_____ \$35 **Family**

_____ \$50 **Sustaining** (Includes your choice of a 3-map set of the Kekekabic Trail OR a KTC T-shirt—indicate below)

_____ \$100 or more **Trail Guardian** (Includes **both** a 3-map set of the Kek Trail AND a KTC T-shirt—indicate below)

_____ Yes, send me a 3-map set of the Kekekabic Trail!

_____ Yes, send me a KTC T-shirt! Circle shirt size: SM MED LG XL

_____ Special gift

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

Check this box if you do not want your name in the KTC phone book.

Return this form with your check made payable to: Kekekabic Trail Club, 309 Cedar Avenue S., Minneapolis MN 55454

The KTC is a nonprofit, charitable organization under 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax deductible.

Inside This Issue

Gear Essentials	pg 1
Sponsor Profile: Bear Track Outfitting Co.	pg.1
Bally Creek Cabins	pg 2
Upcoming Membership Meeting	pg 3
KTC Schedule	pg.3
BOD Meeting Minutes	pg 4
With Many Thanks	pg 4
Book Review	pg 4
Clearing the Closet	pg 4

Calendar continued

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