



# Peregrine Flash

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## President's Column

*By Derrick Passe*

Last night, I attended the Kekekabic Trail Club's December Membership meeting. It was a fun evening spent looking at pictures from clearing trips on the Kek, Pow Wow and Eagle Mountain/Brule Trail. These pictures inspire me to get back out on the trail to hike, clear, and enjoy them. Seeing the variety of participants on these trips shows me that the Trails of the BWCA truly appeal to all ages and walks of life.

My only regret about last night's meeting was the lack of members present (9) to share their thoughts and experiences. The lack of participation by members in the year round operation of the club has been a topic at recent Board of Director's meetings. I found an analogy to this in the final display that we enjoyed last night. John Koffski brought a VCR tape that he had received from the USFS documenting the removal of the Fire Tower from near the Brule Lake Trail. The first step that was taken was to cut out the bracing from the legs of the tower. While this didn't make the tower fall, it did make it shiver in the wind and all it took was a couple of explosives placed on just one leg of the tower to bring it down. So how does this apply to the KTC? Over the past couple of years, the number of people doing tasks needed to keep the Club going has decreased, leaving more and more things either none done at all or left on the shoulders of the club 'stalwarts' as we were referred to last night.

The cause that we work for, "To preserve the hiking Trails of the Superior National Forest" is a worthy goal. The KTC offers an avenue for others to join us in this goal. It takes a year-round effort to sustain the club and we need to stop depending on the few stalwarts and pitch in to help preserve the KTC and hence the Trails of the Superior National Forest.

I hope to see you at our next meeting.

## Crosscut Saw Training / Recertification

The USFS asked the KTC to submit a list of names of people who are interested in Crosscut Saw Training. (Those of you who attended the First Saw Training at Wilder Forest are due for recertification.)

Also, the USFS is offering Chainsaw certification (for using chainsaws on the portion of the trail outside the BWCA).

Please contact Liisa Beckman (612.729.7675 or [beckm012@umn.edu](mailto:beckm012@umn.edu)) if you are interested in either Crosscut Saw Training and/or Chainsaw Training.

Once again, it is anticipated that the training will be at a location in the Twin Cities area.

## Ultralight Boundary Waters

*By Sharon Johnson*

What's an ultralight Boundary Waters trip? Traveling the Kek on foot is no different than any other backpacking trip. A 20-pound pack will let you hike the Kek faster and more comfortably than a 45-pound pack. On the typical Boundary Waters trip, travel is primarily by canoe, hiking only over the portages until you get back in the canoe for the next leg of the trip. Traveling by canoe means that your load-carrying work is easier because moving the weight of your gear on the water is easier than it is carrying it on your back. If you're paddling with a partner, then the work is even less.

So why travel ultralight in the Boundary Waters? For the same reasons that you'd hike the Kek ultralight. You can travel farther, faster and more comfortably than you could carrying a more traditional load. If your load is lighter, you'll save lots of time not double-portaging. Your portages will be less tiring, so you'll feel like traveling farther. You can travel a longer route in the Boundary Waters over the same two or three-day weekend, and your shoulders and back will feel much better. The lighter your load, the less chance that you'll turn an ankle on the portage or miss a step on a rock-clamber to the campsite.

The three major ultralight guidelines are: 1) don't bring things you don't really need, 2) don't use two items when one will do, and 3) make sure each article you choose to bring is as lightweight as it can be. This means not bringing things like extra clothes you don't need and won't wear. Leave home all the extra cooking utensils and pots you can do without. Leave the cast iron skillet for another trip. Skip the camp chair and find natural sitting options. Carry as much freeze-dried or dehydrated food as you can. Use your coffee cup for a bowl, or eat directly from the cooking pot. Consciously examine each item in your Duluth pack and make it earn its place there.

It's possible to carry a 20-pound pack for a



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multi-day trip on the trail and still be safe and comfortable. If you transfer that thought to your canoe trip, you'll find that you can get into more remote territory and enjoy it more.

## TERRY SERRES BIO

*Terry Serres is a Board of Directors Candidate.*

I fell in love with canoe country at its temperamental worst — one fateful July afternoon in 1999 — so my love for it is unconditional. My maiden voyage that weekend was with another newbie and a 125-lb Newfoundland!

Since moving to Minneapolis in 1997, I have worked in sales and marketing for Perfect Access Speer, a division of Kaplan, Inc., specializing in the legal market. My work for the 13 years I lived in New York was in circulation management for mass-market magazines (among them The Mother Earth News). I plan to change careers to natural resource management and to that end am taking undergraduate courses at the U of M prior to applying to graduate school. This term I will be studying, appropriately, Recreational Trail Design.

I have participated in three trail clearing trips with the KTC in the last three years, organizing the food for one of them. This year I have joined the Trail clearing Committee. I have had three other Boundary Waters and Quetico

trips as well as numerous backpacking and hiking excursions on the North Shore and various State Parks. I am also active in utwoods, a GLBT outdoors recreation club.

The "cumulative grandeur" of Minnesota's lakes and forests is what I love most about living here and KTC has shaped my experience by offering ways to grow and serve. I would like to give more to the club and to our state by joining the board, collaborating with and learning from club veterans. One area of improvement I hope to contribute to is increasing awareness of the trails we maintain.

## Calendar

**Jan 6, 2004, 7PM Monthly Membership Meeting,**  
Midwest Mountaineering 309 Cedar Ave S.,  
Minneapolis, MN

**Feb 3, 2004, 7PM Monthly Membership Meeting,**  
Midwest Mountaineering 309 Cedar Ave S.,  
Minneapolis, MN

**Mar 2, 7PM Monthly Membership Meeting,**  
Midwest Mountaineering 309 Cedar Ave S.,  
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