

Slate Falls Outposts Preparation Manual

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Greetings;

In keeping with our tradition of personal service and attention to detail, we have compiled this manual to assist you in preparing for you wilderness Canadian adventure with us. Inside you will find an indexed guide, humorous in places, that will answer nearly all the questions you may have on this vacation. Information from what fish like to eat to how we like to get paid. If you are a first timer with us, please read thoroughly./ Enjoy!

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1.01 Packing

On a fly-in package like ours it is important to not over pack. Many folks feel that this is the opportunity of a lifetime to bring every bit of camping gear that they have accumulated since the age of 8. This is not the case. Think about what you will actually use, then double that and divide by 2 to get the right amount. While some may argue my logic, there is little room for electric guitars, car batteries and 20-pound anchors. By government regulation, complete with government inspectors, we cannot, and will not, overload our aircraft. This means that if you bring more than I thought you would then we will need more aircraft to get your stuff in at my convenience. This raises my costs and occasionally blood pressure so I would rather avoid it, (See para 3.4 for additional info). It is very important to pack one bag with your essential items (i.e. medications, one fishing reel and a change of clothes and your shaving kit, etc.) in the event that I need to readjust the plane schedule or weight on the plane and you only have one bag traveling with you.

1.1 Sample List of Items to Bring

2 rods and reels each man	Fresh spare line (6#-8# walleye, 10#-14# pike)
Well-equipped tackle box (see 4.7)	Landing net or fish cradle per each 2 anglers
Insect repellent (Deep Woods Off/Muskol)	Sunglasses with neck strap
Compass or GPS (for the dysfunctional guy)	2 Pliers and a jaw spreader (1 to throw overboard)
Pillow and a sleeping bag	Appropriate bait boxes
Towels and face cloth and soap (unless you are after that Grizzly Adams look!)	
Camera and film (do not forget spare camera batteries as they are hard to find at your destination)	
Filet knife and stone Gust in case you get lucky)	
Life Jacket (the law)	Sun screen
A hat (preferably broad brimmed)	Rain gear
Advil (in case someone is bragging a bit excessively)	
Clothing appropriate for the season	***Spare car keys
Personal needs kit	Medications

For the Group

Coolers (to pack your food in and also a day cooler for the boat)	
Food (see section 1.3)	Snacks
Beverages (we stock some beer and pop in case you arrive and the stores are not open)	
Several good flashlights	For the group a battery powered lantern or 2
Alam1 clock.	Small first aid kit
Small tool kit	Toilet Paper
Paper towel	Dishtowels
Dish soap and scouring pads	Matches and a lighter
Fish filet baggies appropriate to what you intend to bring home	
Garbage bags	Pic coils
Gas stove for shore lunches (definitely if there has been a dry summer and a fire ban is in effect)	
Deck of cards or similar	

1.2 How to Pack

Ah, this is a favorite subject of mine. As you can see by the preceding list there is a long list of things you should bring in order to assure your comfort. Most of them are small, notice I did not say to bring your Golden Retriever or anything else too big. You should have your clothes and similar stuff in duffle bags that one man can lift by himself. If you have multiple bags please ensure that one bag has the essential

items in case I have to separate you from some of your baggage on the trip in (like prescriptions, fishing reels and "gotta have" stuff). While coolers to keep food in are essential please do not bring any that will either **A)** accommodate a body, **B)** can handle an outboard motor greater than a 4 h.p. on the back of them, **C)** resembles the truck box liner from a full size Datsun, **D)** can double as a swimming/wading pool for the kids in the summer, or **E)** that one man can not carry at least 20 feet. The floor deck of the Otter is about 5 feet off the ground and out a foot and my personal experience is that any cooler that big is generally heavy and I am getting smarter as I get older. Rod tubes are also a good idea, definitely no hooks on the line or last years bait. It is sure to be a rough ride in the plane when you poke the pilot in his good eye while passing him your rods!

In the unlikely event that you bring more gear than the plane can handle I will handle it one of 2 ways. If it is jointly agreed between you and I that it is essential, then within a few hours of your arrival at the lake I will charter another plane to get it up to you or fly it up myself. If it is non-essential, (like surplus beer, pop or food coolers) I will likely incorporate in to my next service flight within 24 hours.

For your calculations the Caravan and Otter can take around a ton each (counting personal body weights) the Beaver is good for about 1200 pounds and the Cessna's are around 800 pounds. If you can do some mental math and come up with a number higher than the carrying capacity of the plane you should notify me in advance and we can work out a better plane grouping to get you in the bush smoothly. Generally, groups of 2 ride on the Cessna, 3 to 4 ride on the Beaver and 5 to 8 ride on the Otter and the Caravan. Groups of 8 or more always have a second airplane following to get excess gear in.

1.3 Sample Food Plan

This plan is designed for 4 men for 5 days. It feeds you generously. Obviously, you will have to extrapolate amounts as your group size changes. If you want us to do your shopping for you this is the menu that we will use. If you want to do it yourself, this is an excellent guideline. Generally, food is a bit cheaper in the states but this is definitely more convenient if we do it for you.

Beverages

2 pounds coffee
2 half gallons milk (2%)
2 12oz. Frozen orange juice
1 box tea bags

Meat

3 pounds bacon
1 pound sausage
1 pound sliced sandwich ham
1 pound sliced salami
1 pound hot dogs
3 pounds hamburger
8 pork chops
2 to 3 pounds chicken
4 New York steaks

Produce

1 dozen apples
1 dozen oranges
10 pounds potatoes
2 pounds carrots
3 pounds cooking onions
salad ingredients (2 days)

Dairy

1 pound butter
2 dozen eggs
1 pound cheese

Clean up Package

4 rolls paper towels 4 rolls toilet paper dish soap hand soap garbage bags
dish cloth dish towels one box wooden matches

Dry Goods

1 jar coffeemate
1 package pancake mix
1 bottle pancake syrup
1 box breakfast cereal (raisin bran)
4 loaves bread (more if you sandwich it a lot)
1 pkg hamburger buns
1 pkg hotdog buns
1 bottle mustard
1 medium jar mayonnaise
1 large bottle ketchup
1 jar pickles
2 packages assorted cookies
1 jar peanut butter
1 jar jam
1 tub creamed honey
1 pound sugar
Snacks (popcorn, crackers, nuts and chips)
4 cans Campbell's soup
2 cans spaghetti sauce
2 cans mushrooms
2 cans beans
5 cans vegetables (corn, green beans)
1 bottle salad dressing
Salt, pepper and garlic powder
2 gallons cooking oil
1 package spaghetti noodles
2 packages shake and bake (chicken and fish)
2 packages kraft macaroni and cheese
8 puddings

1.4 Temperature through the seasons

Of course this is a tough one as weather is constantly changing and even an experienced meteorologist can't predict it more than 20 minutes in advance. In general, Mid-May to early June will see daytime highs usually in low 80's but nighttime lows could go down to high 30's. A cold front out of the north could bring daytime highs of 50's and windy (quite cold). Once you get into mid-June and on until mid-August, temperatures stabilize with 90 degrees being a hot day and 65 degrees being a cold one. After mid August you still get nice days but the nights get cooler and cooler expecting frost in early September at least once. Generally, at our latitude you no longer swim on purpose after the 3rd week in August. First snowflakes appear in the air by late September but usually will not stay on the ground. By mid October shoreline ice can be expected and, by late October the smaller lakes are generally frozen over. Early November is the freeze up month and if I have forgotten you in the bush at this time its time to learn how to make snow shoes and learn the hard way why moose have legs that are 3 feet around.

There is no windy or rainy season where we live. On average you could count on a day of rain every 7 to 10 days and a day of strong (25mph+) winds about 3 times a month.

1.5 Travel Plans

By road Access to Sioux Lookout is varied. Even though we are at the end of civilization we are still adequately serviced with transportation. Most folks come by car from the mid-west. Either Interstate 35 through Minneapolis to Duluth or Interstate 90/94 from Chicago to Eau Claire and then on Hwy 53 to Duluth. At Duluth you take Highway 53 to International Falls, Mn where you will clear customs (see 1.7) Upon crossing the toll bridge into Canada you will be in the town of Fort Frances where you take a right at the lights on to Hwy 11 east. This will take you out of town for about 15 miles watching for Hwy 502 north. *The first 5 miles or so on this highway is a 35 mph speed limit even though it looks like you are out in the country. Radar is frequent here. You have been warned!!* Turn left for about 100 miles to the town of Dryden. The highway goes right through town and T-bones into Hwy 17. (Dryden is the last town before Sioux Lookout and has a variety of restaurants and stores with a better selection) At Highway 17 turn right for about 15 miles again and watch for Highway 72 and turn left on it. Forty miles up this highway you will come to a sign indicating Redpine Lodge on your right. This is where the bunkhouse is located (see 3.2) If you cross a metal bridge you went too far by ½ mile. If you are heading right into the airbase just keep on going another 3 miles past the metal bridge and you will see the Forest Inn and the lake on your left. As you look across the lake there should be a variety of planes in sight and you will drive by Mascotto's Marina, Knobby's Restaurant and then Robins Donuts. Turn left behind Robins Donuts for a 200-foot drive to Slate Falls Airways hangar where my office is prominently marked.

By air Call Red Lake travel at 1-800-465-3305 for direct travel from anywhere in the states to Sioux Lookout. Round trip airfare from anywhere in the states is under \$700 to Sioux Lookout in 2000. We will pick you up at the airport for no charge. While you are checking rates you may want to check the North west connection direct to Kenora, it is definitely cheaper and you can either rent a car there or perhaps we could come and pick you up. It is about 2 ½ hours from Sioux Lookout by car.

If you want to fly your own aircraft in we have a 5,500 foot paved airport with an NDB approach and lots of paved parking. Customs is available on the field during the fishing season. Best to contact me direct and I can give you frequencies etc. prior to arrival. We will pick you up and provide you with a courtesy car while you await your flight out.

By rail This is for the guy with some time on his hands but a nice trip. The train stops in Sioux Lookout and a 6-hour ride will bring you through some very scenic country at a nominal fee to Winnipeg. At this point you would need to get on an airplane in order to fly south. Red Lake travel could arrange your tickets for this as well.

1.6 Travel Tips

- Be sure that your dates coincide with mine before you leave, wouldn't we both be embarrassed if you showed up a day early? It is the rule at Slate Falls Outposts that weather permitting you will go in to the bush first thing in the morning and get picked up on the same timetable. For this reason you should be prepared to stay overnight in our bunkhouse or nearby unless specific other arrangements have been made with Verne.
- The group leader should leave a list of party members and contact numbers with his contact person at home. In the event that your pick up is delayed for some reason then I can phone your key contact person and get the message relayed to the appropriate concerned citizens (your wife, boss, girlfriend, dog, etc.) -someone at home should have our number (807)737 2903 so that you can be contacted in event of an emergency. (Remember* you can not do much about anything while up at your camp) - the exchange rate varies from year to year but the last decade or so the American dollar has been way stronger. Generally, you will lose about 10% to 15% on your dollar at the various merchants along the way so you should get a bit of Canadian money at your bank before you enter Canada. If you have a bit of excess left over when you are ready to leave our establishment we will buy it from you at the bank rate so that you do not have to take it home with you.
- Gas prices seem pretty brutal but are not that much off of yours when you consider the dollar value and the fact that our gallons are 20% larger. .80 cents a liter Canadian converts to about \$1.96 U.S. per U.S. gallon.
- Canadian speed limits are posted in kilometers so 90 kph converts to 55 mph. Generally, you can get away with about 62 mph(or 100 kph) before you get snagged. Remember, that the police are not good will ambassadors and unfortunately do not give a if you threaten not to return to our great land. *note border guards have the same attitude only worse. So, drive the limit, and you won't have to deal with these guys. *** *Radar detectors are illegal in Ontario**** *Seat belts are compulsory in Ontario*.
- Cell phones work only in small areas around Dryden and Fort Frances.

1.7 Customs Information

- You are required to have Proof of Citizenship; a birth certificate, baptismal certificate or a voters card, or if you have one, a passport. Photo driver's licenses *usually* work but you kind of hate to depend on it. Generally, only the driver is asked for ID. If you have a shady character in your midst put him asleep in the back seat. If you are all shady characters then let me know and I will send your deposit back and you won't have to sweat the border.
- If you have minors traveling with you that are not your own then you should have a letter of authority from their guardian.
- Be polite and truthful crossing the border to the customs guys. I have run across some of the most officious people on the planet earth at Customs (both sides) and there is nothing I can do about it. But, if you are honest and forthright with your intentions it will not be a stressful crossing. Generally, they are looking for drugs, excess liquor and guns, but they really should bone up on their people skills.
- You are allowed to bring a reasonable (undefined) amount of groceries over for your stay
- Each adult can bring 200 cigarettes with him
- Each adult can bring one case of beer **OR** one bottle (up to 40 oz.) of either wine **OR** liquor without paying duty. The legal drinking age in Ontario is 19. If you do end up in a duty on beer situation generally the duty will coincidentally amount to almost the difference that you would pay for a case of beer if purchased on the north side of the river. Remember, I do stock beer at cost at my office so do not fret if you have missed the beer store hours. If you try to smuggle your beer across and get caught you will likely lose it *and* pay duty. Anyway, Canadian beer is so much better! ! Inexpensive American beer is available at your lake by just drinking the lake water. The color is the same and the alcohol content is similar (did I mention that I was a Canadian?)
- You should not bring a gun unless you are on a hunting package. You cannot bring, them in to the lake with you as it is considered hunting. There is only one thing that you need to protect yourself from and you do not need a gun to do it. (See 4.2 dangerous creatures)
- **HANDGUNS** are flat out **PROHIBITED**
- You are not allowed to bring live minnows or leeches into Canada. You can bring worms if they are packed in bedding and not soil. All three live baits are available locally.

1.8 Medical Services

There are two hospitals in town that can repair any minor injury you inflict on yourself but generally you will have to pay cash and go after you insurance company for reimbursement. If you have prescription medicine, please bring an adequate supply with you and **KEEP IT ON YOUR PERSON** while going to the lake.

1.9 Approximate Distance in miles

From	Madison	Minneapolis	Reno
Sioux Lookout	700 miles	500 miles	2000 miles
Time	13 hours	10 hours	poor me

2.0 YOUR ARRIVAL

2.1 Arrival in Sioux Lookout

Well, you have finally made it. Float planes pounding the waves and roaring through the sky . Blue water lapping the tree lined shores. Now that was worth the one-day drive! !

Now, you should check in with us before you do anything else. I will be either at Red Pine Lodge where the bunkhouse is (3 miles before town) or at the airbase in town (Slate Falls Airways) or off in the plane checking on guests. Your best bet is to check in at Red Pine and get your bunkhouse room sorted out, check in with Andrea or I while there and we will give you a start time for the morning. If you are arriving late I will have a message on the board telling you which room and what your departure time is in the a.m. If you are arriving in the morning for a flight then proceed directly to the water-base, as I will be waiting for you there.

Now, it is time to eat. While we have no cooking facilities in the bunkhouse there are a number of restaurants in town (about 10 to be exact). In order of preference I would choose the Forest Inn or Knobby's, both near the air base. For early morning coffee and a donut Robins Donuts right behind the air base on the main street is fast and good. If you want a full on breakfast then Knobby's is the place but keep in mind the service is always slow and you will need to allow 1 hr. extra from the time I told you that I would meet you in order to not screw up my schedule. It opens at 5 a.m. in the summer months though so generally, if you do not mind getting up early you can still eat.

At Red Pine and at the airbase we issue fishing licenses, do sign in, and have lake maps. At the airbase we also have a selection of hats and shirts as Siouxveneers to take home. At the air base I also keep pop and beer. Large orders should be phoned ahead but anything under 10 cases I will have already. At Red Pine we have minnows (please pre-order) available in bulk and I will bag them up in the morning to take with you if required. We also have courtesy block ice available to go out with you at the water base in the morning. There is cubed ice available at Red Pine in the evening.

3.3 Accommodations

Bunkhouse- is located at Red Pine Lodge and consists of a 2000 square foot building with 3 bedrooms that will accommodate up to 6 people per room (bunk style) and 2 bathrooms (with showers). The front room has a pool table, card tables and a TV room. The setting is lake view among the pines and is convenient to me for questions or general B.S. (Not from me but you). It is available by reservation on a first come first serve basis. You will need your sleeping bag and pillow. Cost is \$20. Per person per night.

Sometimes in July or August we will have a housekeeping cabin available for the night. This includes a kitchen, linens and your own cabin. Cost is \$42 per person for the night. Check with us for availability if interested.

AREA HOTELS	Estimated Cost 2 to a room	Located
Lamplighter	\$65/room	On your way into town on the left by bait store
Sunset	85	On your right 1/4 mile before water . Base
Forest Inn	80	On your left Y2 mile before waterbase
Sioux Hotel/ Wellington	?	Hope that you don't find it!

60 miles before Sioux Lookout is the town of Dryden there are several dozen motels/hotels in this area.

Whatever accommodation you choose, please be sure that I know what it is so that I can keep my flight schedule coordinated.

Please be advised that you should book your accommodations at least 3 to 4 weeks in advance to ensure you get a room. Very often all of the hotels and the bunkhouse are full and sometimes even Dryden is full. Think back to your journey up here and you can figure out which state the last available room was

3.3 Bait Shops

There are two in town: Ojibway Baits on your left on the way in has the best tackle selection and opens early. Al' s Sports downtown past the water base does not open as early and has a more modest selection of tackle but they do also have live bait. I prefer Ojibway Baits though they can be busy at 6 a.m. sometimes. If you have a big bait order it works out smoother if you pre-order it so that it will be ready when you arrive. (Ojibway phone number 807-737-2690) Keep in mind that I can look after all of your minnow orders personally as long as I know in advance what your requirement is. I air bag them that morning for your flight out and can also look after midweek minnows if required.

3.4 Your Flight to the Lake

Once you have been licensed and lake briefed by Verne then it is time to unload your gear at the designated dock. Weigh it as requested and be prepared to hit the northern skies. We have a large parking lot where you park your vehicle while you are gone. DO NOT block another car in without leaving us the keys. DO NOT leave your sunglasses or other essentials under the seat that I will have to retrieve and deliver to you in a couple of day's time. DO NOT leave life giving medications in your car when you need them with you.

Now, we have a simple wait for your turn on the plane. If the weather has not given us a delay then the flight should be within 30 minutes of my previous days guesstimate. I will be there with you to assist the pilot to load the plane and explain any last minute things that may come up. Of course, every airplane has a maximum allowed weight to carry and if your group has inadvertently exceeded it then we have what I call an "overload". At this point by mutual agreement we determine if there is anything that can be left for my first service flight in a day or two. If everything is essential, then I check the plane schedule and let you know what time later in the day the excess can be expected. I always book the right amount of planes for your group, subject to occasional availability, but if the weight is heavy then the extra plane may result. Since this is not costing you extra then I reserve the right to minimize my costs by working it into my other flights.

Once loaded, your pilot will give you a short emergency briefing, and the plane will take off and head north. The first 15 minutes or so of your flight will be over Lac Seul and the odd logging road. After that the countryside turns virgin, lots of trees, lots of lakes and the next road to the north of you is in Russia someplace. A flight to Maskara is about 20 minutes. If you are going to Zionz then the flight is around 50 minutes (note the Caravan is about 50% faster). Feel free to ask your pilot any questions that may come to mind. Often you will see moose on the flight but generally we fly too high for all but the most experienced eyes (my kind) to see. You will be amazed at how flat and how treed Northwestern Ontario is from the air! !

Every seat is a window seat so do not fret about a poor spot. Generally, the heaviest in the group will occupy the co-pilot seat. Be sure as you climb in that you do not bump any switches or expensive to replace looking stuff. The pilot will appreciate this, as will I. *Note on tipping. If you feel that the pilot showed you some personal enthusiasm for your enjoyment then a tip would be in order. When is the last time you tipped a cabby who showed no enthusiasm whatsoever? Definitely do not feel obligated but it is a nice reward for good behavior which I am always working on the guys to do.

3.0 AT THE LAKE

When you are dropped off you will help the pilot unload your gear. He will not carry it or you to the cabin (unless you were a very big tipper!). You should take this opportunity to have a quick chat with the outbound guests and find out where the fish have been biting and any problems there may have been at the cabin since I was last there. The pilots are knowledgeable and can answer most any question you may have or relay a message to me if required. Keep in mind that I will be in within a couple of days and can be talked to personally at that time again.

You should ensure before the pilot leaves that you know how much gas you have and how to start the outboards. If in doubt ask him before he leaves. Gas at the camp is in a 130-gallon container premixed that I try to keep full. Gas is brought to the camp in 5-gallon containers and we try to keep a few spares at each camp so that you have the ability to take one with you if you plan on going out and getting lost.

Water at the lake There is no problem with drinking the water right out of the lake. It looks dark but is not a problem. It is a good idea though to freeze water in quart or larger containers and use it as ice until it melts then you can use it as drinking water.

The cabin should be clean from the previous guests use. Remember, no maid service and I expect each group to clean up after themselves and leave the cabin like they would like to find it. All old foodstuffs should be taken out with you when you go, otherwise they just accumulate. Anything that is burnable should be burned in the cabin inside the wood stove. Do not burn in the fire pit outside. All garbage must be flown out with each group unless the pilot says that there is no room in which case you bring it to my attention upon arrival back Sioux and I will pick it up before the next bear.

Guests are responsible for needless damage so be careful.

3.1 Wild Creatures and other misadventure

You are now in the middle of nowhere and far safer here than you are in any city in America. Yes, there are wild animals in the woods but they are of no consequence. (except one) To be sure they should be treated with respect but being wild they have little use for humans. The only animals that have the capability of eating a human are bears and wolves. Wolves are practically never seen in the summer, though you may see their tracks on a beach somewhere. They are very shy and suspicious and easily able to detect you before you even knew they were there and are long gone without you ever knowing it. In recorded history there has only been one fatal wolf attack and that was a wild wolf in a pen killed a researcher. Considering the millions of people over the last century who have inadvertently been near wolves the chances of you finding the next nasty one are very very very small and nothing to consider. Bears also have a similar temperament (they are spooky) with the exception of bears that have been acclimated to humans.

This will only happen if you break my rules about keeping the camp area clean. If you treat my cabin like you treat your house you will not have a problem. **DO NOT** pour bacon grease on the ground **DO NOT** throw excess food off the porch for "squirrels" **DO NOT** bury anything that resembles food or scraps **DO NOT** burn garbage of any type in the outdoor fire pit. **DO NOT** leave fish guts lying about while you are gone fishing or gone to bed. If you do encounter a bear keep in mind that you do not know what kind of ill training this bear has been getting from previous guests and he should be respected but not feared. Since 1986 we have never had to kill a nuisance bear nor have we have had anyone attacked. They will only come around the cabin and hang around if you don't follow the above rules and start feeding them (on purpose or inadvertently makes no difference to them)

Oh yes, I did say there was one dangerous creature up there. The answer is: **YOU**. That's right if anything happens to you while you are up in the wilds it will most certainly be caused by yourself. Filet knives are sharp and can gut things other than fish. Fishhooks are ouchy and stick in things besides fish. Axes split firewood and other softer things. Boats squish soft things between themselves and the docks. Oh, you get the picture... be careful! !

3.2 A few Do's and Don'ts

- **Do** fly out your garbage and left over food
- **Do** be considerate of wildlife if you overtake it in a boat and do not go too close for a picture
- **Don't** chase skunks near the cabin or 2 days before we pick you up in the airplane
- **Don't** chase bears anywhere
- **Do** put only one motor on your boat, if I thought it was safe to have twice as much horsepower on you boat I would have given you a motor twice as big or a boat half the size.
- **Do** ensure that you have matches, a map and a compass with you in the boat
- **Don't** leave any type of food or smelly stuff around the cabin .
- **Don't** throw fish entrails off the dock
- **Do** bring guts out where the sign indicates and leave them for the gulls
- **Do** remember that cans and bottles do not bum in our clean northern air and should be treated as garbage and flown out.
- **Don't** leave a fire smoldering in the yard when you go to bed or when you go out fishing. You are living in a flammable environment, no 911, and the financial responsibility of paying for the cost of putting out a forest fire. (I have insurance on the cabin)
- **Don't** head way down the lake by map when you do not have the ability to read a map to find your way back to the only pleasant place to spend the night on the lake.

3.3 Getting Lost

Boy, don't you hate when that happens? If you get lost up here you are screwed. You will be impossible to find. But, there is an easy solution: do not venture into the woods beyond sight of the lake so you can always find your way back. Unless, you are on a portage that is marked out. The worst part of getting lost is having the local mosquito population remove your blood one drop at a time, a slow but sure death (it does take awhile but what the heck, you will be there awhile)

3.4 Insects

A favorite question but one of little consequence unless you are lost in the woods (see Getting Lost above). In a land of so many trees and lakes there will be insects. Insects prefer restricted areas like brush and grass and do not do well in windy, exposed areas. So, during the day there is a nil to minimal supply around the cabin and essentially none out on the lake. About an hour before dark they will appear around the cabin if it is a year when they are plentiful. You need to restrict your outside activity at this time of day

unless you want to wear insect repellent. In the cabin if you have some PIC coils (smoke rings) these will kill any mosquitos in the cabin and prevent others from joining you. My experience is that you do not need netting in our neck of the woods. Our mosquitos do not carry anything in their bite except itch juice so you will not contract any disease from them. After about 6 days in the bush the mosquitos' hum starts to sound like a catchy tune and you know it is time to leave the bush!

Generally, the worst time for mosquitos is the month of June with July and August being very light. Black flies can be around any time but seem to prefer August and early September. Their bite does not hurt at all but some folks swell up mildly and usually you will bleed a bit at the site as they inject an anti-coagulant in to you prior to feasting. Generally, they travel in packs of 100 or more so they can be annoying buzzing around you but are generally not encountered much and they deter well with bug dope.

Another insect encountered just at dusk in some locations is the no see um. These practically invisible bugs are undetectable until they bite, which you can feel (and now detect them), but they respond well to insect repellent also.

The nastiest insect that does not respond well to treatment is those boat ankle biters. They look like house flies but seem to get great delight out of biting peoples ankles who would rather be fishing than chasing 2 flies around the boat. If you can kill the two that are around you, 2 more will appear immediately to keep up the harassment. They do not respond well to bug dope but socks help. They only seem to be a nuisance out on the lake and their bite is not itchy.

And finally, a word on ticks. We do not have any that far north and you do not have to worry about Lymes or anything else.

Also, there is no poison oak or poison ivy in our area, whew!

3.4 Camp Equipment

Each cabin has the following essential items located there.

- Pots and Pans for the maximum occupancy of the cabin
- Cutlery
- Propane BBQ and a large cabin deck to put it on
- Table and Chairs
- Mattresses
- Solar powered lights
- Solar powered running water complete with showers and flush toilets
- Propane powered oven, fridge, stove top, hot water tank and chest freezer
- Each cabin is pre fabricated log construction and is about 800 sq. feet with 2 to 3 bedrooms

3.6 Boats and Motors

Most of our boats are C-14 wide body lunds. On St. Joe they are C-16. All boats have 2 mounted swivel seats per boat, paddles and anchors. With a great degree of exasperation we attempt to keep all of our boats in a non-leaking condition. This is a tough order though as many people that come to our camps feel that it is their purpose in life to test the hardness of aluminum against the hardness of Canadian granite. Generally, the granite wins. Occasionally one of these testing runs will result in a leaky boat. I do my best just the same though.

Our motors are 1 to 2 years old and vary in size from 6 h.p. on the smaller lakes right up to 20 h.p. on Lake St. Joe. All motors above 6 h.p. have rock guards on them which prevents them from appreciable damage should you encounter one of the few rocks scattered around the lake. It is our policy to try and keep a spare motor at each site as well, just in case.

3.7 Fishing Regulations

Regulations at our camps are very simple, not complex like the government ones. It is our self appointed mandate to ensure that all anglers have the best opportunity to not only get lots of fish but big ones as well. It takes a long time to grow a big fish up in our country . A 25 inch walleye is anywhere from 15 to 25 years old and a 40 inch northern is similarly aged. So, our strict policy is that no fish over the trophy limit can be killed. In the case of northerns the maximum size is 27 inches and in the case of walleyes the maximum is 18 inches. Fish measuring decals are provided in each boat. In addition, the maximum take home limit is 2 walleye and 2 northern per licenced angler. We have been on the trophy plan for nearly a decade now and on the restricted limits for the past 3 years and it really do~s work. The fish are plentiful and the big ones are always out there.

If you do intend to bring home your 2 fish limit they must be packaged one fish per bag with a piece of skin on it and frozen flat. All fish out on the lake must be in the round (whole) although you can stop and clean up what you want to eat for shore lunch legally.

On Lake St. Joe the law says barbless hooks only, everywhere else it is recommended.

For the past couple of years we have had fish available for sale that were caught by the local natives of Cat Lake about 120 miles north of Sioux Lookout. The price has been reasonable and you are no longer limit restricted, you can actually buy fresh, frozen, cleaned walleyes for less money than a full limit licence would cost you. This leaves the sport fish in the lakes for others and helps provide some employment to the native fishermen at a time when it is difficult to get their catch to market economically.

Beer in the boat On the subject of liquor in the boat it is illegal in Ontario to have open booze in a motorized vehicle. That been said, you will seldom encounter a policeman in the wilds of our lakes looking for a drinking problem, so if you have a beer in moderation you will be breaking the law but likely no worse for the wear. Being drunk in the boat is always, always a very bad idea as drunks do not float very well once they fall out. It is quite likely that you will encounter a game warden while out there. They are looking for over limits, oversized fish and barbless hooks where applicable and licences in your possession. They are not looking for liquor and will generally not bother you if you are not obtrusive with it or attempt to enlighten them on why you know more about the laws of the land then they do. They can count to 2 and measure to 18 inches very well and are not apt to show you any mercy should you have a problem doing the same thing.

3.8 Fish Species

The two sport fish that are our principle quarry are walleyes and northerns. In addition to these two species there are a few lake trout in most of the lakes, whitefish and suckers in all of them and perch in Maskara .

As mentioned above fish are very slow growing in our area and need to be released carefully. Keep only what you need for immediate consumption. Remember that your limit includes everything in your possession including frozen, cooked or about to be cleaned fish.

We do see the game wardens from time to time as they fly their own planes around. Fines are steep and definitely not worth the risk of having an extra fish or two in camp when they are so easy to get out of the lake fresh when you need it. Your daily limit and possession limit are the same.

3.9 Fishing Equipment and Tackle

You will need a good medium action rod and at least one spare for each 2 anglers. I would suggest a couple of reels. One as a spare or alternate reel. For walleyes I like to use GOOD 6 to 8 pound test and for pike 10 to 14 pound. This works out well with 2 different reels and 2 types of line.

Most of our water is quite dark and I like to use bright colors. My two main arsenal lures for walleyes are 1/4 to 3/8 oz. jigs. Either with hair or without and a bag of yellow twister tails. Many colors work well, some prefer power grubs and power baits, I think they are good but a little spendier than necessary. Next, a selection of Rapala type lures in orange or chartreuse that will troll from 6 feet down to 20 feet are good. If you have inexperienced or lazy fishermen with you then it is hard to beat a little joe spinner with a worm or minnow on it. Again bright colors. These should all be fished without leaders or a swivel near the hook.

For the northern pike most anything will work but it is hard to beat a daredevil. Red and white or black and white are simple but effective colors. It is an easy lure to cast and troll and works. If you want to get right in the weedbeds then something weedless like a Johnson silver minnow with a white twister tail on it is good choice. Remember that without a leader you will lose a lot of lures to their sharp teeth and also screw up your line (literally) without a swivel.

It is very useful to debarb any hooks that you are using as it makes it a lot easier to remove the hook and release the fish in good shape. In the unfortunate case of you hooking yourself 80 miles from the nearest hospital it is also a good idea to have barbless hooks. It makes me shudder (still) when I think of the times that guys have lost their grip on a good sized, feisty northern only to have the hook stay in the fish and enter your hand. Imagine the screaming and carrying on! If you listen carefully over the anguished cries of the angler you can actually hear the fish laughing as it merrily wags its tail.

A landing net is not essential equipment but handy. Generally, you will be catching large numbers of 2 to 5 pound fish that do not require a net to release or boat. But, when you finally do connect with the big "tuna" it is nice to have an appropriate net. You can net the fish, unhook it in the water, get your camera ready, untangle your lure from the net and then get prepared to take a quick picture, remove the fish from the water, snap your picture and release.

Other neat things that one can bring are GPS units (people still get lost with them). A depth finder is a neat little toy but is hard on batteries and there is no where to recharge them at the outpost. Generally, you are fishing just out of sight of the bottom and a fancy unit is not required. All the other fancy stuff you could have is minor league in my mind and not really required (ph gauges, temperature gauges, color finders or electric motors with car batteries)

3.10 Fishing Tips from the old Pro

You do not need to be an ace angler to catch fish up in our area. They are plentiful and while they do follow fish traditions everywhere they are generally quite catchable.

Early in the season before the water warms up enough to swim in the fish can usually be caught in very shallow water (2 to 8 feet). As the water warms the fish move out to the edge of rocky drop offs or weed lines. I like weed lines because it indicates several things all at once. A change in bottom composition, generally a change in depth where the weeds end and finally it provides cover for the fish and their prey. On towards late July and the month of August the bigger fish predictably head for mid lake reefs and exposed points and hang out in the 15 to 30 range. A depth finder is very handy for locating these types of spots this time of year. Deep narrows or island gaps are worth checking out in earnest at this time. As the fall approaches the fish generally get bigger (or at least the ones you are catching do) but they also head deeper.

The one place that all spring summer and fall attracts and holds walleyes are the areas below rapids or narrows with current. Generally, one of the more heavily fished areas on the lake but producing well all the time.

For the northern pike they start off in very shallow water (6 to 12 inches) and then gradually move out as the lake warms up. The mouths of rivers and creeks offer fantastic action if you can hit it just right.

From late May to late June a variety of fish go into these current areas to spawn. As they descend the rivers they make easy feed for big pike. Do not overlook any small creek as many minnows are creek spawners, and when they come down the creeks you can get great fishing for a few days. Next weedlines become good but as the season wears on and things heat up in the water the big boys really disperse and can not be caught with any predictability. By late August the real big ones seem to hang out in isolation off deep rocky points. Their favorite prey seems to be a wounded 1 to 2 pound fish, often the walleye on your line.

My hot tip for the day is this: When you look at the water like all the other anglers you all end up in the same spot, where the fish are most educated. Instead, look for wind direction and fish island narrows and rocky points keeping in mind that the wind sets up a current going by these type of spots. Since the wind is always changing you are always working new spots and new fish that the group before you was not on. This works for everyone.

3.11 Garbage Transportation

The rule is an easy one to remember as it is the same everywhere except on Mt. Everest. If you pack it in, then pack it out. Translated this means: Fly in what you need and then fly out the garbage that results. It is best to keep all glass containers to an absolute minimum because if they break on the beach they are a problem for years. All cans should be bagged separately as I make the kids recycle the aluminum. All burnable garbage should be put in the stove inside the cabin and as it accumulates to more than the stove can handle then burn it. This will only leave you bones and egg shells for your outbound trash. NEVER, NEVER bury any type of garbage within one mile of the cabin. Bears are very good at smelling out their dinner and will become a nuisance if this behavior is allowed. Bears will never bother a human unless you are the slowest man in the group or not as good at climbing trees as they are. If you decide that my advice on burying garbage is ridiculous you should practice this maneuver at home before you arrive. Take a wooden chair from home and set it on a picnic table out on the lawn. Get your sleeping bag and enjoy a good night's sleep as this will closely equate to the comfort that one might find sleeping in a boat for the night. In this one case I do exaggerate slightly, but the point is: do not bury your garbage.

If you leave your garbage in the cabin in a bag, the other varmints will not detect it and I can pick it up on my regular service runs. After all I do need something to do!

3.12 Service Flights and emergencies at home

With pride of ownership comes attention to detail. The only way I can do this is by getting out often to visit you and my cabins and see how things are doing. I will bring you reasonable provisions as requested, more ice and cut firewood each trip. There is a dry marker board at each site that you can leave a message for me or me for you. On your last check flight I will forecast your pick up time for your convenience as well. The scheduling of these check flights is every 2 to 3 days depending on weather.

If someone from home has to get hold of you they can phone us at 807 737 2903 talk to me and leave a message. If it is vital then I will fly up immediately, otherwise I will deliver it on your check flight. This reminds me of the lady that called me up to tell me she was in an accident with her husband's new truck and totaled it but please do not tell him. I scratched my head awhile on that one! ! Most messages are not vital by the simple fact that you are a long ways away from being able to lend help no matter what the problem is and if you elect to come out early then so do the other guys whose vehicle you are riding in.

4.0 MISCELLANEOUS

4.1 Liquor and Beer

Canadians are a different lot (include as you had not know) Our beer stores are separate from our liquor stores. In both cases there is only one outlet in Sioux Lookout, hours 0900 to 1800 Mon to Sat. closed

Sundays and holidays. That in mind I keep an inventory of beer on hand for early and late arrivals. Cost is about \$25. U.S. per case (that IS cost price). If you decide to import more than the case of beer or bottle of wine or liquor you are allowed the duty and your product will come to about the same amount the product would have cost you in Canada (this is no coincidence).

As I mentioned earlier you are not allowed open alcohol in a motorized vehicle. If the police pull you over you will get a fine. Generally, you do not run into police at an outpost but you should still be prudent as the game wardens have the authority to bother you on this one if they want to. If you are impaired you will likely catch it. Also, remember that drunks generally get hurt more often than sober folks although sometimes the pain reaction is delayed the length of the non-sober period.

4.2 Re-Booking and Final Payment policy

Our policy concerning re-booking for a subsequent trip is as follows: Each group has the right of first refusal on "their" week for the following year. If the week is not re-booked before you leave our base to go home, "your" week will go to the first request. We require a deposit at the time of booking to secure your dates. It does not work for us if you book a spot in good faith and then cancel 6 months later leaving me no chance to refill it as the season is nearly upon us.

Every 7 years the calendar springs forward a week and then we just have to muddle through it to accommodate everyone's needs, my problem, not yours but you may have to work with me.

4.3 Golf and other things

In this day of golf mania Sioux Lookout has a nice little 9-hole golf course that will probably be the most northerly course you have played on. Tee times are not a problem and cost is minimal. Let me know if you need more information.

If you like to grouse hunt you might consider tacking a couple of days on your trip and staying at Red Pine and enjoying some first rate logging road grouse chasing.

We offer a quality moose hunt, the largest in the area, talk to Verne for details.

4.4 Exchange Rate

This figure yo-yo's around but is generally around 45% in your favor. We pay within a couple of points of that weeks bank average. Generally, merchants pay about 30%. All of our rates are quoted in U .S. dollars so your standard cash works for me. If you need a bit of money exchanged for local purchases come see me and I will do it for you.

4.5 Let us know how we are doing

When you are in the service industry you need to give good service. That is our aim. If you think that things went exceptionally good or a little bit bad drop me a line. When you are dealing a trip as far out as what we are doing it is practically impossible to keep everything running like Disneyland but still we try. Give us your constructive comments and you may well be surprised on your next visit that it is acted on.

Verne and Andrea