



**Verne's Words of Wisdom**

Volume II – The Even Wiser Edition

**On**

**Life at an Outpost Camp**

**For Those**

**Of You**

**Who Wish They**

**Knew Everything**

**But were too shy to ask**



*Welcome to Verne's Words of Wisdom, Volume II. This is a funny booklet of my two decades of experience that is practical and true. Over time many people make many mistakes and some of them chronically keep reappearing.*

*The book is written in an indexed fashion so that you can quickly get to the section you need or just read and chuckle your way through the entire thing.*

*Remember, though it is written in a light hearted manner it is all stuff that you should be aware of and heed.*

*Dedicated to Doc Regan who has always appreciated my sense of humor and suggested that I put it in booklet form for him to enjoy in his bathroom.*



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## **Aircraft Pick Up Times**

Generally, we will stop towards the end of your stay to let you know the approximate time we will be there on your pick up day if you were not made aware of that before you left. However, if you have not heard from us then you should be prepared to depart at 07:00. This does not mean we will be there then but you should be ready as that is a normal pick up time. If you see it is very windy or foggy or raining it is quite likely we will be delayed by a few hours as the schedule is probably backed up. Relax, enjoy your last few minutes of solitude and we will be along soon. (P.S. don't go anywhere)

## **A Clean Cabin**

Ain't it grand when you arrive at the cabin and you find it as clean as you would like to and you do not have to straighten it up before you go fishing? That is how I want you to leave it for the next group, tidy and ready to go with the wood box full. We do not have in between group cabin cleaners, you are it. Best time to tidy up the cabin and the grounds is not when you see the plane taxiing in but rather start the night before

and finish 30 minutes before your predicted pick up time. Thank you for seeing it my way.

### **Ankle biters**

To the uninitiated you probably think that I am talking about some type of poisonous snake (we don't have any up here), an unruly child or a yapping Chihuahua. I am not. All of you who have fished in the summer know of the scourge that I speak. I am not sure where these pests come from. They seem to be found no where else but in a boat miles from shore. You are sitting peacefully in your boat, fishing away, and you spot two, apparently harmless little house flies sitting in the front of the boat tying on their running shoes. I personally believe that these flies are karma from your past. These flies appear from no where, bite like a horse's kick, are too fast to slap away with your hand and appear to bite for sport only as the millisecond they are biting you got to be low in nutritional value. Occasionally, you connect and actually kill one of them. A victory dance ensues. You grab your rod to resume fishing thinking "one down and one to go!" As you reach for your worm you see six tiny eyes gazing at

you plotting their next offensive. “What the ...” you think. They attack when you are not looking and you finally kill two of them. Progress. But as you look to the front of the boat, eight little eyes stare malevolently back at you. And so the game goes on an otherwise perfect July fishing day. While my karma is good and I have never actually experienced a fly in my end of the boat I have witnessed the damage that can be done. Anecdotally I have heard of several remedies.

1. Wear long socks in the boat as the ankles are their primary target.
2. Keep a fly swatter handy as these flies are smart and will only bother the unarmed individuals in the boat.
3. Put a small cup of Javex bleach in the bottom of the boat and the noxious fumes keep the flies in some other boat or
4. Come on up in September when they are not around!

### **Axes**

This is a great tool for splitting firewood, but it is not selective when it comes to avoiding toes and fingers. Remember, you are not handy to medical assistance and a

missing finger will mean a few nasty days ahead. Worse still, if one of your fishing “buddies” should use the digit for bait and it works he will probably want more.

### **Bear Attacks and other wild creatures**

Now that I have your attention bears will only attack if you look particularly succulent or are the slowest runner in the group. Just Kidding! In all of our years in business we have not lost hardly anyone to a bear. So, if you and the groups before you have kept your camp clean and not dumped bacon grease on a stump or discarded deep fryer oil on the ground, or fed popcorn to the squirrels or bread to the birds you will not see a bear unless he is just wandering by. Do not attempt to burn your stinky stuff and bones in the fire pit as generally the fire is not hot enough and it becomes an issue in the fire pit for us to clean out and it still attracts bears. We will fly it out. Leave it tied up in a bag inside the cabin and we will automatically grab it on our check flights. If that is not enough to keep your campsite clean think that you will also be attracting one of my personal unfavorites, the skunk. While it will not tear your throat out should you surprise one in the dark on your way to

the outhouse, your cabin mates might when you advise them of your new discovery. Squirrels and ravens will also get into bagged up garbage left on the deck. This means picking it up twice (or more often if you are a slow learner) so you are best to do as advised and leave it in the cabin bagged up for us to find.

IF you see a wolf, consider yourself very fortunate. They are not very plentiful and seldom seen. They do not prefer to eat Caucasian.

Mice are a real nuisance and I am always attempting to eradicate them but they appear to be smarter than me. Help me out here, kill a mouse would ya?

### **Beer in the boat**

In Canada this is illegal as a boat is considered a motor vehicle. If you are broken down and drifting across the lake and come across the golf cart girl selling beers out on the lake you may want to take advantage of this legal loophole and indulge because I think this would stand up in court. Otherwise, the enforcement guys USUALLY and I repeat USUALLY will tolerate a can or two for shore lunch but

definitely not a 6 pack. Driving a boat while impaired is a bad idea anyhow. (see: boat damage, dangerous things, fatalities)

### **Boats are Garbage Cans**

Well, actually only during your stay for your own personal use. Kind of neat actually living in a garbage can isn't it? Only problem is, the next group does not want to move into your garbage can so when you tidy up the cabin on day last then send one of the guys down to clean the junk out of the boats. Thanks.

### **Boat Damage**

While we have went to great expense and trouble placing isolated rocks and reefs scattered randomly around the lake at uneven lakes to create "ideal habitat" a totally unforeseen detriment has popped up. Fishermen are out there seeking out these "key" areas and actually finding them and striking them with my boats!! Figure that out! Sometimes damage ensues. I consider hitting any *submerged obstacle* my risk of doing business in the north (cross reference= rock guards) But, and here is the clincher,

hitting a shoreline or rock that is protruding from the water tells me that you are either totally unaware of your surroundings (in Canada we call that stupid), sleeping while operating the boat (I call that stupid) very slow on the uptake that your cell phone does not work at the outpost (yup, stupid) or plain just don't give a darn. None of these are good reasons why I should buy a new boat for the next guests. Chances are that initially the guy in the front of the boat will be madder than me when you hit the rock as he either a) advances to the front of the boat instantaneously head over heels or b) gets chucked into the lake. Eventually, he will calm down if he is unhurt and laugh with you over this tragedy until you inform him it was his entire fault for not paying more attention and he now owes Verne a new boat for his lax inattentiveness. It may be a good time to put on your life jacket.

### **Bringing in a new group**

Sometimes it occurs to you part way through your stay that you have picked the wrong group of guys to spend 5 intimate days with. Sometimes it occurs to them first.

**SOLUTION:** you need to start your own group. Ditch these guys in favor of 1) your family who have already proven that they can put up with you for extended periods of time. 2) perhaps re-establish a high school reunion with some old buddies who do not know how much you have changed (yet) or 3) if you live in fantasy land maybe if you invited the Swedish Bikini Team you would have a better trip. Best thing is: no matter who or how you put together another trip with you will get a referral discount from Slate Falls Outposts.

### **Bigger Motors**

In today's society everything is all about rush rush here and there unless you are stuck on 494W and then you are probably thinking of your next trip with Slate Falls Outposts. These types of trips originated in the 1940's where a train dropped you off on the side of the tracks at a small lake and you grabbed a set of oars and headed for some portion of the lake that was inaccessible to the shore fishermen, ah, the thrill of exploration! Then in the 1960's outboard motors that you could actually carry were invented and you could bring your 9.8 h.p. motor to get you even further afield. My, how times have

changed. Everyone seems to be in an all fired hurry to get to the end of the lake faster than any previous record holder. Why is this? In each of us humans is the urge to explore, I agree, but on a strange lake full of rocks you never want to explore too fast. (see boat damage) If I were to give the average fisherman the motor that he dreams about while caught in rush hour traffic he would find himself bombing gleefully down the lake only to be transported miraculously back to the 1940's. That, my people, is why you get a 15 h.p. with a rock guard. So, the next time you are chugging down the lake thinking "that darn Verne is so cheap he will only buy us small motors" remember, I am doing this for you so that your trip will end in the same decade it started in.

### **Burning Garbage**

Outside of the cabin you will see a fire pit designed to burn firewood in a rustic setting, maybe roast a marshmallow or a hot dog, maybe watch the setting sun through your smoke clogged crying eyes. (If the smoke is blowing your way) You will notice that the sign that says throw all your trash here to burn is missing. This is because I would rather fly the garbage out to Sioux Lookout

so I can feed the local bears and ravens. If you throw bones and barely burnable stuff in the fire you will attract the unwanted ones should they come to visit. They will start to feel at home and by default, you will not. If you throw aluminum cans and glass bottles in your fire pit they will not burn (something to do with the cleaner air we have up here) and become an issue for the maintenance guy who digs out the fire pits (Verne) to deal with.

### **Cigarette Butts**

I am a non-smoker and therefore view cigarette butts as garbage. They do not belong on the ground or in the boat. Please throw them in the garbage along with your other trash and I will fly them back to civilization for recycling. (The kindergartners make log cabins out of them)

### **Check Flights**

We do these on a regular basis, every couple of days or so, and we are looking to ensure that all of the equipment is working and pick up your garbage. Automatically, we deliver ice, gas and check on propane and firewood inventories. IF you have a problem then leave a nice note on the dry marker board

inside and I will respond accordingly. If you want to order a supply of some type, be sure to specify if you want the deluxe delivery or standard. Standard delivery is 1 to 3 days and comes in the next time I am in the area. Deluxe delivery is \$500 extra and I hire a plane and he makes the special trip in with your goods and you pay the charter company for great service.

### **Cutting Down Trees**

This is great idea if you check with me first and find which ones I want removed. It is not a good idea to guess which ones I want taken down because your odds are 1000 to 1 that you will get it right. Meanwhile, you probably cut down a tree that I was partial to and then you found out that it was a lot of work to cut down with the dull ax meant for splitting wood only and now you do not feel like chopping it up into manageable pieces so you leave it there. I don't like that! I expect it out of a beaver who theoretically is not as smart as you but you are from a country that conquers nations so why bother showing that you are not as smart as a beaver?

## **Dangerous Things**

The only truly dangerous thing in the northwestern Ontario bush is you (and your fishing partners). If you get drunk and become stupid and incautious then you may hurt yourself. If you are one of the unfortunate ones who are stupid and incautious even when sober then be careful. Medical help is not nearby and my calming advice is not easy to access. Even if you have a satellite phone with you it will still be several hours before the \$500 plane gets there to get you. The most dangerous items in your arsenal you brought from home are the countless barbed hooks in your box (see removing fish hooks from self). If you fish barbless, then hooks are not a big concern as the hole they put in you is very small and only a big cry baby would let that interfere with his fishing. A barbed hook on the other hand makes the same size hole but only the manliest of men can tolerate a hook in his hand all week and still enjoy the fishing trip. Remember, we do not keep earmuffs in all of the cabins and you may damage someone's hearing as he clumsily experiments with hook extracting having no previous experience. IF you fish barbless then not only will letting the fish go be a whole lot easier but you know that you will

be on the handle of the pliers instead of the other end and we both know how good that feels!

## **Deep Fryers and Skin Removal**

Deep Fryers are a great invention but potentially very dangerous. The oil is very hot and each drop that lands on your skin =’s a blister. Do not get water in your oil for any reason (therefore do not cook in the rain) Always, always cook outside with the fryer, many outpost camps have been burnt down with fryers and should you burn mine down I will not be pleased nor will your buddies when you lose all their gear for them. Always stay in attendance of your deep fryer. If you do get pot of oil on fire, do not put water on it nor attempt to pick it up or spill it. Put a lid on the pot, turn off the propane and resign from you camp cook position (before you get fired).

## **Duct Tape**

Somewhere in the annals of American Legends somebody, somewhere said “one shall not go fishing in Canada unless he has duct tape” this is okay if you are Red Green

but we do not need our cabins totally taped up by every group that sees a mosquito. As you open the door all day long and leave it open (approximate size 3 feet by 6 feet) some bugs may find their way in. You will encounter these critters as you settle onto the couch, they will bite once, you will slap them, sip a beer and life is good. But, if you wander outside for a pee you may see a sliver of light emanating from a crack somewhere. A bug *may* get down on his hands and knees and roll in on his side entering the cabin and still have the energy to bite you but I doubt it. If you do feel obliged to tape everything, everywhere in the cabin please remove it when you leave and let the next guy use his own tape!

### **Dumping Grease**

As I mentioned earlier under attracting bears, PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT dump grease or oil on the ground or on a stump. Put your grease in old milk containers or back in the gallon container or if worse comes to worse in your fish gut bucket so that it gets dumped on a distant shore away from where you are attempting to sleep peacefully at night.

## **Eating and Counting**

You would think this would be easy but you would be surprised how many people get stuck on two. This seems hard to believe since it is right near the beginning of where a person starts to count. 1, 2... The law says that your limit is two fish per day, does not matter whether you eat them or plan to take them home or teach them to play cribbage, you can not have more than two fish per licence in camp. Remember, the lake is full of fish that are much fresher than the ones in the fridge. Enjoy your meal before you go out to reharvest and do not pretend take home fish do not constitute part of your limit. It isn't your foul intentions but rather the rules of the game you are playing. Do not exceed two.

## **Fatalities**

Cross reference to most dangerous thing in bush. Of course we don't have fatalities, silly!

## **Fish Guts**

As also mentioned in “Bear Attacks” do not dump fish guts anywhere you would not be happy to see them yourself. This especially includes off the dock, at a shore lunch site or down the beach from your cabin. You cannot count on seagulls to miraculously transport them to a neat spot away from everywhere. You can count on the seagulls to sit and s—t on your dock all day while they await the next feeding. That stinks.

Did I mention that the water from the cabin comes from the lake right under where that seagull is sitting? Oh, yea.

## **Fish Hooks, removal of from self or others**

Every once in awhile some one forgets what I told them (or doesn't give a cr--) and fishes barbed. These people occasionally hook themselves or their former friend. Does not matter if the guy does not like you anymore you are still morally obligated to remove hook. After all you still want to fish right? Kind of tough with him whining away in the back of the boat and your favorite lure out of commission until you retrieve it. So, you have three alternatives: 1) call me on the sat

phone or come out on a check flight to the hospital, pay them 2 to 3 hun \$ to get the hook removed and pay the air taxi another 5 hun and get back to the lake. You lose a days fishing but at least the hook is gone 2) the book method is to push the hook through yourself and once the barb has come out then you can cut it off and easily remove hook. Two problems with this, it hurts like the dickens and the hook may be in a place where it will not come out that way, (see option 1) or 3) the Verne way. Since the hook went in we know it made a hole big enough to accommodate itself it will also come out the same hole. Look at your hook and determine which angle it went in on, get someone to hold your body part immovable if you don't have the guts, then get your buddy to grab the hook with the pliers and wrist action rotate pushing back against the curve of the hook to force the barb as far back as you can away from where it went in. It is best if you do this quickly as the pain is less and if he does not get the hole quite lined up like you would prefer the hook still will come out. If you buddy is considerate enough to stomp your toe at the same time you will not notice the removal of the hook at all. IF he is not a toe stomper then just ask him to do it quick, not slow, and you will be fishing again in no time.

## **Fishing Ability, Where is it?**

You know, I never seem to get a professional angler at any of my camps. Most people fish at home a bit but not necessarily for our species, and most of you come up annually (I really appreciate that). But, even in Fishbowl Lake the fish can be hard to locate some days because they are not biting or are doing their thing somewhere where you are not. Keep trying... try different lures, different depths or the windy shore but blaming the lake tells those of us who know a bit about fishing that you should befriend one of those rare professional fishermen and bring him with you on your next trip. My experience is that the lake is seldom the problem. An added bonus is that a professional anything is never wrong and they will offer you lots of advice until you leave him on a tiny island somewhere.

## **Firewood**

You will observe upon arrival that someone has cut up a generous supply of firewood for someone to use somewhere. IF you bring a measuring tape to the wood pile you will see

that it is designed to fit into the interior wood stove and will look inadequate and undernourished if put in the fire pit outside. Someone is actually sneaking in while you are not around and cutting and piling that wood. It is not the guests before you, it is I. If you want to have a fire outside please wander around the nearby bush and pick branches and the like from the forest floor. Picking up the loose branches from the forest does several things: 1) it helps clean up the forest area around the cabin thereby reducing chance of a rogue spark starting something. 2) the branches you lug in are invariably smaller and burn quickly and are not left crackling merrily when you go to bed or pass out or go fishing. 3) Should you get a cold snap you will have abundant firewood in the lean to for your optimum enjoyment to keep you warm and toasty. And 4) the poor gnome who cuts up the firewood (read Verne) will only have to contend with the other 9 cabins this particular week.

## **Forest Fires**

Everyone knows what these are. What everyone does not know is that our Ontario government charges the firefighting bill to

the guy who started it. (see Lighting a fire)  
Wait until you get home and tell the wife  
that she now has to take the bus to work  
(including her new 2<sup>nd</sup> job) and that you are  
tired of living in that mucky muck  
neighborhood and would like to move in  
with your folks for awhile or at least until  
the kids are out of college. So, be careful  
with your shore lunch fires and only light  
them on small inexpensive islands or bald  
rock that will not ignite. Use lots of water to  
get that fire dead out. IF a fire ban comes in  
effect, as they periodically do, we will send  
an airplane around and leave a note on the  
bulletin board advising you of no outside  
fires until further notice. The propane fish  
fryer makes a good temporary portable  
substitute.

## **Garbage**

This consists of anything you brought in.  
Cigarette and cigar butts qualify. All of  
your baggage should be bagged up and kept  
inside the cabin and when we do our check  
flight we will take it with us. When you  
leave for the trip home bring any remaining  
garbage with you as far as Sioux Lookout.  
Often I will bring it to the competition next  
door and throw it into the back of a south

bound vehicle and recycle it back to the country from where it came.

### **Game Wardens and their Jobs**

Even though you have flown into the middle of no where occasionally you will have a warden drop in on you to see what mischief you may be up to. IF you follow my guidelines there is no trouble to get into but here in no particular order are the things you can get a fine for. Poor fish packaging (i.e. frozen in a ball), oversized fish (i.e. walleyes over 18 inches), beer in the boat (i.e. more than 1 or 2) not having your license on you or throwing garbage in the wilderness. IF you keep your nose clean in these areas you should have no problem.

### **Getting Lost**

Do not venture into the bush out of sight of the lake for any reason unless you are on a marked trail. If you get lost you will be impossible to find and you will die a slow death as the mozzies remove your blood one drop at a time. Your friends and I will be looking for you but will not likely find you. You can prolong your survival if you are

prepared to eat the local flora and fauna. The most numerous and easiest food item to catch is the mosquito and while not as tasty as black flies, 2000 of them make a nice light snack and it will give you something to do while you are awaiting the search and rescue party.

Things are a little brighter when traveling by boat. For starters, do not go way down the lake until you are comfortable finding your way back. It is a lot like finding your way around in a large, strange city. At first everything looks the same but eventually it all makes sense and your travel routes start to take on a familiar look. Remember Verne's wise words of common sense, "if it takes 3 gallons of gas to get somewhere and you have a 5 gallon tank you will not make it home the same day unless the wind gods are feeling sorry for you". If you don't pay attention to this great little pearl of wisdom you should keep an eye out for a very small island with lots of thick moss and no bugs. (Oh what am I thinking? Those islands are not on YOUR lake; all you have on YOUR lake are hard rocky islands and lots of bugs. Oh well, nothing like personal experience to help improve ones' bush skills.

## **How Cold can I get this thing?**

You seasoned travelers know that I am referring to the fridge. I could go into a lot of techno-jargon about Btu's and geo thermal units and ammonia verses Freon but I am incapable of such dialogue. (i isn't brite enuff) So, let me explain to you what I understand. Three common problems can exist with the modern propane fridge.

NUMBER ONE If you stuff a fridge full of room temperature items you will be doing the equivalent of defrosting the unit until the mass of warm stuff inside sheds its heat and you keep the fridge door shut. Being cold is the sense of touch. Peeking in the fridge is the sense of sight and accomplishes nothing except letting your cooling air out. We both know that your wife does not let you do this at home right? Andrea's voice is echoing in my head as I write this "Verne, shut the fridge door you are not on a shopping trip". At home when you add things to your fridge, you are generally adding things that will not be coming out immediately and there are already cold things in there to help with the cooling process. While you are at home you can test my theory; take all of the food out of your fridge and place on kitchen floor, now put 5 cases of warm beer in the fridge. Go check the oil on your car, and

now that you have worked up a good sweat come on in for a cool one. Wait a minute, my beer ain't cool yet. Funny how it makes sense why this would be at your house but not at my cabin. IF your wife happens along while you have the refrigerator contents scattered everywhere you can cover your experimental tracks by saying "honey, I think we have been burgled, go check your jewellery" (if she hasn't got any you are already screwed!!) When she dashes out the door you have a minute or two to get rid of the beer experiment before you prove to her something she probably already suspects.

NUMBER TWO If the weather inside the cabin is 85 degrees or higher (see temperatures) you will find that regardless of your diligent stocking of the fridge and limited output consumption things still are not as cold as they are at the fridge in the quickie mart back home. Think of this: there is a little flame in the back of the fridge trying to force ammonia to evaporate and cool down the 10 cubic feet of space inside the fridge. The capacity of this system is to cool about 40 to 60 degrees F. This is fine if you are experiencing normal temperatures but in a heat wave condition you should consider evacuating some of your lobster and scampi to the chest freezer where it is also likely not below freezing.

But, since it is full of ice it will take forever to melt and will keep your cold stuff plenty cold while you wait for your order of fans to come to the cabin. NUMBER THREE It is possible that we actually have a problem with the fridge not related to the above more common problems and we will have to fix it for you (yes, I am a non-certified fridge repairman) Leave us a note, and my check pilot and I will scratch our heads simultaneously while we assess the problem. You should be out fishing and enjoying yourself since that is what you came to do and your critical stuff should be in the freezer or on ice in a cooler. IF you come back and see a new fridge installed you will know the true sum of my propane knowledge.

## **Ice**

This is a crazy one. I have all the free ice anyone could ever want from mid October until early May. OF course no one wants it then! In the summer requests go up exponentially as the temperature increases. Use your ice very sparingly as you can never know for sure when you are getting more and if you are drinking American beer you are already at a taste satisfaction

disadvantage without having to drink it warm as well. IF you take full blocks in your cooler there should be enough left at the end of the day to warrant putting it back in the freezer for the night to slow the erosion process down. Making your own ice with a propane freezer is not really an option because the lake water you are using is too warm to cool down fast enough to be of much benefit. You end up doing more harm than good by defrosting the freezer with your buckets of water. Don't despair; we will bring more in soon.

### **Mosquitoes in the cabin**

Pic Coils, Pic Coils, Pic Coils, Get 'em.

### **Life Jackets/Safety Equipment**

Life jackets are provided at each camp for to keep in the boat and use if you

A) can not swim B) are prone to drinking and boating C) are extra unlucky or D) have not yet paid your bill to me

While it is not the law yet (2006) it is a good idea to wear your life jacket whenever any type of threatening condition lurks. (I am

referring here only to events happening in the boat or on the dock, if you wear your life jacket in the shower because the floor is slippery or while cutting firewood because the axe is dangerous most all the guys except your dad will be laughing heartily at you for not being “rugged”) IN the little orange container in the cabin there is a small emergency kit which *should* have a whistle, flashlight and buoyant heaving rope. These items can be taken out in the boat but should never be removed from the container as they are a useless expense to me and experience has taught me that if you fall overboard the only thing of immediate value to you is the life jacket that you should have been wearing. IF you do take the kit out in the boat please look after it. IF you elect to leave it safely back in the cabin, that was your choice. IF you decide to use the whistle in the cabin so that your buddies will pay attention to you there may be other bigger problems at hand that the safety equipment can not help unless you do put the life jacket on because you may need the extra padding.

## Leaky Boats

While I pride myself on offering excellent equipment for to use, abuse and enjoy I keep having a problem with select groups running my aluminum boats (which are softer than rock) over the numerous rocks in the lake (which are harder than aluminum). This generally results in a leaky boat. To avoid this problem, you should always choose a boat before your buddies do. \*Hint: pick one that does not have a clean floor.

If you do encounter a leaky boat please deal with it as best you can and *tactfully* remind me of my shortcomings on the message board. If you are the bozo who ran into the rock leave the message giving to the next guest who will inform me at his earliest convenience. Do not assume that any/all rocks are marked. They are everywhere and you should drive carefully while you get used to the lake or at least with your fingers crossed (be sure I have mine crossed back at camp) If you stay fishing with us for several years you will eventually know the lake like “the back of your hand” and will never hit a rock again (unless the water goes up or down or stays the same)

## **Rock Guards**

These are installed on all of the motors and are designed to take the impact of the occasional rock impact, enjoy them, I also keep the address in my address book back at the office should you need it for your own problems back at home.

## **Rocks in Lake**

Yes, many. See also, boat damage.

## **Lighting a Fire**

The Fire Pit is meant to be a quaint outdoor activity where you and your friends sit around a small crackling campfire reminiscing about the day's events. It is not meant to be 1) a towering inferno or 2) a garbage incinerator. You should *always* burn trash wood from the surrounding forest. Do not use the cut up stove wood for the stove inside. If you use forest wood it helps keep the grounds neat and the fire does not last too long should you pass out and the chances of you burning down the only cabin within miles diminishes considerably. (See: camping on small rocky island with bugs)

A shore lunch fire is a thing of great enjoyment unless it gets away from you. In 2002 Cale Dox (not real name to avoid potential embarrassment) was fined over \$10,000 by the MNR for putting out one of his fires that got away on him. Ouch!! You thought the price per pound of fish was ridiculous with what you paid me think how this adds to it! You should only light a shore fire on a bald rock or a sand beach and douse thoroughly with water before leaving. If you do your lunches on small islands then at least you can minimize what can get away from you. If a fire ban comes into effect I will notify you on the marker board as soon as I can.

At the cabin, you should always keep some wood inside to keep dry and easy to use. Keep some kindling handy and any paper goods that are garbage can be kept separate for easy burning and helping to get the fire going. The small dry twigs that are dead on a standing spruce tree are some of the best fire tinder around to get your fire going. Do not use any flammable liquid since the risk of damage to your eyebrows is great not to mention one of your buddies splitting a gut laughing at you.

## **Ordering Stuff**

I am very proud of our win/win philosophy of giving a customer every reasonable request and they keep coming back year after year. Just remember, when you order something I went to a lot of trouble to get it and get it up to you and it is very annoying to me when you cancel the order because you no longer need it (like minnows) So, remember if you are taking courtesy delivery then you have a moral obligation to take what I bring you regardless of changes. If, on the other hand, you opted for the \$500 special delivery airplane you can feel free to return stuff cuz you are getting drilled for the plane one way or the other.

## **Outboard Motors**

We attempt to give you very good motors to run around the lake bouncing off rocks with. That being said, sometimes they break down, (I could not guess why) anyhow, here is a brief run down on starting and troubleshooting:

**Motor must be in neutral to pull cord**

**Motor must be in forward to tilt up**

Motor will stay tilted if you pull it up *almost* all the way until you hear a big click. Stop there and the motor will stay up. Go any further and it will drop back down. The motor is very patient and it will out last you in the game of pulling the motor up too far and then not staying. It is not the motors fault; you pulled it too far. Do as I say and the motor will co-operate. To release tilt position, just pull the motor towards you an inch or so and it will release and go all the way down on its own.

***To Start:*** Prime gas bulb until tight, pull choke knob in and out 3 times and turn all the way clockwise for fast idle. Attempt to pull the cord about two feet. If you pull three feet you may contact the nose sitting on the next seat behind you. Starts his day off all wrong. If you pull four feet you will end up holding the cord in your hand but not attached to the motor. At this point the motor is declared useless and you should break out the bobbars and drift fish (don't forget the paddles)

***Won't Start:*** If after 5 pulls the motor is still making the same noise (nothing) then you either of too much gas or not enough). Go through entire start procedure one more time and then if that does not do it, let us assume that it is flooded. AT this point,

disconnect the gas line and pull 3 to 10 times more and the motor should start. If that does not work then you are screwed, go get the spare and attach it **SECURELY** to the back of your boat and attempt to start it. If you cannot get that one started, offer your captain position to someone more competent. Leave me a note on the dry marker board and we will attempt to field fix the motor on our next camp check.

*If you are tooling down the lake and she quits on you, remember it is a girl and sometimes they get like that. Chances are 90% plus that you have a fuel problem. Are you out of gas? IS your fuel tank positioned upright so that the fuel inlet is immersed in fuel? If there appears to be lots of gas then you should check for water in the fuel. This is easy to do. Reach around the bottom of the back side of the cowling and pull the little handle (about 2 inches long) down that releases the cowling. Remove. In the front of the motor right above the steering arm you will see a 3-inch long translucent cylinder that is screwed on (sometimes tight). If the liquid in this cylinder is green/blue there is no need to pull the filter, might as well just grab the paddles and get to work. But, if the color of the fluid is rusty or clear or amber then you have water*

in this filter. Remove, empty, reinstall, prime bulb from tank again and it should fill with the desired blue/green liquid that motors run on. At this point you have water on you spark plugs and it may take a few pulls to get her fired up again or even let it sit for a 15 to 30 minutes but you will eventually get going again and you will appear to be so smart to your seat mate. Hopefully, your seatmate is your wife and she will regale all of your friends at home for years to come on how your mechanical knowledge saved her life one time up in Canada. If she is really appreciative she may help you stay occupied while you wait the prescribed 15 to 30 minutes. If your boat mate is not your wife, cross your fingers that he will realize at some point that you have saved his life and he too will tell the rest of the people in Wisconsin about your smarts. I would suggest drift fishing to fill in the 15 to 30 minute wait.

### **Photographic Opportunities**

You never know when the photo of a lifetime will occur. It could be Harry going ass over tea kettle into the lake when you hit a rock with the boat going wide open, it could be the 40 inch northern eating the 18

inch walleye, maybe a moose or an eagle nearby. A family of otters on the riverbank, a family of ducks or a young beaver learning to swim. The camera does not work when left back at camp, the only pictures you will have of your trip is of a bunch of drunks dancing around the campfire and hardly PG viewing for the kids at home. I just hate it when I hear that someone dragged a pike back a mile to get a picture before they released it. Do you really think it survived? You got to put 'em back right away if you want to be a true release guy.

### **Peeing off the Rail**

Please don't do this. This is strictly a gender issue. If the women can't go do it why should the men? Just to flaunt it? That is no way to treat the fairer sex. As an added bonus go down on the ground below the rail and smell the aroma of the fresh pines and, no, wait a minute, that's not fresh pine you smell but rather . . .

### **Propane**

Read this section carefully before you attempt to change any of the appliances.

Next to you it could be the most dangerous thing up there.

If your appliances go out you have a problem. You can tell if the stove went out because it will not heat, the fridge went out because it will not cool. You have a problem. Common sense would tell you that I have very fussy clients if they would complain because the stove is cold and the fridge is hot and all of us would be happier if provided neither fridge or stove but let's not go there. If all items are out then you will need to change the propane cylinder. At all cabins there are two cylinders hooked up. Turn the little valve to the full cylinder and go inside and relight. If both cylinders are empty you will need to remove one and put on a spare that should be right there beside the others. You will find by the cylinders a wrench that you use to "tighten" the large nut going into the cylinder. This reverse thread will in fact loosen the propane line and you can roll a new cylinder into place and reattach. Be sure to firmly tighten the line to the cylinder. Now you are ready to relight the appliances. The only one you truly need to survive is the stove and you can light the burners with a match and leave a note to me that you need everything relit and we will do so.

If you want to relight all then do as follows:

**STOVE:** Lift porcelain lid top of stove and you will see two little pin sized holes in the middle between the burners (left and right). Hold a lit match there and viola a small match sized flame will ignite and stay lit. NO explosion danger there. To relight the oven, open the bottom drawer, lie on the floor and peer to the very back center of bottom compartment. Hold a lit match at the very back and the pilot will light. Do not worry that you are not in a quick evacuation position as you are not in an explosion danger at this point (read on). Note\* on most of the ovens there is about a minute delay from when you turn the oven on to when the thermocouple releases the gas and the oven actually ignites. Never use the oven as a lazy boy heater. Your friends may be reading about you in the local newspaper and it won't be about your fishing but rather how many descendants you left behind. Who wants "His Laziness actually DID kill him" as his epitaph?

**FRIDGE:** generally the igniters fail early on in the life of the fridge, often before I actually get it off the plane to install so let's not worry about the igniters and go straight to the match. You will need a friend to help (or at least someone who can listen to your

instruction). Look at the various controls at the bottom of the fridge and one of the buttons will be a spring-loaded button (it may say “cut off”) that you can push in about ¼ inch. Practice, yup that’s it. Okay, now show this to your friend while you get down in a vulnerable, not easy to leave in a hurry position on your side at the left rear of the fridge. There is probably a small (4 in. by 5 in.) metal cover that you must remove. Now you will see a ½ inch tube that makes a 90-degree turn and ends with a tiny screen on it. That is where you put the match. Light the match and hold to the little screened top, tell your buddy to “push the button”. Note\* before assuming the vulnerable position, tell your buddy: “Don’t push the button until I tell you”. If your buddy listens well then you now have an operating fridge as a small blue flame ignites. Give the fridge a while to cool down but you are back in business.

**FREEZER:** Lights the same way as the fridge and if the freezer is not outside then there is an access panel cut into the cabin at the strategic place. The button is a red one and your partner needs to be briefed on the “do-not-push-the-button-until-I-tell-you” rule. The place where you hold the match is fiddly to get at but is directly below the

chimney about 4 inches above the floor. A metal match works well for lighting if you have one.

**HOT WATER HEATER:** is a little easier to relight as you are in control of the knob and the match. Turn the red knob to “pilot” and push it in after you have a lit match *inside* the heater (about 4 inches in) a metal match is real handy here too. Ignore the easy to light location in the front as it is only an air mixer and will not light your tank. Sometimes it takes quite a long time to get lit if the line has emptied of propane as the gas is coming through a hole smaller than a pin. Once the pilot is lit, release the spring-loaded knob and turn it to “on”. The flame will ignite right away if there is cold water in the tank.

## **Solar Power**

Solar is quiet and efficient but is only as reliable as the people using it. The lights and water system are all solar powered. You should only use lights as you need them, especially in the fall when the nights are long. Turn on one light at a time and *never* leave one on while gone fishing. Even though these systems are very good

you do not know how much abuse the group ahead of you put the system through and modest abuse on your part may cause a power outage. Those of you from New York State can probably handle it, but I am worried about the Wisconsin guys. The water pump is a demand system that should only come on when water is demanded. If you are down by the dock and you hear the pump come on for a second or two and then go off, you have a problem. This indicates a small water leak somewhere that needs our fixing. If you do not disconnect the pump you will have zero water. This does not mean that the lake will dry up, only your faucet. If you disconnect the pump when not in use at the battery you can leave us a note and we will fix the problem on our next check flight. If you do not do this then you should draw straws for bucket duty, as that will now be your running water.

Solar charging is very passive and not like a trickle charger so you cannot charge your own equipment or expect a totally dead battery to come back to useable life in a day. You also cannot depend on when the next sunny day is so always treat the lights like you need may need them later (like when it gets dark!!). A neat comparison I thought up is to consider the battery and charger to

be like a gas tank with a ¼ inch inlet line, the outlet line is variable ¼ to ¾ inch and if you have your tank selected to the largest output there is no hope that the inlet line can keep up with the outlet. But, if you use little “gas” then your tank will always be full as it is always being replenished.

## **September**

Ah, fall. What a time of year, the border lines are now non-existent and the big walleyes are on the prowl before winter sets in. Just as good as the big fish are the lack of mosquitoes, mayflies, ankle biters and horseflies. Why are these obnoxious pests absent? They don't like the weather. That being said often the weather is absolutely fine. Golden leaves, balmy days and biting fish. On the other side of the coin are the potential of snow flurries and blustery north easterly winds. Generally, though, pretty darn nice if you need to get away from it all one last time. Bring your cap and mittens just in case.

## **Spiders**

I am happy to say there are no poisonous spiders that I am aware of in our region of operation. That being said, there are some huge, hairy ones (about the size of a small hand) that live shyly under most of the docks. These spiders will bring on hysteria though in you are fortunate enough to witness one crawl up your buddies arm when he is attempting to tie up the boat.

## **Temperatures, they are extreme**

I am too hot, I am too cold. In this era of instant gratification you must come to grips with the fact that you have turned your back on civilization in favor of coming to our north country to experience the wilderness in all of its glory. I do not want to spoil you and offer you a controlled environment like you left at home (unless you are from New Orleans, in which case control was marginal). **MY BEST ADVICE:** if the cabin is sweltering go for a refreshing swim just before dark, this will cool your body down. After the swim stand on the end of the dock and let the cool evening breeze blow over your body...OOPS my mistake, that breeze was actually generated by the millions of

tiny wings fanning the air around you attempting to land. At this point you better dash you naked butt back up to the cabin and say to yourself “at least there are no mozzies in the cabin).

## **Two Motors**

See also the wisdom under FASTER MOTORS. Do not put two motors on your boat no matter what. Even if you cut off a limb and intend on medevacing yourself out you will only make good time until you hit the shoreline and then the 70 to 80 mile trek will slow you down carrying a boat and 2 motors with only one arm. IF you are just relaxing sport fishing then what is the rush? When you have two motors on your boat you run the risk of:

- 1) Hitting a rock pile at twice the speed and only being able to throttle one down at a time and thereby reducing the second motor to a pile of rubble that you now own.
- 2) Screw up the Slate Falls Outposts projection of how much fuel you will need to get through the week
- 3) Screw up the very good chance that Verne may be by to pick up one of his

spares because he may actually need it somewhere else

4) Getting kicked out of camp for not following the rules.

## **XYZ**

I think I have touched base on most of what you would encounter in a typical trip. Remember, I am more than willing to help you out with any problem that arises but I am not with you unless you are on the ultra deluxe plan (or your name is Andrea) so please do your best with problems that may arise. Hopefully this manual will help get to the bottom of the problem but if not, leave us a message on the board and go out and enjoy the wilderness. (Unless one of you actually does get eaten by a bear in which case you should cower in a clump in the cabin and I will deal with the bear when I come in) \*note: the eaten guy gets a free trip but don't all of you go trying that, I could go broke.