



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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WILSON LAKE, ECHO RIDGES SECTION

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MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

Many members have still not paid for 1987 yet. The spring issue should have been the last issue, but the usual warning was not given. Those who have not paid dues will not receive a newsletter after this one. There is a stamped reminder on the cover by your address if this notice applies to you. If you have paid recently, please disregard this notice. Also note that dues for 1988 are due anytime after November 1.

AN EXCEPTIONAL WORK PARTY

Normally work parties are quiet social occasions. The workparty led by Paul Syme on June 6 didn't follow this pattern.

To begin with, requirements to join this workparty were as follows:

- 1) Great dedication to the VTA.
- 2) Willingness to work long hours for \$4.35 per hour less than minimum wage.
- 3) Ability to get up early on Saturday morning. The gathering time was 8 a.m. at Churchill Plaza. This meant

that Betty Nassoiy had to get up at 6 a.m. in order to arrive on time from Brimley. Steve Dominy had problems with this early start. He had some excuse about his alarm clock not going off and how it was Guy Smith's ring at the door that woke him up. I believe Paul was ready to go without Steve, but made an exception in this case because Steve had the tools. Steve made a pit stop to buy juice and a bag of day old muffins, so at 8:20, we set off with Betty, Steve and I in Betty's car, and Guy and Ellen McCarthy in Paul's. At 10:20, we arrived at the trail after shuffling cars.

- 4) Ability to paint blazes to specification 4.12 subsection b(iii). ie. blazes of a specific size with sharp edges, brown edges when on a birch, and at a higher elevation than normal when in a valley. Betty, Guy and I failed this test and were assigned pruning and saw work.
- 5) No mid morning coffee break (we all met this criterion).
- 6) Stamina to clear and paint six km of trail (two km is the norm for a day). We started at a good pace of about one km/hour despite the removal of blue flagging by previous hikers. We pondered whether a plant was False Solomon's Seal or Solomon's Seal and stopped to consider the cause of death of a cow 100 yards off the trail, but we soon realized that we had no time for these diversions.
- 7) Only 15 minutes for lunch. Paul prospected the route ahead, so his stop was only five minutes. I had enough time to collect a piece of puddingstone from the banks of the Mississauga River.

- 8) Only one after lunch stop allowed. This was taken in sight of Warnock Lake. Soon afterwards, we climbed to a beautiful view of the Missisquoi River valley which would have made a great stop if we had realized this.
- 9) Pleasure in feeding mosquitoes or determination to use liberal amounts of insect repellent.
- 10) No supper until after 7:00 p.m. We stopped at 5:12 p.m., and hiked a fair distance to the cars, which were reached at 5:45, just as it started to rain. We found we could all squeeze into Betty's VW Jetta to reshuffle cars. Steve's generous offer of muffin's was accepted by many, and this kept the pangs of hunger away until we reached the Sault at 7:15 p.m.

Despite the arduous days work (most work parties end around 4:00 p.m.), the rewards were many. They included a beautiful day in the country, pleasant company, impressive sights of lakes, rivers and forests with tall ferns and the satisfaction of a job well done. Three people were lucky enough to find an Ovenbird's nest.

Patrick Capper

MINK OIL VERSUS SNOW-SEAL

On a recent canoe trip along the Pukaskwa shore, we woke up at 3:00 a.m. to the sound of very close vigorous chewing. Upon investigation, I heard an animal running through the underbrush. When we arose at 6:00 to pack, we found that the animal (we suspect it was a mink, marten or member of that group of mammals) had chewed through the vestibule wall to take a bite out of the top of my boot. The

boots had been borrowed from our friend Steve Dominy, who was kind enough to treat them with Mink Oil before giving them to me. Erika's boots, which had been freshly treated with snow seal, were not touched. About 15 years ago, I bought a small piece of rip-stop nylon backed with an adhesive for quick field repairs. Every time we camped out, I looked at this piece of technology and reluctantly took it along. It finally paid off. The backing still pulled off and the patch stuck. The tent is well repaired and even colour coordinated, and since I patched the tent inside and out, the patch will probably outlast the tent itself.

The main lesson in this story is that, depending on your fancy, if you want some adventure, or a nibbled boot (or toes if you sleep with your boots on), treat them well with mink oil.

Dieter Ropke

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual General Meeting - The Annual General Meeting this year is scheduled for October 24 in Schreiber. Everyone is welcome to attend. Discussion will include the possibility of formation of a Club in Thunder Bay. People from the Sault Ste Marie area east who want to attend can contact Steve Taylor at 759-2480. A hike is also scheduled.

The following events have been organized by the Saulteaux Club and everyone is invited to attend.

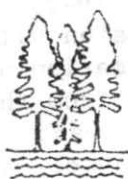
November 14 - Hike new section of trail off Hwy. 17 N, weather permitting. Meet at K-Mart Plaza beside gas bar at 10:00 a.m. with lunch and appropriate clothing.

December 12 - If weather permits we will ski the Gros Cap area. Meet beside the gas bar at the Market Mall (Second Line) at 10:00 a.m. with lunch.

Jan 16 - Explore the bays of Walls Lake on skis and have lunch beside a warm fire (bring weiners). Meet 10:00 a.m. at Market Mall by gas bar.

February 13 - Bushwhack on skis North from Nettleton Lake into a winter fantasy-come-true. Intermediate in terms of difficulty. Meet at 10:00 at Market Mall by the gas bar with lunch.

Please note that trip leaders are unpaid volunteers. You are encouraged to participate, but at your own risk. Always be prepared for any type of weather. In winter, it is always a good idea to bring extra dry socks, an extra dry sweater and a pack to put clothes in if you get too warm. Dress in layers that you can remove or add and try to wear clothes that will allow your sweat to evaporate.



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TREKK sleeping bags. The availability of these quality products in addition to the fine line of SAWYER canoes and GREY OWL paddles make SUPERIOR WATER-SPORTS a good economical source for your outdoor needs. Brochures on these products are available upon request. Also available this season through our affiliation with SAWYER Canada will be the fine lines of Mad River, Oldtown, Bluewater, Scott and Jensen canoes. Call Tom or Joe for details.

MEASURING BRITAIN BY FEET AND POUNDS A Quasi Travelogue

Standing atop a moor absorbing the vastness of the landscape before me, it was difficult to picture this land as it had been 500 years ago. Then, these rolling hills were covered with mighty oaks and beeches of such dimensions that early shipbuilders would stroll through the forests, carefully selecting trees which had a trunk and limbs shaped to fit part of a ship's hull. Each of these trees became a rib of one of the all-powerful British sailing fleet ships.

The mighty oaks have all but vanished from the British landscape. They have been replaced with grazing fields for the farmer's livestock. Should one encounter a collection of trees, they are likely to be evergreens, and of a type more familiar to American rather than British soil.

Travelling has always offered me immense refreshment by bombarding my mind with such anomalies. I find it necessary, occasionally, to retreat from my everyday routine to something completely different. Britain certainly fit the bill in every way. While the language was similar to ours, it takes a little interpretation to fully comprehend it. For example, on my