

DEAR READER,

3-14-19

HEY! I HOPE YOU ARE DOING WELL!


WILDERNESS CAMP... 1995-1996. I WAS 14 YEARS OLD WHEN I WENT AND 15 YEARS OLD WHEN I GRADUATED.

AS A GROUP/TROOP, AND 4 CHIEFS (COUNSELORS) WE HEARD "A LOT" BUT HEADING ON A ROAD TRIP TO DO "MORE" HIKING WAS SO EXCITING BECAUSE WE WERE HEADING WAY UP NORTH TO VERMONT TO HIKE OVER THE GREEN MOUNTAIN. HILLINGTONS PEAK WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR TRIP AS I'D NEVER SEEN A SIGN BEFORE - UNFORTUNATELY THAT'S "ALL" I GOT TO SEE" SO AS WE HEADED OFF ON THROUGH.

OUR TRIP WAS 16 OR 19 DAYS LONG. SO 12 OR 15 DAYS WE SPENT IN THE MOUNTAINS. HIKING, PACKING & TEARING DOWN OUR TENTS, EATING GRANOLA & DEHYDRATED FRUITS, MAKING CAMPFIRES... DRINKING SPRING WATER AFTER PUTTING SODIUM TABLETS IN THEM -- YUK! BUT IT WAS SO MUCH FUN.

OH YEAH, TAKING A BATH IN A CREEK... THAT WAS THE TURNING POINT FOR ME... WHEN TAKING SHOWERS WASN'T JUST ABOUT GETTING CLEAN BUT SOMETHING TO ENJOY! RUNNING "HOT" WATER! I'D NEVER MESSED SO MUCH IN MY LIFE BEFORE THAT.

ONE MORNING WE WOKE UP. SOME OF US TORE DOWN THE TENTS WHILE OTHERS PREPARED BREAKFAST. WHY IS THAT MORE THAN 2 I DON'T KNOW. BREAKFAST WAS A HANDFUL OF GRANOLA & A PACK OF DEHYDRATED FRUIT & SODIUM WATER WE PACKED UP AND STARTED HIKING. MY BACKPACKS

WEIGHED 25-33 POUNDS. I CAN'T QUOTE REMEMBER BUT THAT WAS THE AVERAGE FOR EVERYONE EXCEPT 2 OF US. THE OTHERS WAS 10-15 POUNDS... I THINK THEY WANTED TO BE LIGHTS JUST IN CASE WE HAD TO RUN FROM SOMETHING THAT SAW US AS DENVER. 8 OTHER HEADS & 4 CHEEKS BETWEEN THEM & "IT" WOULD SURELY BE ENOUGH TO GET "IT" FULL! <sup>am</sup> 

WE WERE AT THE BOTTOM OF A HUGE PILE OF SOME BOULDERS. AT THE TOP OF IT WAS A GRASS THAT WOULD TAKE US TO HILLINGTONS PEAKS. WE STOPPED THERE FOR LUNCH. GRANOLA, DEHYDRATED FRUIT & CANG. THE DEHYDRATED PEPPLES WERE MY FAVORITE.

AFTER I WAS DONE EATING I TOLD THE MALE CHIEF I HAD TO USE THE WOODS (BATHROOM BREAKS) & HE POINTED WHERE TO GO. IT WAS ABOUT 40 YARDS AWAY.

THE GROUND WAS SOFT WITH DEAD, BROWN, PINE NEEDLES. THE PINE TREES REACHED SO HIGH INTO THE SKY IT LOOKED AS IF ANYONE OF THEM WOULD LEAD ME INTO THE CLOUDS IF I CLIMBED IT. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE!

I'M WALKING AROUND TREES & I COME TO A REALLY FAT PINE, UP AGAINST THE SOME BOULDERS. I BEGIN TO EMPLOY MY TANKS WHEN I NOTICE A THICK FOG COMING FROM BEHIND THE NEXT TREE I'M STANDING NEXT TO. SLOWLY, IT CAME INTO MY MIND THAT IT HAS THE RHYTHM OF... BREATHING. AS THAT THOUGHT FORMULATED IN MY MIND THAT FOG ROSE... AND ROSE... --- AND ROSE STILL IT WAS AS HIGH AS MY HEAD & OUT FROM THAT TREE CAME A MOOSE LARGER THAN ANY



SLOWLY THE HUMOR OF THE SITUATION BEGAN ROLLING OVER ME & I WAS LAUGHING HARDER THAN ANYONE... THANKFUL TO SOOIL HAVE MY HEAD!

I'VE NEVER SEEN A MOOSE SOIL MEN. THE ONLY THING I KNEW ABOUT MOOSE WAS BULLWINKLE FROM THE "ROCKY & BULLWINKLE" CARTOON.

AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THE OTHER HADS DIDN'T LET ME LAYE SHAG DOWN FOR AWHILE. ADMITTED, THOUGH, THAT OTHER REASOON WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SAME.

BUT I GOT THEM BACK A COUPLE NIGHTS LATER... I SNUCK OUT OF MY TENTS & TIED A ROPE TO THE TOP OF EACH TENT & STARTED YERKING THE TENTS ALL AT THE SAME TIME & GROWLING & SCOMPING & HISSING THE TENTS WITH SCOWS. 8 HADS SCREAMING AS ONCE... THAT ENOUGH FOREST WOKE UP. HA! HA!

SO — WE ALL HAD FUN ON THAT TRAP. WE SURVIVED THE HARE WITH A STORY NONE OF US WOULD FORGET.

I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THAT STORY. MY NEXT BLOG WILL BE ABOUT ANOTHER EXPERIENCE WHILE IN WILDERNESS CAMP. A MORE DANGEROUS ONE. A REVER TRAP ON THE SUWANNEE RIVER IN FLORIDA... AND MY CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH A GAOR!

UNTIL NEXT TIME-

YOURS TRULY,  
DOUG