

===Several days have passed [since I last wrote]

On Thanksgiving Kai, David, and I got up early [to go in for our monthly trip to the Center] – though not as early as planned. I was up (couldn't sleep), they didn't get up till almost sunrise. I cooked some eggs [before we got three miles] they were partially frozen. (Later we found out it was 9 deg.) Then we got a ride...to Bob's and walked into town, almost everything was closed. We went back to Bob's. I got a sandwich and a brownie [a whole 9x9 pan]. They got stuff, too. We went and ate by the [Free Evangelical Church's] front door. (It was a dry place to sit)

Then...to the Oneida Inn. I got a room – we showered – watched TV – then to the Thanksgiving buffet. We sat there for about three hours eating and talking – until they said, “We need the table.”

Back to the room. We got some beer and chips and watched a movie. David and Kai went back to the Center and I stayed and went to the bakery in the morning. I finally got there when it was open. I had a cheese horn, a cream filled, and a donut to go.

Just past Bob's I got a ride to Military Road. When I got to the Center...I checked my mail. I had three boxes. Wow! One was Thanksgiving Dinner. I cooked it up on the wood stove.

I rested – got on the computer – made some phone calls. Christmas [plans were made] – I will go to Lucy's [place] – she will pick me up on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Snow started on Thanksgiving [and continued until] Friday night.

We...came back to camp [and found] some trees down. A large branch fell on out lean-to hearth. [It is a] good thing no one was sitting there at the time.

Wolf tracks were seen near camp. Tomorrow...we will go have a look. I am tired. I must move into the Earth lodge soon.

===Last night was my last in the Woolly Mammoth, and what a night it was. I had [stomach trouble. It seems that all the sweet stuff I ate came back to torment me. I will describe it as Mega-Emergency Da'i.]

I came over [to the lean-to] for breakfast. (My hands are freezing as I write this.) I sewed some pillows for the lodge doors. I started moving my stuff [to the earth lodge.] Most of it will stay in the Woolly, because there is no room in the [Earth] Lodge.

Tamarack and Chris came out to ‘kick off the white season’...with a hand out on dreams.

It is cold. I am tired. Time for bed.

===I had a good, but chilly night in the Earth Lodge. I had a strange dream about skeleton people playing tennis. Others were trying to inject me with a hypodermic. Then I was in a convertible driving past an asphalt plant and my food got sprayed with tar. (strange)

I got out...and went for a walk to see the wolf tracks. Later I heard where the kill site was and went to see it. – Wow—

I started the fire for supper, someone else cooked.

Kai moved her stuff today, Travis will move in tomorrow.

===It was a slow get up. I cooked a slab of meat and three (frozen) eggs. I never had to peel a raw egg before. (Strange) That meat/fat and eggs helped me for the rest of the day.

On my way out to da'i, I met Jason, Luke, and Merriam. They came out to cut wood for the Sweat the day after tomorrow.

While at the swim area...I heard an odd noise. It was the ice.

===It was nice and dark in the lodge. I got up when I was good and ready. I...got water, and then had...meat and frozen eggs for lunch.

It was time for a walk. My feet were cold. A good walk helps get the blood flowing. I went to Scott Lake Road. I had a thought. What if I was stranded just as I am? Where would I make shelter or make fire? I need to learn more.

On my way back it started to snow (and of all things to see in a Dec. snow storm) I saw a spider on web.

Supper was everyone for themselves. I was last in line. I had to wait till after the meeting.

===Sweat Lodge Day. No breakfast. Fasting. I went to get water. It was cold. [We heard] it got down below 0\* last night. As I sat there drinking at the water hole, I watched as the water started freezing over. The lake is a flat sheet of white, almost thick enough to walk on.

Then it was time for the Sweat. The Grandfathers took a while to get hot. [We went in near] sunset. The Sweat went well, and then we had a feast in the wigwam. I was filled up. Stew and salad. Wow!!

===Today started out boring. I didn't feel like getting up.

[Later] I needed to take a nap – so I did, until supper time. [We ate] in the wigwam, then had a meeting. It went well.

===I took a load of stuff to the van; it will be taken to the Center later. Chris came out with some wool cloths and mail. I got two packages. I opened them, saw what they were, and sent them back [to the Center]. One was fudge and popcorn. The other was cookies and candy – and paper. I kept the paper.

I then went...to look for tracks and such. I found some deer urine. It smelled like meat. Ty says it smells like cotton candy.

We have a new guest – Mojo – an interesting person.

I came to bed early in hopes that I can get up early. The days are just too short. We need to be up and out at first light for tracking.

===I got up early today just as the sun was coming up – although we never saw the sun. It was snowing – a fresh clean layer for new tracks. I went walking...a good distance, and saw what looked like fox tracks. I did a lot of walking – I got tired.

After supper we had a Talking Circle. Others had a good day, too. David saw a snowshoe hare in the white faze. He tracked it for a long way. We should have a food drop in the morning.

===I stayed in bed till about midday. I needed a tad bit of rest. Before I got out of bed, I had an orange. I managed to get a letter written and put some thoughts on paper about ideas learned here.

[For breakfast] I cooked some eggs and had two bananas and some nuts.

I had a fantasy about chocolate sweet things.

I went and got water at hole #2 which was out on the lake a ways.

===I went for a walk across the lake. I wasn't too sure about going across the ice. I may stay off [it] for a while, as the temp has not been too low. I got to the "yellow gate" [a gate on a private road]. I found lots of long-body boulder tracks, and some deer tracks. I even smelled the urine of a deer – and it does smell like cotton candy. Mmmm – no eating it, though. I kept going and saw more boulder tracks. I went through a bog and some ice broke in a rut and I got...a wet...foot.

When I got back to the "yellow gate", I [was feeling] lethargic, I just sat there. Then, after a bit, I headed back to camp.

I found...K9 tracks almost as big as my hand. ([The animal ran] for a hundred yards or so.) I got excited – something interesting.

Back to camp – I helped with supper. I cut up the yams and meat.

===Lazy morning. I ate my fruit while still in bed.

I didn't see anyone but Travis and our guest Mojo, most of the day. I had a good talk with Mojo [while out for a walk].

I went to see the K9 tracks. Tracks that I want to call 'wolf tracks' – but – being 'as a question' – I can't. (But secretly – they are wolf tracks.) A truck passed before I got to the track site and wiped them out. But I followed the trail into the woods where it looped around. I don't know where he came from, or when he entered the woods, but he...ran up the road. Then the trail is lost after that.

I cooked some eggs – had some tea – and took a warm bath in the lodge. I must go get water [for supper].

===It was warmer today – big lazy snow flacks [are falling] from time to time. I went and got water...then hit the road. I did some tracking, but mostly just walked. I...made a snowman by the side of the road.

Chris came with the food drop. I finished my walk, and carried one of the boxes of food back [to camp].

We had a meeting – we talked about what a good clan would be like – how many people –what kind of people. It got heavy. Hummm.

===I didn't get up early. I lay in bed thinking about things.

Kai went out and got wood to make the first fire in our lodge. It was smoky for a while, and then got warm. I spent the time writing a few letters.

As I went to get water, I slipped twice. Then, as I was taking out the compost to my da'i spot, I fell [hard] and spilled the compost on the trail.

Supper time – muskrat and a sample of bear meat. We sat around and talked, but not very long, as everyone dashed off to bed – and off I went, too. ZZZZZZZZ!!!

===Tamarack came by and said, (as he poked his head in the door), "It's daylight in the swamp." We got up and out for a short meeting.

There is a food drop. We brought it back – ate fruit and nuts with bear fat – than hit the trail. It is snowing.

After I got a drink and changed hats...I followed David and Kai across the lake. I was about a half hour behind them. I tracked them. I came upon two 'hikers', we talked for a while at their camp near the meadow. Then back to David and Kai's trail.

I followed it to Lake Julia. Kai went on, David came back. [I followed David's trail.] David got 'lost' and me by default. I got tired. [We went] in and out of bogs, through thickets – what a trail! Anger came up a time or two (for both of us). I finally got back. Wind on the lake was heavy. (Wow)

===Like I planned, I stayed in bed...I wanted to rest after yesterday. I ate my fruit and eggs while still in bed. Then got out and ate some nuts and a mushy banana with a spoon of bear fat.

I went for a walk. I met Chris w/ guest [as I walked up] the road. I walked [further] and on my way back, I found coyote tracks on the tire tracks [of the van]. From the time the van came through to the time I saw the tracks was about 20 minutes.

Back at camp – care package #12 waited for me. I ate the sardines and some of the candy, and then sent the rest back to the Center.

Supper time – muskrat stew with no cabbage. I got two heads [in my bowl]. I even ate the brains – very creamy. I was surprised. ((The things I eat?)) It is a very cold night. I shall hide in bed.

===It is a clear day. The sky was so blue; it was hard to look at. I ate eggs and fruit in bed and then nuts and bear fat in the lean-to.

I took my pee bucket to my da'i spot. The snow was fluffy. I saw no tracks, but somehow I missed some nice ones. I [walked right past] them, and never saw them. They were wolf tracks. Ty and Katie [found and] followed the trail. [It] went right through my da'i area.

This is a very cold day and clear night. I am guessing it is near 0.

I cut up meat [for supper] then went for a walk to get warm.

===I made another attempt to smoke my hide. It didn't work out well. I guess I need a good bed of coals to start with and more boughs, too. I shall do it again (for a third time).

More muskrat for dinner – and I got a head. [That makes] 5 in 4 days.  
----- off to bed.

===T & C came out for a meeting – early. We talked of dreams. Then we started on a snow lodge in the meadow. [After that] I went for a walk to warm up and rebuilt the 'Snow Seeker' [snowman] (up the road).

We have a deer – a small one. We will have back strap and organs for supper. More snow is falling. (4 sleeps to go)!!! [Before the break]

===Wow – it got cold last night. Ice formed in my pee bucket. It was a slow get-up. I didn't want to get up, but I did anyway.

While I was cutting meat for breakfast, a nuthatch came along and [landed on the deer for a bit of meat, too.] I was able to [touch] it. An ermine came [near] my feet, as well. It was nice seeing them that close.

After getting something to eat, I went and helped on the snow lodge.

I need to...take a walk and get fire wood. When I got back...we got supper ready. After getting water, we waited for the food to cook.

I was thinking about the time of day, and as I write, we now have less than 60 hours before we head out on our adventure of Christmas Break. So many plans – So much to eat – So little time. !!!

===I stayed in bed as long as I dared. It snowed some, then got clear and cold. After I ate...I went for a walk...to Shelp Lake. By the time I got back, they were in the midst of a meeting. They were talking about 'Armageddon' [not the bible story, but a post-oil society] and the ugly picture is paints.

More snow and cold. Burr! After supper we talked about cereal, video games, and space movies. We have some interesting talks at supper time. ...time to go to bed.

Tomorrow the feast – then one more night!!!

===It was cold this AM. My pee bucket was froze more than last time. It was really cold. It was reported to have been neg. 9.

We are having a feast today at noon-ish. Tonight is the last before break. Fun starts tomorrow.

The feast was good. We did not eat the muskrat that Kai cut up. It was frozen hard. We had salmon, quiche, and salad. Then we had one of April's fruit cakes made with acorn flour.

Earlier in the day I went for a walk and saw some interesting tracks. [There were] truck and dog tracks up and down the road and some people tracks at truck turn around spots. [I suspect they were looking for something.] Then I saw the cat tracks. They were at least 2" wide and ran along the side of the road.

===I don't think I slept much last night, nor did Travis or Kai. Several times we thought of getting up...but we waited and waited.

Finally, it seemed like dawn, so we got up – packed – dressed – and headed up the trail. I got to the van first and brushed off the snow. Soon the others came and we headed out. We took Peter to the Center, and then went to Cindy's for breakfast.

Back at the Center, I got organized, packed, and called Lucy [my sister]. I went with Jason to the Chinese Buffet – where we met up with the others. They [will] spend the night in Rhineland, (rent a room and party). I came back to the Center to do (what ever!) and spend the night in quiet. Lucy plans on coming tomorrow...to get me and go to her place for a few days.

===I woke up early and put a log on the fire. Then I went to check the time. Peter was in the office – It was 6:00 am. So, I headed off to town – to the bakery. Yea! I got a cheese horn and a Bavarian cream filled. Then off to Cindy's for breakfast. A quick stop at Bob's, then back to the Center.

I was almost there when a car pulled up next to me. It was Lucy. Due to the dirty window and poor light, I didn't recognize her at first.

To the Center – pack up – get back on the road. We made a few stops. At one place I had a pasty. (Yes – I am in Michigan!)

After we got to Lucy's place, we went to the Elk's club for supper. Back at home I made popcorn and...fudge – and we watched a movie.

I had a chance to soak my sore swollen feet. Then went to bed and rested well  
----- good night ---.

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I made no entries in my journal during the Christmas Break. I'm not sure why I didn't make any notes. It was an interesting time. I spent the break in Marquette, Bay City, and Oxford, Michigan. I was able to see many of my relatives and friends. It was a lot of fun. The hard part was dealing with the heat in the houses. It was strange being away from Nishnajida. Those few days quickly passed and I was headed back to the woods. There were three moons left and much more to learn.

Near the end of January, we moved to Snow Camp. I had less gear in my snow shelter than I did in the Earth Lodge. I did not have my journal with me, either. I had to hike back to Winter Camp every few days to make entries. Because of the cold, it was hard to write. My pen even froze up a couple times. I did my best and wrote what I could.

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===Christmas Break is over. [While on break] I made 'Lety's salad' twice – 'Luke's Cranberry Sauce' twice, and 'Teaching Drum Stew' once. It was a nice break.

Lucy brought me back to the Teaching Drum. We had a nice drive. Bill [my nephew] came along, too. I was the 5<sup>th</sup> one back.

We spent the night in the Seeker's Cabin, and then came out to camp [the next day]. A visitor came out with us.

I went to get water and when I broke the ice, I found it was nearly a foot thick. We talked after supper. It is cold. Time for bed.

===I got up (before Kai) amazing. I ate some nuts – got a drink – showed our guest around – went da'i – a walk – then we had supper and a meeting – back to my da'i spot (in the dark) – back to the lodge – and to bed.

===I went for a walk with Markus [our guest] across the lake. I/we saw coyote tracks on the lake. Later we came across fox, bird, and some other tracks from a "boulder" from the weasel family. From track to track set was about 5 feet, with toe/foot drag.

Tamarack, Lety, and Jason came out for a meeting. It was good.

The northern lights were shinning.

===Today as well as yesterday, I went for a long walk – very long. The weather was nice, cool to cold – a little snow.

When I got back from my walk – we had supper – talked – then went off to bed. I slept well, which is what I hope to do shortly.

Night! Night!

===Bright sunny day. Not much happened. Helped with supper. Had a meeting – dream talk.

===The past few days have been [spent] mostly walking around. One day I went for a long walk over to Sheltered Valley Road. I was gone all day. I found some interesting track/marks with no real answer to what made them. It was some K9 looking tracks [curving back and forth on the road] with a drag line in between. The tracks were three knuckles wide, four toes front and back with claw marks. There was a urine spot that smelled strong.

A few days later, I went to get water. I found otter tracks/slide marks. I told David and we followed the trail through Summer Camp – the bog – and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way around the lake. Others picked up the trail. It was fun. Trackers tracking trackers tracking tracks.

Yesterday we (Ty, Katie, Kai, and me) went looking for a Snow Camp site. We found a spot near Shelp Lake.

It got very cold last night. My pee bottle froze. Oh No! I am still in bed, trying to thaw [it out].

===It has been several days since I wrote. We have had Deep Cold. [My bag of] fruit sounds like billiard balls. I have to keep my pee bottle in my sleeping bag to prevent it from freezing.

We need to start on Snow Camp soon – what challenge.

It is the middle of the day and I need to get out of bed soon. I just got warm – o well.

I have started bringing [hide] racks across the lake to be cut up for Sweat Lodge [fire], the scraping beams are next.

===Several days have passed. A low system moved in and brought the temp above 'o'. Today and yesterday it has been snowing...extra material for snow [shelters]. A new site was scouted out – that is where we will build – [next to] Shelp Lake.

David and I carried beams and racks across from the west camp to be cut up for fire wood for the sweat lodge.

In a few days we go in for our second to last Center visit – 70 days left. ---- It's snowing!!!! ----

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===We had our Center visit. Peter has a hurt knee and has a hard time walking. Someone said they could drive him in. Then someone said something about “breakfast at Cindy’s”.

I got up early to walk Sheltered Valley Rd. [I wanted to walk the back way.] Everyone else [road] in the van,...even though it was not an ‘emergency trip’.

I got to the Center before they did. I had to change some of my under layers [because they got] wet. The snow was half way to my knees at times, and by just walking, I got hot.

I...headed for town and met the van on Hwy 32. We hit the bakery and Cindy’s. The [others] left, Kai, David, and I stayed. We went to the book store/coffee shop, then to Bob’s, and we stopped at Billy’s for lunch. I had a ‘Wojo’ Burger with everything and 4 beers.

The rest of the visit went OK, though there was a small computer problem [with] getting on-line. I got a care package -- #15 --.

[There was also some stress about the town trip and the improper use of the van.]

I walked back to camp at night and slept all day. I need to go to snow camp and work on my lodge.

===The other day I was going cross country to snow camp. I went over the bog – the snow was knee deep – and through the woods. I thought I was going left-ish, but I was going to the right and ended up at...the back of Summer Camp. [Ironically, I was going in the right direction (sort of), but I thought I was lost.] I took the snowmobile trail to snow camp.

I started on my lodge, and then discovered my scarf missing. I back tracked [the last section of trail] to snow camp twice, and down the snowmobile trail a ways – no scarf.

The next day I went to work on my lodge, and back tracked the rest of the way on the XC woods trail and found it. YEA! I like my scarf.

We had a meeting and Tamarack thinks/feels we are not Truth Speaking. [To me] it seems that some things are hard to latch on to. I came here for many things – learned lots. I hope to latch on to these deeper things in the short while we have left.

They say that once we have done the ‘year long’, we are ready to do the ‘year long’.

===I stayed around camp yesterday and cleaned the frozen fish for supper. We had lung and sucker fish stew w/ roe. It was actually rather good.

The Center people came out and built a snow lodge for guests.

===We moved to snow camp yesterday. I spent my first night in my snow lodge. It is too small. I can’t sit up. My mukluks are wet – they froze. It is another thaw day. We need snow and colder temps. or snow camp will be short lived and all our stuff will be wet.

===It will be another warm/sunny day. We are to have a fire making workshop and a feast. I found some nice cedar bark and wood for a fire kit. Things are still thawing. I need to...get back to snow camp.

===The 'warm' spell stayed...about five days. Then a low move in and brought a light rain (which damaged my lodge) then turned to snow. The temp. went down. I was going to sleep outside because my lodge sagged, but the colder temp froze it up and the dripping stopped.

I [kept using my lodge, though] it was a tight fit through the smaller door.

I went for a 'walk around the block'. From camp to Scott lake Rd – Giant Pine – Pine River Rd – snowmobile trail and past the yellow gate – Woodbury Rd – to camp. I was gone most of the day. I came back to a nice supper of ribs, veggies, and fat! Yum!

I went to the Center to get my other boots. Because of the thaw, mukluks are no good. That is when I found care package #16. I also got my tax forms and filled out my 1040.

Just 7 weeks left. Time has gone so fast.

===I just checked my calendar and it seems we have 41 days left to go. Jon "Apple Pie" came out yesterday with two pies. We each had a third of a pie.

Ty and Katie found a 'kill site' the other day. A fisher killed and ate a woodpecker. There was a second set of tracks going the opposite direction, so it took a while to figure out what happened.

I went for a long walk and found coyote tracks on Woodbury Lake. When they are out in the open like that, it is easy to see the change in gate, track pattern, and other things like that.

===We had a small thaw and were told it might rain. However, it snowed. I did have a tarp over my lodge just in case.

I [went out for a drink] and couldn't find the...hole [in the ice], so I dug a new one.

I went for a long walk...and stopped by the [west] camp and carved a stir paddle/spoon [while I sat] in the big lean-to.

I made a snowman on the lake.

It is a nice quiet day, with a layer of fresh white snow.

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===We have 39 nights to go. Half of our group is in for the 'Last Center Visit' today. I and the rest go in the day after tomorrow. [There is] much planning to do.

We got more snow the other night. I wonder if we will see a major thaw before it is over.

Time is going by so fast. I felt myself getting a bit melancholy yesterday.

I tried bone marrow for the first time. It is good. Tomorrow we might be able to cook deer head if I can get it skinned today.

====Deer Head Soup====.

I got care package #17 (from Gary H.); two cans of nuts (almonds and cashews).

==I just came back from my last Center visit. I...went in a couple days later than planned, because some things came up. I attempted to go over-land and not the road, but the snow was deep and I wore out. I ended up on Sheltered Valley Road. On my way, I saw seven K9 crossings [tracks] on Woodbury Lake Road, and eight on the rest of my walk. They were all only a few hours old at most. (It was snowing late last night.) One set of tracks, [depicted an animal] in pursuit of a deer. I also saw a bird 'take off' track w/ wing touch marks. It was a good track.

I did not go to town or Billy's. I kept my promise [about not leaving the woods, except for one night at the Center, and NO town trip.]

We had a Talking Circle. Things came up. Some people said stuff about me. I felt attacked. That night I had a dream about being threatened. When I got up, I left camp immediately. I spent the day alone. [Later] I got a chance to talk with the [people that spoke about me, and I told them] how I felt. When I spoke with '\*\*\*\*\*' about what he said, I broke into sobs. The emotional pain just burst out. I was surprised and embarrassed. Healing came. It was good.

We had a guest, and I was the only one at camp for the first day of his visit. We talked. He brought an interesting prospective. However, he is stuck on "Why?" and seeks to avoid much. I felt it was the opposite of 'Trust and acceptance'. He over questions, and only with 'why?'. He cut his visit short. He boxed himself in and says, "This is the whole of reality." (May he come to know a greater knowing, from the heart and not the head.)

We got several inches of snow...with 33 nights left. Will we see a thaw? It might be nice. I want to walk out of here over land, the way we came in. But if there is a lot of snow, that may be hard. We shall see.

It is getting late. I need to go exploring – look around – and get back for supper before too long.

==It has been quiet the past few days. There was a coyote/deer chase – Chris found [the trail]. Some of the 'group' went to see it and follow the tracks for a ways. I did not. I was too tired to go long in deep snow.

A guest came out one day and decided to leave the next. He said it did not feel right for him to be here.

We are having a bit of a thaw today, but my lodge is in the shade and is holding up OK.

I have been having dreams about not fitting in when I get back. I have changed. It will be interesting to see how [much]. David said this course is like a death to him and we are coming up to a rebirth.

One more sweat lodge coming up. It should be interesting. I hope it is special!!

==Well – as of today we have...22 nights to go.

Jon M. a.k.a. Jon 'Apple Pie' was here for a bow making class. There are several bows being made as I write this page.

We had a Sweat Lodge Ceremony yesterday. (naked in the snow) [Standing] around the fire naked waiting to get smudged was harsh. The wind blew sparks on us, plus [our] feet got VERY cold on the snow. It was a good sweat. I feel very

clean and refreshed even today. The feast was good – veni stew – wild rice – and a ¼ apple pie for everybody. It really hit the spot.

It is snowing yet again. We had a warm spell, then a hard cold. Now the temp. is up a little. Will we have a major thaw? I don't know.

===More snow. More cold. More clear days and nights.

We now have an 'over land' trail [from snow camp] to winter camp. Turns out, the road route is twice as long as the 'over land' route. We just didn't know where [to make it] until we saw a map of the area. It is a nice trail.

I am having end-of-course/transition dreams. Last night I dreamed I had 3 care packages waiting for me. Nice ones. We shall see. 18 days left to go.

===We had mild weather for the day of the feast to honor 'Center people'. We had stew, wild rice, cabbage salad, and cranberry sauce with blueberries. I had 4 plates full. I was very full. It was good to be full for a change.

Just another day of walking around, reading, and stuff like that.

===Today is the last day of winter. Spring starts sometime tomorrow. We leave camp sometime next week. Just a few more days. I heard today, that we leave camp on the 31<sup>st</sup>. That is not far off. 3 more food drops. 1 more mail drop. No thaw yet.

Peter, David, and I went out looking for (and finding) coyote tracks. We followed them for a long way through forest and bog.

We [picked up the trail] on Giant Pine Rd., then followed it [into the forest]. We thought we stayed in the 'box' [framed in by Woodbury Lk. Rd., Scott Lk Rd., Giant Pine Rd., and Giant Pine Trail.], but managed to go through the narrow corridor between the Giant Pine trail and Woodbury Lk Rd. [We hiked] into an area that opened up into a 4 to 5 square mile wilderness. It started to get dark. It was over cast. Direction finders were hard to see. The sun had long set – no stars – just a fuzzy ¼ moon.

There was much bog travel. It was late and we were tired. We pressed on. We found a logging road. [We went left], it took us to a giant bog – no go – dead end.

Then we went back the other way. It led to a snowmobile trail that crossed Fur Bush Creek. I knew where we were.

Once, while breaking trail, I got a stick in the eye. I saw a flash of light, hollered, and fell to the ground. [I was] scared, but...not hurt.

The others were wondering where we were. They were about to...go tell someone [that we were lost]. We made it back...Ty heated up supper for us. We ate and went to bed.

The next day was spent resting – sleeping. We got up in time for supper. It was a short day. I got a drink and...a load of wood – ate – and went back to bed.

===We are now "1 digit midgets". We have nine nights left in camp. We were informed that we can hike out Thursday evening over land. Not on the road at all. I wanted to do that.

We are having a 'thaw day'. I hope we keep getting them – but not too hard of a thaw just yet. We are having a feast in honor of Tamarack and Chris. We are

making “ice cream” with bananas, pears, and coconut milk. We need snow and cold to do that. I hope it works out well. It should be tasty.

I started working on my ‘Give Away’ project – a Talking Stick. It will have a pouch with 7 white stones and a small piece of each of the 7 lodges = (7 different materials). I aim to have seven 7’s of something on it, attachments or marks of some kind – for the 7 of us.

===We had a good feast. Lots of stew w/ fresh meat, salad w/ avocados and lime dressing, cabbage and carrots, and wild rice. To top it all off, we had “Snow Camp Ice Cream” made with ripe bananas and pears, [along with] raspberries; mixed with coconut milk.

It was supposed to get frozen, but the spring thaw is starting and we ended up with ‘smoothies’ instead. We put snow in it to bulk it up and give it a cold crunch. It was good.

I did not wear my coats, scarf, or mitts all day. It was nice to not have cold fingers. We are having another sunny day today. It is starting to warm up a little. It is still on the chilly side.

I had to come to Winter Camp (Thaw Camp) to get my Sorels and big socks, because I won’t be wearing my mukluks for much longer. They are not made for wet conditions.

===More Thaw! Ty’s mom and dad got here yesterday. They brought Nanamio bars. WOW! YUM! They are staying...at the Oneida Inn. I was informed that...all the rooms are booked (except one). I gave Ty’s mom a note, asking if she could reserve a room [for me]. She was able to. (Good deal) Now I can spend the day in town and have a place to hang out and enjoy some [goodies] – and a bath.

When Ty’s parents came out to camp this AM, they brought carrot cake. Kai lit up like a Christmas tree, [her favorite dessert]. The cake lasted about 5 minutes at the most – it was good!!!

I got my ‘Give Away’ finished. It is a Talking Stick with seven 7’s on it representing the seven of us, and other aspects of our time here.

===There was [a chance] of rain last night – it was a warm evening. But the temp. dropped below freezing over night. It was/is our lat night in Snow Camp. With the tarp off my lodge, the vent hole was more like a sky light window.

I woke up early. I lay there for a while thinking – about my lodge – dreams – last time sleeping in there. It held up rather well.

I [then] pulled my stuff out [of my lodge]...to pack.

I had a nice breakfast of 2 soft boiled eggs, (cooked in melted snow from my lodge); plus nuts, a diced apple, and a spoon of honey...mixed together.

Then I set fire to the mattress filling in my lodge, to aid in its thaw and to get rid of the grass. That kind of grass doesn’t grow [in that area] so I couldn’t leave it there.

After photographing a smoking snow lodge...I headed off to Winter Camp with my bed. It was a nice walk. Now I must head back for the rest of my stuff. ===3 more sleeps ===

I was the last one to leave Snow Camp. I went down to the lake for a last drink of Shelp Lake. I did a little ceremony to the 7 directions. Then I went back to the hearth and burned a bunch of left over wood. I had flames 6 feet high at one point. It was fun. I finally got to have a **FIRE**.

I packed up the rest of my things and headed off to Winter Camp. There was a food drop waiting. We have promise of a 'Lety's Salad' for supper. Tamarack brought it out and had supper with us. The salad was great.

==I slept well. Breakfast [was] nuts, honey, and fruit – yum – and three soft boiled eggs. ☺

After that, we gathered up left over [fire] wood and birch bark, and took it over to the Sweat Lodge. Dave and I moved the left over Ghost Dance fire wood to the Sweat Lodge. ---time to kick back.

Supper [time], I went and got water to cook with. We had veggie stew with scrambled eggs added. Then we sat around the lean-to and talked. Food talk was one of the big topics of the evening.

(Tomorrow is the last full day at camp.)

===Nuts and honey for breakfast, along with an orange and three soft boiled eggs. Soft boiled eggs are easy to cook, as I discovered, [and] very easy to eat. [Just] take off the top and use a spoon to scoop out the goodness. (or, some day, a piece of toast)

Our quiet was disturbed by a loud explosive crash. A birch tree fell on the Wigwam Winter Lodge. It broke the 'smoke hole cover' pole and produced a large hole in the roof –(a big leak). We will have to tarp it to prevent damage – until someone can fix it. We won't be doing it.

We [went] off to snow camp to see what needs to be done...to restore the site. It is a nice day, sunny and warm with a nice breeze.

At snow camp, we trashed the lodges and erased the hearth area.

Back for supper – we had deer head stew. It was good, but I am still hungry. I ate all my eggs and there are no nuts left. I do have three oranges, though.

Chris and Tamarack came out for a wrap-up meeting. We got our last hand-out; a list of quotes from native guides.

I got a note: Liz is coming Friday for my canoe and stuff, Lucy is coming Sunday for me. [I can't leave Friday.] I need the three days to feel complete and have a proper celebration with my Fellow Seekers!

I made chop sticks to use at the Chinese Buffet on Friday night.

It is a damp night. We got a touch of rain. Well – time for bed

– the last night at camp.

===March 31, 2005 Here we are – we walk out today. Much of the day was spent getting things to the van. Then we had lunch. We didn't take our last load out to the van [right away]. We thought (ASUMPTION) that Chris would be coming out to camp, **but no!**

I counted and saw that there were 9 loads and only 7 people, so Dave and I went out with some stuff. I got there just in time to see Chris – he was about to leave -- we were able to get our last things in the van just in time.

The walk was good. There were a few spots of deep snow. We crossed Julia Lake. We kept a good course and came out about 1/2 a mile from the T.D.O.S. on Military Road. We just missed coming in the back of the property.

We got things in order and snacked on fruit. Then we had our last meeting, and got one more hand-out --- The "Diploma" ---. The Course is the "thing", the 'paper' is just for show.

===April 1 – Off to the bakery for goodies – then to Cindy's for breakfast. We filled up. The day was spent getting stuff re-packed. Liz and Barry will be here to get my canoe... to take it to Oxford, Mich. for me.

Billy's is no longer Billy's, it is the Par-tee Hole. I went there for a drink and a snack. I had a 'Coyote', which is coke, brandy, and cherry juice. I made it up, and I named it.

Shortly after I got back, we were off to the Chinese Buffet. I pigged out. I was so full! What a binge!! Back at the Center, we got a movie – Mystic River. Then it was time for bed.

===Back to the bakery and Cindy's. Ty was the first to depart. I about got emotional. Then Katie – I got a ride with her back to town.

I have a room waiting for me. I got checked in – then I was wondering how I was going to let the other know where I was. They ended up coming into town for supper at the Book Store/Coffee shop. I saw them as I was walking back from the store.

Then Dave, Travis, and I hung out in the room for a bit. I had some chicken and a Fosters Lager. I even ate a Ben and Gerry's. I was only going to eat half, but I ate the bottom half. (Ha! Ha!)

I had a long bath. It was good. I even used soap and shampoo. I rested well that night.

===I thought it was late, but it was early. I stopped by the gas station and got 4 pounds of wild rice for \$9.99. That was a lot of rice.

Then back to the T.D.O.S. to hang out and prep for when Lucy gets here.