



- ◆ April 25-26-27 Clean Up
- ◆ May 24-Breakfast Potluck
- ◆ June 7 potluck 5pm

Pool Progress



Patiently Waiting

Wally Crouch reports that we now have all the permits necessary to install the pool. The work is waiting on the weather and ground to dry.

Wally said that there is an expected June date for completion. In the meantime, we shall patiently wait. In the meantime, we are looking forward to the sound of water filling the new pool.

Thanks to Wally and all who have worked so hard to make the new pool a reality.

Christmas Party, 2007

We want to thank Wally and Mabel Crouch for the outstanding job they did this past year for the Christmas Party. We had this event at the Normal Lodge in December.

There was a gift exchange with some great gifts. We had table decorations and door prizes that were distributed to the lucky members attending. What a great way to wrap up the camping season!

MOUTHWATERIN' VEGGIES By Jerry Baker, America's Master Gardner

To get the most out of your veggies, you need to properly water 'em. Check out these "wet" tips for your vegetable garden:

- Here's a great watering trick: Bury large coffee cans (with both ends removed) between your plants. Fill the cans with rocks, and water directly into the cans. The water will go right to the plants' roots.
- Beans need more water than most other vegetables. When they're blossoming and growing fruit, they can use up to 1/2" of water a day.
- To enhance the flavor of leafy and root vegetables, as well as veggies like broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower, be sure to keep their water supply constant.
- To get the hottest hot peppers in town, you need to flood them shortly before harvest time. This stresses the plants' roots, which then send out a signal to "turn up the heat."
- As I have said many times before, mulch, mulch, and mulch some more! It'll help keep water from evaporating, so the moisture level in the soil stays constant.
- Be sure to continue to water your garden, even when the cool weather arrives. Your plants'll still need plenty of moisture to keep on producin' fruits till the end of the season!
- Veggies need to be watered consistently—the quantity and quality of your veggie harvest can be greatly affected by even a short lapse in watering.
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A Little Camping Humor:

The loaded mini-van pulled into the only remaining campsite. Four children leaped from the vehicle and began feverishly unloading gear and setting up the tent. The boys rushed to gather firewood, while the girls and their mother set up the camp stove and cooking utensils.

A nearby camper marveled to the youngsters' father, "That, sir, is some display of teamwork."

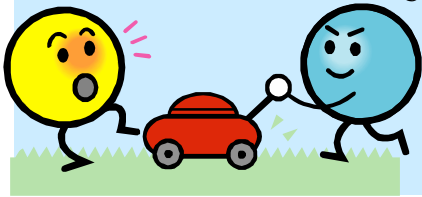
The father replied, "I have a system -- no one goes to the bathroom until the camp is set up."



CLEAN-UP WEEKEND: April 25-26-27

WE HAVE LOTS TO DO to get ready for the camping season!

We will have a soup lunch on Saturday, April 26, so make your favorite soup and dessert to share. Most of the work will be completed on Saturday the 26th. We will be moving the benches and picnic tables out of their winter storage locations and put them on the camp sites and around the fire rings. We will also be cleaning and straightening things up in the building, and the grounds.



Chili Supper-March '08

The Ford's and Neal's hosted the annual Chili Supper on the evening of March 28, at the Normal Lodge. The chili was excellent, as were all the potluck additions. We had a wonderful selection of salads and desserts. The club does boast some of the best cooks ever, you know.

Thanks to the Ford's and Neal's for the excellent job done for this year's dinner.

There were about 41 in attendance for this kick off for the camping season. It was great to see all those who attended. As usual there were new announcements to share. Along that line of thought, we want to congratulate to Al and Judy Gibson on their expected grandson.

Barry collected this year's dues and lot fees. The club membership will be \$7.00 and the lot fee will be \$150.00.



The "Chief Cooks"



And "the Bottle Washers"



Oh look, here are some of the "happy campers" who attended.

Camp Cooking There are many environmental factors that will influence your oven temperature. Wind might blow heat away; colder air temperature, higher humidity and higher elevation reduce heat generated by coals; direct sunlight makes a black oven a bit hotter. You might consider making an aluminum foil wind shield to place around your oven, but if it is that windy, I would recommend you not have an open fire.

Counting Charcoal The normal formula is to use twice the number of briquettes as the diameter of the oven. For a 12 inch oven, you would use 24 briquettes. Depending on the type of cooking you are doing, you need to make the heat come more from the top or bottom of the oven. For example, too much heat on the bottom will burn bread. To do this, you place more or less of the briquettes on the lid. Here is a simple chart:



Baking	More heat from top so bottom does not burn. Place 3/4 coals on top and 1/4 underneath.
Roasting	Heat comes equally from top and bottom. Place 1/2 coals on top and 1/2 underneath.
Stewing, Simmering	Most heat from bottom. Place 1/4 coals on top and 3/4 underneath.
Frying, Boiling	All heat from bottom. Place all coals underneath.



This is a real simple estimate of briquettes. Take the dutch oven diameter and add 3 briquettes on top. Subtract 3 briquettes underneath. So, a 12 inch oven would have $12+3=15$ on top and $12-3=9$ underneath.

Stacking Heat Stacking your dutch ovens is a great way to save ground space, fuel, and time - besides, it looks really cool to have 3 ovens making a tower.

Temperature Tips Finally, just a few tips to tuck away for later: You can cook food, but you can't unburn food. Use less heat and cook longer rather than overheating. Preheat your Dutch oven for frying or searing meat. Otherwise, put the food in cold and let it all heat up together. Keep adding wood to your campfire to ensure you have a supply of camp cooking coals available. If your fire burns too low, it may take extra time to finish your cooking while you make coals.



Elementary, My Dear Watson

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson go on a camping trip, set up their tent, and fall asleep. Some hours later, Holmes wakes his faithful friend.

"Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

Watson replies, *"I see millions of stars."*

"What does that tell you?"

Watson ponders for a minute. *"Astronomically speaking, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Timewise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, it's evident the Lord is all-powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you?"*

Holmes is silent for a moment, then speaks. *"Watson, you idiot, someone has stolen our tent."*

Barry's Comments:



As the weather starts getting warmer and the plants and grass start to green up out there we can start to look forward to camping for this year. The campground will be open to move your campers in starting April 15th. I am planning on having the water turned on Friday April 11th. We will be officially opening the campground the week-end of April 26th. We will be moving picnic tables to the camping pads, moving items out of storage and getting them in their summer locations. We will also be cleaning and straightening things up in the building, and the grounds if the weather cooperates.

If you have not paid your club dues or your paid rental fees for the year, please get them to me as soon as you can. You can mail them to me or bring them up the first time that you camp for the season. Work should begin soon on the new pool. As soon as the ground is dry enough, they should start to put the walls in and pour the floor for the pool. We will be looking for help with putting the new pool building up and the fence around the new pool after the deck is complete. We are expecting the pool to be open in June if the weather will cooperate.

"We will be looking for help with putting the new pool building up and the fence around the new pool...."



- Spring Upcoming Events
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Mark your calendars and plan to come out and join us for breakfast at our first potluck of the season on May 24th.

The Open Road Scottish Rite Campers Club

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