

# 1996 Venture Trip

July 21 – July 30

Sommers Canoe Base, Ely, Minnesota

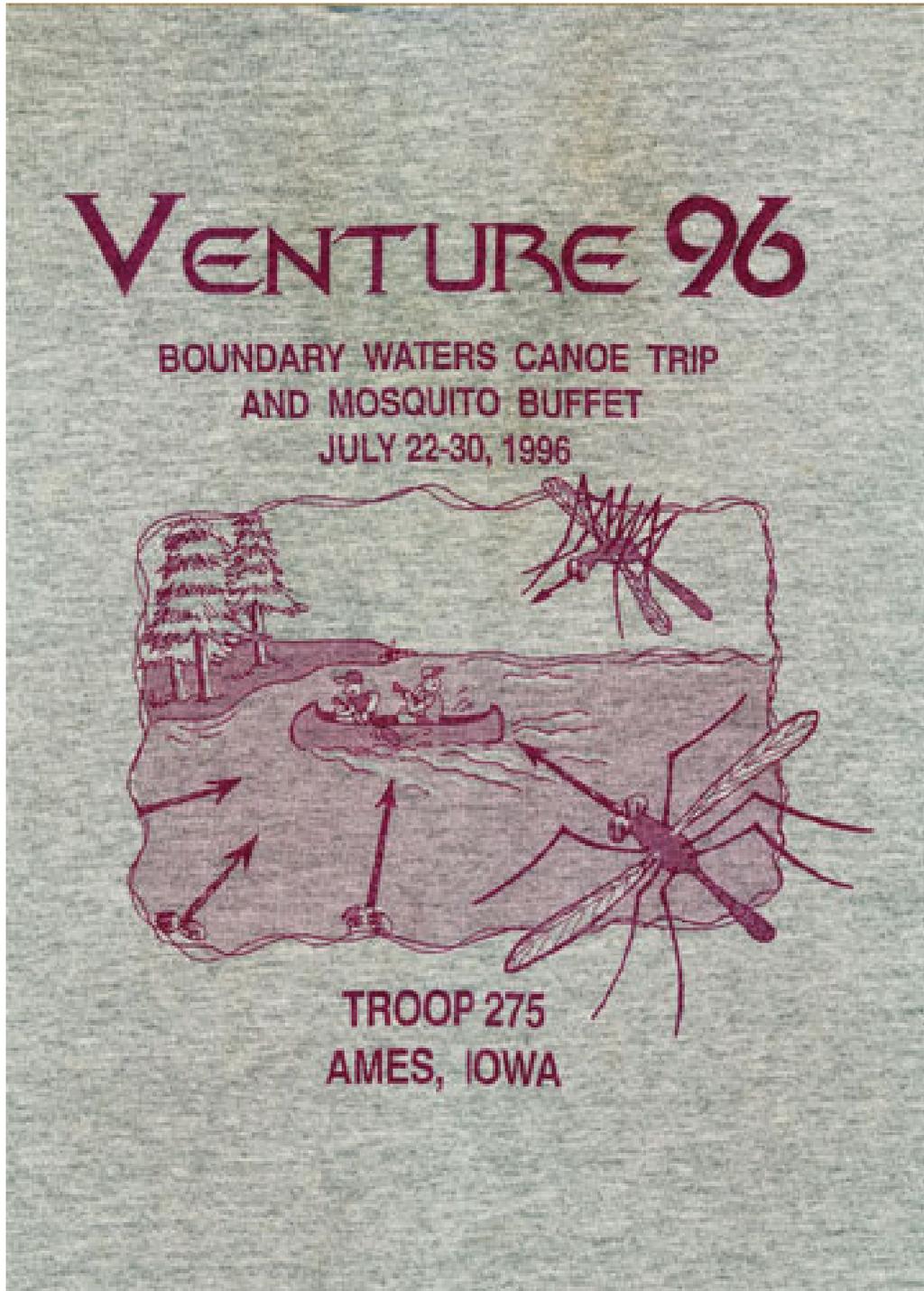
Troop 275 – Ames, Iowa

## 1996 Venture Crew Photo:

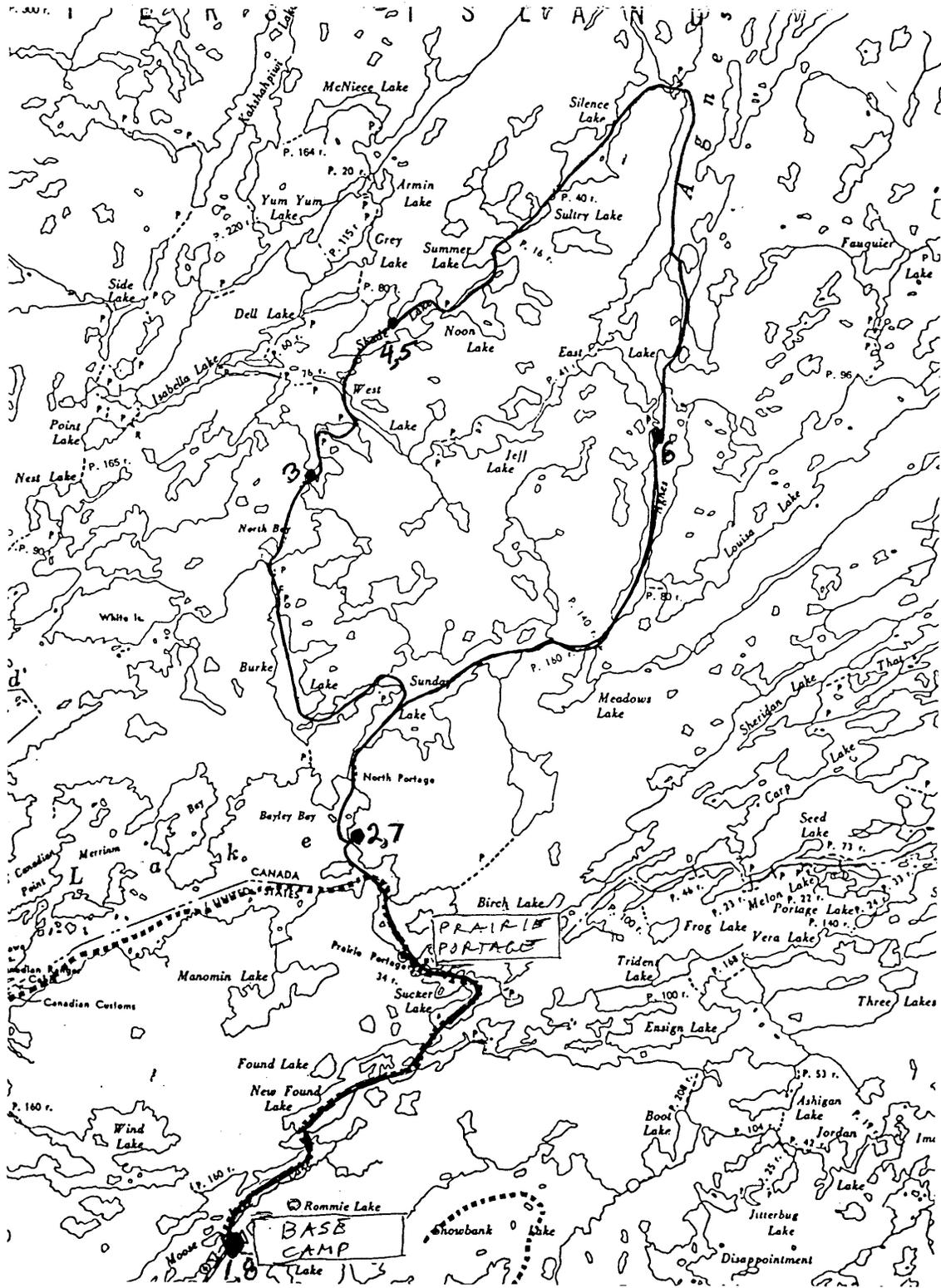


**Back L to R:** Tom Meyer, Ed Gillott, John Elliot, Matt Helland, Phil Gillott, Ryan Jeffrey  
**Front L to R:** Greg Elliot, Doug Houghton, Craig Mexie, Russ Parkin

**1996 Venture Crew T-shirt:**



# 1996 Map(s):





## 1996 Venture Crew Journal

Troop 275 Venture Trip  
Sommers Canoe Base  
Ely, MN  
July 21-30, 1996

### Sunday, July 21

We all met at Tom's house at 8:00 a.m., and Ed was almost on time. We made it on to the road by 8:30 a.m. The car ride was quite uneventful, and we arrived at the border of Minnesota at approximately 10:15 a.m. We ate lunch in Fairibault at a Hardees around 11:30 a.m. We managed to miss the last DQ before Duluth and could not find one in Duluth because Duluth is rather large. We did find a DQ at Two Rivers, and Tom ordered a Heath-Cappuccino Blizzard (now that is an odd flavor if there ever was one.) We arrive at Fall Lake campsite around 6:30 p.m, only to find that they had forgotten to mark our reservation. Ed got lucky and stumbled upon a ranger who gave us a campsite.

The moment we stepped out of the car the world famous Minnesota Mosquitos decided to greet us, and out came the bug spray. Shortly after a dinner of Dinti Moore Stew, it, naturally, started to rain, giving us a foreshadowing of the rain to come. After the rain let up some went swimming in the lake, which was bordered on the far side by a beautiful double rainbow.

### Monday, July 22

Tom gets up about 6:00 a.m and tempts Ryan out of bed with the promise of Espresso. Some people went swimming again (most people) and some people just lazed about (Ryan & Russ). After swimming and lazing about we did an activity on wolf reintroduction and came up with a diversity of opinions.

At 10:00 a.m. we arrived at the Wolf Center and watched a video, during which some people took the opportunity to catch up on sleep (now, I'm not pointing any fingers here, Ed). All we can really say about the wolf exhibit was that was there. The presentation was excellent, however, and we saw all four wolves. The T-shirt graphics at the store were, to put it gently, pathetic.

We ate Lunch at a Subway in Ely, where we met up with the Gillotts. We then shopped around for last minute supplies (coffee).

At base camp, we met our interpreter, Timmon. We then watched a video on the voyagers, the second time for Ryan and Tom. After the video we went to get our food and equipment, which included a lot of TP. We got our stuff into our cabins and played frisbee. Dinner was stew - again. We met the talking trash compactor, which Russ and Ryan wanted to reprogram to say "I can't do that, Dave" whenever someone told it to do something. After dinner we finished checking in and played more frisbee.

### Tuesday, July 23

We all got up at 6:00 a.m., packed our bags and headed of for breakfast, which was all you can eat pancakes. We picked up our last minute stuff, emergency radio and canoes.

At 9:20 a.m., we got onto the water and headed out, into a head wind of course. No rain though, yet. Our route took us through Moose Lake, Newfound Lake, Sucker Lake, and then to Prairie Portage. The first half of the crew arrives in the neighborhood of 11:15, and the second half arrives around 11:40. We barely manage to get through customs and the ranger before lunch. From the portage we headed into Inlet Bay of Basswood Lake. Heavy winds forced us to camp on Bailey Bay. Shortly after we got camp set up, you guessed it, it started to rain.

### **Wednesday, July 24**

At 6:00 espresso was served and people began to rise. Our route took us from Sunday Bay, across North Potage(134 rods), to Sunday Lake, at which point we reversed our planned route to avoid doing two more even longer portages that day. We then portaged into Burke, then to North Bay of Basswood Lake, where we camped on an island. Ryan begins to show those traits for which his family has become famous for, those of the rain god (My father flooded the Badlands, my brother flooded scout camp, I sort of made it rain of and on for a couple of days. Hey I'm still learning!) At one point the rain threatened to clear, but didn't. Ed caught a 12 inch Northern. We started to write this journal.

### **Thursday, July 25**

We left North Bay and headed up a reedy inlet into South Lake (are you sensing they were running out of names too?), we portaged into West Lake, then to Shade Lake and find a great island campsite. We pull in early and eat lunch. After lunch we swam, played frisbee, and the adults bathed. Ryan makes a make shift fishing pole, and we go fishing. We found the Indian writings (they were pretty boring), and Tom, Ed, and Ryan caught small Rock Bass. We cooked over a fire that night and played Bottecelli for the first time.

### **Friday, July 26**

Most of us slept in, but Tom and Ed go for an early morning fishing trip. Ryan and Phil both learn to make espresso, even though Phil doesn't drink it. Some people swim, Ed and Ryan go fishing again. Frisbee was played back at camp, with much more noise than one would think frisbee would require (we could hear them from across the lake.) After lunch Ed, Tom, and Ryan go fishing, yet again, but don't catch anything big. Timmon started the idiotic gun-slinger game (ask Matt about it.)

### **Saturday, July 27**

We get up between 6:00 and 6:30, go about the usual procedure. Our route went from Shade to Noon to Summer to Sultry to Silence, and eventually to Agnes. At a pit stop on the way to our campsite Ed catches a 14 inch Small mouth Bass, but it escapes and Ed exercises his vocabulary. When we arrive at camp, Ed catches another 14 inch Small mouth for dinner. While Ed was fishing, Ryan and Phil find blueberries. Dinner consists of Bass, hush puppies, and blueberry banana nut muffins.

### **Sunday, July 28**

We wake up to overcast sky, but it is not raining. Leave camp around 8:30 and arrive at Louisa Falls maybe a half hour later. We are extremely glad we did not take the Louisa Portage in order to meet the other crew. Some people saw the bath tub which people sit in on nicer days than this was. We left about 10:00 and began portaging the Bitch & Bastard, which we had avoided on the second day (Bitch- 140 rods, Bastard- 193 rods), and had about a 20 rod paddle in between. We took North Portage to Sunday Bay, again, and had lunch on Sunday Bay. We made camp at the same site on Bailey Bay we had camped at the first day. We did our major clean up that night. No luck fishing.

### **Monday, July 29**

We went back over Prairie Portage and met the other crew shortly after. On our way in, John caught a big Northern, but it was too late to cook it. We spent two hours at lunch, because we weren't supposed to get to base until 3:00, but we got in a little early anyway. We got all checked in and played some frisbee.

### **Tuesday, July 30**

We had the early bird breakfast and headed out. We stop in the Twin Cities to go to REI and have lunch. We stop in Clear Lake at a Dairy Queen for a snack. We lose Ed on the way back to Ames, but he eventually finds us at Valentino's. Everyone goes over to the Meyer's to wish Kay a happy birthday.

