



THE HISTORY OF TYAX ADVENTURES' BACKCOUNTRY CAMPS

Tyax Adventures' Backcountry Camps have a rich history dating back to 1947 during which time hunters, miners, outdoor enthusiasts and hard working locals enjoyed, built and maintained these camps. In 2012, Tyax Adventures acquired these backcountry camps from Spruce Lake Wilderness Adventures, which was owned and operated by the Menhinick family. The Menhinick family is a hard working family of many generations that made their living by horse packing into the Chilcotin and put countless hours into maintaining the camps and trails for everyone of both yesterday and today to enjoy. The Douglas family and Tyax Adventures, are honoured to have the opportunity to carry on the legacy of these remote and unique backcountry camps.

BEAR PAW CAMP

Bear Paw Camp was built in 1947 by a wealthy group of hunters and backcountry travelers from Little Gun Lake. The group hired Ben McCannister who also built other local outposts known as Cowboy Camp, Big Creek Camp, Liza Valley Camp, and Bear Paw Camp - formerly known as Tyax Camp.



In the 1980's these camps were taken over by Barry Menhinick and used primarily by family and friends as hunting outposts. Then the 1990's outdoor enthusiasts including horseback riders, hikers and mountain bikers became the prominent user groups. As a result of this increase in use, Bear Paw cabin was upgraded with a new floor and roof. Bear Paw camp was then acquired by Tyax Adventures in 2012, at which time the current wall tents, hot running water and the completion of a second cabin was added.

This Camp remains Barry's favorite thanks to its majestic setting, and the wealth of wildlife. This camp boasts the highest number of bear sightings, as it is not unusual to see both Grizzly and Black Bears, with dandelion juice dripping from their chins in the meadow.

As you sit in this camp consider the nearly 70 years that men, women and families worked to maintain this special spot; roofs propped after heavy winters, supplies carried in by horse, and specifically the Menhinick clan who spent over 30 years packing and travelling in these mountains maintaining trails and camps for all to enjoy.

ELDORADO CAMP

Eldorado was built in 1988 by a group of local men including Barry Menhinick, Don Sturgess - an engineer raised in Bralorne - and Steve Hall. The Eldorado camp was intended to be used by the ski touring community in the winter and by summer outdoor enthusiasts during the warmer months.

Eldorado was a challenging camp to build. All the wood was brought from Vancouver, then driven by truck to the highest allowable access point, then helicoptered in 900lb loads to the site where the cabin currently sits. Winter ski touring folk have enjoyed the ample snow that accumulates in this north-facing basin, even when snow is minimal in other areas. Meanwhile summer hikers, horseback riders and mountain bikers enjoy the breath taking scenery and wildflowers that make this area truly magical. This camp was also acquired by Tyax Adventures in 2012, and is deeply appreciated for the high elevation comfort and beauty it offers, as well as the extraordinary effort it took to build.



TRIGGER CAMP

Trigger camp was built in 1952 by long time valley residents Charlie Cunningham, Jim Keir, Danny Savage and Merv Lepkey. Consider if you may, Charlie milling boards on a “haywire” stationary saw and moving logs with his trusty helper Danny. This cabin took two years to build and was a favorite place for moose hunters and prospectors.

The route from Gun Creek headwaters to Trigger Camp was primarily forged by Taylor Windfall Mines in the 1930’s. This route was used to access Warner Pass and create a way to get to Taseko Lake for freight, and miners. Work in the mines ended in the 1940’s at which point efforts were redirected toward mining exploration.

Thankfully this location was maintained over the years by the Menhinick family and today by the Douglas family, and still stands today for guests to enjoy. Trigger Camp is a beautiful spot with a lovely meandering creek, ample wood, and horse feed for working horses. Tyax Adventures began bringing its guest to Trigger Camp in 2012 at which point upgrades were completed bringing greater comfort to this beautiful and rustic location.

SPRUCE CAMP

Spruce Lake Camp opened in 1985 by the Menhinick family. Initially there were two proposed sites, but with time the present sight was decided upon. Spruce Camp is the most visited camp and could be considered the gateway to the magnificent Spruce Lake Protected Area.

In 2002 the Menhinick family erected a “weather haven” which was used as a cook shack and sleeping area in the cold days of fall. Spruce Camp remained a heavily treed camp until in 2011 a remarkable windstorm brought down a significant number of trees opening the canopy. In 2012 Tyax Adventures began operating this camp adding significant upgrades; to date the “weather haven” has been replaced with a cabin that provides an enclosed cooking, eating and relaxing area, and hot running water.



Spruce Lake has been enjoyed by many families who have cabins on its shores, but particularly the Menhinick family who have memorial spots throughout this area to commemorate family who have passed. Over the years, horseback riders, mountain bikers and hikers have completed trail maintenance. Major trail maintenance projects have been completed in conjunction with BC Parks and WORCA in order to assist in keeping these trails open to the public.

SKY CAMP

Sky Camp is our newest camp and was built by the Douglas family and friends. For years we struggled to find a place that could match our expectations of a beautiful, private hideaway. Nothing met our expectations, until we discovered Crystal Lake, a picture perfect alpine lake set deep in the mountains of British Columbia. We spent countless hours learning the wind, ways and microclimates of the shoreline, and then picked the most idyllic spot on the lake. In 2004/2005, logs were cut, foot and bicycle paths were created, and the main cabin and tent decks were constructed; all surrounded by an intoxicating beauty. The fruits of our labour are now yours to enjoy with the added bonus of creature comforts and amenities.