

Firemaker Primitive Skills Gathering

June 29- July 5, 2009 Camp Barnard, Sooke B.C.

REGISTRATION PACKAGE INFO PAGE

The Firemaker Primitive Skills Society exists to learn, practice and share ancient skills and technology, the philosophy of honouring and respecting all existence, and acknowledging our place in the circle of life. Our ancestors knew how to live well without modern tools and materials. These ways are not lost. In addition to rekindling the old ways, we embrace new approaches to living close to the earth which are in harmony with the old ways.

At our gatherings, we invite instructors to share their skills and love for low-tech or no-tech ways of living and enjoying the outdoors. But, Firemaker includes more than just workshops and learning; it's also about friendship, fun, and community. Each evening there is singing, drumming, games, or story telling around the campfire. Group camping, shared meals and time to chat with instructors or to share the day's experiences with new or old friends add to the feeling. There's also plenty of room for solitude.

EXPECTATIONS

Firemaker Primitive Skills Society is a non-profit society, and fees collected for the gathering are intended to cover costs only. It is run by volunteers. In order to keep costs low, and in keeping with our commitment to forming a strong community, participants are asked to contribute to Firemaker through volunteer participation. Volunteering with camp activities, including cleanliness, food preparation, caregiving, etc. will help make it a positive experience for everyone. We try to leave the camp in better condition than when we arrived, and will ask for participants to take on a "caretaking" attitude while at camp. As well, please reserve time on Sunday for camp cleanup, at least 2 hours not including the time you require to break your own camp.

TO BRING

Bring a **plate, cup, mug, bowl, and cutlery for each person attending**. Also, **camping gear, toiletries, personal items, flashlight**, and anything you want to offer in **the Giveaway**. We encourage you to bring **swimwear, sunscreen and hat, water bottle**, and your own **snacks**. The nearest store is 15 minutes drive away. **You may bring your own food, but most participants choose to share in the prepared meals as the price is very reasonable and the food is delicious!** If you are renting a bunkhouse, you will still need to bring a **sleeping pad, sleeping bag, and pillow**, as the beds are simple wooden bunks. Please bring any **personal health necessities**. There will be folks present with basic first aid training, and access to herbal first aid. As our instructors essentially volunteer their time, and the cost of workshops is included in Firemaker, some (but very few) workshops may require **cash to pay for material components** provided.

GENERAL SCHEDULE

- Monday:** Arrival & set-up, followed by a **potluck** supper. Opening circle around 7:30 pm. Please arrive after 1:00 pm, as there is another group in the campsite until then. No meals are provided this day.
- Tuesday morning:** Community building games for everyone.
- Tuesday pm to Saturday:** Workshops 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. most days. Evenings will generally be free time, with songs and stories around the campfire.
- Thursday afternoon:** Free time, featuring a trade show where the instructors will be selling their wares.
- Saturday evening:** The Giveaway (See "**Giveaway**" page in this registration package).
- Sunday:** Clean up and preparation to leave. The closing ceremony will be Sunday after lunch.

QUESTIONS?

Email briema@uvic.ca or call 250.382.6830

I have read and understood the information provided. Initials: _____

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THE GIVEAWAY

At Firemaker Gatherings, there is a Giveaway on Saturday evening. We invite all participants, including instructors, to bring things you value and let them go to someone who needs them—also to accept things that come to you at the Giveaway.

The attitude of the Giveaway is thankfulness; of saying we are thankful for our blessings, thankful for our relations. We are known for what we give, not what we keep, as our bodies are our only real belongings. Giving without expectation or hope of return—learning to let go—nurtures a caring and generous spirit. The acknowledgement that the Giveaway represents, of an event or a person, is far more important than the material value of the gift. We give all that we can, knowing it will come back many-fold. We also accept with gratitude and humility the things that come to us in the Giveaway.

Traditionally, the ritual Giveaway was used to celebrate spiritual, social, and other events such as a young man's first hunt, the birth of a child, the passing of an elder to join the ancestors in Next World, or any significant event in one's life. To the Sioux, this is *wacantognaka*—"to be able to give without a pounding heart." To the Kwakwaka'wakw of the northwest coast, this is the "potlatch" ceremony.

HOW TO PREPARE

As you get ready for the Gathering, consider what things you have that someone else might need. These should be things you value, not just things that you might give to a garage sale. Be ready to release them and to take whatever might come to you. This is a time to experience and appreciate the giving and receiving that keep all things in balance. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the Giveaway with a sense of gratitude for being able to give and for being able to receive.

PROCESS

On Saturday we will bring our giveaways to the main field and put them on the ground or on blankets. A few words will be spoken about the Giveaway, and then we simply allow everyone present to be guided to whatever items they will take.

GUIDELINES - Here are some of the protocols that guide our Giveaway:

- Give what you wish, take what you wish. There is no keeping score.
- You may wish to give something to a specific person. If so, it is appropriate to bring it to the Giveaway and present it to them quietly during the Giveaway.
- Younger children may need guidance about what they take and how they take it. It may be necessary to remind them of the need to be respectful of what they take and of other people.
- Most items will be given and taken anonymously. However, if you give away something that needs explanation or has a story, it is appropriate to go to the person who takes it and speak to them.

Please initial each page of the registration package: _____

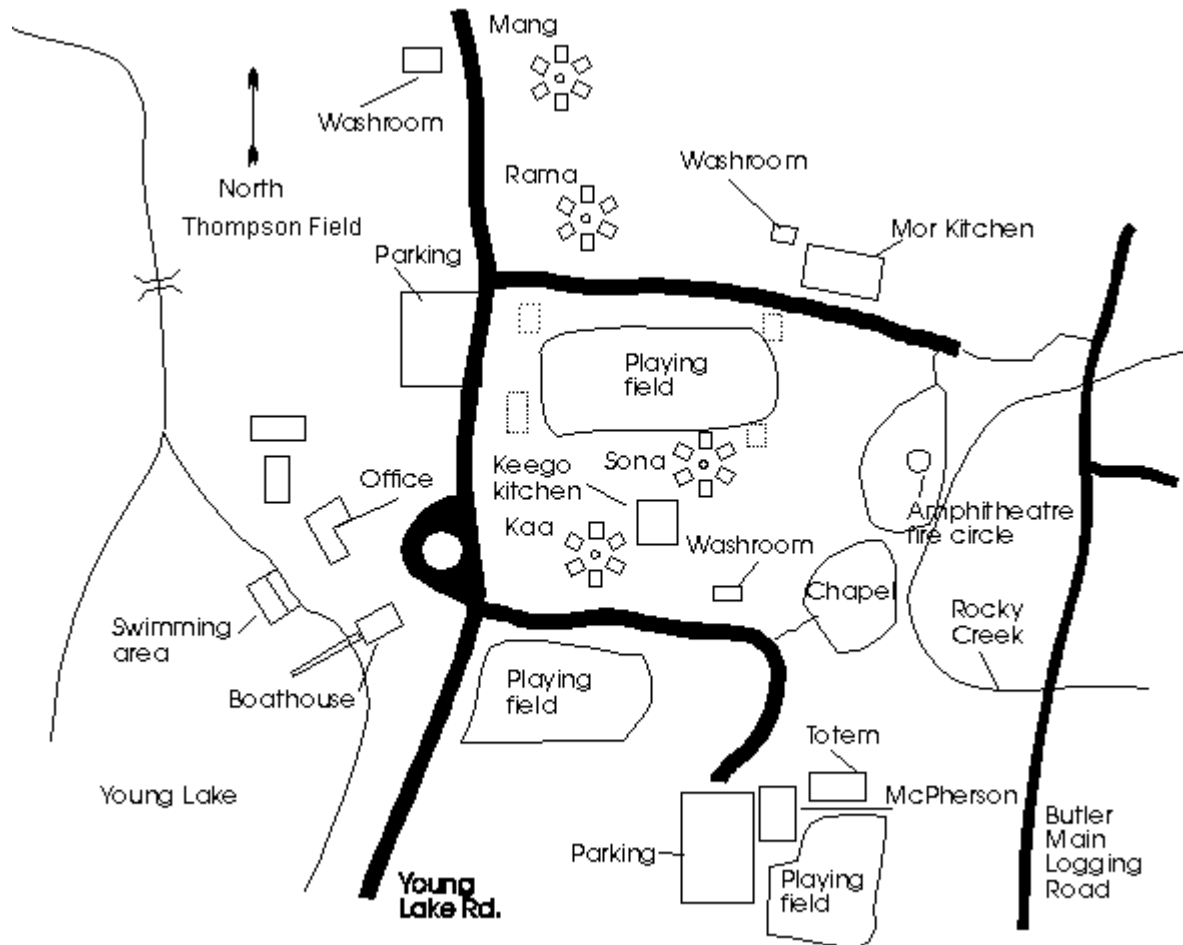
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LOCATION OF CAMP BARNARD, NEAR SOOKE, B.C.

3202 Young Lake Road, Sooke, BC

Getting there: (1 hour drive from downtown Victoria)

1. From Victoria take Hwy 1 and follow signs to Sooke
2. In Sooke, turn right at the 3rd stop light onto Otter Point Road
3. Stay on Otter Pt. Rd. for about 5 Km, turn right on to Young Lake Road
4. Young Lk. Rd. leads right into Camp Barnard



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