GETTING TO KNOW GLADYS, THE BUS AT CLAYTON’S DAIRY AIRE STRIP
Fireweed Airstrip (0AK8)
West McCarthy, Alaska

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FINDING GLADYS BY ROAD:

At Mile 58 of the McCarthy Road, you will be on the last downgrade to the Kennicott River. At the bottom of the downgrade is the National Park Service information shack on the left. Here, TURN RIGHT off the McCarthy Road at John Adam’s airstrip. PROCEED STRAIGHT south .3 miles past John Adam’s place on the left along a straight section of road he occasionally uses as his airstrip. CONTINUE STRAIGHT ahead south another .75 miles through the spruce forest out onto the gravel of the Kennicott River. The road makes a 90 degree RIGHT turn. From that turn proceed west another .75 miles back into spruce forest. Turn RIGHT at the "Clayton's DairyAire Strip" sign. After a block you reach the taxiway providing access to all the property.

Before entering the taxiway or crossing the airstrip, STOP, roll down your windows on both sides, LOOK and LISTEN. Give way to aircraft.

Turn Right on the taxiway and follow it around to the left until it takes you West to the 100' wide airstrip with the wind sock on your right.

Before crossing the airstrip, STOP, LOOK ON THE GROUND AND IN THE AIR ABOVE EACH APPROACH, AND LISTEN FOR OPERATING AIRCRAFT BEFORE CROSSING THE STRIP!

Go directly across the strip and continue west on the taxiway which will bear right and arrive at Gladys the Bus and related red roofed buildings.

Welcome to Gladys' meadow!

FINDING GLADYS BY AIR:

Fireweed Strip (0AK8) is located 2.6 nautical miles SW of McCarthy (PAMX)

Please announce intentions on 122.9 for landing “Fireweed Airstrip.” Elevation is 1250 feet,
packed gravel surface with more than 2500 feet between the orange cones marking the preferred northern end of the airstrip. Runways 01-19. Right traffic for 01. Park at the south end of the strip. For noise abatement on departures to the south on 19, turn left (east) toward the Kennicott River as soon as able.

STUFF TO BRING:

For camping and playing at Clayton’s DairyAire Strip with Gladys, bring tents, camper or motor homes, chairs, four wheelers, water, beverages and food for potlucks. Swimsuits are good if you want to use the hot tub. Assuming my water system is working, the “wash house” will be available for hot showers and to wash dishes. We also have a fire pit, picnic tables, two burner propane outdoor stove and a couple of barbecues. Circular driveway is motor home friendly.

ARRIVAL CHECKLIST AND INFORMATION

ENTRY

Entry is at Back Emergency Door of the Bus
Smallest Master Lock Key on the key ring fits the padlock
Helps to lean on back door and wiggle the handle to push up
WATCH YOUR HEAD ENTERING BACK DOOR OR BE AN IDIOT
Then go to front and unlock front door by lifting up on black handle and swinging right

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Electrical system is all DC from Bus Battery (110v outlets not presently hooked up)
Battery is around the front of bus at bottom of frame under the drivers sliding window.
Open compartment with yellow handle and slide battery tray out for access
Clean battery terminals and hook up negative cable. (see tool box inside wash house for battery brush and wrenches if not next to battery)
Charge battery as needed with Honda generator and battery charger in washhouse.

KEYS

Keys for four-wheelers, other equipment are generally in the rig or on the shelf just above and to the left of the woodstove. If you use, please return them there.

CARBON MONOXIDE/FIRE DETECTOR
Find it on the shelf above or table next to woodstove, test and change batteries if necessary

HEAT AND COOKING

PROPANE

Propane tanks at back emergency door
Turn on one tank, check valve which changes from tank to tank
Light burners on cook stove and oven for each use.
Cooking utensils and basic foods are in the cupboards below and to right of cook stove

Turn propane heater stove on with thermostat high on living room side of plywood cabinets
(on/off switch at bottom, temperature control at top)
Bus battery must be hooked up and charged to operate igniter and fan on propane space heater
Ok to leave bus with propane space heater on and thermostat set low

When one propane tank is empty, close valve and switch to reserve

If necessary you can get propane tanks filled at John Adams.

WOOD STOVE

Wood, paper and matches for wood stove on shelf left of wood stove
Pull small handle at bottom of stove out for more combustion air; push in for less
DO NOT LEAVE BUS UNATTENDED WITH FIRE IN WOOD STOVE

LIGHTS

Three Coleman lanterns (one white gas, one white gas/unleaded, and one disposable propane)
Follow directions on each
Coleman Fuel (and other fuel/oil supplies) is in washhouse or garage.

Honda Generator in washhouse will charge the bus battery and power trouble/work lights, vacuum, microwave, etc.

Inverter by driver’s seat is for charging computers, NOT for running the vacuum.

SLEEPING

DISCUSS EMERGENCY EXIT PLANS THROUGH FRONT DOOR AND REAR EMERGENCY DOOR AND OPERATION OF BOTH DOORS FOR EVERYONE IN PARTY

Install loft for bunk in back only if needed
Discuss with party location of red emergency exit door handle and use and keep handle clear
Three sections of bench opposite the cook stove also set down onto floor to create a double bed

OUTHOUSE

Out the winding path between the front of the bus and the washhouse. Take mosquito dope out, bring firewood back.

WASH HOUSE – HOT TUB

In the summer, the gravity fed water system will generally be functioning, but you must do a few things to make it work.

TO START:

1) Look behind wash house to find intake valves. Ensure small valve feeding wash house is closed and large valve feeding pipe to yard/hot tub is open.
2) Take four-wheeler with rubber knee boots up the hill on the trail next to the garage to the intake box.
3) Clean intake box of debris with shovel if needed and let water run clean out the short black PVC outlet pipe.
4) Connect short outlet pipe to pipe heading downhill (friction fit without clamps usually sufficient.
5) Let water run clean out of the large black PVC. Then fill hot tub if desired, or close large valve.
6) Open small valve feeding wash house.
7) At sink, the very small faucet provides giardia filtered drinking water. Other water is for washing.
8) For hot water, open propane valve on tank behind washhouse.

BEFORE LEAVING:

1) Close propane valve on tank behind wash house.
2) Four wheeler to top and disconnect short feeder pipe and lay in creek to run. THIS IS IMPORTANT! I DO NOT WANT A BREAK IN THE LINE LEFT CONNECTED TO FLOOD THE MEADOW.
3) Back of wash house, open both large valve and small valve to let system drain.

HELPFUL NEIGHBORS

If you run into trouble or need local help in any emergency several kind neighbors are nearby: John Adams (tire repair, frame construction, B&B) 554-4433hm; 554-1133cl
Keith and Laurie Rowland (They have the shop at north end of airstrip and do freight, road construction) home: 554-4498; cell 554-2288
DEPARTURE CHECKLIST:

Let fire in woodstove die down.
SIGN THE GUESTBOOK!
Put four wheelers in garage WITH IGNITION OFF; put keys in bus on shelf above table near woodstove
Disconnect water at filter at dam
Drain water pipe by opening large valve behind shed
Do not leave fruit or other perishables
Do not leave water jugs full in winter to freeze (ok in summer)
Leave Bus battery fully charged
Disconnect negative cable to bus battery
Turn off switch on propane heater thermostat
Turn off valves on all propane tanks
Close front door and engage latch with black handle
Exit rear emergency exit and lock with padlock

Lock washhouse and garage

LET AL KNOW OF ANY TROUBLES, SQUAWKS OR MISSING ITEMS. LET AL KNOW IF ANYONE HAD FUN!