

**G ETTING TO KNOW GLADYS, THE BUS AT CLAYTON'S DAIRY AIRE STRIP**  
Fireweed Airstrip (0AK8)  
West McCarthy, Alaska

(Spring 2021 edition)

Al and Beth Clayton  
500 L Street, Ste. 200  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Al.clayton@cdlaw.pro  
Work 907-276-2999  
Al's Cell 907-250-1649  
Beth's Cell 907-250-3038

**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" 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 BECOME 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 positive 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 and follow lighting instruction on Bosch instant water heater.

### 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 (propane, B&B) 554-4433hm; 554-1133cl  
Keith and Laurie Rowland (They have the shop at north end of airstrip and do freight, road construction, tire repair) 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

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!

