



## *MNF3 Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Ely, Minnesota*



*There we were in January, two older guys, not in the best of shape. We wanted to do something in the summer we had never done before, and in doing so we wanted to leave the real world behind. Fishing HAD to be part of the plan. Growing up in northern Iowa and spending summers in northern Minnesota, we had always been intrigued by stories we had heard about the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Solitude. Mother Nature at her finest. Camping. Lugging around a canoe and gear. And fishing! What more could two brothers ask for?*

*A good friend of our family owns the Outdoor Connection office in Des Moines, and she promptly hooked us up with Dan in Ely. Doris took care of all the details for the trip and when we arrived in Ely Dan was ready for us. In fact, he even gave us a 4-man tent instead of a 2-man tent which was awesome! The quality of the equipment was top notch. The food was plentiful and good - even the freeze dried stuff. The scenery was more than we had imagined.*

*We paddled out to the island Dan recommended and set up base camp. For the next 4 days, even in the rain that came in, we ventured out and explored surrounding lakes and rocky shorelines, listened to the loons, hiked and fished. At the end of the week, we were still two older guys, brothers not in the best of shape. But something had changed. We had proven to ourselves we can handle the great outdoors with nothing more than a canoe, a tent and a few supplies.*

*We're already planning next year's adventure!  
Todd and Troy*

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In summary, a very good trip ! Thank you for your recommendations. Martin and I arrived in Ely on Sunday evening. We were greeted by Ryan by name and set up in our room. The bathrooms were clean as was our room. We received a discount coupon for the Ely Steakhouse and a breakfast voucher for the Vertins ( I think )

We got an early start on Monday Matt drove us to point 14 and helped us get our stuff to the water. We were in our first camp by 2:00. All the equipment was clean and in good shape. All our food was stored in a bear proof container. Thus eliminating the need to hang our food.



For the most part we had great weather. The wind picked up in afternoon and settled down by about 6:00. On travel days we were setting up camp usually by 1:00, as recommended by Dan. One big note that should not go unmentioned no bugs. One day we put some bug spray on during the day to keep black flies off our legs. The few mosquitoes we did encounter were taken care of with a slap. This may have been due to the "dry " conditions in the boundary waters.

We did ok with our fishing. We fished hard on Tuesday in Shell lake, Little Shell lake and Ruby lake, taking mostly bass. Thursday we fished hard again hitting Oyster, Rocky and finally Green lake where we had fish (northerns). Fishing hard means almost 12 straight hours.



The quality and portion of food was excellent. It took me a day or so to figure out the right amounts of water to use but by day three the meals were tasting great by our standards. The steaks, Polish sausage, and bacon were of great quality, packaged perfectly and tasted like heaven.

The portages were all very manageable, not that we had all that many long ones. I will say this would be a difficult trip if you had little kids along. The fact that Martin could carry his share of the load made things much easier.

We spent considerable time talking about our next trip. Would it be a spring trip or a fall trip? I don't know. In the mean time If you have anyone looking to make such a trip, we would be happy to give an excellent recommendation to Dan's outfit in Ely, Minnesota and Outdoor Connection.



*Jeff and Martin*

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