

UMASS OUTING CLUB

CABIN USER GUIDE

revised 2011

Directions

from UMass:

Interstate 91 North to Exit 17 in Vermont (near milepost 110)
Right onto US Highway 302 East to Littleton, New Hampshire (about 25 miles)
Right onto Interstate 93 South to Exit 40 (2 exits from your on-ramp)
US Highway 302 East 3 miles to flashing yellow light in center of Bethlehem
Right onto NH state highway 142 South 0.9 miles
UMOC cabin gravel parking lot is on the right, entrance between two timber posts
Trailhead at right rear corner of lot, follow ¼ mile up the hill to the cabin

from Boston:

Interstate 93 North to Exit 37 in New Hampshire
Right onto NH state highway 142 North 4.5 miles
UMOC cabin gravel parking lot is on the left, entrance between two timber posts
Trailhead at right rear corner of lot, follow ¼ mile up the hill to the cabin

Hospital

The nearest medical facility is Littleton Regional Hospital
600 Saint Johnsbury Road
Littleton, NH 03561

Phone: 800 464 7731 or 603 444 9000

From the parking lot turn left on Rt 142 North and go down hill to the flashing red light.
Left on Rt 302 West for 3 miles and turn right onto Rt 93 North for 5 miles to Exit 43.
Right at end of ramp on Rt 135, cross back over Rt 93, and turn right on Rt 18/135.
Drive one mile, hospital is on the right.

Access

There is a door inside the porch for gaining entry to the cabin. It has both a knob lock and a deadbolt lock, but the same key fits both locks. The key is located in a lock box hanging from the door knob, and the combination to this lock box will be given out to users at the time of rental by the UMOC gear locker manager. The other two exterior doors to the cabin must be unlocked from the inside. There is a fire escape window at the far end of the sleeping loft. To use, open, exit the window, and climb down the ladder built onto the front of the cabin.

Wood Stove

When starting the fire, make sure the damper in the flue pipe to the ceiling is open, such that the handle is in the vertical position. You should find it that way. Open the damper in the door 5 turns from the closed position. The easiest way to get a fire going is to crumple up a bunch of SINGLE sheets of newsprint or other paper stock into balls and put them in a pile on the bottom of the stove. Place tinder (very thin dry sticks or pieces of wood) on top of the paper, and then lay the kindling (slightly thicker sticks) down on top of that. Finally lay 2 or three logs over

everything, leaving enough air spaces for new flames to get up through the log pile. Stick a lit match into the pile and light the paper. Close the door for a couple of minutes, and then add another log or two to the top of the pile once the fire has collapsed and compressed the kindling. Be careful not to smother the flames that you already have. Close the door again, let the fire get going, and keep some more logs handy to add wood as required. Once there is a good bed of coals, and the cabin is warm enough, or people are going to bed, you can load up the stove with wood and then screw the damper in the door down to an almost-closed position. This restricts inflow of oxygen so that the wood burns more slowly and rate of heat output is reduced. Firewood is in the woodsheds behind the cabin. Hopefully, previous cabin users have left dry kindling and logs inside for you. Before you leave, please extend this same courtesy to future cabin visitors.

Propane Tanks

There is a propane tank hooked up to the cabin, outside the kitchen door and around on the left side. To turn on the gas, screw the hand valve at the top of the tank all the way counter-clockwise. Go back inside and open the valve on the copper tube running up the wall inside from where the propane tank sits. That little brass lever must be vertical, or parallel with the gas line, to be open. Propane is now available to the kitchen stove and the lamps. Before leaving the cabin for your day trips or at the end of your weekend, close both valves so that gas cannot flow out of the tank or into the cabin.

If the tank runs out of gas and needs to be replaced with one of the full tanks stored in the right side of the lower woodshed, you will need to use the large end wrench hanging from the wall next to the propane tank. Do not use a pipe wrench or vice grips, as this will deform the fitting. The large brass nut at the end of the copper gas line must be unscrewed from the tank. This being a gas valve, the threads are REVERSED, and loosening requires a clockwise, rather than counterclockwise, turning of the nut. Keep the wrench tight, and be gentle, so as not to round over the edges of the nut or strip the threads when screwing the nut back into the new tank. Brass is a soft metal which won't spark, keeping any wayward gas pockets from igniting. Once the fitting is detached from the tank, you can undo the safety chain around the middle of the tank and remove the empty tank from its pad. Replace with one of the full tanks and orient so that the brass fitting from the cabin easily reaches its target on the tank. Attach the safety chain to the cabin so that it runs across the front of the tank, and then reattach the brass fitting to the top of the tank, remembering that the nut must be turned counterclockwise to tighten.

Put only one tank at a time on the concrete pedestal to help avoid unnecessarily bending the thin copper tubing from the regulator (round gray thing above the tank).

Lights

There are 7 gas light fixtures, 5 on the main floor and 2 in the sleeping loft. To light one of these lamps, the lever on the side must be pushed in and then turned upward for the propane to flow through the fixture to the fabric mantle hanging down from the center. Light a match or lighter and hold it just below but NOT TOUCHING the mantle in the lamp. If propane is flowing well, the gas will ignite with a gentle hiss, and the mantle will begin to glow white-hot. If you touch the mantle with anything solid it will disintegrate where touched, and light output will be

severely degraded. Do not ever touch the mantle after it has been attached to the light and burned.

To turn the light off, simply push in the lever on the side of the light fixture and then turn the lever downward to close off the flow of gas. Lamps must be in the “off” position when not in use, or gas will leak into the cabin through the lights whenever the propane tank valve and main cabin valve are open. Mantle replacement should be left for one of the UMOC officers or cabin caretakers.

Propane Stove

Gas is released to each of the six burners on the stove top by turning their respective knobs on the front of the stove. Holding a lit match above the burner while turning the knob on will ignite that burner. Flame height can be regulated by turning the knob. Recommend keeping the flame low while cooking food, to keep from burning the food and warping the pots and pans. Higher flame is good for boiling water faster. Make sure the burners are off if the flame goes out. If not you will soon start to smell gas. The oven works and can be used for baking anything from cookies to pork roasts. Its control knob and temperature regulator are also found on the front of the stove. To light the oven, turn the gas on, drop a lit match into the hole in the bottom of the oven. If it doesn't light right away, turn off the oven gas for a minute before attempting again.

Food Storage

When the people are away, the mice will play. Any food not sealed in hard containers should be stored in one of the mouse proof cabinets at night and whenever the main floor of the cabin is unoccupied. The cabinet against the wall by the kitchen door is mouse proof, as is the cabinet under the kitchen sink, provided the doors are latched closed. In the winter, when the cabin is warm inside, the cabinet under the sink makes a good refrigerator since its back and sides are exposed to colder air.

Bring your unused food home with you unless it is something like peanut butter or pasta, which will keep indefinitely in the cabinets. Nobody else is going to eat any perishables that you leave in the cabin. You are welcome to use any food left in the cabin by previous occupants. The cabinet by the door is usually full of such staples.

Outhouse

Use is self-explanatory. It's two one-holers, separated by a full wall, each with its own door. After going, sprinkle a spoonful of lime powder, if available from the plastic bucket in the outhouse, into the hole and onto “the pile”. Store the toilet paper roll in the sealed plastic container so the mice don't chew it into confetti.

Water

Bring your own drinking water or boil the well water. Dishwater can be heated in a large pot either on the top of the wood stove or on the kitchen stove. There is a seep well 100m up the hill behind the cabin from which a plastic hose runs down to the cabin's kitchen sink. This is not a source of water in the winter while things are frozen solid.

Trash

Take in, take out. Bring it back home or back to one of the UMass dumpsters. DO NOT leave it in the cabin or in the cabin parking lot. Recommend burning all paper and cardboard trash in the wood stove or outside fire pit so that there is less garbage to carry back down the hill when you leave. Cabin users must bring their own trash bags. The 30-gallon size trash bag will fit the plastic garbage can provided in the cabin.

Fire Pit

Located 100m to the right of the cabin. Consists of large granite slabs piled in a square. Great for marshmallow toasting and hanging out! Don't burn down the woods, and DO NOT burn firewood from the woodsheds. Use fallen deadwood and other burnable debris. The wood in the sheds is for the cabin stove only. It takes us way too long to cut and split enough wood to keep the cabin warm all winter. If we find evidence that you have violated this rule, your group will be banned from future cabin rentals.

Contacts

UMOC Gear Locker:		413 324 8662
Locker Manager:	Dustin Lagoy	413 231 7312 dlagoy@student.umass.edu
Cabin Chairperson:	Erik Hjerpe	978 985 3049 ehjerpe@L1id.com
UMOC President:	Seth Putnam	978 857 8117 seth.putnam@gmail.com