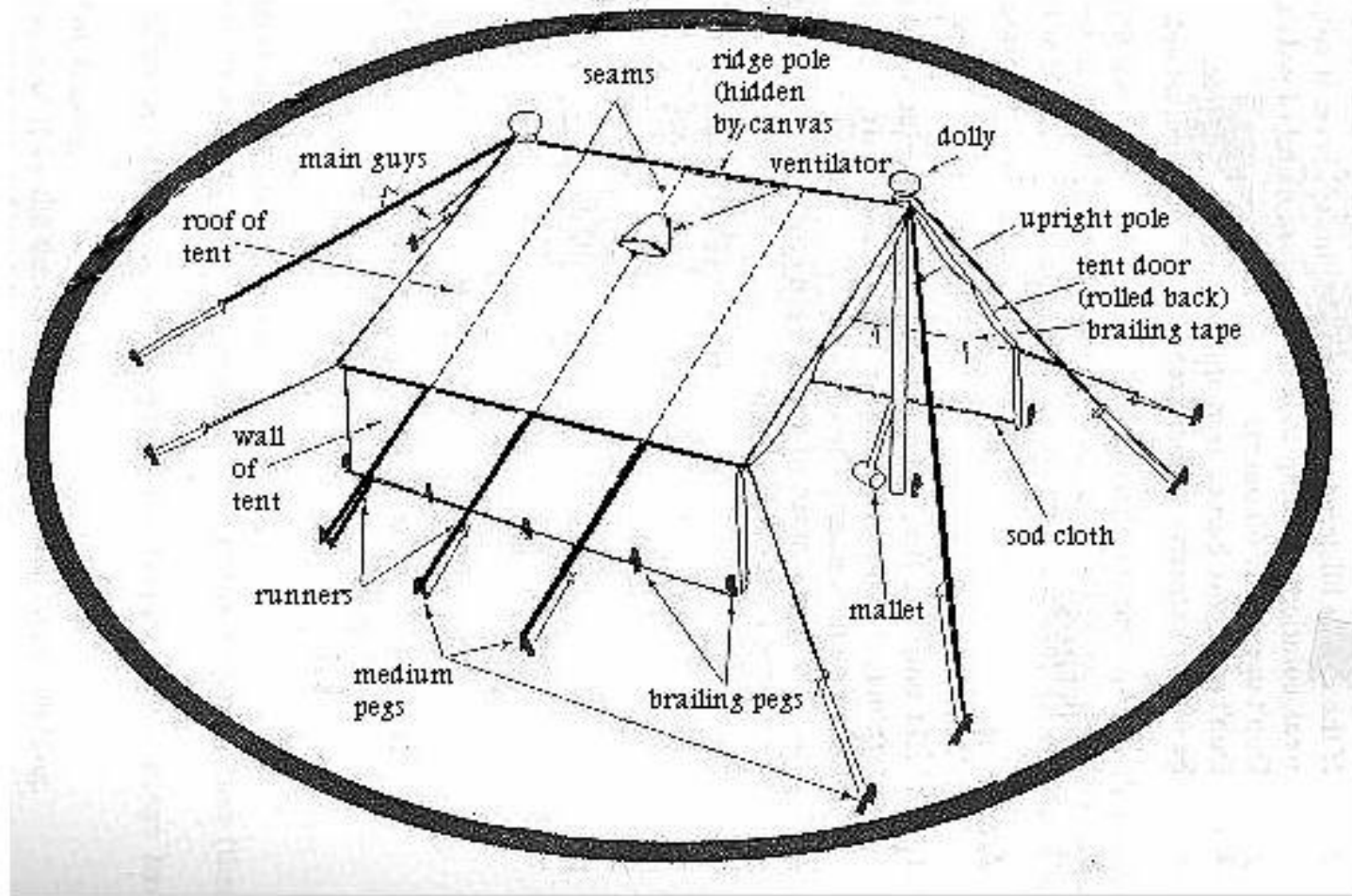


TENT PITCHING


PARTS OF A RIDGE TENT





PITCHING


1. Check that the poles and the guylines are in order and count the pegs.
Fit together the upright poles
(usually two, in two sections).
2. Fit together the ridge pole (usually three sections).
1. Place the ridge pole on the ground in a suitable direction.
Put in a brailing peg at each end of ridge pole.
4. Put in four large pegs for the main guylines by pacing distances as shown below.
5. Lay out the tent canvas (folded) on the ground with the sod cloth between the two brailing pegs.
1. Slide the ridge pole (through loops, if any) between the canvas at the top of tent. Place the upright poles between the canvas putting the spikes through holes in ridge pole and then holes in tent. Make sure bases of upright poles are resting against the brailing pegs.


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7. Put the main guylines and a dolly (or loop where the two main guylines join) onto each upright spike. Untie the main guylines.
 8. Raise both uprights together until vertical.
Put the main guylines over the four pegs already in position. Tighten the guylines until the tent stands by itself. Check that the poles are still standing vertically.
 9. Fasten the doors. Ensure that the door brailings are fastened to the two original pegs.
 10. Put in the four corner brailing pegs.
Do this all at the same time so that the tent is set square.
 11. Untie the guylines. Put in the pegs for the corner guylines either at 90° if there are two at each corner....

or

..... at 45° if there is only one.

12. Put in the pegs for guylines at the side of the tent. Ensure that:
 - a) the guylines follow the line of the seams; and
 - b) the runners are about one third of the way up from the pegs when the guylines are taught.

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1. Put in rest of the brailing pegs.



AFTER PITCHING CHECK THAT.....

.... all the runners are facing the same direction;

.... the pegs at the sides of the tent are in a straight line; and

.... all the guylines are tucked into the peg notches and not resting on the ground.

STRIKING

1. Check that the canvas, sod cloth and guylines are absolutely dry. Unfasten the doors.

2. Remove all the brailing pegs.

The two ways of removing the pegs are by :


a) Knocking the pegs backwards and forwards (not from side to side which might split the pegs) until they are loose enough to be pulled out.

b) Using another peg as a lever.

3. Scrape the pegs to remove any earth on them.

Stack in a cobhouse formation. Remove all other pegs except those of the main guylines.

Scrape the pegs clean and stack in a cobhouse.


- 
4. Tie up the loose guylines:
 - a) push the runners to the top;
 - b) fold the guylines in half (and half again if necessary); and
 - c) tie an overhand knot.

 5. With one person holding each main upright in position, loosen the main guylines and take out the pegs. Gently lower the main uprights together, into the wind (if any), to the ground.

Remove the dollies and the main guylines.
Tie up as in step 4.

6. Carefully remove all the poles from between the canvas and pull them apart into sections. Without crawling or walking on the canvas, pull the tent so that it is quite flat, with no creases both underneath and on top.

 7. Brush off any bits of grass, etc.
(Repeat this as necessary each time you fold the tent.)
Fold the sod cloth to the inside.
Fold the doors in towards the centre.
- Fold up the walls (i.e. bottom 1/3 of tent) onto the roof, smoothing out any creases.

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8. Fold the top 1/3 of tent down to form an oblong.
Smooth out any creases.

Check the size of the tent bag to decide how many folds are now necessary to fit the canvas in the bag.

9. Pack the canvas, dollies and main guylines into the bag. When dry, pack the pegs into a peg bag and put with mallet into the tent bag. Fasten the tent bag. Label the tent bag for easy identification. Indicate if the tent is in need of repair, when necessary.
10. Tie up the poles with a pole hitch at either end and place them in the pole bag.

Label the pole bag to indicate which tent it belongs to.

AFTER STRIKING, CHECK THAT

- ... no pegs have been left on the ground; and
- ... you have left no litter e.g, pieces of string, etc.



CARE OF TENT

Ridge tents are very expensive equipment and every precaution should be taken to avoid damage both when pitching and striking. Proper daily care will prolong its life and appearance. Most damage is caused by carelessness - in fitting poles, not tightening or slackening guylines at correct times etc.

A good tent properly cared for, can last more than 20 years. If the tent does not seem to go up easily, don't force it. You are probably not pitching it correctly.

Tent care does not stop once the tent is pitched.

1. *Tent Poles*

Tent poles should be examined daily and kept absolutely straight. Crooked poles will draw the tent out of shape, prevent closing of doors etc.

Never hang things on the tent poles as this causes them to bend and makes ventilation much more difficult. Do not drive any nails or tacks into the poles.

2. *Guylines*


The guylines which are attached to the tent should be kept in good order and replaced if frayed or worn. Use a good quality rope for the guylines as they have to stand a good deal of weathering. Knots are not only inconvenient but will cause the ropes to rot when damp.

When the guyline is finally tightened, the runner should be about one-third of the way up the rope and should follow the line made by the seam of the tent roof toward the ground. This should be watched as guylines which get out of line will not exert an even pull all around - the walls will not be stretched evenly and the tent will lose its shape.

When the tent is not in use, each guyline should be coiled into a loop and tied with an overhand knot. This prevents tangling and enables the guyline to be easily undone.

New campers should remember that canvas shrinks when wet and this can result in a torn tent. To make allowance for shrinkage, always slacken tent guylines before going to bed at night or at the onset of heavy rainfall. Guylines should be tightened again as part of the morning routine.





In windy weather, they should be adjusted often to keep the tent steady and if necessary, the tent should be storm-set (see below).

Storm-setting a tent

Never loosen any guylines on a tent for a joke - the tent could collapse and cause injury.

3. *Tent Walls*

Tents can get very stuffy inside, particularly if they are filled to capacity at night or if the sun is beating down on them. The ventilators allow a certain amount of fresh air to circulate but to give the tent a really good airing, it should be brailled.

To braille a tent, first fasten back the doors. Undo any brailings along the bottom of the tent. Roll the walls tightly inwards and upwards the eaves of the roof. Fasten the roll to the eaves by tying a slip knot so that they can be undone quickly and easily. If rolled tightly and neatly, the walls of the tents should be barely visible.

4. *Canvas*

Always avoid touching the roof or walls of a tent when you are inside especially when it is raining as this can cause the tent to leak. If a small leak does develop, it can be checked by running your finger down the leak to the bottom of the tent. Do not be alarmed if a slight spray or mist comes through the canvas as the tent threads will swell to form a waterproof skin.

Never pin or write anything on the canvas.

Never use sprays in the tent as it harms the canvas.





5. *Sod Cloth*

The sod cloth stops draughts coming under the bottom of the tent. When you lay your groundsheet for the night, make sure the edges are over the sod cloth, not under it where they can creep outside the tent. Groundsheets that poke from beneath the tent will collect any rainwater and channel it inside.

To dry a damp sod cloth, hook the brailing loops around the guyline toggle just under the eaves of the tent.


Drying the sod cloth

Placing your groundsheet


6. *Tent Doors*

When pitching a tent, the doors should be fastened and of course, they will probably be fastened at night when you sleep. Some tents have canvas ties spaced evenly down the length of each door. Others have a series of loops and eyes. When laced correctly, the loops provide a draught and waterproof seal.

To lace tent doors, flap the side with the eyes over the side with the loops. Starting at the top of the door, thread the first loop through the first eye. Thread the second loop through the second eye and then through the first loop. Thread the third loop through the third eye and then through the second loop.



Continue in this manner down the length of the door, pulling each loop down sharply to achieve a tight close. When you reach the bottom of the door, fasten the loop around the brailing peg. If the loop is very long, take it round the base of the tent pole first.



To open tent doors, first undo any brailings along the bottom of the door. Roll the canvas door flaps inwards and upwards towards the sides and roof of the tent, forming a neat, tight roll. Tie the rope back with a slip knot using the canvas ties sewn into the seams. When rolled and fastened, the doors should be barely visible from the front of the door.

7. *Pegs*

There are two types of pegs: metal and wooden pegs. Metal mallets should never be used on wooden pegs as this would cause the pegs to crack. The same is applicable to a wooden mallet used on a metal peg.

All pegs (except the brailing pegs) should never be driven into the ground vertically but an angle of about 45 degrees so that the head points away from the tent.

In light or sandy soil or loose pebbles the pegs should be at least 18 inches long to hold. Sometimes a peg can be secured by driving a second peg against it or by anchoring with a rock or other heavy weight.

Each peg at the side of the tent should be driven in a very straight line (with the tent seam and the guyline) and should be inspected at least once a day to see that it is holding and remains quite straight. This is especially important in windy or bad weather. Corner pegs should be put in at an angle 45 degrees to the tent.

To extract the pegs from the ground, knock the head back and forth until it loosens. If it is knocked from side to side, it is likely to crack or break.

Pegs may also be removed using another peg as a lever. Once withdrawn, pegs should be scraped, cleaned and stacked to dry before being packed. They should never be packed damp or dirty. Although they may be placed in the tent bag in a bundle, it is wise to first put them neatly in another small bag or box.

brailing

medium

large



Types of pegs

8. *Tent Bags*

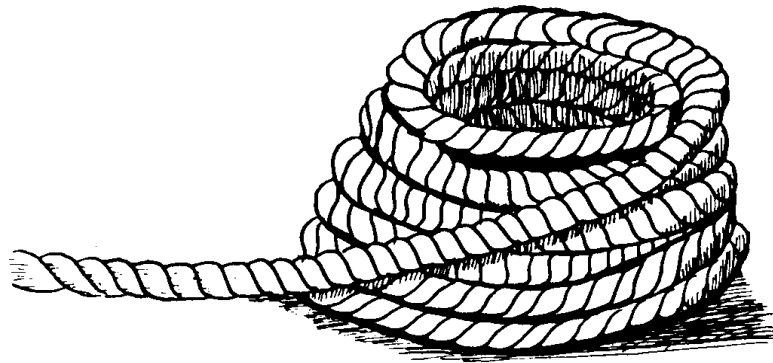
If tents have bags, all should be checked and carefully put away when the tents have been unpacked for pitching so that there will be no unnecessary confusion when repacking is done.

9. *Tent Mallets*

Very often, these come with the tents. There should be at least one mallet for each tent. Wooden mallets are for driving wooden tent pegs.

10. *Tent Gadgets*

Bedding should not rest on groundsheets when not in use and everything should be raised off the ground to prevent dampness accumulating and causing mildew. Gadgets are built for this purpose.





TALKING TENT

(By Marilyn Bowers - Oshawa)
(Guidestuff - Summer 1984)

Big Tent: Hey little tent, its our birthday! We were both purchased two years ago today, remember? Happy birthday to me , Happy Birthday to me!

Little Tent: Yuk, I don't feel so happy.

Big Tent: Did you say something, little tent?

Little Tent: I said - I don't feel so happy - my roof leaks.

Big Tent: I can see that. It looks like some careless camper shoved a pole right through it. By the way, excuse me for asking personal questions, but what's that green stuff all over you.

Little Tent: It's mildew. I was put away wet last winter. The smell nearly drove me nuts

Big Tent: I can remember when I was put away. It was a lovely day sunny day. They swept me inside and out. I'll tell you, I felt just like a kid again.

Little Tent: They left bugs in me.

Big Tent: What's that, little tent?

Little Tent: I said, they just left bugs in me to rot - yuk.

Big Tent: Well, everything hasn't been sunshine all the time for me either you know. Last August, I got a tear in me - boy! I can remember our Guider saying we'd better fix that right away before it gets any bigger. You know, my tear barely shows!

Little Tent: Well, I wouldn't feel so bad if they just liked me better. But how am I supposed to stand up straight and tall when I don't even have all my ropes?

I caught pneumonia last Spring, too, you know. They put me in a bog. One whole weekend with my feet wet - and my back neatly broken by the girls hanging their clothes from the ridge pole.

I nearly died of fright the day they lit a fire so close to my side. Luckily, I escaped with only two tiny burn holes.

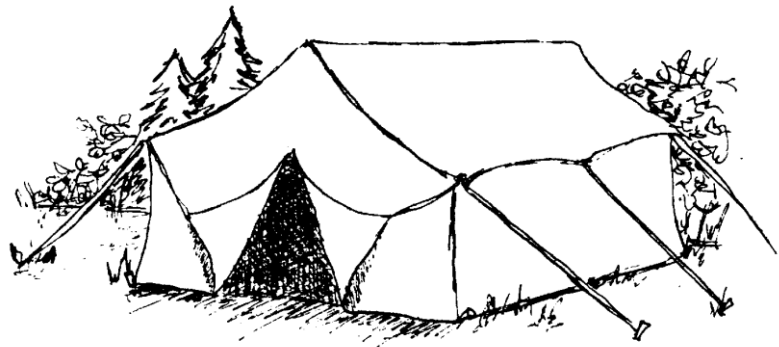
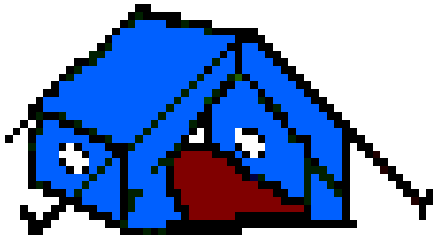
Big Tent: Well, little tent, its really not fair. Here I am feeling like I could go on forever, and there you are ready to pack it in!

Little Tent: I don't think I can go on much longer. I am just about to enter the big campsite in the sky.

Big Tent: Boy, little tent - if I could have one wish I would wish that we could tell those Guides and Pathfinder how we feel.

Little Tent: Not me. If I had one wish, I would turn all those girls into mistreated tents and leave bugs to rot in their hair!

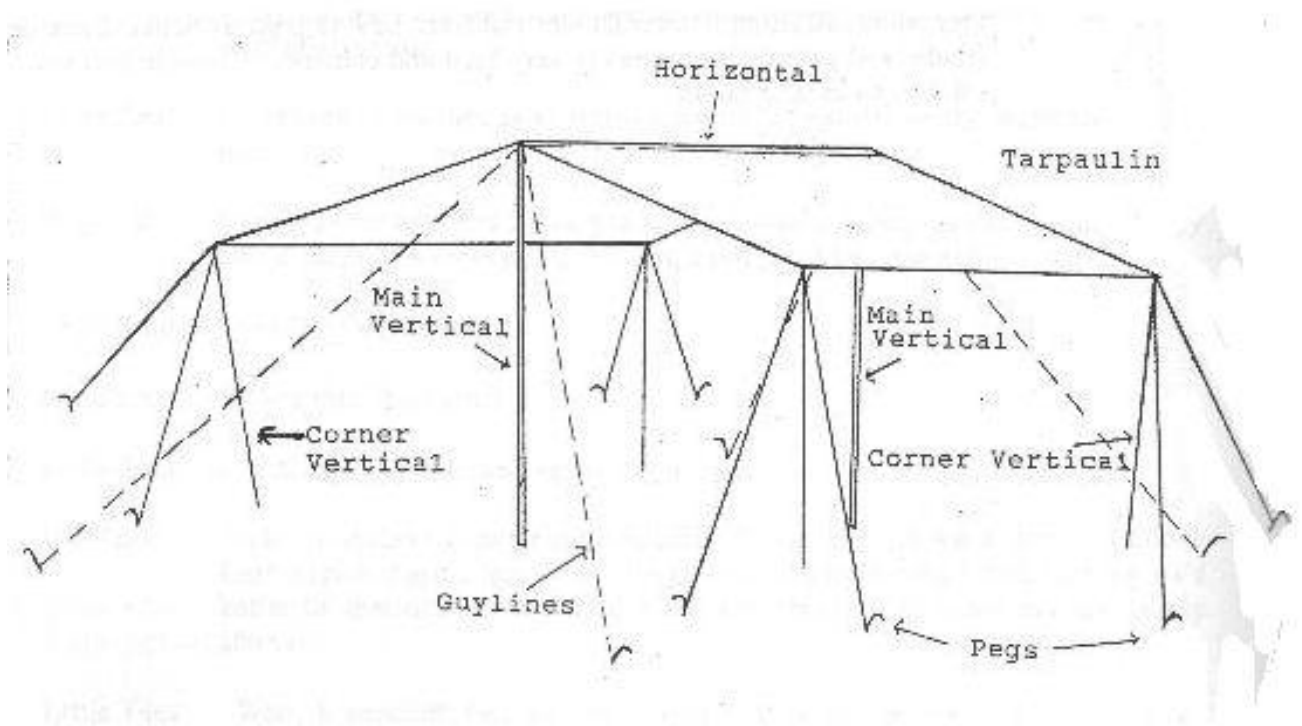
Big Tent: Now, little tent. That's just being spiteful. What we should wish for is that they would all listen to their Guider and learn how to treat us better. Because Guides and pathfinders are really very kind and considerate people you know - it says so in their books.



KITCHEN SHELTER

Essentially, a kitchen shelter is a complementary shelter to the tent in a campsite, where basic activities like cooking are carried out simply because the confines of the tent, being built for shelter, are too cramped.

The primary purpose of the kitchen shelter is, as the name states, to serve as a rough shelter for the kitchen area. Ideally, it should be simple, open and airy. A certain minimum interior height is required for safety reasons, and the area it shelters should be sufficient to shelter the patrol from rain comfortably, with whatever gadgets may be in the kitchen.





PITCHING AND STRIKING

To pitch the kitchen shelter:

1. Place the tarpaulin on the ground in a suitable direction.
2. Place the horizontal in the centre of the tarpaulin.
3. Place the two longer (main) verticals on each end of the horizontal; putting the spikes through the holes in the horizontal and the tarpaulin.
4. Divide the guylines into two equal lengths. Using a clove hitch, secure the guylines, one on each end of the horizontal, to the spikes of the verticals.
5. Peg the guylines to the ground at a 45 degree angle.
6. Repeat steps 3, 4 and 5 with the four corner verticals.

To strike the kitchen shelter:

1. The kitchen area under the shed is cleared of all gadgets, equipment and such.
2. Undo the guylines of the 4 corner verticals and then remove the latter.
3. With two persons holding the 2 main verticals undo the remaining guylines. Then slowly lower the structure.
3. Remove the two main verticals.
4. Fold the tarpaulin, brushing off any bits of grass, etc.

Points to note

1. Guylines must be kept taut at all times, because they are supporting the entire structure.
2. Do not hang things on the verticals and the horizontals.