

Rabbitstick – Session 34

Primitive Skills Conference

September 11-17, 2022

It's Time To Gather !

What is the difference between a session and conference ?

They are similar, and can mean the same thing.

Both have the same meaning, which is a meeting.

However, 'conference' is a more formal formatted meeting, like for a business conference.

Whereas a 'session' can be both formal and informal.

Welcome to Rabbitstick - Session 34

- Top-fuel drag races are conducted in “sessions”.
- Surf and skate competitions are contested in 10-12 wave “sessions”.
- Schools offering a schedule of classes are in “session”.
- Back in the old days when Larry Olsen would host events at his house to eat and barter, he called the gatherings “trade sessions.”

By launching our 35th trip around the sun, we want to restate what makes Rabbitstick unique. Every similar event – there are over 40 now – has it's own personality, focus, vibe or *joie de vivre** if you will. Take a minute to review a few of the suggestions that have been offered (at the end of this letter), and how we plan to respond to concerns about camp as we “Return to The Stone Age”.

Rabbitstick is festive, but it's NOT a festival.

Rabbitstick is family friendly, but we take teaching and learning seriously.

Rabbitstick is a gathering, but the sum of all of its' parts make it more than that.

Rabbitstick is....well, it's Rabbitstick.

*For those without access to Google - *joie de vivre* - *exuberant enjoyment of life*.

That being said, there is plenty of available information about the history of Rabbitstick, it's roots, development and attempt to maintain focus on skills that we all share. We need everyone to help keep Rabbitstick what it has come to represent and maybe cache your expectations for a while in attempt to protect this unique character. We challenge everyone to join us as we create a camp that recaptures an earlier, simpler time, and revel in this opportunity to experience something new.

Last year showed a few wrinkles that we had not seen before – people bringing with them what they may have experienced somewhere else. We need you to help us return to a camp that reflects what we were originally influenced by - keep that in mind as you plan your camp and prepare your camp for Rabbitstick 34.

NOTICE - New for 2022

- We are slightly ahead of normal registration patterns. We have also moved the early registration deadline to August 15. If you are returning to Rabbitstick, we encourage you not to wait to register; there is a possibility that we will close registration early again this year. Our goal is to maintain a healthy balance of returning people with those who are attending for the first time. Returning participants are the way that traditions are passed along and not lost over time.

• Update for our Trailer Campers for 2022

Trailers, motorhomes, etc. need to camp on the north side of the entry road.

No noisy external generators in camp please.

Trailer folks need to establish fair rules for when quiet generators can be run and for how long. We are not a KOA campground.

Try to make trailers self-contained with extra batteries and solar charges if possible.

Suggestions from the Camp

(Go to 2022 Updates at rabbitstick.com to read some other letters to our camp).

“Hey Dave, I hope all is well with you folks. I wanted to follow up on a suggestion that I had last year - that being; to try and encourage people to create creative, cool, campsites. My first Rabbitstick there were many camps that were amazingly picturesque. I think that was a time of Trench Town with Hawk and Albert and some of those larger than life people.

Today [it seems] that pop-up tents are taking over and huge buses are blocking the view. It would be great to encourage and recognize [traditional] camps.”

“Greetings Everyone. As we gather in the spirit of a by gone era of light during the day and dark at night, we have noticed a gradual and steady influx of bright lanterns, head lamps and flashlights. These deprive us of some of the unique qualities that nighttime has to offer us.

In the interest of offering each other the gifts of nighttime, we encourage minimal use of modern lights in general, and non-use in the heart of camp/main fire pit, (between road and pond, tipi, Backtracks office and kitchen). This area is reserved for fire light, candle light and low intensity single flame lanterns only, no porch lights broadcasting light beyond the inside of a shelter.”

“Hello the Camp - What happened to the good old days when people were worried that running a CPAP machine at night would bother other people. Where in the world did those load generators, amplified music and bright lights that have invaded the camp come from? We come to study the old ways and learn skills from our collective past. Shouldn't our camp reflect that sort of feeling as well.”

“Dear Dave- Being a knapper and tanner, I have always been fascinated by process and the skills that have been passed down through time. Rabbitstick has always been the one place I can meet friends with common interests and learn something new every time I come. I have noticed, however, that many people are now choosing classes with quick

projects rather than taking deep-dives into the skills that are the reason we all gather. Trends toward ‘prepping’ and ‘SELF-awareness’ have added a new layer to class offerings, but I hope not at a loss of those core skills that have been a part of Rabbitstick from the start.”

Please reflect on why you plan to join us and come with an openness to the total experience. We’re getting excited. September 11, 2022 is shaping up to be a

Four-Rabbit-Day.

David and Paula and the Backtracks Staff

PS - Larry Kinsella is offering a legacy class in honor of Rob Withrow. He will be doing Rob’s *Heat Treating Flint* workshop and has asked that anyone who would like to participate should bring some locally sourced flint from their area if they can.

THE NEANDERTHAL FROM—100,000-YEARS-AGO

THE HOMO HABILIS FROM—2.3 MILLION-YEARS-AGO

THE HOMO ERECTUS FROM—1.5 MILLION-YEARS-AGO

THE UPPER PALAEOLITHIC FROM—30,000-YEARS-AGO

THE MESOLITHIC FROM—1,000-YEARS-AGO

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