

The MAGIC OF A CAMPFIRE

BY: **Rob Golda** - HIKING MICHIGAN

I have noticed on many occasions, that people get plain mesmerized by a Campfire. Or they get this soothing, over relaxed look on their faces, like they do not have a care in the world. I find this even true with myself. Although as a kid, the attraction of fire was to burn my plastic "Army men" & various models, while I tended to my supposed chores of burning the trash. For you youngsters out there, that's what we did with most of our trash when I was a kid. Burned it in a Trash can, out behind the Garage or Pole barn. But I digress. Fire seems to have always been a comforting, relaxing, reassuring part of our human existence. It seems to form a bond between people, even today. I have researched this topic for many years here at Hiking Michigan, and have put together some of the opinions and thoughts of fellow outdoorsman.



It is very interesting in what takes place around a simple Campfire. Some people just sit in a tranquil state and stare at the dancing flames and ever changing colors. Others feel a need to communicate with people around the Campfire. Sharing ideas and thoughts they may normally NEVER discuss with others. Ann Kucera, a Feng Shui expert says this: "Look at the pure Feng Shui theory. Some of the words we associate with fire are passion, integrity, expansion, transformation, and warmth. Just sitting near a fire will bring us closer to the experience of what these words mean". The draw to the fire is immense when one considers these subconscious feelings. Sitting around a Campfire creates a sense of security that seems to bring on an individuals want for understanding. This openness will manifest in mostly calm and submissive behavior. Although in a few people, these secure emotions release uncontrollable actions of a passionate manner. Why? There are the most common questions: Is it all Biological? Are these primitive instincts that come to the forefront when gathered around a safe, warm and protective Fire? Is it our ancestors ways coming out in each of us? The safety of a group of humans, grouped together for the warmth, security & Camaraderie of the Fire?

As for the question about why we might stare into a campfire, we have come up with a couple things:

- *Brings society together which is comforting*
- *Offers safety from harm*
- *Brings warmth and health*
- *Is mesmerizing in it's ever-changing movement and flow*
- *It was mans' first TV set (from Heidi)*

