



In Bounds

by Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

A man fond of sandals, I had forgotten the precious and blissful feeling of enrapture upon winning and wearing a pair of new, low cut socks at a recent golf outing. Black, unisex and one-size-fits-all, my lower digits were dancing with joy when I tried them on for

a test run at home.

Protective, yet unencumbered, warm though not hot, snugged but flexible, my feet were in summer nirvana. New socks, such a luxury!

In my youth, as a recently emancipated man, free from the bonds of parental control, my fetish with new socks began. In line at the J.C. Penny store during the Christmas rush, I spied a “three for” pack of thick, foot formed athletic socks. An impulse buy? Perhaps, but oh what an incredible substitute for the thin and striped white tube socks I had been accustomed to for all of my teen years.

There was actual density surrounding my feet. Toes jiving in the front and heel firmly housed in the rear, my new socks were just short of “pro night”, another fine memory of mine. Oh what had I done to deserve such a delight?

So easy to ignore, a cinch to forget, out of sight and out of mind, the latest in hosiery too often simply disregarded. Slipping into a new pair of socks is a seldom-discussed ecstasy. Have you ever eaten a “Better Than ‘New Socks’ cake”? Believe me, it is heavenly.

Each summer, prior to my forays into the wilderness of the BWCA, I splurge upon and buy a new pair of top of the line camping socks. Beyond protection

from the chafe of leather boots, they provide a cushion inside my camp shoe and night-long romance, embracing my feet, buried deep inside my sleeping bag.

Earlier this season, I broke the budget and invested in an over the top pair of Smart Wool Ultimate Hunt and Camp System Lights. They feature a liner crew sock to wick moisture from my feet and a hunting light crew sock for warmth, both of which are constructed with WOW Technology, providing high density zones in the heels and toes, and a Smart Wool Tech Fit system with ankle brace, arch support and a reinforced cushion zone. This sock can't bunch, slip or bind and will always stay in place! The ultimate comfort in all weather conditions, I can barely wait to go north again... maybe I'll just go and slip them on for a little while to take "the edge" off. Sorry, I got a little carried away.

New socks don't smell. I like that. New socks can be relished privately...while in public. Nobody has to know! New socks will develop a personality. Have you ever worn your "lucky socks"? New socks grow old, wear out, become thin, lose their elasticity and finally can be replaced once again with another pair of New Socks.

In the second from the top drawer in my dresser, I maintain my coveted wealth of socks; Gold-Toe, Thorlo, The Worlds Softest Sock, Smart Wool, Zappos, Wigwam, ISM, Nike, Footjoy, Asics and Alpaca. Silk, wool, cashmere, nylon, rayon, blended and cotton. No show, tab, low cut, quarter length, crew, knee-high and over-the-calf. Dress, athletic, holiday, conference, business, casual, camping and sleeping. On occasion my sock drawer will even give safe haven to the lonely lost sock as it awaits the return of it's match.

All this talk of socks remind me of a little limerick that goes like this:

"In days of old, when men were bold..."

Never mind...this is perhaps a better poem with the guys around the campfire.