



Welcome to the forum for Owner/Builders! You may have built your own log cabin or are giving it some thought, but you found there are few places to go to for information.

You just found it. What you'll find here is information and stories written by folks just like you describing their experience. You're welcome to send us your stories with pictures as well. We learn by the successful examples shown by others and their mistakes so tell the whole story. Beyond stories of others, GLLCA promotes the craft of log building and doing it well, and sharing knowledge with one another. We've never forgotten the pleasure of first learning log building and first projects and it continues as we learn new things hands-on. If you want to join in the fun then sign up as an associate member (it's cheap) to keep track of everything. Learn and practice the art and craft of log building while finding camaraderie.

So you found a piece of land and want to build something on it for visiting or maybe even living on it? The modern age didn't equip many of us with the rural skills needed for homesteading but you're smart enough to figure out those skills can be acquired. That means visit to the library to find out what's in writing and looking for groups. You'll be in luck for most of what you're looking for and there are many groups with specialty interests like gardening, etc. If you're fortunate you'll develop a perspective about time, namely just how much time it really takes to do projects and how to do the prep work that makes them happen successfully. Getting things done means making a good plan and sticking to it. Your marriage may depend on it. Can you think of any reason not to learn each required skill well enough to be competent? Does it make sense to learn something before you go out to practice it?

Your brain will run you through things faster than you can really accomplish them, especially if you've never done them before. That impulse brain will make you think you can start in the spring clearing the cabin site by hand, getting in the foundation, plant the garden, dig the well, put up the outhouse, cut trees and have them skid to your cabin site by that guy down the road with the draft horse, get the cabin built in late summer, get the firewood cut in early fall, and be sitting by the fire enjoying a cup of coffee as the first snow falls. The rest of the winter is spent on indoor projects like furniture building with lots of time for cross country skiing and lazy days. Your impulse brain will further convince you that a capable person like yourself can be dropped into the situation and know instinctively what to do and how to do it. View the 1970's era movie "Jeremiah Johnson" as a primer on the immersion method of learning rural living skills. As it turns out that impulse brain of yours assigned five years worth of work and stuffed it into a six month building period. Whatever dreams you had about being a self reliant woodsy action figure and a hero in the eyes of friends and spouse are about to be painfully dashed on the hard rocks of reality. Then there are the ear problems you'll be developing.....

Yes there are old timers out there that can be sources of information. There are those sage old types who give advice (picture the Will Greer character is "Jeremiah Johnson"). Bring a sense of humor with you for that trip. Then there are old guys who spent decades refining their craft and are good teachers. They'll expect you to be a good student as in keep you eyes and ears open, do your best, and work to refine what you learn. Endorse the concept of becoming competent.

Numerically, for every single person, couple, or family contemplating an entire rural homestead project/start from scratch cabin in the forest project, there must be one hundred who simply live in a rural area and want to try their hand at doing some minor log building. It could be a shed, gazebo, sauna, etc., but represents something that could be built from materials on hand and equipment on hand. In many respects the whole equation is easier to manage because you're already established. What you need is some specific craft training to make the project happen.

However you arrived here and whatever your projects interests are, we welcome you and trust you'll find what you're looking for and the camaraderie of fellow log building enthusiasts.