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Efficiency fuels rocket

Workshop to teach stove construction

Temperatures are still soaring, but now is the time to look ahead for the cold winter months.

Paul Hanson and his brother, Eric, wanted a heat source for their homes that was eco-friendly and efficient. Their search led them to rocket stoves, invented in the 1980s for countries where wood fuel is scarce.

"The electrical grid is fueled by dirty energy, including nuclear, coal and oil," said Paul Hanson. "It's not cheap to buy or produce. Wood is a renewable resource. I think a rocket stove is a more responsible use of the Earth's resources."

Locals can learn to build a rocket stove and cob oven during a Spiral Living Center workshop from Aug. 20 to 22 at the Frog Farm, 9044 Takilma Road in Cave Junction. The workshop is \$65 for Spiral Living



The rocket stove's ductwork helps spread heat around and vents exhaust to the outside. Photo by Paul Hanson.

[Watch Video »](#)
at www.thedailycourier.com

Center members and \$90 for nonmembers.

The Hanson brothers will discuss the design and construction of the simple stove that can be used for both heating and cooking. The cost of building a stove is about \$100, not including the clay bricks.

Rocket stoves produce a rapid, hot fire that prevents creosote build up. The heat is captured in a thermal battery made of cob (an earth, sand and clay mixture) that releases heat over time, potentially lasting for days. Modifications to the stove may also allow for cooking, baking, heating water and drying foods.

Hanson said rocket stoves build an immense heat utilizing fast fires and capitalizing on storing the heat. The architecture of the bricks is able to extract all the British thermal units from the wood.

"Rocket stoves are different from the usual wood stoves," he said. "It doesn't send wood particles and ash into the air. They are almost completely smoke-free."

The stoves are built using bricks and cob mortar. They end up being 2 1/2 feet wide, not including the exhaust pipe that connects the stove to the outside wall. Most of the time, Hanson said, people take advantage of the pipe and build a bench made out of cob to conceal it. The added bonus of creating a bench is that it is warmed as the air passes through it to the outside.

Smaller rocket stoves can be built with tin cans and a tin snip, but the workshop plans a larger model with firebricks, earth, sand, clay, sheet metal, and a 55-gallon drum.

People interested in building the stoves need to do their research, said Rich Hoover,

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