The

SOLAR Ray

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A monthly publication of the School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation (SOLAR) July 2008

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The Great SOLAR Kayak Build of 2009

By Chuck Smith

We started with 10 people eager to build Skin on Frame (SOF) kayaks. SOF is the traditional method of building a kayak and has been used by arctic peoples for well over 1000 years and builds a boat that is very light and very strong. They are made of a wooden frame, traditionally covered in seal skin. Seals are hard to find in Southeast Michigan, so we covered ours with nylon cloth and urethane. Each boat is custom sized & designed for the paddler and what they want the boat to do. A typical 17' SOF kayak weighs about 30-35 lbs and costs about $400 to build. A similar fiberglass boat weighs about 55 lbs and costs $2200+.

I rented shop space from a friend of mine for January and February and scheduled build sessions for Monday evenings and Saturdays. About 10 hours per week for 8 weeks. The builders covered the whole range of backgrounds. Some had extensive kayaking experience, some had none. Some had plenty of woodworking experience, others had none. Everybody had a willingness to try, learn and share. Thankfully, we were able to beg and borrow enough tools and sawhorses to equip our shop nicely. (Thanks everybody!) We ended up with a huge selection of hand planes, chisels, and some big power tools including a chain saw, table saw, band saw, a pair of power miter saws, a thickness planer and collection of cordless drills. Don Jones described it as Disney Land-- lots of top quality tools kept razor sharp.

As we started, most of the group was looking to me for answers. My standard answer was "Read the Book." I was happy to help those that *had* read it, not too willing to help those that had not. It took a few sessions, but soon everybody was reading the book and helping everybody else. By the end of the build, most people there could answer most questions easily. We had a few people start quite late in the project because of illness or family emergencies. Because others were ahead of them in the build and were willing to help, the late starters could get lots of assistance and build quickly. In the end, people that started a month late were pretty much done, too.

Whenever we needed help it appeared, almost like magic. Tom Dunn made us some specialized tools. We had a shipment of bending wood get lost in the mail and could not replace it in our timeframe, so Craig Kosmowski cut down a tree for us. We started with fresh oak logs from his property, cut them into pieces ¼" x 1 inch, and then steam bent them into ribs for our boats. Don Jones was not building a boat of his own, but came regularly to help anybody who needed it or the group in general. Some days he ran the table saw continuously for 3 hours, cutting parts for the group.

Things snowballed a bit from our original group. Pete Lamb came out to check out our shop and his eyes filled with lust. He helped a bunch of people and we invited him to join us as he built boats for both himself and Sharon. And he brought even more tools. Danielle Boettger was building a boat as a high school shop project & ran into huge problems. We invited her to build in the "bat cave" and she was also a HUGE help to everybody. My dad, Jerry, was helping, then built himself an inflatable tandem kayak. As near as I can tell, this was the biggest kayak building project of its kind in the world! Most schools have a 5 student limit.

The tally as of May 7:

16 kayaks started;

at least 8 done or essentially done;

8 kayaks within striking distance of being done;

and 4 new SOLAR members!

(Kayak Build…continued)

This success FAR exceeded my expectations. I would have been thrilled if 5 kayaks came anywhere near being done and expected some to leave as a pile of scrap wood. LOTS of hard work, lots of help (from around the country), and builders with lots of determination made this a HUGE success!

It was neat for me to watch the skills and confidence of the builders grow. At the beginning, almost everybody was learning to use the tools, which tools to use for what job, how to measure & mark parts and what was important vs. what didn't matter. As we finished our boats, most builders were pretty competent. Even more fun for me was as the build progressed, we went from a bunch of people crazy enough to build our own boats to a group of kayak builders with a strong feeling of camaraderie and commitment to helping others finish their kayaks.

In June we will have our kayaks at Colony Hall for the program portion of the SOLAR meeting. It will mostly be show & tell. Hopefully outside.

Builders: Janet Schester, Amy Fedor, Marie Harrington, Pete and Sharon Lamb, Ken Moon, Kathy Spitler, Deanna O'Dea, Paul Williford, Chuck Smith, Jerry Smith, Danielle Boettger, Allan Moltmaker, Debbie Zuchlewski and Michelle Delaporte.

And a special thanks to these people and businesses who were not building a boat, for helping us in a variety of ways:

Don Jones, Tom Dunn, The Skinboat School, Riverside Kayak Connection, Craig Kosmowski, Mike Sadler, Greg Pielach, Jim DeNike, and many, many others.

Please send feedback on the new SOLAR Ray format to SOLARrayeditor@solaroutdoors.org

Basic Land Navigation

When/Where:

- **Wednesday, June 10, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM –** Berkley Community Center
- **Wednesday, June 17, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM –** Berkley Community Center
- **Saturday, June 20 (9 AM - 7 PM) & Sunday, June 21 (9 AM - 4 PM) –** Waterloo Rec. Area

The class includes:

- Map reading
- Taking & plotting compass bearings
- The 3 norths & Declination
- Navigation strategies
- Primitive navigation
- Terrain recognition exercise
- Cross-country route-finding exercise

This class is a prerequisite for the Advanced Land Navigation class, which focuses on GPS. GPS is not covered at all in this class.

Class fee: $45. Includes book, overnight accommodations at Burns Cabin for the practical.

To sign up, or for more information, contact: Karl Overheul, cyber.nomad@comcast.net (preferred), (248) 890-0738.

ON NORTH MANITOU ISLAND ©

By Glenn Schultz

Second weekend this May
To this Island by ferry
Made our reservations early
So the boat would not tarry

Base camped in the southeast
Bush whacked counterclockwise
Trekked lost routes that were hidden
Days had mostly sunny skies

Cold rain did not deter
Our fun and our gumption
The Lake wind it howled
Yes, the storm clouds they dumped some

The Island once bustled
With farms and for lumber
Now woodlands re-growing
From seeds that had slumbered

The sunset enchanting
With moonrise in tow
Noisy birds in the morning
Into camp came a doe

Lake Michigan's winds
Brought whitecaps just right
To sandy cliffs and thin beaches
Where E.J. flew his kite

We talked some about work
About construction and tires
We met a photographer who with
We extinguished a brush fire

Through marshes and woodlands
Climbed hills, descended dales
On the third day of hiking
Back by boat we did sail

This three day excursion
With Dennis, E.J. & Mike
I recommend it to others
Was a great weekend to hike.

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SOLAR Adventure Racers Set to go "Stark Raving Mad"

by Jeff McWilliams

On Saturday, June 13, more than 26 members of SOLAR will participate in the "Stark Raving Mad" adventure race held in Muskegon, MI. This occasion marks the 2nd year that SOLAR has invaded western Michigan to compete in this six-hour sprint level race.

The participants are members of SOLAR's adventure racing class, taught by lead instructor Pam Riehl-Szakal. Most are students from this year's class, while the rest are from the 2008 class and participated as assistant instructors this year.

The "Stark Raving Mad" adventure race is offered by Endurance Sports. Together with Infiterra Sports, LLC, Grand Rapids Area Adventure Racing, Southern Michigan Adventure Club, and the Southern Michigan Adventure Racing Team, these organizations are hosting a combined total of twelve adventure races in Michigan this year.

Adventure racing is a multidisciplinary sport, combining orienteering, trekking, mountain biking, and paddling. Races often include a surprise element as well, such as a fixed ropes course, swimming across a section of water, or shooting a section of river rapids on a body board. The races range in length from 6 hours for a sprint level race to 10 straight days for the longest and most challenging expedition level. Participants compete solo or in teams of two to four.

As of the writing of this article, the following SOLAR members were registered for the race (team names in parentheses):

Gary Wilkinson & Dave Dahl (Untamed Donkeys); Kinga Gorzelewski & Gosha Brozda (Pierogi Girls); Tom & Jacob Black (2458); Krisanne Schmidt & Linda Ringlein (K&L's Big Adventure); Jeff & Jennifer McWilliams (Rogue Penguin); Mike Pniewski & Mary Dean (M & M); Sue Segal & Karen Kish (Adventure Babes); Judy Petrella & Alison Martel (2 Chicks and a Compass); Rebecca Wauldron and Barry Wauldron (Will Race for Food); Grey Ivanov and Larry Mergentime (no name yet); Mike Schick and Tammy Schick (no name yet); Jim Klocinski and Rex Mathewson (no name yet); Mark Bushor and Stacey Alguire (no name yet).

More teams are being formed. Eric Braun, Pam Esper, Chris Myers, Jackie Ostrosky, Yendesh Parnaik, Lou Szakal, and Don Wold have plans to team up and participate. Best of luck to the teams for this and all future racing endeavors!

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

MY FIRST YEAR

By Cindy Taylor

In my first year as President, I have learned a lot and am looking forward to another year of growth. Over the past year, there have been times when I've felt overwhelmed and frustrated, times when I was filled with optimism and hope, and sometimes everything in between. I have been very fortunate to have support from friends during all of these times. I want to thank those who have listened to me and provided encouragement when I needed it and I apologize for 'dumping' on those when it was not appropriate to do so. I feel pretty passionate about SOLAR and enjoy sharing my vision of SOLAR with people. Sometimes I probably get a little carried away!

When I began this gig last year, I said one of the primary areas that I was hoping to focus on was improving communication within SOLAR. Over the past year, several Steering Committee members have provided articles in the SOLAR Ray about their roles in an effort to provide more transparency to members. Also in this past year, we have made some progress toward putting together more systems for members to use to provide feedback to the Steering Committee. A great deal of time and effort on the part of some steering committee members and also by other club members who care enough to want to make a difference in SOLAR has gone into the design and formation of these systems. Since SOLAR work is primarily done after other obligations (work, family, etc.), noticeable progress in efforts like these sometimes takes longer than we would like. However, we will be providing details in the near future about the work that has been done to date, so stay tuned.

Since it seems there are almost as many perceptions about what SOLAR is as there are members, it seemed important to capture what SOLAR is all about so that members and those considering becoming a member would know what to expect from SOLAR. Of course, SOLAR is a very unique and special organization so it wasn't easy to capture the essence in one document, but we tried. The result is included in this month's Ray, on page 7. You will likely see it appear in many places, so that everyone has a common foundation regarding what they should expect in SOLAR. However, this document does not capture what I consider to be the true essence of SOLAR. Pete & Sharon did a much better job doing so in their thank you note published in the May edition of the SOLAR Ray, i.e., "What a wonderful community of people SOLAR is. More than just a club - a bonding of shared events, memories and aspirations and future goals."

While you are not likely to find that message in any 'official' communication, it truly is what most people find SOLAR to be!

How SOLAR Works: an Overview of the Club

SOLAR is a loosely formed volunteer organization made up of people who enjoy the outdoors. In general, SOLAR coordinators and instructors are members just like you and are not trained professionals, but rather volunteers who share their knowledge and experience. As a club, we do not sponsor, approve, or have the resources to "qualify" our offerings. The club's role is simply to get people who want to offer something together with people who want to do or learn something. If a person seems to know what (s)he is doing, the Steering Committee will generally allow him or her to present an activity or a class. As somebody wanting to participate in a particular activity or class, it is imperative that you are comfortable with the person running it, the plans, requirements, abilities needed, etc.

The actual SOLAR requirements for running a class are very simple. Basically, the leader or coordinator should have knowledge to share, background in the specific class topic, and a plan/outline acceptable to the Education Chair. (There may be other requirements such as a Wilderness First Aid and/or CPR Certification depending on the class.) If the leader or coordinator appears to know what (s)he is talking about, the class will generally be presented. SOLAR may or may not look into claims of experience or history made by a potential class leader or coordinator.

Most of our classes are run by volunteers who are donating their time and knowledge in hopes of sharing those skills with others who may enjoy them. A few of our classes are offered by certified instructors and may offer actual certifications from organizations such as the American Red Cross. This is the exception rather than the rule.

Activities work similarly. If a member wants to coordinate an activity, (s)he can present a plan to the Activities Chairperson. If it is something that is of interest to members and/or broadly falls into "enjoying the outdoors," it will generally be presented to the club. We really don't look into how qualified or experienced the leader is.

If it appears that an activity or class may be outside of SOLAR's comfort zone, the steering committee may decide it should not be formally presented to members. If somebody presents the activities chair with a plan to attend the zoo, it will probably be presented. If that same person wants to go to the zoo to feed tigers, that would probably fall outside of the club's comfort zone and be turned down.

The SOLAR Yahoo! Group gives members a way to communicate between meetings and/or find other people to do things with. If a member wants to hike, sell their used gear, meet for dinner or feed the tigers without presenting at a SOLAR meeting, the Yahoo! Group is the place to advertise. The group has some basic guidelines -- e.g., political, religious, and inflammatory posts may not belong there and will hopefully be blocked by the moderators. If a member posts that (s)he wants to get a group to go to the zoo to break into the tiger enclosure and feed them bits of steak, nobody will block it. Just because it's on the Yahoo! Group does not mean it's a good idea! You are responsible for yourself. Don't blindly follow anyone to feed the tigers!

The bottom line is that SOLAR is what our members make it. SOLAR gives members access to affordable and unique opportunities. Once again, as somebody wanting to participate it is imperative that you are comfortable with the person running the class or activity, the plans, requirements, abilities needed, etc. If you really like to read policies, we have them. Look for guidelines on coordinating and/or participating in activities and classes on our website.

The View from the Peanut Gallery

by Ati Tislerics

The annual SOLAR elections are now over, and the Steering Committee (SC) is set for the next year. SC members, you can stop reading now. Everybody else, I'm talking to you. You've heard this before, but here's another reminder: all SOLAR members are welcome (and encouraged) to attend the Steering Committee's monthly meetings. My wife, Jennifer, and I have been doing so for about two years as self-appointed members of the "peanut gallery." It's a great way to find out more about what's going on in SOLAR, and to have a voice in club affairs. At the meetings, we have basically the same privileges as elected SC members, except we can't make motions or vote on them. Our participation in these meetings has always been welcomed, and our contributions are taken seriously. I'm sure it helps that we have found valuable ways to contribute, and the peanut gallery gives us a vantage point from which to identify those areas where our interests and expertise coincide with the club's needs. For instance, I have some academic background in survey research; when the Steering Committee wanted to begin gathering systematic feedback from class participants, I was able to help create a class evaluation procedure that should be of real value to the club.

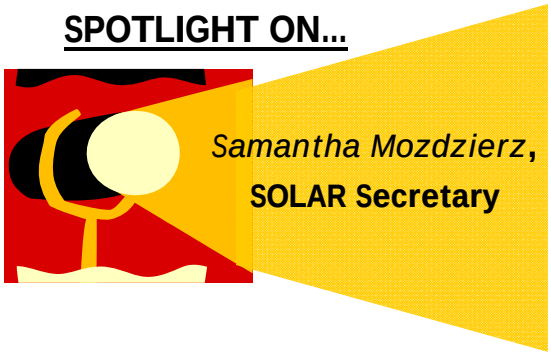
Naturally, sitting in on SC meetings is also a way to get a taste of the business of leadership, if you think an elected position may be in your future. You'll discover that the meetings are pretty informal affairs, attended by people who have a genuine interest in and concern for the club. Of course, the club leaders are always looking for new talent, and the peanut gallery is an obvious hunting ground. (They got Jen – she's just given up her PG seat to become the new Ray Editor.) Jen and I have talked to quite a few SOLARites over the past few months who were interested in running for positions, but weren't ready to take the plunge; sitting in the peanut gallery can be a way to ease into leadership, and find a role that is a good fit.

I should also mention another way to get involved: committees. Most of the elected Steering Committee members are technically chairs of committees for their respective areas of responsibility. Many of these committees exist in name only, but the Activities, Education, Equipment and SOLAR Ray committees are active and busy. These committees are another way to get involved in specific areas of the club's business without jumping into a Steering Committee position. My peanut gallery involvement led me to the Education Committee, and I expect my wife will keep me busy proofing Ray articles. Contact the appropriate committee chair if there's an area of particular interest to you.

SOLAR is run by volunteers, and it will thrive in direct proportion to the extent to which members share their time and talent for the good of the club. Everywhere I look in SOLAR, I see people with leadership potential. If you're uncomfortable seeking an elective office, well, there's lots of room in the peanut gallery, and it's a great way to start to make your club truly YOUR club.

The Steering Committee meets at 7:30 PM on the last Tuesday of the month. Meetings rotate among SC members' homes. If you're thinking of joining me in the peanut gallery, please drop Cindy Taylor an email (SOLARPresident@solaroutdoors.org) to find out the next meeting's location.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Samantha Mozdzierz,
SOLAR Secretary

How long have you been a member of SOLAR? Almost a year.

How did you learn of SOLAR in the first place? Through a friend.

What are some outdoorsy activities you enjoy? Camping (of course), hiking, backpacking, kayaking, rollerblading, walking, playing volleyball, biking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing.

What would your ideal trip be like? I am planning to go to Isle Royale this summer so that may be it! I love the backpacking/camping trips, but I am not going to lie, I sometimes love the all-inclusive, relaxing type trips also.

Which classes have you taken through SOLAR? I took the fall backpacking class so far. I am currently working toward my Masters degree in Administration from CMU so I am pretty focused on that at this point. I will be taking more classes when my degree is finished.

Tell us something about you that would surprise us! I was voted Miss St. Helen 1997 (yes I am known as the Bluegill Queen). I had many duties to tend to at the Bluegill Festival and I had my own float in various parades around that area. The Tip Up Town parade in Houghton Lake was sure cold…I wore my snow suit with my crown and sash. I am also a health inspector and yes, I still eat out in restaurants.

Do you have any pets? Two greyhounds (Bo and Ward) They are the cutest and sweetest things ever!

What inspired you to run for a Steering Committee position? I wanted to become more involved and give back to the club. I have met so many great people up to this point; I look forward to interacting with and getting to know more people along the way.

SOLAR/Proud Lake Moonlight Canoeing 2009

This popular event is great for the experienced paddler as well as the novice. Come to Proud Lake and paddle either a canoe or kayak into the setting sun. Then return by paddling back into the moonrise. When you return to the canoe rental, a bonfire will be awaiting you. Each evening will include pizza dinner. No partner necessary, all skill levels are welcome. Dress for the weather, including headlamps and water bottles.

Photos compliments of Jeff Enterkin

Who: All are welcome. Child and dog friendly.

Where: Heavner Canoe Rental, 2775 Garden Road, Milford, Michigan 48381

When:

Saturday, June 20 (solstice): No evening moon.
Dinner at 7:00, Paddle from Proud Lake Campground (transportation from Heavner's to campground provided) 8:00-10:00

Saturday, July 11: 7:15 dinner, 8:30-11:30 paddle.

Saturday, August 8: 7:00 dinner, 8:00-10:30 paddle

Friday, September 4: Dinner: 6:30, 7:30-10:00 paddle

Saturday, October 3: Dinner 5:30, 6:30-9:00 paddle

Sunday, November 1: Dinner 4:15, 5:00-8:00 paddle

Cost: Canoe or Kayak $30 per person. Includes pizza dinner, boat rental (canoe or kayak), bonfire.

Boat rental only (no dinner) $25 per person

Dinner only (bring your own boat $15 per person

Bonfire only (no dinner, bring your own boat) $5 per person.

Preregister by calling Heavner Canoe Rental at (248) 685-2379. Please call in your reservation AT LEAST twenty-four hours before the event.
Dinner will not be available for those who do not preregister.
For more information call Margaret at 734-721-2821 or email: Mpluscat@yahoo.com.

THE BALLAD OF THE NORTH MANITOU ISLAND LIGHTNING STRIKE FIRE OF MAY 9TH 2009 ©

By Glenn Schultz

Lightning it struck
At the base of two trees
The fire it smoldered
For days site unseen

Camp hundred yards over
Fire southwest by compass
For we were up windward
Could not see it or smell it

One tree it did chimney
Burning most of its base
An irregular tripod
Its innards effaced

Fire charcoaled the other
Concaving its trunk
From the ground
it scorched upward
In a ten foot high chunk

The flames were not tall
Half an inch at the most
But a strong wind could whip
Them into big fire posts

The black of the grass
Thin oval from center
Fire slowly consuming
Leaves left from the winter

Up slope crust was edging
And picking up speed
When our neighbor saw smoke
Panicked face we could read

We were just returning
From a ten mile trek
Four miles by bush whack
Looking forward to rest

Jason ran to our camp
With our bucket in tow
Yelling fire!
Please help me!
Let's the five of us go!

Dennis was closest
He let out the word
With I, Mike & EJ
A thundering herd

Ran down to the fire
With containers in hand
To douse what we could
With all that we had

All was still burning
Water needed much more
So I ran with a bucket
To Lake Michigan's shore

I took a big sweep
Five gallons inside
Grabbed bucket by handles
For the two hundred
yard ride

Mike came on to help
Buckets we had three
Up hill through the sand
Was not that easy

All of us bustled
Gathering water with speed
To put out this fire
Was a very, very great need!

With adrenaline flowing
With the mission in mind
We repeated these steps
Another three times

At least a dozen buckets
From what I remember
We extinguished the flames
And doused all the embers

A cell phone was used
To call 911
For there were no Rangers
Yet on the Island

Rangers said they would
Arrive there tomorrow
GPS coordinates
We gave them to borrow

It was the busiest hour
That we ever had
But to put out this fire
Of that we were glad.

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SOLAR JUNE 2009 CALENDAR

www.solaroutdoors.org

JUNE ACTIVITES					
6/2	Tues	Monthly Meeting	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
6/2	Tues	Kayak Build Presentation	Colony Hall	Janet Duncan	SolarPrograms@solaroutdoors.org
6/5-7	Wknd	Summer Kickoff Camping Weekend	Brighton Rec Area	Carol McCririe	cmccririe@sbcglobal.net
6/19-21	Wknd	Kid Mandatory Beginner Backpack Trip	Manistee River Trail	Charity Loring	charitymarie@yahoo.com
6/20	Sat	Moonlight Paddle	Proud Lake Rec Area	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
6/26	Fri	Paddle to the Symphony	Kensington Metro Park, Miflord, MI	Michael Willihnganz	copycast@aol.com
6/26 – 7/12	Multi	Olympus/Rainier Mountaineering	Washington State	Lou Szakal	everest2008@comcast.net
JUNE CLASSES					
(con't) 6/4, 11, 18, 25	Sat	Open Water Kayak Skills	Harley Ensign Boat Ramp	Chuck Smith	cbryansmit@aol.com
6/6-7	Wknd	Scuba Diving – Open Water Test	Bowling Green, OH	Tom Hayes	sarcaptin@yahoo.com
6/10, 17, 20-21	Multi	Basic Land Navigation	Berkley Community Center/Waterloo Rec Area	Karl Overheul/Ati Tislerics	cyber.nomad@comcast.net
6/18, 20-21	Multi	Wilderness First Aid	TBD	Mike Malon / Mary Price	mmalon@comcast.net
JULY ACTIVITES					
7/2-5	Multi	Camping Weekend	Chain O' Lakes State Park, IN	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
7/7	Tues	Monthly Meeting	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
7/7	Tues	Gear Swap and Summer Picinic	Colony Hall	Janet Duncan	SolarPrograms@solaroutdoors.org
7/11	Sat	Moonlight Paddle	Proud Lake Rec Area	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
7/17-19	Wknd	Diving World Record	Gilboa Quarry, Ottawa, OH	Gary Schafer	saniglowcfm@gmail.com
7/24-26	Wknd	Canoe float down the Manistee River	Grayling, MI		
AUGUST ACTIVITES					
8/8	Sat	Moonlight Paddle	Proud Lake Rec Area	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES					
9/4, 10/3, 11/1	Fri , Sat or Sun	Moonlight Paddle	Proud Lake Rec Area	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
10/4-10	Multi	Week in the Adirondacks	Lake Placid, NYI	Don Wold	dwold12972@aol.com
Fall 2010	Multi	Gaelic Adventure	Ireland/Scotland	Jim Gessner	gessnerj@comcast.net
UPCOMING CLASSES					
Sept/Oct 2009	Multi	Women in the Woods	TBD	Pamela Riehl	pariehl@gmail.com

If you would like to plan/lead a SOLAR activity, contact our Activities Chairperson, Samantha Schafer, at SolarActivities@SolarOutdoors.org.

If you would like to teach or suggest a SOLAR class, contact our Education Chairperson, Allen Duncan, at SolarEducation@SolarOutdoors.org.

SOLAR HAS A NO-REFUND POLICY. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND AN ACTIVITY, YOU MAY "SELL YOUR SPOT" TO ANOTHER CLUB MEMBER

WHAT IS SOLAR?
SOLAR is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization with 400-plus members who enjoy the outdoors. Members share their knowledge and experience with each other by leading classes and coordinating activities/trips.

MEMBERSHIP
Membership is only $40 a year per person ($55 per family) and includes free access to most club -owned equipment, a monthly newsletter, and a chance to meet hundreds of other like-minded adventurers drawn together by a common love of pristine lakes, breathtaking vistas, deep forests, scenic shorelines, and the experiences to be found there.

MEETINGS
Our monthly meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month in Southfield at Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen (between 8 Mile & 9 Mile Roads) at 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

SOLAR RAY NEWSLETTER
The SOLAR Ray is a monthly publication of SOLAR and is available online at www.solaroutdoors.org. To receive a copy in the mail, please contact Mary Price at SOLARmembership@solaroutdoors.org.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES
Submissions for the *SOLAR Ray* are due on the Thursday three weeks prior to the monthly Membership meeting. Articles, poems, recipes, etc. should be submitted in electronic format, preferably in Microsoft Word. Please attach images separately. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Tislerics at SOLARrayeditor@solaroutdoors.org.

STEERING COMMITTEE

President: Cindy Taylor	Activities: Samantha Schafer	Bylaws: Allen Duncan
Vice President: Carol McCririe	Education: Marie Martinko	Equipment: Laura Buhl
Secretary: Samantha Mozdzierz	Historian: Chuck Smith	Membership: Mary Price
Treasurer: Mary Donahue	Programs: Debbie Zuchlewski	Public Relations: Gloria Fontaine
	Ray Editor: Jennifer Tislerics	Webmaster: Jeff McWilliams

PRESIDENTS AT LARGE
Mike Banks | Leslie Cordova | Al Fylak | Steve Gardner | Bill Halvingis | Cindy Harrison-Felix
Tom Hayes | Joan Hettinger | Doug Lanyk | Larry Martin | Tom Oloffo | Lou Szakal
Joan & Bob Westbrook

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS
The Steering Committee meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. These meetings are usually open to the general membership. Anyone who is interested in learning what topics are discussed, the decisions being made or contemplating running for a position on the Steering Committee is welcome to attend. If you are interested in attending the Steering Committee meeting, please contact Cindy Taylor at SOLARpresident@solaroutdoors.org.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SOLAR RAY ASSISTANT EDITORS
Laura Buhl, Winnie Chrzanowski, Jennifer Hill, Ken Lemieux, Pamela Schmelzer-Anzicek, Elizabeth Schwab, Rebecca Sweeton and Ati Tislerics.

MORE INFORMATION
Please visit our website at www.solaroutdoors.org.

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