

Past Tents

Mental meandering by SOLAR historian..... vol. 13

Most every month we will dig into our archives and ponder on the past and present minutia of our club.....

I hope in the future to also be a bit of a document of record and comment on current event and perhaps give a historical context.

Welcome to my mad mad world of run on sentences and mental meandering

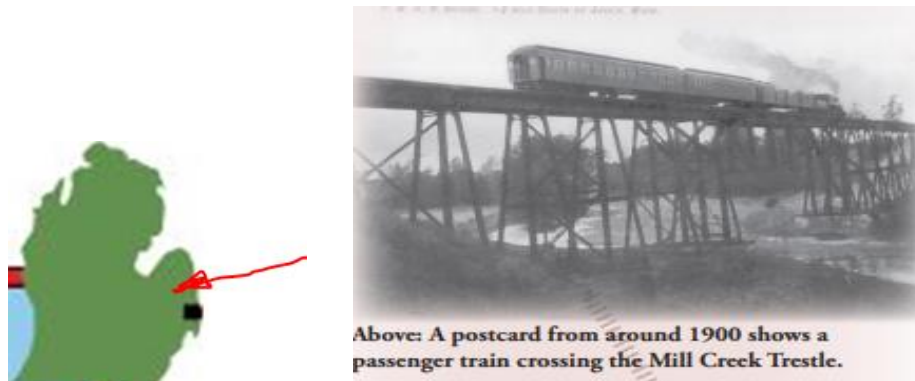
Thumb Drive

In the effort to ever inspire SOLAR to enjoy the outdoors, I am going to give you tidbits from my travel Memorial Weekend, past, present and hopefully future. It does help that I have family mid and tip of thumb and I have driven to the near north many times. I have enjoyed pre-history, history, geology, industry and entertainment very close to home and well within a weekend excursion time frame. We (the club steering committee) hope to be working on a travel aid to help members be inspired to run and take trips, this is my take on members helping members get out and have fun.....I will mine the SOLAR Ray, our club newsletter for an past article that I wrote about a kayak outings, will be looking on line for a trail that I found that I found fascinating and share a movie house fascination that sometimes influences my travel.....

Train, Trestle and Trail

I have heard of a trestle on a trail for a while, I thought it was over Irish Hill way but found it not too far away from Port Huron. Finally went onto it last holiday weekend and it is a multi-use trail, horse, bike and hike, a gravel rails to trails segment with a train trestle. Horses have to by-pass the trestle so their trail to a river ford gives a bit of hiking type trail and better view of the bridge. The Wadhams to Avoca trail <https://www.stclaircounty.org/offices/parks/forms/Brochures/Wadhams%20to%20Avoca%20Trail%20Brochure.pdf>, was nice and shaded, cool comparatively to the open road, the side ponds and drainage were full of frogs croaking and pollywogs swimming, some birds were singing and I imagine that bird watching could be enjoyed both on the trail and from the bridge. I read that this trail now ends within 4 miles of the Port Huron trail.....I imagine that they will connect soon.....

This rail route served the forestry and farming communities as well from Port Huron to East Saginaw





Petroglyphs

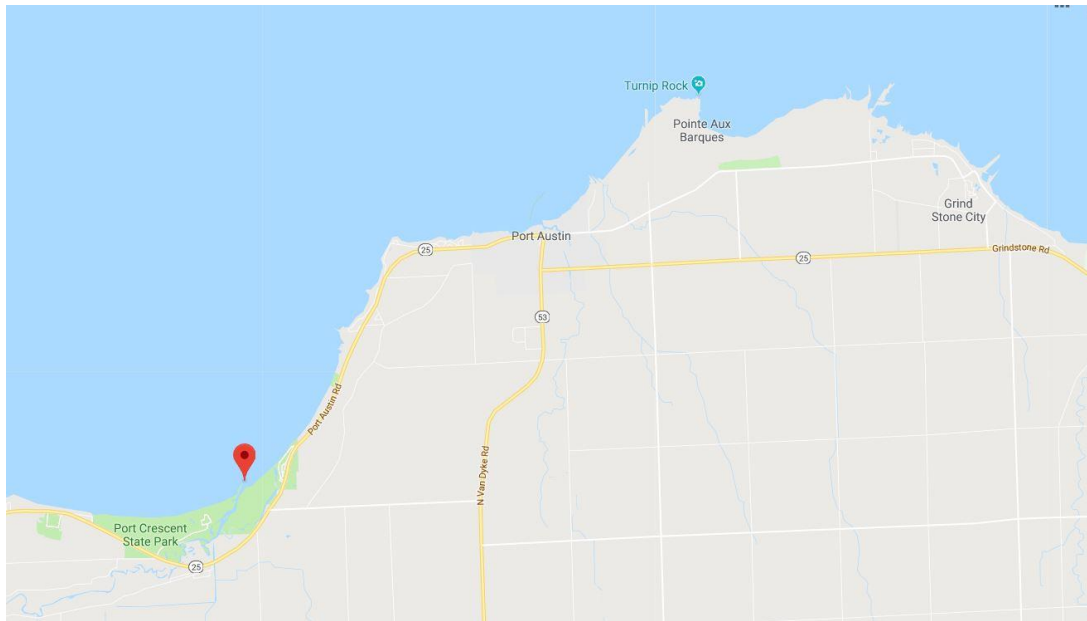
Check out pre-history, in the thumb https://www.michigan.gov/mhc/0,4726,7-282-61080_62660-54564--,00.html



Kayak some more.....Port Austin, Grindstone City and Pinnabog river.....also my top rated Rybek's ice cream store...



I have done a kayak trip around Turnip Rock south of the Port Austin Port, just around the point below the cliffs of Point Aux Barques are undercuts / caves that are reminiscent, of some formations of pictured rocks, similar but smaller but worth the paddle. You can also leave out of Grid Stone City harbor but it is a longer paddle. The Port Austin lighthouse is also an open water paddle but on a calm day close enough and in sight of the harbor, if you have your own kayak you can leave from the public beach west of the harbor (accessible through a small neighborhood of homes). If you're in the area Pinnabog River is close at Port Crescent State Park and is an easy paddle, no current at all so the boat liveries have you paddle to the lake and back.....there is a beach that is very popular and was crowded over the holidays. My dad and uncles use to hunt ducks off the Pinnabog and there were stories, perhaps in the inclement weather it is less popular. All along this area fishing is popular, in Grind Stone City, Capt. Morgan restaurant will cook your catch for dinner and is not a bad place to get a beverage. THE best ice cream place in the area, with history and flavor is Rybecks, off 25 but not too hard to find is so worth it, they rehabbed a stone building that in itself is worth going into, this year they featured Michigan made Guernsey Ice Cream, soooooooo good and the scoops are large. If you are into quantity there is another place just down the street that I just don't dare take on, and that is saying something.....



Grind Stone City

If you make it up to here, weather you kayak or not both Grind Stone City and Port Austin are nice diversions, but I find that Grind Stone harbor lined with grindstone and the many along the roads and in rock walls give it an edge for my enjoyment, it also is smaller. Whalen's campground right in town has some history and machinery in among the camp sites that is worth a walk into it, is worth it. You cannot see the quarries because they have grown over, but from this point in Michigan grindstones were shipped all over the world and ground grains that fed millions I am sure.....how cool is that.....

Movies

I have a fondness for movies and movie houses, many of my Michigan trips have a night I explore them near my trip destination. Below is a picture that has theaters in the thumb and it centers on Hi-Way drive in theater in Carsonville. Michigan's oldest operating drive-in, the Hi-Way Theater opened in 1947. This is one of 9 (I think) in Michigan and the only one with a grass field that I know of. This year that field was affected by rain, the only reason I can think of to delay a Memorial weekend season start. That put me in a quandary as well as an opportunity. Normally you can OVERNIGHT at the theater, see the movie and camp or sleep in the car, I have seen campers and I think a tent one time. This is what I do most times going up to Grind Stone City, they don't want you to drive tired.

These theaters are small town charm and history rolled into one, many have been saved by the community, I have talked with theater owners and manages throughout the Lower Peninsula and only seen a few shows in the upper. One theater I saw the huge carbon arc lamp and the tube filled sound system in the same room with their digital replacements no bigger than a toaster.

I put this to you to fill out your trips with all those other side possibilities, dinners, drive inns and dives provide a huge inspiration as well as old hotels and if you follow your passion you may find more. I have a friend that wants to go on the world's largest yard sale from Michigan to Alabama. I don't have a truck big enough but adventure awaits when you follow your muse.....

Have fun out there.

Some fun theaters (not necessarily in the thumb):

Biggest black light mural ceiling, <http://www.elkrapidscinema.com/>

Great side murals and bathrooms behind the screen, <https://www.stateandbijou.org/about/bijoubythebay>

Michigan drive-in article http://www.mlive.com/entertainment/index.ssf/2017/05/your_guide_to_michigans_remain.html

1 [Hi-Way Drive-In](#)

The Closest Theaters to Carsonville, Michigan Within a 35mi Radius

Click on a number to locate your theater on the [map](#) below

2 [AMC Birchwood 10](#) (18.63 mi)

4 [Bay Theatre - Caseville](#) (28 mi)

6 [Cass Theatre](#) (16.08 mi)

8 [Emagine Birch Run](#) (33.52 mi)

10 [Firebird Theater](#) (3.2 mi)

12 [Goodrich Oxford 7](#) (30.89 mi)

14 [McMorran Place Theatre](#) (21.24 mi)

16 [MJR Partridge Creek Digital Cinema 14](#) (34.96 mi)

18 [NCG - Lapeer Cinemas](#) (24.98 mi)

20 [Riverside Cinemas](#) (32.05 mi)

22 [Sperry's Moviehouse 12](#) (21.32 mi)

24 [Vassar Theatre](#) (26.99 mi)

3 [Bad Axe Theatre](#) (18.36 mi)

5 [Carmike Birchwood Cinemas](#) (18.63 mi)

7 [Clio Square Cinema](#) (32.88 mi)

9 [Emagine Macomb](#) (33.24 mi)

11 [Goodrich Krafft 8](#) (19.1 mi)

13 [Harbor Beach Community Theatre](#) (18.16 mi)

15 [MJR Chesterfield Crossing Digital Cinema 16](#) (32.51 mi)

17 [NCG - Courtland Cinemas](#) (27.06 mi)

19 [Pix Theatre](#) (24.32 mi)

21 [Romeo Theatre](#) (29.17 mi)

23 [Strand Theatre Caro](#) (21.28 mi)

Browse Movie Showtimes by Zipcode

Search within of



Past Tents Revisit.....of banners and bandannas.....

Flags and Memories (partially from Past ^ \ Tents vol. 10)

I mentioned finding pictures of a SOLAR flag in past images and in meeting minutes, I thought that it might be nice to have some flags or bandannas made for the club to take out on treks and trips so we can post pictures with it all over the place. Here are some image of the old flags whereabouts unknown.....the other are some fun inspirational “fakes”..... if you have any info on the old flags please contact the club historian.....we hope to also take interest in making up some real bandana style flags so look for that or let us know.....



Survey Says.....

We have sent out a survey and come up with a one color design print option and asked what the preferred cloth color and printing were..... Looking at the “fakes” directly above, I may also see what the price for the full color logo might be for going out with gear so we can get you to post your photos with it and your new cool fabulously fashionable bandannas at our media site, Facebook or whatever. I would like to see a ton of pictures with bandannas in an “ Outdoors with SOLAR” section along with a quick comment about your adventure.

Results from the survey are.....

Of 25 respondents (at time of writing), all would like to get a bandanna, 40 % only one, 60% (rounded percentage) would like to get more than one. Of the ones that wanted more than one, 96 % would like between one and three and one person (or about 4 % of the survey group) wanted between eight and eight hundred.....it was about even on preferences of light print on dark cloth and dark print on light cloth. Top color choice was even between green and orange with blue and red, second and third. Purple, yellow and blue were addition write-ins as well along with grey and black and high visibility cloth preferences.

There were some constructive comments on the lettering and symbol at the outer edge. One comment about a repetitive print for the background as well may influence some more design choices and direction. Other comments about material, cotton or rayon to soak up sweat and accommodate wash and wear. I will be inquiring to the printers if a reflective component could be added as well.

The steering committee has been looking into an order site that could provide some ordering options, mugs, t-shirts, patches and that may be an addition to the media site that is being worked on that may bring SOLAR into the blogosphere and help members share their outdoor experiences, passion and experience.

For those of you who replied to the survey, THANK YOU.....I now know at least 25 folks might want more than one and that will help me talk to printers and better inform what we bring to the SOLAR swag table near you (at the general meetings, generally the last today of most months)

