



Mental meandering by SOLAR historian..... vol. 14

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

SOLAR Ray in retro-grade 2010

You may have thought that SOLAR Ray was the most righteous dude in the club, that legendary climber, biker, watersports, hiker. Hate to burst your bubble but in fact SOLAR Ray is the clubs newsletter, which has been in hibernation for the past few years in need of an editor and club member inputs. As club historian, I say Ray is all that legend and more because it has all the input from members past. With the ebb and flow of interests, all outdoor activities have been done and commented on in its pages. In the effort to ever inspire SOLAR to enjoy the outdoors, I am going through the archived club newsletters, the SOLAR Ray. First and easiest, the digital, then (possibly in future efforts) the non-scanned physical editions. I know that I don't have a complete set in the archives, if any members have all their paper editions, I would like to borrow them or make them a permanent part of our physical archives.

Edition - Trip - Why it matters

This is the format I will review and report trips found in past Ray articles. If relevant pictures are found may include but most likely if you're interested in going or running an activity, this will give you leads enough for contacts and curiosity.....many authors are still in the club and active and open to talking about it over a beverage.....have fun out there.....

December 2010

Geocaching – short time commitment - gets you out and about into urban and outdoor environments - practice compass and gps skills – it's fun – can find “prizes” but also virtual points of interest.....

Red River Gorge, Kentucky – cool hiking – less than 8 hours away

Hay Ride – Kensington Metro Park – easy to organize – high participation – close to home – within an hour for most folks

Cozumel – the Caribbean – glorious options for getting away from it all to an amazing place on the planet

Rafting – location unknown but article is on the “thrill” of rafting and being in the middle of the maelstrom...

November 2010

Glacier National Park – many options for hiking skill levels, glorious scenery – multiple ways to get there (including train) – article lays out planning options and gives you a “feel” for the trip

Pictured Rocks – a “ghost” story – gives a good elemental feel of a night hike near the great lake Gichigami.....

Winter camping – close to home, maybe even your backyard – inspiring – people will wonder about you but you will know you have experienced what most people have not – this is a class retrospective, there are SOLAR folks who still do this it so fun...

High Ropes Course – multiple places in Michigan – a one day challenge to stretch your ability and mental fortitude....

October 2010

Qajaq / Kayak camp – near lake Ann – don't know if this place still offers learning opportunities but improving skills is never out of fashion – there are club and paddles of every skill level, near and far from home – organize your own trip if you want but read this to see what skills really are needed – be safe out there...

Moonlight Paddle – this is a once a month thing still – do it very fun – affordable - close to home

Fall Color trip to the Smokies – aprox 9 hours away – spectacular color possibilities – article has sample itinerary

Basic Mountaineering and Safety Skills Class – just read it and be amazed, our club once had a core of climbers that taught skills and led trips.....

Glacier National Park – Full trip description – Walk across the Park from east to west – inspiring

More Winter Camping Reviewed, fun fun fun – I found a picture of me in the background too emoji smile

Algonquin Provincial Park – adventure in another country - 7 hours away – good description of a paddle trip for two

September 2010

Banff and Jasper Hostel Trip – Canadian Rockies - 39 hour drive – I am just going to put a picture in here, inspiring – article gives good feel of trip



Machu Picchu - Hiking in Peru – South America – a world away and a World Heritage Site – very vivid trip discription – the trip, the travel is the high point not the destination.

Rescue Story – a cute tale from a young girls perspective about a lake outing with the famliy – it’s good to revisit the perspective of youth

August 2010

Tahquamenon Falls - Upper Michigan – not so much a trip description but an outdoor story of a moose with some unforeseen unfortunate end – wilderness experience close to home

Women in the Woods – class description – subjects to think of some gender and non-gender specific, helping you get out there.

July 2010

No trip article but description of skills class (basic land navigation) and announcements of classes and activities, pictures and plans for canoe outings and local hikes close to home, look at any newsletter and get some inspiration.....

June 2010

No trip article, issue includes announcements for activities you can think about doing –

Dutch Oven Cook Off & Potluck Picnic – local fun anytime

Caesar Creek State Park & Little Miami State Park and River – fabulous fun OHIO....

Poem about seeing wild life in Glacier National Park – inspirational and a good example of contributing to the club as you’re interest and ability allow....

May 2010

No trip articles but you can read about –

Making an Inuit style kayak paddle with club members

See Backcountry Gourmet recipe (also in other editions) food inspiration

Also pictures from Basic Backpacking field day and a Conditioning discussion and demonstration

April 2010

Metamora-Hadley State Park – this was a trip announcement to see wildflower and camp – is close to the Detroit metro area, less than an hour drive - No trip article but great idea to do again

See also the series SPOTLIGHT ON SOLAR Member, this edition and other contain member profiles and question on their biggest challenge or favorite camping spot etc. There are also article from the steering committee that all contain kernels of inspiration to lead you to adventure.....

March 2010

This edition was Winter Camping centric – great article on keeping warm under the snow

Other commentary and features told how to fill your class or activity once you have planned it, also an article on a new camper cabin at Proud Lake. It is this kind of helpful connecting features that help build our knowledge and experience of what we can do and where to do it.

A lot of events are just cabin camp weekends or gatherings in state parks, see <https://www.midnrreservations.com> for reservation info.....there is an article about a new cabin, this is that cabin, our club helps keep you informed on outdoor subjects.....



February 2010

Historically this was the edition that announced and showed the annual club photo contest winners. (hint, if you look at the February for all the archived editions you get to see all the best images)

There are no trip articles but photos from a Lake Ann winter trip (near Traverse City about 4 hours away) and there is a tutorial on how to make a DIY cozy for your white gas fuel bottle (very useful for cold weather camping).



Best Overall - Linda Rodrick



*Digitally Enhanced Scenery -
Jeff Enterkin*



Plants- Janet Schester

January 2010

No trip articles in this edition but SOLAR shares some fun showing off the annual holiday party with a theme of Winter Wonderland, snowflakes, skis, snow shoes and lodge signs, dancing too.....

edition (SOLAR)

January 2010



January edition also had contributions from the President giving a great overview of SOLAR and how the club works, who we are, what we are not, risks and rewards....

There is also a good article, still timely on SOLAR equipment, care and borrowing, mostly common sense...

In the SPOTLIGHT on member Leslie Cordova she states and I reiterate what I hope to inspire from this retrospective,

“... I would like to see more people lead trips. I would say that only 5 – 10% of members actually lead trips. It would be great to have a choice of several activities every weekend.”

Also in the Ray, fun things to do.....I modified it a bit.....

Trail Mix Word Search

by Glenn Schultz © 2006

S I R D N E W B E R I E S E
T D E R A I S I N S R A U S
A S E I R R E B N A R C T T
N D R E N I A I A U A U S U
P N U D S N A I L N N N O N
I O T C A R M A S L A A R A
N M H Y M E R A C I N E E
E L R E P A C W A Y A P A P
N A O R I N G A O C A K L T
U L T R A D S O I L M O K S
T R A I L M I X R O F A C T
S R I E A S E I C P I N N U
U I R S W E H S A C R S U M
N O P I N E A P P L E R O S
M I K E I S G R E A T I N O

- 1 TRAIL MIX
- 2 SNACK
- 3 GORP
- 4 PEANUTS
- 4 RAISINS
- 5 CRANBERRIES
- 6 M AND M's
- 7 PINE NUTS
- 8 SUNFLOWER SEEDS
- 9 CASHEWS
- 10 WALNUTS
- 11 ALMONDS
- 12 PAPAYA
- 13 DRIED CHERRIES
- 14 BANANA
- 15 PINEAPPLE