



Mental meandering by SOLAR historian..... vol. 15 August 2018

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

Three SOLAR historians get in a car.....

No this is not a joke with a fantastic introspective zinger as a punch line but this is the start of the topic for this Past Tents episode....

A while back I let some east side SOLAR friends know about a garden tour I was going on, it centered on Mt Clemens and the historic Crocker House then emanated out from there. We arrived, got our tickets after a rendezvous for breakfast, map in hand, descriptions of stops in the neighborhood and we were off. Good to have those land nav skills too, driving is much better with two navigators.....along the way we found a stop was the Michigan Transit Museum and we also found out (or I did) that all three travelers were at one time SOLAR historians.

I also found out several more familiar folks were too..... I must pay better attention when they ask who has been on Steering Committee before.....a lot of people have served in that capacity for the club..... (HINT, historian is a good entry for more involvement in the club at next elections)

Anyhow here are some comments, thoughts and links to inspire trips close to home. I hope to get two in one day next year, if someone wants to as well we can plan and run it for the club together.....

I have got to get in my Train-ing

I already alluded to the Michigan Transit Museum and it is cool all by itself, a train station housing memorabilia from the passenger and freight days that serviced many local communities in the area. You can look at the station placards and models and you will surely recognize familiar names. The station guide was knowledgeable not only about the train but had info on several historical groups in the area.

I found out that the MTM runs a train, more accurately historically appropriate railway equipment, locomotives, streetcars, rapid transit car, interurban coach and other rolling stock... it also offers short rides on the railroad spur of the former Mount Clemens Sugar Company, now owned by the MTM.

The very next weekend an article came out in print, this is a nice link to a previous article and one to the MTM

<https://www.candgnews.com/news/all-aboard-michigan-transit-museums-2017-train-ride-season-101718>

<https://www.michigantransitmuseum.com/>

It's not all up in the air

The second Museum we found out about was the Selfridge Air Museum located on Selfridge ANG Base located near Mt. Clemens MI. At one time the MTM went into the base and dropped off passengers to view the Selfridge Air Museum. Due to security the base does not allow that convenient trip for history buffs..... that's pastbut they still offer a great low price, high value, mostly outside tour of their collection of historical planes that looks like it is well worth the visit.....

<http://www.selfridgeairmuseum.org/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tAAU4-_gzU take a look at this old cool news reel type, of Mt Clemens and Selfridge history.....1951



SELFREDGE MILITARY AIR MUSEUM- THE MOUNT CLEMENS STORY*-
1951


Could use a Scan in Hand

I got some results from my recent request for past newsletters, three members have the print from back to about 1992. A portion of them are already digitized (2010, 11, 12,13, 15 & 16), so only about 15 more years to go. I am not sure where the digital divide is when we went full on electronic publishing but reports are that I will have access to hand written versions.....

I do however have a request, not only to the horders of cool newsletters which have said I can borrow them but also to you tech folks....

I NEED TO BORROW A SCANNER

Perhaps you have one that I can use for this task, summer might see some progress but I envision dark nights working on this, perhaps during the winter when work has a shut down. I will also ask at the general meeting but wouldn't it be nice that I give you public credit and adulation instead of begging. Please think about loaning me your tech, this would give you massive street cred and bolster your resume as a being part of the historical sub-committee of document preservation and access. That would look so good and very impressive.....



School For Outdoor Leadership, Adventure, and Recreation


Introducing Southeast Michigan to the Outdoors Since 1978


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SOLAR Ray

The SOLAR Ray is a publication of the School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation (S.O.L.A.R.), offered on a seasonal or monthly basis depending upon the level of activities that members are reporting on. It is provided free of charge in electronic (online) format as a PDF download. You will need Adobe Reader or Foxit Reader on your computer to access the SOLAR Ray. Both Readers and all editions from the past year (2016) of the SOLAR Ray are available by following the links below. A full on-line archive of the SOLAR Ray going back to 2004 is under development.

SOLAR Ray Downloads

Download the latest version of Adobe Reader here: 

Download the latest version of Foxit Reader here: 

Available Issues:

NOTE: File sizes are given on some and are quite large. These may require more download time on slow Internet connections.

Available Issues

- 2016
- 2015
- 2014 (coming soon)
- 2013
- 2012
- 2011
- 2010
- 2009 (coming soon)
- 2008 (coming soon)
- 2007 (coming soon)
- 2006 (coming soon)
- 2005 (coming soon)
- 2004 (coming soon)

Weather or not

Last general meeting we had a speaker on weather development, warning systems and identifying storms. Some were at a high level (pun intended) other country wide but others revealed to me the why on things noticed while out in the world.....

I have only traveled once with a weather radio, it was a long trip and before the advent of smart phones to get updates, it had the advantage of being water proof and with an emergency call beacon, good stuff for a kayak trip on a rather large lake....The presenter went through why watches and warnings were put out but also percentages when they occur and accuracy, very insightful.

I often recognize rain coming when the wind picks up just be for the storm, we saw pictures of the air rushing up into the cloud formation and just prior to the rain condensing out. It is neat to now know the reason and this feature of a storm will continue to help me gauge weather I have time to set that tent up or get out my rain gear, here it comes is what that wind is saying, I for one will listen.....

Next Two: PSA (public service announcement) for upcoming presentations at our SOLAR general meetings.....

August 28th

SOLAR outdoor club hosts:

Swimming from Alcatraz

A presentation by Laura Miller



Imagine a swim race from the famed island by participating in the Alcatraz Classic. It takes heart and strength to battle the weather and water conditions. We will hear about Laura's race and what it took to conquer the elements and overcome the mental challenge of a large open water swim.

Laura Miller will be talking about her experiences of open water swimming and her swim from Alcatraz to Chrissy Field East Beach located in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's Presidio Park of San Francisco.

August 28th 2018, General meeting starts at 7, presentation to follow.
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church*, 27475 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI
(just west of Inkster road)

*Meeting in lower hall, elevator available, SOLAR is has no religious affiliation, all welcome

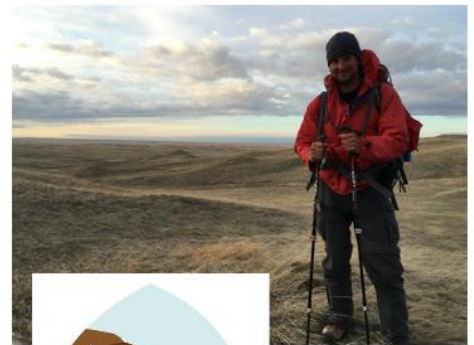
September 25th

SOLAR outdoor club hosts:

Thru-Hiking the Great Plains Trail

A presentation by Luke Jordan aka "Strider"

Hear about a hiker's 3 month journey over the newly established Great Plains Trail. Stretching for 2200 miles across rolling grasslands, through rocky canyons and over forested ridges, this trail aims to be America's next great adventure. Follow along as Strider traverses this trail from the desert of west Texas to the Canadian Border, in an attempt to raise awareness and generate support of this great resource, highlighting the greatest history and scenery of the Great Plains.



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We have had Luke at our club before,
he is a dynamic and engaging speaker
as are his stories

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