

# Present Tents

Mental meandering by SOLAR historian..... vol. 19 February 2019

Most every month we will dig into our archives and ponder on the past and present minutia of our club.....  
**BUT NOT THIS MONTH !** We will look at three current trips or trip planning events.

This edition is to inspire you to start planning trips or events, it will focus on two trips I am involved in and I have been planning or help plan. One has been presented to the club and the other is an offering for a trip in September. I also want to bring attention to Trail Talkin, which is a trip discussion / brain storming session to build up offering for trips by members for members. The sections will also try to show a progression in planning and help you to see that there are many small steps to many great trips.....

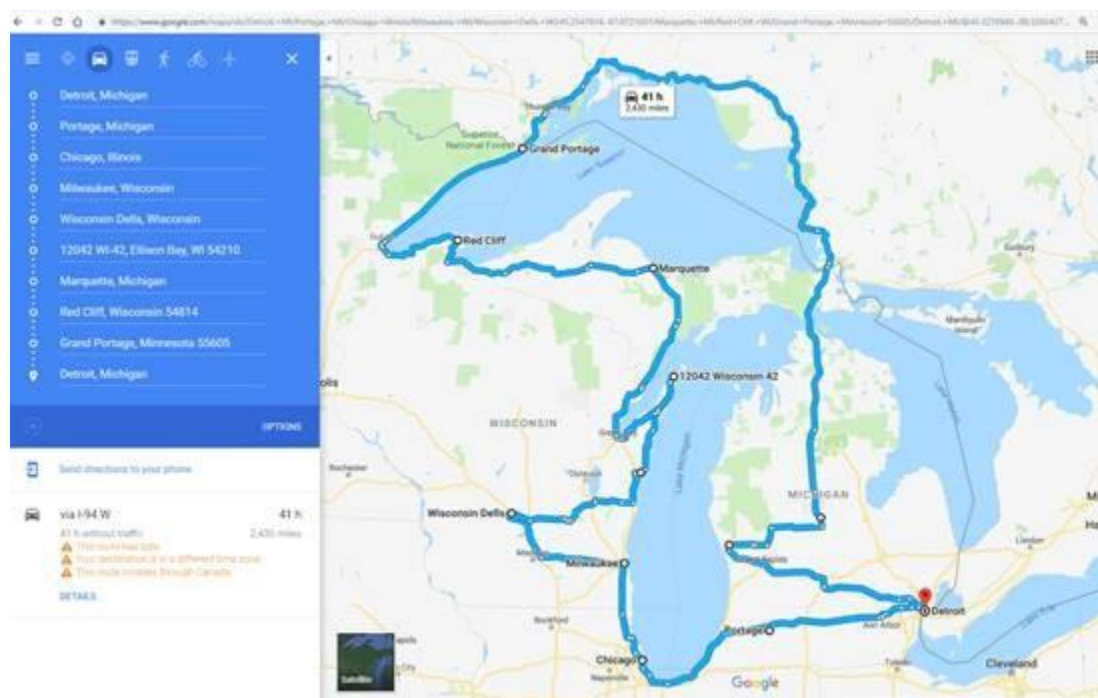
## **West Side of Lake Michigan, North side of Superior** (this trip is full)

So, I had some vacation time, have a goal to see the coast lands of our country, the east coast (complete), the west coast (partial) and the third coast or the great lakes, which over my lifetime I have pretty much covered, but not the west side of lake Michigan or the north side of lake Superior. What to do..... Last year I had some time when a trip fell through and I thought of going around lake Michigan, got out a map and traced out a route, that fell through too..... I really want to see several sites so I mapped it out again, talked to folks at SOLAR, mostly I like to do this in the afterglow meeting at "Sandy's by the Beech" after our general meetings each month. I got loads of hints and circumstantial data, things I never knew existed. I thought that I don't want to do it alone, did a long van camping trip last year, fun but I was going to hike and possibly kayak, and I wanted company.

I announced it to the club late last year to see if anyone would be interested in this trip idea. I had a map, made my pitch and had immediate response from two folks looking for adventure over the summer. We talked and I told them my concerns (bugs) and what I wanted to see, they added a few more stops and put in concerns, we massaged the days and dates and we are almost there. This process took over four months or year if you want to take it all into account.

I am a visual guy so will include a preliminary image of how I lay out my trips, you will see another for the next segment as well. I will have two companions, we have made reservations and I owe someone money.....I am on my way.....that dream to see included things that I had heard about over 20 years ago, sometime it takes time to percolate. I hope this inspires you too.

INITIAL PITCH IMAGE TO THE CLUB.....

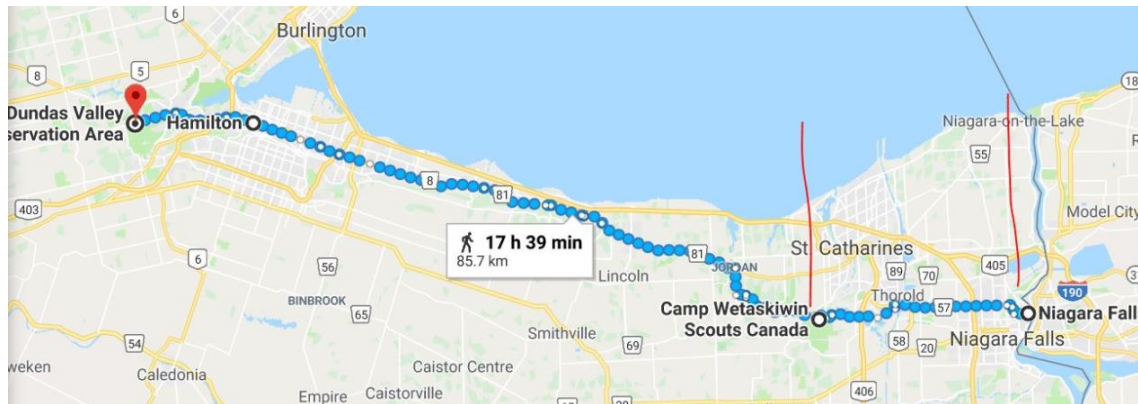






This month I will present the trip to the club with all its flaws and see if I can pull in some companions, sure the hotel stays or the vacation time or the long miles may put off folks or maybe they know they couldn't put up with me for that long. That next step will help in planning as traveling alone give certain flexibility than when traveling with others.....

This image is the initial rosy unrealistic break down of miles using google maps, the trail twists and turns unlike the road, after that is a teaser images to lure you in and get you thinking.....perhaps not this go round but maybe inspiration will get you to plan in the future.



Sherman Falls, Bruce Trail, Niagara ...  
alamy.com



Tiffany Falls, Bruce Trail, Niagara ...  
alamy.com



Grindstone Creek in fall, Niagara ...  
alamy.com



When Do I Become Competent Again?: Th...  
whendoibecomecompetentagain.blogspot.com



Hamilton to Kelso | Bruce trail-canada.trekking



Bruce Trail - Niagara Escarpment...  
mapio.net



7 Great Places to Run in Hamilton ...  
pinterest.com



Grindstone Creek in fall, Nia...  
alamy.com



Sherman Falls Bruce Trail Niagara ...  
gettyimages.com



Bruce Trail Hike #1 - Queenston ...  
justinpluslauren.com



Stock Image of Grindstone Creek in fall ...  
fotosearch.com



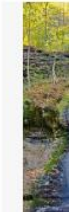
Bruce Trail Niagara Escarpment Hamilton ...  
alamy.com



Niagara Region : NEPOSS  
niagaraescarpmentontario.ca



Bruce Trail - Niagara Escarpment face ...  
mapio.net



Niagara E  
photos.coi

## Trail Talkin' (this event needs you)

Dave Warnecke was excited about hiking and SOLAR, he had an idea to make planning trips easier, a searchable/sortable spreadsheet in a member's area of the new website. This would link to information packets that would list things like distances, parking, permits needed, etc.

This is the grand vision, an endpoint as indicated in the previous two tales of trip development, this vision started out the same way, see a need and work toward that. He did not expect to reach this goal at this first meeting, but started looking for people who would be interested in helping work towards it and maybe even get a couple of events on the calendar.

Dave HAS gotten an event on the calendar, "Trail Talkin'" it is on February 21st. at St Paul's Presbyterian from six to nine o'clock

He also asked if we were ..... Tired of winter? Getting cabin fever? Can't wait to get out on the trails?

Hoping to inspire and gather information and participants he admitted he is not all powerful, "We can't make spring come any faster". Building to his goal he has taken measured steps, taking to the steering committee to get a place to gather, he talked to others to gather

literature available on trails (books, maps and even some trail guides). He is not doing this alone, like planning a trip or planning a party, we all need help and drawing in experience and resources can get the results you want.

This is just another way to let you know what is going on with the club, helping it in a small way that I can. Please join Dave and other SOLAR members to focus on nearby destinations such as Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Come to research and learn about trails and trip ideas. Let's get excited for the 2019 hiking and backpacking season!

Let's get excited in this cold month to make it easier and less intimidating for members to plan events, hopefully creating more events each year.

**As Ever** (this is the end, you know you would eventually get here.....)

If you haven't seen a theme in the previous offerings of Past Tents, I will lay it out for you.....Be inspired by the past, plan a trip.....

The reviews of past SOLAR Ray newsletters, tales of trips around the state, pictures and profiles of club members are all to bring you to the point of taking those hibernating desires, those half-baked ideas and make plans for the future.

Remember every trip, every activity is built up from general members, some others from the more the formal steering committee folks, but still members, if you want to hike, kayak, go on a wine tour, ride bikes, eat ice cream, explore, relax, see concerts go to a museum, explore, get out with like-minded people, this is the place, you are the catalyst and the fuel to make it happen and there is always member to help and go with you.

I have put out some odd kayak trips, odd hikes, restaurant outings but I have also enjoyed so much more. Even being club historian has opened my eyes to past trips and future possibilities. I hope this inspires you. Look up, Feather Bowling, Diamond Jacks, Banff Film Festival, Ice Climbing in Fenton, Noel Night, Hayride and Bonfire at Kensington, Belle Isle, Cuyahoga Valley Ohio, Toledo, Au Sable River, Picture Rocks National Lakeshore, Peche Island.....

I have done trips to these places and more, inspired or directly with SOLAR, they all started with an idea.....you can get started and make it happen, we have lots of members who might want to go and might want to help.....