

Past Tents

Mental meandering by SOLAR historian

We will dig into our archives and ponder on the past and present minutia of our club.....

Welcome to Mike's mad mad world of run on sentences and mental meandering vol. 3

Non-Archive Commentary - Real Life

Just a few words on why real life is better.

Yea, we all love computers and they make our reach into things much easier, view pictures from Nepal, research why the bank account is so low and so much more.

We may not see it, but not all the world is connected or wired or linked by smart cell phone towers, it is actually one of the things I like about getting out and away from my work a day world. As an appreciator of such and recently at our last real life membership meeting I had an insight that all folks are not electronically connected.

I was asked for physical maps and advice. We reviewed a trip that though close to home seems like a world away, in that discussion we played out options and advice, not only by trip member but also other club members.

The internet seems almost everywhere now, but a lot of folks in reality have to take a trip to the library or coffee shop to get connected to the internet possibly the smart phone is the only link. It is sometimes inconvenient, as is coming to our monthly SOLAR meetings but this real life interaction gives us time to meet, greet and help out our club friends and make new ones.

Archive and know your history. Computers are a cool tool. Real life, real people are better....help out your SOLAR friends by stopping in and saying hello, get involved in real life.

Just Who Are These Folks

RATTLESNAKE REVIEW *by Jim Gilfix*



Jim entertains adults and children alike...

While looking through old issues of the Ray, which I highly recommend to get ideas on where to go and what to see, I got into 1997. I notice and realized there were numerous articles authored by Jim Gilfix and Lester Mok. Jim is still active and Lester offered learning opportunities and has moved back to Hong Kong.

Jim only a few short years ago (20) was leading trips to Rock Glen to hunt for fossils (a trip he recently revived), rode elephants and bedecked balloons bountifully on club members, he still regularly a welcome sight and balloon artist at SOLAR events and meetings

Lester was all about passing on and inspiring folks to learn about the primitive arts, living closer to the heartbeat of the earth, finding, using and sustaining by making equipment and tools, harvesting and moving through the wild world a bit further than the established trails, prepackaged food and weatherproof gear. This approach making us more skilled not only in the good times but also more adapt at dealing with the adverse. He often had bushwhacking trips, low miles through trail-less regions to see sites untrammelled by the masses and to slow down and reconnect. Great skills if you're lost or not...

BETWEEN MY EARS...by Lester Mok

T H E S O L A R R A Y

NORTH MANITOU ISLAND:

SAND, MORE SAND, GNATS AND...IT WAS FANTASTIC!

REVIEW BY JOHN FEDYK

I started out on this trip without any expectations: I've never been to North Manitou Island before. I was surprised.

Lester picked up Teresa and I Thursday afternoon, and after shoving all of our gear into his economy-sized car, (I shared the seat with by backpack), we went to the land of Leelanau (Coun Round about midnight we made camp where I



much of its topography. And, sand, when it is wet, sticks and, as I not-so-fondly recall, it

multifarious knowledge of tracking, land navigation, and animal behavior. So rather than seeing tracks in the sand, we saw a slice of life of critters such as crows, deer, and chipmunks that had



SOLARites Dave, Lester, John, Susan, Dennis, Jim, Gene and Leslie take the ferry over to North Manitou Island

Just who are these folks, they are SOLAR members who like the rest of us want to be social, learn and inspire. They brought what they know to the club and shared it. Our club dependent on members for activities and learning opportunities ebbs and flows with popularity of the times has seen rise, decline and often return of such diverse things as mountain climbing, cave exploring, water sports, biking and so much more, it is because of what we bring to the party, just who are these folks, you are, we are.....

A location to discover

I found a vacation location in the Ray which I hope to rediscover, Elora Gorge and Rattlesnake conservation areas in Ontario, Canada. I am including a picture snippet here to inspire you all with a taste of what you might find when you re-read our archived issues and get you thinking about getting out there as well (hopefully a 2018 trip for me).....now that we have the internet, I will get on to researching (more on that theme later).....

GOOD-BYE SUMMER...

Not ready to let summer go? Me neither. That's why I'm planning this trip for September 12 - 14. It's in Elora, Ontario which is north of Kitchener and Guelph; a 3-hour drive from Detroit. We'll be camping at the Elora Gorge Conservation Area campground and yes, this trip is kid-friendly. Saturday and Sunday we will hike, swim, sightsee and enjoy. Traditional Saturday evening potluck and bonfire...you know the rest.

Why Elora? Waterfalls, cliffs, gorges, caves, lakes and rivers.



Elora Gorge, Ontario, Canada

Elora. The Village has population just over 3,000. It's situated in one of Ontario's more unusual water-front settings, where the Great

of Canada's Heritage Rivers, joined by the Irving River, begins a tumultuous ride through the mild-and-a-half-day Elora Gorge. Over the years Elora has become one of

