

# 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. 4

Reoccurring themes that pop into my mind are club activities and how it doesn't seem like we are doing as many as in the past and how things are not like in the good old days....this set of ramblings touch on those ideas.

## Salad Contest

This sounds like good heathy fun and I am sure it was and could be again. I have found that we all enjoy a good feed and it's the same as in the past, I found that for a dollar donation two or more competed for salad domination. I think this could be a good "in house" fundraiser and as an additional activity we run a salad contest for a bit more to help out the club. Read the article we can run it in a similar way. Note the other activities, hot air ballooning and hiking the Bruce Trail, those fall under more inspiration for club activities...

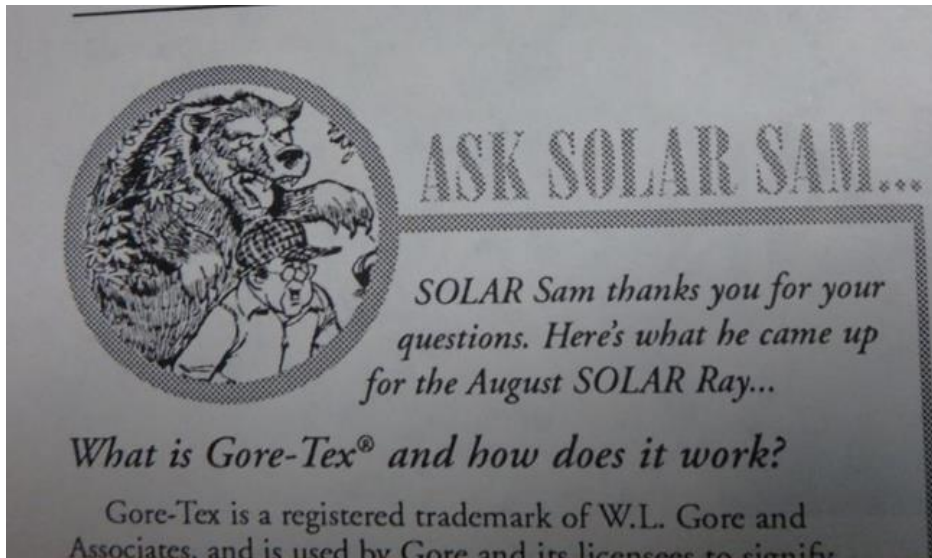
SALAD CONTEST JULY 20th.....Looking for a different and interesting evening? Lillian Vires, long acclaimed as the Salad Lady of S.O.L.A.R., has been challenged to a salad duel by a young upstart, Emil Hutton, of Benchmark fame. Bring your friends, family, and relatives to the final clash - vote for the salad of your choice! ~~XXXXXX~~ A \$1 donation will be collected at the door. Proceeds will go to a charity to be announced. The contest will be held at the Senior Citizen Center in Livonia, at the corner of 5 Mile and Farmington Roads. It will begin at 8 o'clock sharp. Mark your calanders now for a festive evening...

HOT AIR BALLOONING? A weekend in July has been set aside for an adventure in hot air ballooning. The cost will be between \$25 and \$35. If interested, contact Ken Demski at 464-2274 or 876-8375.

NOTICE TO ALL BRUCE TRAIL BACKPACKERS - There are no longer parking facilities at Cypress Lake Provincial Park for backpackers. Alternate Plans should be made for a parking spot while hiking the Bruce Trail over a period of time longer than one day.

S.O.L.A.R. RAY HELPERS NEEDED -- Anyone willing to spend a few hours each month to help mail the S.O.L.A.R. Ray, please contact Denise Goldberg at 353-7923. Any help is greatly appreciated!

## SOLAR Sam



In the land before the internet, our club had a question and answer column by someone who's nom de plume was SOLAR Sam. Many questions were asked and answered but a typical one was "What is Gore-Text and how does it work". The answer was well written and went from registered trade mark and by whom through the little pores that allow moisture from perspiration to escape and exclude droplets of rain. Now you can go to <https://www.gore-tex.com/technology/what-is-gore-tex>, which quickly tells you it's a membrane, a laminate, a product technology and a promise.....of course there are more links and pretty pictures but what about Sam ?

## NCT redux / revisit (1997)

In the last few year SOLAR members have "found" the NCT or North County Trail, a National Scenic Trail.....but twenty years ago members were hiking it with just over half completed and it was only expected to total 872 miles long. Through continuing effort today (2017) Michigan is home to the longest segment, at 1,150 miles, that goes from New York to North Dakota. The vision for the NCT is to connect the Appalachian Trail to the Lewis and Clark Trail, which connects to the Pacific Crest Trail. The NCT is designed to go through scenic locations, public parks and public lands. Of the 1,150 miles, 750 miles are complete and 400 miles of trail are yet to be developed (in 1997 the stats were, 351 completed and 521 to go).....other

linear trails that entice me are the Shore to Shore (220 miles), Midland to Mackinac and Sleeping Bear Heritage trails. Again to other club member, hint, hint, hint.....

March, 1997


The SOLAR Run

THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE AND RECREATION

Upcoming Class

So! Do You Like It On Top?

Deep down we all want to be



their knowledge and practical skills over the course of this three day event.

NCT Effort Update

With the completion of trail sections in the Manistee National Forest, SOLAR has completed 351 miles of the North Country Trail in

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With the completion of trail sections in the Manistee National Forest, SOLAR has completed 351 miles of the North Country Trail in Michigan.

Miles Completed

351

Miles to Go

521

Section	Miles	
Coordinator	Done	To Go
<b>Southern L.P.</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>87</b>
Marco Scarpetta (313) 823-8564		
<b>Central L.P.</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>*</b>
Mike Banks (313) 425-4169		
<b>Northern L.P.</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>*</b>
Leslie Cordova (810) 547-5626		
<b>Eastern U.P.</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>68</b>
Steve Gardner (810) 547-4998		
<b>Central U.P.</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>*</b>
Carol McCririe (810) 229-5232		
<b>Western U.P.</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>*</b>
Bob Graham (313) 453-7313		

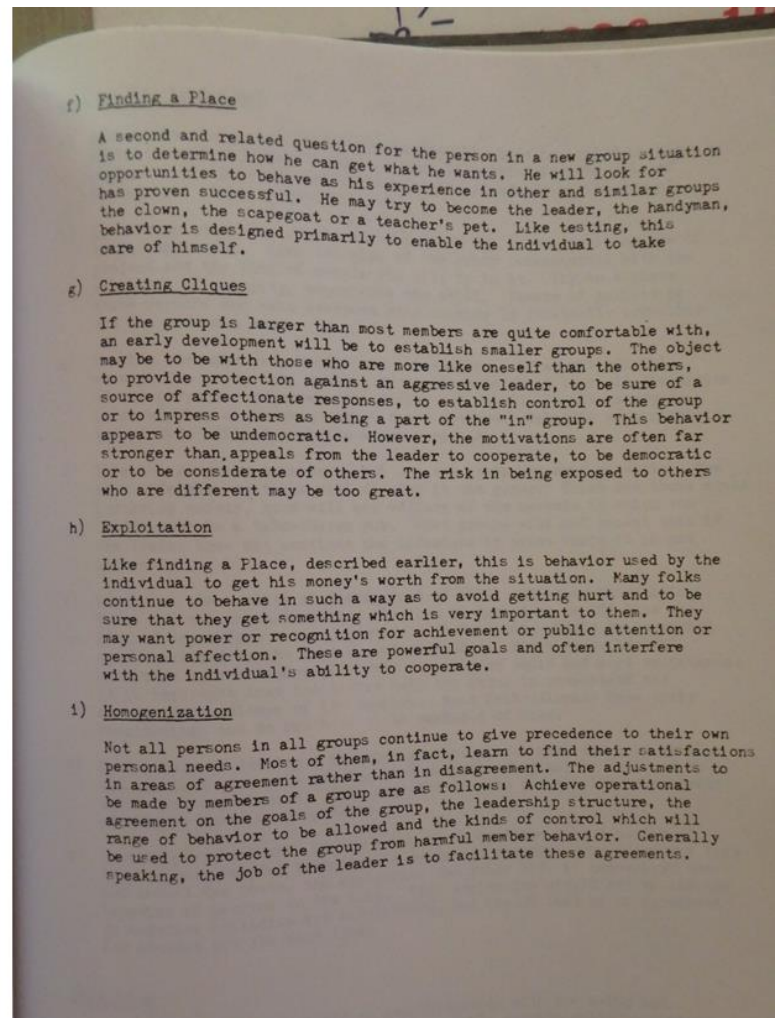
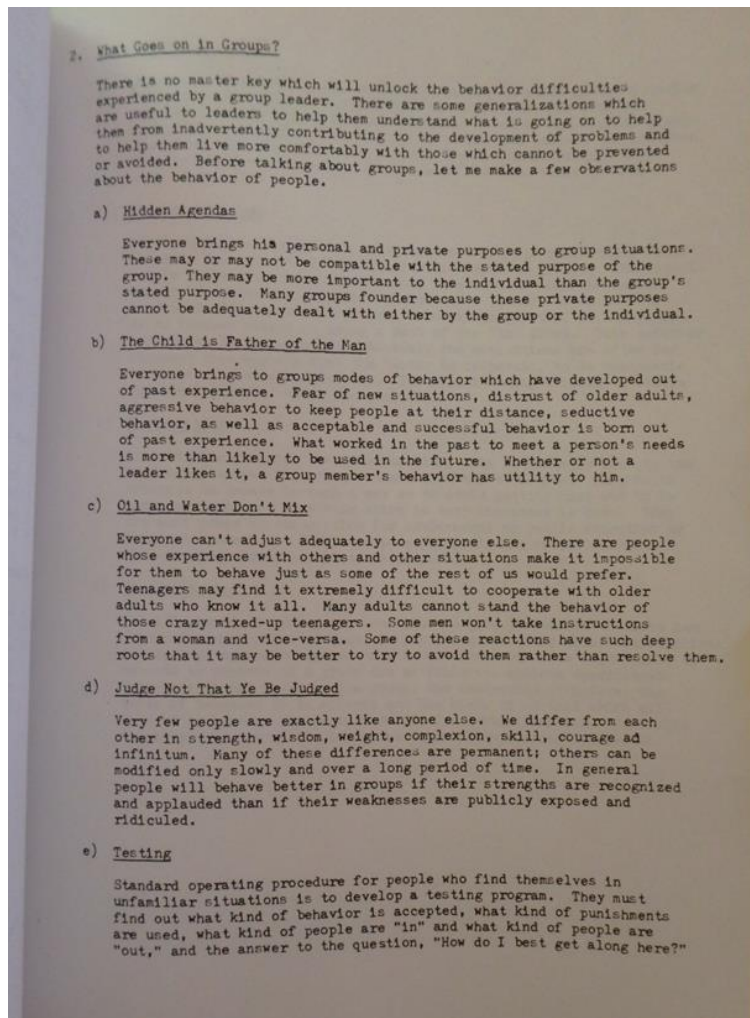
\* To be calculated



## Group Dynamics

Imagine if you will getting together with a group to go out into the wood....

Could be the start of a good horror story or from an early learning opportunity SOLAR offered. An insight into leadership and making the best of personality traits (and remember some of these could be you) many archetypes were learned about: Hidden Agendas, Oil and Water, Testing, Exploration, Cliques and Finding a Place, are all section titles trying to round out our understanding. Learning about others and how to interact with them is always a good thing to try to do, more so when we get out of our comfort zone and into the woods or on the water or where ever our adventures take us. A picture of the archive article is available if interested or may possibly be attached to this article. Learn, in the words of Rodney King, "Why can't we all just get along" then try to.....



## Backside

A lot of us hike in this club, we have seen a lot of the packs and people in front of us as we trod along, an archive photo had a folks loaded up for typical trip. It is easy to see how packs have change, one of the center ones is using a canvas canoe portage pack with leather straps, they literally don't make them like that anymore.....You will also notice all the close cell foam sleeping pads.....just looking you know that the ultra-light packing ethos hadn't been widely heard of.....You may be on the trail soon, look at the folks around you and their packs, you can learn a lot from their gear and what works for them, it is as good a learning opportunity as reading internet article or viewing pictures on Pinterest, more so if you watch them and see how they use those packs to better enjoy their surroundings in comfort and ease....



*The back side of some SOLARite backpackers. Recognize their rear views?*