

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...

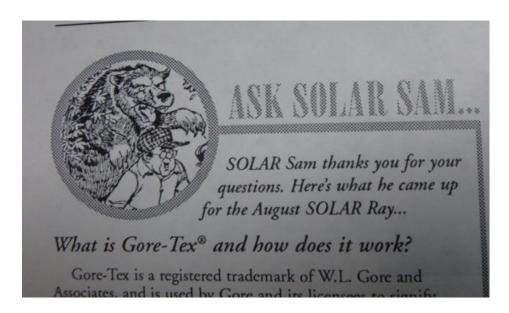
SALAD CONTEST JULY 20th.....Looking for a different and interesting evening? Lillian Vires, long acclaimed as the Salad Lady of S.O.L.A.R., has been challenged to a salad duel by a young upstart, Emil Hutton, of Benchmark fame. Bring your friends, family, and relatives to the final clash - vote for the 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 Livomia, at the corner or 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 advanture 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 appreciated! Any help is greatly

#### **SOLAR Sam**

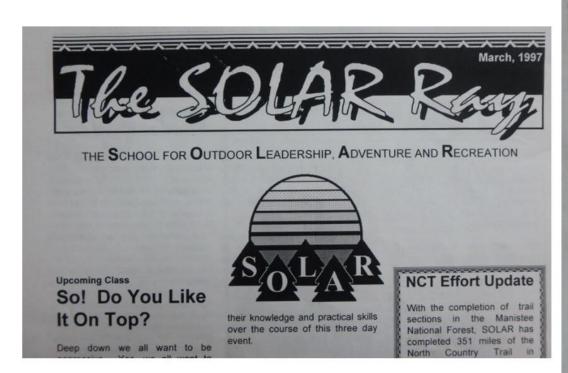


In the land before the internet, our club had a question and answer column by someone who's nom de plume was SOLAR Sam. Many questions were asked and answered but a typical one was "What is Gore-Text and how does it work". The answer was well written and went from registered trade mark and by whom through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





#### **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 architypes 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 ......

# 2. What Goes on in Groups?

there is no master key which will unlock the behavior difficulties experienced by a group leader. There are some generalizations which are useful to leaders to help them understand what is going on to help them from inadvertently contributing to the development of problems and to help them live more comfortably with those which cannot be prevented or avoided. Before talking about groups, let me make a few observations about the behavior of people.

#### a) Hidden Agendas

Everyone brings his personal and private purposes to group situations. These may or may not be compatible with the stated purpose of the group. They may be more important to the individual than the group's stated purpose. Many groups founder because these private purposes cannot be adequately dealt with either by the group or the individual.

## b) The Child is Father of the Man

Everyone brings to groups modes of behavior which have developed out of past experience. Fear of new situations, distrust of older adult of past experience. Fear of new situations, distrust of older adults, aggressive behavior to keep people at their distance, seductive behavior, as well as acceptable and successful behavior is born out of past experience. What worked in the past to meet a person's needs is more than likely to be used in the future. Whether or not a leader likes it, a group member's behavior has utility to him.

#### c) Oil and Water Don't Mix

Everyone can't adjust adequately to everyone else. There are people whose experience with others and other situations make it impossible for them to behave just as some of the rest of us would prefer. Teenagers may find it extremely difficult to cooperate with older adults who know it all. Many adults cannot stand the behavior of those crazy mixed-up teenagers. Some men won't take instructions from a woman and vice-verma. Some of these reactions have such deep roots that it may be better to try to avoid them rather than resolve them.

#### d) Judge Not That Ye Be Judged

Very few people are exactly like anyone else. We differ from each other in strength, wisdom, weight, complexion, skill, courage ad infinitum. Many of these differences are permanent; others can be modified only slowly and over a long period of time. In general people will behave better in groups if their strengths are recogniz and applauded than if their weaknesses are publicly exposed and ridiculed. recognized

Standard operating procedure for people who find themselves in unfamiliar cituations is to develop a testing program. They must find out what kind of behavior is accepted, what kind of punishments are used, what kind of people are "in" and what kind of people are "out," and the answer to the question, "How do I best get along here?"

#### () Finding a Place

A second and related question for the person in a new group situation opportunities to behave as his experience in other and similar groups the clown, the scapegoat or a teacher's pet. Like testing, this care of himself.

#### g) Creating Cliques

If the group is larger than most members are quite comfortable with, an early development will be to establish smaller groups. The object may be to be with those who are more like oneself than the others, to provide protection against an aggressive leader, to be sure of a source of affectionate responses, to establish control of the group or to impress others as being a part of the "in" group. This behavior was to be undersorated. However, the motivations are often far appears to be undemocratic. However, the motivations are often far stronger than appeals from the leader to cooperate, to be democratic or to be considerate of others. The risk in being exposed to others who are different may be too great.

#### h) Exploitation

Like finding a Place, described earlier, this is behavior used by the individual to get his money's worth from the situation. Many folks continue to behave in such a way as to avoid getting hurt and to be sure that they get something which is very important to them. They may want power or recognition for achievement or public attention or personal affection. These are powerful goals and often interfere with the individual's ability to cooperate.

#### 1) Homogenization

Not all persons in all groups continue to give precedence to their own personal needs. Most of them, in fact, learn to find their satisfactions personal needs. Most of them in disagreement. The adjustments to in areas of agreement rather than in disagreement. The adjustments to in areas of agreement of a group are as follows: Achieve operational be made by members of a group are as follows: Achieve operational be greenent on the goals of the group, the leadership structure, the agreement on the goals of the group, the leadership structure, the range of behavior to be allowed and the kinds of control which will range of behavior to be allowed and the kinds of control which will range of behavior to be allowed and the kinds of control which will range of behavior to be allowed and the kinds of control which will range of behavior, the group from harmful member behavior. Generally be used to protect the group from harmful member behavior. Generally be used to protect the group from harmful member behavior.

#### **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....

