



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. 5

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.

SOLAR Ray of Hope

Things are not as big as they used to be, or are they? We often are misguided by our memories and initially in discussions we complain that there is not enough participation, never enough contribution, but in reviewing the late 1980's archives of our club newsletter, the SOLAR Ray, I found that typically a double sided 8 ½ x 17 inch paper was all that was put out. There were recurring columns on trips and bush craft and manufacture reviews, often from only a few contributors. This content ebbs and rises with member participation and activities being promoted or reviewed also was a major portion. Insightfully they were not all big trips and included wine and cheese tasting, adventure eating at ethnic restaurants and a lot of bike riding.

In the past few years the Ray has grown with the electronic publishing and inclusion of pictures but the contributors have not really increased substantially. There is a move afoot to better integrate our Ray into the multimedia world of our electronic landscape and the ray of hope is that we all can contribute. It is hoped that we will be able to hashtag and link and populate the future version of SOLARs newsletter with content that we all produce already but as is the goal of the club to provide a forum that we all connect and enjoy this community built about our love for the out of doors.

Remember Archive issues are available for viewing at our website for inspiration and ideas.

Solid as our membership

We have membership increase and decrease but while reviewing our club archives, I noticed names and activity of many of our long time and current member on our roll. I have hiked with, Joe, Denny, Carol and so many of the folks mentioned in the 1980's articles, I have enjoyed meal with so many more. I was looking for some item in our past that I could focus on, do some type of dissertation, a Thoreau inspired back to the woods commentary and then I found, not only that Thoreau quote but also the reason and core of our club that inspires long standing membership and return and activity, our members.

Specifically in an horary post after two members died, I will attempt to provide pictures for attachment to this missive but their description was what I find so attractive to me and my membership today....on a whole, like them SOLAR members have a zest for life, they touch many and are positive influences, gentle, upbeat, positive and have enthusiasm and caring for others and their world.

In retrospective, I respectfully submit that our club is as solid as its membership, be involved and share your zest.



**I went to the woods
because I wished to
live deliberately,
to front only the
essential facts of life,
and see if I could not
learn what it had
to teach, and not,
when I came to die,
discover that
I had not lived,**

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

It's not ALL about food

Maybe it is.....we spend a lot of time talking and planning and meeting over food. Pot Luck dinners are a SOLAR staple with great participation and never will we leave that table hungry. In the spirit of the first two comments in this Past Tents, I found a picture of two long standing members from the late 1980s when cooking was much more than speed and convenience, boiled bags of reconstructed food stuffs. Yes many of us live on that type of food on the trail but at one time it was cut and cook, bake and boil a meal for the team, often one person taking a meal for the days dinner on a hike night. I don't miss the clean up or the heavy pan but the new style doesn't quite get my mouth to watering like it used to.....

This picture came from a meal contest centered at Rattle Snake conservation area in Canada – might be a good place to go again, doing research for an all Canadian trip.....inspire, do or do not.....

...to get your spot...and a whole lot more!
S.O.L.A.R. features a broad range of summertime activities, from biking to backpacking, camping to canoeing.

To begin with, the **RATTLESNAKE SUMMER CELEBRATION WEEKEND** offers the most variety, camaraderie, and fun of any weekend offering. If you can make only one weekend trip this summer, this is the one to attend! In addition to the usual activities, (rockclimbing, hiking, biking, windsurfing), the **Bicycle Hillclimb, Gourmet Cookoff, and the Buffalo Run** expand the opportunities for fun.

ANCIENT CLIFF-HANGERS

Some of the oldest trees in north America are located in a favorite S.O.L.A.R. spot, along the Rattlesnake cliffs in the Kelso Conservation Area. Some of these craggy, slow-growing cedars are as old as 700 years, according to a botanist from the University of Guelph in Ontario. North American cedars have an average life span of 80 years, but the cliff cedars receive few nutrients and little water and are exposed to temperature extremes. This accounts for the cedars' slow growth and longevity, as well as not being subjected to cutting and burning like other trees in the area. The next time you climb at Rattlesnake, before you use that gnarled, stubby tree as a bivouac spot, think about that!

S.O.L.A.R. RAY

SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP ADVENTURE AND RECREATION

August, 1989

RATTLESNAKE

Weekend, slated for the Labor Day holiday for
day of outdoor fun. And for those
ROUNDUP



Carol McCririe and Bob Westbrook visit while Carol prepares her award winning dish in the 1989 Rattlesnake Cookoff Contest.

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