

THE RAY

THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE AND RECREATION

Review

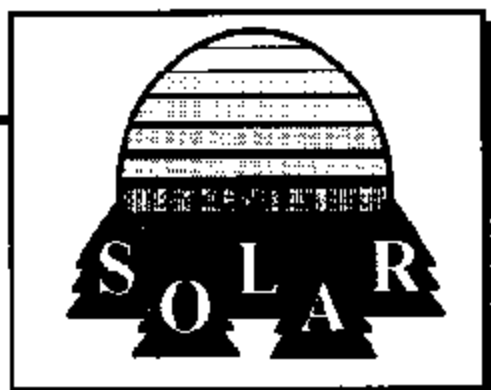
Haunted Halloween at Bald Mountain

By: Steve Gardner

Midnight. The full moon rises over the ragged evergreens to shine on a tombstone. A skeleton rises from his grave with a violin. He tunes up his fiddle and begins to play summoning all the restless spirits on this All-Hallows Eve. Let the Danse Macabre begin!

So maybe it wasn't quite that dramatic, but it was certainly that much fun and more. The fun started on Friday afternoon as the decorating crew arrived and put the State Park cabin into the proper atmosphere. I arrived to find Leslie (the trip planner), Gene, and Jeff putting the finishing touches on the decorations. As I walked in the door, I was greeted by peals of maniacal laughter from the floor mat. Several others arrived (more laughter) and we played several rounds of UNO before retiring for the evening. Still more arrived (more laughter) after we had gone to bed.

In the morning, more people started showing up (more laughter) for the day's activities even as we were getting breakfast together. Planned for the day were hiking and biking, followed by the pumpkin carving, to be judged along with costumes that evening.



The costume contest was awarded in several categories. Winners were: Funniest - Pam Claydon (Lamp); Scariest - Steve Gardner (Mr. Mephistopheles); Best Over-all - Runner-up - Laury Morrison (Witch); and Best Over-all - Huw Evans (Borg). Huw's Borg outfit was nothing short of remarkable, complete with flashing red eye piece and built in back-packer's trowel. The pumpkin prizes went to:

Funniest - Margaret Martin,
Scariest - Teresa Savarino, and
Best - Jim Gilfix. The Apple
Bobbing was won by a reluctant
Julia Gordon with a time of 2
seconds flat.

After the contests, we read scary stories (The Raven) and played games (Twister). We also paid a "Trick-or-Treat" call on the bicyclists in the other Kevorkian Cabin. They were amazed at our costumes; we got a laugh out of the chalk outline on the floor and the "Crime Scene" tape.

Thanks, Leslie, for a great and memorable trip. Hope to see more SOLARoids there next year!



This picture wouldn't look much different if it were printed in color. All of these costumes were mainly black and white. In spite of this, notice that no two are even the same sort of idea.

Upcoming Event

Join the SOLAR Ski Team!

Join the SOLAR Ski Team for the VASA Cross-Country Ski Race in Traverse City on February 12, 1994.

You may recall last year's VASA, we had 14 SOLAR members attend the VASA with five skiing in the race. These skiers were all awarded trophies at the SOLAR meeting. The VASA offers competitions for distances of 45 or 27 kilometers,

classic (diagonal stride) or freestyle (skating) skiing, or a 12 kilometer fun race (both freestyle and classic). New this year will be a 45K relay race with 5-person teams with each person skiing between 5.5K and 13K.

The club would like to sponsor at least one, if not more SOLAR relay teams in the VASA this year (the club pays the entry fee of \$75 per team). If you are interested in skiing on a SOLAR relay team, or being on the SOLAR Ski Team for an individual race (45K, 27K, 12K), contact Cindy Harrison at 722-3994.

Mike and Cindy's Hawaiian Wedding Adventure

For our adventuresome SOLAR friends who are interested in joining us in Hawaii next summer, here's the Reader's Digest version of our plan.

We'll leave Detroit on June 9, 1994 and return home June 27th. By the way, all are invited for the entire trip (however, we are getting our own rooms, cabins, tent, etc.) We'll fly to Honolulu, Oahu and stay in Waikiki the first 2 nights. The wedding is on 6/10 at 4:30 p.m. in a private tropical garden next to the beach in Waimanalo, Oahu. Following the wedding we're attending a Luau in Waikiki.

For the next week we'll be on the island of Kauai. We're taking a Zodiac boat trip to the end of the Kalalau Trail on the Na Pali Coast. This trail is described as "the best backpacking trail in Hawaii" with rugged cliffs, rain forests, beaches, waterfalls, river valleys, caves, etc. We'll spend 4 days backpacking this trail. Next, we'll go to Kokee State Park, stay in rustic cabins (free camping is available), and day hike the Waimiea Canyon (3000 ft. deep "Grand Canyon of the Pacific") and the Awaawapahi Trail (a 10 mile long, all-day hike described as "the best hiking trail in Hawaii" with incredible vistas, etc.).

The second week we're going to spend on the island of Maui. First, backpacking into the Haleakala Crater (for the "volcano" (See Hawaii, page 3)

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

December

	Some Day	WJR Christmas Sing Along Downtown; Joan Govan (356-3627)
7	Tuesday	General Membership Meeting 7:30 P.M. Colony Hall, Southfield; Joan Govan (356-3627)
8	Wednesday	Enjoy Michigan Winters Class Dave Jones (722-8178)
8	Wednesday	Noel Night Cindy Harrison (722-3994)
11	Saturday	Toledo Zoo Trip Leslie Cohen (547-5626)
11-12	Weekend	Winter Practical Dave Jones (722-8178)

January

4	Tuesday	General Membership Meeting 7:30 P.M. Colony Hall, Southfield; Joan Govan (356-3627)
5,12	Wednesdays	Enjoy Michigan Winters Class Dave Jones (722-8178)
16	Sunday	Cross-Country skiing clinic Forbush Corners or wherever there's snow; Dave Jones (722-8178)
21-23	Weekend	Winter Practical Dave Jones (722-8178)

If you would like to help plan or lead a SOLAR trip or activity, please contact Julie Stelgrosz at 471-7444.

(Hawaii, contd. from page 2) experience") and staying in back-country cabins (free camping also available here) for 3 days in Haleakala National Park. Next, a day trip on horseback along Maui's Hana Coast. Then, a couple days at Waianapanapa State Park staying in their cabins (also free camping available) and doing day hikes and scenic drives around Hana, Waimoku Falls, and the Waianapanapa/Hana coastline.

We've planned in a day to go snorkeling or to the beach (you can't go to Hawaii without a day of basic sun worshipping). Then, back to Oahu for the last two days to possibly go hang gliding (Mike's idea) and other tourist stuff like shopping, night life, whatever. We leave for home on Sunday night 8/26 and arrive in Detroit on Monday around noon.

We've spent the last three months researching all the possible things to do in Hawaii for SOLAR types like ourselves and this is what we've come up with for us, however, there are lots of other options depending on what your particular interests are, including mountain biking, kayaking, scuba diving, the Don Ho show, etc.

Those of you interested in more details, estimated costs, and how to make arrangements, give us a call at home at 722-3894, or talk to us at a SOLAR meeting. Aloha.



In Profile

Huw Evans

Address: Royal Oak
Personal: 31 years o.d. Never married. No kids.

MG: What's your name? (asked at the Halloween party)

HE: Huw.

MG: No, what's your real name?

HE: No, really, my name is Huw.

(Editor's note: Huw, came as Huw, a BORG from Star Trek - The Next Generation and won first place for Best Costume.)

MG: How long did it take to make that costume?

HE: Just one evening. I have lots of junk at home.

MG: What do you do for fun?

HE: Ever since I moved to the US, I have really gotten into skiing. I focus on downhill. I also have done some snow boarding. Through skiing, I have traveled throughout the United States including Colorado, Montana, New Mexico and Vermont. I love to travel. Sometimes, I'll just jump in a car and drive somewhere. I had a real good trip this summer to South Dakota, Colorado and Utah.

MG: And that was unplanned?

HE: Yes. I had no idea where I was going in advance. I took 2 weeks and went backpacking in the Porcupines, the Badlands and Dinosaur National Park. Going to these places is a good opportunity to practice my photography skills. Someday, I'm looking forward to having my own darkroom.

MG: Where is the favorite place you've visited?

HE: The best place I've been skiing in the United States is Breckenridge, Colorado. My favorite city is Charleston, S.C. One of my favorite places that I've been to with SOLAR was a trip to the Au Sable River.

MG: You mentioned you moved to the US. Where was that from?

HE: I am originally from Wales. Later I went to school in England. In 1988, I was offered a job here by the company I worked for. I came for 6 months and stayed for 6 years. After the 6 months, they opened an office in Troy and asked me to stay. I've been here ever since and probably plan to stay permanently.

MG: What do you do for that company?

HE: I am an automotive engineer. I do structural analysis on various systems and parts. We do a variety of things like simulating crashes and analyzing steering columns for vibration.

MG: So, other than work, why did you stay in the United States?

HE: There's not enough snow in England.

MG: Do you plan on becoming a US citizen?

HE: I'm not sure. I can't become a citizen for 5 years after getting my green card, so I don't really think about that much right now.

(See In Profile, page 5)

Tech-Tips

By Kathleen Spring

Looking for a Holiday gift for your "outdoors" friend? Here's a list of inexpensive gifts that can give your friend hours of comfort and lots of pleasant thoughts about you. Listed are some clues as to what makes one product different from another.

Socks (\$4-\$11)

This old favorite is the equivalent of the infamous "Christmas tie". The current theory is to wear two pair of socks to reduce friction and remove more sweat. This means a thin inner sock and a thicker out sock.

Liner sock: Polypropylene is lightweight and wicks away moisture. It should be worn with an over-sock.

Wool: Ragg wool socks are the traditional choice (85% wool). Nylon blend reinforcement increases durability and keeps its shape. It absorbs perspiration and reduces friction. It works moisture upward along its fibres and dissipates it into the air.

Cotton: This is used for less active sports.

Wet Weather Sock: Gore-Tex or Wick-Dry are preferred to keep feet dry in wet conditions. These are good for people allergic to wool. Some people find them too warm.

Gloves: (\$5 to \$30)

Lightweight liner: Polypropylene or wicking polyester which draws moisture away from your hands is best. Must be worn under a warmer glove to prevent clammy feeling. While they keep your hands warm even when wet, they are no warmer than the much less expensive wool gloves.

Middle layer: Wool blends or synthetic fleece, according to the climate.

Outer shell mittens: Gore-Tex or treated nylon are preferred for their water resistance, and used strictly

for protection in extreme conditions. **Alternatives:** Finger-free gloves for dexterity.

Skiing: Wicking liner gloves with a thin outer protective layer. Down mitts are useless when wet; pile versions are preferred.

Stretch Gloves, one size fits all (\$1.50): stick a pair or tow in a Christmas sock and tell them to stick one in each of their winter coat pockets. It's a welcome discovery when you stick your hands in your pockets because of a sudden drop in temperature.

Stuff Sacks (\$8-\$30)

Protect your down jackets or sleeping bags from rain and unnecessary wear and tear, or your camera and other gear while canoeing. They are light weight and usually come in several sizes. You should buy one slightly larger than your sleeping bag because its harder to stuff it when camping than in your living room. Most have a drawstring closure with a dust flap and a handle.

Added features: Taped seams, roll top closure (for river trips), a strap to connect it to other packs, light urethane coatings. A compression sack has a strap that allows you to cinch it down to 60% of its full size. Or you can give a box of Glad Bags!

SOLAR Holiday Party

Following the December General Membership Meeting, stay and share some holiday cheer at the SOLAR holiday party. We'll have a D.J. spinning your favorite dance tunes, pizza and pop. You are welcome to bring your own alcoholic beverage, if you wish. We are asking for SOLAR members to bring canned food goods to the party which we are going to donate to one of the shelters in Detroit. See you there.

Upcoming Event

1994 VASA Classic

The SOLAR Club once again begins planning for the VASA ski weekend in Traverse City. The dates are Friday, February 11 to Sunday, February 13, 1994. We'd like to repeat the plan from previous years and stay at the Days Inn in TC which has suites that sleep six to a room. Cindy Harrison is looking for some help in planning this event so please give her a call. For those interested in skiing in the race on Saturday, she has race forms and information. For everyone else interested in coming along to ski at other areas around TC, assist and/or cheer on the SOLAR ski team, or otherwise find winter fun and adventure in Northern Michigan, call Cindy at 722-3994 for further information.

Review

November at Nordhouse

By: Steve Gardner

Okay, it wasn't the best attended event of the year, but we had fun anyway. Arrived Friday afternoon and set up my pavilion (hey, we were car camping, you take the luxuries!) and it was nice to have a warm place (I took a heater, too) to cook and get out of the weather. It did snow some but we had no real accumulation.

Saturday involved several "day trips" of varying lengths and dinner in town at Arredo's, a Pizza / Mexican / Bowling alley sort of place.

Sunday morning, I struck the Pavilion and went down to Lake Michigan for one last look. I said good bye and the Lake waved.

Upcoming Event

SOLAR Goes to the VASA

The SOLAR Club once again begins planning for the VASA ski weekend in Traverse City. The dates are Friday, February 11 to Sunday, February 13, 1994. We'd like to repeat the plan from previous years and stay at the Days Inn in TC which has suites that sleep six to a room. Cindy Harrison is looking for some help in planning this event so please give her a call. For those interested in skiing in the race on Saturday, she has race forms and information. For everyone else interested in coming along to ski at other areas around TC, assist and/or cheer on the SOLAR ski team, or otherwise find winter fun and adventure in Northern Michigan, call Cindy at 722-3994 for further information.

Upcoming Event

Ski Waxing Clinic

Dave Bombard has tentatively scheduled a cross-country ski waxing clinic on Saturday, December 18th at 1p.m. at Mike Felix and Cindy Harrison's house in Inkster. Come to the December SOLAR meeting to sign up.

Upcoming Event

Toledo Zoo Trip

Join SOLAR as we make a trip south of the border to the Toledo Zoo for their Holiday Light display on Saturday December 11. Plan to meet at the entrance at 4:30 and go out for dinner afterwards. Admission is \$3 and parking is \$2. Call Leslie Cohen at 547-5626 for more details.



(In Profile, continued from page 3)

MG: What do you like most about SOLAR?

HE: SOLAR has helped me discover new places. I've been to places in Michigan that people that have lived here all their lives have never been. I also think it's a great group of people.

MG: Good answer. What SOLAR events have you done?

HE: I've done the rock climbing, backpacking, and winter camping classes. I've done biking, canoeing, backpacking at Pictured Rocks and in the Allegheny National Forest.

MG: Have you been rock climbing at Rattlesnake?

HE: No, I was applying for green card in 1991 and couldn't leave the country.

MG: Tell me more about Wales.

HE: I lived in a small town that was 10 minutes to the beach and 15 minutes in the other direction to the mountains. It's one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen. Everyone in SOLAR that went to Wales would really love it and wonder why I left.

MG: So, after visiting all these places, why stay in Michigan?

HE: I feel very much at home here in Michigan. It just needs some more mountains and it'd be a great place. People don't always appreciate how much Michigan has to offer.

In Profile interview by Michael Gardner

About the Ray

The Ray is a monthly publication of the SOLAR Club and is provided free of charge to the current dues paid members. For those members who move outside of a 200 mile radius of the Detroit Area and would like to continue receiving The Ray, a \$5.00 annual subscription fee will be charged to cover mailing costs.

DEADLINE for The Ray is the Friday after the general meeting for the following month's edition. Contributions in the form of comments, trip reports, recipes, photos or original articles are welcome. Send all contributions to: Steve Gardner, RAY Editor, 10024 Borgman, Huntington Woods, MI 48070 or call Steve at 647-4998 or write Lori Love, RAY Editor, 42257 Old Pond Circle, Plymouth, MI 48170 or call Lori at 428-2175.

Meeting Location

The purpose of the SOLAR Club is to promote and advance interest in the outdoors through information and participation. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Coony Hall, located at 21780 Evergreen Rd. in Southfield, between 8 & 9 Mile Roads at 7:30 PM SHARP. Membership dues are \$20.00 per individual and \$35.00 per family.

STEERING COMMITTEE

President	Joan Govan / 355-3627
Vice-President	Dave Jones / 722-8178
Secretary	Laura Martin / 937-8285
Treasurer	Tim Stangl / 474-0242
Activities	Julie Stollgrosz / 471-7444
Membership	Maria Picano / 420-3423
	Sharon Stanek / 565-3080
Equipment	Garrie Hajar / 477-8605
Bylaws	Bill Stanley / 263-1973
Education	Cindy Harrison / 441-9613
SOLAR Ray	Lori Lee Love / 420-2175
	Steve Gardner / 547-4998
Historian	Pam Maxey / 887-4553
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P O BOX 2438
SOUTHFIELD MI 48037

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LESLIE COHEN
14520 BORGMAN
OAK PARK

MI 48237