

THE RAY

SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE AND RECREATION

Review

Return to Hocking Hills

By Tim Stangl

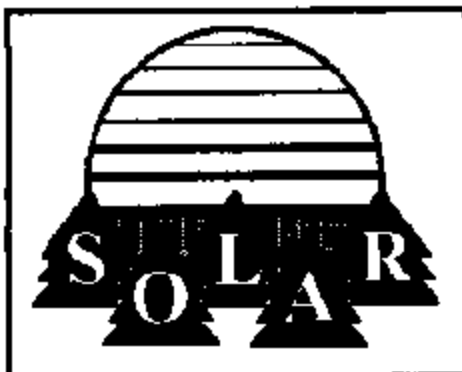
I'm sure most people thought a trip to southern Ohio would be warm and sunny. Who would have guessed we were heading SOUTH of Michigan towards the snow storm of the century.

Like every trip I attend, my car was packed from front to back. I had just enough room to fit Ann Debella next to my skis. (With a major storm brewing, I decided at the last minute to pack them.)

We headed south on I-75 following the excellent instructions prepared by trip leader Steve Cardner. As Ann & I neared Columbus, Ohio, the local weather forecaster predicted two to four inches of snow with a possibility of one to four FEET in the mountains. Ann told me to stop grinning. I looked at her and said, YESSS!

Hocking Hills is as hilly as the name suggests. The cabins were a surprise for me. I am not used to such lavish accommodations, real furniture, sinks with HOT & cold water, refrigerator, electric stove, beds, and best of all a hot shower and indoor toilet.

The warm weather did not last long. By Saturday morning the storm was underway with snow



falling and a stiff howling wind. By Sunday morning, there would be at least 8 inches of the "white stuff"!

Some members left early Saturday morning to spot cars. After waiting about ninety minutes, the rest of us decided to head out and look for the earlier group who still had not returned to start the planned hike. On the way down to the trail head, we met the others heading back to the cabins. They had decided the roads were too hazardous to drive on. Next time you see Teresa, ask her what its like to

drive a rear wheel drive car on snow and ice up hill with no traction. Too bad Steve didn't have enough chain mail to go around the tires.

On the trails, as we hiked to our first destination, the fresh snow added a touch of beauty to the rocks and trees (memories of winter camping near Pigeon River came to mind). At times it was a bit slippery, but that only added to the challenge and excitement. SOLARites work well together in adverse conditions (probably all of those classes we teach). Old Mans Cave, our first objective, reminded me of a huge amphitheater hollow about five stories high and forty yards across. The red sandstone of the cave added a nice contrast between the cave and the white covered river valley.

Some went on from there to Ash (see Snow, page 3)



Visiting The Kids

by Hal Joerin

I have three children. The eldest who gave me my first start in rock climbing, is a topographic engineer, and is a captain in the US Army - 2nd Armored Division. Her name is Michelle. Matt is in the middle and is a SOLAR rock climber and winter camper. He organized SOLAR's first sky diving seminar some years back. He is a construction engineer. The youngest, Andrea, manages a restaurant in Chicago.

Her idea of outdoor activity requires a beach and weeks of training at the tanning salon. Oh well...

On a recent trip to visit Michelle, I was privileged to carry her first born to the top of Enchanted Rock, go tubing with mother and family down Texas' Guadalupe River, then go caving at Natural Bridge Caverns on Balcones Fault.

Matt lives in Washington - the state, that is. He lives equidistant from Mount St. Helens and Mount Rainer and has hauled me up both. I visited him in September and wanted to take him into the caves - (see *Kids*, Page 5)

Review

Lumberman's Holiday

by Kathleen Spring

Myself and five other SOLAR members could have been found at one of the non-SOLAR sponsored trips at Independence Oaks Nature Center's "Woodchucker's Holiday" on February 6. We all attended the Shantyboy lecture where we browsed through old photographs and antique forestry tools where we were able to piece together the past lives of turn-of-the-century Michigan lumberjacks.

As we reluctantly wandered back outside in the sunny, but freezing weather, everyone tried their hands at the various games and activities. Nail Pounding, Two-Person Sawing, Match Lighting and Bell Ringing were a few of the competitions going on.

Jeff Zabel and Leslie Cohen concluded they were better at destroying things than building them while pounding nails. In the sawing contest SOLAR rose up to take awards (even if sometimes that meant being second in the field of two teams)! Julie Smith and I won the match lighting challenge. You can't imagine how hard it is to drop an axe on a match head and light it. The men showed their prowess by ringing the bell with the sledgehammer with the women close behind.

Afterwards, we topped off with some hot chocolate and hobo pies near the bonfire. For most of us, this was our first time cooking apple preserve pies over a fire while we melted our shoes on the coals! And we still don't know how much wood a woodchuck chucks.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

May

1	Saturday	Rock Climbing Practical I, Grand Ledge Sharon Stanek (565-3080), Al Fylak (852-7514)
1	Saturday	* Bike Clinic, Rehab East, Warren Cindy Harrison (331-2804)
2	Sunday	* Metro Grand Spring Bike Tour, Willow Metro Park. Steve Limkemann (595-7911)
4	Tuesday	General membership Meeting Colony Hall, southfield, 7:30 p.m.
6	Thursday	Rock Climbing Class #3 Sharon Stanek (565-3080), Al Fylak (852-7514)
7-9	Weekend	Rock Climbing Practical II Rattlesnake Provincial Park, Canada Sharon Stanek (565-3080), Al Fylak (852-7514)
15	Saturday	Point Pelee Spring Bird Migration Canada Cindy Harrison (331-2804)
16	Saturday	Scavenger Hunt Maybury State Park Jim Giffix (851-5289)
21-23	Weekend	Caving in Kentucky, Carter Caves Leslie Cohen (547-5626)
28-31	Weekend	White Water Rafting Trip, New River, WV Mike Felix (908-1991)

Wednesday evenings are for mountain biking at Bald Mountain Recreation Area. Call Jean Govan at 356-3827 for more information.

If you would like to help plan and/or lead a SOLAR activity, please contact Cindy Harrison at 331-2804.

*Indicates a non-SOLAR sponsored activity

Review

March Ethnic Dinner & Film

by Kathleen Spring

It was the largest turnout for an ethnic dinner that any could recall. Forty of us took advantage of the \$4.00 group rate to view the Detroit Science Center and follow up with the Omni-max Film on March 6, and to later hop over to Greektown.

The museum is a treasure chest full of hands-on experiments: holograms, videos, scientific theories in action, were some of the things we manipulated (perhaps, to be honest, just to have fun and laugh at our friends).

Next we relaxed in overstuffed seats in the museum amphitheater, literally laying back and staring up into the dome to view the film "Antarctica" projected on the 180 degree screen/dome. For the curious of you, this type of movie is done on 70mm film at a width three times the height of other 70mm films ("Lawrence of Arabia" for instance). An Imax camera magazine load has 1,000 ft. of film that lasts three minutes running time each. A fully loaded IMax camera weighs an unbelievable 85 pounds. This 40 minute film took approximately 4 years, including the researching, writing and producing.

Next, off to the Laikon restaurant situated in the center of Greektown's famous Monroe Street. We had half of the upstairs reserved just for our group. This did not isolate us from the surrounding excitement or shouts of "Opa!" through the large atrium in the center.

When the call of Greek pastries and local pubs dragged us away, we all had made many new friends.

Upcoming Event

Give A Little Back

On Sunday, April 25 and Sunday May 2, SOLAR will be heading out to the Bald Mountain State Recreation Area to assist with the repair of the docks at Graham Lake. The recreation area is one of our principal mountain biking areas as well as a good place for hiking and skiing. We also used the cabins for our Halloween party last year.

So, if you'd like a chance to give a little bit back to the park for all the use you've had, here's your chance. Bring your mountain bike, a dish to pass and be ready to do some work and have some fun. For more information contact Jess Harding at 375-5268.



Upcoming Event

You Or' Rattlesnake!

It's that time of year again. SOLAR will be heading on up to Rattlesnake Provincial Park in Milton, Ontario for an active weekend. We'll be car camping and enjoying a variety of activities including rock climbing, hiking swimming and biking. This will also serve as a warm up for the August pot-luck cook off, so be prepared.

Upcoming Event

For the Personally Challenged

On June 12 and 13 SOLAR will be having a Personal Challenge Weekend at Camp Tamerack. We will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday for a half a day of group activities, eat a bag lunch, then be challenged on the high ropes. Sunday will be another day of activities/ high ropes fun. The cost of the weekend is \$56 and covers the two days challenge, one night in a cabin, dinner Saturday and breakfast and lunch Sunday. For more details, call Jim Gilfix at 851-5289.

(Snow, continued from page 1)

Cave and the Falls. I managed to get a nice nap in instead and then a little ski time. I was late for the potluck dinner, but of course there was a bite or two leftover. The remainder of the evening we spent watching others playing Pictionary.

It was a fantastic trip, and snow to boot (punny) I shot a lot of pictures. I did not mind all the turkey buzzards flying around (except napping?). It looked like the poor birds got lost during their annual migration to another part of Ohio. The next time I return to Hocking Hills, I hope to see it differently - a little more green (just for perspective).

Thanks Steve for a well planned trip!

Wow!!! Congratulations again this month! Wedding bells are ringing for Antoinette Arduino and Larry Vittone who will be on their way to forever together on May first!

Upcoming Event

Do Ya' Like Mud Pies?

On July 18 Jim Gilfix will be leading us up to Arkona, Canada for the third annual Fossil Hunt. There's a 35 foot waterfall to play in, a stream to walk down, a nice picnic spot and lots and lots of fossils to dig up. Last years trip was met with cheers for more of the same. More information on this years event will be coming up in future editions of the Ray.

Upcoming Event

WHITE WATER RAFTING

On Memorial Day weekend, May 28 through 31, SOLAR will be heading to the New River in West Virginia for white-water rafting. The river is located near Fayetteville and we'll be going eight to a raft with a guide for a full day trip on Sunday.

Plan on tent camping for the three nights, as well as hiking and biking on Saturday.

Cost of the weekend is \$120 per person, due in three \$40 monthly installments in March, April and May. The cost includes the rafting, camping for three nights and breakfast, lunch and dinner on Sunday.

More information on the waiting list call Mike Felix at 908-1991. See you on the River!



Upcoming Event

Soaring SOLARoids

Jim Gilfix has assembled yet another wonder trip to entertain us. On Saturday, June 26 we will meet to go soaring in glider planes. The cost of the outing will be about \$40 to \$60. We'll be carpooling out to the site. So keep your eyes on the skies and on the SOLAR Ray for further details.

Upcoming Event

Down, Deep and Dirty

On the weekend of May 21 through 23 a hearty group of SOLARoids will be heading down to the Carter Caves area of Kentucky to crawl around in a hole in the ground. Leslie Cohen has assembled this trip that will consist of 4-6 hours of guided caving on Saturday, a retreat to the motel followed closely by a search for night-life in a dry county. Sunday morning will call for more guided caving and the trip back home. The trip's limit of 15 has been filled, as well as a waiting list of 5, so unless you've already signed up, you'll have to settle for reading about this one in the June SOLAR Ray.



The **SOLAR** group consults the guide book as they approach the first drop.

Upcoming Event

Spring Migration at Pt. Pelee

Cindy Harrison will be leading a trip to Pt. Pelee CANADA at the Pinery Provincial Park on Saturday May 15th.

Similar to last year's Pt. Pelee trip to see the BIG bird migration, Cindy will try to organize having a guide lead us (novices?) through. If you are interested in going off on your own - that's fine too.

Just contact Cindy at 331-2804 to set up campsite arrangements and get all further details.

Upcoming Event

Scavengers!

In the 1800's a Scavenger and treasure hunt consisted of circling vultures looking for not-fast-enough-owl hoots (outlaws). In Australia a scavenger hunt was when dingos hunted for sheep. In the 1970's a scavenger hunt was when kids went door to door searching.

On May 1993 a scavenger hunt is where SOLAR members of all ages move via tricycles, bicycles, mountain bikes (motorless), rollerblades or hiking boots around a large state park looking for strange and unusual (non-indigenous) things. We will meet at the animal petting zoo at the Maybury State Park (off 8 mile road). Then we'll divide into two groups, pass out the lists and begin the hunt. The cost is \$1.00 per person, the time is noon, the day is Saturday, May 16. This is another Jim Gilfix outing (perhaps the Vernors will be there?!)

(Kids, continued from page 2)

lava tubes, actually that I had been in at Lava Beds National Monument in 1990. Matt said that there was so much that I hadn't seen yet, why go where I had been before? This bit of logic led me to being tented at 6200 ft on Mt. Baker, snuggled into a bergschrund in fast moving clouds and horizontal snow pellets. After 13 hours of this I informed my son that I was not having fun anymore. He was not taken by surprise. We struck the tent and played leapfrog with the caime in white out conditions for seven miles back to his car. We drove to Whidby Island for warm breezes, good food, great views - and all at sea level.

A short time ago, I returned from visiting Andrea in Chicago. She's the "yuppie" one. She took me on a tour of the city. Taking the Howard Street "L" to the end of the line and crossing a vacant lot full of Southside junk yard dogs, broken glass, vagrants, and flaming 55 gallon drums; walking through the deserted streets at the wee hours of the morning as we take the train home from her work and finally passing through an ACT UP rally near Boys' Town - here is the stuff of now excitement not found in the depths of the earth nor the heights of fiery volcanos! This, too, can be

adrenalin pumping and produce endorphin highs!

Thanks to Andrea for teaching me that there are other ways to live on the edge, many ways to learn that perhaps living is more important than just life.



The King of the Hill here is this month's profile, Jeff Zabel, standing proudly atop his quinzee shelter during Michigan Winters class.

in profile: Jeff Zabel

Address: Warren, MI

Occupation: Computer Programmer

Hobbies/Interests: Just about everything, including Scuba, backpacking, canoeing, taking rock climbing class, camping, line dancing, reluctant Vic Tanny, etc.

How did you hear about S.O.L.A.R.? I invited Leslie Cohen on a canoe trip and she invited me to SOLAR. The rest is history.

What do you like best about S.O.L.A.R.? That you can do anything, anytime. People are always ready to go and have great attitudes.

About the Ray

The Ray is a monthly publication of the S.O.L.A.R. 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: Lori Love, RAY Editor, 324 Catalpa, Royal Oak, MI 48067 or call Lori @ 398-5774 or Steve Gardner, RAY Editor @ 547-4998

Meeting Location

The purpose of the S.O.L.A.R. 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 Colony 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 \$30.00 per family.

STEERING COMMITTEE

President	Al Fylak / 852-7514
Vice-President	Jess Harding / 375-5298
Secretary	Laura Bowman / 960-1516
Treasurer	Joan Govan / 356-3627
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