

THE RAY

THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE AND RECREATION

Upcoming Event Halloween Horrors

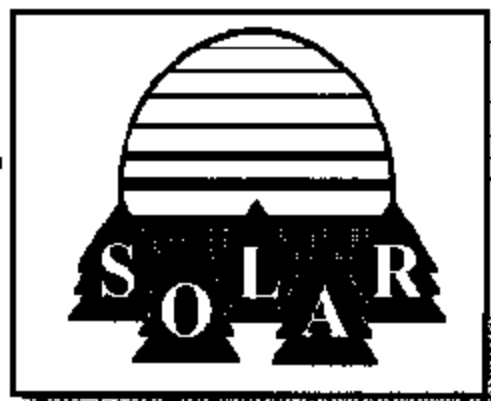
It's back by popular demand. The second annual haunted Halloween weekend will be held at the Bald Mountain Recreation Area in Cabin #1 (no - not Jack K's infamous cabin) between October 29-31. The cost of the trip is \$8.00 and is limited to 20 people.

To highlight the activities you can expect on this fateful frolic: autumn color hike, mountain biking availability, visit to meet The Great Pumpkin, pumpkin carving contest, traditional SOLAR style (too much great food) potluck, costume contest, ghost stories, and other games.

Other notable features are that you can expect a water pump, outhouse, cot with 2' mattress, and wood burning stove.

Do not expect to find any electricity, cooking stoves, showers, and other such amenities that as true SOLARites you would not dream of.

If you are interested in this weekend call Leslie Cohen at 547-5626 as fast as you can. This will fill fast!



Upcoming Event Mio Meets the Wild West

There is still space available for the SOLAR horseback riding trip scheduled for the weekend of October 8-10!

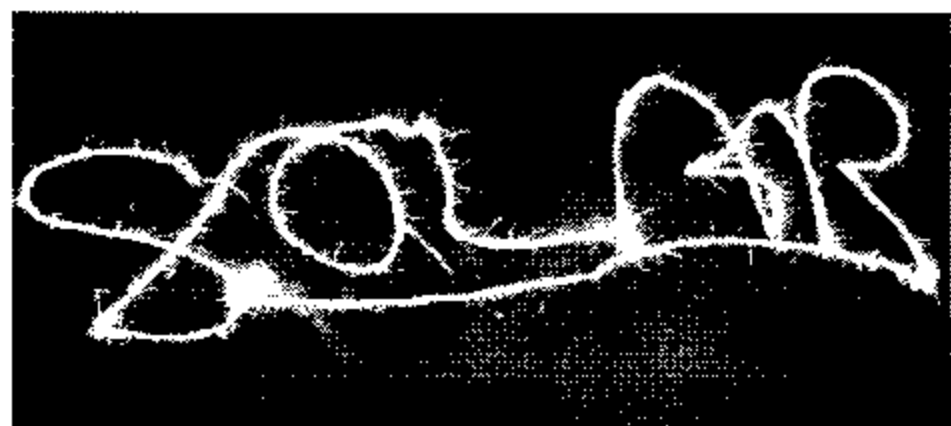
Mike Felix has invited SOLARoids to his property near Mio for a fun-packed weekend of rustic camping (no outhouse ... bring your backpacking trowe and appropriate paper work)

and horseback riding.

The plan calls for 7 hours on the horses on Saturday, October 11 and perhaps canoeing on the AuSable River on Sunday, depending on how people feel about it.

Cost of the weekend is \$50 per horse. This cost may be split between two who want to share a horse, sort of an equestrian time-share principle. Canoeing would be in rented canoes or bring your own.

Those interested should call Mike at 441-9613 soon to reserve their horse, to co-ordinate travel, and to get directions to his property.



Jim Gilfix took this picture at the August Rattlesnake. It is a timed exposure of someone with a sparkler. The path of the sparkler traced the pattern you see here. It was necessary to spell SOLAR in mirror image for the effect.

Tech-Tips

by Kathleen Spring

Winter Rock Climbing

The last opportunities for rock climbing with the SOLAR club are coming to an end for the year and the winter weather will soon be hitting the mountains. Where can rock climbing enthusiasts go to keep up their skills as well as enjoy the challenges? There are several gyms with indoor rock climbing facilities.

Indoor Climbing sights:

Most of you are familiar with the

Benchmark's 18 foot indoor climbing wall in Farmington, where many SOLARites experienced their first climb. It is open all year. However, many of you may not be aware of gyms in southeast Michigan that are a lot bigger.

In Albion is the Starr Commonwealth, located on the Albion College campus at the Arnold Barn. Just outside Grand Rapids is Inside Moves gym. Vertical Ventures in Lansing offers advanced classes during the week. See Sharon Stanek for more details (phone 565-3080).

"The way I teach is different than older climbers and teachers based on changes," said Sharon. "I try to be up on recent and upcoming safety features, procedures, and ethics."

Sharon has been rock climbing for seven years. In 1991 she was the assistant instructor and primary instructor this year for the SOLAR rock climbers. She credits her association with Vertical Ventures for her up-to-date knowledge of the field. They offer advanced classes for SOLAR members who want to take the next step. There is generally one instructor per two students.

The number of rock climbers is increasing. Benchmark's sales in rock climbing equipment have increased by 400 percent. However, rock climbing opportunities are still limited.

Good weather Rock Climbing Locations:

Climbers can go to Grand Ledge, near Lansing; Michigan's upper peninsula (Porcupine Mountains); Rattlesnake Provincial Park, near Toronto (which is actually closer than the U.P.); or any of several parks in Pennsylvania.

Because of this shortage of sites, Sharon Stresses that individuals and groups are encouraged to not monopolize the climb.

"Grand Ledge is very friendly," says Sharon. "You can go climb even if you don't know anybody. Just say, 'Will you give me a ride on your rope?'"

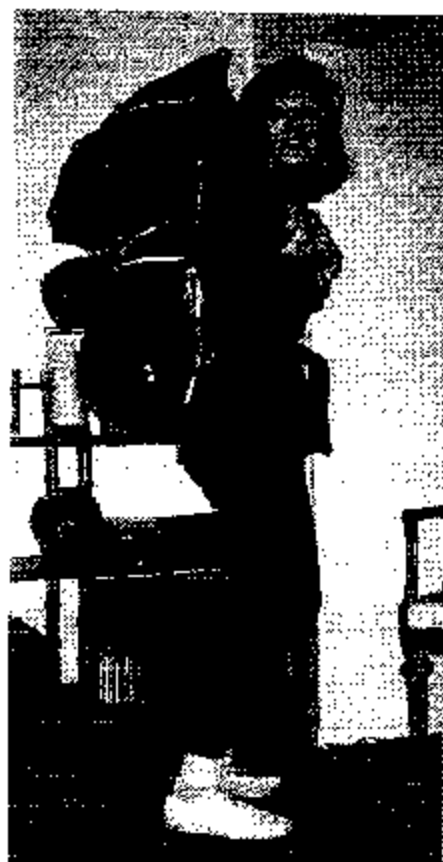
Editor's note: Last month's Tech Tips on mountain biking was also by Kathleen Spring.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

October

1-3	Weekend	Fall Camping Weekend South Manitou Island, Alex VonderHaar (397-2459)
1-3	Weekend	Pictured Rocks Backpacking Tim Stangl (262-5015)
5	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	General Membership Meeting Colony Hall, Southfield, Joan Govan (356-3627)
8-10	Weekend	Indiana Canoeing Weekend Jim Gilfix (851-5289)
8-10	Weekend	Fall Color Weekend Frankfort, MI, Kuei-Mei Liu (332-8174)
14-17	Thu - Sun	Backpacking Practical II Allegheny Park, PA, Carol McCrie (229-5232)
22	Friday	Ethnic Dinner, Akasaka, Livonia Margaret Martin (721-2821)
29-31	Weekend	Haunted Halloween Bald Mountain, Leslie Cohen (546-5626)
???	Someday	Fright Night to tour haunted houses Pam Maxey (887-4553)

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



This month's *In Profile*, Laury Morrison prepares for a trip. The editors assume she's planning on going further than the kitchen.

Upcoming Event

October Fright Night

Join your fellow SOLARoids in October for an evening of chills and thrills as we go on a tour of Haunted Houses in the area.

Pam Maxey has scheduled two evenings, Saturday October 23 and Thursday October 26, for us to visit with the Super-Natural.

Interest sign up will be at the October general membership meeting or call Pam at 887-4553 to leave your name and phone number or for more information.

In Profile

Laury Morrison

Address: Farmington, MI

MG: What do you like to do for fun?

LM: I love to travel. I did some traveling initially for work, so I had frequent flier miles that I used to go skiing in the British Columbia, Vancouver area. I want to go to Europe, especially Spain (I am currently taking a Spanish course), and Washington D.C. during the cherry blossom season. I also love sports. My favorites are tennis, downhill skiing and volleyball. I enjoy reading and especially learning new things.

MG: What do you do for a living?

LM: I am in Purchasing Administration for Isuzu. I act as a liaison between suppliers and the purchasing department. My favorite assignment is helping to set up systems interfacing between MIS and the end-user.

MG: How did you get involved in that field?

LM: I have my BA in Purchasing Management from MSU. I was originally interested in marketing. However, after taking some classes I discovered I was interested in working on the other side of sales.

MG: What do you like most about S.O.L.A.R.?

LM: SOLAR challenges me. Through SOLAR I have been introduced to new opportunities and developed interests in activities that I would never thought I would be involved in - like rock climbing. I enjoy meeting new and interesting people. It is a quality group with a good sense of humor. It's fun.

MG: What S.O.L.A.R. events have you participated in?

LM: I have done the Backpacking class, the High Ropes Course at U of M, White water rafting on the Upper Gully, the Fossil Hunt, Rattlesnake in August, and recently Fraser Tag. I am very interested in taking the rock climbing class in the spring.

MG: What is your personal philosophy on life?

LM: Life is what you make it. I am always striving to move forward. If you take risks, you always learn from them, and there is no where else to move but forward.

(Interview by Michael Gardner)

Upcoming Event

Indiana Adventure

Hurry! There's still time to sign up for Indiana, October 8 through 10. For those of you reluctant to drive the three hours to the Chain O' Lakes State Park to canoe, hike, play games eat, search for Herons, song birds eat, search for deer, fox, mink, and eat; well here is something else to consider. On the way down on I-89 get off on Indiana 20 at Angola and head west to H-5 and north to Shipshewana, an Amish community. On Friday they run a horse auction that lacks equal in North America. There also is a GIANT flea market.

On Sunday we can leave the state park early and drive the few miles to the Pigeon River state fish and wildlife area. This hauntingly beautiful stream, edged with lush vegetation, choked with hyacinths, flows through an outstanding variety of habitats, marshes, meadows, woods, swamps and bogs. Some 216 species of birds attract bird watchers to the area.

So join us Friday October 8 at our campfire at Chain O' Lakes, for an included Saturday breakfast, canoe with us Saturday, and a big pot-luck that night. There is a shelter in case of rain. Saturday night, the park service is hosting a session on Halloween stories. Sunday we'll hike, picnic or go to other parks.

A great time for only \$5. (Tent camping will be about \$10 for 2 nights and canoeing will be about \$8 per person for 6 hours. These fees are payable at the park.) Contact Jim Gilfix at 851-5289 for more info or come to the October SOLAR meeting.

Can you keep a Secret?

A puzzle for the "Indiana Adventure" trip by Jim Gilfix.

Lon: "This" is a great place.
 Raleigh: Where "is" the dog?
 Julia: What "a" wonderful picture.
 Marco: Where were you, what was the "secret"?
 Dave: Did Jill give you the "message"?
 Jill: "Bring" your cookies.
 Keith: "a" watermelon?
 Laura: What "game" shall we play?
 Alana: Catch any geese "and" butterflies lately?
 Pat: You'll "get" a laugh from this.
 Linda: Isn't that "a" porcine antediluvian sapient?
 Renee: What is the "prize"?
 Taylor: Where "in" the world is Fraser.
 Laury: Finally, "Indiana!"
 Teresa: Elves "impishly" play in the woods.
 Mo: Another "Jim Gilfix" trip, great!
 Leonardo: Meow."

Secrets are fun
 Puzzles are neat.
 You know you are done
 When I got you beat.

Smile as you say
 "I've found the way.
 I now see the light."
 Its in black and white.
 "Quotes are all that count."



Upcoming Event

Fall Color, Bike & Hike Weekend

Bike the road by Crystal Lake! Hike the trails of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore! Fish for Salmon at the Frankfort pier! All this awaits the SOLARites who choose to take up Kuei-mei Liu on her offer of hospitality and to camp in her yard at 407 Park Avenue in Frankfort, MI on October 8, 9, and 10.

The cost of the trip is \$15 and includes two continental breakfasts, two lunches of peanut butter & jelly sandwiches, cheese, and fruits as well as \$10 credit for Saturday dinner at the Cabbage Shed restaurant.

You can call Kuei-mei at 332-6174 for more information.

People

Rattlesnake Cook-Off Update:

The Side Dish winner was Pumpemickel Cheese Bread prepared by Joanna Becker and Peggy Kanan. Their names were omitted from the article in last month's Ray.

A note from Lester Mok:

I'd like to get in touch with anyone who has mountaineering experience in the Alaska Range and the St. Elias range in Alaska. Please call me at (313)995-9281 and leave me a message. Thanks.

The Gas Lab

Due to space problems and the last minute rush before the deadline last month, Ray editors inadvertently left out this column. It was to have featured the overall winner of the August Rattlesnake Cookoff. Our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

To make it up to you, we're going to run the overall winner AND the main course first place winner this month.

Upcoming Event

Fall Backpacking Trip

Alex Vonderhaar will be leading a jaunt to South Manitou Island in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore on October 1-3 weekend.

Near Traverse City, the Lakeshore is a 5 hour drive from Detroit. We plan to stay in a motel on Thursday night and pack in a large breakfast before making the 10:00 am Leland Ferry deadline.

Plan to carry packs about 10 miles over the weekend plus enjoy a day hike to the Valley of the Giants (white cedars). Thrown in extra attractions include: 2 campsites, scenic views of the dunes and Lake Michigan, and a lighthouse.

The ferry will return us to the mainland at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, then the drive to Detroit.

Space is limited, so reserve your spot with \$20.00 at the September meeting. This includes the cost of

Overall Winner: Cajun Chicken Stir-Fry by John Gulas.

Amounts may vary with taste. John measured in pinches and handfuls. This is a mish-mash of other recipes he has made.

Ingredients:

Curry Powder	Cajun Spice
Chicken Breast (skinless)	
Broccoli	Onion
Zucchini	Green Pepper
Tomato(e)s	Butter

Optional:

Squash	Carrots
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Chop veggies in advance. Cut chicken into strips and bread with curry powder / cajun spice mix. Put butter and chicken in skillet and brown slightly. Add veggies. Cook until chicken is blackened. If done properly, the pan will be difficult to clean. Best served with rice pilaf, garlic cheese bread, and wine. John assumes this is good even if not prepared in the back of a blue pick up truck.

First Place Main Dish: Alligator Alaska by Jim Gilfix

Ingredients:

1 lb Alligator Fillets (10 min.)	2 lbs Large Shrimp (3 min.)
2 lbs Raw Kielbassa (40 min.)	2 lbs De-boned Chicken (5 min.)
1.5 lbs Catfish (10 min.)	Ginger Root
Red Onion	3 pk. Lipton Cajun Rice mix
2 cans straw mushrooms	Cajun sauce
1 can Coconut milk	1 can Non-Alcoholic beer
1 can Peas, red pepper	1 can Corn
Spices Below (step 3)	

1) Cut above meats, onion and ginger and cook separately until almost done - times are in parentheses.

2) Add to 6 cups water, add rice mix and bring to boil for 10 minutes, then add mushrooms, peas, red pepper, corn, cajun sauce, coconut milk and beer. Stir and simmer.

3) Add spices at all stages and while simmering: Garlic pwd, turmeric, curry pwd, cinnamon pwd, cumin pwd, coriander pwd, chili pwd, oregano, salt paprika and onion pwd, red-white-black pepper.

the ferry (\$10.00 for those of you who don't wish to return.

The trip is open to all experienced SOLAR backpackers (graduates of the SOLAR backpacking class or those who can display proficiency to the trip leader). For any questions please call Alex @ 397-2459.

October Ethnic Dinner

The October Ethnic dinner will be at Akasaka n Livonia, a Japanese restaurant featuring yakitori, sashimi, tempura and more on Friday the 22nd at 7:00 p.m. Call Margaret Martin at 721-2821 for more information.

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 @ 547-4998 or Lori Love, RAY Editor @ 420-2176

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 Catany Hall, located at 21760 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.

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