

# THE RAY

THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE AND RECREATION

## Upcoming Event

### Allegheny National Forest Backpacking - practical II

From the journal of: *Julia Gordon*

#### My axiom for the week:

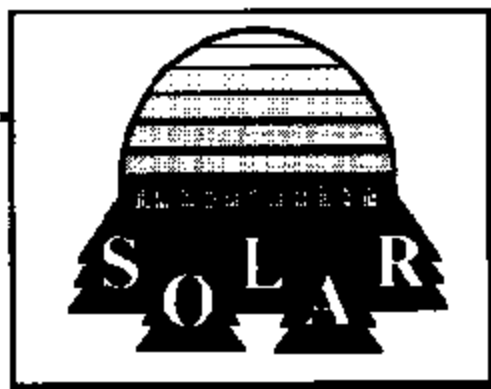
"I return again to the mountains, woods and beaches, in my continuous pursuit of nature's renewal. Such retreats fulfill a yearning in me almost as basic as hunger."

#### Thursday, Oct. 14, 1993

Well, here I sit, recording today's events. Wow, what a long evening. Paula, Bonnie, Ron, Daryl and I all met at Kevin's house for the long drive to Penn. It was a smooth trip, but wouldn't you know it, Murphy's Law descended upon us. Only a few miles from our destination of Will Bay Campground we were stopped by a barricade proclaiming BRIDGE OUT !! Uggghhh what a pain, we had to backtrack and follow a circular route taking us miles out of our way. We did get a couple brakes, literally, when we almost hit a deer in the road several times....pun intended. I guess I'll hit the 'ol thermarest now to get a good night's sleep.

#### Friday, Oct. 15, 1993

Well, it was an enchanting sun-filled day. We started out our hike up a long switchback hill to a



portion of the North Country Trail. It was a trail filled with damp fallen leaves and a quiet beauty all it's own. That is if the person walking with you didn't shuffle their feet too much - Ha HA! For on-the-trail recreation I started to carve the bark off my newly adapted walking/hiking stick. Our lunch stop was at an area full of moss covered boulders. The rocks had an almost regal look, as if they were at one time a fortress, now crumbled with age. Soon after, we were rewarded with our first view of the Allegheny Reservoir. There was a stream crossing that cried out - "STOP! Look

a Kodak moment" Once we finally found where that darn missing trail continued, we almost wished we hadn't. It was a definite trial on the cardiovascular system, we gained a lot of altitude in a short length of the trail, but a long length of time. Wow, what a steep hill to climb with your 40lb. house on your back. I guess that's why they call this the Tracy Ridge Campground. Tonight the golden sunset was spectacular, I just hope tomorrow night we get the same rays setting across the reservoir. But now the cheerful, warm blaze of the campfire, companionship and back massages are all calling out. Oh yeah, it was rumored that a bit of drink was being shared.

#### Saturday, Oct. 16, 1993

Here I sit, recording the days (continued on page 6 )



Julia is in her treetop hideaway on the Allegheny Backpacking Practical enjoying a moment to write in her journal for this month's RAY article.

## Upcoming Class

## Cross Country Ski Clinic

Cecil Moix, Cathy Susan, and Bill Halvangis will be holding a two-hour cross-country ski clinic on Sunday, January 16th. The location will be announced closer to the date of the clinic depending on local snow conditions. The local area location will probably be Addison Oaks, Independence Oaks (both Oakland

county parks) or Maybury (a Michigan State Park). We will begin at 10 a.m. If there is no local snow, the clinic will be at Forbush Corners in Frederick, MI (3 hours from Detroit) and begin at 1 p.m.

The cost of the clinic is \$5. However, you must pay for your own trail pass or park entrance fee, and provide our own equipment. Fees for local park ski trail use are usually included in the park pass which varies depending on the park. If you do not have your own equipment, please make

arrangements to rent equipment. The instructors can give you some suggestions. Trail passes at Forbush Corners cost \$10, \$20 with classic equipment rental and \$25 with skating equipment rental. This will be an on-the-snow clinic for both novice and intermediate skiers.

The clinic will cover basic ski techniques (classic and skating), equipment, clothing, etc.

Following the clinic on Sunday afternoon in the same location, the instructors from the Enjoy Michigan Winters Class will be instructing current students on how to cross-country ski (and/or possibly snow shoe) with backpacks and/or sleds. Students should bring their packed backpacks.

For further information or to sign up for the clinic, come to the January SOLAR meeting or call Cecil Moix at 810-547-6555, Cathy Susan at 313-668-2437, or Bill Halvangis at 313-669-1911.

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### 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
7-9	Weekend	Wilderness Weekend Wilderness State Park; Joan Govan 356-3627
9	Sunday	Michigan XC Ski Festival Gaylord Area Cindy Harrison 722-3994
15	Saturday	Detroit Science Center and Ethnic Dinner Kathleen Spring 548-8697
16	Sunday	XC Ski Clinic Location TBA Cecil Moix 547-6555
21-23	Weekend	Winter Practical Dave Jones 722-8178

### February

1	Tuesday	General Membership Meeting 7:30 p.m. Colony Hall, Southfield; Joan Govan 356-3627
2,9,16	Wednesdays	Survival Class Bob Westbrook 356-3627
23, March 2	Weekend	VASA Ski Race Traverse City; John Gulas 574-0243
19	Saturday	XC Ski Volunteer Work Teaching, Mayberry State Park; Margaret Martin 721-2821
18-20	Weekend	Blue Mountain Ski Weekend, Colingwood, Ont. Jeff Zabel 775-1457

- Skiing on Sundays starts in January - Call Bob Westbrook at 356-3627 for more information.
- Roll at the Dome continues on Tuesday evenings. Call Doug Lanyk at 377-7370 for more information.
- If you would like to help plan and/or lead a SOLAR activity, please call Julie Stolicz at 471-7444.

## Recycled Ray

You may have noticed your Ray has a slightly different feel to it this month, and that the paper looks different. That's because we're trying an experiment on you. This edition of The Ray is printed on recycled paper.

The benefits of making a market for recycled products are obvious. Also the paper has a heavier, richer feel. On the down side, photographs can tend to look muddy unless printed on white paper. Also, it costs the SOLAR club about \$35 extra to print The Ray on this paper.

So let us know what you think. Should we keep using this paper or not?

## Upcoming Event

## Michigan Cup Cross-Country Ski Race Series

For those of you interested in participating and/or watching cross-country ski races this winter, the following is a list of races in Michigan which was printed in the Cross Country Ski Headquarters Newsletter:

- 1/2/94 - Boyne Pursuit, 5-8k  
classic/freestyle, Boyne  
Falls
- 1/8/94 - Grand Traverse, 11K  
freestyle, Traverse City
- 1/9/94 - Wilderness Valley, 18K/9K  
classic, Gaylord
- 1/15/94 - Langlauf, 5K/7.5K  
freestyle, Grand Rapids
- 1/18/94 - Crystal Relays,  
classic/freestyle, Crystal  
Mountain
- 1/22/94 - Mich. Cup Marathon  
30K/10K freestyle,  
Grayling
- 1/23/94 - Sylvan Treetops Classic  
10K/15K classic, Gaylord
- 1/29/94 - Garland Glide 10K/9K  
freestyle, Lewiston
- 1/30/94 - Lakeview Hills 12K  
Classic, Lewiston
- 2/5/94 - White Pines Stampede,  
Shanty Creek, Mancelona
- 2/6/94 - Beaver Creek Challenge  
12K freestyle, N. Higgins  
Lake
- 2/12/94 - VASA, 45K, 27K, 12K  
freestyle/classic, Traverse  
City
- 2/19/94 - Great Lakes Dist.  
Champ., 10K/5K, Boyne  
Valley Lodge
- 2/20/94 - Great Lakes Dist.  
Champ., 30K/10K/5K

For event information call Brett  
Hood (518) 378-2000. Happy  
Skiing!

## Cross Country Learn to Ski Festival

On January 8th, 1994 several cross-country ski areas in Michigan kick off the Cross-Country Learn to Ski Festival. By taking a free group ski lesson, you'll receive a free trail pass to ski for the day. Other fun activities will also be ongoing that day. Following your first lesson (and prior to March 15th), you'll be able to take two more free group lessons and receive a free trail pass at any of the participating ski centers. If you complete three lessons you'll receive a fleece headband with a X-C Northern Michigan logo. This is a great opportunity to enjoy cross-country skiing in Northern Michigan without paying for lessons and trail passes.

If you're interested in more information and a list of participating ski areas, talk to Cindy Harrison at the January SOLAR or call her at 722-3994.

## Upcoming Class

## Would You Survive?

If you're out in the wilderness (either by choice or by accident) and you find yourself in a survival situation, would you survive? Do you have the basic skills and the right attitude to make it back to the comfortable life you take for granted? Well, if you're not sure, take the SOLAR Wilderness Survival Class. The class teaches basic survival techniques such as shelter and fire building, food and water procurement, rescue signaling, orienteering, etc. Following the five class sessions, a weekend practical trip takes place for students to practice the techniques they have learned. The cost of the class is \$50 and you must have taken the backpacking class and the winter camping class. The dates for the class are Wednesday evenings February 2, 9, 16, 23 and March 2. The practical trip will be March 4-6. For further information call Bob Westbrook at 356-3627.

## In Profile

- In Profile:** Karen Fox  
**Address:** Northville, MI  
**Personal Stats:** Thirtysomething, single home owner with 2 kids (black, fur coats and four paws)
- MG:** What do you do for fun?  
**KF:** Most of my social activities revolve around SOLAR. I own a home and work, so that doesn't leave time for much else. Backpacking is my all time favorite activity. I also like cross-country skiing, horseback riding and rollerblading. I want to take some dance lessons - definitely country western line dancing and then some ball room dancing.

(See In Profile, page 5)

## Review

## When the Boat Leaves . . .

By: Alex VonderHaar

On the morning of Friday, October 1, ten SOLARoids met in Leland to take the ferry to South Manitou Island in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

The legendary adventurers included Dan and Laura "We'd rather do shopping than dune hiking" Martin, Tim "Yeah, I'll write the Ray article" Walker, Ann "Pass the Dramamine" DeBella, Margaret "I don't trust this barge, so I'm driving home early" Martin and Judy "Of course, I'd love to fit 4 into an Escort for the ride home" Kettenstock. Those fortunate enough to avoid nicknames were Pam Maxey, Haley Panzer, Clare VonderHaar and myself.

Unfortunately, the wind was pushing the waves too high for departure on Friday, so most of us spent the day hiking the dunes and camping on a beautiful site near the Platte River. The weather had cleared up just in time for our sand walk.

We hurried to the launch site Saturday morning where the waves were low enough to go but high enough to get some people seasick (on the way back, too).

On the island, we backpacked in about a mile from the dock to set up camp. We took a long hike to see the shipwreck site, the Valley of the Giant Cedars and some more great dune views. We also gathered firewood for the campsite.

After a fireside dinner in the midst of a moonlit night, we got up Sunday to take a ranger guided tour of the 1871 lighthouse (all the way to the top!) and learned a good

history of the island. Later, we visited the museum and other buildings in the village.

Before the 4:00 ferry took us back the mainland, Judy, Clare and I decided to hike to the old schoolhouse. The captain, however, changed his mind: "The boat leaves at 3:30." Fortunately, the rangers had cars to speed up our return. I guess they didn't want us as their house guests for a week.

Overall, the trip was a success due to the good weather; at least when we were on land. We witnessed firsthand, however, that the fate of such a trip depends on the timing of the ferry.

### Upcoming Event

## SOLAR Trip to the VASA Cross Country Ski Race

Join fellow SOLAR members who are participating in, assisting skiers at, or just watching the 1994 VASA Cross-Country Ski Race in Traverse City. The dates are Friday, February 11th to Sunday, February 13th.

We'll stay at the Days Inn in TC which has suites that sleep six to a room. The cost is \$30 per person which covers the accommodations for Friday and Saturday night. We'll be getting together at a to-be-determined restaurant for dinner on Saturday evening.

New this year at the VASA is a 45K relay race with 5-person teams. SOLAR will sponsor the relay team(s) (the club pays the entry fee of \$75 per team). If you are interested in being on the SOLAR

Ski Team, for either the relay race or individual races (45K, 27K, 12K), contact Cindy at phone number below.

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 John Gulas at 574-0243 or Cindy Harrison at 722-3994.

## Electronic Bulletin Board Service?

The official title given to the editorial staff of *The Ray* in the SOLAR bylaws is "Communication Committee". With that in mind, I'm considering starting an electronic bulletin board.

The system would be available to anyone with a computer and modem and would include local file and message bases for use by members as well as message bases in a national network.

Local information available would include an up to date calendar of events, articles from past issues of *The Ray*, and mail boxes for messages to and from other SOLAR members.

Nationwide message bases can be quite varied, depending on the Network I get involved with but can include hiking, biking, camping and other activities, as well as a chance to make contact with other users interested in the same things you are, on a nationwide basis.

If you would like to see such a thing, give me a call at (810) 547-4998.

## Upcoming Event

# January Ethnic Dinner

## "A Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight"

By: Kathleen Spring

Last year we had 42 SOLARites (including 4 SOLAR kids) venture into downtown Detroit to see the I-MAX movie on its 180 degree at the Detroit Science Center then gather for some genuine Greek food in Greektown. Since it was such a success, and people complained that they didn't have enough time to see everything in the "hands-on" Science Center, we'll be going back this January 15th.

The normal price is \$8.50, but if you pre-pay at the January meeting (or call me before then - 548-8697), you can get in for the group rate of \$4 (the Greek meal is on your own, and will probably run about \$7). A map will be provided at the January meeting.

The movie this year is "Ring of Fire; a journey into the volcanoes of the Pacific Rim." There is also a free life science demonstration.

Please be sure to get to the Science Center by 3 pm because we have to go in as a group. If you want to do just the dinner, you can. Just meet us at the Laikon restaurant at 5:30 if you want dinner only.

For after dinner entertainment, the Science center offers an evening 3-D laser show for \$7.50. Otherwise, Greektown offers post-Christmas sales in Trappers Alley, Greek pastries and espresso, or Blues music at the Old-New Detroit Bar.

MG: What do you do for a living?

KF: I am the accountant for the Charter Township of Canton.

MG: How did you get involved in that field?

KF: When I was in college in Traverse City, I was required to take a course in accounting. I found the subject matter quite interesting. That is how it all began. After that, I went on to complete my Bachelor of Accountancy and Master of Science in Finance at Walsh College in Troy. What I would really like to do is move to Colorado, practice accounting and raise horses.

MG: So, you went to school in Traverse City?

KF: Yes, for 5 years. It was a fun place to live. My friends and I did a lot of touring, biking, and cross-country skiing. I came back home to continue on in school.

MG: What in SOLAR have you done?

KF: I have taken the rock-climbing and backpacking classes and am currently in the Michigan Winters class. This summer, I went camping and canoeing with friends from SOLAR. When and if there is snow, I plan on doing a lot of skiing.

MG: It sounds like you've done a fair amount of backpacking.

KF: Just the last few years - the most memorable places that I have been are the Grand Canyon and Isle Royale.

MG: What do you like most about SOLAR?

KF: The people.

MG: What is your personal philosophy on life?

KF: Never grow up.



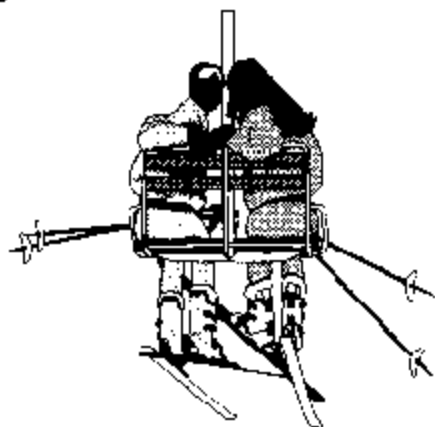
### Upcoming Event

## Blue Mountain Ski Weekend

Ready for lots of fun, skiing, and staying in beautiful condos? Join us at Blue Mountain Ski Resort in Collingwood, Ontario on February 18-20.

This resort offers a variety of great slopes, whether you are a novice or expert. Cross-country skiing is also available nearby. We will stay Friday and Saturday nights in 8 person condos that are a short walk from the slopes. Pizza dinner will be provided Saturday night and a full kitchenette is available for you to prepare food the rest of the weekend. (You can leave your campstoves at home this trip!) The cost of the trip is \$87.00 and that covers the condos and pizza dinner the one night. Additional costs include: lift tickets, ski rental, food and transportation (those of you who survived the purgatory is a white van experience will be happy to hear we discontinued this option!).

If you are interested or need further information contact Jeff Zabel (778-1457) or Kim Taylor at 517-351-5447 for additional details. This is already filling fast so plan on paying in full at the January meeting if you haven't already to keep your spot or get one.



(continued from the cover) events again, but this time from my 'sanctum sanctorum' seat high in the boughs of an evergreen tree. We had a relaxing morning and time to enjoy the bountiful feast of instant oatmeal, pop-tarts and bag-o-coffees for breakfast. Another sun shiny day, it was definite t-shirt weather. Today our hike descended back to the reservoir following a purling (murmuring) stream. It led us right by a red bedecked hunter eating his lunch with a dead squirrel beside him, talk about a loss of appetite, yuck. Many of us took a brief rest at the edge of the reservoir - another Kodak moment. What's that? I hear another animal walking below my bough, worried I'll scare it away I turn very slowly to see what it is. Click - the animal turns out to be a human - Michael Gardner who was stalking a shot of me in my tree. After arriving and setting up camp people scattered back into the woods and along the lake shore to enjoy the rest of the afternoon. But, alas, another Murphy's Law, it's starting to rain. I guess no chance of sunset shot over the reservoir tonight. I smell dinner calling...more later.....

I forgot to write more last night, but what a rowdy campfire. We had quite a sing-along with songs ranging from the 80's to girlscoot chants. This morning, after every camera was pulled from the fanny and back pack, we all gathered close for a bunch of group shots from about 15 different cameras. Then onto the trail, it was really the pathfinding adventure. There was a sprinkle of rain which left the trees wet, making it hard to distinguish the white paint slashes that marked the evasive path. When I finally saw the parking lot I didn't know if I should cheer for the upcoming dry, warmth of the car, or boo out of sadness for leaving the woods behind... to return to the rat race...I guess for now I'll cheer because the yearning in me for a hot coffee.

## Dues Notice:

Remember, it's a new year and your membership committee and editors (Lori here) want to wish you a happy SOLAR new year! Check your SOLAR membership card and see if it's time for your renewal. If you put this off you will suffer great losses....no RAY, no sponsored trips, no new exciting adventures that are planned for this year....well, you get the picture - we do require you to be dues paid for our trips! Bring your check for \$25.00 individual, \$35.00 family or perhaps (like myself) you should invest in the \$75.00 lifetime membership and avoid all the hassles of renewal. (I joined two years ago Christmas and just thought I would see how it went. Six months later I'm a co-editor on this evolving, informative publication. See what happens if you hang around.)

## Help us....

Help us keep the cost of printing down. When you come to the regular membership meeting on that first Tuesday of the month in Colony Hall, please pick up a calendar for details on the upcoming events we have planned. There are additional SOLAR RAY's out for NEW members or potential NEW members to see what we are all about. If you are not receiving your RAY there are a variety of reasons. One might be that your dues are not paid another cause could be that you have moved and we need you to fill out a change of address form. Perhaps, we could not read your application clearly and the address is entered incorrectly. Whatever the reason, let your membership committee know - see Maria and Sharon at the desk! We have made some changes this month with the list and labels so help us out !!!

#### Upcoming Event

### Go West

Come to the January meeting and hear the details (thus far) about the SOLAR trip planned for this July/August out to Colorado.

This trip is currently sponsored by Lori Love (420-2175) and is set to be taking interest sign-ups at the January meeting (and 1st installment of fee by February). At this point we're set for July 29-August 7th. This should give all of you an opportunity to at least ask for that vacation time in advance for a memorable SOLAR trip.

There is no definite cost worked out yet, but we have a plan to fly in to Denver for \$180.00 (if the Charter flight deal holds as is expected by travel agents). You will be responsible for a rental car to head just North to the Rocky Mountain National Park area campsite. We will work out car pool arrangements for members if desired.

Planned activities range from backpacking, hiking, and rock climbing. Additional highlights that I will provide optional detail for are: whitewater rafting, sightseeing and canoeing. I'm certain other things will crop up as we get closer to the date.

An itinerary will be at the January meeting for interested members. (You must be a dues paid member to attend this trip. Also, to participate in the backpacking and rockclimbing you must have successfully graduated from the SOLAR classes or prove proficiency in either to both the trip leader and a class instructor before going on the trip.)

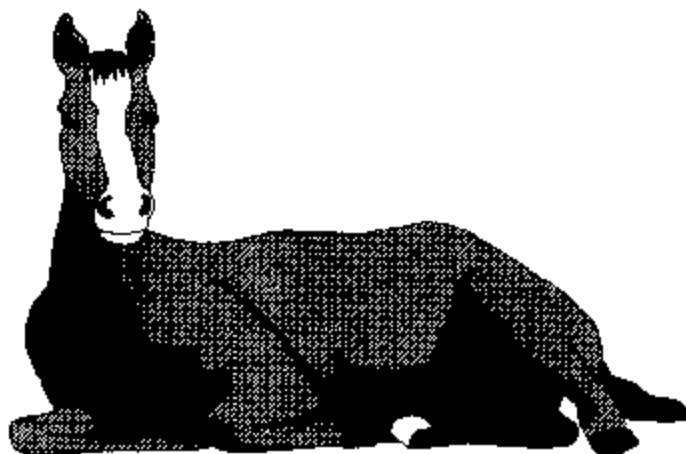
Show up at the January meeting or call Lori to express your interest. In February you'll be asked to make a SOLAR trip policy non-refundable commitment.



### For Sale:

What does everyone need at this time of year? A boat.... well, maybe you can get a jump on a great deal that absolutely must sell FAST!!!

12' Viking Row Boe: w/new oars  
call: 517-788-8494 and ask about  
this offer going for \$225.00 or B.O.



## 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, 10424 Borgman, Huntington Woods, MI 48070 or call Steve at 647-4898 or write Lori Love, RAY Editor, 42267 Old Pond Circle, Plymouth, MI 48170 or call Lori at 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 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 \$35.00 per family.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

President	Joan Goran / 356-3627
Vice-President	Dave Jones / 722-8178
Secretary	Laura Martin / 937-2913
Treasurer	Tim Stargel / 474-3242
Activities	Julie Stoignoz / 471-7444
Membership	Maria Piceno / 420-3423
	Sharon Stanek / 565-3080
Equipment	Came Hajar / 477-8606
Bylaws	Bill Stanley / 263-1973
Education	Cindy Harrison / 441-9613
SOLAR Ray	Lori Lee Love / 420-2175
	Steve Gardner / 547-4898
Historian	Pam Maxey / 687-4553
Programs	Al Fyjak / 852-7514
	Jess Harding / 375-5286
	Bob Westbrook / 356-3627
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	Moe DeFranco / 229-8283
	Larry Martin / 591-3856
	Bill Havangis / 669-1911
	Peg Campbell / 344-1260
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