

# THE RAY

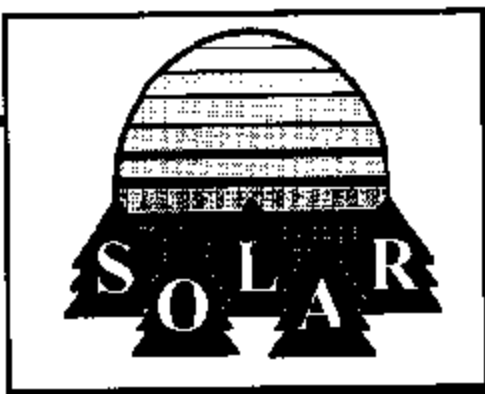
THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE AND RECREATION

## Cyberspace: A Worldwide Community For You

By: Huw Evans

In days gone by, like minded individuals often have gathered together to form groups, clubs and organizations to champion everything from breeding Yorkshire terriers to, dare I say it - *the outdoors!* Well, now your horizons are about to be expanded! The Internet has provided you and I with the opportunity to form a community not only with those who live in our own geographical neighborhood, but with like minded individuals worldwide. After a backpacking trowel, your next most essential purchase may soon be a computer.

I have recently ventured into this space and have been greatly enthused by its potential. While pondering on visiting North Carolina, I left a message on the REC.BACKCOUNTRY USENET (*these are essentially areas for leaving and receiving messaging on specific topics*) asking anyone "out there" if they could recommend any good hiking. To my surprise four people had responded to my E-Mail address the following evening, three recommended guide books, while the third suggested many hikes. Further messages to and fro provided to one cybemaut with



more specifics on types of terrain and location that interest me.

The bottom line to all this is that the Internet can be a most useful tool to many of you, not only for trip planning, but for reviews on equipment, finding climbing partners, downloading weather maps, etc... While the net is a vast labyrinth of information some USENETS which may be worth exploring are rec.backcountry, rec.birds, cre.climbing (*"rec" stands for recreation - other prefixes are "alt" for alternative and "listnet" for biological groups*). Further communication between individuals on the net is achieved using the E-mail system (electronic mail). Having started your journey through the net, your curiosity will soon lead you to FTP (File Transfer Protocol), Gophers, WAIS and VERONICA. These, and many other weird and wonderful terms are beyond our little discussion here, but suffice to say that with their assistance you could delve even further into that treasure trove known as the Internet. Access to the net can be obtained at a variety of store, most Universities will issue their students (sometimes others) with ID's, many companies are now becoming "nodes" on the net or you can do like I do and subscribe to one of the many commercial on-line services such as Delphi (800) 595-

4005. Prodigy (800) 776-3449, Compuserve (800) 848-8199, and other BBS (Bulletin Boards) are also providing access in many large cities (*"freenets" - e.g. Greater Detroit Freenet (313) 825-5293*). One should carefully research these services before subscribing as the level of participation varies considerably from service to service.

Bon Voyage, and may you all become cybemauts too!

Huw@delphi.com

Class

## Wilderness First-Aid Class

What do you do when someone on your backcountry trip becomes sick or injured and 911 is not available? Shoot them and split their gear? No, take a Wilderness First Aid Class.

In conjunction with Doug Brown, Paramedic and Owner/Operator of Michigan Search and Rescue, SOLAR is sponsoring a wilderness first aid class. The class will be held the weekend of August 12-14 at Waterloo Recreation Area near Chelsea, Michigan.

A 20-person cabin has been reserved at Waterloo for student lodging. The class will involve 16 (*continued from page 1*) hours of

## Class

# SOLAR River Canoe Class

Want to learn proper canoeing techniques on one of Michigan's swifter rivers? Then sign up for the SOLAR River Canoe Class. Classroom instruction will be held on Wednesday, July 20th at Great River Outfitters in Pontiac from 7-10 p.m.

The first practical will be on Saturday, July 23rd at Proud Lake Recreation Area. The final practical will be the weekend of July 30th -

Aug 1 on the Sturgeon River near Indian River, Michigan with rustic camping at Haakwood State Forest Campground.

The class will involve instruction on equipment, proper paddling techniques and maneuvering on swifter water rivers. The text for the class will be "The Basic Essentials of Canoeing".

The cost of the class is \$55 which includes instruction, text, camping

fee, vehicle permits, breakfasts and lunches for the Sturgeon River trip. Students must pay their own canoe rentals which are \$7.50 per person for Proud Lake and \$26.00 per person for the Sturgeon River weekend. In order to reserve canoes in advance for the class, a deposit of \$30 is due by the end of the June SOLAR meeting.

For further information contact Keith Germain at 685-1211.

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

## July

5	Tuesday	General Membership Meeting Colony Hall, Southfield, 7:30 PM; Cindy Harrison 722-3994
8-10	Weekend	Rattlesnake Provincial Park Milton Ont. Rock Climbing, etc.; Jim Young 726-8253
16	Saturday	**Skydiving Tecumseh, MI. Steve Kozmor 753-4002
17	Sunday	Fossil Hunting Arkona, Ontario Jim Gilfix 851-5289
20	Wednesday	River Canoe Class Schledeks, Pontiac Keith Germain 685-1211
23	Saturday	River Canoe Practical 1, Proud Lake Keith Germain 685-1211
29-31	Weekend	5th De France Canoe Outing Rifle River, Glennie, MI. Maureen DeFrance 229-8283
30-1	Weekend	River Canoe Practical 2, Sturgeon River; Keith Germain 685-1211
29-7	Week	Colorado Rocky Mountain Trip Lori Love, 420-2175

## August

2	Tuesday	General Membership Meeting Colony Hall, Southfield, 7:30 PM; Cindy Harrison 722-3994
5-7	Weekend	Rattlesnake Provincial Park Milton, Ont. Jim Young 726-8253
12-14	Weekend	Wilderness First Aid Class Waterloo Recreation Area, Cindy Harrison 722-3994
19-21	Weekend	Underwater Scavenger Hunt Jim Gilfix 851-5289

## September

2-11	Extended	Backpack Pukaskwa Nat'l Park Ontario, CANADA Mike Banks 425-4169
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If you would like to help plan and/or lead a SOLAR trip or activity contact Leslie Cohen at 547-5626.

\*\* Indicates a non-SOLAR sponsored trip. Included as interest information.

instruction and hands-on practical experience in wilderness first aid techniques. CPR is not required and is not included in this class. A written and practical exam will be at the end of the class. The text for the class will be the NOLS Wilderness First Aid text.

Students will be expected to begin class with designated chapters in the text read. Books will be available by the July SOLAR meeting. The times for the class will be Sat. 9 a.m. to 7 or 8 p.m. and Sun. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students can arrive anytime after 3 p.m. on Friday to claim their spot in the cabin and have a free evening if they wish, or arrive Saturday morning but must be on time.

The cost of the class is \$30 per person which includes the text, instruction, insurance fee, and cabin fee. Students must purchase their own vehicle permits for \$4 per cabin night. Students must bring their own food and camping supplies for the weekend. The cabin is rustic with bunk beds, wood burning stove, no electricity, and an outhouse.

We need at least 10 students to hold the class. If we get more than 10 students, the club will also reimburse for park vehicle permits. If we get more than 20 students, some will have to camp at Waterloo.

If you are interested in taking this class, please contact Cindy Harrison at (313) 722-3994. \$40 toward the cost of the class must be paid by the end of the June SOLAR meeting.

## People

On June 15th, 1994, Luran Alyse was born to Michele Majetic and her husband. She weighed exactly 8 lbs and was 21".

Condolences to Jill & Dave McIntyre on the loss of Jill's mother.

## Oceania Grand Buffet Dinner

Why do we always do ethnic dinners on the West side of town? Well, it's time to do one on the East side. I have heard some incredible things about this place, so let's go! It is a Chinese restaurant hosting a 100 dish buffet including things such as: mussels in black bean sauce, Szechuan chicken, stir-fried vegetable, Ma Po bean curd, soups, salads and desserts. Dinner costs about \$10. We will meet there on Monday, August 15, at 6:00 p.m. for a wonderful feast! Look for this handout at the July meeting or contact Jim Gilfix for more information 851-5289.

### Weekly Events

## Don't Just Do It

Over Do It! That's a phrase that got kicked around the club a while back. While we don't condone injuring yourself, there are some regular activities that tend to push the envelope.

Two such activities are practiced by the club on a weekly basis: Wallyball on Wednesday's and Mountain Biking on various nights depending on the group that gets together. For more information on Wallyball, contact Margaret Martin at 721-2821. For More information on Mountain Biking, call Joan Govan at 356-3626.

## Tech Tips: Rock Climbing Shoes

One of the first things rock climbers want to do is buy rock climbing shoes to give them better traction on the rocks.

"If I had to give rock climbers one piece of advice," said Sharon Stanek, a rock climbing instructor for Vertical Ventures, and the past three years with SOLAR, "it would be to not rush out and spend a \$100 on rock climbing shoes."

What is appealing about these shoes is that they have a snugger fit, stay close to your foot and have a stickier rubber sole. As compared to an athletic shoe, the rock climbing shoes enable your foot to "stick" to the rock a lot better, and your foot doesn't roll off the edges as much.

"They don't know how to use the shoes," explains Sharon. "Sure, you can stand on 1 cm. edge, but you have to learn how to do that - how to place the foot to get it so it sticks. It's all technique, you can't learn techniques overnight. It comes with climbing."

One of the misconceptions of a lot of people, is that they think they have to run out and buy specialty equipment in order to do the sport right.

"You learn better balance and better techniques without the climbing shoes," said Sharon.

How dedicated a person is to the sport and how much they climb are the two most important factors when considering when it is time to buy rock climbing shoes. Sharon suggests that experienced rock climbers buy their own harness before they invest in the shoes.

# Letters

*The following letter was received by The Ray from former members Bob and Mary Lou Armour.*

Hello to all our SOLAR friends from the mountains. It has been 5 years since we attended our last SOLAR meeting. We left Michigan in June of 1989 and moved to Vail, Colorado as some of you will remember. After receiving our last SOLAR newsletter (which we still read faithfully), we decided that it might be nice to update our many friends on the whereabouts of the Armours.

We couldn't be happier, this is a wonderful place to live. Vail is a great mountain town at 8000 ft. For those of you that are skiers, know Vail. But the summers in the mountains have been a most wonderful surprise for us. The weather is warm during the day, cool at night, and little humidity. We also appreciate the lack of bugs, especially after all those years of fighting the man-eating mosquitos in Michigan.

We are both teaching skiing in the winter months. We have been averaging about 130 hours in a season on our boards. During the summer Bob is doing a little excavation work, and Mary Lou works at the Vail Golf Club. We work only 4 days a week, which leaves plenty of time to do all those activities that the wonderful mountains have to offer. Many of those activities we introduced to us by SOLAR. We fondly remember all the trips to Rattlesnake. In fact, many of you know it was on one of those trips we decided to get married (13 years ago).

We have put to use many of the skills that we learned with SOLAR. We have belonged to Vail Mountain Rescue for 5 years. We have been on many missions, most with happy endings. We have been credited with several saved lives.

We have done lots of training with mountain rescue, including some work with the Air National Guard. You should see us rappel out of a helicopter. And we still remember our very first rappel off the edge at Grand Ledge. Bob is now one of the Board of Directors for Vail Mountain Rescue. He is one of our trainers. He is also involved with certifying other teams in the Rocky Mountain region.

This life change has afforded us the opportunity to see many wonderful places, and meet so many new friends. But we still fondly remember our days with SOLAR,

and the many friends we made. If your travels ever bring you to the Rocky Mountains, please feel free to look us up. Our best to all of our SOLAR friends.

**BOB & MARY LOU ARMOUR**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks for the great letter! I hope that my group coming to the Rocky Mountain National Park will have an opportunity to meet you both. Please call with your number beforehand to (313) 420-2175 - Lori Love so we may meet!)



# Upcoming Event

## Huron River Canoeing

Saturday June 25, we will canoe the Huron River, from Dexter to Ann Arbor (about 4 hours). This is a lazy stretch of the river and we should see lots of birds, turtles and herons. We'll eat lunch on the river (you bring it). For supper, we'll eat in Ann Arbor, wait for dark, the participate in the 1994 Ann Arbor Summer Festival Top of the Park, at the Power Center in Ann Arbor.

Cost will be about \$10 for canoeing and a Vernors. Contact Jim Gilfix at 851-5289 for more information.

# Upcoming Event

## 4th Annual Fossil Hunting Hike/Picnic

Join us Sunday July 17 for this unique outing for your family or yourself. See beautiful woods, exciting waterfalls, walk down a fossil stream and swim in the Huron River in Arkona, Ontario (about 2 hours from Royal Oak). I've sponsored this trip the past three years and everyone always has tons of fun; it's a day to remember! We will tour their museum, share a pot-luck lunch (about 1:30) then go for a hike which begins under their 35 foot waterfall, down the stream to the fossil fields. This is a FREE trip and open to all. Contact Jim Gilfix at 851-5289 for more information. (Bring your own Vernors.)

a collection of words...

he was...blinded, the sun is...bright, a star is the color of...death, life the color of...  
...WHITE

the sun is hot, the pavement is hot, the air is hot, in the stillness, the air cracked, the sky rpped, the thunder roared...it fell, it danced - in the sunlight, it danced - in the dark, it melted into the corn and wheat.

blip, blip bubble, he biked today, early, she climbed, later, they ran, these s.o.l.a.r.ites, she sat in the tub, sweat ran down her chin, she pulled the plug, blip, blip, bubble, bubble.

his day was hard, his life had tired him, his body is young, his spirit is old, he looked forward to this day, leaving the city, driving the boat, fighting the current, he anchored at the cave, he listened to the silence, he baited the hook... a fish jumped

she raised her kds, cleaned the house, fed them all, sacrificed, sacrificed...she anived at the cottage, the porch, the chair, the lake...the lake...yesssses, she smiled, admired herself in the mirror, and smiled again...the lake waited, it was clean, cool, fresh...wet

IT melted into the corn and wheat  
IT drained out of the tub.  
a fish jumped in IT.  
the lake...IT was  
WATER

the dolphin swam the tides, it moved graceful, agile, fluid, and when it needed to, it was swift, it patrolled the oceans, the valleys, the cliffs, the waterways, sometimes it rose up, broke the surface, arched its back and jumped and flew...until it ended, and the swim continued...

they hung on as they rose over the rocks, bounced past the trees, tumbled over the falls, crashed threw the light passage...blinded, hot...these were s.o.l.a.r.ites...leaving the city...smiled, and smiled again...they were...RAFTING.

WHITE WATER RAFTING was all this and more - thanks John for setting this up!  
- a review by Jim Gilfix

# Upcoming Event / Class

## Identify Butterflies Class

More than 1000 species of butterflies and moths can be found in North America, north of the U.S. - Mexico border. Some are so rare and occupy so limited a range that a great deal of time, effort and travel would be necessary for most of us to view them. But there are many butterflies that are common and widespread that we can find them almost year round. Because of their daytime presence, butterflies are generally spotted more frequently than other moth species, but moths can be found in the same areas. Come learn more about butterflies on September 11, when we will hold our first Butterfly Class at Pt. Pelee National Park. We'll meet at the nature center just in time for their Monarch migration. It's said there are millions of Monarchs this time of year. For those who like to camp, canoe, hike, fly kites, see the surf, watch birds, enjoy sunsets, have a fire and roast marshmallows. Camping on Sept. 9 in the groupcamping spot. Camping \$10.00, class is another \$15.00 for the handouts, a butterfly book and a Vernors. Sign up in July and August SOLAR meetings. Contact Jim Gilfix for more information 851-5289.

# Upcoming Event

## Underwater Scavenger Hunt

On August 19-21, in the Waterloo Area, for a yet undetermined sum, open to 30 members, come on the first ever trip of its kind for SOLAR. Scuba diving, snorkeling, games, camping, leisure hikes, mountain biking and all around fun... call JIM at 851-5289.

beach was down the bluff and this is the one I chose. The others opted to fight their way down into a pot-hole and out the front side. My way was probably easier, but more treacherous. Theirs was safer, but tougher going. We planned to meet at the opening of the pot-hole, but that turned out to be difficult to find from down below, so after waiting for about 20 minutes or so, I decided to head down the beach. I stopped for lunch and to filter water and Mike and Karen passed me, and Kieth stopped and made his own lunch.

Before long, we passed Mike and Karen again who decided that a break was probably a good idea after all. As it turned out, going along the beach was far from easy. The stones were continually shifting under our feet and the sun was merciless with only occasional stumps and deadfall to provide shade. It was only a few inches on the map, but we ended up doing about 4 miles of this. I was the first to reach the Mileski Place where we had planned to camp for the night, only to find it already pretty well populated with other campers and raccoons. When the others arrived they decided to camp up the trail a bit and this time it was me who decided to keep moving. I found a nice spot up in the pines about three miles on.

So in the morning I walked out. I passed Ron, Brian and Haley's camp again and got to the Island village quite early. I decided to drop pack and take a short hike in to the old orchard shown on my map, a couple miles round trip.

I returned to the village to find a group of people huddled around Rita, the last private resident of the Island. Several of us bought a copy of her book and she autographed it for us.

There's not much left to tell. The

boat ride back was just as calm as the ride over. We stopped at some of the shops on the pier and bought smoked fish at Carlson's then drove home.

Thanks, Mike, for putting together this trip and giving me the chance to get back in focus on North Manitou Island

#### Upcoming Event

## Its Rattlesnake Time Again

Its that time of year again, when SOLAR goes to Milton Ontario's Rattlesnake Provincial Park to climb on the cliffs, hike and bike the trails,

swim in the Kelso Lake and eat too much. You have to have taken the SOLAR rock climbing class to participate in that portion of the weekend.

Normally, the weekend trips will be planned for the first weekend after the General Membership meeting. That would be June 10-12, July 6-10 and the season finale on August 5-7 featuring the bicycle hill climb and camp cook-off. Contact Jim Young at 726-8253 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: Lori Love, RAY Editor, 42257 Old Pond Circle, Plymouth, MI 48170 or call Lori at 420-2175 or write Steve Gardner, RAY co-Editor, 10024 Borgman, Huntington Woods, MI 48070 or call Steve at 547-4998.

## 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 R & A Mile Roads at 7:30 PM SHARP. Membership dues are \$20.00 per individual and \$35.00 per family.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

President	.....	Cindy Harrison / 441-9613
Vice-President	.....	Dan Martin / 937-2913
Secretary	.....	Laura Martin / 937-2913
Treasurer	.....	Karen Fox / 380-9257
Activities	.....	Leslie Cohen / 547-5826
Membership	.....	Sharon Starek / 505-3000 * June Legarski / 366-8788
Equipment	.....	Julie Stoligrosz / 471-7444
Bylaws	.....	Mike Felix / 441-9613
Education	.....	Jim Young / 726-8253
SOLAR Ray	.....	Lori Lee Love / 420-2175 *Steve Gardner / 547-4998 *Julia Gordon / 482-1769
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		Debby Campbell / 526-5303
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		Al Fylak / 852-7514
		Bob Westbrook / 358-3627
		Mo DeFrance / 229 8283
		Bill Halvangs / 669-1911
		Jess Harding / 375-5258

\*Not elected but serving on the sub-committees indicated  
If you would like to assist with any of the above positions, call the appropriate committee chairperson.



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