

# THE RAY

THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE AND RECREATION



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

In the month of August, a small but hardy group of SOLARites ventured forth to conquer the mighty Rocky Mountains!! The following is a retelling of their story as related to me by the fearless leader-Lori Love, who as I hear it likes to put up bear bags-*Ms.Falling From Trees* herself. Heh, heh,heh....

Rather than being a conventional telling this will be a relating of terns that I am sure many of you SOLARites will be able to relate to, so read on...

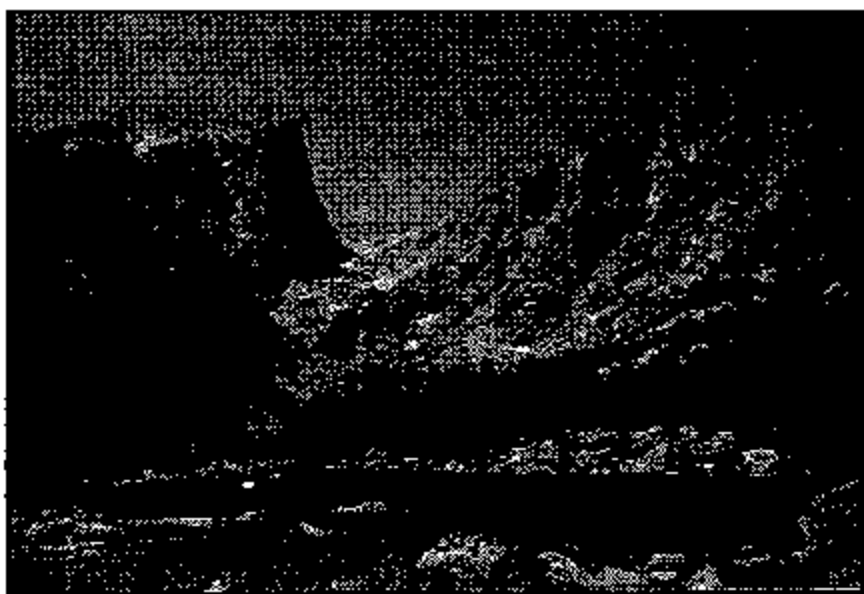
Fresh air, switchbacks, smell of outhouses, smell of tent (oh joy), 6" shovel, oatmeal, dried apricots, one mug meals, bug bites, dehydration (yes ma, I'm drinking my water), midnight potty runs in the bushes (remember deer potty rock), mummy bags, 2:00 p.m. rainstorms, sleeping on an incline, altitude sickness, blisters, deer flies, mosquitos, tree sap, laundromat, public showers, narrow rocky roads



(especially ones you can't turn around on, Lori). Christian Crusaders, GORP, hail storms, sorting gear from van (uugggh), algae clogged water filters, Stanley Steamer, Estes Park shops, Lodge people, pine trees, wild flowers, horseback riding, closeness of the clouds from the mountains, breath taking views from all sides, bright stars at night, wildlife sounds, waterfalls, rivers and lakes, aspen trees, humming birds hovering, rocks of all kinds, SUNRISES, SUNSETS over the mountains, margaritas on tap, and last and maybe the best memory of all...the

smell of pine trees after a Rocky Mountain rain storm.

I wasn't supposed to mention the names to protect them from abuse, but several funny stories have turned up. Now we all know who climbed the tree to rescue the bear bag effort, but who got it caught there in the first place, and who didn't catch the fearless leader when she jumped, hhhmm? I was also told about the adventure of the van going in the ditch, so much for being careful with the rental vehicle,eh? "Remember, it's a rental". What about the three hikers, anxious to make it to camp, that Jeff finally located about a mile out of their way *past the camp*, while Lori pitched tent. What, were they enjoying their hike in the rain?????? As SOLARites we all know there are funny and sometimes touching stories to be heard...but I tell ya, these conquerors of the Rockies sure had one wild adventure.



## The SOLAR Ray

### Staff:

#### Editor:

Steve Gardner (810) 547-4998

#### Co-Editor:

Julia Gordon (313) 475-7265

Mail Man: Tim Stangl

### Contributing Columnists:

Tech Tips: Kathleen Spring  
*Technical interviews with experts on seasonal topics*

In Profile: See "In search of"  
The Gas Lab: Teresa Savarino  
*Recipes from SOLAR Club members and other sources*  
Trip Reviews by SOLAR Club members

## People

Congratulations to Joan and Bob Westbrook on their recent nuptials.

Congratulations also to Pam Claydon and Huw Evans who have recently announced their engagement. They plan for a July '95 wedding.

Please note Julia Gordon's new phone number is (313)475-7265. Her number is incorrect in previous issues of *The Ray*.

## In Search of...

Attention all SOLARites. *The Ray* is currently looking for a new contributing columnist for "In Profile." This qualified person must be a SOLAR member, crazy enough, oops, I mean sane enough to be able to ask the wackiest questions in order to get the dirt on whoever is being interviewed. If you feel brave enough to fill this position contact Steve Gardner at (810)547-4998 or at the next SOLAR meeting.

### Class

## Enjoy Michigan Winters ...

... Without Leaving the State!

So, you think backpacking is fun and you're looking for some adventure this winter. Join fellow SOLAR members for the *Enjoy Michigan Winters Class*.

You can enhance your skills to take on winter journeys and expand 3 season backpacking into year round activity. Such techniques as keeping warm and dry in cold temperatures, cross-country skiing with a backpack, and building snow shelters will be taught.

You must have taken the backpacking class through SOLAR or have comparable experience to be eligible for this class. It is NOT a beginning level class. The dates for the class are Wednesday evenings through November with practicals in December and January.

If you can't beat the Michigan Winter, learn how to enjoy it!!! For further information call Jim Young at (810) 726-8253.

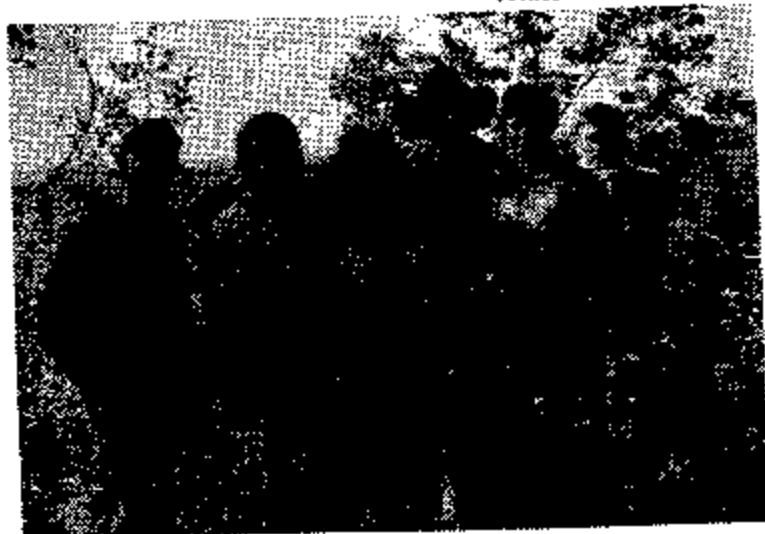
### Review

## North Country Trail nearby

By: Steve Gardner

On October 5-11, six intrepid SOLARoids ventured north to the Tahquamenon Falls area to hike a section of the North Country Trail.

Wednesday night we camped at the Lower Falls SP Campground and on Thursday we drove to the mouth of the Tahquamenon River and hiked without packs back to the campground, about 9 miles. The autumnal colors had not quite peaked when we arrived, but were absolutely stunning on our second day of hiking (this time with packs) to the Upper Falls and on to the North Country Trail as it wound its way through the bogs of the state forest area. There were places where the trail looked like a highway and you could see six blazes without moving, yet in other areas, it led us into a swamp and required us to split up and look for blazes. Saturday we hiked from our one wilderness campsite to the tranquil (except for "The Second Week of Deer Camp" in the next campsite) Culhane Lake SF Campground in the rain. Sunday we packed up and headed home, but not before stopping in St. Ignace for smoked Whitefish!



## Upcoming Program

## Hey SOLARites!

Don't forget the Photo Contest at the November 1 meeting. Here are some special things to remember:

1. Your entry must be at least 8" by 10" and must be mounted on mat board, or in a frame so it can stand up.
2. Your entry must have been taken in the last year (so pictures from the first Rattlesnake Cook-off aren't eligible).
3. Your entry must fit one of the categories: Scenic, Animal, People, or Comic.
4. Don't be late to the meeting or your entry will not be eligible for judging!

Here's how the whole thing works: Everyone brings their entries ON TIME and each entry gets a number. During the first half hour of the meeting, everyone will vote on the best one in each category. Then at the end of the meeting, there will be an awards ceremony. After the meeting, everyone must take their picture home with them. So, now it's fall with all the great colors! Get your brownies or SLR's or anything in between and shoot something!

## Class

## Go Take a Hike

... or a wilderness canoe trip, or a week long color tour on a bicycle or whatever else you may have been wanting to do and SOLAR will help you in the planning.

The SOLAR Club is offering a trip planning seminar in November. The seminar will consist of a panel of experienced trip planners in the above areas and more. We'll give you ideas on where to go, what to take, what not to take and all the other good stuff you'll want to know before putting your plan into action.

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

<b>November</b>		
1	Tuesday	General Membership Meeting, Colony Hall Southfield; Cindy Harrison-Felix (313) 722-3994
4-6	Weekend	* Camping / Day Hikes Nordhouse Dunes Steve Gardner (810) 547-4998
9	Wednesday	Winter Camping Class, Location TBA Dave Jones(313)722-8178
12	Saturday	Trip Planning Seminar I, Mike and Cindy's Cindy Harrison-Felix (313) 722-3994
16	Wednesday	Winter Camping Class, Location TBA Dave Jones(313)722-8178
<b>December</b>		
6	Tuesday	General Membership Meeting, and annual Holiday Party, Colony Hall Southfield; Cindy Harrison-Felix (313) 722-3994
TBA		Trip planning seminar II, Mike and Cindy's Cindy Harrison-Felix (313)722-3994
7	Wednesday	Winter Camping Class, Location TBA Dave Jones(313)722-8178
10-11	Weekend	Winter Camping Practical I, Island Lake State Park, Dave Jones(313)722-8178
13	Wednesday	Winter Camping Class, Location TBA Dave Jones(313)722-8178
<b>January</b>		
3	Tuesday	General Membership Meeting, Colony Hall Southfield; Cindy Harrison-Felix (313) 722-3994
13,20	Wednesday	Winter Camping Class, Location TBA Dave Jones(313)722-8178
20-22	Weekend	Winter Camping Practical II, Location TBA Dave Jones(313)722-8178

\* Denotes Non SOLAR Activity (SOLAR will not be held accountable for this activity; On calendar for informational purposes only.)

Wallyball every Monday, Contact Margaret Martin, (313) 721-2821.

If you would like to help plan and/or lead a SOLAR trip or activity, contact Leslie Cohen at 547-5626

After you've had a few weeks to put together a plan, the group will meet again to go over it with you and fine tune it if needed.

To be completely honest, our motivation here is mostly selfish. We want to get more people planning more trips for the club and figure this is a good way to get you started.

Cost for the seminar is minimal; a mere \$10, most of which you'll be getting back in the form of lunch. For more information, call Cindy Harrison-Felix at (313) 722-3994.

## 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 second Wednesday 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 Bergman, Huntington Woods, MI 48070 or call Steve at (810)547-4998 or call: Julia Gordon RAY Co-Editor at (313)475-7265, (no calls after 10:00 PM please)

## 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 \$36.00 per family.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

President	.....Cindy Hamson-Felix / (313)722-3994
Vice-President	.....Dan Martin / 937-2913
Secretary	.....Laura Martin / 937-2913
Treasurer	.....Karen Fox / (810)380-9257
Activities	.....Leslie Cohen / (810)547-5626
Membership	.....Sharon Stanek / 565-3060 * June Leganski / 386-8788
Equipment	.....Julie Stelgrosz / (810)471-7444
Bylaws	.....Mike Felix / (313)772-3994
Education	.....Jim Young / (810)776-8253
SOLAR Ray	.....Steve Gardner / (810)547-4998 * Julia Gordon / (313)475-7265
Historian	.....John Gulas / (810)574-0243
Programs	.....Margaret Martin / 721-2821
At Large	.....Joan Hettinger / 377-2377 Debby Campbell / 626-5303 Joan Gowan / (810) 356-3627 Larry Martin / 591-3856 A. Fylax / 852-7514
	.....Bob Westbrook / (810)356-3627 Mo DeFrance / 229-8283 Bill Halvargis / 689-1911 Jess Harding / (810)375-5268

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



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