

THE DRAVY

THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE AND RECREATION

Upcoming Event

What's August Rattlesnake?

A rare and native reptile only seen in the month of August? No, it's SOLAR's summer celebration at Rattlesnake Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada.

Every month from May to September SOLAR rock climbers go to Rattlesnake Prov. Park to climb. However, in August the rest of SOLAR also goes to Rattlesnake to partake in unusual ritual activities.

The "Buffalo Shuffle", which is a walk, (or run, whichever your preference) on the Bruce Trail until you see a Buffalo (and there really are Buffalo). There's also the "Hill Climb" which is a steep grade paved hill which must be ascended by bike. And of course, the famous "Cook Off". Anyone can enter this competition with a dish which must be entirely prepared in camp. The resulting Saturday night meal is a feast you'll not soon forget. Some of the previous year's winners have been "very imaginative". For added incentive, prizes are awarded for all of the Rattlesnake competitions.

There's also lots of other things to do at Rattlesnake, such as hiking, biking, swimming, volleyball, rock climbing, etc., etc. So come one come all to the "AUGUST RATTLESNAKE". Maps and directions will be available at the August SOLAR meeting.



Review

Let's Split Mike's Gear!!!!

by Cindy Harrison-Felix

What do you do when someone on your backcountry trip becomes injured? Leave 'em for the vultures and split their gear? No, do what thirteen SOLAR members did, learn first aid techniques adapted for the backcountry in the Wilderness First Aid Class. Doug Brown, Paramedic and Owner/Operator of Michigan Search and Rescue, taught this class for SOLAR at Waterloo Recreation Area the weekend of June 16-18.

Students experienced a very intense weekend of lecture, practicing first aid techniques and learning how to triage first aid scenarios. They practiced basic patient assessments and first aid treatment for everything from blisters to serious bone fractures.

The final practical involved students individually encountering "patients" in the wilderness and practicing everything they had learned in the previous two days. The class was expanded this year to include a full-blown wilderness search and rescue. Thanks to Mike Felix (the patient) and Jim Franko (the patient's family

member) who delivered outstanding performances. They provided a very life-like scenario where all the students had to work together as a group to get information from Jim while keeping him calm (and "under control"); then find Mike, provide necessary first aid, and bring him back to the "rescue headquarters"!

By the end of the weekend there was no doubt everyone had learned Doug's #1 Rule, IMPROVISE, ADAPT AND OVERCOME!!!! Thanks to all the students for a job well done, I appreciate you all saving Mike. But remember, I would have inherited all his gear anyway!

Upcoming Event

Whitewater Adventure

If you're up for some breathtaking excitement, join fellow SOLARites in West Virginia for a great whitewater rafting trip. This trip includes two fun-filled days of rafting the weekend of September 15th to 18th. The first day is on the Lower Gauley River. If that's not enough to fulfill your quest for whitewater adventure, the second day will be on the Upper Gauley. The cost of this trip is \$202.00 which includes the two days of rafting, three nights of camping, and a steak dinner on Saturday night (oh, and of course we can't forget, also included is entertainment provided by Mike Banks!) For further information contact Mike Banks at (313) 425-4169.

Upcoming Event

Sturgeon River Canoe Trip

Are you ready for a challenge? Looking for a little adventure? Then join us September 22-24 when we head up to Otsego County, near Gaylord to go canoeing on the Sturgeon River.

The Sturgeon River is one of the Lower Peninsula's most beautiful and challenging canoeing rivers. Consistently quick current and average decent of almost 14 feet per mile make it one of the fastest Lower Peninsula rivers. That, combined with tight turns, leaning trees and occasional obstructions, also make the Sturgeon a river **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR BEGINNERS**, although paddlers with basic maneuvering skills should have little trouble.

Friday and Saturday nights we'll be camping at the local KOA campground. Not only do they have A HEATED POOL AND SHOWERS, but they also have Volleyball, Nature Trails, Pool Tables, jukebox, mini golf and Flush Toilets! Saturday we'll begin at 10 a.m., bring your own lunch to have on the river, and we'll be done by 6 p.m. We'll have the traditional SOLAR POT-LUCK Saturday evening then play games, swim, relax and swap stories.

The cost, which includes camping and canoeing the Sturgeon River is \$35. Minimum is 15 people, so book early and pay early. For further information, contact Jim Gilfix at (810) 288-4739.

UPCOMING PROGRAM!

The program for the August SOLAR membership meeting will on Backpacking by Carol McCrie. Don't miss it!!!!

Upcoming Class

Backpacking Class

Have you tried camping, but find campgrounds a little too crowded? Would you like to really "get away" from it all? Do you want more physical challenge than getting out of your car and setting up your tent? Do you want to see things you can't see from your car? Then take the SOLAR Backpacking Class.

This class will teach you everything you need to know about backpacking. You'll learn about basic and "technique" equipment, trip preparation and planning, reading maps, backcountry ethics, camp techniques, etc. Even if you've backpacked before, you're bound to learn something new from those in SOLAR who have extensive backpacking experience.

The dates of the classes are Wednesdays, September 13, 20, 27, October 4 and 11. Classes are held at 6:30 p.m. at the Benchmark outfitter in Farmington. The first practical trip (the "shakedown") is an overnighter at Pinckney Recreation Area on September 30 to October 1. The final practical will be a three day trip on October 20 to 22nd. The location of the final trip is yet to be determined, however, previous destinations have been Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in the U.P. and Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania.

The cost of this class is \$55. A 50% deposit is required at the time of sign-up at the August meeting. Remember

this class is the prerequisite class for the Winter Camping Class, the Wilderness Survival Class and the Wilderness Canoe Class. So don't miss this opportunity. For further information contact Carol McCrie at (810) 229-5232.

Review

Algonquin Canoeing

By Steve Gardner's Canoe

This hanging around in a garage is okay, I guess, but it sure would be great to get out and float for a while.

Hey, here he comes! Put me on the truck and tie me down good and tight. He's putting lots of other stuff in the truck, too. This may be a nice long trip. Hey, what's this? More stuff. Oh, Marie is going with us. This is going to be GREAT! Let's go!

We're finally north of Toronto and the traffic is starting to thin out. This is really pretty country. Hey look! A "Moose Crossing" sign! Oh no! They're stopping to take pictures of it. I'm so embarrassed. We've arrived at our destination for the evening, the "Riverside Motel" in Dwight. River... that sounds promising.

Good morning! Let's go. All his friends are putting more canoes on their cars. Hi guys. It looks like you've had some experience up here. Any advice to a new comer? Keep the round side down and the open side up. Sounds like good advice. Now, off the truck and into the water. Load up the stuff and tie it in and were off into Magnetawan Lake.

The weather is cloudy but nice and the lake is quite calm. Wow, the first portage already. Untie the stuff and he and Marie strap it to their backs. He lifts me onto his shoulders and he carries me a ways. It seems only fair, I'll be carrying him a lot, too.

Back into the water at Hambone Lake. The scenery here is magnificent. The steep hills come right on down to the water's edge and continue steeply down into the water. We paddle a short ways and its portage time again.

This time its 420 meters, with lots of

ups and downs and bad footing. Don't drop me!

So this is Daisy Lake! I like it. There's lots of interesting hills and other features to explore. There's even an island and it looks like they're going to spend the night here. This place is wonderful. Just look at that sunset!

Its morning and we're off again. Another portage then we come to a meandering river through marsh and and there is "Angel Hair" grass growing all along here.

The next portage is 450 meters and he and Marie decide to make two trips, first the stuff then me again. It's not long before we're underway again, continuing our winding path down the river, into Little Misty Lake.

The west end of this lake is very shallow and marshy and there are lily pads and river grasses everywhere, but before long we get out onto the lake proper.

At the east end of Little Misty, we reach our final portage of the day; a 935 meter monster. The only real problem here is the length, and after a while we're back on the water in Misty Lake, paddling east. Hey, where are you going? The island is east, not south. Oh, that's why! A moose is grazing along the east shore of the lake. Let's see how close we can get. Look, there's a loon to! Wow, what a place!

Now we'd better look for the campsite on the island. Hey! Not that way. Oh more moose. This time it's a bull, two cows and a calf. More loons, too. There's a pair over there and one has a baby on its back. This must be why we came here. Now, to the island and camp.

Are we getting out earlier each day? It seems so. The trip back is just like the trip in, only backwards.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

August

- 1 Tuesday** General Membership Meeting, Colony Hall, Southfield. 7:30 PM
Steve Gardner (810) 547-4998
- 4-6 Weekend** **AUGUST RATTLESNAKE!!!!**
Rattlesnake Provincial Park, Milton, Ontario
Jim Young (810) 726-8253
- 11-26 Extended** Glacier National Park, Montana, Backpacking
Tom Dunn, (313) 494-5500 ext. 3008

September

- 1-5 Extended** **** Sail/Dive the Bahamas**
Joan Hettinger (810) 377-2377
- 5 Tuesday** General Membership Meeting, Colony Hall, Southfield, 7:30 PM
Steve Gardner (810) 547-4998
- Every Monday** ****Wallyball**, Bailey Rec. Center, Westland
Margaret Martin (313) 721-2821
- 13,20,27 Weds.** Backpacking Class, Benchmark, Farmington
Carol McCrie (810) 229-5232
- 8-10 Weekend** Rattlesnake Provincial Park, Milton, Ontario
Jim Young (810) 726-8253
- 15-18 Weekend** Whitewater Rafting on the Gauley River
Mike Banks (313) 425-4169
- 22-24 Weekend** Sturgeon River Canoe Trip
Jim Gilfix (810) 288-4739
- 30-Oct 1 Sat.-Sun.** Backpacking Practical I, Pinckney Rec. Area
Carol McCrie (810) 229-5232

October

- 4, 11 Wednesdays** Backpacking Class, Benchmark, Farmington
Carol McCrie (810) 229-5232
- 20-21 3-Day Wknd** Backpacking Practical II, Location TBD
Carol McCrie (810) 229-5232

**** Denotes a Non-SOLAR activity, on the calendar for informational purposes only. SOLAR will not be held responsible for this activity. SOLAR has a "No Refund" policy. However, if you are unable to attend an activity, you can "sell your spot" to another club member. If you would like to help plan and/or lead a SOLAR trip or activity, contact Leslie Cohen at (810) 547-5626.**

Routine: land, stuff up, me up, set up camp, etc., etc.

The last morning and we're up and off again. Back through the portages, but this time it's a lot smoother. Unload the stuff, then it's my turn to get back on the truck again. For the ride home, we're going by the northern route, along Lake Huron.

Back home and back in the garage, I'm looking forward to the next trip already!

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: **Cindy Harrison-Felix, SOLAR Ray Editor, 760 Central, Inkster, MI 48141** or call Cindy at (313) 722-3994.

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 \$30 individual annually, or \$100 individual lifetime.

STEERING COMMITTEE

President	Steve Gardner / (810) 547-4998
Vice-President	Tom Dunn / (313) 494-5500 ext. 3008
Secretary	Mike Banks / (313) 425-4169
Treasurer	Cindy Erickson / (313) 397-8240
Activities	Leslie Cohen / (810) 547-5626
Membership	Sharon Slanek / (313) 565-8671
Equipment	Mike Felix / (313) 722-3994
Bylaws	Julie Stollgrosz / (810) 471-7444
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	Bill Halvargis / 669-1911
	Al Fylek / 852-7514
	Joan Hettinger / (810) 377-2377

If you would like to assist with any of the above positions, call the appropriate committee chairperson.



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SOUTHFIELD MI 48037

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