

THE RAY

THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE AND RECREATION

Important Notice!

The General Membership meeting of the SOLAR Club for the month of July will be held on the **SECOND Tuesday, July 11** in order to avoid conflict with the Independence Day holiday on the fourth. The time and location of the meeting are unchanged; still 7:30 PM at Colony Hall in Southfield.

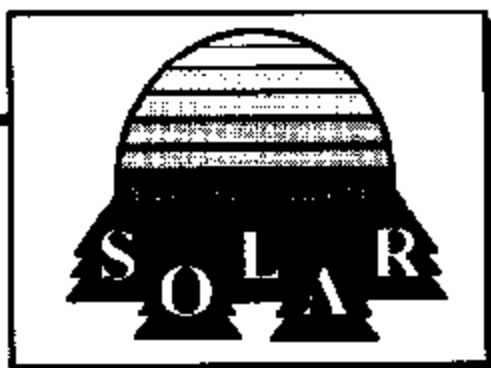
Review

Rock Climbing Class

By Jim Young

How did they get up there? What keeps them from falling off? Are they crazy? Could I do that too? Twenty-one new SOLAR climbers now know the answers to these questions about the exhilarating sport of Rock Climbing.

After the five weeks of "ground school" were completed we all converged on Rattlesnake Conservation Area in Ontario, Canada for the final practical. Each student had to put their classroom and hands-on knowledge to the test at the cliff edge in order to pass the course. Students were evaluated on basic climbing skills such as



communication and belaying as well as the advanced skills required in anchor building.

Many of the students completing the class found courage and confidence they were not sure they possessed. The weather was positively outstanding, cold nights, brisk mornings and warm sunny afternoons helped to make this class a success.

Congratulations to all of the new SOLAR Climbers. Your hard work should bring you many rewards. Thank you to all of the SOLAR instructors who helped in this class. Safe and enthusiastic new climbers is your reward.

Review

Bird Watching at Point Pelee

By Cindy Harrison-Felix

Mid-May brings the world renowned annual spring bird migration to Point Pelee National Park in Ontario, Canada. On Saturday, May 20th, six SOLARites met at our campsite at Point Pelee. The day was filled with activities including hiking, biking, canoeing, walking on the beach, etc. We had a great campsite with all the comforts of home.

Dawn broke Sunday morning and we arose to get an early jump on the bird watching. Armed with binoculars and field guides we looked like real birders.

It was a beautiful sunny day and the birds were all around. We liked the birding trails and we identified the many species including: many unidentified Warblers (we just couldn't tell all those darn little birds apart, they all looked alike!), Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager, Hairy Woodpecker, American Redstart, Northern Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Cardinal, Redwing Blackbird, Barn Swallow, American Goldfinch, Eastern Kingbird, and many more. Some even think they spotted the rare brown crested "Savario" which arrived on Sunday.

A few went to the "Tip" of the park, some walked the Marsh Boardwalk. It was a great weekend to spend with the birds. I was excited to see my favorites, the Indigo Bunting and Scarlet Tanager. In fact, my fellow birders rewarded me with a "Caution, Bird Watcher on Board" bumper sticker because of my unique style of bird watching while driving.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
NOW FOR SOLAR'S POINT
PELEE WEEKEND NEXT
YEAR. WE HAVE A
CAMPSITE RESERVED FOR
16 SOLARITES FOR
SATURDAY, MAY 18TH, .
DON'T MISS IT!!!!!!**

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 Event

Trip to Hell

Yes, we are going to HELL (as in HELL, MICHIGAN), for lunch, and

we would like you and your friends/family to join us. We are meeting on Sunday, July 2nd at noon at the DAM SIGHT INN, in Hell, Michigan.

For most of us, there's only one reason to go to Hell, just to say we've been there (and back) and maybe buy a souvenir to prove it. The Dam Sight Inn is a large wood-beamed and paneled restaurant. They say the food is good, the price is right and the atmosphere is casual. They also have a POST OFFICE, and you can get letters hand stamped with a HELL (MI) postmark, if you like.

After going to Hell we'll drive south to the Pinckney Recreation Area and meet at the Parking lot at Silver Lake. We'll bike the CROOKED LAKE TRAIL, which is 5 miles and takes about 2 hours. It's rated as a Moderate bike trail. It is also a pleasant walk that traverses hardwood forests, marches, and grassy hillsides.

Now after reading all this you may be tempted to say that you'll be damned if you'll ever go to Hell, but give it a try. It's a hell of a place, and you can find out what in hell is going though you probably won't want to spend eternity there, besides it will be a fun SOLAR trip. Sign up is not needed. For further information, contact Jim Gilfix at (810) 288-4739.

Upcoming Event

5th Annual Fossil Hunt at Arkona

Join us Sunday, July 16th 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, Canada (about 2 hours from Royal Oak). We'll 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 (810) 288-4739 for more information. (P.S. Bring your own Vernors!)

Review

Pelee Island

On June 3rd, Jim Gilfix led a group of SOLARites to Pelee Island, the Southern most point of all Canada.

We arrived at the winery at 10:45 a.m. after a relaxing ferry ride and the winery shuttle. The tour was excellent, the movie was informative, the 5 wines were mostly dry. We received a free wine glass then cooked our own lunch on their large grills.

Erin sought their "bubbles". Cindy (SOLAR treasurer) kept track of the money, while Keith drove us to the beach (a car was needed) for a refreshing swim, except for Natalie who forgot to close her mouth.

The weather was clear and sunny, and the company couldn't be beat. But alas, no Vernors.

Review

Rafting the New River

The "Yuppy" of Rafting Trips. We arrived at the ACE Whitewater camping spot May 26 and set up, had a large campfire and looked forward to our day in the sun.

Saturday, after a large gourmet breakfast (provided by ACE) we saw the sights. Hawk's Nest State Park, their tram, hiking, a snack lunch at the place (continued on Page 3)

For Sale

Small Parawing, 14 feet on the diagonal, square, tan ripstop nylon, lots of extra tie points. Stuff sack, ropes and stakes included. All for \$80. Call Steve Gardner at (810) 547-4998.

Eureka Tents

* **Wind River II**, 2 person, 3+ season, dome, 8 lbs, excellent condition, \$145 or best offer.

* **Wind River IV**, 4 person, 3+ season, never used, \$199 or best offer.

* **Clip Flash Lite Tent**, 2 person, 3 season, 4 lbs \$95 or best offer.

Slumberjack Sleeping Bag, zero degree, \$75 or best offer. Call Matthew Dalton (810) 227-0720.

Upcoming Event

DeFrance Canoe Weekend

Join the DeFrances July 28-30 for canoeing on the AuSable River. The weekend includes: camping at the DeFrance cabin, group breakfast on Sunday, 4-5 hours of canoeing on Sunday, campfire, volleyball, hiking, swimming, etc. All this for \$16. This is a non-SOLAR event so bring your friends. A potluck dinner on Saturday is the tradition. Contact Maureen DeFrance at (810) 229-8283.

Upcoming

Rafting the Gauley

Interested in Whitewater rafting on the Upper and Lower Gauley River in West Virginia? Mike Banks is leading a trip the weekend of September 15-17th. For further information call him at (313) 425-4169.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

July

- 1-4 Weekend** **Wilderness Canoe Practical II**, Algonquin Prov. Park, Mike Felix (313) 722-3994
- 2 Sunday** **Trip to Hell (MI) & Bike/Hike at Pinckney**
Jim Gilfix (810) 288-4739
- 11 Tuesday** **General Membership Meeting**, Colony Hall, Southfield, 7:30 PM
Steve Gardner (810) 547-4998
- 14-16 Weekend** **Rattlesnake Provincial Park**, Milton, Ontario
Jim Young (810) 726-8253
- 16 Sunday** **5th Annual Fossil Hunt**, Arkona, Canada
Jim Gilfix (810) 288-4739
- 28-30 Weekend** ****6th Annual DeFrance Canoe Outing**, A.J. Sable River, Maureen DeFrance (810) 229-8283

August

- 1 Tuesday** **General Membership Meeting**, Colony Hall, Southfield, 7:30 PM
Steve Gardner (810) 547-4998
- 4-6 Weekend** **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
- 15-17 Weekend** **Whitewater Rafting on the Gauley River**
Mike Banks (313) 425-4169
- September 22-24** **Sturgeon River Canoe Trip**
Jim Gilfix (810) 288-4739

** 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.

Rafting (continued from Page 2)

called "Ain't You Et Yet?" mmm mmm good. Some of us found a "secret" swimming hole and played in the rocks the pools of hot water and over the falls, small ones. Saturday dinner was a feast (ACE provided) and we had another bon fire.

Sunday, after another huge breakfast (SOLAR sure does eat well), we set off rafting. The river was 2 feet high. It was fast, wet and pleasantly warm. Some boats flipped, and some went overboard, all had a grand time. A hot lunch on the river, mountain biking back at camp and friendly service assured us to return for another trip.

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, 780 Central, Inkster, MI 48141** or call Cindy at (313) 722-3994. If you prefer, you may E-Mail to Steve Gardner at sgardner@cerfnet.com.

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 Coony 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 Stanek / (313) 555-3080
Equipment	Mike Felix / (313) 722-3994
Bylaws	Julia Stodigrosz / (810) 477-7444
Education	Jim Young / (810) 725-8253
SOLAR Ray	Cindy Harrison-Felix / (313) 722-3994
Historian	John Gules / (810) 574-0243
Programs	Margaret Martin / (313) 721-2821
At Large	Cindy Harrison-Felix / (313) 722-3994
Bob Westbrook / (810) 356-3627	Joan Westbrook / (810) 356-3627
Mo DeFrance / 229-8283	Larry Martin / 591-3856
Bill Halvargis / 669-1911	Al Fytak / 852-7514
	Joan Hettinger / (810) 377-2377

*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



SOLAR CLUB
P O BOX 2438
SOUTHFIELD MI 48037

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SOUTHFIELD, MI
PERMIT NO 188



The Ray is printed on 50%
recycled paper stock.

SOLAR
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EUGENE CORDOVA & LESLIE COHEN
14520 BORMAN
CAK PARK MI 48237