

THE IRAY

THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE AND RECREATION

Class

Canoe Clinic

Have you ever wanted to experience the glamour, adventure, and prestige of being able to get in a canoe and paddle in a straight line without rolling over? Come on down to the soon to be infamous SOLAR Canoe Seminar on beautiful Lake Braemar. You will learn canoe basics, safety, and incident recovery techniques. This is also an introduction to the fun, and adventure of watersports with your fellow SOLARites.

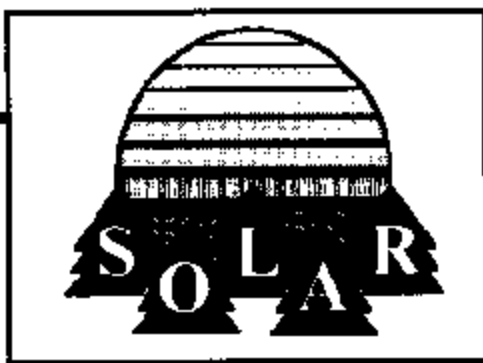
On the side there will be lectures on fishing hints, how to sleep in the stern while making the bow man feel guilty, and a pot-luck picnic. Sunday, June 4th, 1:00 PM. Be there; aha.

For further information call Douglas Lanyk at (810) 634-4551. P.S.: We need canoes. If you can help, please call.

Class

Wilderness Canoe Class

Back by popular demand, it's the SOLAR Wilderness Canoe Class. This class will cover topics needed for an extended trip, including paddling and portage techniques, canoe loading, portage knot-craft, specialized equipment, emergency repair and a host of other topics to make your trip up the river a



success.

Classes will be held on Wednesdays, May 31, June 7, 21, and 28 starting at 6:30 PM. All classes will be at The Benchmark except June 7, which will be at Mike and Cindy's place. There are also two practicals associated with the class. The first will be Saturday, June 10 at Island Lake Recreation Area. The second will be an extended weekend, July 1-4 to Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario.

Cost of the class is expected to be \$65, not including canoe rental at Algonquin. Sign ups will be taken at the May meeting. For more information, call Mike Felix at (313) 722-3994.

Upcoming Event

5th Annual Fossil Hunt at Arkona

Join us Sunday, July 16 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). Jim Gilfix has sponsored this trip the past four 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 (810) 288-4739 for more information. (Bring your own Vernors!)



Wow! Huge letters, a wierd font, and big arrows on the front page. This must really be big news.

Just this ... 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.



Class

Wilderness First Aid

Insert obligatory joke about dividing up the dead guy's stuff here.

But if you're tired of joking about it and want to really be able to do something about it, you'll want to take the Wilderness First Aid class offered by SOLAR and taught by Doug Brown.

The class will be held the weekend of June 17-18 at Waterloo Recreation Area. Prior to the class, students are expected to have the required reading in the text completed and be prepared for a full day of instruction on Saturday and more instruction and practical exercises on Sunday. By all accounts of last year's class this is THE class to take. Mr. Brown is an engaging and interesting instructor as he blends class room material with related stories from his experiences.

Cost of the class is \$85 and includes the NOLS text. There are a few spaces still available, but be prepared to pay in full at the June meeting. For more information call Jim Young at (810) 726-8253.

Class

Land Navigation Class

Lester Mck will be teaching a land navigation course covering the basic and intermediate skills for orienteering and wilderness navigation. The two indoor classes of this course will be held at The Benchmark on June 7th and 14th (Wednesdays). The outdoor practical has been changed to June 24th (Saturday).

The cost is \$30 and must be paid in full at the May or June SOLAR meeting. If you have signed up for the course and cannot pay at the May meeting, please call Lester so he can reserve your space.

There are only a few openings for this course and priority will be given to those who are going wilderness backpacking this summer. Please call Lester at (519) 256-0324 for more information. Ed. Note: That's not a typo in the area code. Lester lives in Windsor.

Class

Identify Wildflowers

Saturday June 17th we will meet at the Nature Center at Kensington Metro Park at 10 AM SHARP. We will use the book "The Peterson's First Guide to Wildflowers" which is mandatory. The class cost is \$10 which includes the text, handouts, and a Vernors. You MUST pay in full at the June meeting. you are encouraged to pack a lunch and join us afterwards for fun in the sun, kite flying and such. Call Jim Gilfix for more information at (810) 288-4739.

Equipment Review

The Stuff Sack

You've all had the experience. You know; the one where a particular piece of your gear performs so well you feel like bragging to everyone about how clever you are for choosing it over the competition.

Or, maybe not. Perhaps the piece of gear in question just plain fell short of what you expected it to do.

In either case, *The Ray* is providing you with a forum to let the world know what you think. This column, "The Stuff Sack", is your opportunity

to share the benefit of your experience with all your SOLAR pals.

Here's one to start you off:

Equipment Review: Cand-Oil Candle Lantern retrofit-kit

Review By: Steve Gardner

It was supposed to be a great idea. The Cand-Oil retrofit kit contains a reservoir to be filled with common lamp oil into which a wick is suspended through a brass fitting. A cap fits over the brass fitting to prevent oil from spilling all over your pack.

The instruction sheet recommends a wick height of about 1/16". This seemed fine when the lamp was first lit. The little light gave off the familiar glow just fine for about 10 minutes. Then the brass fitting started to get hot. As near as I can figure, this caused a "thinning out" of the lamp oil in the wick, causing it to draw more quickly and the lamp began to smoke like crazy. No big deal, I figured I'd just blow out the lamp, shorten the wick (a process that can't be done with the lamp lit) and re-light the lamp. This worked fine and the lamp burned cleanly for the remainder of the evening.

The next night, I went to light the lamp again, but with the shortened wick, I couldn't get it to catch. It seems that there is no happy medium for this thing. Either it lights well and burns smoky, or you have to adjust the wick after having lit it which is not a simple process. I can't say as though I'd recommend this thing. Stick with candles.

If you have a piece of equipment you would like to review, or if you would like to assist *The Ray* staff by co-ordinating this column, contact Cindy Harrison-Felix at (313) 722-3994.

People

We would like to extend sincere condolences to **Moreen DeFrance** on the passing of her mother.

Upcoming Event

A Day on Pelee Island

Join the SOLAR Club as we head off to the Southern-most point in all of Canada, Pelee Island.

Plan to arrive in Lemington, Ontario (Highway 3 out of Windsor) at 8:30 am on June 3 to board the ferry to the island. This is the **ONLY** ferry, so don't be late! Cost of the boat ride is \$10 round trip plus \$5 for a bike or \$21 for a car, neither of which are needed.

Once on the island we will be taking a tour of one of Ontario's most picturesque wineries, attend a wine seminar, and a tasting of 5 wines (\$6). Also plan on about \$7 for lunch.

We will be done at the winery around 2 PM and the ferry back is at 4 PM, so we can walk to the petting zoo, playground, trading post, pheasant farm, nature reserve (2 miles), the beach (3.5 miles) or the lighthouse (8.5 miles you may want to rent a bike for this).

Call Jim Gilfix at (810) 288-4739 for more information. (Keep trying, the answering machine is on medical leave.)

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

June

- 3 Saturday** Hike/Bike/Zoo/Winery trip, Pelee Island, Ontario
Jim Gilfix (810) 288-4739
- 4 Sunday** Basic Canoe Seminar, Holly, MI
Doug Lanyk (810) 634-4551
- 6 Tuesday** General Membership Meeting,
Colony Hall, Southfield, 7:30 PM
Cindy Harrison-Felix (313) 722-3994
- 7 Wednesday** **PADI SCUBA Review
Joan Hettinger, (810) 377-2377
- 10 Saturday** Wilderness Canoe Practical I, Island Lake
Mike Felix (313) 722-3994
- 7,14 Wednesday** Land Navigation Class, The Benchmark,
Lester Mok (519) 256-0324
- 7,21,28 Wednesdays** Wilderness Canoe Class,
Mike Felix (313) 722-3994
- 9-11 Weekend** Rattlesnake Rock Climbing, Milton, Ontario
Jim Young (810) 726-8253
- 16-18 Weekend** Wilderness First Aid, Waterloo Recreation Area
Jim Young (810) 726-8253
- 24 Saturday** Land Navigation Practical, Pinkney Rec. Area,
Lester Mok (519) 256-0324

July

- 1-4 Weekend** Wilderness Canoe Practical II, Algonquin Prov.
Park, Mike Felix (313) 722-3994
- 11 Tuesday** General Membership Meeting,
Colony Hall, Southfield, 7:30 PM
Cindy Harrison-Felix (313) 722-3994
- 16 Sunday** 5th Annual Fossil Hunt, Arkona, Canada
Jim Gilfix (810) 288-4739

Upcoming

- August 11-25** Glacier National Park, Montana, Backpacking
Tom Dunn, (313) 494-5500 ext. 3008
- September 1-5** ** Sail/Dive the Bahamas
Joan Hettinger (810) 377-2377

** Denotes a Non-SOLAR activity, on the calendar for informational purposes only. SOLAR will not be held responsible for this activity.

WalleyBall every Monday, Baily Center, Westland. Contact Margaret Martin (313) 721-2321.

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) 547-5526.

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. 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 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 Stanek / (313) 565-3080 |
| | * June Legarski / (313) 386-8788 |
| Equipment | Mike Felix / (313) 722-3994 |
| Bylaws | Julie Stelagrosz / (810) 471-7444 |
| Education | Jim Young / (810) 726-8253 |
| SOLAR Ray | Cindy Harrison-Felix / (313) 722-3994 |
| | * Julia Gordon / (313) 475-7265 |
| Historian | John Gulas / (810) 574-0243 |
| Programs | Margaret Martin / (313) 721-2821 |
| At Large | Joan Hettinger / (810) 377-2377 |
| | Bob Westbrook / (810) 356-3527 |
| | Joan Westbrook / (810) 356-3527 |
| | Mo DeFrance / 223-8263 |
| | Larry Martin / 591-3856 |
| | Bill Halvargis / 669-1911 |
| | Al Fyjak / 352-7514 |

*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

FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SOUTHFIELD, MI
PERMIT NO 188



The Ray is printed on 50%
recycled paper stock.

SOLAR
m e m b e r

ALCANTARA CORP. & ALCANTARA CORP.
14570 WOODHART
OAK PARK MI 48037