

THE DAILY

THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE AND RECREATION

Review

Yeah, But We Went Anyway

By Steve Gardner

Ring ... Ring ... Hello, Steve? This is Margaret (Martin). I was just wondering what your plans were considering the interesting weather. Ten minutes ago it was raining, and now it's snowing. Are we still going to have the class trip to Kensington?

Well, this is SOLAR. What do you think? Weather advisories notwithstanding, four intrepid SOLARoids braved the elements and went out on Sunday, April 9 for the field day for the 'Intro to Better Photography' class.

The four of us, Margaret, Tom Dunn, Matthew Dalton and myself, met a little behind schedule at the nature center. Matthew suggested doing a particular trail, implying we'd be more likely to see deer when Tom broke in, saying, "What's wrong with that one?" and the day just got better from there. Beside the numerous deer sightings, there was ample opportunity to interact with the many birds and get a great many photographs (that IS why we had this trip, Tom).

A great day for a hike, for pictures, for meeting with friends, for feeding birds, for lemon bars, for Champs bar, and in fact for just about everything except driving.



Go figure. We've had more snow locally in April than we had in January, but three rolls of film and a handful of sunflower seeds later, the four of us have some great photographs and some great memories.



At Kensington MetroPark, Tom Dunn demonstrates the difficult task of looking dignified with a little bird sitting on your hat.

Upcoming Event

Rafting on the New River

Memorial Day weekend 1995 will find SOLAR headed to West Virginia for white-water rafting on the New River with ACE Rafting Company.

The cost of the trip is \$140 and includes one day of rafting with an expert guide in each boat, several meals: 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, and 1 lunch, and three days worth of camping. And since this is a Jim Gilfix trip, you'll get your very own Vernors! If you prefer to "rough it" on the river, but not in the campground, some space may be available in the chalet for \$170 for the weekend. The Chalet will only be available if six people sign up for it. There are 3 double beds and you are not allowed to cook inside.

Other opportunities for SOLAR style entertainment in the area include mountain biking (including rentals if needed), volleyball, bass fishing (right at the campground!) and a

semi-organized hiking trip on the rock infested, waterfall encumbered, and cave encrusted trails in the area. ACE has their own 1300 acre resort/outdoor center.

For more information on this trip, call Jim Gilfix at (810) 288-4739, or see him at the March and April SOLAR meetings. Jim will have explicit directions at the May SOLAR meeting. The trip is limited to 18. The first 17 that pay in full will go. This trip will probably fill quickly, so be sure to reserve your spot early.

Upcoming Event

Adventure Announcement

Sometime in August, (actual dates will be determined by those involved) a group of SOLARites will board the Amtrak train in Detroit. Traveling west, the group will experience a brief layover in Chicago. Continuing on our journey, we will disembark at 51° 35' N, 120°

00' W at approximately 10:00 PM after a 46 hour train extravaganza. Those adventurous souls will spend a night's respite at a picturesque lodge. Upon awakening, the group will board a bus and travel north approximately 50 miles. This scenic route is appropriately named "Going to the Sun Highway". After five days of backpacking through some of the most spectacular alpine scenery in North America, the group will board the "Empire Builder" for the return trip to Detroit.

Bring your cameras and plenty of film. This might be your only opportunity to photograph a bear in The Valley of the Grizzlies.

The total length of the trip should be about 10 days (including a weekend or two) and cost for the trip is estimated at \$400 to \$500. For more specifics contact Tom Dunn at (W) (313) 494-5500 ext. 3008 or (H) (810) 471-9163.



Editorial

Reformat - Again

Its like they say in that old Barbershop Quartet song "When Everything Old is New Again".

Honest. The smaller format was supposed to save us money. And for the first month, it did. Then our printer found a new way to figure the charges and in April the production cost doubled. So we're back to the large format, and have a new printer. (Trick me once, shame on you. Trick me twice, shame on me!)

But format changes aren't the only new thing going at *The Ray*. You may have noticed that there is an E-Mail address for SOLAR Ray Editor, Steve Gardner, on the back of the newsletter. Here it is again

sgardner@cerfnet.com

This, actually, is the preferred method for receiving submissions to *The Ray*, as it means that you type it in, not me. But, any submissions are still welcome, of course. I'd rather type for two hours than publish a blank newsletter.

And one more piece of newsletter news. I've just installed a new color scanner on my computer system. The photos you see in *The Ray* were first scanned then printed then photocopied. That's three levels of filtering that doesn't do any photograph any good, but it beats the old way, or no photos at all. If you would like to use the scanner for a project, give me a call and we'll set up a time. The scanned images are absolutely beautiful on screen. It's the printing processes that make them suffer.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

May

- 2 Tuesday** General Membership Meeting, Colony Hall, Southfield, 7:30 PM
Cindy Harrison-Felix (313) 722-3994
- 3 Wednesday** Rock Climbing Class, The Benchmark
Sharon Stanek (313) 565-3080
- 4 Thursday** **PADI SCUBA Review
Joan Hettinger, (810) 377-2377
- 6-7 Weekend** Rock Climbing Practical II, Rattlesnake Prov. Park, Ont.; Sharon Stanek (313) 565-3080
- 10,24,31 Wednesdays** ** PADI Open Water Diver
Joan Hettinger, (810) 377-2377
- 19-21 Weekend** North Manitou Island Backpack, Leland, MI
Mike Banks, (313) 425-4169
- 20-21 Weekend** Bird Migration / Camping trip, Pt. Pelee Provincial Park, Ont.; Cindy Harrison-Felix (313) 722-3994
- 26-29 Weekend** North Manitou Island Backpack, Leland MI
Leslie Cohen (810) 547-5626
- 26-29 Weekend** White Water Rafting, New River, WV
Jim Gilfix (810) 288-4739

June

- 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
- 7,14 Wednesday** Land Navigation Class, The Benchmark.
Lester Mok (519) 256-0324
- 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

Upcoming

- August** 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) 721-2821.

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.

Class

Wilderness First Aid

Insert obligatory joke about dividng 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. Be prepared to pay in full at the May general membership meeting. For more information on this excellent class, call Jim Young at (810) 726-8253.

Upcoming Event

Bird Migration at Point Pelee

Point Pelee National Park in Lemington, Ontario, Canada is known as one of the best locations in North America to observe the northward migration of birds.

The total number of bird species recorded at Point Pelee is 347, of which 328 species have been recorded for the spring migration period. May is the month dear to the hearts of most birders, since it is possible to see more species at the height of migration than at any other time of year. For the past few years, SOLAR members have gone to Point Pelee to experience this event by spending a day at the park.

This year, SOLAR is among the privileged few to have a campsite at the park during the peak of the spring bird migration. The advantage of camping at the park (for those hard-core birders) is crawling out of your tent at the crack of dawn and jumping right on the trail to spot those "early birds" before the day crowd of bird watchers hits.

So join SOLAR on May 20th-21st for this special event. There are also lots of other things to do at the park like biking, canoeing, and miles of beach to enjoy. So bring your camping/hiking/biking/beach/bird watching/picture-taking stuff and join us! For further information contact Cindy Harrison-Felix at (313) 722-3994.

Upcoming Events

Twice the Fun on North Manitou Island

In order to avoid the holiday rush, Mike banks is planning a trip to North Manitou Island for the weekend of May 19-21.

Leslie Cohen wants an extra day for her trip, so she planned one for the following weekend, Memorial Day, May 26 - 29.

Choose whichever suits you, or do both! The die-hards have one other option: to go over to the island with Mike, stay the week and come back to the mainland with Leslie!

On either trip, you'll be treated to a wilderness camping experience you'll not soon forget. The Island has a wide variety of natural beauty as well as an interesting human history, as evidenced by the interesting place names and ruins returning to nature scattered across the island. You'll also want to take a few extra dollars to spend in Leland's "Fish-Town": Carlson's Fishery alone is worth the trip.

Cost of either trip will be \$18 which will cover the boat ride over to the Island. There is no cost for camping on the Island, but campfires are restricted to the firepits in the village campground, so take your stove and fuel. Also, the only potable water on the island is at the ranger station by the dock, so you'll need a filter. And one last word to the wise; there are no outhouses on the island, either. 'Nuff said.

For more information on Mike's trip, call him at (313) 425-4169. For more information on Leslie's trip call her at (810) 547-5626.

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; aloha.

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 8:30 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.

Class

Land Navigation Class

Lester Mox 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.*



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: Steve Gardner, RAY Editor, 10024 Borgman, Huntington Woods, MI 48070 or call Steve at (810) 647-4998 or E-Mail to 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 \$50 individual annually, or \$100 individual lifetime.

STEERING COMMITTEE

President	Cindy Harrison-Felix / (313) 722-3994
Vice-President	Tom Dunn / (313) 494-5500 ext. 3008
Secretary	Mike Banks / (313) 425-4169
Treasurer	Karen Fox / (810) 380-9257
Activities	Leslie Cohen / (810) 547-5626
Membership	Sharon Stanek / (313) 565-3080 * June Legarski / (313) 388-8788
Equipment	Julie Stogrosz / (310) 471-7444
Bylaws	Mike Felix / (313) 722-3994
Education	Jim Young / (810) 726-9253
SOLAR Ray	Steve Gardner / (810) 547-4998 * Julie Gordon / (313) 475-7265
Historian	John Gulas / (810) 574-0243
Programs	Margaret Martin / (313) 721-2621
At Large	Joan Hettinger / (810) 377-2377 Bob Westbrook / (810) 356-3627 Joan Westbrook / (810) 356-3627 Mo DeFrance / 229-8283 Larry Martin / 561-3856 Bill Hahangis / 689-1911 Al Fytak / 852-7514

*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



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