

THE IDA

THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE AND RECREATION

Upcoming Event

November at Nordhouse

It's that time of year again when Steve Gardner heads out into the Wilderness Area at Nordhouse Dunes and camps on the Lake Michigan lakeshore. Dates for this year's trip are November 10-12.

This is NOT a group backpacking trip. The plan is for individuals to try their hand at solo backpacking, or in small groups. The National Forest prohibits groups of more than eight. Also, there is car camping available for about \$9 per campsite. Standard backcountry rules apply for camping in the wilderness area. Backpacking experience is required for this trip. Call Steve at (810) 547-4998 for more information.

Upcoming Class

Cross County Ski Class: Introduction to the V-1 Skate

This is not a ski racing class, however, you should have experience in classical (diagonal stride) technique and/or good aerobic capacity through participation in sports activities such as in-line skating, running, bicycling, etc.



This is a two-part class. Part 1 will be held on Saturday, December 9th. There will be a demonstration of total ski preparation, from obtaining a flat base to applying wax. We will discuss snow conditions, basic equipment for skate skiing, and the best places to rent/purchase your skis, poles, and boots.

Part 2 will be an on-snow clinic at Forbush Corners near Grayling. You can rent equipment there or other shops nearby. The date is Sunday, January 21st from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We will go over the V-1 skate, and look at proper pole positioning, posture, rhythm, edging and glide. We will also look at how to adjust the V-1 skate to match specific trail terrain, and how to use a variant of the V-1 skate to tackle those wonderful up hill accents.

The cost will probably be about \$25.00. Class size is limited to 12. Please contact me, Michael Mannebach at (810) 682-3995 if you are interested or sign up at the November General Membership Meeting.

Upcoming Event

Second Annual Photo Contest

Hey, all you photo folks! Bring your best shot (photographs) to the November meeting for the second annual photo contest.

All entries must be 5"x7" or larger, and must be on matt board, in a frame or on a piece of poster board. You may enter up to 4 pictures. All pictures must have been taken within the last year.

The entire club will vote on the winners in the following categories: most scenic, best animal, best people, or most humorous.

So, bring those photos to the November meeting and remember, the voting is at the beginning of the meeting, so make sure you're there early!

SOLAR Swap and Sell Night

Remember that the November SOLAR General Membership Meeting is also the time for the annual swap and sell. Bring to the meeting any of your outdoor gear that you want to trade or sell. Let go of those things you never use anymore and find some stuff you've been looking for.

Review

Marching through Miles of Montana Mud.*by Tom Dunn*

The trip to Glacier National Park in Northwestern Montana is a leisurely two day ride on Amtrak. The eight SOLAR members took advantage of Amtrak's hospitality to read, sleep and do needlepoint.

We arrived at West Glacier, Montana late Saturday night. The motel we stayed at was located right at the train station. Unfortunately, we couldn't get backcountry permits more than 24 hours in advance so it took us several days to put our specific trip itinerary together.

We went into the backcountry from the western side of the park. A small herd of mule deer greeted us as we pitched our tents at the western end of Bowman Lake. The rangers said that 1995 was the wettest summer in memory. We found that out the hard way. The trail along Bowman Lake is seven miles long with no elevation gain. Easy, right. Wrong, most of the trail was covered with ankle-deep slimy mud.

The path up to Brown's Pass is 6.5 miles gaining 2,200 feet in elevation. The hike took all day with frequent stops for rest and photography. We were greeted by a herd of mule deer bucks when we arrived at the top of the pass. These deer were very inquisitive, especially at meal times. After we pitched our tents, I hung some clothes out to dry. The deer started eating my sweatshirt for the salt content. We made sure that all backpacks, clothing, anything that had any sweat on it was in the tents that night.

We awoke the next morning to the sight of the dominant buck (14 points) leisurely going through our camp. Breaking camp, we headed to

Lake Janet, a mere 5 miles away, downhill! A cold light misty rain stayed with us all day. We cooked our dinner, sheltered from the hail storm by the SOLAR parawing.

The next day found us on the trail headed to Goat-Haute where we were supposed to spend two nights camping. Instead, we took the water taxi across Waterton Lake to spend two nights in the town of Waterton. We needed to dry out our gear as well as some R & R.

The next day, Carol, Margaret and myself were having lunch at an outdoor cafe when a herd of bighorn sheep came parading down mainstreet. We left Waterton in a tourist bus better known as a jammer. The trip to Many Glacier Montana was beautiful. We stopped to photograph black bears feeding near the side of the road. We camped three nights at the Many Glacier campgrounds with a series of day hikes and relaxation as our agenda. One day hike took us to a beautiful lake at the base of a glacier. Iceberg Lake has ice all year long. I could not resist the temptation to wade out into the frigid water to walk barefoot on an iceberg. Leaving Many Glacier on another jammer bus took us across the continental divide at Logan's

Pass. We watched a grizzly bear feeding in an alpine meadow from a safe distance (150-200 yards). A park shuttle bus took us back to our motel at West Glacier. Dinner was a western style bar-b-que, accompanied by a small family string band. Six of us took advantage of the hot tub at the motel to soothe our sore muscles and bones.

Upcoming Event**Labor Day Week, 1996**

Yes, 1996. I am already working on next year's trips. Late next summer we're going to the boundary waters area of northern Minnesota/Canada. We'll enjoy a week of wilderness canoeing including everyone's favorite, portaging. This is a wilderness canoe trip, however, only some basic canoeing experience is required. I will be contacting the outfitters by January. Reservations are necessary. If you're interested contact me, Tom Dunn, at (313) 494-4212 (w), (313) 494-4208 (fax), (810) 471-9163 (h).



ATTENTION SOLAR SURFERS

Not the wind kind, but the internet variety. Check out this internet address as a resource for valuable outdoor information:

HTTP://www.nissanmotors.com/pathfinder/

Upcoming Event

Laser Quest

First there was Phazerland, now there's Laser Quest! You and your family, friends and kids are invited to the 1st non-SOLAR sponsored LASER QUEST evening. Friday, November 17th at 6:40 p.m. on John R between 13 and 14 mile roads. The cost is \$12.00 for two games. You must prepay no later than the SOLAR General Membership Meeting on November 7th. You must be on time to play because we go in as a group. You must think of your own "code name". We play in an 8,000 sq. ft. maze with three levels. You will be given a score card after each game. For further information, contact Jim Gilfix at (810) 539-0489.

Congratulations!

Jeff Telford and Betsy Broesamle were recently engaged. Best wishes for their lives together.

Upcoming Event

Orienteering - a cheap thrill?

You bet! This is an encore presentation of the orienteering event held a month ago. Come and "get lost" with Lester - cheap! Huh...no Lester is not the cheap thrill, but the event is.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

November

- 3 Friday** Japanese Ethnic Dinner - Akasaka - Livonia
Margaret Martin (313) 721-2821
- 7 Tuesday** General Membership Meeting, Photo Contest, and Swap and Sell, Colony Hall, Southfield
7:30 PM Steve Gardner (810) 547-4998
- 10-12 Weekend** November at Nordhouse, Camping/hiking
Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area
Steve Gardner (810) 547-4998
- 12 Sunday** **Orienteering, Highland Recreation Area
12 - 3pm, Beginners at 11 AM
Lester Mok (519) 256-0324
- 17 Friday** **Laser Quest, Madison Hgts
Jim Gilfix (810) 539-0489

December

- 5 Tuesday** General Membership Meeting and Annual Holiday Party, Colony Hall, Southfield,
7:30 PM, Steve Gardner (810) 547-4998
- 9 Saturday** V-1 Skate Cross Country Ski Class #1
Michael Mannebach (810) 682-3955

Roll at the Dome - Inline skating at the Pontiac Silverdome. For times and schedules, contact Doug Lanyk at (810) 634-4551.

Walleyball - Every Monday at Bailey Rec Center, Westland. Contact Margaret Martin (313) 721-2821 (h) or (313) 722-7820 (w).

** 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 Cordova at (810) 547-5626.

Orienteering is a sport using a map, compass and your navigation skills to find pre-set "controls" in the woods. The Southern Michigan Orienteering Club (SMOC) has four different courses, ranging from beginner to expert. The courses are open from noon to 3 p.m. Lester will teach a free beginner class at 11 a.m. We'll meet on Sunday, November 12th, at the Highland Recreation Area. Take M-59 west of Pontiac to the main park entrance. For Lester's class, meet at the parking lot on the right of the park road, about 3/4 mile from the entrance. He drives a red Sentra.

There is no sign-up, just show up on time. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a baseplate compass, whistle, snacks, drinks, and a change of clothing if the weather is wet. You can also rent a compass from SMOC. The cost is only \$3 for the orienteering map plus a \$4 DNR day permit. Contact Lester Mok at (519) 256-0324 (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: **Cindy Harrison-Felix, SOLAR Ray Editor, 760 Central, Inkster, MI 48141** or call Cindy at (313) 722-3894.

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) 547-4908
Vice-President	Tom Dunn / (313) 494-4212
Secretary	Mike Banks / (313) 425-4169
Treasurer	Cindy Erickson / (313) 397-8240
Activities	Leslie Cordova / (810) 547-5626
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Equipment	Mike Felix / (313) 722-3994
Bylaws	Julie Stolligrosz / (810) 471-7444
Education	Jim Young / (810) 726-8253
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Bob Westbrook / (810) 356-3627	Joan Westbrook / (810) 356-3627
Mo DeFrance / 229-8283	Larry Martin / 591-3056
Bill Halvargis / 669-1911	A Fylax / 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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