

THE DRAY

THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE AND RECREATION

Upcomming Event

Earth Living Workshop

Here is the good news. No you're not going to munch grass and eat worms - at least not yet. This workshop will introduce you to the basic Native American skills and philosophy.

The skills include shelter, fire, tool making, nature observation, stalking, and tracking. You will also learn the underlying philosophy behind the skills which is essential to wilderness living.

We hope this workshop will open your door for more advanced skills and for you to explore your own relationship with Mother Earth. The workshop will be held from October 13th (Friday, Oops!) to 15th (Sunday) at the Waterloo Recreation Area, and the cost is \$25.

And the bad news is...the workshop is already full. So for those of you who want to take it, you can either sign up for the waiting list or contact Lester for outside courses.

For those who are armchair trackers and survivalists look up books in these areas by Tom Brown and other authors. Contact Lester Mok at (519) 256-0324. And yes, he lives on the other side of the Detroit River!



Review

The Rattlesnake Weekend

through the eyes of Jim Gilfix

Zack and I left early Friday and drove to the Niagara Peninsula. Our first stop was in the St. Catharines area, DeCew Falls. Actually, there are three falls, with two over 50 feet tall. All are incredible as they fall over the Niagara Escarpment.

We then hiked and gawked at the magnificent falls in Balls Conservation Area. This is the second sunniest location in Ontario. We then drove to Milton, i.e., Rattlesnake Conservation Area, also on the Niagara Escarpment. We set up camp the joined the other SOLARites for the grand bon fire and kibitzing.

Saturday, Nancy and I drove off in search of more waterfalls on the Escarpment. We found seven. Two falls stand out as being worthy of a separate SOLAR weekend as they are located at the tip of the Spencer Gorge Wilderness Area and were over 90 feet tall (trip possibly set for Spring, 1996).

Back to Rattlesnake to see how the climbers were doing. Perhaps because Marco was not there to

defend his title for the bike hill climb/race, it was decided to cancel it this year and return the SOLAR trophy (and smelly bike jersey) to Marco for another year. (sorry Mo).

We did hold the cook-off. There was too much delicious food to eat. The ice cream was great, the Mexican salads (each person had their own) made the sunny sun seem like a winter day, and the hummers were intoxicating.

After another excellent bon fire we were told the results of the cook-off. The Jeff and Betsy Brady Bunch kids helped me name by dish, "Boared Spanish Treat". "Spanish", due to the base, "Boared" for the wild boar meat added and "Treat" because it was goooooood! And I won grand prize. Yes, we had a little heat, a little rain, a little swim, and a little climb. We had, in the words of Cyndy's daughter Erika, an "Excellent Dudes" weekend.

Boared Spanish Treat

compliments of Jim Gilfix

Cook 3 pkgs. of Spanish Rice.
Add: 1/2 lb. of cut up and fried bacon, 1 lb. spicy sausage, 1 lb. marinated catfish, 1 lb. tomato sauce, 1 can sweet corn.
Simmer 20 minutes.
Add 1 can cut up Wild Boar Meat.
Take off heat
Add 2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese.
Serve.

Upcoming Event

Sturgeon River Canoe Trip

Join Jim and other SOLAR members September 22-24, near Gaylord for canoeing on the Sturgeon River.

This river is challenging with a quick current, tight turns, leaning trees and is **NOT FOR BEGINNERS**. However, paddlers with basic maneuvering skills should have little trouble.

The cost of the trip is \$35 which includes canoeing and camping Friday and Saturday nights at the KOA campground. For further information, contact Jim Gilfix at (810) 288-4739.

Upcoming Event

Attention all bikers!

The ride to benefit the Association for Retarded Citizens learn to ride program will be Saturday, September 23rd on Hines Drive. Riders can do a ten mile, 20 mile, 40 mile, 70 mile or 100 mile ride.

Last year several SOLARites did the 70 and the 40 mile rides. Several other SOLARites were able to volunteer their time to man sag wagons and rest stops.

The cost is \$15 if you pre-register or \$18 the day of the event. All proceeds will benefit the ARC learn to ride program which teaches children and adults with any disability to ride a bike safely.

Anyone interested in riding or volunteering should contact Margaret Martin at: (313) 721-2821 or (313) 722-7620.

Why are wallyball players like cats?

by Margaret Martin

Last year I acquired 2 felines and started playing wallyball on a regular basis, so I have compared the two and discovered some interesting similarities:

1. Wallyball players and cats both push everything and everyone out of the way to chase a small round object.
2. Both run all the way across the room in order to step on my foot.
3. Both throw objects into the air and hit them into my face.
4. Both get very excited without warning.
5. Both will hit or climb up walls at a full run, often head first.
6. After the playing is done, both fall, drop or plop on the ground.

If you would like to make your own observations, please join us at the Bailey Center (36661 Ford Rd. between Wayne and Newburgh, Westland) Monday nights from 7 to 9 PM beginning September 11. Call Margaret Martin at (313) 721-2821 or (313) 722-7620 to confirm. The cost is \$3 per person per night. See you there.

Upcoming Class

Backpacking Class

Last chance to sign up for the SOLAR backpacking class. Classes are, Sept. 13, 20, 27, Oct. 4 and 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Benchmark outfitter in Farmington.

The first practical is at Pinckney Recreation Area on September 30 to October 1. The final practical will be October 20 to 22nd at a location yet to be determined.

The cost of this class is \$55 and it is a prerequisite for classes on Winter Camping, Wilderness Survival and Wilderness Canoeing. For further information contact Carol McCrie at (810) 229-5232.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS!

The program for the September SOLAR membership meeting will be on **beekeeping**. November is the **photo contest** and December is the **Holiday Party**. Don't miss them!!!!

The two things that most SOLAR events are known for is the bounty of good food and the great photos capturing the event. Don't forget to get your favorite SOLAR photos enlarged to 8"x10" for the photo contest held during the November SOLAR meeting.

Costa Rica Bound

Best wishes to Leslie and Gene (Cohen/Cordova) as they wed on August 26th. Following the nuptials they're off to Costa Rica with their honeymoon chaperones Mike and Cindy Felix and Leslie's brother.

Travel plans include many Costa Rican highlights such as sea turtles nesting on the beach, erupting volcanoes, cloud forests and jungles loaded with tropical birds, monkeys, sloths, etc.

Make sure to catch their pictures and adventure stories after their return. Adios!!

For Sale

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

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

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

Canoe, 1 person, 12 foot, fiberglass canoe with paddle \$95.

Call Matthew Dalton at (810) 227-0720.

Wanted!!!!

If you have anything to sell or trade, a great trip or vacation story, a good camp recipe, an outdoor tech. tip or equipment review, or anything that you think other RAY readers would find interesting, call Cindy Harrison-Felix at (313) 722-3094 and PUT IT IN THE RAY!!!!

Upcoming Event

Rafting the Gauley and the New Rivers

Mike Banks is quickly becoming SOLAR's Whitewater River Rat. Join Mike and other fellow SOLAR river rats September 15th to 18th for two full days of whitewater rafting on the Upper and Lower Gauley River. The trip costs \$202 per person and includes two days of rafting, three nights of camping and a steak dinner.

Mike is also running another trip in October on the New River. For further information contact Mike Banks at (313) 425-4169.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

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** ****Walleyball, Bailey Rec. Center, Westland**
7-9pm, 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) 728-8253
- 15-18 3-Day Wknd** **Whitewater Rafting on the Gauley River**
Mike Banks (313) 425-4169
- 22-24 Weekend** **Sturgeon River Canoe Trip**
Jim Gilfix (810) 288-4739
- 30 Saturday** **Land Navigation Class (Make-up), Pinckney**
Rec. Area, 9-11am, Lester Mok (519) 256-0324
- 30-Oct 1 Sat.-Sun.** **Backpacking Practical I, Pinckney Rec. Area**
Carol McCrie (810) 229-5232

October

- 3 Tuesday** **General Membership Meeting,**
Colony Hall, Southfield, 7:30 PM
Steve Gardner (810) 547-4998
- Every Monday** ****Walleyball, Bailey Rec. Center, Westland**
7-9pm, Margaret Martin (313) 721-2821
- 4, 11 Wednesdays** **Backpacking Class, Benchmark, Farmington**
Carol McCrie (810) 229-5232
- 13-15 Weekend** **Earth Living Workshop, Waterloo Rec. Area**
Lester Mok (519) 256-0324
- 20-22 3-Day Wknd** **Backpacking Practical II, Location TBD**
Carol McCrie (810) 229-5232
- 20-22 Weekend** **Whitewater Rafting on the New River**
Mike Banks (313) 425-4169
- 27-29 Weekend** **4th Annual Haunted Halloween, Bald Mtn.**
Leslie Cohen (810) 547-5626

** 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.

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) 547-1008
Vice-President	Tom Dunn / (313) 494-5500 ext. 3003
Secretary	Mike Banks / (313) 425-4169
Treasurer	Cindy Erickson / (313) 397-8240
Activities	Leslie Cohen / (810) 547-5826
Membership	Sharon Stanek / (313) 565-8671
Equipment	Mike Felix / (313) 722-3994
Bylaws	Julie Stoligrocz / (810) 471-7444
Education	Jim Young / (810) 726-8253
SOLAR Ray	Cindy Harrison-Felix / (313) 722-3994
Historian	John Guba / (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 / 229-3283	Larry Martin / 581-3858
Bill Halvargis / 669-1911	Al Fytak / 852-7514
Joan Hettinger / (810) 377-2377	

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