

# THE DAY

THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE AND RECREATION

## Michigan Winters Class Change!

Please note the following changes in class and practical dates for the Michigan Winters Class!

The last class before the final practical is Wednesday, February 7th at 6:30 p.m. at Mike and Cindy Felix's House in Inkster. The final practical is February 9-11, 1996 at Pigeon River State Forest near Vanderbilt, Michigan.

For those students from last year's Michigan Winters Class who want to attend the Pigeon River practical, you must contact Dave Jones and attend the last class on February 7th. Remember, everyone going on the practical must have their membership dues paid for the current year. For further information contact Dave at (810) 477-8605.

## February Program on Mt. Rainier

Remember, the program following the February SOLAR General Membership meeting will be presented by George Laetz from Cance Sport in Ann Arbor. George has been making an annual "pilgrimage" to ascend Mt. Rainier for the last 13 years. His experience in photography as well as alpine ascending make this a program you won't want to miss!



## Upcoming Event Wilderness State Park Weekend

Join fellow SOLARites for another fun-filled weekend at Wilderness State Park. Mo and Dave DeFrance will host this weekend on February 23-25, 1996.

There is a large 24-person rustic cabin reserved for the weekend. If you are the more adventuresome type, you can also tent camp or build a "quin-zhee" for lodging. The park has lots of ski trails and areas to explore by snowshoe. The cost of the trip is \$10. For further information contact Mo and Dave at (810) 229-8283.

## SOLAR Library Needs Donations!!!

The Library needs outdoor information from members; your extra books, video and audio tapes, maps, photos and slides, magazines, pamphlets, etc. Call John Gulas at (810) 574-0243.

## Is It Climb Time Yet?

No! It's ski time. But it won't be long before the 1996 SOLAR Rock Climbing Course will be starting. Class will be held at the Benchmark Outfitter in Farmington Hill's on Wednesday evenings during the month of April.

If you are itching to get on the rocks then listen for the interest sign-ups during the SOLAR General Membership Meetings starting in February, or call Jim Young at (810) 731-2504.

## Second Annual Dunn and Company Backpacking Trip

Does the mental picture of standing atop Mt. Katahdin with the entire State of Maine ablaze with the fall colors appeal to you? Does the image of camping on the cliffs above the Bay of Fundy, watching the tide rise and fall 50 feet spark your curiosity?

I am looking for a few experienced backpackers to help plan this photographer's dream trip. Target dates are September 27th through October 13th. For further information call Tom Dunn at (810) 471-9163.

## Review

# Snowshoeing at Wilderness State Park

*From the Journal of Jim Wright*

I spent this past weekend snowshoeing at Wilderness State Park. I drove up Friday evening, leaving work about 4p.m. and arrived in Mackinaw City at 9:00p.m.

Once I reached Mackinaw City, I headed west out of town for the short drive to Wilderness State Park. The road was snow-packed but no problem, and the drive was spectacular. When the road started following the Cecil Bay shoreline of Lake Michigan with the lake on the right and forest on the left I had to stop several times to enjoy the view of the frozen lake with St. Ignace and the bridge in the distance. The light from my headlamps would reflect in thousands of sparkles from the ice on the foliage alongside the road. I would occasionally shut off the headlamps and drive by moonlight, it was so bright and so beautiful.

When I arrived at the cabin, it was cold outside, but the wood burning stoves made it toasty inside. There were only five other SOLARites there when I arrived. Others kept trickling in until the last group arrived at 3a.m., long after I had gone to bed.

Sometime during the night John got out of his warm bed and strolled half the length of the cabin just to wake me up. Something to do with similarities between snoring and freight trains.

In the morning the cabin was crowded. There were people everywhere, women, men, making breakfast, cleaning up breakfast, dressing to go out. It wasn't quiet again until I got out of the cabin.

Matt and I teamed up to do some

snowshoeing. By the time we had snowshoed 300 yards I had to stop and take a clothing layer off. The sweat was running down my face like a waterfall. It is amazing how warm 10 degrees can be when you are working hard.

Because we were on snowshoes rather than skis Matt opted to do some serious bushwhacking, where skis can't go. So out through the swamps we went. The deer signs were awesome. Deer trails everywhere, some a foot wide and a foot deep in the snow, regular deer expressways. We found deer beds where we must have scared away the deer because the deer body impressions were still wet with melted snow.

At one point I broke through an ice layer and went in deep. I thought I heard water and had broken through ice into a pond. I was scared, especially when I could not get my feet back up through the holes I had made in the ice. I called Matt and he approached with caution. I worked my feet up through the holes and after a few tries managed to climb out and back on top of the snow. There was no water. We think that what I broke through was a layer of ice which had formed on top of long grass which was hollow underneath.

We continued our bushwhacking, following the safety zone boundary around the day use area. It was tough going, the brush was thick, there were a lot of downed trees, and every once in awhile we would trip over our feet. Eventually we reached the steep bluff that runs parallel to Park Drive road. To get down to the road we had to walk along the bluff until we found a gully that cut through the bluff down to road level. We crossed the road and walked down to the Lake Michigan beach. It looked a lot like the surface of the moon. Apparently there had been a lot of ice packs piled up to form ridges and mounds, all under a smoothing layer

of snow now, but still indicative of nature's forces. We hiked across the ice of Big Stone Bay to reach the Lakeshore Campground beach which is across the road from the rustic cabins.

The cabin was empty when we returned after several hours of snowshoeing. We enjoyed the warmth and ate our lunches. After lunch Matt and I walked out into the campground area to see the quin-zhee that Lester had built to sleep outdoors Saturday night. I decided that I liked the cabin more than I liked the quin-zhee, and I returned to the cabin to read a book and Matt set up his tent so that he could sleep outdoors tonight also.

The Saturday night pot-luck was it's usual SOLAR fling. There was my one pot sort-of stir-fry, three kinds of chili, snacks, cakes, wine, mulled cider with rum, beer, cheese and crackers, etc. Some of the group skied out to the end of Wagonance Point by moonlight. I opted to read some more and then went to bed.

Sunday morning was a lot like Saturday. Another beautiful sunny, really cold day. A lot of people making breakfast, cleaning up, dressing for a last ski or snowshoe. I packed and left by 11a.m.

On the way home I detoured to Pigeon River State forest outside Vanderbilt to scout out the location for the Michigan Winters Class practical in February. The roads out that way were snow-packed, and I renewed by love affair with 4-wheel drive. The forest Headquarters was closed, but I now know where it is, and I had fun finding it.

It was a great weekend!

## Upcoming Class Trip Planning Seminar and Advanced Backpacking Class

The trip planning seminar will teach the basics of planning and leading an outdoor trip. It is open to all SOLAR members and will be held on Wednesday, March 6th from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Mike and Cindy Felix's house in Inkster. The cost is \$10.

The advanced backpacking class will use trip planning techniques to plan and go on a week-long backpacking trip. Following the trip planning seminar (class 1), this class will have four to five trip planning meetings and a week-long backpacking trip. The trip planning meetings are tentatively scheduled to meet at the Felix's house on 3/6 (the trip planning seminar), 3/27, 4/9, 5/1, 5/22 and 6/5. The backpacking trip is tentatively scheduled for 6/15 to 6/23 but may change depending on the destination of the backpacking trip.

Class members will decide the trip destination (within a days drive of Detroit). Some ideas already being tossed around are the Smoky Mountains, the Porcupine Mountains, Algonquin Provincial Park and the Laurel Highland Trail in Pennsylvania. The cost of this class, which includes the trip planning seminar is \$25, and is limited to 12 people. You must have taken the backpacking class, or have similar experience; be able to participate in the planning meetings; and take the entire week off for the trip.

For further information contact Cindy Harrison-Felix at (313) 722-3994 (h) or (313) 745-1188 (w).

## 19th Annual Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival tm

This festival is presented by The Ford Seahorses Scuba Diving Club and will be held on Saturday, February 24, 1996. Tickets must be purchased in advance and will be available at the February SOLAR meeting.

For \$18.00 you get the main program which consists of quality presentations on Great Lakes Shipwrecks; the S.S. Florida, Where the Eagle has Landed, The Gunilda, The Lusitania, and the Ford Seahorses Photo and Video Contest. The 1st show is 12:30p.m. and the 2nd show is at 7:30 p.m.

The Diver's Forum is limited seating that covers Shipwreck Management and "Lost in the Gale" Discovery of the Shipwreck: John Breden. One Show 3:30 p.m. Over thirty exhibits including marine artists and shipwreck artifact displays.

From 11:00a.m. to 9:30p.m. there are seminars at the Henry Ford Centennial Library and the Dearborn Civic Center. For \$15 - Advanced Shipwreck Diving by Gary Gentile from 9:00a.m. to 11:15a.m. For \$30 - Introduction to Underwater Video by Craig Sprioff from 9:00a.m. to 12:00noon. For \$15 - Introduction to High-Tech Diving by Gary Gentile from 12:00noon to 2:00p.m. For \$7 - Saltwater Program by Tony Gramer, Rod Soja, Rudy Whitworth and Dave Hass from 3:00p.m. to 5:30p.m.

You can purchase tickets from Joan Ryan at the February SOLAR meeting. If you have any questions please call Joan Ryan at (810) 57DIVE1.

## Upcoming Event SOLAR VASA Trip 1996

Here are the details for the VASA trip:

1. The lodging is for two nights (February 9th and 10th, (Friday and Saturday) at the Days Inn at 420 Munson Ave., Traverse City 1-616-941-0208 (included in fee for trip). From I-75 North take M-72 West to Traverse City. (M-72 changes names and is called Munson Ave., then turns into Front Street.) The reservation is listed under SOLAR and Karen Sinclair-Smith.

2. The VASA Race is on Saturday morning, February 10th (Race Course number: 1-616-938-4400). From Days Inn go right on Munson, follow it to Bunker Hill Rd. Go right on Bunker Hill Rd. and follow it to Bartlett Rd. Go right on Bartlett Rd. and follow crowd to VASA parking areas. (\$15 for 12K fun race - not included in trip fee).

3. Dinner on Saturday, February 10th is at 6:30 p.m. at Auntie Pasta's in the fireplace room at 2030 S. Airport Rd, Traverse City 1-616-941-8147 (included in fee for trip). From Days Inn go left on Munson Ave. to Garfield Rd. Go left (south) on Garfield to S. Airport Rd. (by Cherryland Mall). Go right (east) on S. Airport Rd. about one mile to Auntie Pasta's.

4. Brunch on Sunday, February 11th is at 10:00 a.m. Check out of Days Inn first! From Days Inn go left on Munson Ave. Munson will turn slightly and becomes Front St. The Omelette Shoppe is at 1209 E. Front St. (1-616-948-0590) (not included in trip fee).

For more information, call Karen at (810) 682-3955.

## Winter Wilderness Medicine Course

There will be an interest sign up during the February SOLAR General Membership Meeting for a Winter Wilderness Medicine Course. This course will be taught by Doug Brown, a licensed paramedic in Jackson County, MI and owner and operator of Michigan Search and Rescue.

Doug has taught the Wilderness Medicine course for SOLAR for the past two years. This course will be geared toward situations unique to the winter environment. If you have taken the Wilderness Medicine course and are interested in a winter course, please see Jim Young at the February Meeting. This class will cost in the neighborhood of \$35.00 depending on class size and will require an overnight stay. For further information contact Jim Young at (810) 731-2504.

## March Program on Rock Climbing

The Program following the March SOLAR General Membership meeting will feature Rock Climbing. This introduction to the sport, presented by SOLAR climber Al Fylak, is in preparation for the SOLAR Rock Climbing Class beginning in April.

Don't Miss It!

### Upcoming Event Change

**Sledding at Kensington scheduled for February 10th has been cancelled!**

### Upcoming Event

## Skiing at Stokley Creek

Stokley Creek Resort is located north of Sault St. Marie, Ontario. With over 120 kilometers of trails, it is considered one of the top ten cross-country ski areas in North America. The skiing at Stokley is excellent this year (remember that 85+ inches of snow they got in December, it's still there plus more!).

A special event held each year at Stokley is the Wabos Loppet. The "Loppet" is a 27-kilometer noncompetitive cross-country ski event which will be held on Saturday, March 16, 1996. Skiers take the Algoma Snow Train which drops them off in Wabos and then it's just an "easy" 27 km. ski back to Stokley Creek Resort and an awaiting barbecue.

Join SOLAR for this year's Loppet. Space is limited to the first 12 to put down deposits of \$65. The total cost is \$150 (barring any major shifts in the value of either country's currencies). This will include entry fee, 2 nights lodging, train ride, Friday night spaghetti dinner, Saturday's barbecue, and more.

Lodging is at Glenview Vacation Homes. They've got great cabins with all the amenities, and best of all, a hot tub and sauna! For further information, contact Mike Banks, at (313) 425-4189.

## A New SOLAR Member!

Autumn Rose Stanek was born January 5th, 1996 at 9:05a.m. She weighed in at 4 lbs. 1oz. and measured 17 1/2 inches. Congratulations Sharon, looks like another rock climber in the family!

## Great Lakes Kayak Expedition 1996

On Monday, March 9, 1996, Michael Rutz of Ann Arbor, MI, will set forth to circumnavigate the entire Great Lakes. Canoe Sport in Ann Arbor is inviting individuals and many paddling and outdoor clubs to join Michael on segments of this monumental adventure; supporting the trip while experiencing these majestic lakes. They hope to inspire special events which will help bring exposure to the Great Lakes and the expedition. For more information call George Laetz at Canoe Sport at (313) 986-1393 or Michael Rutz at (313) 426-7917.

## New SOLAR T-Shirts

Don't forget to buy your new SOLAR t-shirts at the SOLAR General Membership Meeting. The new t-shirts are forest green with white lettering. The front of the t-shirt has a backpacker and says "SOLAR, it's an attitude". The shirts are available in short sleeves for \$10 and long sleeves for \$15. Get'em while they last!

## Winter Camping '96

For those SOLAR members who have not had enough winter camping over the past two years, you have another chance. A winter camping trip will be held on February 16, 17, 18 at Pigeon River State Forest, MI.

You must have taken the SOLAR winter camping class. For more information contact Tim Stangl at work (810) 282-5964 or home (810) 474-3242. We can meet at the February SOLAR club meeting to discuss the details.

## FOR SALE

Marmot Trekker Jacket. Forest Green, size Medium. Only used 4 times. Original price \$220, asking \$180. Call Jim at (313) 537-9499 6-9p.m. M-F.

## Summer Travel

It's that time of year that you need to start thinking of those hot summer days and decide what areas of the country you would like to camp and hike.

I have to take the first two weeks of July off for work and I am planning a trip out West. Areas that are under consideration: Canadian Rockies; Wind River Mtns., WY; Sawtooth Mtns., ID; some mtn. range in NM; Southwest CO Mtns.; Teton Mtns., WY.

If interested or you have another destination you would like to travel to, please contact Tim Stangl at (810) 262-5964 work or (810) 474-3242 home. You should have at least taken the SOLAR backpacking class.

## How do you know if you haven't had enough camping.

Your fellow work mates bring in several artificial Christmas trees and put them around your desk to cheer you up.

When your phone rings, your roommate can't find it because it is in your tent in the bedroom.

You try out tents at the Benchmark and you wake up to find out the lights are off and you have been locked inside.

Anonymous!

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### February

- 6 Tuesday** General Membership Meeting, Colony Hall, Southfield, 7:30 p.m., Steve Gardner (810) 547-4998
- 7 Wednesday** Michigan Winters Final Class, Felix's House Inkster, Dave Jones (810) 477-8605
- 9-11 Weekend** VASA X-Country Ski Race, Traverse City, Karen Sinclair-Smith (810) 882-3955
- 9-11 Weekend** Michigan Winters Class Practical 2, Pigeon River, Dave Jones (810) 477-8605
- 16-18 Weekend** Winter Camping, Pigeon River, Tim Stangl (810) 474-3242
- 23-25 Weekend** X-Country Ski/Cabin Weekend, Wilderness State Park, Maureen DeFrance (810) 229-8283

### March

- 5 Tuesday** General Membership Meeting, Colony Hall, Southfield, 7:30 p.m., Steve Gardner (810) 547-4998
- 6 Wednesday** Trip Planning Seminar/Advanced Backpacking Class 1, Felix's House, Inkster Cindy Harrison-Felix (313) 722-3994
- 15-17 Weekend** Wabos Loppet Cross-Country Skiing, Sault St. Marie, Canada, Mike Banks (313) 425-4169
- 22 Friday** Laser Quest, Madison Hgts, Jim Gilfix (810) 539-0480
- 27 Wednesday** Advanced Backpacking Class 2, Felix's House Inkster, Cindy Harrison-Felix (313) 722-3994

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

**Wallyball** - Every Monday at Bailey Rec. Center, Westland. Contact Margaret Martin (313) 721-2821 (h) or (313) 722-7620 (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.**

## 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 second 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) 547-4896
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
Membership	Sharon Stanek / (313) 565-8671
Equipment	Mike Felix / (313) 722-3994
Bylaws	Marie Crowl / (810) 547-4996 Education
	Jim Young / (810) 726-8253
SOLAR Ray	Cindy Harrison-Felix / (313) 722-3994
Historian	John Gulas / (810) 574-0243
Programs	Margaret Martin / (313) 721-2821
At Large	Cindy Harrison-Felix / (313) 722-3994
Bob Westbrook / (313) 513-8454	Joan Westbrook / (313) 513-8454
Mo DeFrance / (810) 229-8283	Larry Martin / (313) 591-3856
Bill Halvargis / (810) 689-1911	Al Fylak / 852-7514
	Joan Ryan / (810) 574-LIVE1

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.

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