

# THE DAY

THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE AND RECREATION

## Upcoming Class Winter Camping Class!!!

Well, so far, it looks like it's going to be a great winter for snow! So all you "snow lovers" looking for some winter adventure, sign up for the "Enjoy Michigan Winters Class".

You will learn how to winter camp, keep warm and dry in cold temperatures, cross country ski with a backpack, and build snow shelters. The cost of the class is \$65 and must be paid in full at the January General Membership Meeting. To take this class you must have taken the backpacking class.

Class dates are Wednesdays in January (3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st) at Mike and Cindy Felix's House. The dates for the class practical trips are January 20-21 at Waterloo Recreation Area and February 16-18 at Pigeon River (pending snow). For further information call Dave Jones at (810) 477-8605.

## MISSING!!!

Doug Lanyk is missing a photo album with pictures from the SOLAR Halloween Party. It was last seen at the November SOLAR General Membership Meeting. Anyone with information as to its whereabouts please contact Doug at (810) 634-4551.



## Upcoming Event VASA Update!

February 9 -11, 1996, will be here before you know it! Last chance to sign up for this SOLAR trip will be at the January meeting, with payment in full due in January. (When paying for this outing, make checks out to SOLAR, for \$65.00). Maps and final information will be available at the January meeting. If you need to T.C.B. by mail, call Karen at (810) 682-3955 for details - it can be arranged.

On Friday, Feb. 9th, we check in at Days Inn of Traverse City. Reservations will be under the SOLAR Club and Karen Sinclair-Smith. The trip fee covers two nights lodging and dinner Saturday at Auntie Pasta's in T.C. Race entry fee is separate, as are other meals.

A nice touch, and maybe a new tradition, was started last year. We all met for brunch on Sunday at the Omelette Shoppe, and had so much fun, we plan to do it again this year. We will have directions and times to meet for Auntie Pasta's and the Omelette Shoppe.

For eager beavers/skiers, there is public access to the VASA course as soon as the trail is covered with snow. Call (616) 938-4400 for ski information. Think Snow!

## Upcoming Event Skiing at Wilderness State Park

Join fellow SOLARites for a cross-country ski weekend at Wilderness State Park on January 5-7, 1996. There is a large 24-person rustic drive-to cabin, and a 7-person rustic ski-in cabin reserved for the weekend.

The cost of the trip is \$12 for the ski-in cabin and \$10 for the large drive-to cabin. For further information about the large cabin, contact Carol Dunn at (313) 561-1653. For further information about the ski-in cabin, contact Mike Banks at (313) 425-4169.

## New SOLAR T-Shirts

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 and can be purchased at the SOLAR General Membership Meetings.

## Thank You!!!

Our annual SOLAR HOLIDAY PARTY was a great success and through the generosity of our membership, so were our efforts to aid the Sarah Fischer Home in providing holiday gifts to the deserving children in their care.

There were wonderful gifts for all age groups, and EIGHTEEN SOLAR BEARS of various shapes and sizes. All of these items were taken to radio station WKQI for Dick Purtan's morning radio show to be organized and delivered to the Sarah Fischer Home.

Their instructions were to "place the gifts under the tree". They were not aware of the SOLAR motto "DON'T JUST DO IT, OVER DO IT". Under the tree quickly became, on the furniture and over most of the lobby floor. SOLAR received a warm thank you over the air from Dick Purtan on behalf of the Sarah Fisher Home.

Your generosity will certainly help to put smiles on the faces of children who perhaps have had little to smile about in their young lives. THANK YOU for your outstanding support and happy holidays.

## Upcoming Event Sledding at Kensington

Sharon Myers (a brand new member) who is a fledgling x-country ski person has a rich history of (get this) sledding.

Kensington Metro Park has a toboggan hill, however, on the sides of the hill they let you sled so.....on Saturday, February 10th, let's go sledding. Cost is admission to the park we will meet around 11:00a.m. Interested, call Sharon at (810) 399-3225.

## Upcoming Class Trip Planning and Advanced Backpacking Class

This is a two-part class. The first class, trip planning, 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 8th from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Mike and Cindy Felix's house in Inkster. The cost will be \$10.

The second part of the class, advanced backpacking, will use trip planning techniques to plan and go on a week-long backpacking trip. This class is for those who have taken the backpacking class and/or have taken a few weekend trips and now want experience in planning and taking an extended trip.

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 will be from 6/15 to 6/23.

Class members will decide the trip destination (within a days drive of Detroit); places which may be considered are the Great Smoky Mountains, the White Mountains, the Laurel Highlands trail in Pennsylvania, and others.

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) 722-3934 (h) or (313) 745-1188 (w).

## Upcoming Event What's a Crawl-A- Thon?

A marathon race for babies? No, it's a caving event! The Crawl-A-Thon will be held January 26-28, 1996 at Carter Caves, Kentucky. The cost is \$15 which includes 2 days of guided caving and a free T-shirt. Lodging at the Carter Caves Lodge is approximately \$40 per person for 2 nights.

If you need to borrow a SOLAR Club caving helmet for this event, Leslie will have them available at the January SOLAR General Membership Meeting. A \$25 refundable deposit is required. For further information about the helmets or the trip, contact Leslie Cordova at (810) 547-5626.

## We want your stuff!!!

Planning a trip? Interested in a new outdoor sport and you want to find out more about it? Remember, the SOLAR Library opens February 1st!

The Library is looking for donations of outdoor information from members; your extra books, video and audio tapes, maps, photos and slides, magazines, pamphlets, etc. So dig up that outdoor information you can part with and call John Gulas at (810) 574-0243.

**REMEMBER, THE  
PROGRAM FOLLOWING  
THE JANUARY SOLAR  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING IS ON SKI  
WAXING PRESENTED BY  
SWIX. DON'T MISS IT!!!**

## Upcoming Event

# Wabos Loppet Ski Event

The Wabos Loppet is a 27-kilometer noncompetitive cross-country ski event held at Stokley Creek Resort near Sault St. Marie, Ontario. The "Loppet" is on Saturday March 16, 1996. The "Snow Train" will drop us off at Wabos. It's then just an "easy" 27 km. ski back to Stokley Creek Resort and an awaiting barbecue.

Space is limited to the first 12 to put down deposits of \$65. The total cost is \$130 (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.

Note: the cost of the trip will increase for those signing up after December 31st because of the increase in the entry fee. For further information contact me, Mike Banks at (313) 425-4169.

## Review

# Thanksgiving on the Bruce Trail

by Cindy Harrison-Felix

Denny Phillips, Mike Banks, Mike Felix and myself met in Tobemory, Ontario, Canada Thanksgiving night. Friday morning, we drove south to Little Cove to start our all day hike on the Bruce Trail.

Winter had already arrived at the Bruce with a layer of white covering the ground and the trail. What makes hiking the Bruce Trail interesting in the winter is that the trail markers are white blazes on the trees and sometimes on rocks on the ground. It's hard to find white blazes in the snow. It's also interesting because the snow camouflages the crevasses in the rock and you can't

tell how deep they are until Mike Banks falls in one and then you can tell by how loud he yells.

It was a great day for hiking with only a light wind, sunny and temperature in the low 30's. The beauty of this trail as it follows the high rocky cliffs along the Georgian Bay is one I never tire of. I enjoy it most in the winter because there are very few people. You can hike the trail and see only the footprints of the animals before you in the snow.

We reached our destination at the Cypress Lake Campground in the Bruce Peninsula National Park and were greeted by Steve Gardner. We set up our tents and prepared for dinner. Mike and I had our favorite one pot Thanksgiving trail dinner, stove top stuffing, turkey, mushroom gravy, and cranberry sauce. We gave thanks for a hot meal after a long winter day on such a beautiful trail.

Saturday morning we awoke to fresh snow covering our tents. Our camp was full of hungry flying squirrels and chickadees. It makes good winter camp breakfast entertainment feeding the chickadees out of your hand and on top of your head!

Our day hike led us back to the Bruce Trail. Our surroundings had taken on a new blanket of fresh snow from last night. Mike B. and Steve enjoyed their first experience going down "THE HOLE" at Overhanging Point. We also visited the Grotto, the Natural Arch and Indian Head Cove. We returned to camp after another great day of winter adventure. Dinner was great, compliments of Steve (stay tuned for his recipe at the next Rattlesnake Cook-off).

Sunday morning we awoke early with more fresh snow and a forecast of sleet and rain on the way. We

decided to try to beat the weather and head for home. But not before stopping in Wiarton for a Dutch breakfast and a visit to Howell's fish market. Ummmm, I can taste that stuff rainbow trout already. Everyone had such a great time that a return trip later in the winter was suggested; anyone interested?

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Only a backpacker would understand...

## You know you were on the trail too long when:

You get up in the morning and start stuffing the blankets and sheets into your pillowcase.

You fire up your backpack stove on the kitchen table to make coffee.

~~You wear the same~~ clothes to work for the fourth day in a row.

You set off the fire alarm in MacDonald's when you try to burn your toilet paper in the bathroom.

You meet someone in the hallway at work and ask them when they started and how far they're going.

At lunch with your co-workers, you ask the waitress for a PowerBar and some trail mix.

You stop, rinse out your bandanna, and wash your face in the drinking fountain at work.

You put a cup of sugar and two iodine tablets in the lemonade you're making.

After eating dinner, you lick your spoon clean and throw it back in the drawer.

It starts to get dark outside and you pull out your headlamp, in the living room.

You crawl into bed, pull up the covers, and reach for the zipper

(reprinted from The Rattler, the Official Newsletter of the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club, Fall, 1995)

## Upcoming Event

### Blue Mountain Ski Trip

On the weekend of January 25-28, 1996, join fellow SOLARites in Collingwood, Ontario, Canada for the Annual Blue Mountain Ski Trip. There will be downhill as well as cross-country and skate style skiing available in the area. We will be only a ten minute walk or two minute drive from the slopes! Wow!

Accommodations are at the Tyrolean Village Resort, where we will have our own 6 bedroom chalet. The chalet will sleep 18 people (trip limit), and has a complete kitchen, living and rec. room with a fireplace and sauna. On Saturday evening we will be having the traditional SOLAR potluck.

There are two options. Option #1: Thurs., Jan. 25th through Sun., Jan. 28th is \$92.00. Option #2: Fri., Jan. 26th through Sun., Jan. 28th is \$66.00. If you have any questions, just call on of your friendly trip leaders. Kathy Kirby at (810) 968-9680 ext. 315 (w) or (313) 953-9095 (h) or Julia Gordon at (810) 815-7559 (h). Yes, we still have several openings.

### SOLAR Member Gets New Shoes (Snowshoes that is)!

by Leslie Cordova

On Sunday, December 17th, having nothing to do, and no snow in the Detroit area, Gene and Leslie Cordova along with Mike Felix headed north early in the morning in search of snow worthy of cross-country skiing. We ended up having to travel for 3 hours to Roscommon, and decided to ski at the Cross Country Ski Headquarters.

Little did we know that Chris Rourds from the Atlas Snowshoe Company was also at the HQ with a wide variety of snowshoes for all who

wanted to try them (free). We all did! Afterwards we enjoyed the, also free, Ben & Jerry's ice cream cones, except for Mike who somehow talked his way into a pint of ice cream.

Then it came time for the, also free, raffle of an Atlas hat, T-shirt and a \$250 pair of snowshoes. We all entered the raffle and waited for a while, and were just about to set off skiing again when I said "I wonder if you have to be present to win", and "when do you think the raffle will be?". Gene went to ask, and sure enough you had to be present to win, and the raffle would be in a few minutes.

After the unimpressive drum roll, a name was pulled for the snowshoes. To all of our surprise, the name they called was Gene's. After the initial shock, and the shove Mike gave him, Gene claimed his prize. Later, Mike and I went back out to ski, leaving Gene clutching his new snowshoes.

### Looking for Something To Do On Snowless Detroit Weekends?

by Gene Cordova

Try the Cross Country Ski Headquarters in snowy Roscommon. The HQ offers many different events, including free ski lessons and rentals, pig roasts, demonstrations and torch light skiing on Friday and Saturday evenings.

They have a nice variety of loop trails and you can't beat the price to ski (\$3). They also have a great selection of skis and gear, at some of the lowest prices around.

The folks at the shop really make you feel welcome and offer many services such as waxing and resurfacing. Check out the great fireplace in the warming room and have a bowl of steaming hot chili. Need more information, give them a call at (517) 821-6661.

## Upcoming Program Mt. Rainier

The February SOLAR General Membership meeting will end with a beautiful array of images brought to you by George Laetz of Canoe 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 (not ice climbing) will be brought into focus at the February meeting. Hope to see you there, it'll be a grand experience.

### ATTENTION SOLAR CLIMBERS!

World famous climber, Robyn Erbesfield and her husband Didier Raboutou will be at Planet Rock climbing gym in Pontiac for a poster signing. The date is Tuesday, January 16, 1996 at 5:30 p.m. Call the gym for additional information at (810) 334-3904.

### 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. The expedition is expected to cover over 4500 miles in thirty weeks.

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) 996-1393 or Michael Rutz at (313) 426-7917.

## Review/Upcoming Event

**Laser Quest**

On November 17, 29 SOLARites met to play Laser Quest. Many were playing for the first time. We were all asked to think of a code name for ourselves. Some of the names used were Dr. Jack, Clueless, Bad News, Kitty, Woof-Woof, Fox, Conan, Mr. X, Tom Cat and Trixie. We were led by Wolf.

The first game was won by "MARALLYN" or alias for Jeff Martin. We had a 20-minute break between games to compare scores, discuss strategies and cool off. Then we went back in for another futuristic adventure in their 8,000 sq. ft. maze, four towers, ramps and passage ways filled with black lights, smoke and dragons. Most people did much better the 2nd game and everyone had (and gave) a blast, a laser blast. Afterwards, Vernors were passed out and we divided into groups to further enjoy the night.

Due to the overwhelmingly good time, I am sponsoring another Laser Quest event. Sign up and pay \$12 at the January Meeting and play two games on January 12, 1996. C-you there. Limit is 30 people, no one younger than 7 or older than 82. For further information contact Jim Gilfix at (810) 539-0489.

**FOR SALE**

2 sets downhill skis, bindings, poles, 1 mens (\$180), 1 womens (\$160). Eureka backcountry tent 3-4 person, 3 season, used 1x, \$160. Jansport D-3 external frame backpack, large, \$60. 2 open-cell nylon covered foam pads, \$10 each. For further information contact Mike Fogarty at (313) 729-1356 (h) or (810) 477-0800 (w).

**ACTIVITIES CALENDAR****January**

- 2 Tuesday** General Membership Meeting, Colony Hall, Southfield, 7:30 PM, Steve Gardner (810) 547-4998
- 3,10,17,24,31 Wednesdays** Enjoy Michigan Winters Class, Felix's House, Inkster, Dave Jones (810) 477-8605
- 5-7 Weekend** X-Country Ski-in Cabin Weekend, Wilderness State Park, Mike Banks (313) 425-4169
- 6-7 Weekend** X-Country Ski/Cabin Weekend, Wilderness State Park, Carol Dunn (313) 561-1653
- 12 Friday** \*\*Laser Quest, John R btw 13 and 14 mile Rds, Jim Gilfix (810) 539-0489.
- 20-21 Sat-Sun** Michigan Winters Class Practical 1, Waterloo Rec. Area, Dave Jones (810) 477-8605
- 21 Sunday** V-1 Skate X-Country Ski Clinic, Forbush Corners, Michael Mannebach (810) 682-3955
- 26-28 Weekend** \*\*Crawliathon Caving Trip, Olive Hill, Kentucky, Leslie Cordova (810) 547-5626
- 26-28 Weekend** Blue Mountain Skiing, Collingwood, Ontario, Canada, Kathie Kirby (313) 953-9095

**February**

- 10 Saturday** Sledding at Kensington, Kensington Metro Park, Sharon Myers (810) 399-3225
- 9-11 Weekend** VASA X-Country Ski Race, Traverse City, Karen Sinclair-Smith (810) 682-3955
- 16-18 Weekend** Michigan Winters Class Practical 2, Pigeon River, Dave Jones (810) 477-8605
- 16-18 Weekend** X-Country Ski/Cabin Weekend, Wilderness State Park, Maureen DeFrance (810) 229-8283

**March**

- 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

**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) 722-7620 (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 Inquirer, 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) 547-4990
Vice-President	Tom Dunn / (313) 494-4212
Secretary	Mike Banks / (313) 425-4169
Treasurer	Cyndy Erickson / (313) 397-8240
Activities	Leslie Cordova / (810) 547-5828
Membership	Sharon Stanek / (313) 565-8671
Equipment	Mike Felix / (313) 722-3994
Bylaws	Maria Crowl / (810) 471-7444
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
A: 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) 591-3858
Bill Halvargis / (810) 669-1911	Al Fytek / 852-7514
Joan Ryan / (810) 570-DIVE1	

If you would like to assist with any of the above positions, call the appropriate committee chairperson.



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