

# THE SOLAR RAY

THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE & RECREATION

J U N E 1 9 9 7

## HOCKING HILLS

REVIEW #1 BY LAURA ALBIN

After arriving about 1:30 a.m. on Friday night, (or maybe it was Saturday morning), we started knocking on doors trying to find our cabin. Once we realized that we had cabin #31, we started moving in *quietly*. However, we still managed to wake everyone up by accidentally slamming the door, or inadvertently crawling into bed with someone. By about 2:00 a.m. everything settled down and we were all snug in our sleeping bags or beds, fast asleep.

Waking up at the crack of dawn, (Well,.....OK. Maybe it was about 8:00 a.m.), our cabin started packing up, getting ready for the trail. Noticing the cool weather and rain, we all made sure our raingear was ready to go. Getting to the trail by 10:00 a.m., we strapped on our daypacks and raingear and headed out for the waterfalls and rock formations. Attempting to climb some boulders and get some waterfall pictures, we came upon some more of the group eating lunch. (Funny, whenever there is a group of "SOLARites", there is food???) We decided to sit down by the giant waterfall and have our water-soaked sandwiches. About ten minutes later we were shivering so we decided to hit the trail again. We had about a three-hour hike out to the car we had spotted. Passing yet more fellow SOLAR members, (and more food), and a group of Boy Scouts carrying loads larger than their bodies, we were on our way back to the warm cabin.

On returning we all had a cup of hot tea, enjoyed a hot shower, and basically napped or vegged out for a few hours. Then it came time to start dinner. (There is that food thing again!)

Trying to coordinate six or seven cabins of five or six people for a single dining place was a chore, so basically we just grazed from one cabin to the next, enjoying the variety of food. Being a typical SOLAR

*"My first SOLAR trip was a very pleasant experience. Even though we had inclement weather, hiking in Hocking Hills was well worth it. I do not consider myself an outdoor person, but the beauty and splendor of Hocking Hills draws you. After my first hike, I wanted to see more."*

*Everyone made me feel so welcome, and we had perfect roommates. My whole experience was positive, from beginning to end."*

*Ava Foster*

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potluck, there were plenty of leftovers. Going to bed stuffed, (one could never starve with a group of SOLAR members), we woke up at about 8:00 a.m. to get an early start. We packed up and got on the road about 9:00 a.m. and once again hit the trail. We did some more hiking, waterfall hunting, caving, and I guess you could say a little rappelling. About noon or so we headed for home, exhausted from yet another SOLAR adventure.

Arriving home around 6:00 p.m., we threw our laundry into the machine, took a hot shower, and hit the sack by 9:00 p.m.

*A great big "thank you" to Jim Gilfix for all his detailed planning. I can't wait until next year!*

#### REVIEW #2 BY JIM GILFIX

**T**his trip started out very good: blue sky, upper 60's, warm, some nice waterfalls and a few good friends. As it progressed, it became an excellent trip as more and more great people arrived! *We ended up filling 7 cabins!*



*Cedar Falls  
Hocking Hills*

While it rained most of Saturday, we didn't let that stop us...we were SOLARites. We drove,

hiked, saw and took pictures of the many beautiful and unusual sights. We kept saying, "this is Ohio!" The different cabin residents broke into smaller groups so none of the trails were too crowded which was one of my fears. Saturday evening we wound up having the traditional SOLAR potluck in two cabins, and yes, once again, we had *tons of food!*

Saturday evening the sky cleared up and we did some star gazing, looking at the comet (didn't see any spaceship tho...), and had a big party in Bill's cabin.

On Sunday our time outside was limited due to the drizzle, but not by much.

As far as I could tell, everyone had a great time; from the youngest Treasa's 5-month old Amanda, "the kids" (Jeanette, Nicole, Keavy, Stephanie and Casey), all the way to the oldest...whoever he or she was. If you haven't been there before, you really need to go, and if you were on this trip, thanks for helping make it a **SUCCESS**.

*NOTE: For future reference, the ROCKBRIDGE is well worth a visit. Besides having an impressive waterfall, the bridge itself is worth the hike.*

## NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

*Up for some volunteer work?* Then meet at Proud Lake Recreation Area the weekend of June 7-8. Come one day, come both. Work will be done on the Huron River Trail with other volunteers from the area.

*For more information, contact:*

*Dave Foerster at 313-453-0692*

*Kids having fun at Hocking Hills...a very Kid-Friendly trip*



*Some of the SOLARites at Cedar Falls*



*Mo and "Eagle-Eye" Dave spot another bird on the Pt. Pelee Trip*



*Your SOLAR Ray Editor arrives at Pt. Pelee Saturday afternoon*

## POINT PELEE BIRD WATCHING

REVIEW # 3 BY KAREN BATES

When the sun comes out and the temperature rises, spring is here and the SOLAR Club crosses the border south the Point Pelee, Canada. May 17th and 18th a group of us with binoculars, bird books and funny hats hit the birding trails to try and catch a glimpse of birds uncommon to the suburban backyard.

Saturday afternoon was spent doing our own thing. Doug Lanyk and I took the ferry to Pelee Island to bike ride and try to find the rare "Pelee Island Winery Bird." Pelee Island is small and uncrowded (in May). The terrain was very flat and it was easy to get around. At the end of our bike ride we did visit the island winery and had our share of samples.

Saturday evening the SOLAR Birders gathered in camp for...(No, not the traditional SOLAR Potluck)...the preparation of dinner. Even without the traditional potluck, there was plenty of sharing to be done. Even the uninvited raccoons enjoyed some of Grandma T's Brownies

The campfire was built to perfection by Richard Duke, Doug Lanyk and Aiden Heed. The moon was brought into enlarged focus by Steve Gardner. Of course, you will have to ask Pete Lamb how he got so wet answering Nature's Call. He told us it was the modern motion detector's fault!!

We woke Sunday morning "before the birds": a 5:45 a.m. wake up call that had us crawling out of our tents and on the birding trails as the sun was rising.

Did we see birds? YES!!! A lot of different kinds of birds. They came in all sizes, shapes and colors. (You can ask Margaret Martin their names.) It was fun watching SOLAR members flipping through their bird books trying to decide what that yellow one with black wings was.

A fund time has had by all! This was also the perfect time to test your gear for the summer season adventures you have planned.

I must end by saying, "Doug, I can't believe it was only seventy-five cents!!!"

# T H E S O L A R R A Y

## U P C O M I N G A C T I V I T I E S

### THE RIGHT STUFF?

*Just what are you made of? Find out June 14 from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm on the Personal Challenge Trip led by Jim Gilfix. (See the May Solar Ray for a more complete description.)*

### TAKE THE CHALLENGE!



### NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

At the May Solar Meeting the 1997-8 SOLAR Officers were elected. We wish all of them the best of luck in their new positions (or "old" positions for those re-elected). For a list of the new officers, see the back of the SOLAR Ray under Steering Committee.



**NO WALLYBALL  
THIS SUMMER!  
IT WILL RESUME  
IN THE FALL.**

### HELP WANTED!

**SEE: KAREN BATES**

As the new Program Director,  
**I NEED YOUR HELP!**

If anyone would like to host a program on a past trip, class or other SOLAR-related topic, please call me to make arrangements.

**ALSO...**

If you have any ideas for programs or leads on speakers, let me know. I can be reached at 810-983-4147.



**THANKS!**

# CAVING IN KENTUCKY

*By popular demand we are going caving again in Northeast Kentucky July 18-20!*

### THE PLAN:

Drive down to Olive Hill, KY Friday (7-hour drive) and stay at Carroll's Inn Motel. Saturday morning we will go to breakfast at the infamous James Drive-In, (delicious food at very low prices), then go directly to some caves, mostly on private property, for 5 - 8 hours of caving. Expect more of the same on Sunday, with a stop back at James Drive-In on the way home for the best milk shakes and cobblers you've ever tasted. We should be heading back to Detroit about 2:00 or 3:00 pm.



### THE TRIP:

This trip involves prolonged crawling through small constricted passages, some of which may contain water. The rewards are a great physical challenge, and you will probably see lots of bats, cave crickets, and very interesting formations. You must be in good physical condition to participate in this activity.



fitting clothing, knee and elbow pads, gloves, boots that cover the ankles, hard hat with chin strap (SOLAR can provide), 3 sources of light one of which must be mounted on your hard hat (duct tape works well), and extra batteries.

### THE COST:

\$65.00 will cover 2 days of guided caving and 2 nights lodging.

### INFORMATION:

Contact Leslie Cordova at 810-547-5626.

### THE EQUIPMENT:

Equipment needed...old coveralls or any type of loose-

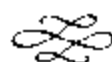
## 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FOSSIL HUNT



On July 26, Sunday, we will be meeting for the 7th annual fossil hunt in Arkona, Canada. This trip has been very popular over the years with as many as 28 people going. This is a perfect trip for kids as young as 4 and as old as 73. The fossil hunt will consist of a hike, a fossil search, a potluck lunch (which is usually awesome) and games. After lunch we will shower in their 35 foot waterfall, then walk down the stream, hunting and finding lots of fossils. It's even possible for the young (at heart) to go under the falls in places. Bring you underwater cameras as everything gets wet on the second part of the trip. This is a free trip and all are encouraged to attend, **RAIN OR SHINE**.



*Sandy DeWolf and Steve Willeurmeir look for fossils at the 6th annual fossil hunt last year at Rock Glen*



### SAFE CANOEING

If you would like to improve your canoeing skills, and would like to enjoy the canoeing season safely, I have the class for you. My Basic Paddling Seminar will include:

- 1 How to make the canoe go in a straight line, turn right or turn left.
- 2 How to keep the passenger side of the canoe up.
- 3 How to get the water back out once you ignore lesson 2.
- 4 The differences in style between solo and tandem outings.

AND...

- 5 How to have a SOLAR BBQ afterwards.

The cost is \$5 and a dish to pass. Class will be at my beach on June 14th (rain date the 15th). On June 28th we will take a trip on the Shiawassee River to practice our newly learned skills. All SOLARites will be welcome. *Let's hit the water safely.*



### LET'S GO CANOEING!

June 28th at noon we will be meeting at Walnut Hill Canoe Rental in Durand, MI for a 4-hour trip down the mighty Shiawassee (River of many bends). The cost will be \$18 per person double occupancy. Pack a lunch and beverages. I personally guarantee a great day! *Let's go canoeing!*

*Doug Lanyk*

*P.S. I will be bringing my squirt guns!*

### MS 150 July 12-13, 1997

Come ride with me in the MS 150 and raise funds for Multiple Sclerosis research. My name is Jeff and I am the captain for the SOLAR Team.

On Saturday July 12, we will depart from Northville Downs and ride 75 to 100 miles (with rest stops every 10 to 12 miles) to arrive in East Lansing. Overnight accommodations and meals are provided by Michigan State University. Sunday after breakfast, we will leave MSU and ride back to Northville completing the 150 to 200 miles.

We will need at least four people riding to be a team. I have registration forms for you or you can call the MS 150 Hotline at 1-800-247-7382 and sign up on the **SOLAR Team**.

Registration fee is \$30 before May 2 and \$35 thereafter. If you do not ride, be a sponsor for one who is.

If you are signed up under the **SOLAR Team**, would you please give me a call so that I can know how many people are riding with us?

*Thanks, Your Captain, Jeff Enterkin  
(248) 399-0696*

### Note from the Editor...

I'm short on room, so the letter from the editor has turned into a note. I just want everyone to know I'm looking forward to being the SOLAR Ray Editor and want to enhance our newsletter with every issue. I've got some ideas in mind and plan to implement them in upcoming issues. Please, let me know if there is anything special you want to hear about or see in the Ray.

**Got any questions about the Great Outdoors?** Call or fax them to me and I'll try to find the resources in the club to get them answered for you. (Phone: 248-641-9863/FAX 248-545-3479)

**Keep those articles and photographs coming!!!**

REVIEW #4 BY JIM GILFEX

## KENSINGTON – MAY 3

**O**n May 3rd we met at the Kensington Nature Center. Due to the rain, we ended up playing with puzzles; at which Craig was best, matching up smells; at which Jeanette was best, and finding bees that were alive; at which Nicole was best. And when we went to THE MALL, Ebony found the scariest masks, Ava relaxed the most during the

massages, while the rest of us, myself included, just enjoyed the trip.

After seeing a movie, *The Warriors of Virtue*, to which I would love to lead a SOLAR trip (the land of Tao), we went to REI and climbed on their make-shift walls (which is more than the rock-climbing class did at Rattlesnake the same weekend on



their so-called practical...they said it rained on them and they even ended up the weekend early...so reported by some-one I will just call "Student X".)

Later than day Nicole was able to get her kite in the air, Jeanette joined her and I got 2 of mine up the following day. May 3 was a lousy day weather-wise, but

**I**am proposing a trip to Yellowstone Park sometime in February 1998. We will be staying in a Yurt Camp in the middle of Yellowstone. Yurts are round heated hut-like structures with a floor and beds. There is a large yurt for communal eating. Food, accommodations and airfare will be approximately \$1,600.00, probably less.

There are many cross country ski trails and the photographic opportunities are endless. Snow shoeing is also available. There is a snow coach for access to other areas of the park.

There is a ban on all camping in Yellowstone which will be taking place in the next 4 years. They are even closing the lodge. This may be your last chance to spend the night in Yellowstone.

This is only an article to pique your interest. *Please contact me if you are interested:*

Pete Lamb 810-986-5865 (work)  
810-644-5831 (home)



## JUNE ACTIVITIES

June 3	General Membership Meeting Colony Hall <i>Butterfly Day</i> by Cyndy Erickson
June 6-8	SOLAR Rattlesnake Rattlesnake Provincial Park Milton, Ontario
June 7-8	National Trails Day* Proud Lake Recreation Area Milford, MI
June 14	Personal Challenge* Adrian, MI
June 14	Canoe Paddling Class* Doug Lanyk's House, Holly, MI
June 28	Canoe Trip* Shiawassee River Walnut Hill Canoe Rental Durand, MI

\*Denote: article in this month's SOLAR RAY.

## 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.

**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 and original articles are welcome. Send all contributions to: *Nancy Day, SOLAR Ray Editor • 1788 Brentwood Drive • Troy, MI 48098 248-641-9863 • FAX: 248-545-3479.*

## 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., Southfield between 8 & 9 Mile Roads at 7:30 p.m. Membership dues are \$30 individual annually or \$100 individual lifetime.

For more information about SOLAR, call the

### SOLAR CLUB HOTLINE

24-Hour Voice Mail (248) 988-6658

Or visit our Worldwide Web at:

<http://members.tripod.com/~solarclub1>

## STEERING COMMITTEE

President.....Mike Banks / 313.235.8129  
Vice President.....Margaret Martin / 313.721.2821  
Secretary.....Linda Burke / 810.471.9185  
Treasurer.....Susan Gaydos / 313.482.8404  
Activities.....Leslie Cordova / 810.547.5626  
Membership.....Mary Price / 810.477.7547  
Equipment.....Bob Graham / 313.453.7313  
By-Laws.....Harry Price / 810.477.7547  
Education.....Lester Mck / 519.256.0324  
SOLAR Ray.....Nancy Day / 248.641.9863  
Historian.....Dave Foerster / 313.453.0692  
Programs.....Karen Bates / 810.983.4147

### At Large

Cindy Harrison-Felix / 313.722.3994  
Steve Gardner / 810.442.0758  
Bob Westbrook / 313.513.8454  
Joan Westbrook / 313.513.8454  
Mo DeFrance / 810.229.8283  
Larry Martin / 313.591.3836  
Bill Halvargis / 810.669.1911  
Al Iyjak / 852-7514  
Joan Ryan / 810.57.DIVE1

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

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### SOLAR CLUB

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M E M B E R

*The SOLAR Ray*  
is printed on 50%  
recycled paper stock.

