

The SOLAR RAY

August 1998

AUGUST PROGRAM

SOLAR member Margie Guyot will share her wonderful adventure with us at the August membership meeting. She will discuss her experience of:

- Her three week bike on the Peru Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.
- The sacred ruins of Machu Picchu.
- Ollantambo
- Sacsaywayman
- The temple of the moon.
- Trekking in the Andies at 16,000 feet to Apu Ausangate, from hot, dry and dusty to tropical orchids and mist.
- Dining on whole roasted Guinea Pigs... with the heads on!

This is one program you won't want to miss!

OUTDOORS is where it's at!

WANTED: Hints and Tips

I am interested in submissions of *Hints and Tips* from experienced outdoor enthusiasts for future RAYs. These should be addressed towards beginners to novices. The Tips may help members not yet into a class or just starting out into outdoor activities. The *Hints and Tips* should address BASICS, not advanced aspects of your outdoor interests. All submissions will be considered.

RATTLESNAKE '98... Here we come!

Don't miss out on this fantastic trip to the Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area in Milton, Ontario, Canada. August 7th through 9th is approaching quickly, so sign up now!



Preview for part of the Rattlesnake '98 adventure!

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The SOLAR RAY is a monthly publication of the School of Outdoor Leadership, Adventure, and Recreation

Details for Upcoming Activities

Basic and Advanced Archery Techniques

On Sunday August 23, the SOLAR club is invited to receive lessons, shoot bows and arrows, from a Master Archer at the Livingston Archers Conservation Club in Brighton, MI.

The Livingston Archers will provide all of the equipment we need, and the instruction for a fun day of archery. If you have always wanted to try this olympic sport, or if you have been shooting for the last ten years, come on out! Our instructor has had one of his students win a Bronze Medal at the Olympics.

Advance reservations are a must! Limited space is available. Call me to confirm your spot and I will send you a map after I receive your check for \$10.

Equipment needed...JUST YOU! Bows, arrows, and targets will be provided along with master level archery instruction. Optional: If you own a bow and arrows, bring them. Bring some type of meat to grill for a BBQ after our lesson and shooting.

DATE: Sunday August 23, 1998
TIME: 10AM SHARP to 1PM
BBQ after.

Contact Matthew Dalton on (248) 360-1611 for information.

Children friendly event.

4 X 4 Pigeon River- Elk Photo Safari

If you own a 4X4 and enjoy the outdoors, viewing and photographing wildlife, then this trip is for you! We will take our 4X4's and as many of our friends into them, and go looking for Michigan's exclusive 5X5s. (These are big Bull Elk with 5 antler points on each side.)

Elk will be bulging and looking for appropriate mates during this time of the year. They will not be easy to find, so we will have to "hunt" for them. We should get plenty of opportunities to photograph other animals and some great scenery.

We will be car-camping, and taking several day-hikes along with driving up and down primitive two-tracks and other remote areas of this State Forest. Bring your camping equipment, lots of water, hiking boots, rain gear, and a good attitude. Stuff those vehicles with stuff you usually don't bring on backpack trips. Bring the BBQ, steak, and salmon, and your cooler. We don't have to carry stuff on our backs for this trip.

WORD OF CAUTION:

The animals are wild, and the roads are very remote. If we get lucky and see some elk, we must stay a safe distance away.

The off-road conditions are as it says, OFF-ROAD, so someone could get stuck, or our 4X4s may get a scratch or two from the brush. These build character, this is why 4X4s were made. We will be careful and you should outfit yourself with a tow strap, winch, or come-along, to pull yourself or a friend out. We will try to avoid anything too scary. I am not planning for anyone to get stuck, and we will avoid questionable areas. Select non-4X4 trucks, and other vehicles may be allowed on the trip. Call for details.

Also, hunters will be hunting Elk on private land, and in one area of the State Forest. We will NOT go anywhere near these areas. We will be miles from the hunting area.

The trip will a lot of fun, and excitement. Sign up early, and invite a few SOLAR friends to join you.

Date: September Saturday 12 through Sunday 13, 1998
Place: Pigeon River State Forest
Time: 10AM Saturday Sept. 12.
Cost: \$10
See: Matthew Dalton (248) 360-1611

Details for Upcoming Activities

Canoe or Kayak the Huron River

SOLAR members will meet inside of *Island Lake State Park* for a fun and casual Sunday afternoon paddle.

Bring your own boat, or rent from Havners.

I need to know how many people are going, and who needs to rent a canoe.

Date: Sunday August 23, 1998
Place: Island Lake State Park
Brighton, MI.

Time: 3PM

Cost: \$5 for snacks,
plus your canoe rental,
and State Park entry fee.

Call: Matthew Dalton for more
info on (248) 360-1611
Children Friendly

SLUSH and MUSH!

DOG SLEDDING is getting nearer! Algonquin Park, Canada between Christmas and the New Year is the place and dates. This is a 4-day, 3 night event. The cost is \$550 Canadian, but if 10 or more sign up, we get a 20% discount!! don't forget the favorable exchange rate. This price includes everything except your personal belongings. Because of the demand for this trip, you should sign up soon. For more information on this trip, call Karen Bates on (810) 986-4147.

Techno-school for Gadget Freaks!

Be sure you attend the *Basic UTM and GPS* class on August 13 from 7PM to 9PM. You will learn how to plot your GPS (Global Positioning System) location on a USGS map using the UTM grid system. Prerequisites are Backpacking, land navigation, orienteering, or similar courses. The cost is \$3 (non-refundable), and there is a maximum of 10 students. If you have a GPS, bring it with you, and know how to use it before class. Call Dave Foerster on (734) 453-0692 for info and to sign up.

The *Basic Radio Communication* class is a non-licensing class held on Aug 27 from 7-9 pm. The class will discuss transmitting messages using CB, FRS, or other handheld radios. The cost is \$3 and is non-refundable.

There is a pre-requisite for these courses though. You must have attended at least one of the following: Backpacking, Land Navigation, or Wilderness First Aid.

Both of these class will be held at the Plymouth Riverside Recreation Area in the Edward Hines Park, west of Haggerty Rd. The cost is \$3 and will include all class materials.

Participants are expected to team-teach both of these classes in the future. Call Dave Foerster on (734) 453-0692 for info and to sign up.

Go North to get Down... to the Basics, that is.

Can YOU live without a telephone, pager, video game, or radio? Can you survive without a tent, sleeping bag, stove, lighter or chocolate?

You can learn about the ancient skills of getting closer to earth at the *Great Lake Primitive Gathering* on Bois Blanc island, near the Mackinac Strait. August 20-22 are the dates and the cost is \$75. Breakfast and dinners are provided.

Outdoor workshops on flintknapping, stone tool making, navigation, fire making, edible plants, basketry, bark containers, cordaging, and the making of bow, arrow, and atlatl.

You must pay for material costs, but the instruction is fun, and the friendship and camping is free. Be sure to sign up at this month's SOLAR meeting.

For more information call Lester Mok on (519) 256-0324.

We're looking for volunteers for the WTVS Channel 56 fund drive on Tuesday August 18th from 7PM to 12 AM (although you can leave whenever you need to). WTVS studios are located on Second street just north of the Fisher Building in Detroit.

Call Doug Lanyk for information on (248) 634-4551

Details for Upcoming Activities

Natural Bridges State Park & Red River Gorge

\$60 is just about all you need to enjoy 3 days of cabin lodging and other activities on Labor Day weekend. If all four cabins (24 people) are filled, guess what, the price drops to \$50!

Check-in is on Friday September 4 after 3 pm. Check-out is by 11 am on Monday September 7. Because the cabins are limited to 24 people, you should sign up ASAP.

You will be responsible for your own food. You may wish to coordinate food with others in your cabin. Who knows? Maybe a smorgasborg is in the making here!

NOTE! This is a dry county If you wish to have alcohol, bring it with you, or you will need to drive about 7 miles to Wolfe County to purchase it.

All money is due by the August membership meeting. If you have signed up, but are unable to go, let Leslie know ASAP, so she can sell your spot. There is a very big waiting list for this trip. If you are not sure if you are paid up, contact Leslie.

Call Leslie Cordova on (248) 547-5626 for info, or see her at the August meeting.

A Simple Tip

- from Jim Giffix

How to have more fun for beginners!

Go on SOLAR day trips

Once on the trip, talk to people and ask them what other trips they attend and are planning to do next.

Get phone numbers and call these people.

After the trip, again ask what they are planning for in the future.

Ask if they do anything, to call you and include you in on their activity.

Normally it takes time to develop friendships, but with SOLAR, this process can be easier and quicker.

Then do things. If you don't plan and attend fun trips, they won't happen!

Trip Report

OHIOPILE, PA

A nice place to visit and I would LOVE to live there!

- by Nancy Day

The weekend of July 11-12, 20 SOLARites under the leadership of Tom Dunn headed to O-P, PA for kayaking lessons. As always, some SOLARites arrived early and stayed late in the area to enjoy the other numerous sights and activities.

When you first arrive in town, a stop at the park is recommended to view the magnificent falls. (Eat your heart out, Jim Gilfix!) One of the first places you can get wet are the natural slides above the falls (make sure a local shows you where!). There are more slides on the far side of town with both sets guaranteed to put roses on your "cheeks" - or strawberries!

Everyone had finally gathered at the campsite by the wee hours of Saturday morning. We signed our lives away at the outfitters and hit the Youghiogheny River Lake in full regalia of kayak skirts, PFDs, helmets, and oars. Then we were assigned our kayaks for the weekend.

We learned, or attempted to learn, whitewater releases, bow saves, and how to paddle in a straight line. After we had lunch by the lake, we divided into two groups, with a choice to advance to rolls, or to continue practicing on the mornings maneuvers. We headed back to camp water-logged with our sinuses clogged.

Sunday we just had to show up, and we were on our way! All our gear was still loaded up, so away we went to do nine miles of the middle "Yough" River. Everyone hung in there and did SOLAR proud! There were a few "dumps" but everyone came through. It was amazing how quickly time went by on the river, especially when many of us had problems with the "paddling in a straight line" thing!!!

I think the "bug" bit some SOLARites. Mark Tones already has thoughts of another trip come August, and not just for kayaking. There are plenty of other things to do in the area, from whitewater rafting to miles of hiking and biking trails.

For architecture buffs, there are two Frank Lloyd Wright designed homes in the area, with tours Tuesday through Sunday.

Plus there's great pizza and *foxes* and Mark recommends the BBQ ribs at the *Smokehouse*. I recommend the *Snickers* Cheesecake!!!

P.S. Mark's got the lake. Have you got a kayak to practice rolls? Give him a call...

Activities

August

2 Weeks 7/31-8/16 Backpacking- British Columbia, Canada
Tom Dunn 248 683-961

Sat-or-Sun Beginning Kayaking Class- TSA
Cindy Harrison-Felix 734 722-3994

Tuesday 4 General Membership meeting- Colony Hall

Friday-Sunday 7-9 Rattlesnake Provincial Park - Milton, Ontario
Jim Giltix 248 539-0489
or Jim Young 810 731-2504

Fri-Sun 14-16 9th Annual DeFrance Canoe Outing- AuSable River
Laura Albin 810 229-8283

Saturday 22 Archery and Canoe Paddling - Island Lake Rec.
Matt Dalton 248 360-1611

August

Sat, Sun 1,2

Advanced Backpack Shakedown
Mike Danks 248 926-8939

Thursday 13

Basic UTM and GPS
Lester Mok 519 256-0324

Wed 19 & 26

Advanced Backpack Class- Benchmark
Mike Banks 248 926-8939

Saturday 22

Edible Plants
Susan Gaydos 313 482-8404

Thursday 27

Basic Radio Communication
Lester Mok 519 256-0324

Fri-Sun 28-30

Advanced Backpack Shakedown
Mike Banks 248 926-8939

TBA

Beginning Kayaking Class
Cindy Harrison-Felix
734 722-3994

September

Tuesday General Membership meeting- Colony Hall

Fri-Sun 4-6 Rattlesnake Park (Rock Climbing)- Milton, Ontario
Jim Young 810 731-2504

Fri-Mon 4-7 Natural Bridges/Red River Gorge - Slade, Kentucky
Leslie Cordova 248 547-5626 KIDS OK

Fri-Sun 11-13 Elk Camera Safari / 4X4 Jamboree- Pidgeon River
Matt Dalton 248 360-1611

September

Wednesday 10

Advanced Backpack Class- Benchmark
Mike Banks 248 926-8939

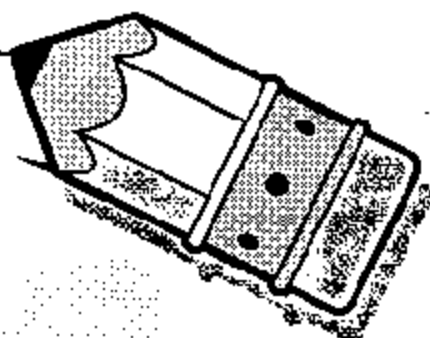
Weeklong 19-27

Advanced Backpack Practical
Mike Banks 248 926-8939

Education

The Bulletin Board

WANTED: Backpackers
for trip 1st week in August
For information call:
Carol Dunn (313) 561-1653
Kathy Kirby (313) 953-9095



Kid friendly Canoe Trip
SEPT 20
Proud Lake Rec. Area
Meet at Hayners Livery
For information, call
(734) 721-2821

*Remember - Great Lake
Primitive Gathering
Aug 20-22
Call Jerry
(248) 399-0696*

4X4 Jamboree and Elk Photo Safari
Pigeon River State Forest
September 11-13
Car Camping, hiking, off-roading, and
lots of fun!
\$10... what a deal!!!
Call Matthew Dalton (248) 360-1611

For a good time
Call Solar
(248) 988-6658



THE SOLAR RAY

About *The RAY*

The RAY is a monthly publication of the SOLAR Club and is provided free of charge to current dues-paid members. Contributions in the form of comments, trip reports, recipes, photos and original articles are welcome. The deadline for next edition of *The Ray* is 12 days after the monthly general membership meeting. Send all contributions to Tom Poster, SOLAR RAY editor, 24855 Woodridge Dr. Apt #208, Farmington Hills, MI 48335 - (248) 478-3069

Meeting Location

The purpose of the SOLAR Club is to promote and advance interest in the outdoors, through information, education, and participation. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Colony Hall, located at 21780 Evergreen Rd., between 8 and 9 Mile roads in Southfield, at 7:30 PM. Membership dues are:

- \$30 individual, annually
- \$150 for individual lifetime
- \$45 annually for a family
- \$225 lifetime for a family

For more information about SOLAR, call:
SOLAR CLUB HOTLINE
24-hour Voice Mail (248) 988-6658
Or visit us on the web:
<http://members.tripod.com/~solarclub1>

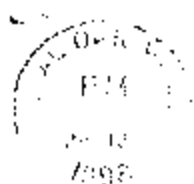
STEERING COMMITTEE

President	Doug Lanyk 248 634-4551
Vice President	John Fedyk 248 541-0499
Secretary	Nancy Day 248 641-9863
Treasurer	Linda Burke 248 471-9185
Activities	Leslie Cordova 248 547-5626
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Joan Ryan	810 57-DIVE1
Al Fylak	852-7514
Larry Martin	313 591-3856
Mo DeFrance	810 229-8283
Bob Westbrook	734 513-8454
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OAK PARK MI 48237

SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP ADVENTURE, AND RECREATION