

THE SOLAR RAY

THE SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE & RECREATION

F E B U A R Y 1 9 9 8

VISIT THE WILD SHORE OF AN INLAND SEA

by Rondu Shapiro

Last summer I spent the most incredible 8 days backpacking Pukaskwa National Park in Canada. Its beauty is truly awesome! Amazingly, this pristine place is only a 10-hour drive from my home.

Pukaskwa National Park, (pronounced Pack-a-saw) is located 1-1/2 hours north of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario on Lake Superior. The coastline bordering this national park is a unique ribbon of rocky headlands, islands, sheltered coves and cobble/sand beaches. This beautiful shoreline can be explored on foot or by boat (canoe or kayak). The boater however, must be of proficient ability to endure the quickly changing moods of Lake Superior. This boreal forest supports an



assemblage of mammals which include moose, wolf, black bear, lynx, snowshoe hare, and woodland caribou.

For the March meeting we are fortunate to have naturalist Craig Zimmerman coming from Pukaskwa to tell us more about this wonderland. He will also be presenting an incredible slide show. Craig is a kayak instructor and author of "Teasing the Spirit", a paddling guide for Pukaskwa's coastal waters. I was told by someone who also works at the park that, "Craig knows more about Pukaskwa than anyone around." Craig has worked for Parks Canada at Pukaskwa since 1988 and has worked for parks and protected areas since 1980.

**HIS PRESENTATION IS A
'NOT TO BE MISSED' EVENT!**

A special thank you to the outfitters who helped sponsor our annual Solar Photo Contest!

Photo Entry Pack donated by:

The Benchmark • 32715 Grand River Avenue
Farmington, Michigan • 248-477-8116

Day Pack donated by:

REI • 17559 Haggerty Road
Northville, Michigan • 248-347-2100

20 Degree Sleeping Bag donated by:

EMS • 30837 Orchard Lake Road
Farmington Hills, Michigan • 248-932-5952

Weekend Snowshoe Rental for Two donated by:

Moosejaw Mountaineering and Backcountry Travel
34288 Woodward Avenue
Birmingham, Michigan • 248-203-7777

One Week Cross Country Ski Rental and One Weekend Kayak Rental donated by:

Raupp Campfitters • 421 S. Washington
Royal Oak, Michigan • 810-541-6969

Two One-Year Backpacker Magazine Subscriptions donated by:

Mr. David Durfee at Rodale Press
33 W. Minor Street • Emmaus, Pennsylvania

These sponsors helped make our photo contest fun! The next time you're in the market for new outdoor gear or information, keep them in mind.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

IT WAS TOUGH, BUT THE WINNERS ARE...



Thank you to all who participated in the Solar Photo Contest. There was a professional photographer looking at our entries and was overheard saying, "There are people in Solar with a lot of talent."

Here are the results you've been waiting for:

GRAND PRIZE, BEST OVERALL PHOTO!

Jim Gilfix

(Jim won the Eastern Mountain Sports Sleeping Bag)

SCENERY:

1st - Tom O'offo

2nd - Tom O'offo

3rd - Tom O'offo & Karen Bates

(Tom won a One-Year Subscription to *Backpacker Magazine*)

PEOPLE:

1st - Clay Lucey

2nd - Doug Lanyk & Nancy Day

3rd - Nancy Day

(Clay won a One-Year Subscription to *Backpacker Magazine*)

HUMOR:

1st - Margaret Martin

2nd - Cindy Erickson

3rd - Karen Bates

(Margaret won an REI Day Pack)

WILDLIFE:

1st - Margaret Martin

2nd - Cindy Erickson

3rd - Cindy Erickson

(Margaret won a Cross Country Ski Rental and a Kayak Rental donated by Raupp's Campfitters)

PLANTS:

1st - Leslie Cordova

2nd - Doug Lanyk

3rd - Doug Lanyk & Margaret Martin

(Leslie won a Snow Shoe Rental donated by Moosejaw)

NON-SOLAR EVENT:

1st - Glen Kruger

2nd - Rick Merryman

3rd - Karen Bates

(Glen won a Photo Fanny Pack donated by Benchmark)

Congratulations to all our Solar photographers! Some of the photo contest entries are on display at REI in Northville. Stop by and take a look if you should be passing by...

STRANGER IN PARADISE

January 2 - 4, 1998

By Jim Gilfix

I started the year in Paradise. It really began at a fellow Solarite's kin's home with homemade bean soup and a soak in their hot tub in Harbor Springs. Not a bad start. Then it was truly *on to paradise...*

We arrived (Pat Golden and I) in Paradise on Friday and got comfortable at Heidi's. A quick hike to the Lower Tahquamenon Falls revealed lots of snow, clean smells and the foretelling of delights to come.

We all got together later and decided to rename ourselves. So there we were: Ron Raspberries, Dennis Donuts, John Juniper, Suzie Salad, Pat Peanutbutter (who was no connection to) Judy Jelly. More names like Dale Dates Dogs, Marti Mango, Tim Turnip, Pam Pomegranet, and me, Jim Jambalaya, hardly prepared us for Heather Hot Cakes. The group reminded her of her self-imposed name often and soon she was responding as if it were her given name. One time someone *mistakenly* called her "Hot Lips" which her mother was quick to point out.

Saturday we woke to drizzle. A hot breakfast of eggs, omelets, pancakes (no, not hot cakes) and coffee got us ready to set out. Mike Mannebach gave some cross country ski instruction and we were off to the majestic Upper Falls, viewing it from all angles. We split up to head back.

Most people chose the slightly less than four miles back to the lodge for dinner. But not Hot Cakes. She decided to do the longer trail. She took off, alone, into the backcountry. After numerous perils, no water, ski tracks ending, two swamps, the spotting of bear and wolf tracks, deep snow on unbroken trail, she plodded on.

(Continued on Page 4)



WABOS LOPPET REVISITED

Once again our fearless leader/SOLAR President, Mike Banks, will be leading this annual event. The cost of the trip is \$145.00 which includes 4 days and 3 nights (March 20th, 21st, and 22nd) at the luxurious Glen View Cottages in Sault Ste. Marie. The cost is \$120.00 for a two night stay. The Wabos Loppet, for those of you new to SOLAR, is a 27 kilometer ski ADVENTURE, i.e. non-competitive. (I believe the goal for first-timers is just to make it back before sundown...)

Everyone is taken by train to Wabos and deposited to x-country ski back to Stokely Creek Country Ski Resort. The race, a SOLAR tradition, takes place on the 21st and is followed up by a big-time bar-becue and just a great time bragging and talking about the day's events. How you spend the rest of the time there is up to you.

Presently the trip is full, but if enough Solarites are interested, we'll add additional accommodations.

For more information, call Mike Banks for the full scoop: 248-926-8939. Safe and happy skiing...



ATTENTION...

All Solar members who are thinking of running for a place on the Solar Steering Committee. Rocky Mountain Outfitters in Rochester, Michigan was kind enough to donate a gift certificate to the Solar Club. It will be put to good use in May after the elections. All Solar members who run for office will have a chance at winning this great gift! **Thanks to Mark Crissman at Rocky Mountain Outfitters!**

LASER TAG

Skiwi
Ski
Club



VS



A friendly challenge between the Solar Club and the Skiwi Ski and Social Club will take place on Saturday, April 14th. 15 people are needed from the Solar Club to challenge the Skiwi's to three games of laser tag. We will be eating pizza, drinking pop and socializing.

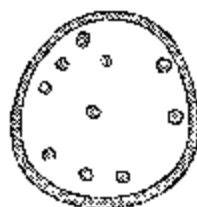
We will be playing at Laser Quest on John R Road in Madison Heights. Those who sign-up must be there by 4:55 p.m. to register their code names. The cost is \$18.00 per person by March 29th. After the 29th the cost goes up to \$20.00 per person.

Contact Jeff Enterkin for more information (248-399-0696) or check out a hand-out at the next Solar general meeting.

If you would like to practice before this event, join Jim Gilfix's Laser Tag on March 8th.

A special thank you to all Solar members who donated baked goods to help raise funds for future programs. This was a success! I will have coffee available at future meetings. For those of you who have the urge to bake, feel free to donate your baking talent at our monthly coffee table.

Thanks again to the January Bakers!!!



SO YOU LIKE IT ON TOP

DEEP down we all want to be aggressive. Yes, we all want to change roles and be on top. Well, you need to learn how to get up there first! If you have a great sense of adventure, you should be part of the 1998 SOLAR CLIMBING CLASS. This class teaches all the basics. You'll learn how to get into a climbing harness, tie all of those complicated knots, safely belay your partner, move with grace and style over a rock face, and speak the language of climbers. You will learn how to construct a strong, safe top rope anchor system and you will do it with confidence.



Powers Park in Farmington. The classes all come together on the weekend of May 15th through 17th at Rattlesnake Conservation Area

near Toronto, Canada. Student climbers will be tested on their knowledge and practical skills over the course of this three-day event.

So, if you are ready to get on top, make plans to be part of this

exciting class. Sign-ups will be taken at the MARCH SOLAR MEETING. The course fee is \$75 and includes all equipment and class materials. Students should be in good physical condition and be committed to attending *all* classes and practicals.

Please note that the final practical is a three-day event.

If you have questions, contact JIM YOUNG AT 810-726-8253 OR 810-731-2564.

Class dates are each Wednesday beginning April 15th through May 6th at the Benchmark in Farmington, Saturday, May 2nd, at Grand Ledge near Lansing, Michigan, and Saturday May 9th at

STRANGER IN PARADISE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Five hours and about 10 miles later she returned having had nothing to sustain her but a power bar. That was 10 minutes earlier than the time set for us to call our the rescue troopers. Nickname aside, she was COLD! But after plying her with 6 pints of water, hot chocolate, and a cheese burger, she went on to play an astounding game of *Mind Trap*.

Everyone seemed to have a great time, except for those who had to listen to Wolf snore for two nights in a row. Even an attempt with duct tape failed!

Saturday night there was the less traditional left-over Solar potluck. By Sunday it was so cold we began thinking about spring and white water rafting. Hope to see you all there in May!!!

GREAT LAKES
SHIPWRECK
FESTIVALA DIVER'S FORUM &
FILM FESTIVAL
21st Annual Great Lake
Shipwreck Festival

The Ford Seahorses Scuba Diving Club will sponsor its 21st Annual Great Lake Shipwreck Festival on Saugatuck, February 21, 1998 at the Ford Motor Company World Headquarters auditorium in Dearborn, Michigan. The day's activities include an afternoon or evening main program, salt water programs, seminars, diver's forum, underwater photo contest results, and a large exhibit hall of maritime artists, historical and preservation societies, plus private and shipwreck artifact collections. For every main program ticket purchased, one dollar will be donated to Divers Alert Network (DAN). To receive an order form for tickets, and/or the photo contest, call the Ford Seahorses voice mail hotline at 313-769-2458 with your name, address, and where you heard of our festival. Also visit our web page for expanded information as the Ford Seahorses Scuba Diving Club 21st Annual Great Lakes Festival materializes at:

<http://www.mich.com/~taylor>.

For more information, contact Joan Ryan, At-Large 810-57DIVE1.

T H E S O L A R A Y BULLETIN BOARD

RESERVE SKILLS FOR WINTER CAMPING

By Lester Mok

The Winter Survival Course is the ultimate challenge of our club. It is open to the past and present graduates of the *Enjoy Michigan Winters Classes*. As you venture more and more into a marginal environment, this is the kind of training that will get your out of a jam. This course will test your skill, knowledge, teamwork and leadership ability, and your judgement call. We offer it once every few years and the only sign-up is at the February meeting. The course starts in early February.

Contact Bob Westbrook
for details at 313-513-8454.

ICE AXE & CREVASSE...

Several of us who've been trained in mountaineering are getting a meeting together within the next 2 months. We'll not be teaching classes but we'll be playing with rope and pulley, showing pictures, and swapping stories. Contact Robert Roy at 248-399-0595 if you're interested.

BYE DORIS!

Congratulations to
Doris Piccinin on
her new job in
Seattle. Good Luck
and Best Wishes
from all of us!
Keep in touch!

Seattle...a REAL popular place...

Also headed to Seattle:

Marie and Steve Gardner

Their new address:

5030 S.W. 317th Lane #W303

Federal Way, WA 98023

253-835-0438

They say if you're out that way,
stop in. They have an extra
room for you to stay in but you
need to bring your own
sleeping bag and pad!

Best of luck and keep in touch
with us Solarites here in
Michigan.

DID YOU KNOW?

By presenting your membership card at any of the area retailers listed below you will be entitled to special discounts for SOLAR members. These discounts vary from store to store, so it's always best to check with the manager on duty at the time of purchase.

JOE'S ARMY-NAVY SURPLUS

Royal Oak, Pontiac and Warren

MOOSEJAW MOUNTAINEERING

Keego Harbor, E. Lansing and Birmingham

SURPLUS CITY

Berkley and Westland

VENTURE OUTDOORS

Plymouth

FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL & MAY

- Feb. - TBA - Winter Survival Course
Bob Westerbrook 313-513-8454
- Feb. 3 - General Membership Meeting
Program: Appalachian Trail
Colony Hall, Southfield
Mike Banks 313-235-8129
- Feb. 6-8 - CC Ski Weekend Meeting
Hale, Michigan
Laura Albin 810-229-8283
- Feb. 13-15 - Vasa X-Country Ski Race
Traverse City, Michigan
Debbie Wood 313-521-2891
- Feb. 20-22 - Cabin/X Country Ski
Weekend
Wilderness State Park
Laura Albin 810-229-8283
- Feb. 20-22 - Dog Sledding
Algonquin Provincial Park,
Ontario, Canada
Karen Bates 810-983-4147
- Mar. 3 - General Membership Meeting
Program: Pukaskwa National Park
Colony Hall, Southfield
Mike Banks 313-235-8129
- Mar. 8 - Laser Quest
Madison Heights
Jim Gilfix 248-539-0489
- Mar. 20-22 - X-Country Skiing
Wahos Lopper, Canada
Mike Banks 248-926-8939
- Mar. 28-29 - Land Navigation Class
Linda Burke 248-471-9185
- Apr. 4 - Laser Quest: SOLAR vs SKIWS
Madison Heights
Jeff Enterkin 248-399-0696
- Apr. 4 - General Membership Meeting
Colony Hall, Southfield
Mike Banks 313-235-8129
- Apr. 15, 22, 29 - Rock Climbing Class
Jim Young 810-731-2504
- Apr. - May - TBA Basic Backpacking
Class
Mike Banks 313-235-8129
- May 2, 6, 9, 15, 17 - Rock Climbing
Class
Jim Young 810-731-2504
- May TBA - Bird Watching Class
John Fedyk 248-541-0499



THE COLD EQUATION Or a One Day Course on Winter Safety

By John Fedyk

I attended Lester Mok's course on winter safety for the reason of wanting to be properly prepared for the elements when I go on day hikes, cross-country skiing, or snowshoeing.

Lester was prepared, as usual, with scads of information on: What clothing to wear; what and how much to eat and drink; how to plan outings; weather conditions and hazards unique to winter; and dangers such as frostbite, hypothermia, and snow blindness.

I can't say that much of this was new to me, but the knowledge imparted by this course is just as critical to a seasoned outdoor enthusiast as it is to a beginner. Some of the depictions of accidents to people who should have known better, as discussed in Lester's information packet, only illustrate the importance of this material.

We all sat down at two picnic tables inside a cabin at Island Lake Recreation Area, just south of Kensington Metropark. It was a gorgeous day! With nary a cloud in the sky, the light shimmered off the needles of the pine trees just outside the window. Inside, because of the sunny day, shadows were sharp and distinct. I might add, the air was good too. Many cabins in Michigan State Parks are heated by wood-burning stoves and the air is usually redolent with the smell of soot and partially burned hydrocarbons. Not so here. The stove was powered by propane.

Lester also had guest instructors. They, like Lester, also encouraged questions, suggestions, and relevant anecdotes about their subjects. Ronda Shapiro and Mike Mannebach stressed the importance of wearing the appropriate clothing for the winter activity. They strongly suggested layering, wearing wicking undergarments, and avoiding cotton. Matt Dalton talked about what to pack. Do not assume that even in a popular metropark such as Kensington, that there is no risk in a day hike. Be prepared with a flashlight, whistle, fire starter, fuel (i.e. candles, dryer lint, and/or tissue paper), water, and extra food.

At the end of the day, we went outside. First we were grouped in hypothermia rescue teams. The "victims" were carefully bundled into warm, dry sleeping bags in order to raise their body temperature back up to normal. Then we navigated through a practice course with map and compass, since getting lost in winter is not a summer picnic.

Thank you, Lester, and thank you Ronda, Mike and Matt for the time and trouble that you took to prepare for this course. I heard a few people talking afterwards who were outside of Lester's carshot, and some at the Cross Country Ski Class the next weekend commenting on how well organized, informative, and fun this course was. I agree! It was!

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 or provide on MAC disk.*

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 3 & 9 Mile Roads at 7:30 p.m. Membership dues are \$50 individual annually or \$150 individual lifetime and \$45 family annually or \$225 family 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 / 248.471.9185
Treasurer Susan Gaydos / 313.482.8404
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Equipment Bob Graham / 313.453.7313
By-Laws Harry Price / 248.477.7547
Education Lester Mok / 519.256.0324
SOLAR Ray Nancy Day / 248.641.9863
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Programs Karen Bates / 810.983.4147
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Mo DeFrance / 810.229.8283
Bob Westbrook / 313.513.8454
Bill Salvagis / 810.662.1911
Peg Campbell / 248-344-1260

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

THE SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP ADVENTURE & RECREATION

SOLAR CLUB

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• S O L A R • M E M B E R

LUCENE & LESLIE CORDOVA
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