

# THE SOLAR RAY

THE SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE & RECREATION

J U N E 1 9 9 8

## STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT, WHAT IS THAT STAR I SEE TONIGHT?

By Karen Bates

The summer star gazing season is upon us once again. When you are away from the city lights on a weekend in the woods looking up at the night sky, how many stars and constellations can you identify?

If you would like to learn more about the night sky and star identification join John Kirchhoff



from Riders Hobby Shop in Livonia after the June SOLAR meeting. John will help us learn to identify stars and constellations. He will also teach us what to look for in the upcoming summer months. John will have a slide presentation and star wheels for our use during the program. If it's dark enough outside maybe we can have a backyard practical behind the hall.

## AND THE WINNERS ARE...

The SOLAR Steering Committee Elections were held at the May general membership meeting.

*The new Steering Committee members are as follows:*

President	Doug Lanyk
Vice President	John Fedyk
Treasurer	Linda Burke
Secretary	Nancy Day
By-Laws	Laura Albin
Education	Harry Price
Membership	Mary Price
Programs	Karen Bates
Historian	Pete Lamb

Equipment Manager	Pam Bauerle
Activities	Leslie Cordova
Public Relations	Mike Barks
SOLAR Ray	Tom Poser

Remember, all committee meetings are open to the membership. If you would like to join us the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m., contact one of the committee members for the meeting location.

*Thanks goes out to the past Steering Committee and congratulations to the new committee. These are the people that help keep the club going!*



# THE SOLAR RAY

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### CAVING NORTHEAST KENTUCKY

**DATES:** July 17-18, 1998

**COST:** \$65.00 includes 2 days of guided caving and 2 nights lodging

**LIMIT:** 15 SOLARites

**TRIPLEADER:** Leslie Cordova 248-547-5626

**PLAN:** - Arrive Friday night and stay at Carroll's Inn Motel in Olive Hill, KY.

- Be prepared for about a 7-hour drive.

- Saturday morning meet for breakfast and then go to some private caves for 5-8 hours of caving. Rick Simpson will be our guide.

- Saturday night we will go out to dinner and check out the local night life in a dry county, although this time there will be a bluegrass festival in town so there will be a night life!!!

- Sunday morning we will check out of our rooms and set out on another day of caving. We should be done about 2:00 p.m.

For all the additional information on what equipment you'll need and what you need to bring, come to future SOLAR general membership meetings and pick-up an information sheet or call Leslie Cordova at the above number. **HAPPY CAVING!!!**

### CANOE CLASS!!!

Can you canoe in a straight line?

When was the last time you dumped a canoe in flat water?

What is a gurnel?

Where in a canoe does the oar go?

When would you use a keel?

Can you do a deep water rescue?

Do you get mad at your canoe partner?

Do you like picnics?

Basic Flatwater Canoe Class will be held at my house on June 20th, June 21st, **AND BECAUSE OF THE OVERWHELMING RESPONSE I'VE ALREADY HAD FOR THESE TWO CLASSES, AGAIN ON JULY 26TH!** (Each one is a separate class.) Class will be



about 3 or 4 hours long, depending on how quickly you all learn. A cookout will follow so you'll want to get your learning in fast and furious so you can get to the good stuff..

*But first you will be instructed in:*

- Canoe safety.
- Basic paddling strokes.
- The "J" stroke.
- Deep and shallow water rescues.
- Canoe anatomy.
- Solo and tandem canoe operation.
- If you would like to canoe safely,

please come to one of the SOLAR Paddling Classes. Sign-ups will be at the June and July meetings.

*For more information call me, Doug Lanyk, at 248-634-4551.*

### **FLASH!**

The classes for June 20th and 21st are full but I need the money from those who signed-up at the June meeting. If unpaid at the June meeting, there will be openings for others.

*P.S. Have a wonderful day!*

## 8TH ANNUAL FOSSIL HUNT AND ADVENTURE DAY

**J**oin us for the 8th Annual Fossil Hunt and Adventure. This trip is open for people ages 4 - 87. Last year we had 22 adults and 17 kids, not counting the adults who acted like kids. We will meet at the Rock Glen Museum at the Rock Glen Conservation Area on July 26th, Sunday, at 11 a.m. The trip is a two-hour drive from Royal Oak going across the Port Huron Bridge.

*We will hike, swim and look for fossils.* Then we'll have a *creme de la creme* of potlucks for lunch so please bring your best picnic culinary delight. After lunch we will change into clothes that can get WET! Do not bring anything (cameras and towels included) that can't get unequivocally and whole-heartedly soaked!

*We will play in the Conservation Area's 35 foot waterfall* (if you can stand the COLD), and go under and behind a smaller falls nearby. Next we'll swim in an almost tropic river (all that's missing is the snakes, crocs and you!)

*Most people chose to get wet all over but you don't have to.* The cost is FREE. All you have to do is drive to Port Huron, take Highway 402 East to County Road 79/7 North (at Exit 44). 1 km past the town of Arkona (there is a small jog to the



left, then to the right), look for the signs to Rock Glen Conservation Area.

*Hopefully all the regulars will be there and a whole raft of new folks!* Jim will be on the balloons and we expect a fantastic time will be had by all!!!

*Editor's Note: This is one of the best SOLAR activities of the year! Not only do you get great food and a great time being together with fellow SOLARites, you get to bring something home too... FOSSILS! But remember, don't be greedy! One of each type of fossil you find per person, please.*

**CALL JIM GILFIX AT 248-539-0489 FOR MORE INFO! YOU AREN'T GOING TO WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!!!**

## CUSTOMIZE YOUR SUMMER HIKING ATTIRE

On **SATURDAY, JULY 25TH** I will be holding a **TIE-DYE CLASS** in Holly at Doug Lanyk's house. **DAMIAN LANYK**, who is a tie-dye master will be in town to instruct us on creating our one of a kind t-shirts. But wait, that's not all! After you're done tie-dying stay for **BBQ** and a swim in the lake. The cost of this fun-filled day is only **\$15.00**. For more information or to sign-up, call or see me at the June meeting **KAREN BATES, 810-983-4147**

## LATE BREAKING NEWS... from Matthew Dalton

On Sunday, June 7th, come to the Detroit Science Center to see the *Everest IMAX Movie* at 3:00 p.m. Cost \$7 for an adult... much less if we get 10 or more. **KIDS OKAY.** Afterwards...another *Indy Speedway IMAX Movie* and/or out to eat!

### INTEREST SIGN-UPS AT JUNE MEETING:

Kayaking or canoeing on a regular basis...1 or 2 times a month in June, July and August.

Beginner and Intermediate Archery at Pontiac or Island Lake Recreation Areas in July and August.

Call Matthew for additional information at 248-360-1611.

# JUNE, JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

- June 2 - General Membership Meeting**  
Colony Hall, Southfield  
Program: Astronomy
- June 5-7 - Rattlesnake Weekend**  
Rattlesnake Provincial Park  
Milton, Ontario  
Jim Young 810-731-2504
- June 6 - National Trails Day Service Project**  
Maybury State Park, Northville  
Mike Banks 248-926-8939
- June 6 - Orienteering**  
Pontiac Lake Recreation Area  
Linda Burke 248-471-9185
- June 7 - Everest IMAX Movie**  
Detroit Science Center  
Matthew Dalton, 248-360-1611
- June 13 - Nature Hike, Wildflower Identification and Kite Flying (KIDS OKAY)**  
Kensington Metro Park  
Jim Gilfix 248-539-0489
- June 20 - Canoe Paddling Classes**  
Doug's House in Holly, Michigan  
Doug Lanyk, 248-634-4551
- June 21 - Canoe Paddling Classes**  
Doug's House in Holly, Michigan  
Doug Lanyk, 248-634-4551
- July 4-5 - Mike's Whitewater Rafting**  
Ottawa River, Ontario, Canada  
Mike Banks, 248-926-8939
- July 7 - General Membership Meeting**  
Colony Hall, Southfield  
Program: TBA
- July 10-12 - Rattlesnake Weekend**  
Rattlesnake Provincial Park  
Milton, Ontario  
Jim Young 810-731-2504
- July 11-12 - Whitewater Kayaking Class**  
Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania  
Tom Dunn, 248-683-9617
- July 15 - Trip Planning Seminar**  
Cindy Harrison-Felix  
734-722-3994
- July 17-19 - Caving and Bluegrass Festival**  
Olive Hill, Kentucky  
Leslie Cordova 248-547-5626
- July 18-19 - Michigander (Weekend Only)**  
Unofficial Organizer/Carpool Info  
Paula Dirkes, 248-399-9628
- July 22 - Advanced Backpacking Class 1**  
Mike Banks, 248-926-8939
- July 24-26 - Wilderness First Aid Course**  
Bald Mountain Recreation Area  
Mike Banks, 248-926-8939
- July 25 - Tie-Dye Class and BBQ**  
Doug's House in Holly, Michigan  
Karen Bates, 248-983-4147
- July 26 - 8th Annual Fossil Hunt (KIDS OKAY)**  
Rock Glen Conservation Area  
Arkona, Ontario, Canada  
Jim Gilfix 248-539-0489
- July 26 - Canoe Paddling Classes**  
Doug's House in Holly, Michigan  
Doug Lanyk, 248-634-4551
- August 1-2 - Advanced Backpacking Shakedown Alpha**  
Mike Banks, 248-926-8939
- August 19 - Advanced Backpacking Class 2**  
Mike Banks, 248-926-8939
- August 22-23 - Advanced Backpacking Solo Practical**  
Mike Banks, 248-926-8939
- August 26 - Advanced Backpacking Class 3**  
Mike Banks, 248-926-8939
- August 28-30 - Advanced Backpacking Shakedown Omega**  
Mike Banks, 248-926-8939
- August -TBA - Edible Plants**  
Susan Gaydos, 734-482-8404
- August -TBA - Wilderness Canoeing Class**  
Bob Westbrook, 734-513-8454
- Sept. 10 - Advanced Backpacking Class 4**  
Mike Banks, 248-926-8939
- Sept. 19-27 - Advanced Backpacking Practical**  
Mike Banks, 248-926-8939
- TBA - Advanced Backpacking Class 5**  
Mike Banks, 248-926-8939

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**HIKING EVERY WEDNESDAY  
EVENING AT 6:30 PM.  
MAYBURY STATE PARK.  
CINDY HARRISON-FELIX  
734-722-3994**

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## ARE YOU READY FOR SOME WINTER FUN?

*I know summer is not even here and I am not trying to rush things, but...*

I have a SOLAR trip for the winter season in the planning stages. DOG SLEDDING!!! This winter I am going back to Algonquin Park in Canada for an exciting four-day, three-night dog sledding endeavor. The trip is being planned for the week between Christmas and the New Year. The cost of the trip is \$550.00 Canadian.

This includes everything but your personal belongings. If I get at least ten people signed up, we get 20% off the cost AND you have to consider we also get the currency exchange rate. You're welcome to talk to me or anyone who went on my last dog sledding adventure to find out how much fun we had! The outfitter said the holiday time of the year fills up fast so we have to have our deposits in soon.

*Call me for additional information: Karen Bates,  
810-986-4147. THINK SNOW!*



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

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES...

13 ISSUES OF THE SOLAR RAY



# THE SOLAR RAY

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



### Spotlight on August... RATTLESNAKE

#### IT'S COMING! GET READY!

On August 7-9th all SOLARites are invited to our **GRAND CAMPING WEEKEND** in Milton, Ontario. This one weekend SOLAR encourages **EVERYONE** to participate. We camp on a grassy lot; hot showers and flush toilets nearby and outhouses even "nearby." Every year SOLAR sponsors events like *The Buffalo Shuffle*, *The Bicycle Hill Climb Race* and the annual *SOLAR Cook-Off*, a cooking contest based on **EVERYTHING** being prepared at the campsite. (Entering the Cook-Off is not required, but do bring a dish to pass for the traditional Potluck. A phenomenal spread is guaranteed.)

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 8th:

##### EVENTS:

***The Buffalo Shuffle*** – A unique event early Saturday morning helps set the atmosphere for the day. Shuffle, walk, run, we don't care. Just don't come back until you spot a buffalo!

***The Bicycle Hill Climb*** – A gruelling race up an impossible incline. Only for those with legs of iron, empty stomachs, and masochistic athletic tendencies. Women are especially urged to enter...possible financial rewards upon completion? Or, you can participate by being a member of the cheering section.

***SOLAR Cook-Off*** (approximately

7:30 p.m.) – This results in a wonderful potluck because everyone gets to sample the entries and some lucky SOLAR members get to be judges! Give it a try!

***Campfire:*** Don't forget guitars or other instruments suitable for a campfire sing-a-long *Friday and Saturday* nights.

##### ACTIVITIES:

Bring bikes, hiking shoes, windsurfing equipment, climbing apparatus and other sport gear suitable for the cliffs, woods and nearby Kelso Lake.

#### **OR...Join Jim Gilfix's Waterfall Discovery Tour...**

① **Crawford Lake Conservation Area** – Crawford Lake is perched atop the Niagara Escarpment, the most significant landform in southern Ontario. Extensive woodlands, pristine wetlands and rugged limestone cliffs provide a specialized habitat for a great diversity of plants and animals. There's a 15th century village, hiking trails, a boardwalk around the lake, and a giftshop.

② **Spencer Gorge Wilderness Area** – This Y-shaped gorge is fed by two creeks which plunge over the escarpment in falls. We will hike and see the sights.

③ **Decision time...** what to do next? Either Hilton Falls and more hiking or swimming at Kelso Lake.

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 9th:

More biking, hiking, climbing, etc. So be ready for an action-packed weekend with everything from goulash to ghosts. **Contact Jim Gilfix for more information at (248) 539-0489 and pick-up handouts at the upcoming SOLAR meetings.**



#### GET YOUR T-SHIRTS...

*The SOLAR Club t-shirts and bandannas have arrived and are ready for purchase. The cost of the t-shirts is only \$10.00 and the cost of a bandanna is only \$4.00. The t-shirts are available in medium to XXL, with a variety of colors to choose from. They will be available at the SOLAR general membership meetings. All proceeds will help fund future programs. I have a few excellent programs booked for this fall. See me, Karen Bates, at the upcoming meetings.*

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

## NATURE HIKE, WILDFLOWER IDENTIFICATION AND KITE FLYING

**I** have led this activity in the past and it has always been fun and informative. On June 13, Sunday, we will meet at the Nature Center of Kensington Metro Park at 10:00 a.m. We will walk the nature trail looking for and identifying the wildflowers we see. Bring any wildflower book.

Afterwards we will picnic together and then "go fly a kite" or two in the field. *Cost is FREE!* Extra kites will be available but everyone is encouraged to purchase their own. Of course, kids are welcome and encouraged. Anyone know how to operate (and own) a stunt kite?

Let's make this a Grand turnout and maybe Erin, Neal and Cassandra will go, too. Sign up at the June SOLAR meeting or just show up.

Contact Jim Gilfix for more information at 248-539-0489.



LOOKING FOR INTERESTED  
BACKPACKERS TO JOIN US ON  
A BACKPACK TRIP THE FIRST  
WEEK IN AUGUST.

IF INTERESTED CALL:

CAROL DUNN AT HOME -

313-561-1653

OR KATHY KIRBIE AT HOME -

313-953-9095

## FOR SALE:

- (1) bear resistant food container,  
\$50.00 (originally \$75.00)
- (2) Coleman white gas lantern  
with case \$35.00 (originally \$50)

See Lester at the next meeting.

## NATURAL BRIDGES STATE PARK & RED RIVER GORGE LABOR DAY WEEKEND

DATES:

September 4-5, 1998

COST:

\$60 for 3 nights of cabin lodging, cheaper if all four cabins are filled (\$50)

WHERE:

Natural Bridge Cabins / 606-663-4900 or after hours 606-663-9096

TIME:

Check in after 3 PM Friday - Check out by 11 AM Monday

TRIP LIMIT:

24 people

CUT-OFF DATE:

I need all money by August 4, 1998

TRIP LEADER:

Leslie Cordova / 248-547-5626

PARTICULARS:



You will be responsible for your own food, and might want to coordinate with the other members of your cabin. This is a dry county, so if you would like alcohol either bring it with you or you can purchase it in nearby Wolfe County (7 miles away).

TO GET THE WHOLE SCOOP, PICK-UP A FLYER AT THE UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS!

## 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: **Tom Poster, SOLAR Ray Editor** • 24855 Woodbridge Drive, Apt. 208 • Farmington Hills, Michigan 48335 • 248-478-3069.

## 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 \$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/~solarclub/>

## STEERING COMMITTEE

President ..... Doug Lanyk / 248.634.4551  
 Vice President ..... John Fedyk / 248.541.0499  
 Secretary ..... Nancy Day / 248.641.9363  
 Treasurer ..... Linda Burke / 248.471.9185  
 Activities ..... Leslie Cordova / 248.547.5626  
 Membership ..... Mary Price / 248.477.7547  
 Equipment ..... Pam Bauele / 248.546.2533  
 By-Laws ..... Laura Albin / 810.229.8283  
 Education ..... Harry Price / 248.477.7547  
 SOLAR Ray ..... Tom Poster / 248.478.3069  
 Historian ..... Pete Lamb / 248.644.5831  
 Programs ..... Karen Bates / 810.983.4147  
 Public Relations ..... Mike Banks / 248.926.8939

### At Large

Steve Gardner / 253-835-0438  
 Cindy Harrison-Felix / 313.722.3994  
 Joan Westbrook / 313.513.8454  
 Joan Ryan / 810.570VE1  
 Al Fylok / 852-7514  
 Larry Martin / 313.591.3856  
 Mo DeFrance / 810.229.8283  
 Bob Westbrook / 734.513.8454  
 Bill Halvangis / 810.669.1911  
 Peg Campbell / 248-344-1260

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

# THE SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE & RECREATION

## SOLAR CLUB

P.O. BOX 2438

SOUTHFIELD MI 48037



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

## • S O L A R • M E M B E R

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