



# THE SOLAR RAY



THE SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE & RECREATION

M A R C H 1 9 9 8

## BAT COUNT AND CAVING IN KENTUCKY

**B**y popular demand we are going caving again in Northeast Kentucky March 13-15.

This caving trip will be slightly different from the rest as we will also be participating in a bat count. While the bats are still hibernating, we will quietly slip into a cave on private property and count them. NOTE: This is the only time of the year the property owner will allow anyone into his cave.

The plan is to 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 cobbiers you've ever tasted. We should be heading back to Detroit at 2:00 or 3:00.

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.

**Equipment needed:** Old overalls or any type of loose fitting clothing, knee and elbow pads, gloves, boots that cover the ankle, hard hat with chin strap (SOLAR can provide), 3 sources of light, one of which must be mounted on you hard hat (duct tape works well), and extra batteries.

The cost of the trip is \$65 which will cover 2 days of guided caving and 2 nights lodging.

**Need more information?**  
Contact Leslie Cordova at 248-547-5626.

*If you weren't at the February meeting, you missed another great program. Raven's talk on the Appalachian Trails was extremely interesting and informative. Thank you, Karen, for your diligent work as program chairman. You're doing an A-ONE job!*

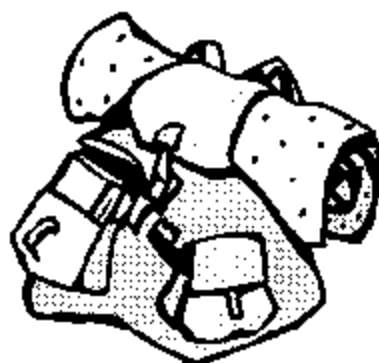
## NORTH MANITOU ISLAND BACKPACK MEMORIAL WEEKEND

**N**orth Manitou Island is part of Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes National Lakeshore.

The island has a wide variety of natural beauty as well as an interesting human history, as evidenced by the interesting place names and ruins returning to nature, scattered across the island. There are 15,000 acres to explore and hike around. The topography varies considerably from low, sandy, open dunes to rugged bluffs.

There is an assortment of wildlife on the island, including deer, raccoons that will steal your food if given the opportunity, and the piping plover, a shore-bird which is on the endangered species list, BUT NO BEARS!!! Fishing is permitted on Lake Manitou, with a valid fishing license.

Be prepared for a rustic backpacking experience, as you will need to hang your food, purify your drinking water, and bring a cook stove as fires are not permitted in the wilderness area. Oh, and by the way, there are no outhouses.



Cost of the trip is \$20 which will cover the ferry ride over to the island. The park service has started to charge for camping this year. The cost will be \$5 per night per site, as well as a \$7 vehicle fee. You will be responsible for this cost, as it is NOT included in the \$20 for the ferry. The park ranger will collect this money from you on the island. You may choose to take the ferry over either Friday or Saturday at 10:00 AM SHARP, returning Monday at 11:10 AM SHARP!!! Ferry times are subject to change. Please double check the time, as the ferry will leave without you.

Since this island is very popular, I will be making the ferry reservations

in April, therefore I need everyone to pay by the April meeting. After this time, if you still want to go, you will need to make your own ferry reservations.

At the May meeting I will have a list of people who are going on both the Friday and Saturday ferries. Please take a copy and try to carpool as much as possible. Also, since there will be a lot of people going on this trip, we need to practice minimal impact camping, so try to set up small (less than 8 people) hiking groups. Remember that your group will be responsible for their own food and gear (stoves, water filters, tents, first aid, bear bag, etc.) PLEASE COME PREPARED!!!

If you need additional information, please contact Leslie Cordova at 248-547-5626.

Please don't delay as the ferry will fill-up!



### Upcoming Activity...

### SPRING BIRD MIGRATION AT POINT PEELEE

Mid-May brings the world renowned annual spring bird migration to Point Pelee National Park in Ontario, Canada. Saturday, May 16th we'll meet to set-up camp; then we can hike, birdwatch, bike, canoe, sun at the beach, etc.

Sunday morning at dawn we'll arise to get an early jump on the bird watching. We'll hike the birding trails and try to identify as many birds as we can. This is a great time of the year to hike the trails and also see lots of wildflowers.

The cost of the trip will be \$15 and is limited to the first 16 people to sign-up and pay in full. The cost includes your camping and entrance into the park.

For further information, contact Dave Foerster at 313-453-0692.



## DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

**S**pring is nearly here, and the climbing season is ready to begin. You have always wanted to give it a try but you're just not sure. "I don't have the body for that," "I don't have the strength for that," "I'm afraid of heights," "What if I fall?" "I saw *Cliff Hanger*, and that's not for me!"

*Climbing is not for everyone* but you never know until you give it a shot. Climbing doesn't require the perfect body or physical strength. Goals and limits are unique to each person. Some physical strength is necessary, but balance, agility, concentration and the ability to think under pressure are the most useful assets. Women excel as climbers often besting the guys on difficult vertical climbing problems.

*SOLAR teaches climbing using the Top Rope System.* This is the safest method and allows the beginning climber to learn technique, experience the freedom of climbing and test their personal limits while never actually falling more than a few inches.



*Do you have what it takes?* Why don't you find out by joining us this spring for the 1998 SOLAR ROCK CLIMBING CLASS. You'll learn all the basics about equipment use, knot craft, climbing language, climbing technique and anchor building. Everything comes together on the three day practical at Rattlesnake Pointe Conservation Area near Toronto, Canada. When this class is over you will have new skills, new strength and new confidence, and

hopefully made some new friends along the way. You'll have what it takes!

*Sign-ups will be taken* at the MARCH SOLAR MEETING. The course fee is \$75.00 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 810-776-8253 OR 810-731-2504.*

**USE THE MONEY!** 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 is 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**

Keege Harbor, E. Lansing and Birmingham

**SURPLUS CITY**

Berkley and Westland

**VENTURE OUTDOORS**

Plymouth

## 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!**

## SOLAR IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD PEOPLE...

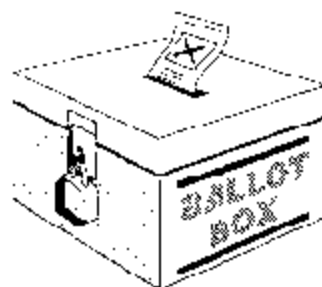
**T**he elections are coming up for the new SOLAR officers and time is running short. Most of the positions have nominees for the face-off vote in May, but a few of the positions as of yet have no one running for them. Those without nominees:

✱ SECRETARY

✱ EQUIPMENT MANAGER

✱ SOLAR RAY EDITOR

Now's your chance to "give back" to the club for all the fun times and great learning experiences being in the SOLAR club has afforded you. So, we're looking for nominees for the above and any of the other SOLAR offices...**AND REMEMBER, YOU CAN NOMINATE YOURSELF!!!**



### Activity Review...by Nancy Day




## CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING WITH INSTRUCTOR MIKE MANNEBACH AND SIDE-KICK BILL STANLEY

**W**hat can I say? We went, we learned, **WE SKIED!!!** About 9 of us SOLARites got up in time to make the trek to the Higgins Lake Cross Country Ski Headquarters a few Saturdays ago and all of us are glad we went. The snow conditions were excellent, the day perfect: no harsh winds to contend with or glaring sun. We were given on-the-spot training by the instructors, did practice exercises and then hit the trails. As we took off on a few of the trails, we were greeted by a beautiful, soft snowfall that further enhanced the day. After all our work, and let me tell you, cross country skiing really helps you work up a sweat...and appetite, we joined with some other SOLARites up for a weekend's skiing entertainment and had dinner at a nearby restaurant. We managed to get out in record time (???) and in about 2-1/2 hours we were headed back home to Metro Detroit.

It was a super time. I felt I finally got a handle on this cross-country skiing as did the other attendees. *Thank you Mike and Bill and all the other helpers for your time and instruction.*

### UPCOMING ACTIVITY

## LASER QUEST

nce again we are going back in for another futuristic adventure at Laser Quest in a 8,000 square foot maze filled with 4 towers, ramps, passages filled with smoke, black lights, and dragons! This will be a big fun and lite adventure trip, but also open to beginners and children.

**YOU NEED TO ACT NOW** for Laser Quest in March 1998. I must have your \$15.00 in full at the March meeting.

*I hope to have 30 people play the first game at 3:30 p.m. March 8th (Sunday). People who have never played are welcome. We will break and eat pizza upstairs in a group room, we will discuss strategies, you will receive a list of advanced and super-advanced tips and we may divide into teams for the second game.*

*I will bring a birthday cake (my birthday is in March) and you are welcome to bring cards. This is a Non-Solar event so you can sign-up friends, kids and family.*

*Kids ages 2-5 are free* but must be connected to an adult. For more information, contact Jim Gilfix at 248-539-0489. We will be playing at Laser Quest on John R Road in Madison Heights.



*Sorry, Jim. This is the best I could do visually for laser quest action...*

# THE SOLAR RAY BULLETIN BOARD

## 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 4th. 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 25th 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 Event on March 8th.

## SPRING SALE AT THE MARCH MEETING.

As is and  
make an offer.

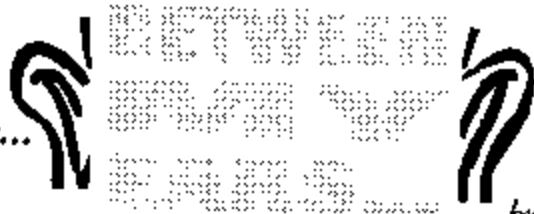
MSR WhisperLite  
Shaker Jet Stove  
used once, \$35.00.

Sherpc Snow shoes  
(9" x 34"), \$95.00.

More stoves and  
pots for sale.

Lester  
(519) 256-0324

## Here are a few educational ideas...



by Lester Mok

**FIRST AID AND CPR COURSES** - The Starr Commonwealth is hosting a Wilderness Medical Associates Wilderness First Aid Course on May 2-3. The cost is \$190. Call them at 517-629-5591 ext. 295 for more info. We're still putting together an ARC Standard First Aid and Adult CPR Class for March. You can get the details at the March meeting.

**NON-SOLAR COURSES** - Please see me for information on these outside courses. River rescue classes (the use of throw-bags, freeing pinned boats, rescuing trapped swimmers...) and rig rescue classes (technical lowering and hauling, rappelling, anchor system...) in southern Ontario. If you can afford to take a week or two off from work in May or June, you can try the Wilderness Education Association's Wilderness Steward Program (backpacking and canoeing in the Upper Peninsula) or the Appalachian Mountain Club's Mountain Leadership School (in Mt. Washington). They costs are between \$160 and \$350.

And finally, my big THANK YOU to the following SOLARites who helped or taught part of the Winter Outdoor Safety Class or the Tracking Class in January. They are Priscilla Dana, Ronda Shapiro, Matt Dalton, Mike Mannebach, Clayton Lucey, and Ken and Lisa McQuade.

## WHITE WATER RAFTING ON THE NEW RIVER IN WEST VIRGINIA

**YES...YOU CAN STILL  
GO...YOU AND YOUR  
KIDS...ONLY IF YOU  
ACT** at the March SOLAR  
meeting. I need a \$20  
deposit check made payable  
to SOLAR, to hold your  
spot for this year's White  
Water Rafting Trip on May  
22-25, 1998. *Payment in  
full due April 7th or you  
don't go!*

You'll also need to  
choose which trip on which  
you want to go.

*The choices are:*

#1 (\$150), all-day raft  
trip, lots of paddling with a trained guide. This trip is for adults or a few  
kids age 14 and up. It's on the Lower New River and is very exciting and  
suitable for the inexperienced (to sit in the middle) and the experienced (for  
the front of the raft). Positions can be rotated.

#2 (\$130 for adults and \$85 for kids ages 6-13...also suitable for the  
mature age group of 60-82 at adult prices). This also includes all-day  
rafting with zero to some paddling with a trained guide. It's on the Upper  
New River and is said to be oodles of fun at a milder pace.

*Both trips include* Southern Style Country Breakfast Bar and a hot lunch  
at a private spot with restrooms and picnic tables. Both are on Sunday, May  
24th and the day will close-out with an incredible dinner in their lake front  
dining lodge where videos of the rafting trips will be shown.

*Each raft holds* six adventuresome Solarites and one expert guide. The  
cost of both trips includes camping May 22nd through May 25th plus  
rafting on May 24th, 3 meals May 24th, maps of the area, directions to  
ACE and other sights in the area.

*Why ACE?* Stocked fishing lakes (no license needed), swimming beach,  
mountain bike rentals, hiking, biking, and scenic views at New River Gorge  
National Park. There's more, but not enough room here!!

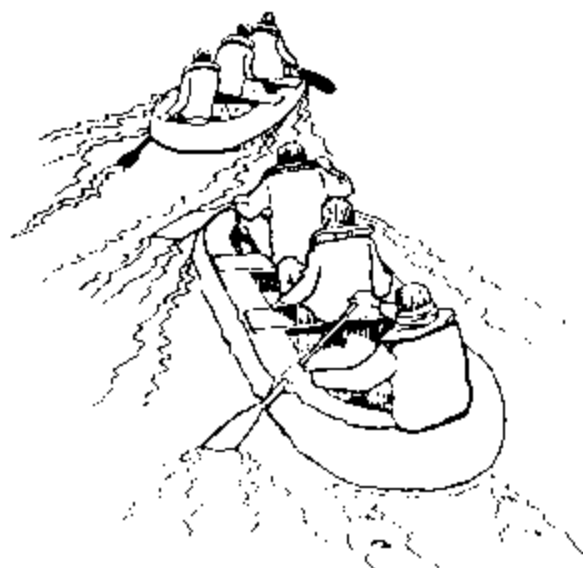
*If this sounds too good to be true*, come check it out! Remember, a \$20  
**NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT** is due at by the March meeting. The  
rest by the April meeting or you don't go!

Don't wait! Come to the meeting or call me and mail your deposit. So  
far 38 people are signed up. The April SOLAR meeting will be the best  
time to sign-up and **PAY IN FULL!**

*Hope to see you there! Jim Gilfix 248-539-0489.*

*PS. I have done the Lower New River 5  
times and am considering the easier trip.*

*Jim*



## THEY PAVED PARADISE...

**Enjoy it while you can**

*by Jim Gilfix*

Summer is coming,  
SOLAR is growing,  
March brings spring,  
Let's go sing!

I want to play,  
I want to dance,  
I'll eat my cake,  
And have romance.

Laser Quest is fun,  
If Chris and Annie go,  
Hotcakes on the beach, but  
Susan's within reach.

April showers fall.  
May flowers are tall,  
Hiking, birds and bees,  
Let's go climb the trees.

Rafting is exciting,  
Camping sure is fun,  
If I bring the Vernors,  
It will weigh a ton.

June, June,  
What to do?  
Waterfalls and biking,  
Let's add some hiking.

July and the 4th,  
Picnics all around,  
SOLAR potlucks,  
A-eating we are bound.

July and fossils,  
Worked seven times before,  
Nicole and Jeanette and  
Dominique too.

Attention all kids,  
Marco and Linda too,  
The hunt will be here,  
Join us or be blue.

August is Rattlesnake,  
Waterfalls and cooking,  
Climbing and hiking,  
And the Safari too.

Join us one and all,  
It's going to be a blast,  
Next year we can say,  
This was all in the past.

# ACTIVITIES MARCH, APRIL & MAY

Mar. 3 - General Membership Meeting  
Program: Pukaskwa National Park  
Colony Hall, Southfield  
Mike Banks 248-926-8939

Mar. 8 - Laser Quest  
Madison Heights  
Jim Gilfix 248-539-0489

Mar. 13-15 - Caving Trip & Bat Count  
Olive Hill, Kentucky  
Leslie Cordova, 248-547-5626

Mar. 14 - Progressive Dinner  
Start:  
Kathie Kirby's House, Livonia  
Margaret Martin 313-721-2821

Mar. 20-22 - X-Country Skiing  
Wabos Lopett, Canada  
Mike Banks 248-926-8939

Mar. 21 - Orienteering  
(Non-SOLAR)  
Lester Mox 519-256-0324

Mar. 28 - Land Navigation Class  
Waterloo Recreation Area  
Linda Burke 248-471-9185

March - Standard First Aid/CPR (TBD)  
Margaret Martin 313-721-2821

Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Backpacking Class  
Benchmark  
Mike Banks 248-926-8939

Apr. 4 - Laser Quest:  
SOLAR vs SKIWIS  
Madison Heights  
Jeff Enterkin 248-399-0696

Apr. 7 - General Membership Meeting  
Colony Hall, Southfield  
Mike Banks 248-926-8939

Apr. 15, 22, 29 - Rock Climbing Class  
Benchmark  
Jim Young 810-731-2504

Apr. 18-19 - Basic Backpacking Practical I  
Pinckney Recreation Area  
Mike Banks 248-926-8939

Apr. 22 - SOLAR MADNESS -  
9 - 11 P.M...20% OFF AT THE BENCHMARK BY SHOWING YOUR SOLAR CARD...

May 2 - Rock Climbing Practical I  
Planet Rock or Grand Ledge  
Jim Young 810-731-2504

May 5 - General Membership Meeting  
SOLAR OFFICER ELECTIONS  
Colony Hall, Southfield  
Mike Banks 248-926-8939

May 6 - Rock Climbing Class  
Benchmark  
Jim Young 810-731-2504

May 8-10 - Backpacking Practical II  
Hoist Lakes  
Mike Banks 248-926-8939

May 9 - Bird Watching Class  
TBD  
John Fedyk 248-541-0499

May 9 - Rock Climbing Class  
Powers Park  
Jim Young 810-731-2504

May 15-17 - Rock Climbing Practical II  
Rattlesnake Prov. Park,  
Ontario, Canada  
Jim Young 810-731-2504

May 16 - Heartsavers Saturday (CPR)  
Cobo Hall  
Harry Price 248-477-7547

May 16-17 - Bird Migration/  
Camping Trip  
Pt. Pelee Prov. Park, Ontario,  
Canada  
Dave Foerster  
734-453-0392



# RECIPE OF THE MONTH

CARIBBEAN COCONUT CURRY SAUCE From *Bon Appetit Magazine*, July 1995

(as discovered by John Fedyk and turned in by Linda Rosa)

Brush this slightly sweet lime-scented sauce on shrimp or chicken before or during grilling. The recipe makes enough for 1-1/2 pounds of meat with some left over for dipping.

2/3 cup cream of coconut

1/2 cup fresh lime juice

6 TBSP minced green onion

2 tsps curry powder

1/2 tsp cayenne pepper

1/2 tsp salt

Whisk cream of coconut and fresh lime juice in a small bowl until smooth. Stir in onion, curry powder, pepper and salt. Brush half of the sauce over the meat during grilling. Save some to pass, but remember to keep it separate from your basting batch.

(Can be made a day ahead - cover and refrigerate.)



## 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: 248-525-3479 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 21789 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/~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 / 313.487.8404  
Activities ..... Leslie Cordova / 248.547.5626  
Membership ..... Mary Price / 248.477.7547  
Equipment ..... Bob Graham / 313.453.7313  
By-Laws ..... Larry Price / 248.477.7547  
Education ..... Lester Mok / 519.256.0324  
SOLAR Ray ..... Nancy Day / 248.641.9863  
Historian ..... Dave Foerster / 313.453.0692  
Programs ..... Karen Bates / 810.983.4147  
Public Relations ..... Doug Laryk / 248.634.4551

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Joan Ryan / 810.570.1111  
Al Fylak / 352-7514  
Larry Martin / 313.591.3356  
Mo DeFrance / 810.229.8283  
Bob Westbrook / 313.513.8454  
Bill Halvangelis / 810.569.1911  
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

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*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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