

The SOLAR RAY

As the Holidays approach...

I don't mean to rush the holiday season, but... next month is the annual SOLAR holiday party! YES, Already! There is fun to be had by all who attend the December monthly meeting. There will be food, music, dancing, games (with fabulous prizes), and of course the creative cookie contest. Remember last year when the chocolate chip cookie campground beat my sugar cookie quinsy by one vote? Mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 1st! If you would like to lend a hand, contact me, Karen Bates at the next SOLAR meeting.

A New look for the SOLAR RAY

You probably realized the SOLAR RAY has a new look! Starting this month, you will see a more appealing look and soon, more graphics.

Your contributions of articles, notes, and tips are welcome. Contact the editor for details, at his new phone number shown on page 8.

Would you like to see RAPTORS up close and personal?

The November program brings us *Mr. Joe Rodgers'* wonderful presentation on *Birds of Prey*. Mr. Rodgers is a member of the *Wildlife Recovery Association*. Through the help of volunteers and donations, the association cares for and rehabilitates injured and abandoned raptors. Mr. Rodgers spends the spring through the fall on back-country trips studying birds of prey, and the winter months educating people on these amazing creatures. In 1997, *Wildlife Recovery* cared for 35 raptors and 9 other species. A few of those were: Red-tailed Hawks, Cooper's Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, Marlin, Osprey, Eastern Screech Owl, and others.

Plan to stay after the November meeting for a slide presentation, and learn more about the birds of prey. We will also get a chance to meet some of Mr. Rodgers' travelling companions... Live Raptors!

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Previews of Coming Attractions

Enjoying Michigan Winters

Locking forward to winter in the Great Lake State is a popular thing to do. If you find yourself dreading the long nights and the too-cold days, perhaps you should look into *Enjoying Michigan Winters* class (EMWC). We will brighten your attitude!

Skiing, skating, sledding, snow-shoeing, photography, tracking, quiet solitude, ice-scapes, ice climbing, Northern Lights, dog sledding, fishing, and sharing hot cider around the campfire are only some of the reasons to get outside during the short days of the year.

It's quite easy to stay warm, dry, and comfortable, even in sub-zero weather. You just need to know how. EMWC is the class to get you out and having fun.

The class will cover: methods to keep warm, what and how to eat, how to change your metabolism, winter camping skills and equipment, personal locomotion for skiing and snow-shoeing, basic safety in winter, building your confidence in the outdoors, sled construction, and much more.

The class consists of five wednesday classes and two overnight practical exams. Optional, but recommended, will be the *Basic Cross-Country Skiing* class, and a *Sled Building* seminar. **Basic Backpacking is a prerequisite.**

It's time to get outside, and put away the bug dope.

Think Snow!

Classes are on December 9, January 13, 20, 27, and February 3. The practical weekends are on January 23-24 and February 6-7.

Sign up at the monthly meeting, or call Doug Lanyk to reserve you spot, and for information. His number is (248) 634-4551.

Farmington Hills Road Rally

It's that time of year, again. Cool days, falling leaves, and... a Road Rally!

The rally will be in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area, and will be held on Saturday November 7th. Check-in is at 5:00pm and the hunt starts promptly at 5:30pm. The start of the rally will be at the Farmington High School east parking lot, located on Shiawassee Rd., just west of Orchard Lake Rd.

The cost is \$5 per person, minimum of \$20 per car, which includes snacks afterwards. Prizes will also be awarded.

This is a non-SOLAR event, so anyone can join in on the fun.

For information and to sign up, call Jeff Zabel on (810) 778-1676 or (248) 304-8287.

Capuchin Soup Kitchen Food Drive and Volunteer Request

Here's an opportunity to volunteer your time to help the less fortunate during the holiday season.

About 10 volunteers are requested to help at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen this holiday season.

Duties will include setting up tables and chairs, setting up the kitchen area, assisting serving the food, and clean-up.

The date is Friday, November 27th (day after Thanksgiving) at meet at 9:30am.

SOLAR will also be collecting canned and packaged food, and also money donations, at the November general meeting.

If you feel moved to give a helping hand this Thanksgiving, call for more info or to sign up. Debbie Wood can be reached on (313) 521-2891

More Previews of Coming Attractions

Nordhouse Dunes

This trip is always a favorite way to end the camping and hiking season (although many of us enjoy Michigan winters by camping out year 'round). The rustic campsites at the *Lake Michigan State Recreation Area* are open for a fee of \$7.00 per site (2 vehicles per site).

The water pump and pit toilets will be operating. For the more hardier souls, you can work on your backcountry skills by backpacking into the *Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area*, where camping is free. **You will have to carry in water** and practice "leave no trace" ethics. We will be day hiking the trails in and around the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area by day, and howling around the campfire by night, weather permitting.

Be prepared for anything from Indian Summer to a La Niña winter!

This trip is free except for the above mentioned camping fees. November 6-8 are the dates to pencil in for this event. You can pick up maps from Linda Burke at the November meeting or call her on (248) 471-9185

Kensington Fall Hayride

Join us for a hayride with cider, snacks, and good times at the *Kensington Metropark*. We will meet at the *Farm Center* area of the park at 6:00 PM on November 14 and will start with a bonfire. The hayride starts at 7:00 PM.

The hayride will last about an hour, and will be followed by hot dogs, cider, and hot chocolate.

This hayride is limited to adults only, please. **This is a non-SOLAR event**, so you can invite your friends, neighbors, cousins, ... anyone!

For more information or to sign up, contact Debbie Wood at the October or November meeting, or call her on (313) 521-2891.

Return of the Ethnic Dinners

- by Jim Giffix

Fall is here, and it's time to go back to hosting the SOLAR *Ethnic Dinners*. I will be sponsoring a chinese dinner at the *Gengis Khan* restaurant, at the northeast entrance of the Laurel Park Mall. The mall is located in Livonia at 6 Mile and Newberg, just east off of I-275, at the Six Mile Rd. exit.

I know we have gone to mongolian-style barbecue before, in Royal Oak, but this one is by far the best!

There is plenty of seating, the pick-your-own-food bar, and the unique grill where they cook your selections right in front of you. Also they have a gourmet appetizer bar, which has some of the best chinese food that I have found anywhere.

The date is Tuesday, December 8th, right after the monthly SOLAR meeting.

Kids are welcome, too.

The restaurant is all you-can-eat, so bring a large appetite

For more information, contact me on (734) 513-9460, or see me at the November or December SOLAR meeting.

Coming Soon

Horseback Riding - November
Christmas Caroling -December
Laser Tag - January

Get the details at the monthly SOLAR Meeting.

Re-Runs of Recent Events

Feather Bowling

- by Fred Cohen

It was without a promise of participating, that my wife, Judy, and myself ventured down to the *Cadieux Cafe* for a night of *Feather Bowling*. Nancy (Day) made it clear that all spots had been filled, but to "come down and have dinner with SOLAR, and we'll see what we can do...". Knowing how friendly and receptive SOLARites have been to me, I had good vibes about the evening.

As we stepped into the Cafe, it seemed to ooze of Belgian ethnicity. A tribute to Belgian cyclists was on one wall. An old pendulum clock adorned another wall, which I'm sure hadn't run for quite some time.

Slowly, approximately twenty-two 'ites nestled down for some grub before howling. French fries came with almost every meal, and there were those stainless steel bowls filled with mussels. A multitude of beers graced the menu. Even though I don't drink beer (according to Bill Kotyrski, "You can always start!"), the Czechoslovakian beer sounded intriguing.

As the old clock struck VIII, it was time to hit the lanes. My first impression was that the lanes looked like some classy horse stall at the State Fair. Dirt/sawdust lanes, and pictures of Feather Bowling champs on the wall, with their **double vowel names**.

The game used wooden 'cheese wheels' and lanes with up-raised sides. Almost snake-like, the wheels would slither down the lane from side to side, landing as close to a feather at the far end. Opponents would have to skillfully (or luckily) maneuver around the wheels on the lane, or knock other ones out of contention.

Everyone got a chance to bowl thanks to Nancy. Women seemed to have a natural skill for this. *Kaaren* and *Paulaa* (now having double vowel names) claimed innocence to sandbagging.

I met new people and recognized familiar faces, all which make me want to renew my SOLAR membership again.

Monarch Butterfly Migration

- by Jim Gilfix

On September 12th, SOLAR went back to Point Pelee, Ontario, to observe the *Monarch Butterfly Migration*. We were hoping to find thousands, but we saw two.



It was a beautiful day as we joined up with Jonathan Scheeter's parks group. About 20 people enjoyed listening to Jonathan

as we strolled along trails, the beach, and the boardwalk areas.

Arny and John showed us what happens when you touch *Touch-Me-Nots*.

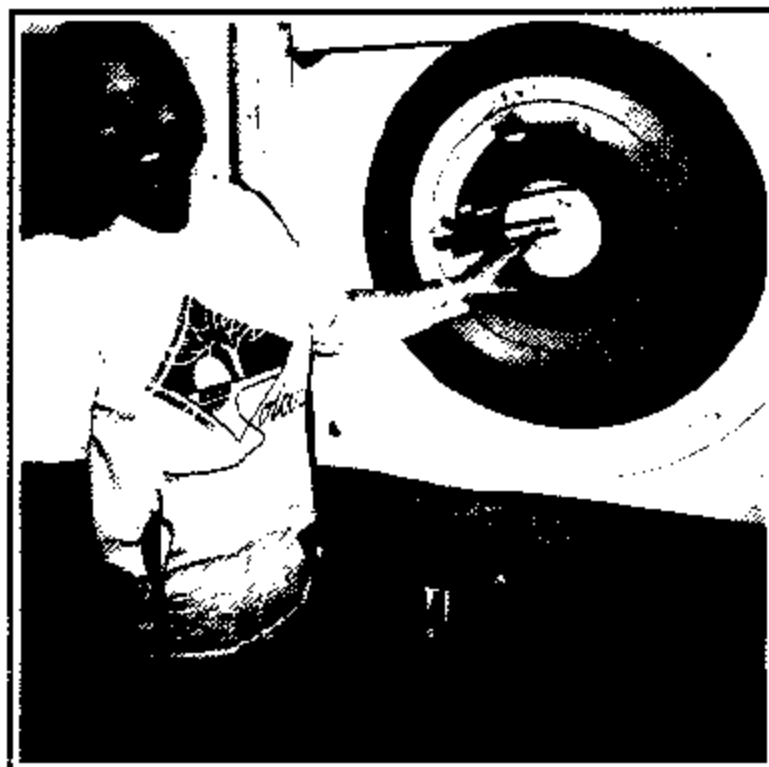
Ann Wilson, and her three kids, Sean, Ian, and Dustin, enjoyed the balloon animals, swords, and hats, that I made for them. Our picture was supposed to be in the Leamington newspaper the following week, showing us making the balloons.

I'm glad I was able to drive with Pat and Linda, as we took the long way home. What a fun filled day!

Ideas Wanted

We need your help for activities and classes for the coming months. Do you want to do something such as a cross-country ski outing? How about ice climbing? Submit your suggestions to a Steering Committee member, and while you're at it, how about organizing the activity?

Photo Gallery



William Tell was a wimp...

Pricilla Dana shows her
stuff at the **Archery** event
held in September

We're right about here... I think.

Lisa Boose shows leader
Tom Poster her skill at
orienteering during the
Basic Backpacking
Practical at the **Pictured**
Rocks National Lakeshore



Activities

November

Sun 1 Horseback Riding-Maybury Park
Ted Huff 248 352-9254

Fri-Sun 6-8 Nordhouse Dunes Camping
Linda Burke 248 471-9185

Sat 7 Road Rally - Farmington Hills
Jeff Zabel 810 778-1676

Sat 14 Hayride - Kersington Metropark
Debbie Wood 313 521-2891

Fri 27 Capuchin Soup Kitchen-Detroit
Debbie Wood 313 521-1676

December

Sat Wed Dog Sledding Algonquin, ON
26-30 Karen Bates 810 983-4147

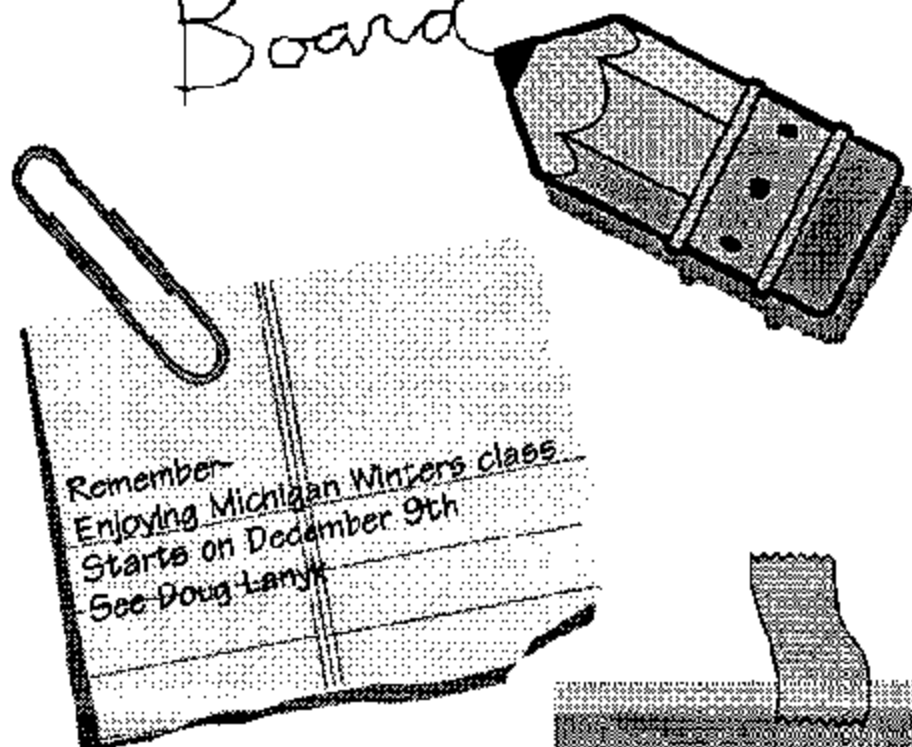
Education

November

December

Wed 9 Enjoying Michigan Winters
Doug Lanyk

The Bulletin Board



Remember
Enjoying Michigan Winters class
Starts on December 9th
See Doug Lanyk

Capuchin Soup Kitchen needs your help.
Food donations will be accepted at the
monthly SOLAR meeting. Volunteers are
also needed for Friday November 27th to
set-up, clean-up, and serving food.
See Debbie Wood for info.

Road Rally!
Farmington Hills area.
Saturday Nov 7th.
Call Jeff for info or
(810) 778-1676

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

SOLAR

The School of Outdoor Leadership, Adventure & Recreation

Steering Committee

President	Doug Lanyk
Vice President	John Fedyk
Secretary	Nancy Day
Treasurer	Linda Burke
Activities	Leslie Cordova
Membership	Mary Price
Publication	Tom Poster
Equipment	Pam Bauerle
By-Laws	Laura Albin
Education	Harry Price
Historian	Pete Lamb
Programs	Karen Bates
Public Relations	Mike Banks

THE SOLAR RAY editor
Tom Poster
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(248) 706-9363

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The SOLAR CLUB is a non-profit organization of people interested in promoting appreciation of outdoor activities through education and practical experience. The club offers educational programs and various activities which are listed inside. We sponsor trips as well as informal gatherings to provide the exchange of expertise, experiences and information. All of these contribute to fellowship among the membership. SOLAR Club activities will enhance and further the skills and information taught in the basic and more advanced classes, through active participation.
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SOLAR CLUB
P.O. Box 2438
Southfield, MI 43087

GENE & LESLIE CORDOVA
14520 BORGMAN
OAK PARK MI 48137



The SOLAR RAY

THE SOLAR RAY is a monthly publication of the SOLAR Club and is provided free of charge to current members. Contributions such as comments, trip reports, recipes, photos and original articles are welcome. The deadline for next edition of THE SOLAR RAY is 12 days after the monthly general membership meeting.

SOLAR meetings

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. Visitors can attend meetings for free. 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>

NORDHOUSE DUNES CAR CAMPING

SOLAR... car camping... the two don't usually go together, but here it does!

Come for a weekend of car camping, day hiking, and of course the famous SOLARsmorgasbord (spelled pot-luck)! Join us on Friday, November 6th thru Sunday the 8th. Nordhouse Dunes is located outside of Muskegon, Michigan, about 5 hours from Royal Oak.

See Linda Burke at the monthly meeting or call her on (248) 471-9185 for details.