

## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

SOLAR Adventures in Alaska!

In June, 1998, seven SOLARites, *Mike and Cindy Felix, Gene and Leslie Cordova, Susan Caydos, David Foerster, and Laura Aibin* journeyed to "the land of the midnight sun" for a "SOLAR-style" adventure. Come and see Cindy's slide show and hear stories about backpacking in Denali National Park, sea-kayaking in Prince William Sound, and ice climbing in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

## POINT PELEE BUTTERFLIES AND BIRDS

For a few special days each autumn, Point Pelee becomes a magical kingdom for migrating monarch butterflies and winged creatures heading south. The sky fills with hawks, bluejays and birds of every sort.



Witness the mystery of migration with naturalist Jonathan Schlechter who will lead this excursion along the park's board walk and out to the point, which is Canada's southernmost location. *This is a non-SOLAR event, held by a SOLAR member.*

## REMINDER!

**DOG SLEDDING** time is getting nearer! What a way to end the year in Algonquin Park, Canada! This trip will be between Christmas and the New Year. 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, and includes lodging in heated tents. Only a few openings are left, so you should sign up now. For more information on this trip, call Karen Bates on (813) 986-4147.

Just 90 minutes from West Bloomfield. There is limited enrollment.



Date: Saturday September 12th

Time: 8:30AM

Contact: Jim Gilfix on (248) 513-9460

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## TIP OF THE MONTH

- by Tom Poster

Remember that tent manufacturers state that open flame should not be used near the tent, due to flammability of the tent material. Cooking in tent vestibules in inclement weather is common, although extreme caution should be used (don't forget ventilation!). Also remember that cooking odors may get imbedded into the tent fabric, making your tent a 'dinner' for rodents, raccoons, and perhaps even bears! Think, and be aware of your options when cooking near tents.

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# S O L A R

## Beginning Backpacking Class

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Don't forget the *Beginning Backpacking* class starting on Wednesday September 2nd for five consecutive weeks, all on Wednesday nights. Classes will begin at 5:45PM and conclude at 8:45PM.

Classes are held at the **Benchmark**, located on Grand River between Orchard Lake Rd., and Farmington Rd. in Farmington.

The cost is \$75 which includes two practicals (camping trips), and all course materials. You will learn about equipment, clothing, tents, sleeping bags, boots, packs, compass, stoves, and trip planning.

This is a great class to meet fellow SOLARites, share experiences, and learn backpacking the "RIGHT WAY"!

This class is also a pre-requisite for some SOLAR classes, so sign up now!

The first practical will be on Saturday &

Sunday September 26th-27th at the Pinckney State Recreation Area, and the second practical is Friday through Sunday October 9th-11th at the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.



You **MUST** be a SOLAR member to attend this class. See the last page of this newsletter for details on how to become a member

**M i n i m u m**  
Requirements for  
Class Certificate:

You Must:

1) Complete 100% of the first practical trip **AND** participate in the group trip planning for the second practical trip;

**- OR -**

2) Complete at least one full day of the first practical trip and attend the second practical trip.

For more information on this class, contact Carol McCrirk on (810) 229-5232 or Cindy Felix on (734) 722-3994

# Details for Upcoming Activities

## Natural Bridges State Park & Red River Gorge

A three day weekend and \$60 is just about all you need to enjoy cabin lodging and other activities in Kentucky's Natural Bridges State Park and Red River Gorge. Let's do it on Labor Day weekend!

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. If all four cabins (24 people) are filled, guess what, the price drops to \$50!

You will be responsible for your own food. Perhaps you can organize a luau, a pot-luck, or an old fashioned weenie-roast with you cabin friends.

**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.

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.

**This offer Isn't Available in Stores or Catalogs...**

**Get the most recent SOLAR t-shirt and bandana. There are several sizes and colors left.**

**The prices can't be beat!**

**T-shirts are only \$10 and bandanas are only \$4**

**See Karen Bates at the monthly SOLAR meeting.**

## 4 X 4 Pigeon River- Elk Photo Safari

Wanna get down and get dirty... well, at least your 4X4? 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 get as many of our friends into them, and go looking for Bull Elk.

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. We'll also be driving down primitive two-tracks to remote areas of this State Forest. Bring your camping equipment, cameras, lots of water, hiking boots, rain gear, and a good attitude. Stuff those vehicles with the things you usually don't bring on backpack trips. Bring the BBQ, steak, salmon, and your cooler. You don't have to carry anything on your back for this trip.

## WORD OF CAUTION:

The off-road conditions are as it says. **OFF-ROAD.** Someone could get stuck, or our 4X4s may get a scratch or two from the brush. We will be careful but you should outfit yourself with a towstrap, winch, or come-along, to pull yourself or a friend out. We will try to avoid anything too scary. (What fun is that?-editor.) Select non-4X4 trucks, and other vehicles may be allowed on the trip. Call for details.

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

Date: September 12 through 13, 1998

Place: Pigeon River State Forest

Time: 10AM

Cost: \$10

See: Matthew Dalton (248) 360-1611

# Details for Upcoming Activities

## JORDAN RIVER PATHWAY

Join me, Karen Bates, and fellow SOLARites for a weekend hike and camp. We will meet at the *Jordan River Trailhead* on Saturday October 17th at 8:00am SHARP! We will take the 10 mile trail to camp on Saturday, and the 8 mile trail back to our cars on Sunday.

The campground is about 500 yards from a road, where we can spot a car for those of us that don't really want to carry a full backpack. The campground is a walk-in only camp, and parking on the road is very limited. I will be setting up camp on Friday the 16th in the evening. If anyone would like to join me Friday, or drop off their gear early Saturday before our 8AM meeting time, fee: free.

There is a water pump and an outhouse in the campground (almost like Club Med!). **There is no water available at the trailhead, so be sure to bring your own for the hike in.**

The *Jordan River Pathway* is very hilly and very beautiful. The colors at this time of the year should be spectacular! Bring your cameras, remember the SOLAR Photo Contest is in January. The cost is \$10 for this event, which includes camping and Sunday breakfast.

Contact me for more info (810) 983-4147.

## HARBOR SPRINGS BIKE TOUR

Joan Westbrook is coordinating a bike tour on the weekend of September 25-27th.

The tour begins at the *Petoskey KOA* and loops near state forest land. The tour continues along Lake Michigan and ends up at *Harbor Springs*, 54 miles later.

If you don't feel that you can ride for this distance, there will be the availability of shorter distances. There will also be SAG support for those that may have to 'bail out' or need assistance along the tour.

The tour will be on Saturday and you can expect it to take 4-6 hours, depending on your pace. Lunch will be your own responsibility.

As far as equipment needed for the tour, you must wear a bike helmet, which is mandatory. Water bottles, wind shell clothing, energy bars, and a spare tube is recommended.

There will be no need to carry camping gear or car spotting.

Camping is limited to one tent per site. The pool will be closed, but the showers will be available.

Sunday options include:

- Biking the VASA Trail near Traverse City
- Visiting Mission Winery on the peninsula
- Mountain Biking in Wilderness State Park
- Harbor Springs Marina and shops
- Thornswift Nature Preserve on M-119

The cost is \$30 which includes SAG support and camping fees.

Call Joan on (734) 513-8454, or see her at the monthly meeting for more information and to sign up.

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR A SOLAR ACTIVITY TO HAVE FUN! PLAN YOUR OWN EVENT WITH FELLOW SOLARites. OR BETTER YET... BE A COORDINATOR FOR A SOLAR SPONSORED EVENT AND INVITE US ALL. CONTACT LESLIE CORDOVA FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO BE A SOLAR COORDINATOR ON (248) 547-5626**

## MORE DETAILS

### AUTUMN INDIANA ADVENTURE

Jim Gilfix is doing it again! First in 1994, then again in 1996. It's the *Gilfix "Color tour, canoe trip, bird watching, picnicing, camping, Shipshawanna, do-everything in Indiana"* event.

This event is at the *Chain-O-Lakes State Park*, located northwest of Fort Wayne, Indiana. This is about a 3 hour drive from the Detroit area.

There are nine interconnected lakes flanked by wooded hill sides. Since this is near peak color season, be sure to bring your camera on the canoe (another plug... don't forget the photo contest in January! - ed.). The canoes will be rented for 4-3 hours per day, so you will have plenty of time to capture some wildlife on film, such as Blue Herons, deer, mink, beaver, racoons, and various song birds.

The campsites are modern, adding to a relaxing weekend. Day hikes are on the agenda, along with picnicing. And don't forget the famous SOLAR pot-luck dinner on Saturday night. If you wish to visit *Shipshawanna* or the flea market, Jim recommends you do that on Friday.

Since this is a non-SOLAR event the cost is entirely up to you. The campground charge is \$12 for two nights/per site. You will pay this directly to the campground when you get there. Cabins can also be rented in the park. Call the park directly for current charges, and to reserve one. The park's number is (219) 636-2654.

Canoeing requires a \$20 deposit and has a fee of \$2.50/hour. All charges are paid directly to the park.

The attendees at the last two trips were impressed by the picturesque waterway, and so you will too!

**This trip is for all levels of canoers, including kids.**

The dates are: October 16-18

Cost:           √ Camping fees  
                  √ canoe rental  
                  √ the rest is up to you.

Contact Jim Gilfix at the September SOLAR meeting or call him on (248) 513-9460.

## TRIP REVIEW

### FOSSIL HUNT "ROCKS"!

- by Jim Gilfix

July 26, Arkona, Ontario

SOLAR once again went into Canada to go fossil hunting. This year 24 kids and 19 adults were there.



*Marcello and Erica come to the earth in peace!*

We had a great time hiking and finding fossils. The water level was very low, making finding the treasures from the past easy to find. We found many brachiopods and horn coral. Even though the water level was very low, even at the 35' waterfall, it was still **very cold**! Many new SOLARites were present as well as longtime members. Too bad Susan couldn't go, even the "very pregnant one" was there. Thanks to one and all for helping make this the biggest and best year so far. C-ya'all next year!

# Activities

## September

- Tuesday 1  
General Membership meeting- Colony Hall
- Fri-Sun 4-6  
Ontario  
Rattlesnake Park (Rock Climbing)- Milton,  
Jim Young 810 731-2504
- Fri-Mon 4-7  
Kentucky  
Natural Bridges/Red River Gorge - Slade,  
Leslie Cordova 248 547-5626 **KIDS OK**
- Fri -Sun 11-13  
Camera Safari 4X4 Jamboree- Pigeon River  
Matt Dalton 248 360-1611
- Sat 12  
Point Pelee Butterflies and Birds- Pt Pelee, ON  
Jim Gilfix 734 513-9460
- Sunday 20  
Canoeing- Proud Lake  
Margaret Martin 734 721-2821

## October

- Friday 2  
Feather Bowling- Cadieux Cade, Detroit  
Nancy Day 248 641-9863
- Tuesday 6  
General Membership Meeting- Colony Hall
- Fri-Sun 16-18  
Gillix "Everything" Adventure- Fort Wayne, IN  
Jim Gilfix 734 513-9460
- Fri-Sun 23-25  
7th Annual Haunted Halloween- Bald Mtn  
Tom Dunn 248 683 9617

## Future

- DECEMBER**  
Sat-Wed 26-30  
Dog Sledding- Algonquin, Ontario  
Karen Bates 810 983-4147

# Education

## September

- Thursday 10  
Advanced Backpack Class- Benchmark  
Mike Banks 248 926-8939
- Weeklong 19-27  
Advanced Backpack Practical  
Mike Banks 248 926-8939
- Wednesdays  
2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
Beginning Backpacking- Benchmark  
Carol McCrife 810 229-5232
- Sat-Sun 26-27  
Beginning Backpacking Practical #1  
Pinkney State Park

## October

- Fri-Sun 9-11  
Beginning Backpacking Practical #2  
Pictured Rocks National Shoreline

# The Bulletin Board



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

## COMING NEXT MONTH!

Wakin' Jim Stoltz performing  
a multimedia celebration of wilderness  
travel. See next month's SOLAR RAY  
for details on this very unique and  
spectacular event. A donation of \$8  
would be appreciated to cover the cost.  
The presentation will be from 8:30-10:30.

Elk "Hunt" / Carrera Safari and  
4 X 4 Jamboree  
September 11-13  
Hiking/Camping/FUN!  
Matt Dalton (248) 360-1611

- Tom Foster

## Mo1ster's Favorite Cookie!

2 cups butter  
4 cups flour  
2 tsp baking soda  
2 cups sugar  
5 cups blended oatmeal  
24 oz chocolate chips  
2 cups brown sugar  
1 tsp salt  
1 bar 8 oz Hershey Chocolate Bar  
(grated)  
4 lg eggs  
2 tsp baking powder  
3 cups chopped nuts (any type)  
2 tsp vanilla

Measure oatmeal and blend in a  
blender to a fine powder. Cream  
butter and both sugars. Add eggs  
and vanilla; mix with flour, oatmeal,  
salt, baking powder, and baking soda.  
Add chocolate chips, Hershey Bar and  
nuts. Roll into balls and place two  
inches apart on a cookie sheet.  
Bake for ten minutes at 375 degrees.  
Makes 112 cookies.

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

# THE SOLAR RAY

## About THE SOLAR RAY

THE SOLAR 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 SOLAR 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 3369

## 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  
Membership ..... Mary Price 248 477-7547  
Equipment ..... Pam Bauerle 248 546-2633  
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 810 953-4147  
Public Relations ..... Mike Banks 248 926-8939

### At Large

Steve Gardner ..... 253 835-0438  
Mike Banks ..... 248 926-8939  
Cindy Harrison-Felix ..... 313 722-3994  
Joan Westbrook ..... 313 513-8454  
Joan Ryan ..... 810 57-DIVE1  
Al Fylak ..... 852-7514  
Larry Martin ..... 313 591-3856  
Mo DeFrance ..... 810 229-8283  
Bub Westbrook ..... 734 513-8454  
Bill Halvargis ..... 810 659-1911  
Pag Campbell ..... 248 344-1260

## SOLAR CLUB

P.O. Box 2438

Southfield, MI 48037

SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP ADVENTURE, AND RECREATION