
The SOLAR RAY

Florida Everglades Up Close

The April program is a slide presentation of the Florida everglades, by Julia Gordon.

Are they alligators, or crockadiles? What are the Everglades?

These questions and more will be answered right after the monthly SOLAR meeting. Don't miss it!

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April 1999

Previews of Coming Attractions

Armchair Orienteering

No, it's not an outing for couch potatoes, but each participant is required to carry a chair while navigating with a map and compass... NOT!

This is really a sit-down class about orienteering. We'll do exercises on map reading, compass bearings, lost and recovery, route planning, and orienteering techniques. Participants can practice these skills in upcoming orienteering meets.

The class is open to graduates of *Backpacking or Land Navigation*.

We'll meet at the *Benchmark*, in Farmington, on Tuesday April 20th from 6-9PM. Please bring a baseplate compass, a pencil, and a clipboard for taking notes. Handouts will be provided.

Call Lester Mok on (519) 256-0324 for more details.

Hazelhurst Farmhouse Outing

Enjoy a relaxing weekend (Friday April 30th - Sunday May 2nd) in the woods, less than a 10 minute walk from the dunes at Hazelhurst.

You can hike (about 2 miles) to Warren Dunes and climb Mt. Baldy, go for a bike ride, fly a kite, check out the antique shops, or watch the sunset over Lake Michigan.

For \$35 per person, you get a bed (you may want to bring an additional blanket), showers, and full kitchens. If 13 people sign up, breakfast will be included! There is a 16 person maximum, so sign up soon. Call Margaret Martin to sign up, or for info (734) 721-2821.

Coming Soon!

Two-Way Radio Date TBA

Global Positioning System Date TBA

Wilderness First Aid Date TBA

Details will be available at the monthly SOLAR meetings.

Backpacking, Biking, or Kayaking on Grand Island

Come join us this Memorial weekend exploring Grand Island National Recreation Area.

Grand Island is located in Lake Superior, about a 1/2 mile from Munising, about a 10 minute ferry ride. The island is 9 miles long by 3 miles wide, and has two inland lakes and two lighthouses built in 1867.

Numberous roads and trails invite hikers and mountain bikers. There are six designated campsites on the island, with nearby outhouses and firepits. You can camp anywhere on the island (with a few restrictions). Except at the existing firepits, no fires are allowed.

No matter where you camp, be prepared for a truly backcountry adventure. You will need to filter your water, and cook using a camp stove. Because of the large Black Bear population on the island, you will need to use a bear bag.

It is recommended that you have completed the SOLAR Backpacking class, or be proficient at backpacking to participate.

The ferry prices should be about \$10 per person, and \$3 per bike... prices are not confirmed as of press time. The ferry runs several times during the day, so you can make your own reservations as to the date and time you wish to arrive and depart. Reservations can be made sometime in May (they are still closed for the winter) by calling (906) 387-3503.

Leslie Cordova has been on the island three times, so if you need more information, call her on (248) 547-5626.

Spring Wildflower Walk

Sunday April 25 from 1:30PM to 4:00PM in *Indian Springs Metropark*. **The cost... FREE!** This is a kid friendly event. Call Margaret Martin to sign up on (734) 721-2821.

More Previews of Coming Attractions

Take this class... or Get Lost!

It's time for the Land Navigation Class once again. A fun-filled day of map and compass games will be found at the Burns Cabins at the Waterloo State Recreation Area. (For those of you that need to take the class... it's 10 miles west of Ann Arbor.)

Linda Burke and Pricilla Dana promise not to lose anyone as they explain the mysteries of topographic contour lines, how to use a compass, declination, and a saddle (what the heck is that?).

Plan on arriving before 9:00 AM on Saturday April 17th, or come Friday night and stay in the rustic cabin. We'll be spending most of the morning in the cabin, and in the afternoon we'll be outside finding our way around.

Bring your *Ten Essentials*, a sack lunch, and dress for the weather.

The cost is \$15 (overnight stay is free).

Linda Burke and Pricilla Dana would be glad to sign you up at the SOLAR meeting, or call Linda on (248) 471-9185.

Stand Up And Be Voted For!

Once again, the month of May approaches. Not only has the Backpacking season started, it's also the time of year that the SOLAR Club votes for the next generation of Board Members.

The SOLAR Club needs members like you to fill these positions. Being on the Board is a great opportunity to make your ideas a reality. New Board Members bring in new ideas.

All positions are open for new candidates. YOU may be the next SOLAR President! The following positions on the Board are available:

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Activities, Membership, SOLAR Ray,

Equipment, By-Laws, Education, Historian, Programs, and Public Relations.

If you would like information on a position, contact the current person in that position. Their name is located on the back of the SOLAR Ray.

Any and all positions are available to any dues-paid member.

By the way, all Steering Committee meetings are open to members. They are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. The location of the meeting changes monthly, so if you're interested, contact a current Board Member.

The voting takes place at the May SOLAR meeting. If you are interested in a position, call Karen Bates at (810) 983-4147 to be placed on the ballot.

STAND UP AND BE VOTED FOR!

Hocking Hills, here we come!

What does Hocking Hills and SOLAR have in common? They're both a lot of fun!

On April 16-18 SOLAR descends to Ohio, yea, OHIO for this trip. Believe it, or not, this is a beautiful and scenic area, especially for Ohio.

We will be staying in cabins, with amenities. Check in is 4:00PM on Friday, and check out is Sunday by 10:00 AM.

You will need some equipment, and convenience items. You will also need to provide some meals for yourself, plus a dish for the potluck.

Lots of great hiking abounds in the area. Don't forget to bring your camera, flower and bird identification books, and clothing appropriate for the weather. You will get a list of recommended equipment when you sign up.

Sign up at the April SOLAR meeting!

And More Coming Attractions

Laser Tag Challenge

The second friendly challenge between the SKIWI Ski Club and SOLAR will be held on Saturday April 24, 1999.

Armed with a LASER PISTOL and moving through a dark maze, find your opponent and fire! If you hit a few of the targets, you get closer to being the victors!

Fifteen members from each club is needed, and kids 15 and older are welcome.

The cost is \$18 per person, or \$20 after April 20. This includes 3 games, pizza, pop, and loads of fun!

The battleground is at *Laser Quest*. They are located at 31401 John R. Rd., in Madison Heights. This is 1/2 mile south of 14 Mile Rd. on the west side of the street.

The battle starts at 7:45 PM. Be on time to register your personal code name. Get creative here... Rambo, Terminator, well you get the idea.

Jeff Enterkin is coordinating this event, and can be reached at (248) 399-0696, or E-Mail him at jente69690@aol.com.

The birds return, and so do we!

The spring migration will soon be here and SOLAR plans to be there! Point Pelee in Ontario, Canada, is the place, and May 15th and 16th are the dates.

Check-in at the *Little Raccoon North* group campsite is 3PM. Because this is a small campsite, the first ones there get the best locations.

As far as the agenda or plans... there are none! This is intended to be a recreational weekend.

On Saturday you can scope out the park and do some birding on your own, or just chill out!

On Sunday, muffins, bagels, and juice are provided for breakfast. A naturalist will be available to take out several guided walking tours (limit is 15 per tour) on Sunday at 7AM and 9AM.

Interested parties must pre-register and pre-pay the \$5 (per person) fee for the walking tours. Since the walks fill up FAST, availability is on a first come basis.

Don't forget your binoculars and cameras!

Check out is 3PM on Sunday.

The cost is \$15 per person, and limited to 18 people.

You can contact Hope Straub or Tom Ponsart on (248) 827-9306 or at home on (248) 398-0035 for information, or to sign up.

Leaders wanted...

SOLAR wants you to be a leader... details on page 9!

Interest only...

OK, I got the bug... but not one that most of you think I caught... it's CAVING!

I am checking for interest in more caving this summer.

Possible location is Mammoth Cave, or back to Carter Caves, and it will be sometime in July.

If there is interest, I will get specifics and details for the next meeting in May.

See me (Tom Poster) at the April meeting, or call me on (248) 706-9363.

And Still More Coming Attractions

Sea Kayaking in Superior

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is famous for its incredible natural beauty. *Kayaking* the emerald waters of Lake Superior, along the towering sandstone cliffs is an unforgettable experience.

Grand Island National Recreation Area, just west of Munising, is the setting for this kayaking adventure. Grand Isle offers beautiful wooded trails and deserted shoreline, yours to explore August 12th through the 15th.

The price is \$255.00 per person (minimum 8 people, and a maximum of 10) includes hotel for Thursday night, 4 persons per room. Also included are kayaks, kayaking gear, all meals cooked for us (how decadent!), expert instruction, guidance, and leadership. No prior experience is necessary!

Kayaking will be 5-6 hours on Friday, camping Friday night, and 5-6 hours of kayaking on Saturday, camp Saturday night, and returning by noon Sunday.

You must provide sleeping bags and tents, and *tips* for the guides (that's \$\$\$... not how to kayak better!).

A \$10 deposit is required and the balance due by June 1st.

See Lisa Boose, or call her on (248) 681-3617, or Bill Kotynski on (517) 552-1067 for info and to sign up. Space is limited!

Interested in *Big Apples*?

The Finger Lakes region in New York is loaded with, you guessed it, lakes! Hills, swimming holes, over 400 waterfalls, camping, wineries, hiking, photo spots, and more, awaits us. Jim Gilfix is checking for interest in a kid friendly, car camping trip in July or August. Duration will be from 4 to 8 days. It takes about 9 hours to drive there. If you're interested, see Jim Gilfix or call him on (734) 513-9460.

Gettin' High... LEGALLY!

Here's your chance to experience the thrill of *Wall Climbing* and the great feeling of making it to the top.

Saturday April 10th from 8PM to 11PM at *Planet Rock* in Pontiac, up to 20 participants can join in on the fun. Located at 34 Rapid Street, just west of Woodward Ave., Planet Rock has some of the best climbing in the Detroit area. The cost is \$33 and includes a day pass, rental of climbing shoes and harness, basic instruction from Planet Rock, subs, pop, and munchies. **Checks are to be made out to Jeff Enterkin.**

Climbing is an excellent way to exercise, and for some people, to overcome the fear of heights, or more commonly, the fear of falling. Climbing is actually safer than most people think!

This function is in conjunction with SOLAR and the SKIWI Ski and Social Club, so this is a **Non-SOLAR** activity.

All are welcome to join us, kids must be 13 and older. You may just get bitten by the *bug* and sign up for the *SOLAR Rock Climbing Class*, held later this year.

Contact Jeff Enterkin on (248) 399-0696 or you can e-mail him at jentef9690@aol.com

Interested in becoming a SOLAR member?

Call Mary Price (Memberships) on (248) 477-7547 for information.

Her address is:

22801 Tulane

Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Flashbacks...

Enjoying Michigan Winters

- by Janet Nissen

The first Practical promised rain at *Proud Lake*, but it never did.

We hiked in slush, and a layer of Capilene. Temperatures neared 50 as our awesome group selected our campsite and erected our shelter. The balance of the afternoon was spent keeping warm, by walking and visiting each other.

Our shelter (a tarp) flapped in the breeze as the wind picked up in the evening. Others professed that they didn't sleep much, but I must have since I didn't hear the coyote howling during the night.

The slush froze overnight, and we probably should have worn skates instead of hiking boots.

Meet at the trailhead at 9:00AM SHARP... yea right! Have we ever left on any SOLAR event on time? The skiers took off with their packs, and the snowshoers were released.

After my first "faceplant", the most helpful instruction came from Carol McCrie, and that was how to upright myself. I laughed uncontrollably as I ventured on, only to do it again, and again. Michael Bayerl performed the best faceplant, complete with decorations.

Was that a lock washer? In the middle of nowhere? I must need water... I'm seeing things. As we caught up to Doug's sled, we found he broke down. "See any washers back there?" asked Doug. "I saw a washer back there" said Sean. "Did you pick it up?" "Sure did!"

And so I left the man in the tie-dyed silk underwear, sporting a Leatherman, and the man in the Land Rover sled.

Heather and I proceeded and ... what's this? A passing lane? Julie and Bob zoom by with definite purpose in their strides. No skis, no snowshoes, arch, arch!

We all congregated in a clearing. Clay and Pam spotted the blue blaze in the other direction, so we headed out.

Susan cuts them off at the pass... look at her go! Susan is the first in camp, on snowshoes! You go girl!

The snow was perfect. We shoveled until we were whiffing it over our heads onto the top of the quinzie.

Bea cuts the nicest blocks. She could build an igloo!

After glazing the insides with a fire we finally became exhausted. The nice roof over our heads was very comforting. Can we all fit, and sleep in here? Sure, and all of us slept, sawing logs in unison.

Morning had the sunshine peering through Tommie's window... what time is it?

If you like to eat, you would have loved this trip. Consuming 4000 to 6000 calories a day, and burning all of them off!

Federal Law requires all of our hard work from yesterday must be destroyed today, but not before pictures.

The race to the parking lot was on. The invitation to strip (if they got too hot) by bra-less Ronda and Pam, encouraged Clayton and Pete to set a breakneck pace, almost as fast as the support vehicles carrying our gear.

Thanks for the well informed instructors, always there to help and offer instruction. They made sure our needs were met.

Thanks to fellow comrades, and for the lure of the outdoors that calls our spirit.

Are you enjoying Michigan Winters?

Flashbacks...

(continued)

Hocking Hills

- by Nancy Day,

as accompanied by Austin Woolsey

Neither rain, nor sleet, nor dark of night can keep down a persevering SOLARite... and two out of three ain't bad!

The dark of night made the windy roads a bit treacherous for late-comers and the rain attempted to put a damper on our weekend of hiking and photo sessions, but no one let it hinder the festivities of the weekend.

Austin and I were lucky enough to get in early Friday afternoon to catch the last rays of sunshine on ice formations in the *Old Man's Cave Gorge*. Topside, the weather was fairly nice, but it was frigid enough in the gorge to preserve some of the winter spectacles!

Saturday morning, after we got our navigating skills down, we all arrived at the same place as our naturalist guide, *Pat Quackenbush*, we



carefully hiked down the slippery trail to Old Man's Cave. As we hiked, we were given information on everything, from the rock strata, to local flora, to the local folk lore of the actual "Old Man".

Some quick facts:

- 1) The sandstone in the area is called **Black Hand Sandstone**, because of black hands once painted on the gorge walls by Indians.

- 2) Hemlock trees like cool, damp air, and therefor thrive in the gorges. Since they grow in such precipitous places, the locals know if you run across a clump of them, **BEWARE!** There's going to be a drop-off!



- 3) "Old Man Roe" killed himself while chipping ice off the river with rifle... need I say more? Lucky for us, the river was flowing freely.

The walk/talk also provided a viewing of "original clothing" replicas, which included the indian buckskins, and the pioneer "layered-look". Pat dispelled any romantic notions we had about early settlers. He bluntly put it that they did whatever they needed to do in order to survive, and honestly, baths and proper etiquette usually didn't fit into the regimen.

Pete Lamb later did a photo session. Austin and I took a hike along *Conkle's Hollow Rim* and into the gorge.

Doug Lanyk's *Very Venison Stew*, Pete Lamb's *English Potato-Leek Pie*, and John Fedyk's *Great Garlic Mashed Potatoes*, were all a hit at the potluck dinner.

Sunday was warm, but cloudy, as we started home. We hit a local diner and tried the fried mush. Thin fried cornbread, which I smothered in butter and syrup. If nothing else, this SOLAR trip raised my cholesterol levels. Thanks for planning the trip Karen Bates! Sorry you couldn't be there to enjoy it with us!

Activities

April

Sat
10 Rock Climbing - Planet Rock
Jeff Enterkin (248) 399-0696

Sun
18 MS Walkathon-Birmingham
Mike Banks (248) 926-8939

Sat
24 Laser Tag-Laser Quest
Jeff Enterkin (248) 399-0696

May

Tue
4 Steering Committee Elections
General Membership Meeting

Sat-Sun
15-16 Birding/Camping-Pt Pelee, Ontario
Hope Straub (248) 827-9306

June

Sat
5 National Trails Day-Maybury State Park
Mike Banks (248) 926-8939

Education

April

Fridays
9, 16, 23, 30 Rock Climbing Class

Sat
17 Land Navigation Class
Linda Burke (248) 471-9185

Wed
28 Armchair Orienteering
Lester Mok (519) 256-0324

May

June

- FUTURE -

July

July

TBA UTM/Global Positioning System Class
Lester Mok (519) 256-0324

August

12-15 Sea Kayak on Lake Superior-Munising
Lisa Bouse (248) 681-3617

August

Anybody see a Leader lately?

SOLAR needs leaders for this year's trips and events. In order to keep SOLAR as active as in the past, leaders are necessary. Below are just some ideas and trips planned for this year, and leaders are required in order to be placed on the calendar.

☛ Cranbrook - Garden Tour

☛ Horseback Riding

☛ Cabin weekend including skiing/biking/etc.

☛ A wildflower hunt

☛ A Morel mushroom hunt

☛ Trips to:

Traverse City

Petoskey

Mackinac

Nordhouse

The Pinery

Any ideas?

☛ Bike trips to... anywhere!

☛ Detroit Zoo- butterfly photography day

☛ Fort Custer State Park for picnicing/hiking/mountain biking/fishing

☛ Day hike at Holly State Recreation Area

☛ Whitewater rafting in West Virginia

☛ Tobermory, Ontario for hiking/camping/diving/swimming

☛ Swan migration at the Pinery Provincial Park

☛ Canoeing on:

Pine River

Manistee River

☛ Camping and hiking:

North Manitou Island

Beaver Island

Grand Island

Grand Canyon

☛ Caving:

Carter Caves State Park

Mammoth Caves

Leading is relatively EASY, don't let the calendar go bare... be a leader!

SOLAR is a club of **volunteers**, the success and number of events are totally dependent on the participation of the members.

See Leslie Cordova or Douglas Lanyk for info and to enlist as a trip leader.

SOLAR

The School of Outdoor Leadership, Adventure & Recreation

Steering Committee

President	Douglas 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

At Large

Steve Gardner	Al Fylak
Mike Banks	Larry Martin
Cindy Harrison-Felix	Mo DeFrance
Joan Westbrook	Bob Westbrook
Joan Ryan	Bill Halvangel
	Peg Campbell

THE SOLAR RAY editor

Tom Poster
2350 Island View Drive
West Bloomfield, MI 48324
(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

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>

Memorial Day Weekend on Grand Island!

Join us for a kickoff of the summer season on Grand Island.

You can mountain bike, kayak, hike, bird watch, photograph wildlife, or just chill out!

Details on page 2.