
THE SOLAR RAY

December 1999

T H E M I L L E N I A L I S S U E



DOWNHILL SKIING at BLUE MOUNTAIN

What is that white, fluffy stuff? No, it's not feathers or flour or foam insulation ... It's snow!!

Join us Feb. 11-13, 2000 as we head over to Blue Mountain Resort in Collingwood, Ontario. I have reserved two 6-person condos for that weekend. It's about a 5-hour drive from Detroit. The mountains are higher, the runs, well...you'll just have to see for yourselves. There is cross-country skiing in the area as well with gorgeous views of Georgian Bay. The cost of the trip is \$95 (minimum of 10 people). If we get 11 people signed up and paid for, I will provide both breakfasts and also dinner Saturday night. Lunches, munchies, transportation and lift tickets are on your own.

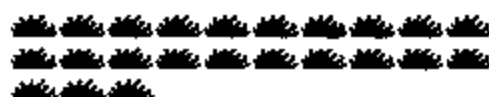
You might also do some inner tubing, enjoy a hot tub, sauna, snowball fights, and it is rumored that a masseuse is on staff... **Contact** Jonnie Kostishak at 734-398-5315 for more info or see her at the monthly meeting.

HOLIDAY PARTY

1999

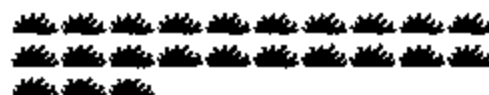
After the December General Meeting, SOLAR will be providing subs and soda to kick off the holiday season and a DJ to boogie out the year, century, **millennium**!

Please bring a dish to pass from one of the following categories: **Appetizers, Ethnic dish, or Desserts.** There will be a random drawing within each category for a prize! Come out and have a good time!



ENTER THE PHOTO CONTEST!

The January program is the annual photo contest. There are several categories, which will be announced at the December meeting. All photos submitted must be at least 5 x 7 and matted. Pick up a flier at the meeting for more details.



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Note: Collector's Edition.....The Last Issue of THE SOLAR RAY in this century!

The School of Outdoor Leadership, Adventure & Recreation

T H E S O L A R R A Y

THE VASA



It is that time of year again for the granddaddy of cross-country ski events. This year Vasa will be held on Saturday, January 15th. If you always wanted to be cheered by crowds of people, Vasa is the trip for you. Every year hundreds of skiers flock to Traverse City to compete in this event. As usual, SOLAR will be staying at the Days Inn in Traverse City. I have reserved three suites, complete with kitchenettes. Each room sleeps four people and the cost is only \$70.00 per person for the weekend. This includes breakfast at the hotel restaurant on Saturday and Sunday.

For those of you who wish to get an early start on Friday, I plan on meeting at *LA Cuisine Amica* located on 229 E Front St. in Traverse City sometime around 6:30 P.M. for dinner.

Race fees are an additional cost and you will be responsible for registering with Vasa. I will have entry forms at the next SOLAR meeting. Listed below are the race fees and distances:

12-km fun race: \$25.00

27-km Classic/Freestyle: \$45.00

50-km Classic/Freestyle: \$45.00

This is a fun event that I think everyone should experience at least once. If you would like more information, you can call Jeff Zabel at (810)778-1676 or check Vasa's website at <http://www.vasa.org>.

Clinic at REI

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8th at 7pm, REI in Northville

X-C SKIING IN MICHIGAN

Whether you already have your skis or just have the itch, the question remains, where do we go? Join veteran skier Mary Dunn as she shares some of the best local & regional locations to ski.

T H E S O L A R R A Y

No Ordinary Sledding Trip

January 21-23, 2000 or February 18-20, 2000

The People used to be satisfied with a sharpened toboggan, a slick hill, and a good push. *Now they must have dogs.* Due to the demand, a second dogsledding trip has been arranged for January. Both trips involve two days of dogsledding in South River, Ontario, just west of Algonquin Provincial Park. This is a luxury trip as far as dogsledding trips go. Included with your team of dogs and sled gear are all your meals on the trail and heated tents in camp. Also included is lodging for Friday night in the Algonquin Motel. Each team is made up of two people and six dogs. You will be expected to care for your own team while on the trail and help with camp chores at night.

The cost of this exciting weekend is only \$320.00 (Canadian—the exchange rate is excellent.). For those of you who have signed up, please pay the balance of your trip ASAP. For more details or to sign up for this trip, call **Karen Bates at 810-323-1346** or see me at the SOLAR meetings.

It's never too soon to be planning your spring vacation. Here is a recommended way to spend Memorial Day Weekend, 2000...

WHITE WATER RAFTING IN WEST VIRGINIA, May 26-29,'00

Raft on the New River, adult style or family style. This is a trip similar to those run by Jim Gilfix in 1995 and 1998. Again we will return to the A.C.E. Adventure Center in Oak Hill, W.Va. where they have a great safety record, some of the best guides around and good food! There are two trip options and multiple lodging options.

Trip #1: For adults (includes ages 14 and up). Whitewater rafting all day on the Lower New River. Instruction will be provided for those new to the sport. This is the adventurous trip that SOLAR usually sponsors. Cost is \$135/person, which includes 3 meals for that day.

Trip #2: For kids (6 and older), their parents, and anyone wanting a more relaxing trip. Raft class 1-2 rapids on the Upper New River; this may include floating along lazily in the river. You will join the other group later for dinner. Also available are "duckies," which are small inflated kayaks. Cost is \$125/person (17 and up) and \$70 for ages 6-16, and also includes 3 meals that day. Group camping is available at ACE, \$30 /adult and \$15 for kids (age 16 or less) for three nights. Please note: The standard trip includes rafting and three meals the day of rafting. If you act quickly you can choose other lodging options!!

Option #1: Call ACE now and reserve you LAKE VIEW CABIN. Houses four people for about \$90/person for three nights. Features include central heat and air, 2 queen beds, a small refrigerator, and a WHIRLPOOL/HOT TUB.

Option #2: Reserve your CABIN TENT now! These deluxe "safari-style" cabin tents are a popular camping option. A permanent roof and deck keeps you high and dry. Two people will pay about \$60 per person for 3 nights.

So choose a trip and choose your lodging, unless you prefer to camp. We will have a bonfire and play around in the area during the day. All rafting will be on Sunday and will be as a group.

A deposit of \$20 per person, NON-REFUNDABLE, is due by the February 2000 SOLAR meeting. **YOU MUST BE A SOLAR MEMBER TO GO!** Please contact Jim Gilfix if you have any questions at 734-513-9460.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Dec. 7—General Membership Meeting/Christmas Party
Colony Hall, Southfield
Doug Lanyk, 248/634-4551

Dec. 8—Enjoying Michigan Winters Class
Benchmark, Farmington
Doug Lanyk, 248/634-4551

Dec. 10-12—Winter Wilderness First Aid Class
Harry Price, 248/477-7547

Jan. 4—General Membership Meeting
Colony Hall, Southfield
Doug Lanyk, 248/634-4551

Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26—Enjoying Michigan Winters Class
Benchmark, Farmington
Doug Lanyk, 248/634-4551

Jan. 14-16—Vasa X-Country Ski Race
Traverse City
Jeff Zabel, 810/778-1676

Jan. 15-16—Michigan Winters Practical I
Waterloo Recreation Area
Doug Lanyk, 248/634-4551

Jan. 21-23—Dogsledding
Algonquin, Ontario
Karen Bates, 810/323-1346

Jan. 22-23—Ice Climbing
Sault Ste. Marie
Juli Penrod, 248/589-2629

Jan. 28-30—Crawfish-Caving Trip
Olive Hill, Kentucky
Leslie Cordova, 248/547-5626

Feb. 1—General Membership Meeting
Colony Hall, Southfield
Doug Lanyk, 248/634-4551

Feb. 5-6—Michigan Winters Practical II
Pigeon River State Forest
Doug Lanyk, 248/634-4551

Feb. 18-20—Dogsledding
Algonquin, Ontario
Karen Bates, 810/323-1346

Feb. 25-27—Wilderness State Park
David Foerster, 734/453-0692

March 11-12—Winter Mountaineering Course
Adirondacks
Juli Penrod, 248/589-2629

Wilderness State Park February 25-27, 2000

This is an annual trip by SOLAR that I think everyone should enjoy. That's why I decided to reserve two cabins this year so more SOLARites can discover Wilderness State Park and the surrounding area. This trip is mostly intended for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing (there are 18+ miles of trails), but there are other options.

Mike Banks will be leading a group of people X-C skiing on the North Country Trail. Then we have a Mini Animal Tracking clinic Saturday morning by Lester Mok. There are a few local downhill ski areas that some people are definitely looking forward to skiing. I personally am planning to go to Tahquamenon Falls for the day to ski or snowshoe. Doug Lanyk, our Prez., will be offering some cooking tips Sat. afternoon—he is an excellent and creative cook.

I even feel pretty confident that if you want to laze around the cabin all day, you won't be alone. The cabins are close to downtown Mackinac City if you feel the need to shop or have someone serve your meals. And as a SOLAR tradition we will be having a potluck dinner Sat. evening with way too much food. After dinner we will have a star-gazing walk with Tommie Takano. Don't forget to bring your Euchre cards. All that for just \$15. The trip is limited to the first 48 who pay so sign up soon! Any questions—call David Foerster at (734) 453-0692 or e-mail me at DBFoerster@aol.com or see me at the SOLAR meeting.

ATTENTION! There are only four pages of the millennial issue left! SAVOR THEM!!

T H E S O L A R R A Y

19th Annual Carter Caves Crawl-a-thon

Olive Hill, Kentucky

January 28-30, 2000

*****Kid Friendly*****

Average Travel Time: 7 hours

Lodging: Eleven rooms reserved at Carter Caves State Park lodge

Space is limited.

Lodging Cost: \$50 per person for two nights (payable to SOLAR)

Caving Cost: \$15 for two days (payable to Carter Caves State Park)

This fee includes guided caving and a t-shirt.

This annual caving event is designed to include all skill levels, including children. Cave options range from walking tours to vertical caving. If you sign up for the trip, you will receive a form to sign up for as many caves as you would like. Respond quickly to reserve a spot on the tours you want.

You must be in good physical condition to participate in Level 3 and 4 caves. Some caving may include prolonged crawling through small, constricted passages and some may contain water. Equipment needed includes old coveralls or loose clothing (no sweatshirts or sweatpants), knee and elbow pads, gloves, boots that cover the ankle, three sources of light (one mounted on the hard hat—duct tape and a flashlight work), and spare batteries. A hardhat is required which SOLAR can provide with a \$25 deposit.

In addition to caving, there are beautiful trails to explore. The park is also known for its natural arches. You can opt for caving or hiking or both!

For more information, contact **Leslie Cordova** at 248-547-5626.

SOLAR LEADERSHIP

Recently, Employee Appreciation Awards were presented at the local REI in Northville. Out of over 50 employees, only four were chosen as deserving of this honor. It is worth noting that out of these four, **three** were SOLAR members! REI's store manager, Kely Vore, stated "REI is proud to have staff members with a high level of expertise and valuable local connections resulting from their participation in the SOLAR Club. REI greatly benefits from its association with the SOLAR Club, and we really value this association." Our congratulations to SOLAR members **Mike Banks, Dave Foerster** and **Jonnie Kostishak** for their fine work and great representation of our club!

Interested in becoming a member?

SOLAR Club activities are open to SOLAR Club members only. But it's easy to join! For more information, call Mary Price at 248-477-7547. (See also the back page for membership rates and more club info.)

Just a reminder! This IS the Millennial Issue!

T H E S O L A R R A Y

OF ELK AND THINGS . . .

Six eager SOLARITES ventured into the Pigeon River State Forest October 9th and 10th, mostly in search of elk (also known as Wapiti). Most of us actually arrived in the dark on Friday night, while our intrepid leader, Matt Dalton, arrived early Saturday morning and got breakfast for our group. We had wonderful weather—warm, nearly cloudless days and cool, crisp nights—excellent for hiking and sleeping, respectively...although there were a few people who also slept a bit during the day on Sunday. (Who's got those "open-mouth" pictures?)

We drove around dirt trails in two four-wheelers. No one got stuck. Our "Indian Guide", also known as Tom, spotted animal tracks even from a moving truck! We were practically hopping with excitement, finding tracks of many animals in the dirt roadways. Even animal scat perked up our interest, thinking that the elusive Elk were near. Alas, the only elk we saw was at the Ranger Station hanging from the ceiling.

Part way through the trip, we decided to rename it the SOLAR Color Tour, and that it was. The trees were absolutely gorgeous. We found groves of aspen, for those who wanted to pretend we were in Colorado, and there were some hills to hike. We did see deer, various wild game birds, and lots of people in camouflage clothing carrying rifles. Luckily, we had someone with us who knew how to talk to those people, but they still couldn't find us any elk.

We had hours of hiking fun, *without 35-pound packs*, which made it even more fun. We learned a lot about each other, like who has a poster of Buffy the Vampire Slayer to scare off prospective dates, who is the real Spider Woman, who to see about a kayak, and what vegetarians really eat. We shared stories about the Northern Lights, looked at stars, spoke of other fun SOLAR trips, and played "who's been in SOLAR the longest?"

Despite the lack of live Elk, we enjoyed ourselves thoroughly, have plenty of rolls of photos of the fall colors, and plan to return next year.

Your elk correspondents, Karen & Mike Mannehach

Notes from Juli Penrod...

Had our first October 2000 Nepal meeting yesterday, space is limited, next meeting Tues. Jan 11 @ 7PM at my house.

Ice Climbing in Saulte Ste. Marie is January 22-23. Cost is roughly \$200, which includes room.

Peak Experiences: Winter Mountaineering Course with Alpine Adventures March 11-12 in the Adirondacks. Cost \$279/person plus accommodations.

My phone # is 248-589-2629. E-mail address is juli@mediaone.net.

OH No! The last page of the **Millennial Issue** is next!!!! And you just finished the page with the last bit of meaningful content for the SOLAR Club of the 20th century. Brace yourself—think Winter Survival Class—and you, too, can make it. May the next millennium bring more awesome SOLAR times, wonderful friendships (and love!?) and...SNOW! Now, turn the page... (so what if you already saw it—just get excited about it, ok?!)

T H E S O L A R R A Y



HERE WE COME....

2000!!



STEERING COMMITTEE

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Activities
Membership
Equipment
By-laws
Education
Publication
Historian
Programs
Public Relations

Doug Lanyk
Karen Bates
Ted Huff
John Moffat
Leslie Cordova
Mary Price
Rick Merryman
Laura Albis
Harry Price
Amy Barber
John Fedyk
Juli Peatrod
Mike Banks

AT LARGE

Steve Gardner
Al Fylak
Cindy Harrison-Felix
Larry Martin
Joan & Bob Westbrook

Mo DeFrance
Joan Ryan
Bill Halvingis
Peg Campbell
Mike Banks

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 12 days after the general meeting for the following month's edition. Contributions in the form of upcoming events, comments, trip reports, recipes, photos, and original articles are welcome. Send all contributions to Amy Fedyk, 1614A Fairview, Royal Oak, MI 48073. Phone# 248-435-2450. Send e-mail to amykay86@hotmail.com.

Meeting Location

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 individual, lifetime
\$45 family, annually
\$225 family, lifetime

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.

For more information about SOLAR:
SOLAR CLUB HOTLINE
24-hour Voice Mail 248/988-6658
or <http://members.tripod.com/~solarclub/>
or call Doug Lanyk @248/634-4551



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