
The SOLAR RAY

SOLAR Photo Competition

The New Year brings the last year of the millenium, numerous resolutions, and the *Annual SOLAR Photo Competition*. After the general meeting you will be able to view this year's entrys, and then vote on your favorites. Or get your best shots together to enter in the contest.

The rules are simple:

- The photo must have been taken by the person entering it.
- The photo cannot be a previous contest winner.
- The photo must have been taken at a SOLAR event, unless entered in the non-SOLAR category.
- The photo must be 5X7 or larger.
- The photo must be framed and/or matted.
- Only two entries per category are permitted.

The categories are:

- Scenery
- Plants
- Animals
- People
- Humor
- Seasons
- Non-SOLAR

The voting will be by all SOLAR members who attend the January meeting.

Get those photos together and show us your talent!

In this issue

This month's Program	1
SOLAR Photo Competition	
Previews of Coming Attractions	2
More Previews of Coming Attractions	3
Future and Past Attractions	4
More to come and a letter to the club president	
Activities	5
Education	5
Get smarter than the average bear	
About the SOLAR Club	6
Who we are, where we are...	

Previews of Coming Attractions

Caving and Hiking in Kentucky

The *18th Annual Carter Caves Crawl-a-thon* is coming January 29-31, 1999.

The drive to Olive Hill, Kentucky takes about 7 hours. There are only 7 rooms reserved at the Carter Caves State Park lodge. The cost is \$50 per person for two nights, and is payable to SOLAR. The lodge is now filled, but you may be placed on a waiting list, in case someone cancels. There are some rooms available at a nearby hotel, again, they are filling up rapidly. The rooms are first paid, first reserved, so act quickly!

Caving for two days costs \$15 payable to the Carter Caves State Park, which includes guided caving and a t-shirt. You can sign up for as many tours as you would like on Saturday and Sunday, at no additional charge. A form will be forwarded to you to select the tour(s) you want. Send the form and your \$15 directly back to the state park. *If you respond quickly* you should be able to get the tours you want, but **specific tours are not guaranteed.**

This is an annual event put on by the state park to introduce people to caving. Skill levels vary, and children to seniors can participate. There are walking tours, walking and some crawling, a lot of crawling, and vertical caving. You must be in good physical condition to participate in Level 3 or 4 caves. Some caving may include prolonged crawling through small constricted passages, and some may contain water.

There is also great hiking in the area, so if you don't want to explore underground, you can hike... or do both!

Caving can be challenging, and the rewards are great. You may see bats, cave crickets, and interesting formations.

For equipment you will need old coveralls or loose fitting clothing (no sweat shirts/pants), knee and elbow pads, gloves, boots that cover the ankle, hardhat with a chin strap, 3 sources of light (one mounted on the hardhat, duct tape works great),

and spare batteries. SOLAR can provide a hardhat, if you need one, with a \$25 deposit.

For additional information on this trip, call Leslie Corcova on (248) 547-5626.

Winter Wilderness Survival is Back!

Winter Wilderness Survival under the leadership of Bob Westbrook, will teach you how to survive in the wilderness.

Every year the newspapers have articles about hunters or hikers who die or are seriously injured as a result of an accident or becoming lost on their trip into the wilderness. Most of these mishaps could have been prevented with the most basic understanding of wilderness survival. Learning about survival can also help you enjoy the outdoors more fully.

Enjoying Michigan Winters and Beginning Backpacking are pre-requisites for this class.

Class dates are February 17th and 24th, plus March 3rd and 10th. The survival practical location will be announced, and will be held on March 12th thru the 14th.

A minimum of 12 students are necessary to hold this class. The cost is \$60.00.

See or call Bob Westbrook for more information on (734) 513-8454.

ISAR with NASAR in OH

Interested in Search And Rescue? The *National Association of Search and Rescue* is teaching an Introduction to Search And Rescue at the Hocking College in Ohio. It is suitable for professionals and hikers that are interested in safety and preventive SAR operations. The dates are March 6-8 and March 9-11. The fee is \$201 prepaid. Contact Connie Cassady on (740) 753-3591 ext 2330, or see Lester Mok at the SOLAR general meetings.

More Previews of Coming Attractions

Winter Outdoor Safety Course

This course will prepare novice XC skiers, snowshoers, and hikers for their day trips. We'll discuss winter hazards, clothing, hydration, nutrition, survival gear, and emergency management.

The only prerequisite is a 1999 membership.

We'll meet on Saturday January 16th from 9AM to 5PM. The fee is \$10 and the class will be held in Farmington.

The last sign up will be at the January meeting.

See Lester Mok at the SOLAR meeting, or call him on (519) 256-0324.

Free Backpacking Trips

Want to get together with fellow SOLARites for free backpacking? We'll meet at each monthly SOLAR meeting to plan each month's trip.

Possible destinations include Pigeon River, Manistee River, Hoist Lake, and Nordhouse Dunes. If you have suggestions for other locations, bring copies of driving instructions, and trail maps for discussion.

So far, the tentative dates are the weekends of January 29th and February 26th.

The *Enjoying Michigan Winters* course is a pre-requisite for these trips.

These are *leaderless* trips, which means all attendees are responsible for all preparation and action. Lester Mok will oversee the meetings to assist the group in their decisions. A few assistants would be appreciated!

Attendees will be responsible for their own physical conditioning, gear, food, safety, etc. A first aid certification is recommended. No alcohol please.

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

Laser Tag at *Laser Quest*

The power of light, a game of strategy, competition, stealth, and a keen eye all come together as we battle it out at *Laser Quest* in Westland. Towers, mazes, fog, black light, and music, are all part of the game.

The date is **January 12th** and the cost is **\$15**, which includes pizza, Vernors, and two games. Beginners, and children are welcome. Ages 2-5 are free, but must be connected to an adult to play.

Contact Jim Gilfix for info (734) 513-9460

The 3rd Annual DeFrance Winter Cabin Outing

Cross country skiing, snow shoeing, kayaking (brrr), quinzzy building... sound like fun? Join SOLAR for a fun filled weekend on January 8th-10th for the *Annual DeFrance Winter Outing*.

The DeFrance cabin is the location for this winter outing. On Friday night, a meeting to schedule the weekend's activities will be held around the campfire. You can XC-ski at *Corsair* or the *Huron National Forest*, snow shoe through the woods, or help build the world's largest quinzzy. You can even kayak the brisk waters of the *Rifle River*!

The cost is \$5 which includes breakfast on Saturday morning, your own floorspace in the heated cabin, use of the air conditioned outhouse, plus serious SOLAR fun.

Bring a dish to pass for the potluck on Saturday night. Don't forget a warm sleeping bag, pad, pillow, and for those who want to sleep outside, winter gear. **Don't forget to bring your own water!**

The DeFrance cabin is near Standish off of I-75 and US-23.

Contact Laura Albin at (517) 337-1610 for details and information.

Future and Past Attractions

Rock Climbing

- by Jeff Enterkin

Did the holidays have you climbing the walls?
Now that it's over, how about *rock climbing*?

Well here's your chance to experience the thrill of climbing and the feeling of making it to the top.

On Saturday April 3rd from 8PM to 11PM I'll be meeting up to 20 people at **Planet Rock** in Pontiac. The climbing gym is located at 34 Rapid Street, just west of Woodward Ave.

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.

I am running this 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.

The time is now, so don't put it off.

Contact me on (248) 399-0696 or e-mail me at Jente69690@aol.com

Roll at the Dome!

Join SOLARites for **Rollerblading** at the **Pontiac Silverdome** from 6PM to 9:30PM.

Contact Douglas Lanyk or other rollerbladers and organize your own outing dates at the Dome!

Call the Silverdome for confirmation of dates and times, and for current pricing.

Canoeing near Milford

(Although this activity was held several months ago, I thought I would add this to the Solar Ray.

SOLAR helped the **Westland Therapeutic Recreation Club**, a program that works with impaired citizens, enjoy the outdoors.

Eight SOLARites canoed from Havners Canoe Livery near Milford with impaired citizens, of which had no prior canoeing experience.

Everyone saw various wildlife, and nobody got dunked, but Tom Dunn did get wet... ask him for the details... - editor.)

Mr. Doug Lanyk, President
S.O.L.A.R. Club

Dear Doug,

On behalf of the twelve Westland Therapeutic Recreation Club members who participated in the canoe outing on Sunday, September 20, 1998, I would like to thank the S.O.L.A.R. Club for making the trip possible. The volunteers including Joan, Bob, and Ken Westbrook, Tom Dunn, Jonnie Kostistik, Mary Price, Debbie Wood, and Mary Beth were exceptional!

It was wonderful to know that each of the members was safe while they were having fun. We could not have done this trip without each and every person, and the whole day was terrific.

Thank you again for a wonderful day.

Sincerely,
Margaret Martin
Program Supervisor

Activities

January

Tue 5	Photo Contest-SOLAR meeting Karen Bates (810) 983-4147
Fri-Sun 8-10	DeFrance Cabin Outing-Standish Laura Albin (517) 337-1610
Tue 12	Laser Tag-Westland Jim Gillix (734) 513-9460
Fri-Sun 29-31	Winter Backpackpacking Trip Lester Mok (519) 256-0324
Fri-Sun 29-31	Caving-Olive Hill, KY Leslie Cordova (248) 547-5626

February

Fri-Sun 26-28	Winter Backpacking Trip Lester Mok (519) 256-0324
------------------	--

March

April

Sat 3	Rock Climbing - Planet Rock, Pontiac Jeff Enterkin (248) 399-0696
----------	--

Education

January

Wednesdays 13, 20, 27	Enjoying MI Winters-Benchmark Douglas Lanyk (248) 634-4551
Sat 16	Winter Outdoor Safety Lester Mok (519) 256-0324
Sat-Sun 23-24	EMWC Practical 1-Waterloo Rec. Douglas Lanyk (248) 634-4551

February

Wed 3	Enjoying MI Winters-Benchmark Douglas Lanyk (248) 634-4551
Sat-Sun 6-7	EMWC Practical 2-Pigeon River Douglas Lanyk (248) 634-4551
Wednesdays 17, 24	Winter Wilderness Survival-TBA Bob Westbrook (734) 513-8454

March

April

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 Halvangelis
	Peg Campbell

THE SOLAR RAY editor
Tom Poster
2350 Island View Drive
West Bloomfield, MI 48324
(248) 706-9363

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.

SOLAR CLUB
P.O. Box 2438
Southfield, MI 43087



GENE & LESLIE CORDOVA
14520 BORGMAN
OAK PARK, MI 48237

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>

Can you Survive?

The Winter Wilderness Survival class may be a way to improve your chances!

Classes start February 17th and includes instruction on how to survive in the wild during the winter months.

Attending this class may be the most important winter class you could sign up for.

Sign up at the next SOLAR meeting, and don't become a statistic!