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# The SOLAR RAY

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The March program is one that you won't want to miss. Mr. Gordon Lonie, a Naturalist for the Sterling Heights Nature Center, will take us on a trip through Washington State .

Gordon has a love for the outdoors, its natural beauty, and through the eye of his camera, he will share his experience.

This slide show adventure will take us through rain forests, and to the top of Mt. Ranier. Walk through the Olympia National Park, and peer down the Columbia River Gorge.

Gordon's  
pictures proves  
that you don't  
have to be a  
backcountry  
backpacker to  
see the wonders  
of the  
northwest...

Gordon did all  
this, car  
camping!

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# Previews of 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](mailto:jente69690@aol.com).

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## Coming Soon!

Land Navigation Class	April 17
Rock Climbing Class	April 9, 16, 23, 30
Two-Way Radio	TBA
Global Positioning System	TBA
Wilderness First Aid	TBA
Trails Day	June 5

Details available at the monthly SOLAR meetings.

## 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.

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## 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.

# More Previews of 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 Ketyński on (517) 552-1067 for info and to sign up. Space is limited!

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## 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 3rd 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 [jente69690@aol.com](mailto:jente69690@aol.com)

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## It's Backpacking Time, Again!

Love the outdoors? Want to get away from it all? Have a spirit of adventure? Then Backpacking is for you!

The *Basic Backpacking Class* begins March 29th for five consecutive Monday evenings. The classes will prepare you for the two weekend practicals (backpacking trips), which are included as part of the class.

All students will learn the basic skills required to practice *no-trace* backpacking.

The fee is \$75, and you must be a current SOLAR member. Prepayment and registration is required.

Classes are held at REI (Recreational Equipment, Inc) located at 17559 Haggerty Rd in Northville, north of 6 Mile, and just 1/4 mile west of I-275. Classes are from 6-9 PM.

For info call Mike Banks at (248) 926-8939.

# Flashbacks...

## Carter Caves Crawlathon

-by Tom Poster

Who, me? Go deep underground, into the damp, rocky, muddy, bat infested, orifice called a cave? SURE!

Penni Lopez and I joined other SOLARites for the *Carter Caves Annual Crawlathon*, in Olive Hill, Kentucky.

This was our first time caving, except those walking tours like at Mammoth Cave and at Carlsbad Caverns. We had to go out and get coveralls, borrow helmets from SOLAR, find my headlamps in my camping gear, and buy some elbow and knee pads. After getting into these costumes, we looked like the *Ghostbusters*!

I was a bit apprehensive, at first. I was thinking "What if I get stuck?" and "I don't *think* I'm claustrophobic!". Well those concerns went away within the first 15 minutes that we went into *Bat Cave*.



*Down into the depths of Bat Cave*

Our guide was very adventurous, so he took us on the most difficult path through Bat Cave. He did ASK all 14 of us if we wanted to try this, or see that. Being new to this sport, I of course wanted it all (yea, right).

Right after we entered, we had to crawl about 30 feet, belly on the ground, fanny packs scraping

the *LOW* ceiling. Well, at least now I know that I'm not afraid of tight spaces! Traversing an underground stream, crawling over boulders, jumping crevices, and crawling, with not much more than enough room to get by... WHAT FUN!

The way was illuminated by helmet-mounted lamps and a few flashlights. The hibernating



*I can make it... I think!  
A tight squeeze in Burchett Cave*

bats didn't appear to mind us trampling through their home. They were so close, that in a few places, we had to keep aware not to bump into them. The *Crack in the Floor* was a favorite of mine. A hole in the floor of the cave about 14 inches by 24 inches, and a drop of about 8 feet to the cavern below.

On Sunday, Penni and I signed up for *Burchett*, a more difficult cave. The spaces were tighter, the challenges were greater, and the sense of achievement was fantastic. This cave was about 40% crawling, 50% walking, 10% *squeezing*, and 100% FUN!

We want more! SOLAR now has two more cavers, and Penni and I can't wait for the next caving trip.

Hope to see you in some dark damp corner, deep underground, really soon!

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# Flashbacks...

(continued)

## Ultimate Laser Tag Adventure

-by Jim Gilfix

Once again we went to *Laser Quest* on January 12th.

The first game had 17 people, and it was everyone for themselves. We had fun in the maze of towers and multiple levels. The fog and black light lit the arena, and the music was extremely loud.

During the pizza party, more people showed up and therefore the next game was in teams. We had so much fun, and since the place was so empty, the owners offered us a free third game. We called this one FRANTIC. The owners joined us on this game, and we found that they were really good.

I missed Marcella and Erin this time, but if I can get enough interest from others, I'll organize another game soon.

### SOLAR memberships expire!

The 1998 SOLAR memberships have expired, and must be renewed to attend the exciting classes, and trips planned for 1999.

The annual price remains unchanged from 1998 at \$30 for an individual, and \$45 for a family.

For lifetime memberships the fees are \$150 for an individual and \$225 for a family.

Sign up at the next monthly meeting.

# Reminders...

## ISAR with NASAR in OH

Search And Rescue anyone? The *National Association of Search and Rescue* is teaching an Introduction to Search And Rescue at the Hocking College in Ohio.

Professionals and hikers that are interested in safety and preventive SAR operations should attend.

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.

## Free Backpacking Trips

Does free backpacking interest you? Interested parties will meet at each monthly SOLAR meeting to plan each month's trip.

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.

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.

## NOTICE!

All **SOLAR Bucks** expire on March 31st. Don't let them go to waste! Sign up for a class or activity at the March meeting!

# Activities

## March

Fri-Sun 19-21	X-C Skiing-Wabos Loppet- Ont. Mike Banks (248) 926 8939
Sat-Mon 6-8 (#1)	Search & Rescue-Hocking College Lester Mok
Sat-Mon 9-11 (#2)	Search & Rescue-Hocking College Lester Mok

## April

Sat 10	Rock Climbing - Planet Rock Jeff Enterkin (248) 399-0696
Sat 24	Laser Tag-Laser Quest Jeff Enterkin (248) 399-0696

## May

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

## March

Wednesdays 3, 10	Winter Survival Class-TBA Bob Westbrook (734) 513-8454
Fri-Sun 12-14	Winter Survival Practical-TBA Bob Westbrook (734) 513-8454
Mon 29	Basic Backpacking - REI Northville Mike Banks (248) 926-8939

## April

Fridays 9, 16, 23, 30	Rock Climbing Class
Sat 17	Land Navigation Class

## May

**- FUTURE -**

## August

12-15	Sea Kayak on Lake Superior-Munising Lisa Boese (248) 681-3617
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# 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 Fadyk
Secretary	Nancy Day
Treasurer	Linda Burke
Activities	Leslie Cordova
Membership	Mary Price
Publication	Tom Poster
Equipment	Pam Bauerle
By-Laws	Laura Albir
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 48087

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>

# Backpacking Class Returns!

The spring Basic Backpacking Class is almost here!

It starts March 29th for five consecutive Mondays, and concludes with two backpacking trips.

Details inside!

