

The SOLAR RAY

May brings the election for the SOLAR Steering Committee.

It's 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. New Board Members bring in new ideas. All positions are open for new candidates. The following positions on the Board are available:

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Activities, Membership, SOLAR Ray Editor, Equipment, By-Laws, Education, Historian, Programs, and Public Relations.

If you would like information on a position, contact the current person in that position. Any and all positions are available to any dues-paid member.

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.

If you are interested in a position, call Karen Bates at (810) 983-4147 to be placed on the ballot.

This month Jim Stanley will present a slide show of climbing throughout the United States. The show will highlight various types of climbing, including sport and traditional rock climbing, aid climbing, big wall, ice climbing, and mountaneering.

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Previews of Coming Attractions

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 fireings. You can camp anywhere on the island (with a few restrictions). Except at the existing fireings, 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 time 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.

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.

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

Membership rates are listed on the back of the SOLAR RAY.

More Previews of Coming Attractions

Sea Kayaking, times two

Matt Dalton invites us to join him on two non-SOLAR Sea Kayaking events.

The first event is the *10th Annual West Michigan Sea Kayaking Symposium* near Muskegon. The cost is about \$70 for the symposium, plus camping fees at the state park. Matt will have some kayaks for SOLARites to use. The dates are May 29-31.

The second event is the *Great Lakes Sea Kayak Symposium* near Grand Marais (east of Pictured Rocks). Matt will have kayaks here also. Cost is about \$75, plus camping fees.

For information on these two events, contact Matt on (248) 360-1611.

Checking on Interest only...

Karen Bates and I are checking for interest in more caving.

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

If there is interest, specifics and details will be forthcoming.

See Karen Bates, or me (Tom Poster) at the Solar meetings.

And Also...

Jim Gilfix is checking for interest in a kid friendly, car camping trip in July or August, to the Finger Lakes region in New York. Plenty of lakes, waterfalls, and hiking are available.

Duration will be from 4 to 8 days. It takes about 9 hours to drive there from Detroit.

If you're interested, see Jim Gilfix or call him on (734) 513-9460.

Pigeon River Camping

Imagine a tract of land in northern Michigan, the size of a county, that is rustic and pristine. This is Pigeon River country! A great area to mountain bike, hike, kayak, and do some photography. The dates are May 21-23 at the Pigeon River Campground. Bring your car camp gear and whatever else you want. The cost is about \$15 per person, dbl occupancy.

Contact Daniel "Danno" Merchant for more info on (810) 254-1487.

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.

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 trip is full with 6 SOLARites wait-listed.

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.

See Lisa Boose, or call her on (248) 681-3617, or Bill Kotynski on (517) 552-1067 for info, or to be put on the wait-list.

Still, More Coming Attractions

Whitewater Rafting in W.VA

July 16-18 takes you to tackle the whitewater in Fayetteville, West Virginia!

Two days of fun on this very popular rafting trip on the Lower New River for only \$210 per person. This includes air conditioned cabin accommodations (4 per cabin) for two nights, two breakfasts, two lunches (one is a riverside lunch), a BBQ chicken dinner, and a day and a half on the Lower New River. **Note, only six cabins are available, so sign up now!** Hot showers are available.

An expert guide will ensure that you will have a fun and safe adventure. All safety equipment is provided, as well as transportation to and from the river.

You need to get there, about eight hours from Detroit, and provide swim suits, shorts, t-shirts, old tennis shoes, sunscreen, and sunglasses. Bring along one of those throwaway cameras too... but be sure it is the waterproof kind. A piece of cord to attach it to you would be a good idea. A gratuity of \$7-8 per person to the guide is appropriate for both days.

Options? Sure... if you want only two people per cabin, the cost is \$238 per person. Want to tent camp? \$195 gets you that (bring your own gear).

Bringing the family? The *Family Raft Option* is \$175 per adult, \$133 per child (6-17 years old), which includes rafting all day Saturday on the Middle New River, in your choice of rafts or two person "duckies". On Sunday you have a choice of Rock Climbing, a river trip (must be 12+), or horseback riding.

The New River is one of the best whitewater rivers on the east coast, and it has a unique characteristic... it flows north!

Contact Lisa Bouse on (248) 681-3617 for info.

Kid Friendly Trips

It's time for SOLAR to go to the *Niagara Falls* area. The trip is June 18-20, and it's free*!

Jim Gilfix encourages you to see the fireworks on Friday night. On Saturday we will Journey behind the Falls. Depending on the weather and the interests of the group, we can hike, drive, or walk to check out the area.

Saturday evening after dinner and sightseeing, we can swim in either of the two outdoor pools, or the olympic size indoor pool. Two hot tubs and a sauna welcome the tired, the worn-out. A campfire will wind down the day.

On Sunday, we can check out several waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment and at the Rockway Conservation area. Perhaps a side trip to the incredible and often missed areas off of the Bruce Trail and the Balls Falls area.

*You make your own arrangements for camping in tents is \$28/two persons, or in cabins at \$50 per night for two persons. Food is also on your own.

Jim is also leading the *9th Annual Fossil Hunt* in Arkona, Canada. Arkona is a 2-1/2 hour drive from Detroit.

This is a **non-SOLAR** event, so you can invite your non-SOLAR friends. Last year 22 adults and 25 kids enjoyed the hunt for the fossils and the enjoyment of the water.

The Fossil Hunt will be on July 25. On Sunday the famous SOLAR pot-luck will be held, so bring your favorites to share. The cost ... free! Just the cost for your food, and park entry fees. More info in next month's RAY.

See Jim for details on these two trips for more info.

Flashback...

Getting The Point

-by Nancy Day

Note from the editor... I just received this review... honest!

At about 11 a.m. Sunday, September 20th, at the *Livingston Conservation Club and Sports Association* in Brighton, the "A Line" (a half-dozen Solarites), stood poised, bows and arrows drawn, to await the call of "fire."

Okay, so it wasn't quite that dramatic! But we did "let loose" with varying degrees of skill and struck everything from "bull's eyes" to "the broad side of a barn" throughout the day.

Our activity began with our head instructor, Jay, giving us a quick history of bow hunting/archery. That was followed up by additional thoughts from our second instructor, Wayne. Wayne's two sons, Bud and Coty, rounded out our instructor team.

After a demo on stance and arm and finger mechanics, we were handed our equipment and stepped up to the line, a wave at a time. We were at 15 yards and shot 6 arrows each round. Proper safety procedure was also discussed and enforced.

Most of us shot recurve bows, but a few seasoned Solarites had their compound bows and awed us with their "stuff", but even the beginners showed exceptional ability.

When we'd had enough, Wayne put on a little demo for us, popping three balloons tied together ranging in size from three inches to six inches. He "demolished" them in the color sequence we requested. He did it seemingly with ease, but we knew how difficult it really was.

He explained a bit about the target and scoring methods used in competition.

There was a lot of Solar enthusiasm and questions about the cost of equipment, and where to take additional lessons.

Jay and Wayne stressed to us, the "bowhunter's mentality", which is definitely contrary to general opinion. They considered themselves as conservationists and avid sportsmen, who are conscious about how animals are treated. There is a considerable abundance of deer, thousands which succumb to starvation long before they are sought out by hunters. Disease such as TB can spread quickly throughout the herd, because of the close proximity in feeding situations.

Organizations such as the *Michigan United Conservation Club* (MUCC), and the *Bowhunter's Association*, help fund state and federal projects for habitat preservation and animal control. That's the "point" that these men wanted to get across, even before the stressed the joy of archery.

We ended our session with a novel concept-FOOD! The grills had been stoked, and we grilled our own, and dined on a variety of side dishes. The weather was gorgeous, perfect for a late season barbeque.

Thank you Matt Dalton, for organizing this very interesting and enjoyable Solar activity. I think the archery bug bit some Solarites!

P.S. Thanks to all Solarites who invest there time and energies so that fantastic and varied activities can be offered. This really made my summer of firsts, from: white water rafting and kayaking, to heavy-duty biking, and now archery.

Got something you're interested in? Get a Solar trip or activity going!

Hey, YOU!

Join in on the fun!

SOLAR needs YOU 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. **The bold print indicates trips being organized and lead to-date.**

- + 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 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.

Letters to the Ray

For those of you who know Steve and Marie Gardner we have a new address for them:

P.O. Box 211
1682 NE Grandview Blvd.
Keyport, WA 98345-0211

You can leave off the street address, but the P.O. Box is required.

Their phone number is (360) 598-6446.

Steve says this should be their last address change.

Now that he and Marie are settled down, he offers an open invitation out there to fellow Solarites. They are located near two rain forests, a short drive to the Olympic Mountains and the Mount Ranier National Park, the Cascade Range, San Juan and Vancouver Islands, and Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

Sounds like a Solarites vision of heaven, to me...
-editor.

Sumac "Lemonade"

- by Deb

Boil the fruit of the *staghorn sumac* in water to the desired strength. Strain and add sugar to taste. "It tastes like lemonade!"

Deb also says-

You can boil wintergreen leaves for a tasty tea, or just pop the leaves in you mouth and chew. They have a natural derivative of aspirin in them.

As a side note from the editor-

When making the "lemonade" above, be sure you know the difference between staghorn sumac and *poison sumac*!

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 DeFranco |
| Joan Westbrook | Bob Westbrook |
| Joan Ryan | Bill Halvangs |
| | Peg Campbell |

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(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 48037

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>

**SOLAR kicks off the
camping, hiking,
biking, kayaking, rock
climbing, whitewater
rafting, caving...
whatever season!**
Details inside.