

T H E S O L A R R A Y



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24-hour Voice Mail 248/988-6658
or <http://members.tripod.com/~solarclub/>
or Call Doug Lanyk @248/634-4551

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 Barber, 1614A Fairview, Royal Oak, MI 48073. Phone# 248-435-2450. Send e-mail to amyLay86@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



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Please note editor's change of address above

CAVING REVIEW By Karen Bates

Have you ever been rinky-dinked? If you were one of the 11 Solar members that crawled, squeezed through rocks, and slid on your belly **6 miles in 6 hours** through Mammoth Cave on October 16th you have. To be rinky-dinked means your guides lead you in circles, having you enter the same room over and over again to say, "oh, cool!" To make this more fun we were 320 feet underground doing this in the dirt and dust! Now, some of you are thinking, Oh, yeah! Others are thinking, WHY, crazy woman? Well, where else but in a cave can you test the physical abilities from your youth, meet "Orange Tom" and get rinky-dinked? Where else but in a cave can you hear things like .. "OK everyone, STRIP or you won't fit," "Connie, give me a hard push!", "EXCELLENT, I still fit through the bear hole, just like when I was 17!" Where else but in a cave can you conquer the Compass Needle, the Breakdown Wall and Butt Cliff? Where else but in a cave can you see stalactites, stalagmites, underground streams, waterfalls, gypsum flowers, eyeless beetles, cave crickets and cute fuzzy bats? For those of you who have never been caving and are wondering what in the world I'm talking about, I highly recommend the Crawl-a-thon at Carter Caves State Park in Kentucky (see article below). For my caving companions...see you in January, underground!

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. By responding quickly, you will more likely get the tours you are interested in.

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.



Lets have a wedding toast for Pam (Bauerle) and Don Hamack because they were joined in holy matrimony on September 18, 1999.

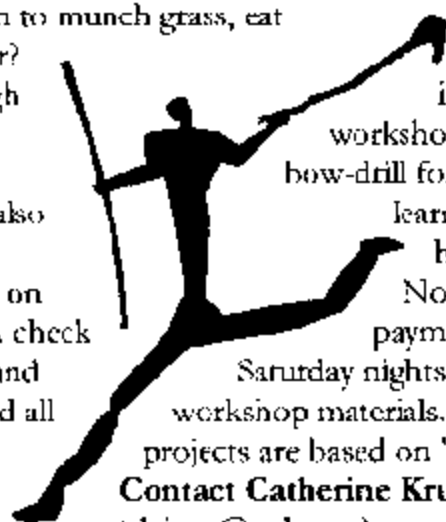
Lets have another wedding toast for Priscilla (Dana) and Roger Jackson because they were wed October 23, 1999. Alas, there is a sad side to this story; the couple is moving to Arizona. But there's a happy side too — what a splendid travel opportunity!! But ya gotta let em know before you come to their new home at 24824 North 42 Lane, Glendale, AZ 85310, Phone # (623) 516-1076.

Primitive Skills Workshop—It's a GO!!

Do you have a compulsion to munch grass, eat wild critters in a debris shelter?

This is not a "rough it, tough course, but an intensive build a debris shelter, carve a burning containers. We will also animals and how to live in

This workshop will be held on Waterloo Recreation Area. A check It includes Friday (the 12th) and cabin, dinner on Saturday, and all woodcarving. Workshop Wilderness Survival" information (810-774-9697,



worms, and snuggle with

it, end-of-the-world" survival workshop with projects on how to bow-drill for starting a fire and make coal-learn about wild plants, tracking harmony with Mother Earth. Nov 13th and 14th, at the payment of \$45 is due at sign up.

Saturday nights' accommodation in a rustic workshop materials. Bring your survival knife for projects are based on "Tom Brown's Field Guide to **Contact Catherine Krueger** to sign-up or get more astrlsiren@aol.com).

Wallyball is starting up again!!! Every Monday night at 7 pm players of all levels meet and play for two hours and have a ball! If you don't know what wallyball is, it's basically volleyball played in a racquetball court with a few different rules. It's great exercise and the cost is generally \$3-4. The location is the Bailey Recreation Center on Ford Road in Westland. Call Margaret Martin for more details at 734/721-2821.

A Superior Adventure: Beginning Kayaking

By Amy Barber and John Fiedyk

It was a dark and stormy night. My beloved and I had driven many miles and finally arrived at an ingodly hour (once an acceptable bedtime), to the expansive scenic wilderness of the Lake Superior basin, where we would begin our courageous and daring journey upon the swelling whitecaps of that turbulent wave-tossed inland sea.

The next morning, August 13, it was still raining, the lake waters were dark gray, and there were clouds floating around downtown Munising. During breakfast, the winds picked up. The chance of getting some kayaking in that day did not look great. We met our guides from Great Northern Adventures after breakfast and came to a consensus that we would spend the day hiking the cliffs. Kayaking the "lake that never gives up her dead" would be just too dangerous.

Our guides, Stuart and Sue, fed us lunch and we began our walk. We saw several waterfalls, rivers and streams, a multitude of small flowering plants, as well as numerous different ferns and mosses. Sue was very knowledgeable about wild plants and lore, and she told us of medicinal uses for many plants. Our small band of budding naturalists started to lag behind the rest of the group as we asked such penetrating questions such as, "What's this?" or made insightful comments such as, "Ooh, this is neat." But much of our commentary and inquisitiveness was centered on the multifarious population from the fungus kingdom. We saw so many forms and colors that it was just amazing: shelf shapes, spear shapes, shapes like human toes and popcorn, in colors ranging from black to white, canary yellow to crimson, jade green to rust. Fortunately, none of us brought along our field guides because we'd probably still be there trying to catalog it all.



The crew in their rain gear (smiling)

We finally reached the cliffs overlooking Lake Superior. With the recent storm and the high winds, the view of three primal elements converging was stirring. Water, wind and stone competed in a magnificent battle, which often resulted in spray rising up dozens of feet from the lake to sting our faces. Eight-foot whitecaps were churning towards the shore, and from the beach the water level appeared swollen over our heads. We were grateful we weren't experiencing the water firsthand in a kayak.



The waves along Chapel Beach were immense

We continued to hike the 9-mile loop along the most picturesque portion of the Pictured Rocks, with frequent stops at breathtaking vistas for camera shots. Some of us ate huckleberries along the way, and chewed on wintergreen leaves. Lisa Boose, our kindly trip leader, liked the wintergreen so much she picked a little stack of leaves so everyone could try it.

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We spent the evening enjoying hot butter rum chai in Bill's deluxe pop-up, cozy and lazy from the long hike. Before retiring, a few of us watched the sun set and then the reddish-orange shard of moon sink over the treetops, looking like a huge flame from a far-away fire.

We awoke the next morning around 5 a.m. to the sound of drums and chanting. The descendants of Chief Nah-ben-ay-ash of the Bear Clan were having a family reunion. Here we were on the shores of Lake Superior across from Grand Island *in an RV campground*, hearing a bit of ancient history.

Says Amy: I could use an alarm like that every morning.

The day was beautiful luckily, and we drove the kayaks over to Sand Point and received a rather intensive lesson from Stuart in kayaking safety. We learned the proper way to hold a paddle, get fitted into our kayaks, and put on our skirts. The twelve of us practiced maneuvering the kayaks in shallow water. We were then ready to cross the channel to Grand Island, as Pictured Rocks were still too rough to attempt.

Midway through, a blue kayak overturned...

John says: I managed to be the first person Stuart had to rescue in deep water. It happened like this: I was paddling along in the middle of the flotilla, and then turned to look at *someone*, got hit broadside by a wave, and over I went. Having performed only the first half of an Eskimo roll, I felt embarrassed. However, I decided hanging upside down in a kayak wasn't a good place to stay so I released the spray skirt and bobbed to the surface. Stuart was there very quickly and with his adept guidance, I was back in my kayak in a matter of minutes. Stuart claimed it was a textbook rescue. Well, I think Stuart is a textbook guide and then some!

We made it to the beach on Grand Island, lunched and then explored the eastern shore for about three miles. It was mostly cliffs, colored like Pictured Rocks, with shale-like beaches akin to Mosquito Beach, complete with caves and overhanging trees. We even found a cave-like arch to navigate through, with some members getting comically pinned between the waves and the walls of the cave. Because of the storm, there were a few waterfalls to paddle under and cool off. It was a lot of fun bouncing around on the waves, keeping your eyes affixed on such magnificent scenery.



Kayaking the Cliffs of Grand Island

We finished up our evening with dinner, a campfire, and stories. Sunday morning most of the group got off early for a few hours of kayaking before heading home. A few of us closed up our camps at a slower pace and hiked a different stretch of the National Lakeshore. Thank you, Lisa Boose, for organizing this fun, sporting excursion, and thanks to Stuart and Sue for making this weekend a success.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Nov. 2—General Membership Meeting
Colony Hall, Southfield
Doug Lanyk, 248/634-4551

Nov. 6—Fall Hayride and Bonfire
Kensington Metro Park
Leslie Cordova, 248/547-5626

Nov. 6—Ireman Bike Race
Kalkaska to Traverse City
Doug Lanyk, 248/634-4551

Nov. 5-7—Jordan River Car-Camping Weekend
Mike Bayerl, 810/791-3781

Nov. 7—Sunday Orienteering
Waterloo Recreation Area
Linda Burke, 248/471-9185

Nov. 12-14—Camping at Nordhouse
Nordhouse Dunes, Michigan
Linda Burke, 248/471-9185

Nov. 13—Saturday Orienteering
Highland Recreation Area
Linda Burke, 248/471-9185

Nov. 13-14—Primitive Skills Workshop
Waterloo Recreation Area
Catherine Krueger, 810/774-9697

Nov. 20—Winter Outdoor Safety Class
Dave Foerster, 734-453-0692

Nov. 21—Sunday Orienteering
Bird Hill, Ann Arbor
Linda Burke, 248/471-9185

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

Dec. 11—Charity Christmas Caroling
Farmington, Michigan or TBA (tentative)
Margaret Martin, 734/721-2821

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. 28-30—Crawladon-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—Dog Sledding
Algonquin, Ontario
Karen Bates, 810/323-1346

JORDAN RIVER BACKPACKING/CAR CAMPING WEEKEND

November 5-7, 1999

Feeling like getting out of the heat of the house? There's still time to sign up! You can plan this trip along one of the most spectacular trails in the Lower Peninsula however you like. Many people will be car camping (the service road is about 200 yards from the campground) and going for day hikes along the 18-mile round trip trail. Others may choose to pack up a backpack and practice their backcountry skills. The cost of the trip is \$6 per campsite, plus the cost of your food. Everyone makes their own travel, food and sleeping arrangements.

Please contact Mike Bayerl to sign-up and get info about the trip at 810/791-3781 or bayerlm@ameritech.net

Winter Outdoor Safety Class

This 1-day class will prepare novice XC skiers, snowshoers, and hikers for their day trips. Experienced winter backpackers who want to review their safety skills are also welcome.



Tentative topics include winter hazards, trip planning, clothing, hydration, nutrition, basic trail navigation, hypothermia and frostbite, survival preparation, leadership and emergency management.

The class date is Nov 20th and the fee is about \$15. We'll have more information at the October meeting, or please call Dave Forster at 734-453-0692 for an update.

DOGS...SNOW...DOGS...WIND...DOGS...ENERGY...DOGS...ICE...DOGS...FUN!!

You can say, "I did it!" The Iditarod—the Ontario version, that is. February 18-20, 2000 is the weekend for our two-day dog-sled trip. The destination is South River, Ontario, just west of Algonquin Provincial Park. This is a luxury trip as far as dog-sledding trips go. Included with your team of dogs and sled gear is all your meals on the trail and heated tents in camp. Also included is the lodging 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. This trip is a blast for you and the dogs and will give you memories that will last a lifetime.

The cost of this exciting weekend is only \$320.00 (Canadian). Last year the exchange rate was excellent. There are still a few more spots! For more details or to sign up for this trip, call Karen Bates at 810-323-1346 or see me at the SOLAR meetings.



FALL HAYRIDE AND BONFIRE

Come join in on the fun at a horse-drawn hayride and bonfire at Kensington Metro Park. We will meet at the Farm Center on Saturday, November 6th, at 6PM. The hayrides begin at 7PM, and we'll hang around at the bonfire until 10PM. *Come hungry* as there will be plenty of hot dogs, munchies, hot and cold beverages, and, of course, marshmallows (bring your own roasting stick). This is a non-SOLAR trip, so bring your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. Due to limited space on the hayrides, this trip is limited to the first 60 people who pay a mere \$10 for all of this fun. Respond immediately to reserve your spot!!

• • • SORRY KIDS, BUT THIS TRIP IS FOR ADULTS ONLY • • •

For more information or to sign up, **contact either Gene or Leslie Cordova** at (248) 547-5626, or see us at the next SOLAR meeting

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