



THE SOLAR RAY



A P R I L 2 0 0 0

This Month's Program: 10,000 Miles Around the U.S.A.



During the summer of 1999, Solar member Tim Klepaczyk had the opportunity to go on the road for eleven weeks. He threw his mountain bike, hiking boots, backpack and other gear in the back of his Explorer and headed off across the country. In the process, he drove through 17 states, visited 13 national parks, learned white water kayaking and visited friends and family in six cities. Join us at the April meeting and travel with Tim on his rare adventure. If you enjoy the program, see Tim about the White Water Kayak Clinic he's organizing for early June.

MAY ELECTIONS

If you are interested in running for a position on the Steering Committee, elections will be held at the May General Membership Meeting. All positions are open to election annually. Steering Committee members meet once a month on the last Tuesday of the month.

For more information on running for an office or nominating someone, call Juli Perrod at 248-589-2629,

e-mail at juli@mediaone.net or see her at the April meeting



The School of Outdoor Leadership, Adventure & Recreation

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SOLAR Year 2000 Rockclimbing Class



Have you ever wanted to try rockclimbing?
Do you want to get outside and climb on real rock
rather than plastic?
Have you climbed before and want to learn how to hit
the crags on your own?

Then SOLAR's Rockclimbing class is for you!

In the course of a few weeks, you will:

- ◆ Gain the knowledge of how to safely configure a top-roping setup using natural anchors.
- ◆ Learn two basic knots commonly used in climbing (more if time permits).
- ◆ Safely belay other climbers using a top-rope setup.
- ◆ Earn the ability to use club rockclimbing gear at SOLAR-sponsored outings.
- ◆ Be provided with the skills required to safely set up a climbing system, climb on it and break it down at the end of a fun-filled day!

The cost is \$80 and includes a coursepack, book, camping fees, gear and practice rope. The dates are: April 10, 17, 24, and May 1 at REI. A mini-practical is on April 29 at Planet Rock. The final practical is May 5-7 at Rattlesnake Provincial Park.

For more information, please contact Laura Albin (517) 381-8976, albinlau@pilot.msu.edu or Bob Westbrook (734) 513-8454, bobw@bigcat.net.

Solar Search and Rescue Class

When: June 2-4, 2000 at 7:30 pm
July 29, 2000--1 day practical

Location: To be determined

Cost: \$95.00

Principal Instructor: Doug Brown

Coordinators: Tom and Reggie Hayes
810-778-3589



The course will cover the incident command system, types of searches, types of transportation, the art of improvisation, and basic first aid review. The text for the class will be *Wilderness Search and Rescue* by Tim Sennick. Texts will be available at the May meeting for paid participants. There will be a written test and short practical on the weekend session. The one day session will be a long practical.

You Don't Have To Be a Dogsledder to Love Sled Dogs!

I have a passion for both to help Chocpaw Expeditions, recent mild winters we've had, of its kennel. There are many, need a good home. They you or anybody you know good life for these beautiful for a list of the dogs available. you can contact Chocpaw Expeditions directly.

Karen Bates

e-mail: lady_musher@yahoo.com
evenings: 810-323-1346



dog sledding and huskies so I've offered our dogsledding guides. Because of the Chocpaw has decided to reduce the size many dogs available for adoption that range in age from pups to 12 years old. If could provide a happy retirement or a dogs, you can contact me, Karen Bates, If you need specific questions answered,

Chocpaw Expeditions - Kate

e-mail: chocpaw@onlink.net
phone: 705-386-0344

Point Pelee—In Search of *Piranga ludoviciana*

May 13, 2000

Head on over to Point Pelee, just outside of Leamington, Ontario, and join us for a dayhike! We plan on getting to the park at sunrise to hear the full symphony of bird song and calls and to see the birds in full swing. There are several different areas to explore and consequently, different birds to watch for. The Point features water birds and hawks, the woodlands feature songbirds, especially warblers, and last year, the combination of red-winged blackbirds and rustling reeds in the enormous marsh was totally euphonious. We have booked an expert birder to take 20 people (strict limit) on a nature walk starting at 8:45 am. The cost for the tour is \$5 per person. For those who have already signed up, please contact Amy or John Fedyk if you want to join us on the guided walk—and get your money in ASAP. You must pay the 5 bucks to reserve your spot so first pay, first go. Bring your binoculars so you can see the fabulous variety of birds up close. We will picnic in the park so bring a sack lunch or purchase a lunch at the café in the park. The only other cost is the park entrance fee, which is \$3-4/person. **For more info, see us at the April meeting or contact John or Amy Fedyk at 248-435-2450 or e-mail amykay86@hotmail.com or jfedyk@hotmail.com.**



LAST CHANCE FOR... WHITEWATER RAFTING IN WEST VIRGINIA

Jim Gilfix is running two whitewater rafting trips in West Virginia on the Upper and Lower New Rivers on Memorial Day weekend. One trip is for ages 14-adult and involves some intense rapids; the other trip is class 1-2 rapids and perfect for the kids. The cost is \$135 for the first trip and \$125 for the second (kids are \$70). Group camping is available for \$30/adult and \$15/child for three nights. This is your last chance to sign up for this year's trip. For those already signed up, payment in full is due at the April Solar meeting. Assistance with car pools will be provided, but transportation is your own responsibility. **Contact trip leader Jim Gilfix at 734-513-9460 or see him at the meeting for info and sign up!**

MAP SKILL AND ARMCHAIR ORIENTEERING CLASS, 4/8 ~ 4/9.

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This class will be held on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning at the Waterloo Recreation Area. It will start immediately after the Land Navigation Class on Saturday. Tentative topics include resection, declination, modifying a map so it can be used with a baseplate compass or a GPS, basic night compass, and orienteering techniques. Participants can then practice their orienteering skill in a local meet on Sunday afternoon. The cost is \$5 (cheap, but it is quality cheap), and all participants must know the basics of map and compass before coming to class. However, this class is FREE (another SOLAR perk?) if you are attending the Land Navigation Class, but you should still sign up for this class if you plan on coming. More information about the class and cabin accommodation is available at the April meeting. If you are interested in honing your navigation skill, please check out <http://www.angelfire.com/mi/SMOC/smoked.html> or the SOLAR calendar on local orienteering meets. Lester Mok, 519-256-0324, [lesmok@sprint.ca](mailto:lesmok@sprint.ca)

## Primitive Gathering at the Bois Blanc Island

I'll be going to the Great Lake Primitives and Atlatl Gathering between August 17th and 20th. Sign up information is available later this year. For now, reserve these vacation dates with your boss, and check out last year's event at <http://members.aol.com/tbprim1/GLP.html> and see if you can find my :-). Lester Mok, 519-256-0324, [lesmok@sprint.ca](mailto:lesmok@sprint.ca).

### Club Day at EMS

EMS is sponsoring a club day for all outdoor club members on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Present your Solar member card and receive a 20% discount on all your essential gear purchases!

## COASTAL KAYAKING

July 7-9, 2000.

ACA Coastal Kayaking Instructors will conduct the American Canoe Association's Fundamentals of Coastal Kayaking 16 hour course. The course, which is designed for enthusiastic beginners and intermediate paddlers, will cover basic strokes, rescues, first aid equipment, navigation, marine hazards, landing in surf, weather, emergency signaling, kayaking equipment including, trip leadership skills, clothing, packing a kayak and, *time permitting*, the Eskimo Roll.

Two locations are being considered: Lake Erie at Sterling State Park in Monroe or Lake Michigan at Muskegon State Park. This is a camping weekend and a "pot luck" dinner will be held on Saturday night. The course is limited to 16 participants and the cost is \$125.00 with own gear, \$165.00 with Black Parrot Paddling Gear, plus the State Park entry fee. (I forgot to add the cost for camping in last month's article). You will need a sea kayak (no river kayaks) or you can rent a kayak from Ron. Kayaks must be over 14' or more with adequate flotation, and you must have a spray skirt, life jacket, paddle, pump and paddle float. A wet suit and nose plugs are highly recommended. If you don't have a wet suit you can rent one from Ron for \$25. People renting boats and gear from Ron will have priority for wet suit rentals. Sign up at the April meeting. Full payment is required to hold a spot. Ron will be doing a Kayaking Program at the June meeting. Call Sharon Broderick to register at (248) 960-2095.

### 2 KAYAKS FOR SALE:

1. Plastic, Sea Loin, Blue, \$500.00 spray skirt and paddle.
2. Plastic, Skeray, Red, \$900.00. Kayak only.
3. Call Sharon Broderick (248) 960-2095



## Historian's Digs

By John Fedyk

Learning SOLAR history is a lot of sitting around campfires and telling each other legendary stories...or going on a really, REALLY *long* road trip with complete strangers. Below we have another way to generate some knowledge for our membership of the club's history and it's characters. This is a little quiz to test your current knowledge of the club. We will award the top 5 winners at the May meeting (either by correct number of answers or by a random drawing of the top winners) with a beautiful, highly wearable original artwork SOLAR T-shirt. Cut out this copy of the quiz and bring it with you for entry in the contest to the May meeting.

1. What is the current Solar membership as of April 1st? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What year was SOLAR founded? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What year was the Halloween party canceled and why? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who once said on a caving trip, "I can't breathe - JUST PULL!" \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many Solar presidents have there been? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What three people broke their ankles within a few months of each other? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Which do you prefer: Solar, SOLAR, or S.O.L.A.R.? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What Solar member was rescued famously by another Solar member last year? (Name both members.) \_\_\_\_\_
9. What place has been visited most frequently by SOLAR members on a Solar outing? (excluding Colony Hall) \_\_\_\_\_
10. Who has been a lifetime member in Solar the longest? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What four people did fourteen portages in one day to see a waterfall? (Extra credit: Which one of the four did the waterfall in a canoe?) \_\_\_\_\_
12. Who ran the most trips in 1999? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Name one feature you would like to see in the *Solar Ray*. \_\_\_\_\_

# T H E S O L A R R A Y

## Activities

### April 4—General Membership Meeting

Program: 17 States, 11 Weeks Slide Show

Colony Hall, Southfield  
Doug Lanyk, 248-634-4551

### April 6, 13, 20—Backpacking Class

REI, Northville  
Mike Banks, 248-347-2100

### April 8—Land Navigation Class

Waterloo Recreation Area  
Linda Burke, 248-471-9185

### April 8-9—Map Skill & Armchair Orienteering

Waterloo Recreation Area  
Lester Mok, 519-256-0324

### April 9—Orienteering Meet

Waterloo Recreation Area  
Linda Burke, 248-471-9185

### April 10, 17, 24—Rock Climbing Class

May 1 REI, Northville  
Laura Albin, 517-381-8976

### April 15-16—Backpack Practical I

To Be Announced  
Mike Banks, 248-347-2100

### April 16—Orienteering Meet

Peach Mountain  
Linda Burke, 248-471-9185

### April 28-30—Motorcycle Trip

Natchez Trace, MS  
Tom Dunn, 248-683-9617

### April 28-30—Backpack Practical II

TBA  
Mike Banks, 248-347-2100

### April 29—Rock Climbing Mini Practical

Planet Rock, Pontiac  
Laura Albin, 517-381-8976

### April 30—Orienteering Meet

Pontiac Lake Recreation Area  
Linda Burke, 248-471-9185

### May 2—General Membership Meeting

Program: Officer Elections  
Colony Hall, Southfield

## Calendar

Doug Lanyk, 248-634-4551

### May 6—Orienteering Meet

Yankee Springs Metropark  
Linda Burke, 248-471-9185

### May 7—Wildflower Hike

Indian Springs  
Margaret Martin, 734-721-2821

### May 5-7—Mohican River Canoe/Kayak/Hike

Mohican River Area, Ohio  
Leslie Cordova, 248-547-5626

### May 5-7—Rock Climbing Practical

Milton, Ontario  
Laura Albin, 517-381-8976

### May 13—Bird Migration and Hiking

Pt. Pelee Prov. Park, Ontario  
Amy Fedyk, 248-435-2450

### May 13—Orienteering Meet

Highland Recreation Area  
Linda Burke, 248-471-9185

### May 21—Orienteering Meet

Pontiac Lake Recreation Area  
Linda Burke, 248-471-9185

### May 26-29—White Water Rafting

New River, W. Virginia  
Jim Gilfix, 734-513-9460

### May 26-29—Hocking Hills Hiking Trip

Hocking Hills, Ohio  
Tom Foster, 248-706-9363

### May 26-29—Sea Kayak Symposium

Lake Michigan  
Matt Dalton, 248-360-1611

### June 2-4—Search and Rescue Class

Harry Price, 248-477-7547

### June 6—General Membership Meeting

Program: Kayaking with Ron Smith  
Colony Hall, Southfield

### June 9-11—Rattlesnake Provincial Park

Milton, Ontario  
Laura Albin, 517-381-8976

### June 30-July 31—Motorcycle Trip

The Maritimes, Canada  
Tom Dunn, 248-683-9617

### July 7-9—Coastal Kayaking Class

Sharon Broderick, 248-920-2095

### July 7-9—Wilderness First Aid Class

Brighton Recreation Area  
Mike Banks, 248-347-2100

To participate in any SOLAR activity, you must be a member. Joining is easy and painless! Check out the back page for more info and call Mary Price, Membership Director, at 248-477-7547 or e-mail her at [MHallpri@dmc.org](mailto:MHallpri@dmc.org)

**FYI:** Following each meeting, a big group of Solarites heads over to Mr. Joe's for a bite to eat and to talk. Ask around for directions at the next meeting and come join us!

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIPS

**NOW!** It is still the season to renew if you haven't done so already. Prevent getting bumped off a trip by a bona fide member! Call today and don't delay!

## WORK ON YOUR WISH LIST

Why wait for someone else to plan your dream trip? Whether you want company on a spring hike to Hidden Lake Gardens or you want a group to go wilderness canoeing with in the U.P., you can be the one to make the arrangements and decide on the details. You may have a special interest in listening for loons or hiking through swamps, but no one you know *yet* shares this interest. Run a Solar trip, and you will find people with a shared interest. Start out with a day trip to the Highland Games Festival or start out with a long weekend trip to the North Shore of Lake Superior. Either way, you can take credit for a trip full of adventure and memories. Other excellent reasons for running a trip include meeting new friends and spending time with old friends and going someplace for free! When you do the legwork in organizing a trip, you can cover the basic cost of your trip (excluding food and gas and other necessities) when you get group rates or if you build your cost into the trip and set the trip fee accordingly (all within reason, of course!). Check out a Michigan guide book for inspiration or expand into Canada, Wisconsin, or New York State via Ontario. Here are just a few ideas of places to explore and trips to run:

- Biking in the Michigander Bike Ride
- Canoeing along the Pigeon and Sturgeon Rivers ■
- Cabins in Letchworth State Park in New York
- The Michigan-Wisconsin Ferry Ride
- Camping and the Buffalo Chip Flip in Muskegon ■ Hiking in the Pinery in Ontario
- Backpacking in the Porcupine Mountains
- Watching fish at the Michigan Fisheries Interpretive Center
- Clifton Gorge Nature Preserve in Southwest Ohio
- Paddling the Vermilion River in Northern Ohio ■
- Rock Climbing in West Virginia

Call or e-mail Leslie Cordova at 248-547-5626 or [LeslieGene@aol.com](mailto:LeslieGene@aol.com), and she will guide you through the process and even give you trip ideas. If you are still a little apprehensive, get a friend to co-lead a trip with you, and you each pay only half the cost.

## ***Mohican River Weekend***

*Hiking / Waterfalls / Canoeing / Kayaking / Hot Tubs*

**C**ome join us May 5-7, 2000 for a fun-packed weekend of hiking and your choice of canoeing or kayaking the Mohican River in Loudonville, Ohio, southwest of Akron. The drive is about 4 hours from Detroit. The Mohican River is located primarily in Ohio's Glaciated Appalachian Plateau. One of the highlights of the area is the impressive Clearfork Gorge, a 150-200 foot cut into the hilly landscape. We will also see some waterfalls along our hiking trail. Our lodging is in cabins at the Mohican Canoe Livery and Fun Center. These cabins have showers and also hot tubs on the back decks that overlook a man-made lake. We'll possibly have a potluck or picnic on Sunday. Cost of the trip is \$68 for 2 nights' lodging, \$16 for canoeing (per person) or \$18 kayaking. I have 24 spots available, and as always, first pay, first go. The cabin portion of this trip must be paid in full by the April meeting (The last day I can cancel cabins with no penalty). Last year we had a blast—if you're interested, **call Leslie Cordova at (248) 547-5626.**

# **T H E   S O L A R   R A Y**

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## **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 Fodyk**  
**John Fodyk**  
**Juli Peared**  
**Teri Simonds**

## **AT LARGE**

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

**Mo DeFrance**  
**Jean Ryan**  
**Bill Halvingia**  
**Peg Campbell**  
**Mike Banks**

## **About The Ray**

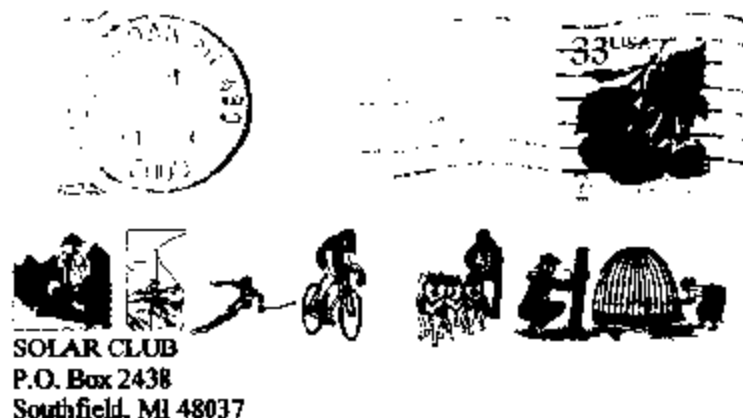
*The Ray* is a monthly publication of the SOLAR club and is provided free of charge to the current dues-paid members. Deadline for the Ray is 12 days after the general meeting for the following month's edition. Contributions in the form of upcoming events, comments, trip reports, recipes, photos, and original articles are welcome. Send all contributions to Amy Fodyk, 1614A Fairview, Royal Oak, MI 48073. Phone# 248-435-2450. Send e-mail to [amykay86@hotmail.com](mailto: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



**GENE & LESLIE CORDOVA**  
**14520 BORGMAN**  
**OAK PARK, MI 48237**