

SEASON'S

Greetings

SOLAR RAY

DECEMBER 2000

Friends, Food, Music, and Fun!

That's what the December program is going to be all about! Join all of your S.O.L.A.R. friends at the December meeting for a celebration of the holiday season. All of the festivities will begin promptly after the general membership meeting. Take advantage of the opportunity to visit with everyone, eat lots of food, listen and dance to great music with Bobby Cool Breeze, a hot DJ, and let's not forget all the fun! S.O.L.A.R. will be providing scrumptious food, and non-alcoholic drinks along with the plates, napkins, cups and utensils. The only thing

needed from you is a batch of the yummiest holiday snacks you can make! If anyone has any suggestions for the party, please contact David Foerster at

*DBFOERSTER@JUNO.COM, or
call 734-453-0692, or 734-306-7887
See you there!*



UPCOMING SOLAR CLUB ACTIVITIES



Nov. 28 - Steering Committee Vote
Bylaws Amendment -

Web Master and Duties

Laura Albin 517-324-0584

Dec 5 - Solar General Membership Mtng
Program - Holiday Party - come rock the
night with a Hot DJ, and great food!

December 9 - Winter Outdoor Safety
Westland

Glenn Pace 734-458-9353

Dec 10 - Christmas Caroling/Potluck
Farmington, MI

Margaret Martin - 734-721-2821

Dec 13, Jan 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Enjoy Michigan Winters

Backpacking Class

Benchmark in Farmington

Tom Olaffe - 313-386-0057

Jan. 19 - 21 - Dog Sledding

Algonquin National Park

Ontario, Canada

Karen Bates 810-323-1346

Jan 26-28, 2001

Caving and/or Hiking

Carter Caves - Kentucky

Leslie Cordova, 248-547-5628

Feb. 18-18 Skiing, x-country, snowshoeing

Crystal Mountain, Michigan

Mary Dunn 248-585-9954

Feb. 23-25 - Dog Sledding Trip

Algonquin National Park

Ontario, Canada

Karen Bates 810-323-1346

Feb. 23-25 - Snowshoe/Dog Sled

Hiawatha National Forest

See Lisa Boose at December mtng

for more information

Mar 16-18 Skiing, x-country, snowshoeing

Saulte St. Marie

Mary Dunn 248-585-9954

'Ookin thor thumthin ta do?
theek this thuff out!



WINTER RETREATS

Crystal Mountain Extravaganza

Mark your calendars for February 16- 18 and a winter weekend at Crystal Mountain. We will have a choice of cross country skiing on 40 KM of meticulously groomed trails or downhill skiing on 34 slopes including 24 lighted for night skiing. Snowshoe trails are available too. Crystal Mountain is 40 miles NW of Cadillac and its terrific cross country trails are not familiar to skiers sticking close to I-75. The cost is estimated at \$70 and will include lodging with 2 people to a room in a nearby motel and Saturday dinner. All trail fees are additional. Call Mary Dunn 248-585-9954 for more information. Final price, maps and sign up at the December meeting.

Fun in Saulte Ste. Marie

The annual late winter migration to Saulte Ste. Marie for the Wabos Loppet will take place the weekend of March 16 -18. Options include the train ride to Wabos and the 26 KM cross country ski back to Stokely Creek, skiing on your own at Stokely Creek, downhill skiing at Searchmont or snow shoeing!!! What could be better!! We will be staying at Glenview Cabins; so, bring your bathing suit for the hot tub and sauna. \$60 dollars includes Friday and Saturday night lodging with four per cabin and Saturday night dinner. Information and applications for the Loppet will be available at the December meeting. Call Mary Dunn for more information at 248-585-9954.

20th Annual Carter Caves Crawl-a-thon - January 26-28, 2001

Well, you asked for more caving and you got it! The 20th annual Carter Caves Crawl-a-thon is scheduled for January 26-28, 2001.

The plan is to drive down to Olive Hill, Kentucky - Friday (7 hr. drive), and stay at the Carter Caves State Park Lodge. I have reserved 12 rooms under my name. The cost will be \$45 per adult, and \$25 per child 16 and under. Checks are payable to S.O.L.A.R., for 2 nights lodging, and it's first pay, first go.

Carter Caves Park will be mailing your entry form for the crawl-a-thon sometime in December. If you do not receive it by early January, call (them) at (606) 286-4411. You can sign up for as many caving tours as you would like to participate in for the two days (Sat and/or Sun).

The cost is \$20 for 2 days of guided caving (as many tours as you wish); PLUS you'll receive a FREE T-SHIRT! You must send your form(s) in along with the \$20 per person, child or adult, yourself. DO NOT DELAY, as the trips fill up quickly. Notice I have no control over whether or not you get the trips you want, however, from past experience, the faster you send the form in with full payment, the more likelihood you'll get the trips you want.

This is an annual event put on by the State Park, and it's a great way for people to get acquainted with caving, as they offer a wide variety of tours ranging from walking tours, a little bit of caving, A LOT of caving, and vertical caving. They even have caving trips for kids and seniors!!

Some of the caves involve crawling through small constricted passages, and some of which contain water. The rewards are a great physical challenge, and you will see some very large cave crickets, and some very interesting formations. You must be in good physical condition to participate in level 3 or 4 caving tours, but they are well worth it!

Equipment needed: old coveralls, or any type of loose fitting clothing (no sweat pants/sweatshirts), knee and elbow pads, gloves, boots that cover the ankle, a hard hat with a chin strap (S.O.L.A.R. can provide), 3 sources of light, one must be mounted on your hard hat (duct tape works well), and extra batteries.

SOLAR has about 30ish helmets that you can borrow for caving, with a \$25 refundable deposit, but there are 48 people going on this trip. If you have a helmet you can use, please do so, if not contact me at (248) 547-5626 or lasliagene@aol.com to reserve one. I will bring the helmets to the January meeting. If I run out, you will need to provide your own helmet. SORRY!

Also, S.O.L.A.R. has a few sets of knee and elbow pads available.

Due to the overwhelming response for this years Crawl-a-thon, at this time all of the lodge rooms are full and I have a waiting list. For all you die hards who still want to go caving you do have a few options. You can book a room yourself at either Carroll's Inn (the only motel in Olive Hill, KY) by calling them at (606) 286-4141, or there are some motels in Grayson, KY which is a little past Olive Hill, call me if you need a listing, or check the web. You will then need to contact Carter Caves State Park at (606) 286-4411 and ask them to send you a crawl-a-thon entry form. Since the SOLAR Club has a limited number of helmets, if you are not staying in the lodge, you will need to provide your own helmet.

Need more information? Contact me - Lasli Cordova - at (248) 547-5626, or LasliGene@aol.com

Karen Bates adds:

I am making a spaghetti dinner on Saturday night at the Crawl-a-thon. I have a small cottage and will have a gathering for those interested. The cost is \$5.00 per person. You must sign up and pay by the January meeting so that I know how much food to buy. This is a great opportunity to meet new Solar friends and old ones. Contact Karen Bates at the next meeting, e-mail: lady_musher@yahoo.com or call 810-525-1346, evenings.

SEE YOU 3 FEET UNDER!

Co-editors note: I have found it extremely helpful to use "thick" knee pads for crawling, which I found to be the success factor in caving stunts. Also, by duct taping the pads to undergarments, helps keep the pads in their place. For caving boots, it's best to have a good lug underneath, as this will help with climbing and some slippery areas. A good place to find a pair of old coveralls 'cheap' is at flea markets. We got ours in Pontiac at the Dixieland Flea Market. Also, check out Army surplus stores. If anyone knows of other places to shop for our fine attire, let us know!

Worried about what to do this winter???

How about leading a SOLAR trip or activity? It's easy, FUN, and the leader goes FREE! How about a downhill skiing trip? Snow-tubing, tobogganing, snow shoeing, hiking, or how about renting a cabin and day hiking? What about a weekend in a Bed and Breakfast followed by a night at the theater or maybe antique hunting? Just call Amy Fedyk at (248)543-9875 for information on leading an activity!



Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

"Almost Winter" • Backpacking Trip • December 15 • 17

A Trip for the hearty or foolish. My desire to get in a couple more nights of the great outdoors has inspired this trip to the Platte Plains area of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. It is south of Empire, and north of Manistee.

Friday night will be car camping in a park campground. Saturday we will hike in 5 or 6 miles to a backcountry site. There is a choice of trails from reasonably flat on the plains inland, to a dune walk along the Michigan shoreline. It is a beautiful area with good hiking, skiing, fishing, and hunting.

In December, it is almost guaranteed to be inclement (S__Y) weather. Be prepared for snow, sleet, rain, fog, wind, warm, cold, and colder.

There is a daily national land use fee that you will be responsible for.

Maps will be available at the December meeting. Food, group gear, and car pooling will be worked out when a final list of 'fools' is compiled.

I'm going to have fun,
please come and join me.

Douglas Lanyk
(248) 634-4551 home
(248) 852-6010 x279 work



Enjoy Michigan Winters BACKPACKING

Winter backpacking skill is not just for winters, it is also a useful back-up for the unexpected cold days in early spring and late fall.

This course will teach you the "ins-and-outs" of cold weather backpacking. We'll teach you how to stay warm, how to keep your energy level up when skiing, or snow shoeing. We'll also teach you how to build a snow shelter, just in case something does go horribly wrong on that easy "3-hour ski trip".

You can also use these skills while camping glaciers, or snowy peaks at the Rockies.

The first class will be on December 13th, and the remaining classes held on all five Wednesdays in January(2001). The practicals will be on the weekends of Jan. 20th, and Feb. 3, 2001. The cost is \$75.00. All indoor classes will be held at Benchmark in Farmington.

The course is open to the graduates of the Backpacking Course. The course is the prerequisite for the Winter Survival class, usually held in February. Although a first Aid certification is not required, it is recommended for outings. Any questions, or to receive more info please contact Tom Olafso at 313-386-0057, or email him at mcmountainman@yahoo.com



Winter Outdoor Safety Course



This 1 day, indoor course will prepare novice XC skiers, snow-shoers, dog mushers, and hikers for their winter day trip.

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

Location of the course will be in Westland, on December 9th, and the fee is \$15. Please sign up at the monthly meeting

The course will not fulfill the prerequisite for the SOLAR Winter Survival class.

Experienced winter backpackers who want to review their safety skills are welcome as instructors. Please call Glenn Pace at 734-458-8353, for more information.

It's Time To Run With The Dogs!

It's time to start thinking snow and dog sledding. Once again, Solar is heading to South River, Canada, just west of Algonquin Provincial Park, to hit the trails on dog sleds. Mark your calendars for February 23-25, 2001 for a weekend, two day, dog sled trip.

This is a luxury trip as far as dog sled trip go. Cost of the sledding trip is \$325 (Canadian dollars) - remember,

the exchange rate is in our favor. Included in this great howling of a deal is.....

- Friday nights motel
- your team of dogs
- sled gear
- all meals during the weekend, and HO HO HOOOOOO
- A HEATED TENT IN CAMP!

Each team is made up of two people and six dogs. You will be expected to care for your own dog team, and help with camp chores at night.

This trip is something every winter enthusiast should try once. The memories will last a lifetime!

For more details see Karen Bates at the next meeting, or call her at 810-323-1346, or e-mail her at lady_musher@yahoo.com



See Ya on the trail!

Attention Dog Sledgers!!!

I need the balance of all trips and release forms turned in at the December Solar meeting. Those of you returning from last year will owe \$35.00 and a release form signed.

GOOD NEWS... another dog sled trip was added for January 19-21, 2001. I will call those on the waiting list first. But, those of you interested in a dog sled adventure contact Karen Bates to see if any spots have opened up or to get on the waiting list. Karen Bates: e-mail: lady_musher@yahoo.com or 810-323-1346.

Lisa Boose is leading a snowshoeing/dog sledding outing in the Hiawatha National Forest February 23-25. You arrive on the 23rd, snowshoe on the 24th, and dogsled on the 25th... what a trip!

Price is \$190 per person, includes three nights lodging, one lunch on the trail, guide service, snowshoes, dogsleds, and related equipment. Breakfasts, dinners, and gratuities not included. Minimum 15 sign ups. Deposits required by December 10th. Possible bus transportation at additional cost.

See Lisa Boose at the December SOLAR meeting for more info.



STEERING COMMITTEE

Leslie Cordova
President

Tom Olaffo Harry Price
Vice President Education

Ted Huff John Fedyk
Secretary Historian

John Moffat Dave Foerster
Treasurer Programs

Amy Fedyk Teri Simonds
Activities Public Relations

Mary Price Thomas Poster
Membership Solar Ray-Editor

Laura Albin Penni Lopez
By-Laws Co-Editor

Roger James Carolee McCririe
Web Master Equipment

The SOLAR RAY is a monthly publication of the SOLAR Club. It is provided free of charge to current dues paid members. All contributions in the form of trip reports, upcoming events, recipes, photos and original articles must be received no later than 12 days after the monthly SOLAR meeting. Send your contributions by email to SOLAR_RAY@excite.com (underscore, not dash), or by FAX to (888) 392-4832 extension 500-555-1212. Follow the instructions. You can also leave a 90 second voice mail at the same number and extension. Paper mail can be addressed to:
Thomas Poster - Editor
2350 Island View Dr,
West Bloomfield, MI 48324
Penni Lopez- Co-Editor
28239 Edward Ave.
Madison Hts., MI 48071



IN SOLAR Hotline
24 Hour voice mail (248) 988-6658
or
www.SolarOutdoors.org

AT LARGE

Mike Banks Cindy Harrison-Felix
Moe DeFrance Douglas Lanyk
Al Fytak Larry Martin
Steve Gardner Joan Ryan
Bill Halvingis Joan & Bob Westbrook

Meeting Location: Join us on the first Tuesday of each month at the Colony Hall, located at 21780 Evergreen Rd., between 8 and 9 Mile R.S., in Southfield at 7:30 PM. **Visitors can attend the meetings for FREE.** Membership dues are:
Individuals- \$30 annually or \$150 lifetime.
Family- \$45 annually, or \$225 lifetime.



SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE, AND RECREATION

Solar Club
P.O. Box 2438
Southfield, MI 48307

GENE & LESLIE CORDOVA
14520 BORGMAN
OAK PARK, MI 48237



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 an exchange of expertise, experiences, and information. All of these contribute to fellowship among its members.

The SOLAR club activities will enhance and further the skills and information taught in the basic and more advanced classes through active participation.

