

# SOLAR RAY

JULY 2000

**JOIN US FOR JULY'S "PROGRAM"... THE 2ND ANNUAL SUMMER BBQ!  
WE NEED VOLUNTEERS AND GRILLS FOR THIS EVENT. BRING  
A SIDE DISH TO PASS, IF YOU LIKE, BUT EVERYONE MUST BRING AN APPETITE!**

**THE "PROGRAM" STARTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE  
REGULAR SOLAR MEETING, AND LASTS UNTIL  
THE LAST DOG OR BURGER IS CONSUMED.**

**IF YOU HAVE A GRILL TO LOAN, OR A  
MAGIC TOUCH FOR THE GRILL,  
CONTACT DAVID FOERSTER ON (734) 453-0692,  
OR E-MAIL HIM AT DBFOERSTER@JUNO.COM**



Last chance to get on  
the e-mail directory!  
E-mail [mhallpri@dmc.org](mailto:mhallpri@dmc.org)  
and request to be on the  
list. Cutoff is July 15th!

## IN THIS ISSUE

Trip Reviews  
Upcoming events  
Education  
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# ATTENTION ALL PADDLERS!



IT'S THE 11TH ANNUAL DEFRANCE/ALBIN CANOE OUTING! COME JOIN THE FUN ON AUG. 18-20. THIS YEAR PROMISES TO BE BETTER THAN EVER...NO PROJECTS! FRIDAY NIGHT WE'LL HAVE CARD GAMES, HIKING, AND SITTING AROUND THE CAMPFIRE. SATURDAY, WE'LL HAVE THE INGREDIENTS FOR BREAKFAST. THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIKING, HIKING, SWIMMING, VOLLEYBALL, OR WHATEVER YOU CAN IMAGINE. SATURDAY NIGHT BRINGS THE FAMOUS SOLAR POTLUCK! DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR DISH TO PASS. ON SUNDAY MORNING, WE PADDLE DOWN THE AUSABLE RIVER FOR 5 HOURS OF WET FUN! ALL THIS FUN IS YOURS FOR \$20/PERSON, WHICH INCLUDES 1/2 CANOE RENTAL, BREAKFAST SATURDAY MORNING, RUNNING WATER, STOVE & MICROWAVE, AND PIT TOILETS. THE EVENT IS NEAR HALE, ABOUT 2 1/2 HOURS FROM DETROIT. MAPS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE JULY & AUGUST SOLAR MEETINGS. CONTACT MAUREEN DEFRANCE AT (517) 552-3660 OR E-MAIL: DEFRANCE@ISMI.NET



It was a dark and stormy night... no, this isn't the start of some Bogart movie. This was the SOLAR Memorial Day weekend trip. First there was the BAD directions given to us by the campground owner. Then there was the rain, the mud, the rain, did I mention rain? Luckily we brought a very large tarp to socialize and eat under. A few Solarites decided to go to a nearby state park. Most of the remaining 9 of us maintained a sense of humor about the trip. Saturday night we ate real good... stirfry from a wok! Cookies, and other munchies filled us up during a break in the rain. Sunday we decided to abandon the canoeing, due to chilly weather and rain. We went on to hikes to Ash Cave, and a waterfall, both beautiful, and most importantly, there was no rain! The sun actually broke through for a short time. But as we hiked we heard thunder rolling in, a quick vote, and we decided to break camp and head home. Camp breakdown was wet, muddy, and hurried. Oh well, perhaps a different location next year, and hopefully better weather will be ours.



## SOLAR goes high tech!

SOLAR is creating a brand new website with info on activities, classes, and trips. The address is: [www.SolarOutdoors.org](http://www.SolarOutdoors.org).

The SOLAR RAY publication can be reached through the website, or emailed directly at: [Solar\\_Ray@excite.com](mailto:Solar_Ray@excite.com) (that's an underscore between SOLAR and Ray).

If you're not "online", you can send a FAX to the SOLAR RAY on (888) 392-4832, extension 500-555-1212. Follow the instructions. Voice mail can also be left at this same number. This number is for the SOLAR RAY newsletter, only.

# Grand Canyon Rafting/Solar

by Kim Osborne



*She ain't much to look at, but once you get inside her, she'll take you for a ride! She is Dork. Sometimes called Doris Rapid, she boasts only a five-foot drop and the map we followed rated her only a four on a ten-scale, but as our guide, Tom, promised, we were not disappointed.*

*Rafting through the first 180 miles—the most exciting and dangerous—of the Grand Canyon, for most of our group of 27, was the trip of a lifetime on May 20-26. Our group came from as far as Australia and Tokyo, but mostly consisted of 19 Michiganders from the Solar Club.*

*The outfitter we chose, Arizona River Runners, made this adventure trip seem more like summer camp for adults, than a dangerous journey over a river that has claimed hundreds of lives. They provided bedding and gear, drinking water, lemonade, soda, guides, waterproof dry-bags and cans for our belongings. Meals included steaks, grilled halibut, omelets, and cheesecake. I thought....I eat better here, in the middle of nowhere with no electricity and no running water, than I do at home.*

*Unlike many river trips, we were encouraged to urinate in the 46°F river, brush our teeth with the water and bathe there also. Our trip, the last of the season with the water level flowing from Glen Canyon Dam at 17,000 cu-ft-s, moved and cleaned the water as well as 80,000 tons of sand and lime per day.*



*Day 2 allowed us to climb up to some caves where the Anasazi Indians used to store grain. As we motored along on our rafts, we watched the small beaches at the river's edge for hoop prints. What followed hoof prints was often the sighting of a bighorn sheep. Ewes were sometimes seen alone, but we also spotted a couple groups with adult females and their lambs drinking by the river's edge. Dusk brought small bats to our campsites to keep the insect population in check, the group saw only one scorpion, a disappointment to our group of Michigan natives. From the river we saw endangered Black California Condors, and endangered species, tagged by an animal conservation group. Turkey vultures circled the canyon's rim looking for a meal, and one morning we saw footprints of an animal that passed through our latrine area to the river, and I wondered if a coyote visited us during the night.*

*Another one of the better rides (at Mile 129), we passed Christmas Tree Cave. Named after a stalagmite not far from the opening, the mouth of the cave was graced by a palm tree. Our guide, Tom, said the park service removed the palm because it was not an indigenous species to the area. He asked them if that meant they were also going to remove the dam and the trout from the river, but apparently the park service did not think that was very funny.*

*On day 4 of our trip (at mile 52), we stopped at Nankoweap, a popular camping site. Four of our group found some scruffy brush surrounding an area of flat sand, a perfect campsite! As Karen Bates was laying out her tarp, she screamed and pointed to a ferocious looking 2" gray insect sitting in the sand with pincers raised. She almost stepped on it with bare feet. As we stared in disbelief at the ugly, unmoving bug, Gene Cordova poked it with a big stick and screamed. The bug was made of RUBBER, and was left in this very appealing campsite by another group whose only probable regret was that they could not see the looks on our faces*

when we found the ugly thing in the sand where we planned to sleep!

Back in the water our next rapid ride went through Mile 98, where in 1966 a flood carrying house-sized boulders roared down Crystal Creek, instantly making Crystal Rapid one of the most challenging runs on the river. The brave ones who rode in the front of our 14-person rafts were drenched at almost every rapid. The roller-coaster ride had us alternately screaming in delight, and in fright, as the frigid water snaked down the front of our jackets.

The adventure of day 7 was a helicopter ride out of the canyon. The eight-minute ride over the desert beauty and The daring definitely part at the Bar 10 nine miles bittersweet to of gift shops, schedules. Scenic Airlines nauseating ride



terrain saddened me to leave the diversity of the river behind us. climbs of the chopper were of the adventure though. We landed Ranch, a working cattle ranch about from the north rim. It was return to the commercialized world television sets, clocks, and Finally, we loaded into a twin-engine propeller plane for a one-hour, turbulent, back to the neon oasis of Las Vegas.

The pilot actually hinted that he does take gratuities, but I did not see anyone handing any out. I was happy just to get back on the ground.

Spending a good part of my time hiking with Ron Quinn, was as much an education as the trip itself. I would sit by him as he massaged his sore muscles at the end of the day and hear him say, "This is the best trip I have ever been on". At Elves Chasm, a flower covered waterfall in the middle of the desert, I'd hear Ron say again, "this is the most thrilling thing I've ever done". That was until the next day when.....he overcame a lifelong fear of heights to cross a 350' deep gorge by walking across a log; and when he just stared at the billion year old rock walls with his mouth hanging open. "This is the most amazing trip I have ever been on", he said. There's a reason National Geographic's Adventure magazine rated this the #1 adventure vacation in North America.



**Never RAFT with  
a porcupine!**



## Trip Planning Seminar

- Feel like you want to trip somewhere and make sure it's a success?

Carole McCorrie and others on July 29, 2000; and make sure your successfull. The seminar will such topics as planning your packing, safety issues, how far in start planning, follow-ups, who in the travelling group, and

important issues you need to know for your planning, and that extra edge of know how to make that trip a great trip. For more info, contact Carole McCorrie at (517) 548-5732. Location of Seminar: EMS

take a want to Join Wednesday trip is include itinerary, advance to does what other very

## **Review of the White Water Rafting Trip, May 26 - 29, 2000 by: Jim Gilfix**

We arrived Friday night at the ACE Outdoor Center, where we were to stay for 3 nights. It was sunny, but cool. Most of the group had arrived without incident. On Saturday, we awoke to rain. Many decided to tour the Center, but could see very little due to the now pouring rain. Bummer. We then went to Hawks' Nest State Park and were greeted by a break in the weather, so out came the cameras. Unfortunately, Bob Hogg fell and sliced his finger open, and had to go to the Oak Hill hospital where he had 12 stitches put in. Then the rain began again...and we moved on. Our next stop was the Gaulley Bridge Falls. These are a good 100-120 ft. tall, and spectacular. From there, on to Babcock State Park, but again the rain drove us out.

Upon returning to ACE we learned they might cancel the rafting due to excessive rain and lightning. We also learned the campground was flooded, but many people were allowed to move to cabins (at no charge).

Sunday, it stopped raining! The different rafting trips made it to the busses on time, and we were off. In our raft, Brittany began in the front, but quickly moved to the back of the boat in terror. Little did we know that after lunch she would take a "ducky" (small inflatable kayak) out alone through the biggest rapids! Her arms were raised, and she sang to the sky like she was on a roller coaster, (which she also 'claims' she doesn't like, yeh, right). The two Erika's ended up together in a ducky, as did Natalie and Brittany, and Kari, one of Lou's triplets (Leu was also out there in a duck!). Those kids really bonded to each other, and seemed to have a great time. Unfortunately, Lisa and Jennifer's raft was hooked up to oars, which the guide operated, so they could not paddle. Pam once again stayed in a ducky all day, and loved it.

By the time the bus returned to the ACE Outdoor Center, the rain had begun again, which made us cancel the group bon fire. Small groups of people did get together, but many chose to go to sleep early. We heard that those on the Lower New River had a fantastic trip; maybe I can get one of them to write a review. The drive home Monday was different, but that's another story. Thanks for all those who joined us to make this an exciting trip. Let's do it again in 2-3 years.

OK.. Who took my  
ducky and my  
DRY socks?



# UPCOMING SOLAR CLUB ACTIVITIES

## **JUNE 30-JULY 31 MOTORCYCLE TRIP**

The Maritimes, Canada  
Tom Dunn  
248-683-9617

## **\*\*\*\* JULY 6 \*\*\*\* (THURS) NOT TUES.**

**SOLAR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
2nd Annual Summer BBQ

## **JULY 7-9 COASTAL KAYAK CLASS**

Muskegon State Park  
Sharon Broderick  
248-920-2095

## **JULY 7-9 WILDERNESS FIRST AID**

Brighton Recreation Area  
Mike Banks  
248-347-2100

## **JULY 19 - TRIP PLANNING SEMINAR**

EMS  
Carole McCrille  
57-548-5732

## **JULY 20-23 CANOE TRIP**

Manistee River, Grayling  
Tom Olafso  
313-386-0057

## **JULY 20-23 SEA KAYAK SYMPOSIUM**

Grand Marais  
Matt Dalton  
248-360-1611

## **JULY 23 FOSSIL HUNT-KIDS OK**

Arkona, Canada  
Jim Gilfix  
734-513-9460

## **JULY 29 SEARCH AND RESCUE**

Location to Be Announced  
Tom & Reggie Hayes  
810-778-3589

## **\*\* AUG 1 \*\* GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

## **AUG. 4-6 RATTLESNAKE PROVINCIAL PK.**

Milton, Ontario  
Laura Albin  
517-381-8976

## **AUG. 17-20 GREAT LAKES PRIMITIVE GATHERING**

Bols Blanc Island  
Lester Mok  
519-256-0324

## **AUG. 18-20 DEFANCE CANOE OUTING**

AuSable River  
Moe DeFrance  
517-552-3670

## **AUG. 18-20 CAR CAMPING - HIKING**

Bruce Peninsula, Canada  
Mary Price  
313-532-7498

**Get out your Paddles...The Kayaks are waiting! Join us, Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons.....**

**Intermediate and Advanced Kayakers -  
Contact Matt Dalton at 248-360-2611,**



**Locations change weekly  
email [mdalton@ameritech.net](mailto:mdalton@ameritech.net)**

**Sharon Broderick at 248-960-2095, email; [Sharon\\_Broderick@michcon.com](mailto:Sharon_Broderick@michcon.com)**

### **Sea Kayaking class**

Sharon Broderick is organizing kayaking course for and intermediate kayakers Coastal Kayaking This is a 2-day course for of July 7-9, 2000. available for rental. To see still available call Sharon Broderick at 248-960-2095, E-Mail: [Sharon\\_Broderick@michcon.com](mailto:Sharon_Broderick@michcon.com).



a sea-  
beginning  
with ACA  
Instructors.  
the weekend

Equipment is  
If any opening s are



**Don't be up the creek,  
without a paddle!**

### **Great Lakes Sea Kayak Symposium. July 20 - 23, 2000**

This is a terrific symposium that takes place on Lake Superior. Bring your own kayak, or rent one for the weekend [reserve your kayak well in advance of the event] The weekend starts off with a night paddle on a protected bay. The next day, different groups tour the world-class paddling along Pictured Rocks. The next two days are full of classes and opportunities to test-paddle over 75 new kayaks. There will also be a fund raising picnic dinner to support the local school. This is a great weekend! To receive a program and registration form, contact: **Larry Merx at (734) 439-0049**. I will have some brochures at the Solar meetings. For carpooling and camping contact: **Matt Dalton at (248) 360-1611, or email: [mdalton@ameritech.net](mailto:mdalton@ameritech.net)**



**Where: Grand Maris, Michigan**

## Canoeing the Manistee July 21-23

Come join me & 29 fellow solarites for a fun filled weekend of sun & water on the beautiful Manistee River, just west of Grayling. We will be canoeing Saturday, July 22 at 11 am. The cost for a canoe is \$24.00 (\$12.00 per person for 2 to a canoe), or \$19.00 to kayak.



We will be camping out at the Upper Manistee River campground. This is a rustic campground without flush toilets or electricity. There are 20 walk in sites, which means you will have to carry your gear in a short distance, so bring a wagon. We will be stopping at the campground for lunch during the canoe trip. You are responsible for camping fees of \$6.00-\$8.00 per site, per night, and your food. Since this is a State Forest campground, please try to arrive early Friday, July 21, as 20 sites cannot be 'saved'. I'm told the campground rarely fills, so there shouldn't be a problem.

Directions: Take I-75 to exit 264 Frederick, and Hwy 612 west through Frederick; it takes a small left, then right at the BP gas station which is the last place for supplies or gas! Continue west, after you cross the Manistee. There is a street light just before the river (DO NOT TURN DOWN MANISTEE RD.). We're not staying at Goose Creek campground on the east side of the river, so if there's a bunch of horses around, YOU'RE AT THE WRONG PLACE! Turn left (south) on Goose Creek Rd., the campground is on the left about 1 mile down. Look for the group sites. Please try to carpool!

Other activities in the area are Hartwick Pines, the Grayling Fish Hatchery (catch your own trout for dinner), and last but not least the start of the annual Grayling to Oscoda canoe race Saturday night! For more info. Call me at 313-386-005 See you there, Tom Olaffo



*Don't miss this paddler's - June 29, (Thursday)  
Detroit Symphony at Kensington - Haff Fundraiser  
Barbecue Dinner.....and paddle to the symphony!*

*Spend an enjoyable evening canoeing to maple beach (Kensington Park) to hear the Detroit Symphony. We will meet between 5:30-6:00 at the Windale Beach Pavillion for a barbecue dinner. Then, at 7:30 we'll canoe to the concert across the lake at Maple Beach. The cost for the event is \$17.00 per person, which includes dinner, dessert and paddling. Advance registration is required. Call (248) 545-0511, and use your credit card to register. Hope to see you there, Sharon Broderick*





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

## Wilderness First Aid Class -

Ok, so you've planned a trip successfully and you're out there in one of our great National Parks. Something happens.....what are you going to do if you don't know how to help yourself or someone you're with. Personally I believe in praying. But you were given a brain tool! So join up with the Wilderness First Aid Class scheduled on July 7-9, 2000 - at the Brighton Recreation Area. For more info, call Mike Banks at (248) 347-2100



## Bike Tour Anyone?

Rob Nani would like to join 15-20 people for a fall color tour in northern Michigan.

Camping may be in the plans, also. A SAG wagon will assist and carry gear. See Rob at the SOLAR meeting for details.

Join Us...



Let's do it again!

Do you know what National Park is closest to Detroit? You may guess Isle Royale, the Great Smokies, or even Sleeping Bear Lakeshore. The answer is Point Pelee National Park, just an hour away in Ontario. In May, I joined other Solar Club members for a day of birdwatching at Point Pelee. That trip was well organized by John and Amy Fedyk.

Bird watching is more entertaining than I ever imagined! They arranged a guide who helped us spot and identify around 30 species, and learn what to look and listen for. While there, we were told that every fall Monarch butterflies gather in the park before migrating south across Lake Erie. One member in the group said that he himself had seen tens of thousands of Monarchs lift off one morning and flutter out over the lake; quite an awesome sight that few people ever experience.

I want to see the Monarchs depart and I hate to wait in lines. Quick research turned up an excellent opportunity for our club. We can camp in the park and ignore the lines. This spring, the park reopened 2 group camp sites. No other camping is allowed there. I have reserved and paid for one of the group sites with a capacity for 20 Solarites. The reservation is for the nights of September 15 & 16. Our site is near the visitors center, and an easy walk from the sandy, most southern point of Canada. The park also provides free shuttle buses to take visitors between different parts of the park. For more info. on the park, check their webpage: <http://parkscanada.pch.gc.ca/pelee>

Reservations are for parking and camping. Also included is a washroom (with limited hot water), and a kitchen shelter with a cast iron stove, ac outlets, lights, and firewood! Please note... No Dogs or trailers are allowed in the campground. Our cost is only \$10.00 (US dollars) per person, for 2 nights of camping, which includes entrance to the park. Members may want to reserve a guide for an organized bird/butterfly hike. Sign up with me a.s.a.p. Space is limited to the first 20 paid up Solarites.

See Rob Mair at the July Solar Meeting, or e-mail him at [grosbecs@aol.com](mailto:grosbecs@aol.com)



## Steering Committee

President.....Lesle Cordova  
Vice President.....Iam Olafso  
Secretary.....Ted Huff  
Treasurer.....John Moffat  
Activities.....Amy Fedyk  
Membership.....Mary Price  
By-Laws.....Laure Albin  
Education.....Harry Price  
Historian.....John Fedyk  
Programs.....Dave Foerster  
Public Relations.....Tari Simonds  
Editor.....Thomas Poster  
Co-Editor.....Penni Lopez  
Equipment.....Carole McCorrie  
Web Master.....Roger James



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 e-mail to [SOLAR\\_RAY@excite.com](mailto: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. If you want to paper mail (USPO) us, the addresses are:  
Thomas Poster-Editor  
2350 Island View Dr.  
West Bloomfield, MI 48324  
Penni Lopez-Co-editor  
28239 Edward Ave.  
Madison Hts, MI 48071



Meeting Location: Join us on the first Tuesday of the month at the Colony Hall, located at 21780 Evergreen Rd., between 8 and 9 Mile Rds., in Southfield at 7:30PM. Visitors can attend meetings for free. Membership dues are:

\$30.00 individual, annually; or \$150.00 individual, lifetime  
\$45.00 a family, annually; or \$225.00 a family, lifetime

## At Large

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

## SOLAR HOTLINE

24 hour voicemail (248) 988-6658

or

[www.SolarOutdoors.org](http://www.SolarOutdoors.org)

## SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE, AND RECREATION

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

Solar Club  
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Southfield, MI 48037

GENE & LESLIE CORDOVA  
14520 BORGMAN  
OAK PARK, MI 48237

