

THE SOLAR RAY

M A Y 2 0 0 0

MAY ELECTIONS

We need fresh blood! The Steering Committee elections will be held at the May General Membership Meeting. The following positions are open to election annually:

● President ● Vice President ● Secretary ● Treasurer
● Education Chairman ● Bylaws Chairman ●
Membership Chairman ● Solar Ray Editor ● Program
Chairman ● Historian ● Public Relations Chairman ●
Activities Chairman ● Equipment Chairman

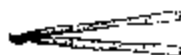


Steering Committee members meet once a month on the last Tuesday of the month. For more information on running for an office or nominating someone, call Juli Penrod at 248-589-2629, e-mail at juli@mediaone.net or see her at the May meeting.



NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

*Saturday, June 3, 2000
Maybury State Park*



Please come out and participate in this important annual event to work on the trails in our parks system. SOLAR members came out in droves last year to maintain Maybury State Park's trails by clearing vegetation, removing stumps, performing erosion control and rerouting trails. Bring your shovels, loppers, rakes and gloves. Sign up to volunteer at the May meeting.

Contact John Simmonds at 313-422-6021 or Mike Banks at 248-347-2100 for more info.

The Solar Ray is a monthly publication of the School of Outdoor Leadership, Adventure & Recreation

WED EVE AND SUN AFT

KAYAK PADDLES ARE BACK!

IT'S that time of year and Solarites with webbed feet are Every Wednesday night and Sunday afternoon we paddle at a different lake. Have your boat in the water and be ready to paddle at 6:30PM. you can race across the lake and look for the group. All those Solar least intermediate kayak paddling experience are welcome. Why? *and go.* First time paddlers have a hard time keeping up with the group. The last beginner that joined us is still doing circles in the middle of the lake. You should also have a kayak that is at least 14 feet because most of the paddlers use sea kayaks. Short white water boats are too slow on big water (you would be doing circles with the beginner in the middle of the lake). Please wear appropriate paddling clothing to stay warm and alive in cold water. Swimsuits are only acceptable in July and August.

Kayaks can be rented at EMS in Farmington Hills by calling 248-932-5953 or Heavner's Canoe Rental at 248-685-2379. Rental costs vary around \$25.00 to \$35.00 per day; they also offer weekend rates. We always go out for dinner after sunset. *Contact Matt Dalton at 248-360-1611, email: mdalton@ameritech.net or Sharon Broderick at 248-960-2095, email: Sharon_Broderick@michcon.com*



paddling again.
Oakland County
If you come late.
Club members with at

Because we put the boats in



Memorial Day Weekend at Hocking Hills, Ohio

Come join us for a fun and leisurely weekend of riverside primitive camping, hiking and canoeing. This will be a non-SOLAR trip, so you can

bring your kids, friends and neighbors but not your cousins! We will be camping Friday night through Sunday night. Saturday will involve hiking two different trails and a potluck dinner that evening. S'mores should be in order for dessert, so bring enough for your whole tribe. Watch out—Tom is known for stealing marshmallows, especially from the kids! Sunday we'll be canoeing the Hocking River for an approximately 3-4 hour trip. Additional activities include horseback riding, go-carts, mini-golf, a bungee trampoline, yes, bungee trampoline, and in town shopping if you wish. Sunday evening we plan on gorging ourselves at the Old Dutch Amish Buffet, a short drive from the camp. Interested? You must sign up and pay for the trip by the May Solar meeting. Camping will be \$5 per person, canoeing is \$15 per person, or \$16 for kayaking. You must provide your own food, drink and necessary camping equipment. Any questions or want to sign up? *Call Tom Poster at (248) 706-9363 or Penni Lopez at (248) 414-5350.*

VOLUNTEER VACATIONS—CHECK IT OUT!

From Zion National Park to the Ozarks to Alaska to New England there are trails that need restoration. Through the American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacations, you can visit backcountry locations and perform trail maintenance on trips that range from "easy" to "extremely strenuous." You'll come back with muscles *plus* the knowledge of cutting trails, building steps and waterbars, erosion control, and vegetation clearing, among other skills. You'll meet people from around the country and become a steward of our precious public lands.

Trip lengths vary from a long weekend to 2 weeks. After working six to eight hours during the day, you can spend the afternoon and evening hiking, mountain hiking, canoeing, fishing or relaxing with like-minded souls around a campfire. Depending on the project, volunteers may hike to a remote basecamp or stay in cabins, bunkhouses or car camp. The registration fee is \$60, and travel expenses are tax-deductible. You must be in good physical condition to participate, able to hike five or more miles in a day and bring your own camping equipment. For more information on this unique travel opportunity, call 301-565-6704 x 206 or visit www.americanhiking.org and check it out!

Farewell To The Prez, Fare Well...

I've told several people I intended to retire in my 40's. I'm officially retiring from the presidency of SOLAR. Now to take care of this work stuff I'm involved with.

I have a hard time believing two years have come and gone since the SOLAR membership entrusted leadership of the club to me. It feels like four. You have provided me with a wonderful opportunity for personal growth and learning. I have grown and learned a lot. Being on the Steering committee for the last 4 years has allowed me to be aware of all the interesting happenings in SOLAR. I have tried sports I didn't know I was interested in, taken classes (at a discount) that I probably wouldn't have taken, and have kept up with a lot of club gossip. Having been president also has qualified me to achieve a goal that I have wanted for awhile. I am now "At Large" which allows me to inflict myself on the Steering Committee, forever, without having to be in an elected post. Thank you to all the present and past Steering Committee members who have made my job easy. Thank you to all the trip leaders who make the club fun. Thank you to all the instructors for giving us the skills to have fun safely. To those of you who would have had me do things differently, it's your turn now. Get involved. To the rest of you, please lead a trip. It isn't hard, and the experience is worth it. Beware, you will see me again. I will show up at weird times and strange places. Thanks and best regards,
Zeus, a.k.a. Douglas Lanyk



The Prez as Tinkerbell — What kind of club is this?



Clayton Lucey savors the race

Wonderful Wabos

By Mary Dunn

Twelve Solar members ventured up to Saulte Sainte Marie, Canada, on March 17 despite the warm breezes that had crossed Michigan for the previous month. Our efforts were rewarded, as the cross-country trails at Stokely Creek and Hiawatha were 99% snow-covered and well groomed. The sunny sky and 30 degree temperatures made for great spring skiing. The one mishap was a sliced knee that sent Ed Rudy to the ER for a couple of stitches. Others opted to go downhill skiing, watch athletic events for Ontario's winter games and do a bit of sightseeing. A frozen lake next to the cabins provided a scenic overlook and more country to explore on foot or skis. Saturday night's group dinner gave everyone a chance to compare notes on the day's activities. Congratulations to the stalwart skiers who completed the 26 plus kilometers of the Wabos Loppet. Sharon Broderick, LoAnn Faubert, Doug Lanyk, Clayton Lucey, and Janet Rehman. Come and join us next year for this last ski of the season - it is worth the trip just to see Doug's custom made tie dye outfit.

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 Setnicka. 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.

MOVE OVER, THUNDER...

By Karen Bates

The first weekend in April, Leslie Cordova, Laura Albin, and, of course, the Solar mascot, Thunder, joined me to head to South River, Ontario to adopt Mandy and to pick up her friends, Dave, Sprite and Lingo. These are the retiring sled dogs you've heard me talk so much about. After a long trip in the April winter storm we arrived at Choopaw Expeditions only to find the office silent. Even though there was a few inches of snow on the ground, the hustle and bustle of the dog sled season was missing.



It was off to the dog yard to meet our traveling companions... As I was getting acquainted with Mandy, many thoughts were going through my mind; as well as hers, I'm sure. *I wonder if...* Mandy knows she will be spoiled like a house pet, miss her canine friends, have to eat store bought dog food and become a resident alien in the United States. *I wonder if...* Karen is taking me on the trail, oh boy, I get to lead the team, sleep in the woods and get lots of pets and scratches.

After a delicious dinner invitation from Paul and Marg Ried (Choopaw Expeditions) and a good night's sleep, we picked up the sled dogs and headed south across the border. With the snow on the ground the dogs were more than willing to get in the crates and head out to the trail—as far as they knew. Many thoughts and predictions were made, going something like this... "Ok guys, we have five barking dogs, two and half cases of Canadian beer, it smells like a kennel in here, there's fur flying everywhere, the border patrol will want to search the car, the dog boxes and us. Who in the world is going to control all these dogs and how long will we be detained at the border trying to prove these dogs *really are our new pers.*" Hmmm..... The dogs were silent all the way home, with an occasional reminder from Thunder that he was still the Solar Mascot. What really happened at the border? We were

asked our citizenship, what purchases were made (we had only purchased beer) and told to have a nice day. We pulled away from Customs all saying "That was way too easy!" Mandy is slowly adjusting to city life and doing fine. Barbara Erickson adopted Dave and Sprite. Chris Lezovich adopted Lingo. Thanks, guys, for giving these dogs a good retirement home.

SEA KAYAKING CLASS

Sharon Broderick is organizing a sea-kayaking course for beginning and intermediate kayakers with ACA Coastal Kayaking instructors. This is a two-day course for the weekend of July 1-2, 2000. Equipment is available for rental. *Call Sharon Broderick to see if there is still room and for more info and sign-up at 248-960-2095.*

**In Case You
Haven't
Heard...**

BIRD MIGRATION DAYHIKE

John and Amy Fedyk are running a dayhike to Point Pelee for the annual spring migration on May 13, 2000. We have arranged a hike with an expert birder at 8:45 am. There is a strict limit of 20 people for the hike and limited space left! The cost is only \$5 for the walk, plus park entrance fee. For more info, contact John or Amy at 248-435-2450 or see us at the May meeting!

MOHICAN RIVER WEEKEND

Leslie Cordova says there are still a couple of spots left! If hiking and canoeing/kayaking appeal to you, read on. The weekend of May 5-7, 2000, a group of Solar members is heading down to Loudonville, Ohio, southwest of Akron. The drive is about four hours from Detroit. On Saturday, we will be canoeing or kayaking 1 1/2 hours on the Mohican River. Sunday, we will go for a long hike. The area is located in Ohio's glaciated Appalachian Plateau so there are hills and several waterfalls along the hiking trail. We'll be staying in cabins with hot tubs on the deck. Cost of the trip is \$68 for 2 nights' lodging, \$16 for canoeing (per person) or \$18 for kayaking. If you're interested, call Leslie Cordova at 248-547-5626 or see her at the May meeting.

Farewell To The Prez, Fare Well...

I've told several people I intended to retire in my 40's. I'm officially retiring from the presidency of SGLAR. Now to take care of this work stuff I'm involved with.

I have a hard time believing two years have come and gone since the SOLAR membership entrusted leadership of the club to me. It feels like four. You have provided me with a wonderful opportunity for personal growth and learning. I have grown and learned a lot. Being on the Steering committee for the last 4 years has allowed me to be aware of all the interesting happenings in SOLAR. I have tried sports I didn't know I was interested in, taken classes (at a discount) that I probably wouldn't have taken, and have kept up with a lot of club gossip. Having been president also has qualified me to achieve a goal that I have wanted for awhile. I am now "At Large" which allows me to inflict myself on the Steering Committee, forever, without having to be in an elected post. Thank you to all the present and past Steering Committee members who have made my job easy. Thank you to all the trip leaders who make the club fun. I thank you to all the instructors for giving us the skills to have fun safely. *To those of you who would have had me do things differently, it's your turn now. Get involved.* To the rest of you, please lead a trip. It isn't hard, and the experience is worth it. Beware, you will see me again. I will show up at weird times and strange places. Thanks and best regards,
Zear, a.k.a. Douglas Lanyk



The Prez as Tinkerbell—What kind of club is this?



Clayton Lucey savors the race

Wonderful Wabos

By Mary Dunn

Twelve Solar members ventured up to Saulte Sainte Marie, Canada, on March 17 despite the warm breezes that had crossed Michigan for the previous month. Our efforts were rewarded, as the cross-country trails at Stokely Creek and Hiawatha were 99% snow-covered and well groomed. The sunny sky and 30 degree temperatures made for great spring skiing. The one mishap was a sliced knee that sent Ed Rudy to the ER for a couple of stitches. Others opted to go downhill skiing, watch athletic events for Ontario's winter games and do a bit of sightseeing. A frozen lake next to the cabins provided a scenic overlook and more country to explore on foot or skis. Saturday night's group dinner gave everyone a chance to compare notes on the day's activities. Congratulations to the stalwart skiers who completed the 26 plus kilometers of the Wabos Loppet—Sharon Broderick, LoAnn Faubert, Doug Lanyk, Clayton Lucey, and Janet Rebman. Come and join us next year for this last ski of the season—it is worth the trip just to see Doug's custom made tie dye outfit.

T H E S O L A R R A Y

Kayak Demo Days and Pot Luck Feasts

Saturday, May 13, 2000

12:00 to 4:00 PM

Kensington Metro Park (exact beach area to be determined)

Cost: \$4 Metro Park fee

You're invited to join the good folks from REI along with the Solar Kayaking group, the general public and kayak industry representatives to try out as many kayaks as you can in 4 hours. This is a great opportunity to see and feel the difference between different kayaks before you purchase one.

Bring a dish to pass and food to participate in the potluck. Feel free to bring your own kayak and join Solar for a group paddle after the event is over. Call or email Matt Dalton to pre-register for this event at 248-360-1611, email: mdalton@ameritech.net

EMS/Heavners/Solar/General Public Kayak Demo Day

Sunday, June 4, 2000

12:00-4:00PM

Heavner's Canoe & Kayak Rental

2775 Garden Rd.

Milford, MI

You will have the opportunity to try as many kayaks as you can within 4 hours. Several manufacturers will be represented. There is a \$4.00 State Park fee for your car. Solar will have a potluck picnic after the demo. Bring something to grill and a dish to pass. Bring your own boat or rent one from Heavner's for an after party paddle. This will be a fun and educational event.

Call or email Matt Dalton at 248-360-1611, email: mdalton@ameritech.net

The 11th Annual West Michigan Sea Kayak Symposium

May 26-29, 2000

Big Blue Lake Camp Pendalouan, north of Grand Rapids

Cost: \$80 before May 13, \$100 after

Many Solar Club members will be attending this educational symposium. We will car pool to the event and camp together. There will be many certified kayak instructors providing basic, intermediate and advanced kayak classes. There are educational programs featuring paddling, first aid, women's programs, a water rodeo and a lot more. Kayaks can be rented in advance for an extra cost for the water classes and day and evening paddles. Over 50 new kayaks will be available to demo at no extra charge (these are not available for classes). This is a fun and educational event. To obtain a registration form contact John or Jan VanWyk at 616-669-1565, or Anne and Bill Kefels 616-649-0321 and leave your address—they will mail you a program and registration form. I will have some brochures at the Solar meetings.

To arrange car pooling and camping with Solar members contact: Matt Dalton, 248-360-1611 or mdalton@ameritech.net

Great Lakes Sea Kayak Symposium

July 20-23, 2000

Grand Marais, Michigan, Pictured Rocks area.

Cost: \$75.00 before July 10 and \$90.00 after

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 15 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 Marx at 734-439-0049. I will have some brochures at the Solar meetings. Contact Matt Dalton to arrange car pooling and camping at 248-360-1611 or email mdalton@ameritech.net.

T H E S O L A R R A Y

STEERING COMMITTEE

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Activities
Membership
Equipment
By-laws
Education
Publication
Historian
Programs
Public Relations

Doag Lanyk
Karen Bates
Ted Huff
John Moffat
Leslie Cordova
Mary Price
Rick Merryman
Laura Albin
Harry Price
Amy Fedyk
John Fedyk
Juli Penrod
Teri Simonds

AT LARGE

Steve Gardner
Al Fytak
Cindy Harrison-Fella
Larry Martin
Joan & Bob Westbrook

Mo DeFrance
Joan Ryan
Bill Halvingis
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 Fedyk, 1614A Fairview, Royal Oak, MI 48073. Phone# 248-435-2450. Send e-mail to amrykav36@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/~solarclub1>

or call Doug Lanyk @248/634-4551

SOLAR CLUB
P.O. Box 2438
Southfield, MI 48037

GENE & LESLIE CORDOVA
14520 BORGMAN
OAK PARK, MI 48237

The School of Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation