

SOLAR RAY

OCTOBER 2000

Happy Halloween

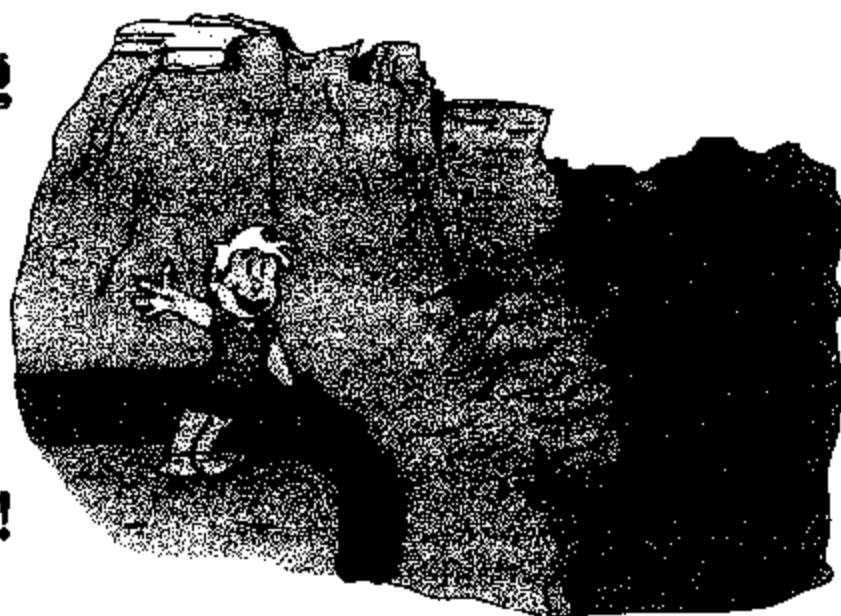
This month's program is hosted by Tom Olaffo, and Rob Mair.

Hang on to your seat as they sweep you into the white water of the magnificent Grand Canyon.

A slide show will be presented, illustrating their trip last year down the Colorado River, through the Grand Canyon!

Perhaps you are considering a trip, such as this... or just want to see the beauty of the canyon.

The slide show will start right after the meeting!



ATTENTION:

MARY HALL PRICE (MEMBERSHIPS) HAS A NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS:
MPRICE8708@AOL.COM

UPCOMING SOLAR CLUB ACTIVITIES

October 3 General Membership Meeting
Southfield - Colony Hall

October 6-8 Backpacking Practical #2
Munising - Pictured Rocks

October 11 (6-8pm)

October 14 (9am-1pm)

Edible Wild Plants Class

Matthaei Botanical Gardens

734-998-7061

October 13-15 Whitewater Rafting

W. Virginia - Gauley River

Tom Dunn 248 683-9617

October 14 - Point & Shoot Photo Class

Kensington Metro Park

Tom Oleffo 734-386-0057

October 20-22 Halloween Weekend

Bald Mountain Recreation Area

Lisa Boose 248 681-3617

October 20-22 Color Tour/Bike/Canoe

Wolf Lake - Hart/Montague Area

Moe DeFrance 517 552-3660

October 20-22 - Land Navigation and

GPS Orienteering

Waterloo Recreation Area

Pat Murad 248-887-3887

October 27-29 Double J Ranch Resort

Lisa Boose 248 681-3617

Nov. 7 - General Membership Meeting
Southfield - Colony Hall

Nov. 10-12 - Nordhouse Dunes/Backpack

Nordhouse Dunes, MI

Dave Foerster 734-453-0692

Nov. 18 - Travel Writing Workshop

Troy, MI.

Kim Osborne 810-558-5769

December 9 - Winter Outdoor Safety

Westland

Glenn Pace 734-458-9353

December 13 - Michigan Winters

Backpacking

Benchmark - Farmington

Tom Oleffo 734-386-0057





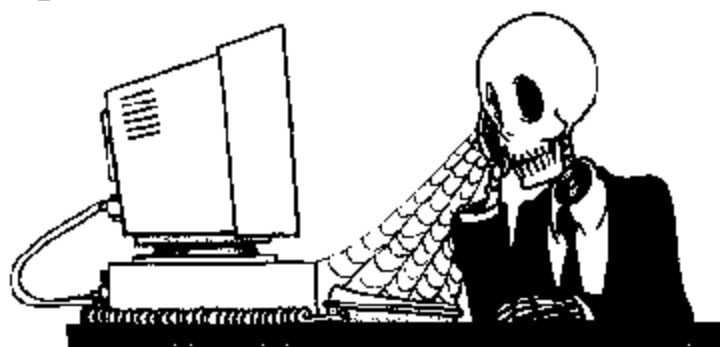
HOWL about a BOOtiful weekend at Bald Mountain Recreation Area (October 20-22). 2 frightful nights in rustic cabins, a trip to a haunted apple orchard, pumpkin carving and DEADcorating, pizza party, costume COUNTest, games for boys and GHOULS, campfire stories, and FUN for the whole family!

Only 20 PLOTS available, on a first come, first served (for dinner?) basis.

Lisa Boose is BLEEDING this scary and fun weekend. See her at the SOLAR meeting or call her at 248 681-3817.

Are you "on line" and looking for sites directed towards outdoor activities? Try out these:

- Recreation.gov is a site for National Parks and forests,
- OutdoorReview.com reviews equipment and clothing for the outdoors,
- Campnet.com has cooking recipes,
- Geocities.com/enchantedForest/glade/8851/index.htm is a site for Girl Scouts, but has campfire songs and activities for the outdoors,
- OnlineNews.net/camping.html has all types of information for outdoors activities, hiking, backpacking, and camping.



Point and Shoot Photo Class

Tired of people running away, or squinting & asking....."what's this supposed to be?", when you show them your... 'snapshots'? Well then, Tom Oloffo has the class for you! Turn those pictures into PHOTOS. You'll learn the basics of your camera, and composition, so you'll be able to take award winning photo's with a simple point and shoot. This will be a fun class outdoors at Kensington Metro Park (North Hickory Ridge) picnic area, on Sat. Oct. 14, at 1 pm. A rain date will be Sunday, Oct. 14, same time. The cost is \$5 plus entry fee to the park. Please bring camera and pen & paper with you, and any photo's that you can't figure out, and are wondering what the heck happened with this! Limit 30 people



Tom says you can either have a barbecue (old fashioned SOLAR pot luck), or you can go hiking.....and then OUT TO EAT at a local eatery. Let him know which choice at the October meeting sign up. Tom Oloffo 313-386-0057, or mcmountain@yahoo.com

GO WEST YOUNG MEN... WOMEN TOO!

Lisa Boose is planning a trip to the **Double J Ranch** in Rothbury, Michigan the weekend of October 27 - 29. Rothbury is approximately 3 hrs from Detroit, 20 miles north of Muskegon. This weekend should be a BLAST! Ride, golf (*or both!*) packages are available, with all meals, activities, accommodations, and FUN, for \$225 per person. You provide your own transportation, we provide the fun.



The horseback package includes one scheduled or corral ride per day.
The golf package includes up to 18 holes per day.
The golf and horseback package includes 18 holes of golf per day, plus daily horseback riding.

All packages include a Corn Roast & Hayride on Friday night, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and dinner on Saturday. Parties and shows are also Included!

The packages are non-refundable, but is transferable to someone else if you can't attend. See Lisa Boose at the SOLAR meeting, or call her on 248 681-3617.

Have you read travel articles in magazines and newspapers and wondered if YOU could write one?

Solar member, Kim Osborne, and Quantum Training Centers in Troy have a deal for you!

Travel Writing Class

Learn approaches and techniques for turning a weekend trip, vacation, or other travel experience into features for newspapers, magazines, and most important, **FOR THE SOLAR RAY!**

Explore techniques for capturing atmosphere, color, and mood with words, with the goal of creating publishable material.

We will explore the travel writing field, basic article structure, how to write an effective query letter, set up and conduct interviews, and use other research outlets. We will discuss photography, working with editors, and making use of other industry professionals.

No previous writing experience is necessary!

Date: Saturday, November 18, 2000

Time: approx. 9 am to 5 or 6 pm

Place: Quantum Training Centers in Troy

Cost: \$10 or less (a longer version of this class will be offered at Macomb Community College for \$50)



Contact Kim Osborne at 810-558-5769 or email her at: kim_osborne@juno.com



MATT DALTON IS SELLING.... **248-360-1611**

1 person Cabella Bivy
2 1/2 lbs. - never used \$60

Peak 1 Multi-fuel stove
Excel. cond. - \$45

Cases of Freeze Dried Meals
Mountain House Brand - assorted
Wholesale prices - call for info.

Northface Starfire 3 1/2 season tent
8 lbs - 2 person - self standing
like new - excel. cond - \$150

Heritage Kayak - sit on top
14' Sea Dart - good, used - \$399



LESTER MOK IS SELLING.... **579-256-0324**

Older style Therm-A-Rest and Chair
great for car camping - \$45
\$80 if bought new! See them
at October SOLAR meeting

Coleman 288 white gas lantern,
double mantles, with case -
excel cond - \$35

ATTENTION ALL PADDLERS AND BIKERS

It's the remake of the Hart/Montague trail ride combined with Muskegon River adventure

Come join the fun on October 20-22!

- : Camping on Wolf Lake: 231-768-4219
- : Biking from Montague to ??? (How much ice cream can you eat?)
A paved rails to trails park with lots of rest break stops
- : Canoeing Sunday am. on the scenic Muskegon with the River Rat Outfitters: 231-834-9411
Anderson Flats to the River Rat - a 7 hr. float or 4 hr. paddle
- : Driving to the White Lake pier for the sunset
- : The SOLAR group dinner at camp

COST: \$35.00 for 1/2 canoe, and 2 nights camping.

LOCATION: North of Grand Rapids and East of Muskegon.

Any questions or can't wait to sign up, contact...

MAUREEN DEFRANCE at 517-552-3660 (defrance@ismi.net)

Maps available at the October meeting

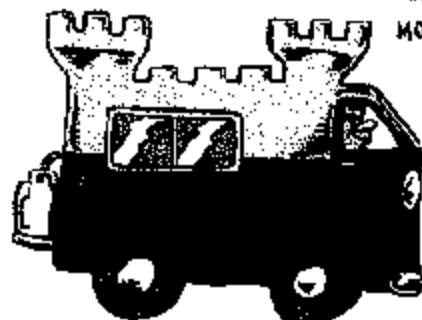
This new and small, but eager, outfitter has only 14 canoes and 5 kayaks. When they are sold out, they will negotiate hauling our boats around. Let us know your status when you sign up. We'll check out the arrangements.



NORDHOUSE DUNES WILDERNESS CAMPING



THIS TRIP TO NORDHOUSE DUNES WILDERNESS HAS BEEN A TRADITION WITH SOLAR FOR ABOUT 7 YEARS NOW. WE CONSIDER THIS THE LAST OPPORTUNITY TO GO BACKPACKING IN MICHIGAN FOR THE YEAR, BECAUSE IT'S THE LAST WEEKEND BEFORE FIREARM DEER SEASON, AND AND HUNTERS OUTNUMBER EVERYTHING IN THE WOODS. THE NORDHOUSE DUNES WILDERNESS AREA IS A VERY UNIQUE ECOSYSTEM THAT NOT ONLY HAS DUNES, BUT ALSO IS MIXED WITH JUNIPER, JACK PINE, HEMLOCK, A RIVER, MARSHES, AND A LAKE. SOME OF THE DUNES STAND ABOUT 140 FT. ABOVE LAKE MICHIGAN, AND ARE OVER 3500 YRS. OLD. THERE IS A CAR CAMPING AREA JUST NORTH OF THE WILDERNESS AREA CALLED LAKE MICHIGAN RECREATION AREA, THAT HAS TRAILS LEADING INTO NORDHOUSE DUNES. TYPICALLY, MOST PEOPLE CAR CAMP, AND A SMALL GROUP WILL BACKPACK. MOST LIKELY PATHS WILL CROSS SOMETIME DURING THE WEEKEND. NO NEED TO SIGN UP FOR THIS TRIP. THE COST IS FREE TO BACKPACKERS, AND MOST LIKELY FREE FOR CAR CAMPERS. JUST PICK UP A MAP FROM DAVID FOERSTER AT THE MEETING, OR CALL (734-453-0692 OR, 734-306-7887) OR, E-MAIL VBFOERSTER@JUNO.COM



Benchmark in Farmington is holding a SOLAR sale!
On Wednesday October 18th from 9:00PM-11:00PM Benchmark will
reduce regularly priced items by 20%, for SOLAR members!

Its time to take advantage of these fantastic savings on clothing, boots,
tents, packs, books,
accessories, and more!

All you need to receive
these cut-rate prices is
to be there after
9:00PM and
show your SOLAR
membership card... Don't leave home without it!



Land Navigation and Orienteering

Come and learn how to get from "hither to yon", safely and wisely in this class. You will learn how to use a map and compass for on-trail hiking as well as off-trail bushwacking.

For those who have taken this class, you can practice your skill in the upcoming orienteering meets. The meets are organized by the Southern Michigan Orienteering Club, and you can get information and schedules at the website: <http://www.angelfire.com/mi/SMOC/index.html>. Basic instruction and compass rental are available at each meet. SMOC will also have their first GPS/UTM orienteering on October 29, at the Pontiac Lake Recreation Area, so come out if you want to play with your high tech toy. The (fall) SMOC Newsletter is available in PDF format by emailing Lester Mok at lesmok@sprint.ca before October 15. If you have any questions about the course or the meets, please contact Pat Murad at 248-887-3887.

A LETTER TO THE EDITORS:

September 19, 2000

As I reflect upon the 8 wonderful years that I have been a member of the SOLAR Club, I marvel at the opportunities that I have been blessed with. I have always loved the outdoors and the adventures to be found there. Since the age of 8, when I became a Cub Scout, through my middle school years as a Boy Scout and now, in my adult years, I have continued to develop an appreciation for the awesome splendor and incredible beauty of Nature!

It is becoming more and more difficult to access those wild areas. To spend all of one's time in the city is unnatural and unhealthy; we continually subject ourselves to all the stresses and cares of our fast-paced, urban lives. With the development of much of our rural areas and the steady loss of much of our wild lands, it is easy to lose touch with our natural selves.

I mourn and deplore the fact that some children, and even some adults, have never had the opportunity to seek out and find their places in the glory of Creation. We tend to forget that our natural place is in those magnificent expanses of seemingly never ending forests, mountains, prairies, deserts and oceans. That our spirits long for the freedom, and peace, that those places offer!

That is why the SOLAR Club is such a fantastic organization. It offers all of us the opportunity to escape the concrete jungle of city life and return to the wilderness experience that we long for. The "Club" is such a fantastic place to learn new skills, hone existing ones, and most importantly it allows us to discover much that is good and noble about ourselves!

Now, I must ask the question "what makes the SOLAR Club so great?"

I will try to answer that question from my perspective. It is each of us! Each of us has experiences, knowledge, skills and gifts that we can, and should share with the rest of the membership! Each of you has much to contribute, even if you do not realize it!

You probably all know of some isolated, shimmering lake; roaring waterfall; verdant, sun dappled forest; spectacular, sun baked desert, park, or trail somewhere. If not, you surely know of some ethnic eatery, natural history museum or nature movie that the membership would be interested in. You may have read about or only heard about some enchanted spot or exotic location. The possibilities, to share, are nearly endless. If you can dream it you can live it!

What makes our club so great is that people care. People volunteer their time and knowledge to teach, and instill in others the love that we have for Nature. If no one led trips, taught classes, or simply shared their enthusiasm with the rest of us, we would not have these marvelous opportunities. The Club is only as great as YOU allow it to be.

I know that we are all busy. I know that we have a lot of responsibilities and that time passes by so quickly. But, think about those factors and then think that without you, and the Club, many people would never have the chance to experience the joy that we feel each time that we escape from the hectic pace of our modern lives, to the peaceful serenity of the wild! Please get involved and share of yourselves!

I would like to challenge each of you to think of what gifts, talents and experiences you bring and then share them with the Club. You will leave your marks on so many lives, and you will create beautiful memories, and friendships, that last a lifetime!



Review of

THE 10th ANNUAL FOSSIL HUNT

-by Jim Gilfix

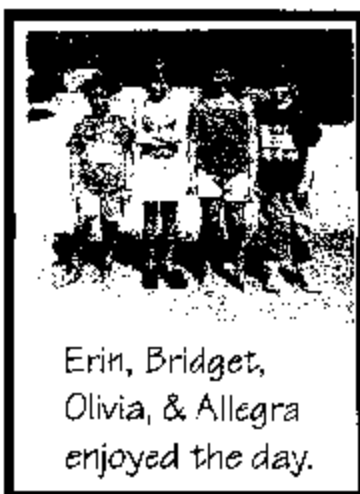
On July 23, 2000 we met for the 10th time at the Rock Glen Conservation Area, in Arcona Canada. This year I had twenty-three people sign up, seven cancelled, and about FORTY showed up! I felt really good because my niece, Erin, got to go this year, along with her family.

We had a great hike. When we went down to the river, we discovered that the water was so high, that there was no longer a sand bar. We still were able to find fossils, though.

After I found the first wildlife (a frog), Erin found a small snapping turtle and a frog, too.



April, Blake &
Alegra's first
SOLAR trip.



Erin, Bridget,
Olivia, & Allegra
enjoyed the day.

This year the stairs to the top didn't seem so tough. Although we only had one grill, and a small supply of hot dogs, the potluck was still big. Nothing compared to last years three grills and four watermelons. No watermelon this year, but that was OK since it was chilly.

Afer lunch, I started things off by standing under the big falls. New members and friends, including Erin, Olivia, Allegra, Blake, and April, soon joined in.

Gene Cordova took over in showing the kids how to get wet, and how not to shiver too badly.

The walk down to the creek was fun, as was the walk to our "special" fossil spot. This the spot was quite small, due to the high water level. The current was swift, much to the chagrin of the "wee ones". Too bad the water wasn't warmer, the sun a little hotter...

After getting back to the cars and changing into dry clothes, the clouds finally left and the temperature went up to the 80's... we could have used the watermelon then!

Thanks to all who went. See you next year!



Gene gives moral
support to Olivia,
and Erin (freezing).

Point Pelee Trip Report

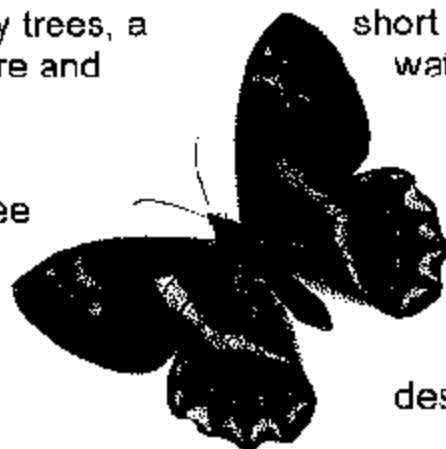
- Rob Mair

By the end of the work week, the weather looked nasty and we wondered if we would be wet all weekend. Judy and I arrived first at Point Pelee, following an intense rainbow in the sky of southern Ontario.

An easy, rural drive to an empty national park on Lake Erie - no gate. Our group campsite was totally screened by trees, a the reserved parking area. We walked to the shore and waves breaking in a stiff wind.

one even at the
short hike from
watched

There were 2 other groups present. You would see now and then, but the privacy of our site was t complete: little sound from cars or people and strangers walking through.



them
almos
no

Solarites straggled in for hours and found us a sign at the campground side road.

despite lack of

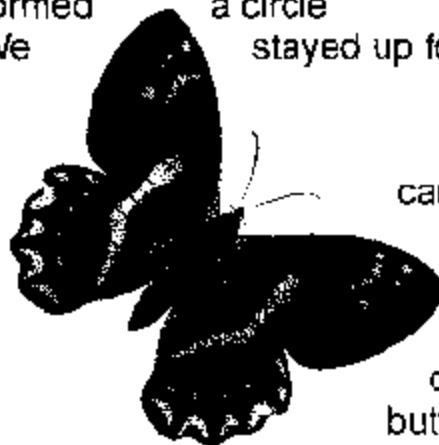
The overcast night was mild. We could beach like a distant storm. Tents formed with picnic tables and a fire ring. We relaxing.

always hear
a circle
stayed up for a while visiting and

surf crashing on the
around a commons

By morning, there were 14 the day 3 more showed up.

Under a clear, chilly sky, a few Island and the rest hiked to the the Point to find butterflies. The penetrate into the forest. Monarch side, near the tip.



campers present, and during

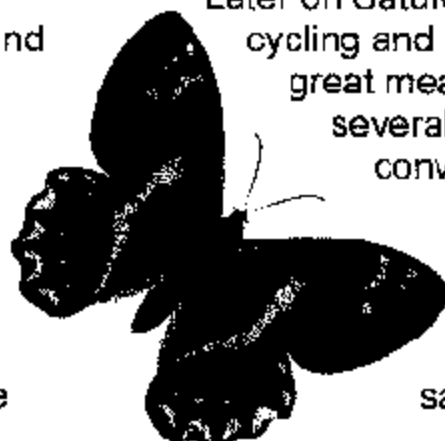
left for a day on Pelee
Visitor Center and on to
constant wind does not
butterflies "hole up" on the lee

We saw a few hundred gathered and preparing to cross Lake Erie. A branch covered with orange, fluttering wings is a fine sight. We tried to visualize that rare moment when tens of thousands take off at once. These fragile insects can fly 2000 miles and survive to lay eggs in Mexico.

group spent more time hiking and evening most of us shared a home or cooked on site, and was the focus for ended around midnight.

Later on Saturday, and then on Sunday our cycling and kayaking. On Saturday great meal of courses brought from several bottles of good wine. The fire conversations and stories that

Sunday was warmer and up to 25 mph. Six-foot waves Monarchs hid in the forest and eastern beach. We came home



yet much windier, with gusts on the western shore. stable flies owned the satisfied and worn out.

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 Oloff at 313-386-0037, or email him at mmountainman@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 734-488-9353, for more information.



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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
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or
www.SolarOutdoors.org

AT LARGE

Mike Banks
Mo DeFrance
Al Fylak
Steve Gardner
Bill Halvingis

Cincy Harrison-Felix
Douglas Lanyk
Larry Martin
Joan Ryan
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 Rds., 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.



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.

SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE, AND RECREATION

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