

SOLAR RAY

2001

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes of the SOLAR club? Or how we come up with programs and classes? The people that work behind the scenes and do the decision making for the club are the Steering Committee members. Every year in May we have an election for these 14 positions which include; President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, By Laws, Programs, Activities, Education, Equipment, Historian, Public Relations, Ray Editor, Membership, and Web Master. A description of most positions are available to be seen on the web site (www.solaroutdoors.org) in the By Laws section.

All of the Steering Committee members meet once a month to discuss various topics, classes, and activities. All of us volunteer to do this because we care about SOLAR and all of the people of SOLAR and the future of SOLAR. Now it has come time once again for 14 new people to volunteer for these positions to help SOLAR continue into the 21st century the way we've been for 25 years. Now is time to come forward and volunteer to start SOLAR into the next 25 years. You can only run for one position, so if you want to be put on the ballot you need to figure out which position you want to run for. Please let me know before the May general meeting which position you want to run for so I can have your name on the ballot. If anyone has any questions please contact David Foerster at dbfoerster@juno.com or 734-306-7887.

SOUTH MANITOU ISLAND BACKPACK
Memorial Weekend
Kid Friendly

Just finishing the spring backpack class, and looking to practice your new found skills, or just want to get out after the winter? Come join SOLAR as we backpack South Manitou Island. You must have taken the SOLAR backpack class or be proficient at backpacking to participate in this event.

You may choose to take the ferry over to the Island either Friday or Saturday, and everybody will be returning on the Monday Ferry. Please let me

know when you sign up so that I can make the appropriate reservations. The cost of this trip is \$27 which includes your camping fees and the ferry, \$18 for kids 12 and younger. You will be responsible to pay the park (either on the mainland or on the Island) a \$7 vehicle fee, plus there is a \$1 per day parking fee.

NOTE: These fees are 2000 rates and are subject to change.

South Manitou Island is part of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. We will be hiking about 1.5 miles to the Bay Campground where I have 2 group campsites reserved for SOLAR. These sites are equipped with a fire ring, outhouse and water pump, but no picnic tables. You should be prepared to carry all of your gear in, as they do not allow any kind of wheeled device.

Be advised that there is NO food service on the Island or any place to purchase supplies. Also, be prepared to hang your food from the killer CHIPMUNKS!! A backpack stove is also a necessity, as well as a rain tarp in case it does rain (this is Michigan), SOLAR has some that you may borrow. Please try to double up in your tents as each site will only accommodate 10 tents and up to 20 people.

There are a lot of interesting day hikes available on the Island. You can tour the 1871 lighthouse, wander around the old farmsteads, orchards and cemetery, visit the old growth cedars, view the shipwreck of the Francisco Morazan which ran aground in 1960, climb on the sand dunes, or just play at the beach.

There is a variety of wildlife on the island, including fox, beaver, coyote, squirrel, chipmunk, snowshoe hare, deer mouse and four species of bats.

At the May meeting I will have a list of people who are going on both the Friday and Saturday ferry. Please take a copy and try to car pool as much as possible.

Remember that you will be responsible for your own food and gear (stoves, water filters, tents, first aid, bear bag etc.) PLEASE, COME PREPARED!!!

Sound like fun? Call Leslie Cordova at (248) 547-5626 or e-mail lesliegene@aol.com.

Note: Since the ferry will fill up for this trip, I will need all money by the April meeting so reservations can be made.

The MAIN EVENT

April 3 - General Meeting
Program: Steering Committee Info.
Sign ups for Steering Committee
Elections May General Meeting

May 11-13 - Rock Climbing Practicel
Laura Albin -

May 18-20 - Bay City State Park Camping
Biking, Hiking, Critter Watching, Volleyball
Doug Lanyk 248-634-4551

Apr 7 - Laser Tag
Madison Heights 3:30 pm
Jeff Enterkin 248-399-0696

Memorial Weekend - South Manitou Island
Kid Friendly - Backpacking - Group Sites
Leslie Cordova - 248-547-5626 or e-mail
lesliegene@aol.com

April 21 - Ascending/ Rappelling Class
Planet Rock Climbing Gym - Ann Arbor
Contact Planet Rock 734-827-2680
Must sign to be a member of S.M.A.C.



Trying to find out if anyone would like to raft the
Cheat River on the 2nd weekend of June. It's in West
Virginia, for those who haven't been there, and it's
a nice whitewater river. Anyone who would like to go,
please let me know. Would like to fill at least one boat.
Margaret Martin (734) 721-2821

EASTERN MOUNTAIN SPORTS

CLUB DAY

EMS Club Day
Saturday,
April 28

As a member of an outdoor organization, we know you love the outdoors as much as we do... and Club Day is our way to thank you for your contribution to the outdoor community. Stop by on Saturday, April 28 and gear up for another great season of fun in the outdoors.

20% Off Everything
in the store
Saturday, April 28

Just bring proof of membership in an outdoor organization or this ad, and we'll have 20% off your entire purchase at EMS that day. It's just our way of saying—Thank you.


**NOT JUST KNOWLEDGE,
KNOW-HOW**
Toll-free Customer Service: (888) 461-6367
www.ems-online.com

LASER TAG

Saturday April 7, 2001

Friendly challenge between the SOLAR club and the SKYW's

Armed with a laser pistol and moving through a DARK MAZE of NARROW PASSAGES, find the opposing club and FIRE. HIT one of the many targets and help your club be VICTORIOUS.

NEED: 15 People from EACH club
TO: Play 3 GAMES, EAT PIZZA, DRINK POP, HAVE FUN.
COST: \$19 per person for both CLUBS MEMBERS.
Day of challenge \$20 PER PERSON
\$20 For ALL GUESTS
WHERE: LASER QUEST
31401 JOHN R ROAD, MADISON HEIGHTS
(1/2 mile south of 14 mile on the west side of the street)
TIME: 3:30 PM (Be on time to register your code name)
Last game will end at 6 PM.
CONTACT: JEFF ENTERKIN at (248) 399-0696 or E-mail at Jente69690@aol.com



Bay City State Park

It will be summer camping season again soon. To get started on summer activities please join me camping at Bay City State Recreation Area.

This will be a relaxing weekend in one of Michigan's under-used Parks. Activities available will be bicycling, hiking, awesome bird and critter watching, fishing, roller blading, volley ball, kayaking in the bay, swimming for the brave, sleeping on the beach... The park also gives guided hikes and has organized activities for the family. The Park features nice shower facilities, 4000 ft of Lake Huron beach front, and the Tobico Marsh Wildlife area. The marsh has 1 trail and an observation tower. The rest is left for wildlife, untouched by humans. There are just enough businesses (like ice-cream stores) nearby to make camping a perfectly relaxing experience.

The plan: Cost \$15 Tent camping (Campers needing hookups will cost you extra) Pot luck supper Saturday night. Sunday Brunch supplied by Doug. May 18-20 Time to smile.

Sign up at the April or May meetings or give me a call 248-634-4551

Ascending/Rappelling Class for Adventure Racers

Rappelling And Ascending For Adventure Racers will teach:
Rappelling Fixed Ropes
Rappelling Off Platforms
Ascending Techniques
Equipment Instruction
Knot Passing
What To Do In An Emergency
Safety Protocols



This clinic will cover what you need to know to compete in adventure races that include a rappelling and/or an ascending stage. Expert instructors at Planet Rock, where some of the top racers in the nation have trained, will teach the course. All participants satisfactorily completing the instruction will receive a certificate (UIAA & CE) that is recognized by most adventure races requiring certification. All special equipment is included. You are free to bring your own harness, ascending and/or rappelling gear. You will be able to use it as long as it passes a safety inspection. Participants will also receive an extra 10% off the already discounted Planet Rock adventure racing equipment package price.

Location: Planet Rock Climbing Gym in Ann Arbor
(734) 827-2680 <http://www.planet-rock.com/climbing.html>

When: 8:00 am - 11:00 am on Saturday April 21st, 2001
Cost: \$35 (Non-refundable but transferable to another person.)

RSVP: aj@adventure-geek.com

There is a maximum of 24 people for this event, and the slots will be considered filled upon receipt of payment. You have to be a member of SMAC to attend this event.

Membership in SMAC is free, you can sign up at <http://www.smacworld.com/>

Steering Committee

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Roger James
Web Master

Carole McChirie
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 17 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:
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SOLAR Hotline
24 Hour voice mail (248) 988-6658
or
www.SolarOutdoors.org

At Large

Mike Banks
Moe DeFrance
Al Fylak
Steve Gardner
Bill Halvingis

Cindy 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 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.



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 for OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE, AND RECREATION

Solar Club
P.O. Box 2438
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