



# The SOLAR RAY

December 2001

**Introducing Southeast Michigan to the Outdoors since 1976**

## SOLAR gets the bronze in Bag Night Challenge

A sudden (read "overnight") blast of about fourteen hundred bag nights by the Robert Land Academy allowed it to take the 2<sup>nd</sup> place spot from SOLAR. By the time you read this, the contest will be over for the year. Let's hope for a strong finish. A 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish is still very respectable considering our competition. We currently (11/15) have more nights than N.O.L.S., the Backpacker Magazine staff, and the Sierra Club combined!! Michigan is still 2<sup>nd</sup> in nights by state and still widening the gap.

If this were the Olympics, we'd still be medal winners!! Not too bad for a little (???) club in Michigan. Thanks again for helping. I'm hoping they continue the game next year. We will have to see about taking 2<sup>nd</sup> back... We could probably keep the Boy Scouts worried until spring.

If anyone wins gear or anything, let me know!! I know the editor, so we can get you in the club paper!

--Karl Overheul (CyberNomad@backpacker.com)

### Bag Night Totals as of 11-18-01

1. Boy Scouts of America - 10,434
2. Robert Land Academy - 2,260
3. S.O.L.A.R. - Southfield, MI - 1,621
4. BSA Venturing Crew - 1,488
5. Appalachian Mountain Club - 893
6. Appalachian Trail Conference - 674
7. United States Army - 628
8. Nat'l Outdoor Leadership School - 600
9. Louisiana Hiking Club - 597
10. Sierra Club - 592

## Get in the holiday spirit with SOLAR!

### TOLEDO ZOO LIGHTS DISPLAY

**Saturday, December 15** - Come join us for the "Lights Before Christmas" display at the Toledo Zoo. Toledo's favorite holiday tradition continues once again at the Toledo Zoo. Come and see over ONE MILLION LIGHTS and over 130 animals. If you have ever been to the lights display at the Detroit Zoo, you haven't seen anything. This is the best lights display in the area. The lights are throughout the entire zoo, not just in one area. You can wander around and see the lights, visit the animals, take a train ride, listen to the carolers or visit with Santa.

#### **Plan:**

\* Meet at the entrance (in front of the gift shop) at 4:45PM.

\* Tour the zoo.

\* Meet back at the gift shop at 8:30ish

\* Caravan to dinner, take I-75 back North to the Alexis Road exit, turn left and go a few miles until you see a Ground Round restaurant on your right.

**Cost:** Adults - \$5, Children 2 - 11 - \$3

**More Info:** [www.toledozoo.org](http://www.toledozoo.org) - or (419) 385-5721 or contact me at LeslieGene@aol.com - or (248) 547-5626

--Leslie Cordova

### Solar Caroling Party

On Sunday, December 9, come holiday hiking inside at Botsford Continued Care. We'll sing Christmas Carols through the halls for the residents. All singing levels welcome, please wear holiday hats, vests, etc. as the residents really enjoy the festive attire. All the music will be provided, and, thanks to Judy Spitzer, the books have been updated.

Please arrive at 3:15 PM, we'll sing from 3:30-4:30. After caroling, we'll head over to Harry & Mary Price's for a pot luck dinner. Bring a pot luck dish to pass. Everyone welcome, including supervised children. Sign up at the Nov. or Dec. meetings in case there is a freak snow-storm, or, as in the case a few years ago, a flu outbreak that causes us to cancel. For more info, call me at 734-721-2821.

--Margaret Martin

# SOLAR CALENDAR

**Tuesday, Dec. 4**

**SOLAR General Membership Meeting**

**Program: Holiday Party**

Leslie Cordova - [lesliegene@aol.com](mailto:lesliegene@aol.com)

**Sunday, Dec. 9**

**Christmas Caroling & Potluck**

Margaret Martin - (734) 721-2821

**Wednesday, Dec. 12**

**Mountaineering class begins**

Mike Backus (248) 417-4256

**Thursday, Dec. 13**

**Winter Backpacking class begins**

Tom Oloffo (313) 386-0057

**Weekend, Dec. 14-16**

**Wilderness First Aid class**

Mike & Mary Price (313) 532-7498

**Saturday, Dec. 15**

**Toledo Zoo Holiday Lights Display \*\*\***

Leslie Cordova - [lesliegene@aol.com](mailto:lesliegene@aol.com)

**Wednesday, Dec. 19 "SOLAR Night"**

\*\*\* Denotes a non-SOLAR activity.

If you would like to plan / lead a SOLAR activity,  
contact Pam Richl at [pariehl1@netscape.net](mailto:pariehl1@netscape.net) or  
[solaractivities@netscape.net](mailto:solaractivities@netscape.net).

SOLAR HAS A NO-REFUND POLICY. IF YOU ARE  
UNABLE TO ATTEND AN ACTIVITY, YOU MAY  
"SELL YOUR SPOT" TO ANOTHER CLUB MEMBER.

There is a pleasure in the pathless woods;  
There is a rapture on the lonely shore;  
There is society, where none intrudes,  
By the deep sea, and music in its roar:  
I love not man the less, but Nature more.

--Lord Byron



SOLAR president Leslie Cordova is organizing another trip to the Carter Caves in Olive Hill, Kentucky Jan. 25-27. The photo above was taken at last year's Crawl-A-Thon by Laura James. SOLAR has already sold all its spots and all rooms at the lodge are full. You can still go, though!!! E-mail [lesliegene@aol.com](mailto:lesliegene@aol.com) if you are interested in booking your own room at a motel in a neighboring city (10-15 miles away).

## **DECEMBER ASTRONOMICAL FORECAST FOR SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN** **LONGITUDE W83.2, LATITUDE N42.5**

Saturday, December 1 - sunrise 7:44 am, moonset 8:26 am, sunset 5:01 pm, moonrise 5:50 pm. Full moon.

Saturday, December 8 - sunrise 7:50 am, moonset 1:46 pm, sunset 5 pm, moonrise 1:45 am Sunday. Last quarter moon.

Saturday, December 15 - sunrise 7:56 am, moonrise 8:41 am, sunset 5:01 pm, moonset 5:47 pm. New moon.

Saturday, December 22 - sunrise 8 am, moonrise 12:53 pm, sunset 5:04 pm, moonset 12:44 am Sunday. First quarter moon.

Monday, December 31 - Sunrise 8:03 am, Moonset 9:16 am, Sunset 5:10 pm, Moonrise 6:37 pm. Full moon.

## Hocking Hills Trip Report

Friday evening arrived, and my three carpoolers showed up right on time. They were greeted with gingerbread cookies (if you're putting 4 people in an Escort for 4-5 hours, get everyone in a good mood, right?) The car was packed, and off we went: south.



*Above: Peggy Medved enjoys a ride. Photo by Charles Hailey.*

*Right: This is beautiful Ohio – not an oxymoron. Photo by Peggy Medved.*

One dinner stop (we had Doug in the car, food stops are required) and many hours later, we arrived and were greeted by Peggy and a lovely campfire. After a quick trip down (straight down) what some people laughingly call a driveway, we arrived at the cabins. After a quick visit to the campfire, I headed to bed while the rest of my cabin mates headed into the hot tub.

Saturday arrived and some of us went off to breakfast at Bob Evans while others headed out to the trails. After breakfast the breakfasters headed to the different trails. I had only been to Hocking Hills in the spring, so I was very impressed with the color. The gorge is great any time, especially if you have Riley there to walk Pam and then entertain everyone with a dip in the river. The day was spectacular, warm, sunny, not too hot. Of course you can mention that the ladybug attack points were expertly disguised. What beautiful scenic overlooks around every bend, lots of fall colors, and how cute everyone looked walking around with ladybugs on their bums!

We came out of the gorge just in time for a presentation of birds of prey -- a red tail hawk and an owl. A naturalist discussed the birds and answered questions about the overabundant ladybug population. Apparently, man tried to play around with Mother Nature and it backfired, again. Back at the cabins, we all headed to the hot tub. The traditional Solar Potluck was enhanced by lasagna that Peggy brought along. After a campfire sing along, and Roger and Laura getting many involved with stargazing, everyone headed to the hot tubs. (I had forgotten how clammy a wet bathing suit can be.)

Sunday morning came and yet another gorgeous day. After one last dip in the hot tub, we all headed over to the stables for a 2-hour horseback ride along the gorge. The ride was one of the best parts! Winding through narrow wooded trails, cantering through the more open areas, wind in our hair, squeals of joy and delight. Seeing Airplane Rock without the ladybugs. That was great! My horse, Star, was sweet and actually followed directions. She did show a preference for galloping up hills!

This was a great trip! Special thanks to Peggy who spent a lot of time e-mailing, phoning, and coordinating this extraordinary weekend. I feel like I went on a mini-vacation. Thanks, Peggy!!!

-- Margaret Martin



## Licensed Graphologist to Analyze Handwriting at December Holiday Party

Have you ever wanted to have your handwriting analyzed to find out what your handwriting says about your personality?

At the December meeting and holiday party, Randy W. Hall, a certified Graphologist, will be available to analyze your handwriting. Randy has analyzed thousands of handwriting samples with remarkable accuracy. He gained his certification from the renowned Handwriting University in Dallas. Randy has a background in television and radio production and is a published author. He is a co-founder of the outlandish "Out In the Open" television series running in several local cable markets. He is currently developing a new show entitled "The Write Stuff" which will feature his handwriting for the purpose of entertainment, jury selection, employee selection, and couple compatibility and matchmaking as well as personality profiles. Randy has agreed to generously donate his skills and time to the SOLAR club, but individual donations will be welcome.

-- Mary Price

# Trip Report - Double JJ Halloween Bash

Once a year, the Double JJ Reson in Rothbury, Michigan (20 minutes north of Muskegon) hosts an end of the season Halloween Party Weekend for their guests and employees to enjoy. Yes, all the typical activities are there...unlimited horseback riding, archery, golf, rifle shooting, cattle roundup, all-u-can-eat meals, hangin' out, stage shows, hayrides, bonfires, d.j. dancing, line dancing lessons, corn roasts and more. But on this particular weekend, the added activities include a haunted barn, a live performance of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, rooms decorated by guests, the grounds decorated by the Double JJ, a trick or treat event, and a costume contest with first prize being \$100!!!

Our second year at this, and our group keeps getting bigger and better. This year, we were prepared. Our rooms were located in the prime party area (thanks to early booking), we had decorations and costumes all coordinated to themes, and even the shots we gave out were planned and apropos.

Three rooms, three themes. Thank you Linda D. for hauling up a pick-up truck full of masks, tables, décor to make our STAR WARS CANTINA BAR SCENE absolutely awesome. Linda is the Halloween Mom we all wish we had, pulling out everything from laser beam robots to gooney slimy eyeballs to shots of tequila with dripping blood, all to create an effect that didn't miss a beat.

And thank you to Juli P., who took her job as ma'dam room decorator so seriously, it was scary. Black lace, red satin, incense, Madonna music, wigs-leather-feathers-high heels, b.j. shots...and an endless supply of revealing outfits for anyone in need...it was...contagious. Our very own Pam R., imagine in a blonde wig that changed her life (keep on ridin' baby)...and Terri S., such a nice Catholic girl who did something very, very bad and needed to be spanked...and Darrell A., the pimp of our dreams who introduced us all and made sure all our guests wanted to come again...and me, Lisa B. with wig, pleather, and a pair of smart wool socks trying to look like a sexy Tina Turner turning tricks...and Juli P. our madam of the night, our fearless leader who knew her part and played it well, so well that she wouldn't go out in public...and Jan K., the queen bee of it all, who some of us wished would have dressed up as a dominatrix instead. Hey, it worked. We had to close our doors to stop people from coming (hee hee). Oh well, mean people suck, nice people s-----w - right Pam??

And our very own Tom O., the NICEST guy, who really had an axe to grind (in his left shoulder). All hand-made with lots of imagination, Tom created a traditional scary décor complete with blacklights, background sounds, ghoulish masks, webs, and cemetery stones. Everyone who came (leftovers from Juli's room) oohed and ahhed and gasped at his costume. And his hot cider toddys were delicious!!!

So we drank, greeted treaters at our doors, closed our doors and went trick or treatin' ourselves, went to the dance hall to dance, and what else - drink. Did any of us win first prize? No...the guy who was s---ing Bin Laden from behind won (politics are everywhere!!!) But if they were offering prizes for room décor, we would have won! All in drink, all in costume, all in fun. Even those that didn't drink were up till 5:00 a.m. having a great time. There's something for everyone, even sweet young girls like Cindy T. who have a big hairy a \* (we all saw it Cindy).

\*It was a costume, not the real thing folks.

Are we going to do it again next year? YES!!! To get our great rooms, I had to book our space the Monday after. Anyone who wants to join us, let me know. Believe it or not, I'm taking deposits!!! As Darrell and Pam kept saying, Y'all come again...ya' hear?!!

-Lisa Boose



Photos: SOLAR festivities coordinator Lisa Boose and Lou Szakal show their spirit while Pam Riehl entertains the fellas from Chicago with help from some flowing blonde tresses. Thanks to Linda Hill for sharing her pictures.

## ***Bald Mountain Halloween Weekend Review***

A review of a Halloween night, when the moon was bright, the stars alight, and the lid on tight (?). When all that was Good and Cute and Just, was asleep. When all that was left was the scary, the haunted, the Halloween. But we weren't afraid, we were SOLAR! And friends of SOLAR. We were in Dr. Death's cabin and we were eating chips. Ok so that part wasn't scary, in fact little was scary, but we had a lot of fun this year at Bald Mt.

The weekend began with Lisa Rouse arriving with her kids, Erica and Jenny. Closely following were Lou and his kids, Ally, Jessie, and Karl. I was waiting for them. So this is my story, the outsider who came in from the cold, well actually I slept in the cold, but on with the story. The one without the kid, the Clown (and I love being a clown).

After hauling our gear to the cabin we began hanging the decorations. Lisa brought some real good ones. I too brought a few. Besides being a lot of fun we did a great job of setting the mood. The kids had some excellent ideas. Then Juli Perod and her family arrived. We needed their energy and soon a roaring bonfire was heating the glen.

On Saturday many of the group, which had gotten bigger as the evening and day went on, went to Upland Hills Farms. We toured, ate, saw magic, and animals and picked out our Pumpkins.

Upon returning to the cabin we played some games and stuff, then began carving our pumpkins. We had a lot of kids and others carving this year. We also had some of the best designs, creatures, witches and spooks. They ended up burning until the wee hours of the morning. The party was surprising. I didn't expect so many great costumes. Uncle Jim, the Clown, was there in a warmer version of his costume, but he still made tons of balloon things. Well we had another awesome bonfire, good talks, good food, and good company. We even had some magic color dust for the fire.

Next year Lisa has rented 2 cabins and has already begun planning how to make this a special weekend. So if you have a kid plan on joining her and her friends. Till then there is Harry Potter.

-- Jim Gillix

### **SOLAR checks out the benefits of curling**

**FROZEN FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH** -- Detroiters practice secret skills in Ferndale that appear to make them younger. Medical evidence aside, people who curl obviously have found a way to appear younger than they are. Ask Mr. Jack Clark who, at age 92, appears younger than Ernie Harwell, and can still curl well. "I've been curling for 50 years and can still skip and win games. I don't see stopping soon."

Dr. Zigmund Zryd of the McGill University medical faculty says that modern research proves that spending lots of time in cold environments and exercising aerobically delays the onset of wrinkles and graying hair. "It is possible that the genial atmosphere of curling games and the positive attitudes of curlers may significantly decrease the risk of heart disease and brain degeneration among men and women between the ages of 30 and 60." Dr. Zryd has just received a grant from government in Ottawa to do a related study of the long-term effects of curling on men's potency.

I visited with members at the new club in Ferndale to discuss the healthy effects of curling. "Our new building will be open by the end of the month," says Don Beaulieu, Club President. "As soon as possible, we will make the ice and start league curling on weeknights." He admits curling is rigorous, and he expects to suffer sore muscles for at least 2 days after his first game of the season. "Regular exercise of any other sort does not prepare curlers for the stretch and balance of the slide delivery. And the effort of sweeping in front of heavy, granite rocks can wear you out."

Club instructor Hugh Schmidt says that anyone can learn to curl. "Curling is a brain game and team communication is one of the essentials. You dress light as if you were ski racing because you burn so many calories. Canoeers do well because they already have strong shoulders. Rock climbers [usually] do OK because their agility and balance help them stretch and slide on slick ice more easily. About any vigorous activity will help. Even cavers benefit because it helps bring them out of their shells. Good slide deliveries are smooth and fluid and graceful; sweeping is just exhausting." He adds that the game can be played at many levels, from casual, social fun to the incredible perfection of Olympic teams.

SOLAR is welcome to sign up for a curling instruction party Dec. 1 at noon at the new Ferndale ice arena. A second party will take place Sunday, Jan. 13 from 1-5 p.m. Contact me for details. Cost per person is \$15. You can learn a lot in 4 hours. See if you can do it!

--Rob Mai

## Letters from the Road – Alaska & the Northwest Territories

*Every summer for years, SOLAR member and teacher Tom Dunn rode his motorcycle to Alaska and back. In this final excerpt, he shares the rest of his road adventures.*

One of the wonderful things about letting the whims of the road determine my travels are the people I meet. I just never know what to expect. I met Craig, a fellow teacher and biker, in a campground in British Columbia. We were both booked on the same car ferry to Skagway, Alaska. Unlike my *modus operandi* he had an agenda to his travels. Craig had a list of women he had met via the Internet and had scheduled a full calendar of dates. He met one of these women, Pat, in Juneau where we had an hour layover. After a 2-day voyage we arrived at Skagway-Craig to meet other women, me to continue my journey. I made good time in the distance between Anchorage and Skagway.



*Photo: Tom Dunn shares his beautiful Alaskan landscape.*

I was looking forward to meeting up with some friends from my last trip to Alaska. I spent several days on the Kenai Peninsula with them and then headed north. It is a beautiful several hour ride from Anchorage to Denali National Park. It was my third time to the park and I quickly sought out my favorite campground. I had the disgusting chore of pitching my tent in a storm of freezing rain and snow. It is a heartbreaking thing to be snug in my tent and sleeping bag and look out to see my motorcycle covered with snow.

I felt sorry for the group of backpackers camped near me. They were from Louisiana and were not used to cold weather. Two of their groups of five were lost in the backcountry of Denali. I camped there for several days and then headed on, with my neighbors and the rangers organizing a search and rescue mission.

I only spent 10 days in Alaska before heading east. I was determined to be in Boston for Cathy Dolland's wedding approximately 6,000 miles away. I wanted to give myself plenty of time for the run across North America. Shortly after leaving Anchorage I met another biker, Jim Miller out of Florida. He is a retired fireman who was fulfilling a lifelong dream, a ride to Alaska. This was to be his last ride as he is dying from emphysema. We rode together for several days. What conversations we had!

The Alaska Highway is always under repair somewhere. The major projects this year were in the Yukon Territory. The worst ran approximately 20 miles. The road was gone and we had to ride on the dirt detour. The project was so dusty that they would only let one direction of traffic on the detour at a time. Each convoy had a guide vehicle. I was immediately behind the guide and could not see his truck, the flashing lights or the road. I was able to steer by positioning my bike about 6 feet from the side of the road and kept that orientation for 20 miles. It took about an hour and a half to make it through that specific project. Me, Jim, and our bikes were completely caked with chalky dust. After several days Jim and I went our separate ways. I turned north to visit the Northwest Territories, bound for Yellowknife. The road north to Yellowknife was 1,000 miles long, most of it gravel and dirt. I had enough dust and turned around after only a day. The remainder of the trip was uneventful. I did take a day layover in Winnipeg. The tires on my bike were completely worn out.

One final note, Craig is now engaged to Pat and she has moved to Montana. Life is an adventure!!!!

—Tom Dunn

## Membership Dues To Increase

What is your SOLAR membership worth to you? Have you ever asked yourself that question? When I think of the opportunities that The Club has given me, the knowledge that I have gained, the friends that I have made, and all the experiences that have helped to mold me into who I am, I realize that it is impossible to place a value on that kind of wealth!

As you know, The SOLAR Club is a non-profit organization, run by volunteers. These volunteers are you and I. We all share a love for the outdoors, and we chose to become members because we share a common motivation to nurture that love, for the outdoors, in others. However, there are costs associated with that sharing and those costs continue to go up! It has always been a club goal to keep expenses to a minimum in order to allow the greatest number of people to enjoy the benefits of club membership. We have maintained the same membership dues for the last seven years.

Unfortunately, our insurance has skyrocketed, and the rent for Colony Hall has increased, as have our expenses to buy new and replace old gear, and printing and postage costs are on the rise. In short we must raise membership fees, in order to uncompromisingly maintain our consistently high standards. Thus, please be advised that the following new rates will go into effect with the renewal of your 2002 membership.

**New Individual Membership: \$40.00 per year / \$175 lifetime; New Family Membership: \$55.00 per year / \$250 lifetime.** I trust that you will understand the financial realities that have made this action necessary and I look forward to sharing a strong, healthy club with you, well into the exciting future!

-- Leslie Cordova, Solar Club Presiden

## Ice Hotel Feb. 14-18

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to sleep in a giant igloo on a bed of ice? Or sit on an ice chair eating from an ice table or even drinking from a glass carved out of ice? Well, now's your chance. I am looking for people to join me for a Valentines weekend you won't forget.

The Ice Hotel is located in the village of Ste-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier near Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. This trip includes one night in downtown Toronto, one night at the Ice Hotel, one night at the Duchesnay Lodge (Ice Hotel property), and one night in downtown Quebec City. The trip also includes one Absolut cocktail, one complete dinner, two breakfasts, CC Skiing, Snowshoeing, Ice Skating, Sliding, Discovery Rally, Walking Hikes, Ecological treks, Orienteering in the woods, and winter survival. Optional activities include Dogsledding, Whitefishing, Igloo Construction, Snowmobiling, and Coureur des bois.

Please see me at the meeting for pricing and more info.

--Lou Szakai

## HOLIDAY PARTY PLANNED FOR DECEMBER MEETING - BRING A DISH TO PASS

### **December Holiday Partee:**

#### **The Grand Poobahs Will Dance!**

If memory serves me correctly, Colony Hall is always a festive place with the grand poobahs grinning at us from the walls. And did you ever notice the mirrored ball hanging from the ceiling?! Of course, this means the Colony Hall can ROCK!

After December's general meeting, the chairs get whisked away and we'll be dancing, eating, and laughing at SOLAR's annual Holiday Party! Six-foot subs, pop and utensils will be provided and everyone brings a dish for an amazing feast to kick off the beginning of fat season. Plus, as a bonus this year, we will have a professional handwriting analyst present to dis-encrypt your script!

And what of the hooplah of the poobahs? Tom Poster is going to dee-jay them off the walls into a boogie frenzy!! You gotta see this and remember...bring a dish to pass!!

--Amy Fedyk

SOLAR is a non-profit club with almost 400 members dedicated to the intelligent enjoyment of nature and outdoor pursuits. All SOLAR adventures begin at our meetings. There, you can get to know the other members and sign up for SOLAR activities, trips and classes.

Membership is only \$40 a year and includes discounts to a number of retail outfitters, access to club-owned equipment, a monthly newsletter, and a chance to meet hundreds of other like-minded adventurers drawn together by a common love of pristine lakes, breathtaking vistas, virgin forests and scenic shorelines, and the experiences to be found there.

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



GENE & LESLIE CORDOVA  
14520 BORGMAN  
OAK PARK, MI 48237

## SOLAR Steering Committee

<i>President</i>	Leslie Cordova	<i>Equipment</i>	Carol McCricle	<i>At Large</i>	Mike Banks * Mue DeFrance
<i>Vice President</i>	Tom Olffo	<i>Historian</i>	Denise Kordie		Al Fylak * Steve Gardner
<i>Secretary</i>	John Simonds	<i>Membership</i>	Mary Price		Bill Halvingis
<i>Treasurer</i>	John Moffatt	<i>Programs</i>	Amy Fedyk		Cindy Harrison-Felix
<i>Activities</i>	Pam Riehl	<i>Pub. Relations</i>	Peggy Medved		Doug Laryk * Larry Martin
<i>By-Laws</i>	Gloria Fontaine	<i>Solar Ray</i>	Laura James		Joan Ryan
<i>Education</i>	Harry Price	<i>Web Master</i>	Roger James		Joan & Bob Westbrook

**SOLAR MEETINGS** are held the first Tuesday of each month in Southfield at the Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen (between 8 & 9 Mile Roads) at 7:30. Visitors can come for FREE. In 2002, dues will increase for the first time in several years. The new rates are:  
\$40 per year per person  
\$55 per year per family  
Lifetime membership: \$175 per person, \$250 per family

SOLAR remains a non-profit club.

The **SOLAR RAY** is a monthly publication of SOLAR and is sent free to current dues-paid members. If you change your address please tell the membership chairman, Mary Price, [hmprice@ameritech.net](mailto:hmprice@ameritech.net)

### Submission guidelines:

- Articles must be 500 words or less
- SOLAR events have priority over non-club events
- Events in the next 2 months have priority over other events
- Please submit via email or Word attachment to [Laura-991@prodigy.net](mailto:Laura-991@prodigy.net)
- Please submit via regular mail to Laura James, 57100 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville MI 48167.
- Please submit photos as JPEGs or prints only
- All articles and photos must be attributed and submitting photos is encouraged!
- January issue deadline is **December 16**; NO SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT DATE