

# SOLAR RAY

## January

Millennium  
Edition  
2001



ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT BATS! THE ORGANIZATION FOR BAT CONSERVATION (OBC) IS GIVING A PRESENTATION ON BATS OF THE UNITED STATES. THEY WILL BE BRINGING A VARIETY OF ANIMALS TO SHOW AND TELL.

THEY WILL BE LETTING US KNOW ALL THE TRUTHS ABOUT ALL THOSE STORIES ABOUT BATS, AS WELL AS ALL KINDS OF INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BATS. THE OBC IS DEDICATED TO TEACHING PEOPLE ABOUT BATS AND CONSERVING THEIR POPULATION AND HABITAT. YOU CAN EVEN ADOPT A BAT AT THE OBC. THEY HAVE OVER 100 MOUTHS TO FEED, AND IT SURE ADDS UP! THEY EVEN HAVE A WEB SITE: [WWW.BATCONSERVATION.ORG](http://WWW.BATCONSERVATION.ORG).

PLEASE CONTACT DAVID FORSTER AT 734-453-0692, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT THE PROGRAM.

# UPCOMING SOLAR CLUB ACTIVITIES

Jan. 2 General Membership Meeting  
Presentation - BATS! BATS! BATS!

Jan. 19 - 21 - Dog Sledding  
Algonquin National Park  
Ontario, Canada  
Karen Bates 810-323-1346

Jan. 20-21 Enjoying Michigan Winters  
Practical #1  
Waterloo Rec. Area  
Tom Oloff 313-386-0057

Jan. 21 - XC Ski class at XC Ski HQ  
Roscommon, MI.  
Gene Cordova 248-547-5626

Jan 28-28, 2001  
Caving and/or Hiking  
Carter Caves - Kentucky  
Leslie Cordova, 248-547-5626

Feb. 3-4 Enjoying Mich. Winters  
Practical #2  
Pigeon River State Forest  
Tom Oloff 313-386-0057

Feb. 8 - General Membership Meeting  
Program: Annual Photo Contest

Feb. 9-11 VASA XC Ski Trip  
Traverse City  
Jeff Zabel 810-778-1678

Feb. 16-18 Skiing, X-country, Snowshoeing  
Crystal Mountain, Michigan  
Mary Dunn 248-585-9954

Feb. 23-25 - Dog Sledding Trip  
Algonquin National Park  
Ontario, Canada  
Karen Bates 810-323-1346

Feb. 23-25 - Snowshoe/Dog Sled  
Hiawatha National Forest  
See Lisa Boose at December mtng  
for more information

Feb. 23-25 XC Skiing/Snowshoe/Cabin  
Wilderness State Park  
Amy Fedyk 248-543-9875

Mar 16-18 Skiing, X-country, Snowshoeing  
Saulte St. Marie  
Mary Dunn 248-585-9954



Leaded Snow, Leaded Snow, Leaded Snow!

# It's Time To Run With The Dogs!

It's time to start thinking snow and dog sledding. Once again, Solar is heading to South River, Canada, just west of Algonquin Provincial Park, to hit the trails on dog sleds. Mark your calendars for February 23-25, 2001 for a weekend, two day, dog sled trip.

This is a luxury trip as far as dog sled trip go. Cost of the sledding trip is \$325 (Canadian dollars) - remember,

the exchange rate is in our favor. Included in this great howling of a deal is.....

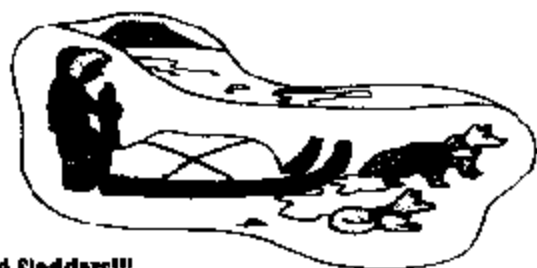
- Friday nights motel
- your team of dogs
- sled gear
- all meals during the weekend, and HO HO HO!!!!
- A HEATED TENT IN CAMP!

Each team is made up of two people and six dogs. You will be expected to care for your own dog team, and help with camp chores at night.

This trip is something every winter enthusiast should try once. The memories will last a lifetime!



For more details see Karen Bates at the next meeting, or call her at 810-323-1346, or e-mail her at lady\_musher@yahoo.com



## See Ya on the trail!

Attention Dog Sledders!!!

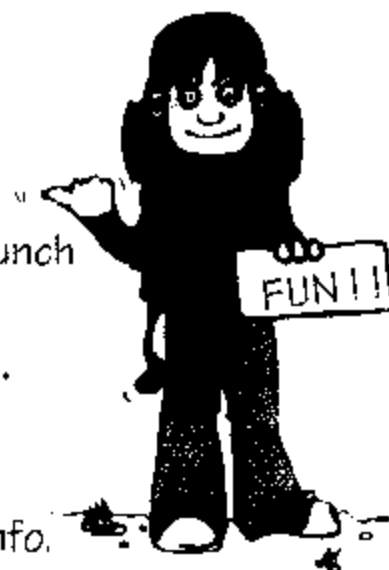
I need the balance of all trips and release forms turned in at the December Solar meeting. Those of you returning from last year will owe \$35.00 and a release form signed.

GOOD NEWS... another dog sled trip was added for January 19-21, 2001. I will call those on the waiting list first. But, those of you interested in a dog sled adventure contact Karen Bates to see if any spots have opened up or to get on the waiting list. Karen Bates: e-mail: lady\_musher@yahoo.com or 810-323-1346

Lisa Boose is leading a snowshoeing/dog sledding outing in the Hiawatha National Forest February 23-25. You arrive on the 23rd, snowshoe on the 24th, and dogsled on the 25th... what a trip!

Price is \$190 per person, includes three nights lodging, one lunch on the trail, guide service, snowshoes, dogsleds, and related equipment. Breakfasts, dinners, and gratuities not included. Minimum 15 sign ups. Deposits required by December 10th. Possible bus transportation at additional cost.

See Lisa Boose at the December SOLAR meeting for more info.



# Letters to the RAY!

## Ice Climbing

I'm running an Ice Climbing trip in Sault Ste. Marie, February 17th and 18th. Cost is \$220 and includes instruction, climbing gear, accommodations for Friday night and Saturday night, and gratuity.  
Non-Solar event. My phone number is 248-589-2629, e-mail address is juli@meditatione.net.  
Many thanks.

## LASER TAG

Saturday April 7, 2001

Friendly challenge between the SOLAR club and the SKIWI'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 34 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) 399-0695 or E-mail at  
Jente69690@aol.com

Lisa Boose is leading a snowshoeing/dog sledding outing in the Hlawatha National Forest February 23-25. You arrive on the 23rd, snowshoe on the 24th, and dogsled on the 25th... what a trip!

Price is \$190 per person, includes three nights lodging, one lunch on the trail, guide service, snowshoes, dogsleds, and related equipment. Breakfasts, dinners, and gratuities not included. Minimum 15 sign ups. Deposits required by December 10th. Possible bus transportation at additional cost.  
See Lisa Boose at the SOLAR meeting for more info.

Subject: The Fridge.

Come and play in the snow with me.

Saturday January 20 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

I am going to be at "The Fridge" the areas only refrigerated toboggan run.

It is at Waterford Oaks County Park. Cost will be at worst \$8 for out of county residents, less for Oakland County residents, and even less for children.

If I get enough people signed up we will get a group discount.

They have a large warming shack with concessions. I will be there with a crock of chili or 2.

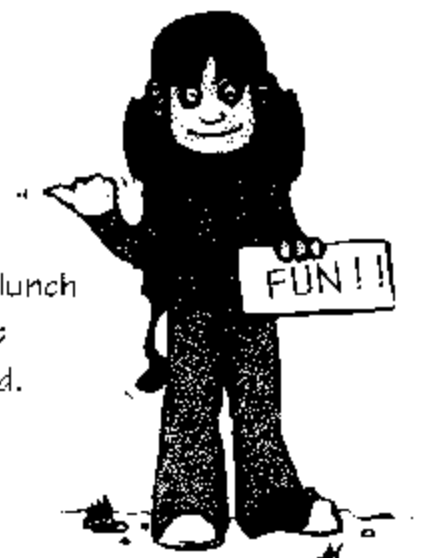
Smile! Your speed will be monitored by radar!

This will be a deluxe sledding experience.

Going out afterwards will be an option.

Give me a call for more information or directions.  
Think snow!

Have a great day.  
Douglas Lanyk  
248-852-6010x279



# FEBRUARY 2001 • S.O.L.A.R. MEMBERS PHOTO CONTEST!!!

Attention all SOLAR camera nerds! This years photo contest will be held during the February general meeting. I know that there are a lot of you that like to take pictures. This is the perfect time to show off your best shots! The categories will be SOLAR and NON-SOLAR, with subcategories under each being SCENERY, NATURE, PEOPLE, and HUMOR. The rules will be as follows:

- 1.) The photo must have been taken by the person entering the contest
- 2.) All entries must have been taken during the year 2000.
- 3.) All entries under the SOLAR category must have been taken during SOLAR sponsored events.
- 4.) All entries under the NON-SOLAR category must have been taken during NON-SOLAR events.
- 5.) The photographer can enter only one photo per category/subcategory (total of 8 possible entries).
- 6.) The minimum size of an entry is 5x7, which must be matted and /or framed.
- 7.) You must specify at time of entry which category/subcategory the photo is to be entered.
- 8.) All entries must be in before the membership breaks for sign-ups.
- 9.) The judging will be by all members who attend the February general membership meeting.

You may want to cover your photos with a protective plastic to keep mats clean. There will be a winner for each category/subcategory, and an over all winner. Prizes are to be awarded that night.

If anyone has questions, please contact DAVID FOERSTER at 734-306-7887 or 734 453-0692, or e-mail David at DBFOERSTER@JUNO.COM



## "A Year on the Rock" party!

The Millennial Challenge

March 4, 2001

6:00PM -till ???

Location TBA

\$5.00 at the door

Come rock with the best! This party is for Rockheads (climbers) and Rockhead wannabees! Bring a dish of food to share, and we'll provide the beverage.

There will be music, dancing, stories and lots of FUN!

This party will be a good introduction for those interested in taking the Rock Climbing class in April.

Contact Rick Waler 248-414-6991 krw47@juno.com or

Mike Hubbard on 248-356-2950 mhubbard@jerviswebb.com

# 2001 SUBURU NORTH AMERICAN VASA SKI TRIP

AH! Time again for the VASA. This is a fun and challenging event. If you have never done the VASA before, let me describe the experience. The VASA is a timed race. Each participant is given a number and a starting position. The faster established skiers are given an earlier starting position. When the word is given, every skier in your starting group sets off in a mad rush. If you survive this period, you will be well on your way to fame and fortune.

The trail first winds its way up hill through beautiful forestry. After a short while, when you're just getting used to the exercise, you hit the "WALL". A rather large hill with hundreds of skiers crawling upon its rather steep face. Seriously, this is the largest hill on the course, and it really is not that steep.

After the "WALL" you will encounter the free style skiers. These maniacs will pass you like you're standing still, and have the rather annoying habit of discarding water bottles in the middle of the trail. REMEMBER, the 50K skiers will pass you again later.

About every 5K you will pass rest stops that provide bananas, cookies, water and sports drinks. It is highly suggested that you stop, refuel, and drink lots of liquids. It is also important to bring power bars or other energy substitutes to recharge yourself when needed.

The 27K trail is a fun, intermediate course with small ups and downs and curves. There are some open areas, but most of the trail is wooded. The 50K skiers do the 27K trail twice.

At the start of the race, you will be provided with a bag to leave your coat and personal items in. At the finish line, you will find your personal items in a warming tent. Cookies and other refreshments will be available.

This year's VASA ski event will occur February 9th, 10th and 11th. On Friday the 9th, I will check in at the Days Inn in Traverse City around 5:00pm. Dinner will be at a local restaurant of your choice. Breakfasts are free at the motel restaurant.

The VASA race is on Saturday, February 10th, between 8:30am and 9:45am. Saturday evening we usually order pizza and socialize in our rooms. Saturday night is the awards ceremony. We usually make an appearance, pick up awards, and check the published race results.

Sadly, Sunday brings about our time to return to civilization. But before you leave try skiing the 27K North Peak Grand Traverse Classic, or join me at Fourhush Corners for some additional skiing.

For additional information check the VASA website: [WWW.VASA.ORG](http://WWW.VASA.ORG) or call Jeff Zabel at 810-778-1676.

## ACCOMODATIONS: Days Inn

420 Munson Ave  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 941-0208

Has bedroom w/ queen size bed, a bedroom w/ 2 dbl beds,  
a Hideaway bed in the living room, small refrigerator,  
wet bar, microwave, cable TV

COST: \$70.00 per person

SKIING: \$25.00 for the 12K Fun race

\$55.00 for the 27K & 50K races (each)

This is in addition to the room fee. Each participant is required to register with VASA. You can find an entry form on the web site, or I will have them available at the January meeting.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! REMEMBER, ONLY 12 SPOTS OPEN,  
AND MOST ARE ALREADY FILLED.**

# WINTER RETREATS

## Crystal Mountain Extravaganza

Mark your calendars for February 16-18 and a winter weekend at Crystal Mountain. We will have a choice of cross country skiing on 40 KM of meticulously groomed trails or downhill skiing on 34 slopes including 24 trails for night skiing. Snowshoe trails are available too. Crystal Mountain is 40 miles NW of Cadillac and its terrific cross country trails are not familiar to skiers sticking close to I-75. The cost is estimated at \$70 and will include lodging with 2 people to a room in a nearby motel and Saturday dinner. All trail fees are additional. Call Mary Dunn 248-585-9954 for more information. Final price, maps and sign up at the December meeting.

## Fun in Saulte Ste. Marie

What! Cross Country Skiing with option to do Wabos Loppet. Downhill skiing, and snowshoeing is also available. Take the train from Saulte Ste Marie to Wabos and ski back to Stokely Creek, (approximately 26k) for a \$50.

Each individual is responsible for his/her own reservation.

Cost increases each month, so register early to save. Contact Mary for the form.

This is truly a XC event best suited for sliding for intermediate level skiers. Are you a beginner? Then ski with friends at Stokely Creek or Hlawatha for a wonderful ski experience.

Lodging: Glen View Cabins, 11 rooms and furnished kitchen, laundry, wax room, sauna and hot tub. Four people per cabin. Cost: \$60 for 2 nights lodging and Saturday group dinner. \$30 deposit required at January meeting

Directions: I-75 North into Canada. Highway 17 North. Cabins are on the left side of the road.

See me if you need a map.

Call Mary Dunn for more info at 248-585-9954.

# Wilderness State Park

February 23 – 25, 2001

Wilderness Weekend is a SOLAR winter tradition. This beautiful state park, situated at the tip of the Lower Peninsula on Lake Michigan, offers 18 miles of trails for cross-country skiing, snow shoeing or hiking. We hope for a huge **snow dump** from Lake Michigan this year so we can go skiing on the shore. If we do need to seek snow by going even farther north, Tahquamenon Falls is a 1-½ hr. drive over the bridge—the half-frozen falls are fabulous in the winter. A short detour from the falls to Whitefish Point will take us to ice caves and a mini-arctic experience. Alternatively, if you prefer the exhilaration of acceleration on a slant, there are some downhill skiing areas nearby (Boyne and Nubs Nob to name a few).

Lodging is in two rustic cabins with wood-burning stoves and bunks. This trip is always fun; people bring their musical instruments, cards, board games, other games, stories and of course, their indefatigable Solar spirit every year to this weekend trip.

**What you will need to bring?** Aside from your Solar spirit and devices for traveling on snow, you will need a sleeping bag, water and a dish for the potluck dinner on Saturday. Last year, the potluck was terrific—most memorable was E.J.'s broccoli-cauliflower-bacon salad and Diane's "cold slugs." Usually on Sunday, several people from this outing meet at a local restaurant for breakfast after we clean up and clear out at 11:00 a.m.

**Directions:** Take I-75 north to exit 337, turn left and go over freeway, turn right at Trails End Road (1<sup>st</sup> right), Trails End merges with Wilderness Park Drive at the stop sign. At about 8 miles past this stop sign there will be a sign that reads "Rustic Cabins", at that point, turn left up the drive. At the dumpsters, turn right and park somewhere. We will be in cabins #2 and #3. Contact Amy or John Fedyk at (248) 543-9875 or at [jfedyk@hotmail.com](mailto:jfedyk@hotmail.com) for more information. The cost is \$15 per person (not including state park sticker) and the limit is 48 people. *Please note: No pets are allowed.*

Hope to see you there!



# 20th Annual Carter Caves Crawl-a-thon - January 26-28, 2001

Well, you asked for more caving and you got it! The 20th annual Carter Caves Crawl-a-thon is scheduled for January 26-28, 2001.

The plan is to drive down to Olive Hill, Kentucky - Friday (7 hr. drive), and stay at the Carter Caves State Park Lodge. I have reserved 12 rooms under my name. The cost will be \$45 per adult, and \$25 per child 16 and under. Checks are payable to SOLAR for 2 nights lodging, and it's first pay, first go.

Carter Caves Park will be mailing your entry form for the crawl-a-thon sometime in December. If you do not receive it by early January, call (them) at (606) 286-4411. You can sign up for as many caving tours as you would like to participate in for the two days (Sat and/or Sun).

The cost is \$20 for 2 days of guided caving (as many tours as you wish); PLUS you'll receive a FREE T-SHIRT!. You must send your form(s) in along with the \$20 per person, child or adult, yourself. DO NOT DELAY, as the trips fill up quickly. Note: I have no control over whether or not you get the trips you want, however, from past experience, the faster you send the form in with full payment, the more likelihood you'll get the trips you want.

This is an annual event put on by the State Park, and it's a great way for people to get acquainted with caving, as they offer a wide variety of tours ranging from walking tours, a little bit of crawling, A LOT of crawling, and vertical caving. They even have caving trips for kids and seniors!!

Some of the caves involve prolonged crawling through small constricted passages, and some of which contain water. The rewards are a great physical challenge, and you will probably see many bats, cave crickets, and some very interesting formations. You must be in good physical condition to participate in level 3 or 4 caving tours, but they are well worth it!

Equipment needed: old coveralls, or any type of loose fitting clothing (no sweat pants/sweatshirts), knee and elbow pads, gloves, boots that cover the ankle, a hard hat with a chin strap (SOLAR can provide), 3 sources of light, one must be mounted on your hard hat (duct tape works well), and extra batteries.

SOLAR has about 30ish helmets that you can borrow for caving, with a \$25 refundable deposit, but there are 48 people going on this trip. If you have a helmet you can use, please do so, if not contact me at (248) 547-5626 or [lesliegene@aol.com](mailto:lesliegene@aol.com) to reserve one. I will bring the helmets to the January meeting. If I run out, you will need to provide your own helmet. SORRY! Also, SOLAR has a few sets of knee and elbow pads available.

Due to the overwhelming response for this years Crawlathon, at this time all of the lodge rooms are full and I have a waiting list. For all you die hards who want to go caving you do have a few options. You can book a room yourself at either Roll's Inn (the only motel in Olive Hill, KY) by calling them at (606) 286-4141, or there are some rooms in Grayson, KY which is a little past Olive Hill, call me if you need a list, or check the web. You will then need to contact Carter Caves State Park at (606) 286-4411 and ask them to send you a crawlathon entry form. Since SOLAR Club has a limited number of helmets, if you are not staying in the lodge, you will need to provide your own helmet. Need more information? Contact me - Leslie Cordova - at (248) 547-5626, or [LeslieGene@aol.com](mailto:LeslieGene@aol.com)

Karen Bates adds: I am making a spaghetti dinner on Saturday night at the Crawl-a-thon. I have a small cottage and will have a gathering for those interested. The cost is \$5.00 per person. You must sign up and pay by the January meeting. Contact Karen Bates at the next meeting. e-mail: [lady\\_musher@yahoo.com](mailto:lady_musher@yahoo.com) or call 810-323-1346, evenings.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

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Carole McCirrie  
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 12 days after the monthly SOLAR meeting. Send your contributions by email 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. Paper mail can be addressed to:  
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Madison Hts. MI 48071



SOLAR Hotline  
24 Hour voice mail (248) 988-6658  
or  
[www.SolarOutdoors.org](http://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

