

# The SOLAR RAY

JUNE 2001

## 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY BASH

*or, putting the "R" in S.O.L.A.R*

Believe it or not folks... the SOLAR Club is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary! To commemorate this event, your ever vigilant, duly devoted, awe-inspiring steering committee has put together a weekend event that will not only knock your socks off and tip up your tent, it will truly describe what the "R" stands for in SOLAR. Do your fellow Solarites know how to have fun? You betcha! So join us JUNE 23 (mark that on your calendar now) at Island Lake Recreation Area for some fantastic fun in the sun! Kayak and canoe races are scheduled, along with many other fun-filled events. Any ideas, let a steering committee member know at the meeting!

The cost is \$15.00 for a cabin stay 2 nights (including the BBQ)

**OR** \$5.00 for the Saturday BBQ only, which starts at 4 p.m.

(We need BBQs!)

The SOLAR Club will be furnishing hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, and soft drinks. Other than these items, bring your own. And a dish to pass please – remember Solarites can eat!

--Tom Poster

**DIRECTIONS:** Island Lake is at exit 151 (Kensington Road) on westbound 96. This is just west of Kensington Metropark. Turn right at the top of the exit and continue south across Grand River. Go about 1/4 mile, the park entrance is on the left. Once in the park, turn right, just after the admission booths. Go 3.8 miles through nice rolling hills. The "rustic cabins" are on the left, less than 1 mile past Spring Mill Pond.

**PACKING LIST:** a dish to pass, beverages, BBQ, rainfly, chairs, cooler, bike, hiking boots, bathing suit, kayak, canoe, your Ten Essentials (you never know...)



# SOLAR Calendar Summer 2001

## June ... tons going on!

June 5 Tuesday **General Membership Meeting** Colony Hall Leslie Cordova (248) 547-5626  
June 6 **Backpacking 201** Class Carol McCririe (517) 548-5732  
June 6 & 7 **UTM & Declination Class** Peggy Medved (248) 390-3969  
June 8 Friday Biweekly **Kayaking\*\*** TBA Larry Dunn (248) 932-5953  
June 8 Friday **SOLAR Day** at Moosejaw - 15% off  
June 8-10 Weekend **Kayak Demo Days** Grand Traverse Bay Matt Dalton (248) 360-0031  
June 8-10 **Rock Climbing** Rattlesnake Park Ontario Laura Albin (517) 324-0564, (albinlau@msu.edu)  
June 9 **National Trails Day\*\*\*** Stoney Creek Peggy Medved (248) 390-3969  
June 10 Sunday **Whitewater Rafting** Cheat River, W. Virginia Margaret Martin (734) 721-2821  
June 16-17 **Archaeological Field School** Rattlesnake Park Ont. Laura Phillips Laura4991@prodigy.net  
June 23 Saturday **Basic Canoeing Class** Island Lake Larry Martin (734) 591-3856  
June 22-24 **SOLAR 25th Anniversary Weekend** Island Lake Tom Poster (248) 706-9363  
June 23 4 p.m. **SOLAR 25th Anniversary Bash** Island Lake Tom Poster (248) 706-9363

## July... together now, "Oh Canada..."

July 6-8 **Rock Climbing** Rattlesnake Park Ontario Laura Albin (517) 324-0564, albinlau@msu.edu  
July 7 Saturday **SOLAR Day** at Moosejaw - 15% off  
**\*\*MONDAY\*\* JULY 9 General Membership Meeting** Colony Hall Leslie Cordova (248) 547-5626  
July 21-22 **Archaeological Field School** Rattlesnake Park Ontario Laura Phillips (filled)  
July 22 Sunday 11th Annual **Fossil Hunt\*\*\*** Arkona Ontario Jim Gilfix (734)-513-9460  
July 27-29 **Canoe Trip** Manistee River Grayling Tom Oloffo (313) 386-0057

## August (preview)

Aug 7 Tuesday **General Membership Meeting** Colony Hall Leslie Cordova (248) 547-5626  
Aug 10-12 **Rock Climbing** Rattlesnake Park Ontario Laura Albin (517) 324-0564, albinlau@msu.edu  
Aug 10-12 **Mammoth Caves Crawl** Mammoth Caves, KY Karen Bates lady\_musher@yahoo.com (filled)  
Aug 24-26 Deirance 11th Annual **Canoe Outing** Hale, M Dave Deirance (517) 552-3660

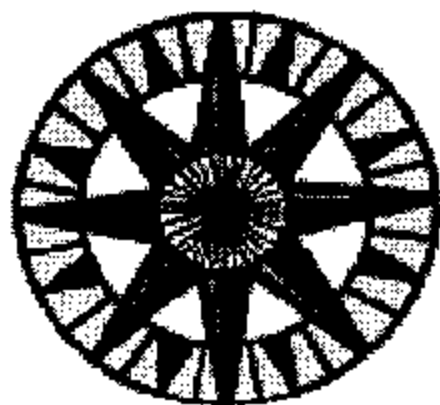
## Fall (for the long-term planners)

Sept. 4 Tuesday **General Membership Meeting** Colony Hall Leslie Cordova (248) 547-5626  
Sept 7-9 **Rock Climbing** Rattlesnake Park Ontario Laura Albin (517) 324-0564, albinlau@msu.edu  
Oct. 26-28 **Horseback Halloween Party** Double JJ Ranch Rothbury Lisa Boose (248) 358-5330

**\*\*KAYAKING 101** is a monthly presentation on the 3rd Wednesday of each month for beginning to seasoned paddlers. Starting June 8, 2nd and 4th Fridays will be a scheduled paddle at different locations. For more information please call Larry Dunn at EMS 248.932.5953 or Alan Heavner at Heavner Canoe Rentals, Milford 248.685.2379.

**\*\*\*** Denotes NCN-SOLAR activity (SOLAR will not be held responsible for this activity, On calendar for informational purposes only). If you would like to plan / lead a SOLAR activity, contact Pam Riehl 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



## **June 6 - 7**

# **UTM GRID AND** **DECLINATION CLASS**

**Location-Benchmark**  
**248-477-8116**

**32715 Grand River, Farmington**  
**June 6<sup>th</sup> @ six-thirty p.m.**  
**June 7<sup>th</sup> @ six-thirty p.m.**  
**\$7 covers both days**

**Prerequisites: Graduate of**  
**Beginning Backpacking OR Land**  
**Navigation Class OR Map &**  
**Compass reading experience**  
**(Please note people with little or**  
**no map reading experience are**  
**not qualified for this class)**

Attention fellow map readers: Here is an opportunity to learn or even brush up on utm grid and declination. The class is geared towards the more experienced map and compass readers.

Topics include The Three Norths; Drawing UTM grids on USGS maps; Universal Transverse Mercator Grid; Programming GPS for UTM systems; basic cross-country navigation; geomagnetic reference fields on the internet.

You will need a base plate/protractor-type compass, ruler, pen/pencil and paper.

Contact Peggy Medved for questions - 248-390-3969

## **Review of Wildflower Hike and Kite fly**

On May 5 I met a number of Solar-ites at the Nature Center at Kersington. We toured the nature center then went for an hour-long hike around the lake. We saw many types of flowers including tons of Trillium, violets, May apples, wild geranium, buttercup and Jack in the pulpit.

We also saw a couple of deer on the trail, including one, which came right up to us to sniff an apple. Unfortunately the only apple I had was a balloon apple, and it seemed to sense this and moved away, but not before I got the photo, which may appear in later Solar Rays. We had a nice picnic as someone brought a grill with all the fixings. The kite fly was short, but we did get the kites in the air for a while. We wanted to go to the Farm area to see them shoeing the horses.

All in all it was a fun day. I want to thank all those who showed up, those who brought food and for not listening to those who said we wouldn't see any wild flowers. We did.

--Jim Gilfix

## Archaeology Digs June 16-17, July 21-22

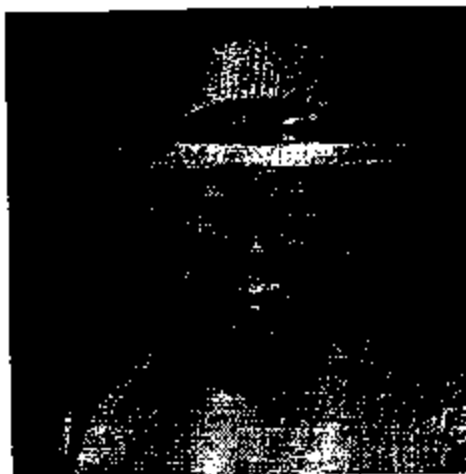
Only a couple Solarites have experienced an archaeological dig, but that's about to change. This summer, SOLAR is going to a nearby school to learn about the fascinating world of archaeological field work. The two-day school is an excellent introduction for enthusiastic amateurs to learn to do field and lab work and find out about volunteer opportunities. It's like going to college and majoring in archaeology, without all the fuss.

Our scientific curiosities will take us to the Crawford Lake area in southern Ontario. The Rife Site was a network of Iroquois villages occupied about 550 years ago right before European contact. The archaeologists have recreated one of these villages complete with long houses. Many beautiful things have been found there, such as intricate combs carved of elk antlers and arrowheads, knives, pots, and tools. Two years ago, a volunteer found a 4,000-year-old bone needle for lacing snowshoes (the Iroquois who found it must have dug it up and kept it as an ancient curiosity!)

The Rife Site is near Campbellville, Ontario on the Bruce Trail. We'll camp at Rattlesnake Park, where many of us have been rock climbing. The cost is adults - \$160 (including 2 lunches and Saturday BBQ) plus camping, and children over 8 are welcome for \$110. We will arrive Friday night and leave Sunday at 5.

SOLAR's response has been great, but overwhelming; the archaeologist has had second thoughts and limited sign-ups to 15 people per weekend. Thus as of mid-May there are 5 spots left on the June trip and 1 spot left on the July trip. For more information email [Laura4991@prodigy.net](mailto:Laura4991@prodigy.net) or call home (810) 446-1123. Find more at the official site, [www.uwo.ca/museum/expeditions/rife/rife\\_intro.html](http://www.uwo.ca/museum/expeditions/rife/rife_intro.html) or the website of ArchaeoExpeditions, an adventure guide service that runs trips to Rife & international destinations, <http://www.interimpact.com/expeditions/exped.html>.

—Laura Phillips



### June's Featured Speaker

Dr. William Finlayson, an archaeologist at the London (Ontario) Museum of Archaeology for 27 years, will join us at our June Solar meeting. He will be our teacher for this summer's two field schools. He has devoted his studies to the excavation and study of Iroquois sites in Ontario. He wrote a book chronicling his work in the area titled "Iroquoian Peoples of the Land of Rocks and Water, A.D. 1000-1650: A Study in Settlement Archaeology," for sale on amazon.com. Dr. Finlayson is Lawson Professor of Canadian Archaeology at The University of Western Ontario and former Director-General of the London Museum of Archaeology, a University affiliate. While focusing his research on the Crawford Lake area, he also directed 2 of the largest salvage/rescue archaeological projects in southern Ontario. He has also worked extensively on the application of computer techniques to archaeology.

Dr. Finlayson's talk will be entitled "The Crawford Lake Story: Digging into Ontario Archaeology". This will review his 32-year study of the occupation of the Crawford Lake area by Iroquoian peoples from A.D. 1000 - 1650, with highlights of past excavations at the Metate site, an early historic Neutral village occupied about A.D. 1550 which will be the location of the field schools in June and July.

## Field Trip to Fossil Hunt July 22

This is a trip I began doing when I was new to SOLAR and it has really caught on. This is its 11<sup>th</sup> year. Each year it becomes bigger and better, if that's possible. It has evolved into a good family outing and a good trip to bring friends and neighbors on, so they do not need to be SOLAR members to go. Last year over 24 adults and over 28 kids went. "If you do not like kids, do not go on this trip." The kids run all over the place (and have a great time). But if you do not have kids come anyhow. Us adults also have a blast.

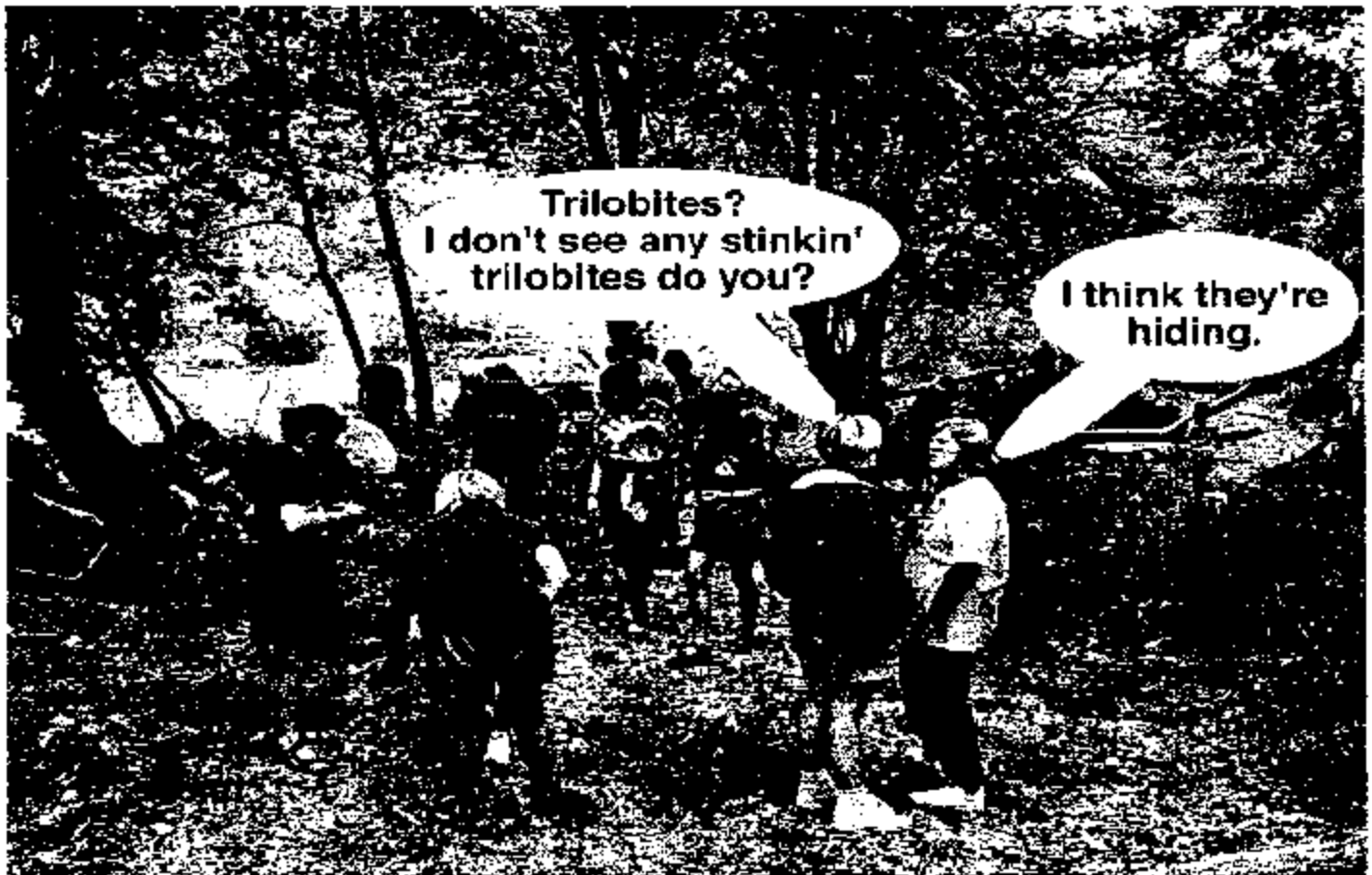
What do we do? We look around their museum, hike on nature trails, see butterflies, take pictures, look for and find tons of fossils (please limit what you take home to just a few). We eat a big lunch (potluck style), take a dip under a 35-foot waterfall, hike the creek, swim and generally play, laugh and relax.

What to bring: happy attitude, pot luck lunch, your own drinks, swim suit, shoes that can get wet (sandals or old tennis shoes work best—hiking boots not needed), a waterproof camera, sun gunk, playful spirit, towel, clothes to change into for your ride home.

This trip goes rain or shine! The weather is often very different there than it is in Detroit.

Directions from Detroit: Go to Port Huron (do not cross into Canada at Windsor). Take Highway 402 east to exit 44 and go left/north. You are now on 7/79. The road goes north then makes a sharp turn to the right/east then another sharp turn toward the town of Arkona. Just beyond the town turn right to Rock Glen Conservation Area. We will meet at their museum at 11 a.m. It's about a 2.5-hour drive from the Detroit area.

For more information contact Jim Giffix at 734-513-9160.



Solarites enjoy Fossil Hunt 2000

-John Searight

## Paddle like a pro June 23

SOLAR's canoe paddling class is June 23 from 10 to 1 at the Island Lake Recreation Area. For only \$15, SOLAR will teach you to go forward, backward, to the right or to the left. By the time you're done, you'll be able to steer that canoe as though paddling to the strum of a banjo. The fee covers 1/2 a canoe, a PFD (life jacket), a basic paddling workbook, lemonade and iced tea, and lots of different paddles to try.

You'll still be able to make it to the SOLAR anniversary BBQ, which doesn't start until 4. Sign up at the June meeting or contact Larry Martin, 734-459-4500 (office) or 734-591-3856 (home).

### CLASSIFIED

For Sale: 1993 Iron Horse  
diesel boat from 1999. For  
under \$1000. Boat has 150  
hp. Under 1000 hours of which  
were mostly. German boat.  
Huge plus: includes paddle  
and 1000 gal. fuel tank (not  
used). For more info call  
734-459-4500 or  
734-591-3856.

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734-459-4500 or  
734-591-3856.

## National Trails Day June 9

HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
SOS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Trails Day is coming up this June 9th!

I am in NEED of volunteers to help out with restoring the trails that  
us hikers use every day! The work will be mostly trail maintenance,  
clearing some 'invasive' shrubs and blocking off some unofficial trails.  
It's a good way to give back to the community for all those times we  
used them, yet most of all, they were there for us to use.

This is a ONE TIME per year event, put on by REI and Solar!

The event is going to take place on June 9th Between 10am - 1pm  
at Stoney Creek.

**PLEASE HELP MAKE OUR PARKS BEAUTIFUL FOR  
EVERYONE, INCLUDING OURSELVES TO ENJOY!!!**

Please R.S.V.P. me if you can help out! Thank You :)

Peggy Medved

For more info e-mail me @ Meddssy@wyager.net

Phone # (248) 390-3969

## New outdoors site

There is a new website, www.Meet-Outdoors.com, designed to help people meet other people interested in the outdoors! Through my activities and classes, many people had asked me where to meet people that like to do a certain activity. There was never a good answer, so we created one! If you know someone who would be interested, please pass this information on to them. There is a link to www.Meet-Outdoors.com on the Solar website under links! If you ARE interested, more information can be found on the News and Help pages of www.Meet-Outdoors.com. Here are a few great features:

- It is Outdoor based. We have found no other sites tailored to outdoor activities and lifestyles. For completeness, we have also included common activities such as billiards and darts.
- The ability to enter, and search, both interests and interest levels! Even if you only watch an activity
- Drill down into database members by location by interest to find local members with your interests
- No annoying pop-up window advertising.
- Safety of your personal information, no members will ever see your name, street address, or e-mail address.
- Anonymous e-mail to other members. You have complete control of revealing your information to other members!
- Anonymous e-mail messages are sent to you through the e-mail address you specify in your account profile. This means that you do not have to log back in to the site to check to see if you have any new messages!
- Multiple searches are available with varying levels of complexity. From searching by a handle, to searching by specific interests with specific interest levels. You can pick and use whichever search best meets your needs!
- A hot list and an ignore list to track people you want to correspond with, and to specify which users you do not want to receive e-mails from.
- Convenient and easy navigation; intuitive user interface.
- Robust enough to help you find a pen pal, a friend, an activity (training) partner, or a relationship!
- Convenient control of all personal contact, personal information, photo, interests and interest levels, and account information from separate sections under the update page.
- An easy way to send referrals to other members. If you have completed filling out your account, all you have to do is type in the e-mail address.

We handle everything else for you! We hope these features interest you and you give us a chance to help you! See you at www.Meet-Outdoors.com!

Take care,  
A.J. Pastula

# Canoe the beautiful Manistee River July 27 - 29

Come join me & 29 fellow Solarites for a fun-filled weekend of sun and water on the beautiful Manistee River just west of Grayling. We will be doing a 4.5-hour canoe trip on Saturday, July 28. The cost for canoeing and camping is only \$25! (if they haven't changed the fees from last year)

We will be camping out at the Upper Manistee River Campground; this is a rustic (no flush toilets or electricity) campground with 20 walk-in sites, which means you will have to carry your gear a short distance so bring a wagon. We will stop at the campground for lunch while canoeing. Due to the hopefully HOT weather there will be no potluck so you are responsible for your own food. Since this is a state forest campground please try to arrive early Friday (I can't save 20 sites). The campground very rarely fills so it shouldn't be a problem.

Other activities in the area include Hartwick Pines, Grayling fish hatchery (catch your own trout for dinner) and last but not least the start of the annual Grayling to Oscoda canoe race Saturday night.

For more information call me at 313-386-0057 or email [mcmountainman@yahoo.com](mailto:mcmountainman@yahoo.com).

-- Tom Oloffo

## FREE GEAR!

### **SOLAR has a chance in the Backpacker Magazine Contest**

Backpacker Magazine is having an online contest where you can record "bag nights" (nights spent in sleeping bag) for the year. They are **GIVING AWAY GEAR**. But more importantly, you can associate the "bag nights" with an organization. Dozens of them, ranging from the Boy Scouts to the Marines to outfitter stores, have already registered. I added "S.O.L.A.R. - Southfield, MI" to the list. As of May 14, we already passed up REI and entered the top 20 on the list. As of May 20, SOLAR logged a whopping 118 bag nights, putting us in the top ten in the nation! Here's how to help out:

1. Go to [http://www.backpacker.com/bag\\_nights\\_error/1.3508.00.html](http://www.backpacker.com/bag_nights_error/1.3508.00.html).
2. Select the "register today" option link near the bottom of the page.
3. Input the requested information to create your account.
4. From then on out, you can log in to the [www.backpacker.com](http://www.backpacker.com) site by clicking login near the top of the page.
5. Once logged in, click on the "Your bag nights" link near the top of the page to enter/view bag nights.

#### Hints:

1. When on any "Bag nights" page, the dropdown list in the yellow "GOM" box will allow you to view organization and other types of summaries.
2. The "Edit and view my bag nights" link at the bottom of the "My bag nights" and other pages will allow you to see a summary of your nights and correct any errors.
3. Clicking the "Remember my..." checkbox during login will log you in automatically when you visit the page after that. Click logout on the top to turn "Remember my..." off.

The club has so many members that we should be able to stay near the top of the list. I think it would be fun for the club to get noticed on a national level. If you agree, please join in the effort. For more info email me at [CyberNomad@backpacker.com](mailto:CyberNomad@backpacker.com)

—Karl Overheul

## RATTLESNAKE WEEKEND REVIEW

On May 11 I spontaneously decided to take a little vacation with the SOLAR climbing class, and off we were on our way to a place called Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area, just outside Toronto. Elsa & I found our way there just in time to sample everybody's dinner. "Perfect timing!" So what does a non-climber do at Rattlesnake Point? Well, Elsa & I went to Burlington, on Lake Ontario, and discovered a beautiful city which had managed to keep its small town charm and people that were diverse and friendly – unlike our neighbors in the next campsite, who had laid claim to, of all things, "The Outhouse." Now I thought "The Outhouse Classic" was in the U.P. But this guy thought different, as he gave us hours of entertainment.

I spent some time observing our group as an inquisitive outsider and found SOLAR's climbing class (directed by Laura Albin) to be extremely competent. The instructors' attitudes were professional and encouraging. All the basics were covered in depth, to a point that all the students will enjoy this sport with a long safety record. And I'm sure that whatever gym or mountain they approach, they will win the immediate respect of veteran climbers there. Happy trails!

-Mark Mirzorian



Rick Waller and Mary Boomer set up an anchor system.

Below left - Denise Kordie, Joan Tobin, and Jacob Sams.

Below right - Peggy Medved.





## Congrats new SOLAR Board Members

First I would like to thank all of the steering committee members who decided not to run for re-election. They have put in a lot of time and energy over the years to help ensure that the SOLAR club continues to run smoothly. They are: Laura Albin - Bylaws, Teri Simonds - Public Relations, David Foerster - Programs, John Fedyk - Historian, and Ted Huff - Secretary.

Congratulations to your new steering committee:

Leslie Cordova - President

Tom Oloffo - Vice-President

John Simonds - Secretary

John Moffat - Treasurer

Pam Riehl - Activities

Amy Fedyk - Programs

Harry Price - Education

Denise Kordie - Historian

Laura Phillips - SOLAR Ray Editor

Mary Price - Membership

Gloria Fontaine - Bylaws

Peggy Medved - Publicity

Carol McCrie - Equipment

Roger James - Webmaster

Please feel free to congratulate everyone on their new steering committee positions.

—Leslie Cordova

## Adventure race volunteers needed

Hello SOLAR members! We need your help! We are looking for volunteers to help us with the 2001 S.K.A.R.E. Adventure Race. The S.K.A.R.E. (Scenic Keweenaw Adventure Racing Experience) will be a 36 hour race hosted at the new ski resort Mount Bohemia in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It will be a great opportunity to experience a larger race first hand; and for those who haven't been there, the Upper Peninsula is incredibly beautiful.

Volunteering is a great way to learn about what is involved with a longer race, and to help cheer on the competitors. We are looking for people to help with registration, setup, control points, medical staff, and possibly to help with search and rescue. Obviously, some of these positions (medical as well as search and rescue) will depend on your background. The race is Saturday July 28th through Sunday July 29th. We will need volunteers from Friday the 27th through Sunday the 29th, but that doesn't mean you have to devote the entire time there. It would be great if you could stay the weekend, but if you can't, let us know when you can help! We appreciate any help you can give!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Tim Morley by e-mail at [tim@mich-adventure.com](mailto:tim@mich-adventure.com), or contact me, Adam 'A.J.' Pastula at [aj@mich-adventure.com](mailto:aj@mich-adventure.com). You can find out more details about us and our race at [www.Mich-Adventure.com](http://www.Mich-Adventure.com)

Thank you!  
A.J. Pastula

## SOLAR JOURNEY TO THE FIRST NATIONAL PARK - YELLOWSTONE

This summer, you have the opportunity to spend 2 weeks in Yellowstone National Park. [I introduced this trip to the Club at the May meeting.] The SOLAR group will leave on 25 August and return on or before 9 September, a period that spans Labor Day. Yellowstone is wilderness offering vast, beautiful landscapes and dramatic geysers. It is a fine place to see every major mammal species that has inhabited the northern mountains and high plains, including elk, antelope, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, wolf, and bear.

The goal of the trip is to hike and camp in the backcountry and explore the Park's many different biomes. Most trails change elevation gradually, and climbs are short. Between hikes, we will tour the tourist sites including the geyser basins. Park campgrounds offer shopping and cleaning, so the hikers can resupply without even leaving the Park.

The Park is mostly rolling, high country, a plateau that once was a volcanic caldera. The plateau has elevations from 7500-8500 feet with mountain peaks from 10,000 to 11,000 feet. Rivers and lakes, forests and grasslands provide great variety for hikers. Geysers and waterfalls are frequent in the backcountry, seldom visited by anyone but the occasional hiker. At this time of year, bugs are not a problem and the weather is normally dry and cool. The tourist hordes are gone.

Most people thinking of Yellowstone have visions of geysers and grizzlies, both powerful and rare. There are a few dangers here, as in backcountry anywhere. We shall prepare for camping in bear country by learning how to set up a safe camp, and generally will be hiking in groups of 4 or more. The groups can use adjacent campsites along the trails.

So far, 12 people are committed to go, most flying to Montana. We intend to have our second meeting in early June to discuss gear and food and trails to use. There is no limit to how many may join us, and the deadline to sign up is 1 August. I am not collecting money. Decide soon and buy cheaper tickets, but try to coincide your travel with others so it is easier to get to and from the Park. Airline and rail tickets both cost around \$400. We can share the costs of rental cars.

For more information, see me at the next SOLAR meetings. I have handouts to give you and will be happy to answer your questions.

—Rob Mair

## **WANTED: GEAR TESTERS - NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**

A funny thing happened on the flight from Amsterdam to Detroit in March. Gene and Leslie Cordova and Maria Edwards just happened to be sitting near Gianpietro Beltramello, the President of Gabel Group, an Italian trekking pole manufacturer. We began a simple conversation, eventually mentioning the SOLAR club. Well, to come right to the point, Mr. Beltramello has shipped numerous pairs of very nice looking, higher end trekking poles that he would like our club to demo. The only catch is that he wants feedback on the poles, so if you agree to be a gear tester, you will also be expected to fill out a brief questionnaire.

According to Mr. Beltramello: "Try to have them used by all kinds of people, all ages and all skills. Some of the features include: A.I.C.S. (Anti-Impact-Cushion-System), which is a urethane-foam-spring that absorbs vibration, specially dedicated for long use of the poles during the day. Another interesting and exclusive item is the FLS (Fit-Link-System). This is a 3D strap, which should improve performance during use." These trekking poles are available in the United States and are sold by Suunto USA.

So, are you planning a backpack or hiking trip in Michigan this summer? How about out west, or are you lucky enough to go out of the country this year? Take a set of trekking poles with you.

Sound like something you would be interested in? Call or e-mail Leslie at (248) 547-5626 or [lesliecenco@aol.com](mailto:lesliecenco@aol.com). A fully refundable deposit of \$50 is required.

## **Solar Descends on Bay City State Park**

If you missed it, you missed a great time! About 25 of us spent the most beautiful weekend of 2001 hiking, biking, bird watching, wildflower identifying, star gazing, playing Frisbee and/or Euchre, canoeing, kayaking, mellowing-out and of course eating, a Solar specialty. People did their own thing. The 6-mile plus loop through the marsh was traversed multiple times by bikers, hikers and bird and wildflower enthusiasts the latter of the two having a lot to check out. I didn't do any birding, so if you want to know what was "seen" you'll have to check with the trip leader, Doug Lanyk. And if I had done some serious wildflower identifying I could tell you more there too, but I was more into exercise. Doug did point out that there were Pink Ladies Slippers along the trail, which I did see and are one of my favorite wildflowers. The woods were rampant with wild geranium also. The trail is fun to ride as it winds through the cool woods and over a series of wooden bridges.

After everyone had their fill of their chosen activity on Saturday, we had the traditional potluck. Once again I was amazed at what can be conjured up on a camp cook stove. Afterwards there was a presentation at the nature center on astronomy and that's where I went. There were mini-talks on the heavenly bodies, telescopes and how to read a star chart. When the talks were over there were telescopes set-up outside pointed to points of interest in the night sky. Those who didn't attend the talks just relaxed by another Solar specialty - the evening bonfire. Sunday morning Doug provided brunch with more camp stove delicacies including shrimp scampi. Once again I grazed my way through the courses and then most people hit the trails and waterways to enjoy the second gorgeous day before heading home. Like I said earlier, if you missed it, you missed a great time. All our thanks to Doug for the time he invested and trip-planning talents that made it easy for the rest of us.

- Nancy Day

## **Who Won the LASER CHALLENGE?**

### **Was it the SKIWI's or the SOLAR Club?**

It was a beautiful sunny day on Saturday, April 7, and we had 24 out of 30 warriors show up to play inside. With our code names in our minds we walked up and entered it into the computer. This year I, Jeff Enterkin, played on the SOLAR team. Game ONE was everyone for themselves -- no teams. This way the ones who never played before can get used to the game room. We exited the game room to see who the top three warriors were: 1st Jeff Enterkin, 2nd David Foerster, and 3rd Mike Ameel. Game TWO. Teams. SKIWI vs SOLAR. You knew your teammate by the flashing color on your vest - RED or GREEN. The battles was fierce. The Skiwis had a good hold of one of the towers. The victors where the SKIWI's with a score of 2546. SOLAR had 2479. But I will say that one of the Solar guns wasn't working right. The top three ranking warriors were 1st Kevin Ng (Skiwi), 2nd Jeff Enterkin (Solar), and 3rd Mike Goatley (Skiwi). Game THREE. Teams. This time SOLAR won with a score of 3451 - 2808. The top three ranking shooters are 1st Leslie Cordova from the Solar team, 2nd Mike Goatley from the Skiwi's team, and 3rd Jeff Enterkin from the Solar team. We all had a great time. Until the next challenge... Be ready.

- Jeff Enterkin

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SOLAR DAYS:

Friday, June 8

Saturday, July 7

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## SOLAR Steering Committee

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	Steve Gardner
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	Doug Lanyk
	Larry Martin
	Joan Ryan
	Joan & Bob
	Westbrook

The SOLAR Club publishes the SOLAR RAY once a month for free to current dues-paid members. All contributions (trip reports, upcoming events, photos and articles) must be received no later than 2 weeks before the next SOLAR meeting. Send them to:

By email: [Laura4991@prodigy.net](mailto:Laura4991@prodigy.net) (preferred - no, Strongly Preferred - Please send only Word attachments)

By mail: Laura Phillips, 31631 Fairfield, Warren MI 48093

Check out SOLAR on the World Wide Web

[www.solaroutdoors.com](http://www.solaroutdoors.com)

[www.solaroutdoors.org](http://www.solaroutdoors.org)

Monthly meeting location: Join us at the Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen (between 8 and 9 Mile Roads) in Southfield at 7:30 p.m. Visitors can come for FREE. Membership dues are:

Individuals - \$30 a year / \$150 lifetime

Families - \$45 a year / \$225 lifetime

Meetings are held the first Tuesday each month, BUT this July, the holiday interferes with that custom and instead, SOLAR will hold its July meeting on Monday, July 9.

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 \$30 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  
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