

The SOLAR RAY

OCTOBER 2001

Introducing Southeast Michigan to the Outdoors since 1976

October Program -- Angles of Yosemite from the Rock -- Tue. 10/2

Rick Waller, Solar member and rock-climbing enthusiast, will be presenting a slide show for the October program. Recently, Rick traveled to Yosemite and the Tahoe area and did some awesome climbs. Yosemite is gorgeous from the hiking trails--come and see it from a rock climber's perspective! He is an award-winning photographer (if you saw his picture of Elsa the dog docket out in rock climbing gear, you knew his talent) and is sure to put on a terrific show!

--Amy Fedyk

SOLAR POISED TO SEIZE THIRD PLACE IN BACKPACKER CONTEST

SOLAR is inching upward in the Backpacker Magazine's Bag Night Challenge. As of mid-September, SOLAR enjoyed a very solid lead over the fifth-place group, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and SOLAR is quickly gaining on the third-place organization, the Robert Land Academy. Those SOLAR members who have mastered the Backpacker website have logged 793 bag nights altogether.

Some other interesting groups that have made the list are the Girl Scouts (in 12th place with 285 bag nights); the Michigan Backpackers (in 28th place with 106 bag nights); the Great Lakes Hikes e-group (in 30th place with 95 bag nights); the Ferris State Hikers (tied for 102nd place with 24 bag nights); the Polish-American Adventure Travel Club in Michigan (tied for 139th place with 15 bag nights); and the Michigan Mountaineers (tied for 149th place with 14 bag nights).

Remember -- the winners of the contest receive free gear! If SOLAR wins some gear, we can add it to our burgeoning collection of backpacking paraphernalia for all SOLAR members to enjoy including you! So log your nights for SOLAR at www.backpacker.com.

--Laura Phillips

Bag Night Totals (as of 9-12-01)

1. Boy Scouts of America	8446
2. BSA Venturing Crew	946
3. Robert Land Academy	821
4. S.O.L.A.R. - Southfield, MI	793
5. Appalachian Mountain Club	572
6. United States Army	569
7. National Outdoor Leadership School	436
8. Sierra Club	427
9. Appalachian Trail Conference	372
10. Backpacker	348

PRIMITIVE SKILLS WEEKEND NOV. 30 - DEC. 2

Have you always wanted to learn primitive skills but didn't know where to start? Join us to learn some of the basic foundational skills. Build your confidence and self-sufficiency in the woods without gadgets and expensive gear.

Planned topics thus far include: Debris shelter, edible plants, primitive navigation, bow drill/fire making, cordage, water usage with paper containers and solar still (non-alcoholic!), coal burning containers, and flint knapping.

Spots are limited to 15 students. We'll be staying at Burns Cabin #2 at Waterloo Recreation Area from Friday 11/30 to Sunday 12/2. For more information, contact Glen or Catherine Krueger at (810) 774-9697 or e-mail gkruger11@home.com.

--Catherine Krueger

SOLAR CALENDAR

Oct. 2 General Membership Meeting

Colony Hall, Leslie Cordova (248) 547-5626

Oct. 6 Archaeology Workshop ***

Waterloo Rec Area Laura Phillips (248) 446-8920

Oct. 6 Canoe Color Tour for a Cause ***

Howell Nature Center, 517.546.0677

Oct. 19-21 Hiking etc. at Hocking Hills, Ohio

Peggy Medved, (248) 390-3969

Oct. 19-21 10th Annual Bald Mountain Halloween Weekend

Lisa Boose

(248) 358-5330

Oct. 26-28 Horseback Halloween Party

Double JJ Ranch Rothbury

Lisa Boose

(248) 358-5330

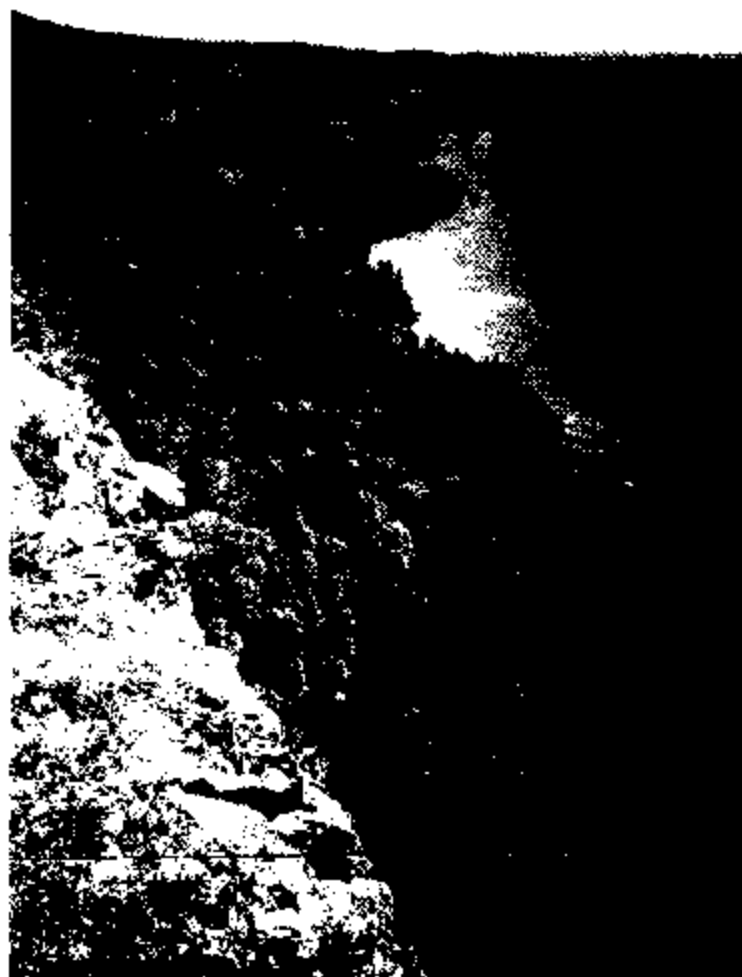
If you would like to plan / lead a SOLAR activity, contact Pam Rical at paricd11@netscape.net or solaractivities@actscape.net.

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

♪ ♪ ♪

*Dance as if no one were watching,
sing as if no one were listening,
and live every day as if it were your last.*

--Irish proverb



MAJESTIC KEEWENAW

Adam Pastula shares his photo of the spectacular scenery of Lake Superior from Bear Bluff. This is the view from the top of a 250-foot rappel taken during July's SMAC adventure race. SOLAR returned to the breathtaking scenery of the Upper Peninsula in the last weekend of September for this fall's backpacking class at the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore so watch the Ray for more spectacular Michigan landscapes.

Double JJ Horseback Riding Weekend

This is SOLAR's second annual Halloween Weekend git-a-way. We've got a great block of rooms along the main strip where all the action takes place Saturday night. For only \$261 per person, you get two nights at the Adult Exclusive Ranch, meals Saturday and Sunday, at LEAST one hour of horseback riding (pretty much unlimited riding if you show up at every ride time) for every level Saturday and Sunday, a hayride to a haunted barn, corn roast, d.j. dancing, mechanical bull, Saturday night Halloween trick or treat on the Ranch where we go door-to-door for shots and such, all followed by an MC Dance Party with contests. There's so many activities to choose from you will never get bored and will definitely want to come back year after year. I have a pre-trip party planned for Saturday, October 13 to go over carpooling arrangements, share costume ideas, decorations for our cabins and of course, tasting the treats we will bring. **I've got an additional 5 spots left, and payment is due in full**, so rope up a friend, wrangle up some cash, and brand your spot now! I guarantee you will have a great time! For details, call me @ 248-358-5330 during the day, 248-738-4867 evenings.

--Lisa Boose

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10th Annual Bald Mountain Halloween Potluck Oct. 20

For all adults who are accompanied by a child
Come join us for a night of fright in the wild

Arrive on Saturday, preferably by 4

With a dish to pass, a costume, & some Halloween lore

You'll be part of our potluck & your kids will get to rate

The pumpkins we have carved, from silliest to great

Your kids will also get their chance to win

By participating in our costume contest, right after cin

So if this sounds like fun, and let me assure you it is

Give me \$5, so I can take care of the details and other biz

Call me for details, or a great time you will mizzzz...

Lisa 248-358-5330 (day) or 248-738-4867 (eve)

--Lisa Boose

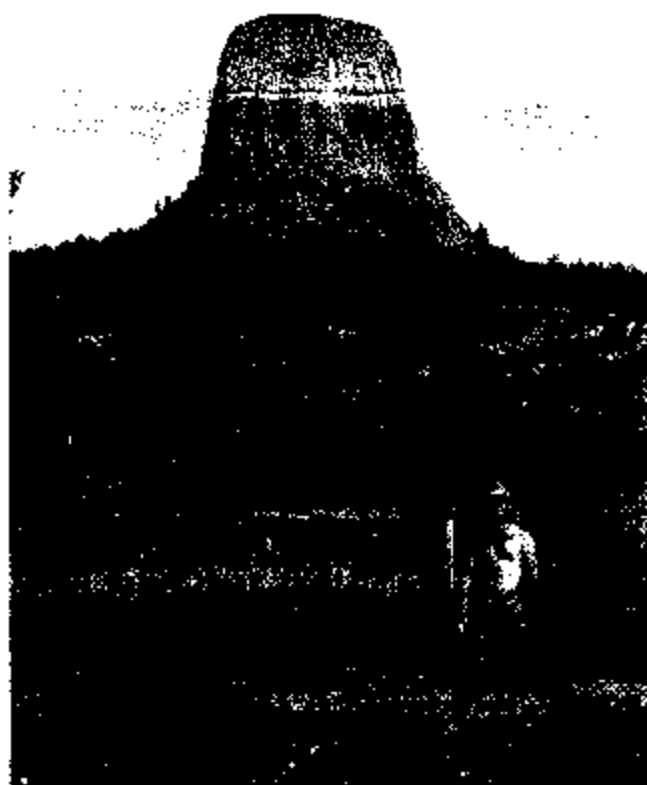
SOLAR's Intro to Mountaineering Class

If you have ever had a desire to climb mountains, but didn't know where to start, here is your opportunity. This winter, SOLAR will offer a mountaineering class, where you can learn the basic skills necessary to climb and trek safely on glaciated terrain -- crevasse rescue, ice axe use, avalanche safety, roped glacier travel, gear selection, health, safety techniques, and more....

The class will be offered in December and January. We will have an optional climb for those who graduate.

For more information contact me at:
mike35climbs@aol.com or call 1-248-417-4256.

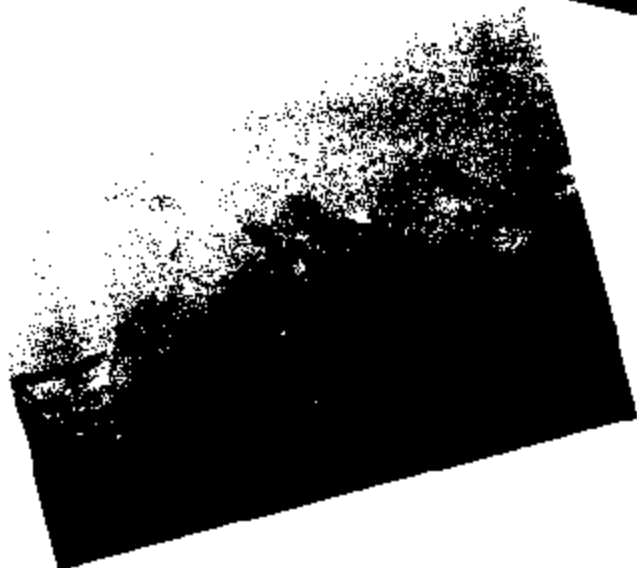
--Mike Backus



SHOTS FROM THE WEST Some spectacular photos of SOLAR's western excursion to Yellowstone National Park in late August are already trickling back. Thanks to Karl Overheu for sharing some great photos of SOLARites in action.

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Archaeology Workshop Oct. 6

If you're interested in learning more about archaeology, the Michigan Archaeological Society is having a one-day workshop on October 6 at the Gerald Eddy Discovery Center in the Waterloo Recreation Area (near Chelsea). Registration by Sept. 27 is required, so call soon. The day-long event is sponsored by the Archaeological Society's Huron Valley Chapter.

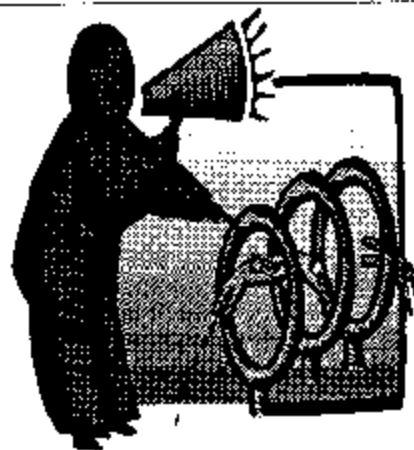
The program is only \$10 and includes lunch (or \$5 without lunch). Three great speakers from the University of Michigan are scheduled along with excellent hands-on demonstrations. The day will include:

- ☛ A lecture about the geological background of prehistoric settlements in Michigan
- ☛ A lecture about the first humans in North America
- ☛ A lecture about Paleo-Indian occupation in Michigan
- ☛ Demonstration activities including flint knapping; natural hide tanning; atlatl throwing; primitive firemaking; and primitive plant uses.

By the way, the Huron Valley Chapter of M.A.S. has regular meetings in Ann Arbor that include guest speakers, as well as volunteer projects related to archaeology.

For more information, call me at work, 248 357 3910 (I am planning to go) or call the Society, 517-456-6128 for a registration packet.

--Laura Phillips



SOLAR RAY DEADLINES

- ☛ November Issue ... October 21
- ☛ December Issue... November 18
- ☛ January Issue... December 16

CANOE FOR A CAUSE OCT. 6

On October 6th Howell Nature Center is holding a fundraiser for its 'Wild Wonders' project, the development of natural habitats for the injured wildlife that is rehabilitated at their facility. The event, supported by Heavner Canoe Rental in Milford and Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, includes a canoe/kayak fall color tour along the Huron River, hayride, tour of the Kensington Farm Center and a catered barbeque lunch. Among the door prizes is a Ropes Course adventure at the Howell Nature as well as a complimentary canoe or kayak trip. Cost is \$100.

If you are unfamiliar with the Howell Conference and Nature Center and their work, please visit their site at <http://www.ismi.net/howellnature/index1.html>

The Wild Wonders project is a tremendous project, and the work they do with wildlife rehabilitation is extraordinary. In addition to private referrals, the local State Recreation Areas as well as Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority send animals found within their boundaries to the Howell center for rehabilitation. When possible the animals are nursed to health and reintroduced to the wild. For questions about this fundraiser or the Howell Conference and Nature Center, please contact Linda Barnwell, Marketing Director and Special Events Coordinator, at 517.546.0677.

Again, I appreciate your efforts to help promote this worthy cause!

--Nancy Thornton

Enjoy Michigan Winters BACKPACKING

Winter backpacking skill is not just for the winter, it is a useful back-up for the unexpected cold days in early spring and late fall. In this class we'll teach you how to keep warm & your energy level up when skiing or snow shoeing in the winter & how to build a snow shelter just in case something does go HORRIBLY WRONG on that simple 3 hr. ski trip. You can also use these skills in the summer on glaciers and snowy peaks in the Rockies, the Cascades, Alaska, or Kilimanjaro.

This class will teach you the "ins and outs" of winter camping in Michigan. The first class will be held on Dec. 13 and all other classes and practicals will be held in January & the beginning of February. The cost is \$90.00 for new students and reduced fee for past graduates who want to retake or audit the course. Pick up details at the monthly meeting.

This course is open to the graduates of the Backpacking Course, graduates of non-SOLAR backpacking courses may be admitted by special permission only. This course is the prerequisite for the Winter Survival Course. For safety reasons, the Winter Wilderness First Aid Course is highly recommended for both of these courses. With the recent warm winters keep your fingers crossed & pray for snow. To sign up or if you have any questions contact me at (313)-386-0057 or mcmountainman@yahoo.com.

--Tom Oloffo

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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 these 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

New Family Membership: \$50.00 per year

New Lifetime Membership: \$175.00

New Family Lifetime Membership: \$250.00

I trust that you will understand the financial realities which 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 President

Geocaching – the 21st Century Treasure Hunt

This is for all the Solarites who own a GPS and need an excuse to use it more often. Geocaching is a great way to start using it more. It's a treasure hunt in the 21st century. You log onto the above site, put in your zip code and it brings up the hidden caches, beginning with the closest to your home. The caches are small containers with inexpensive "treasures" inside, planted throughout the US and 60 countries by other cachers.

Many will take you to parks and other places you didn't know existed or to out of the way places in areas you do know. It's a great way to find new hiking ground. Once you log onto the site, it gives you the coordinates, which you enter into your gps, then let it take you there. Once you find it, the box will contain a log book for you to sign and various trinkets (keychains, coins, games, batteries, etc.). The rule is, if you take something, you leave something.

Some sites are themed. Two are music caches, one in Kensington, one in Stony Creek, where you take a cd, leave a cd you no longer listen to. Others will put more children's items in for families out seeking the caches. So, if you want another excuse to go out in the woods and have a gps, check out the site and start caching.

--Clayton Luccy

School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation

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
P.O. Box 2438
Southfield, MI 48307



GENE & LESLIE CORDOVA
14520 BORGMAN
OAK PARK, MI 48237

SOLAR Steering Committee

President	Leslie Cordova
Vice President	Tom Oleffo
Secretary	John Simonds
Treasurer	John Moffatt
Activities	Pam Riehl
Dy-Laws	Gloria Fontaine
Education	Harry Price
Equipment	Carol McCririe
Historian	Denise Kordie
Membership	Mary Price
Programs	Amy Fedyk
Pub. Relations	Peggy Medved
Solar Ray	Laura Phillips
Web Master	Roger James
At Large	Mike Banks
	Moe DeFrance
	Al Fylak
	Steve Gardner
	Bill Halvingis
	Cindy Harrison-Felix
	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. Submissions must be 500 words or less and must be received by the deadline. SOLAR events have priority over non-SOLAR events. Events in the next 2 months have priority over other events.

To submit by email: send to Laura4991@prodigy.net (preferred – no, Strongly Preferred – please send only Word attachments and either “JPEG” photos or actual prints, with captions and name of photographer)

By mail (sigh): Laura Phillips, 57100 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville MI 48167

Check out SOLAR on the World Wide Web

www.solaroutdoors.org

www.solaroutdoors.com

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. The club meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Membership dues are:

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

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

CELEBRATE FALL * WWW.SOLAROUTDOORS.ORG

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