



# The SOLAR RAY

February 2002

## SOLAR meets Tuesday, Feb. 5 for meeting and slide show

I will be putting on the program after the February meeting. This will be a show consisting of several music videos that I created from still photos, video clips, and some good music (well, I think so anyhow). You can see the pictures from my travels without me saying a word (or at least not many)!

The material comes from my travels out west this summer. Places visited include Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, the San Juan Mountains in Colorado, and all of the places we saw on the road (too many to list).

There is even a video from New Year's at Nordhouse this year.

I hope to see you all there for a 40-minute multi-media experience.

Karl Overheul

## Help save the Bag Night contest!!

First off, I'd like to thank all of those who made last year's competition a huge success for the club. There must be some groups out there asking "Who the heck are these SOLAR people?" With our a solid third place finish last year, I was really looking forward to seeing if we could take second this coming year (maybe even first until summer)!

Unfortunately, the folks at Backpacker have changed the contest. They have removed our ability to link our nights to an organization. The way I see it we have two options:

1. We can play the "New, improved" version of the game.
2. We can bomb them with email in hopes they change things.

I'm not generally one who's prone to strong opinions or "rocking the boat" (Yeah, right, more like tip it over...LOL), but I think we should fight to keep this thing going. I'm hoping you'll all help me make them miserable until they relent.

So here's what we need to do:

1. Go to [http://www.backpacker.com/feedback/1\\_3133\\_00.html](http://www.backpacker.com/feedback/1_3133_00.html).
2. Scroll all the way to the bottom of the page.
3. Select "Questions about the website" in the pull down list.
4. Enter your name and email address (required to submit).
5. Enter your question/comments into the box.
6. Click the "Submit Query" button.
7. Hope that they listen!!!

Thanks in advance for your help!

-Karl Overheul - [CyberNomad@backpacker.com](mailto:CyberNomad@backpacker.com)

## SOLAR's baggers

By the contest rules, "bag nights" are nights in a sleeping bag out-of-doors:

- ♦ under the stars;
- ♦ in a temporary natural shelter,
- ♦ in a tent; or,
- ♦ in exceptional cases involving a recent SOLAR wedding, on a dance floor.

Under these rules, many SOLARites racked up dozens of nights climbing mountains, backpacking through Yellowstone, and taking weekend trips throughout Michigan. Here are just some of those SOLARites who found themselves in the sack a lot.

- ♦ Gloria Fontaine - 26
- ♦ Tim Oloffe - 38
- ♦ Leslie Cordova - 43
- ♦ Gene Cordova - 45
- ♦ Pete Lamb - 52
- ♦ Doug Larys - 58
- ♦ Karl Overheul - 61
- ♦ A.J. Pastula - 116



Some others had very impressive totals, even well over 40, 50, even 70 nights, but didn't log them in the Backpacker website. Tsk, tsk.

-- Editor

## **FEBRUARY SOLAR CALENDAR**

### **Feb. 1-3 - Winter Camping Class**

Waterloo Rec Area - Tom Oloffo - [mcmountainmaro@yahoo.com](mailto:mcmountainmaro@yahoo.com)

### **Tues, Feb. 5 - SOLAR meeting**

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

### **Sat. Feb. 9 - Vasa Ski Race**

Traverse City - Jenny Carpenter - [sheerockk@cs.com](mailto:sheerockk@cs.com)

### **Feb. 9-10 Mountaineering Class**

Nordhouse Dunes - Mike Backus - 248-417-4256

### **Feb. 9-12 Dogsledding, Skiing, Snowshoeing etc.**

Rapid City - Lisa Boose - [Elbows5000@aol.com](mailto:Elbows5000@aol.com)

### **Feb. 15-17 - Dogsledding**

Algonquin Park, Ont. - Karen Bates - [Italy\\_must\\_be@yahoo.com](mailto:Italy_must_be@yahoo.com)

### **Feb. 15-18 - Skiing in Idaho**

Chip Kleinbrook - [mchip1234@aol.com](mailto:mchip1234@aol.com)

If you would like to plan/lead a SOLAR activity, contact Pam Richl at [parchie11@netscape.net](mailto:parchie11@netscape.net) or [solaractivities@netscape.net](mailto:solaractivities@netscape.net).

**SOLAR has a no-refund policy. If you can't attend, you can sell your spot to another member.**

## **SOLAR's 2002 Spring Beginning Backpacking Class**

Cost: \$100

Classes: Tuesdays, March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18

Time: 5:45 to 9 p.m.

Location: Benchmark, 32715 Grand River, Farmington

First Practical: April 13 (8 a.m.) to April 14 (3 p.m.),

Waterloo-Pinckney S.R.A.

Second Practical: May 3 (8 a.m.) to May 5 (3 p.m.),

Location TRA

This course is designed to give each student the foundation skills needed for backpacking and other outdoor pursuits. This is THE COURSE that serves as the prerequisite for much of curriculum at SOLAR. This is the first step to a lifetime of exploration, friendships and memories.

NOTE: Students will be expected to provide for their personal clothing and equipment. Students will be instructed on the selection and care of boots, clothing and gear. SOLAR has equipment that will be available to supplement the needs of the students and their student groups.

You MUST be a current SOLAR member to enroll in this course.

- Mike Banks

## **SOLAR ICE CLIMBING**

Welcome, welcome all of you interested ice gods and goddesses. I have gotten the details worked out for the weekend of March 1-3, at Montreal River, Ontario which is about one hour north of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. I have just come back from climbing there this weekend and the ice is beautiful! There are tons of climbs at Montreal River which will enable us to accommodate beginners through advanced climbers. No experience is necessary although I would recommend climbing at least once at Planet Rock if you've never climbed before. I'd be happy to meet you up there.

We will be staying at a place that overlooks Lake Superior and contains that good old climbing lodge energy. The cost of the weekend is \$220 per adult and \$110 per child which includes the following:

Lodging Friday and Saturday.

Breakfast Saturday and Sunday.

Dinner Saturday and Sunday.

All Climbing Gear

Ice Climbing Instruction

Gratuities

Lots of Fun!

(they still talk about us up there...)

Payment will be collected at the February Solar Meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 248-589-2629,

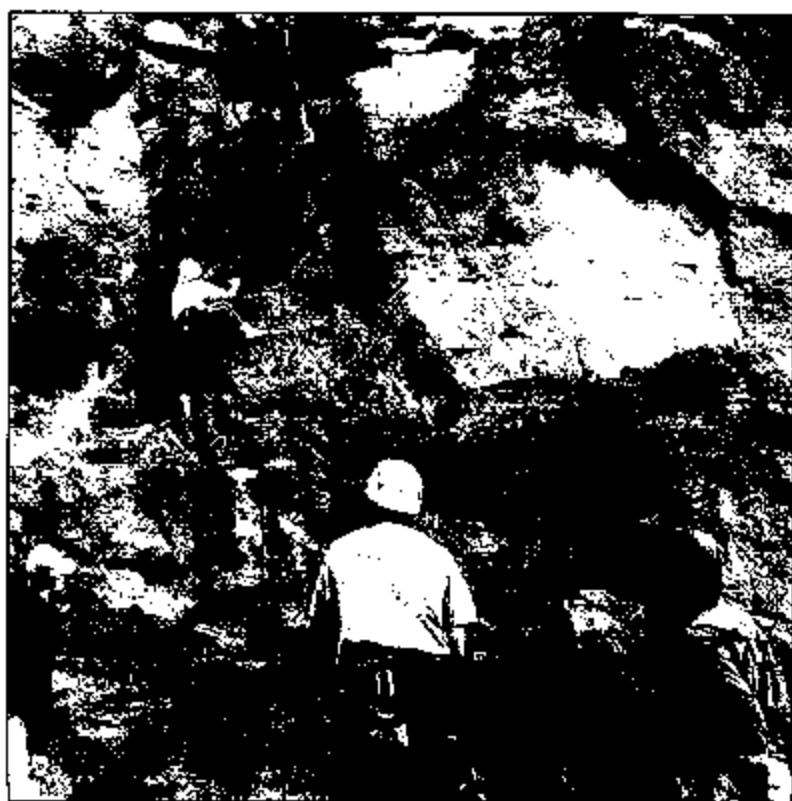
or e-mail me: [juli@mediaone.net](mailto:juli@mediaone.net).

-Juli Perrod



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# 2002 SOLAR Rock Climbing Class



*Photo. At last year's class practical, SOLARites learn how to safely belay one another up the cliffs along the Niagara Escarpment in southern Ontario. Photo by Laura James*

- Have you ever wanted to try rock climbing?
- Do you want to go outside and climb on real rock rather than plastic?
- Have you climbed before and want to learn how to hit the crags on your own?

**In the course of a few weeks, you will:**

- Learn how to safely configure a top-rope setup using natural anchors.
- Learn basic knots used in climbing.
- Safely belay others with a top-rope setup.
- Earn the ability to use club rock climbing gear at SOLAR-sponsored outings.

## Dates and Locations

April 10 - Benchmark  
 April 17 - Benchmark  
 April 24 - Benchmark  
 May 1 - Benchmark  
 May 8 - Benchmark  
 May 10-12 - Class practical  
 - location TBD

See me for details!

—Laura Albin



## **Kids Cross-Country Skiing Trip**

Bring your kids and join us for cross-country skiing at Stoney Creek Metro Park on Feb 16. The cost is just \$8 per person for 4 fun-filled hours of skiing. The \$8 includes rental of skis, boots and poles. There is an additional charge of \$3 for the park entry fee or \$15 for the yearly pass. Let's meet in the ski rental area of the golf course at 1pm. We can sk. until the kids drop and then go for dinner in beautiful downtown Utica.

Sorry, must bring a child to attend. This is a non-SOLAR event. Call if interested.

Meg Webber  
 (248) 980-3667

Email: megann34@ivillage.com



## **A reminder from your Membership Chairperson...**

Don't forget to renew your SOLAR annual membership for 2002. All 2001 memberships expired on December 31, 2001 (except new members who joined in October through December of last year).

The 2002 rates are:

\$40 for Individual  
 \$55 for Family  
 \$175 for Single Lifetime  
 \$250 for Family Lifetime



If you are unable to attend the membership general meeting, email me at [hnp@price@ameritech.net](mailto:hnp@price@ameritech.net) and I will email you the membership application form that can be filled out and returned (via snail mail) to me along with your check or money order.

Lifetime members need to fill out a membership application **each** year. Please fill out the form at the next meeting or email me requesting the form.

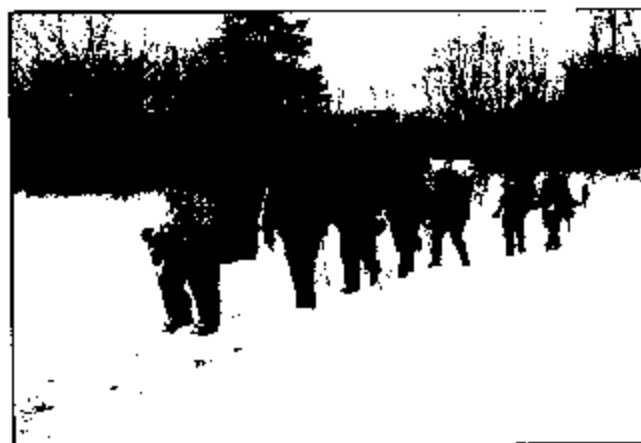
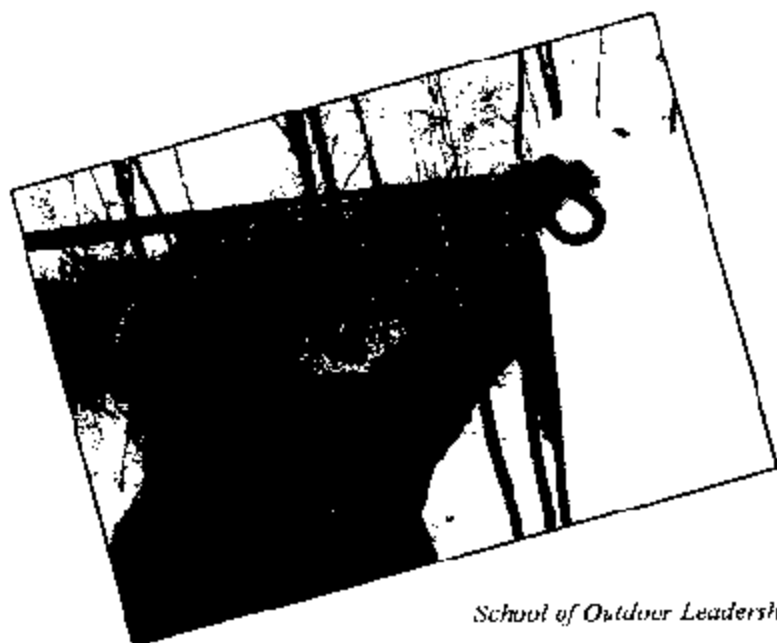
Mary Price,  
 Membership



Yes Mom, I went

## WINTER CAMPING!

SOLAR students enjoyed a weekend in the snow at Waterloo for Tom Oloffo's big birthday bash/backpacking adventure. Photos by Roger James.



- The Seven Dwarfs -

Hi Ho, Hi Ho... Off to Camp we go!

*School of Outdoor Leadership, Adventure & Recreation*

Photo taken  
by ACE  
outfitters on  
the Lower  
New River of  
Jim Gilfix and  
companions.



## SOLAR Memorial Weekend Rafting Trip

Jim Gilfix is planning a SOLAR Rafting trip on the New River in West Virginia for the Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-27, 2002. This will be a unique trip and a first, considering all the options. This will be an excellent adventure for people age 6-77, who are either new to solar, "old-timers" looking for something new, or families with Kids, looking for a fun safe trip. This trip will have the options of one of three experiences. You will choose one. The first is the Traditional Lower New River, the "Grand Canyon of the East" and will be for people age 15 and up. This is the trip Solar has sponsored for many years. The second trip will be the Kid-Friendly trip on the Upper New River. This section is suitable for beginners, kids and those wanting a more laid-back adventure. This section is rated Class I and II. There is NO chance of the boat tipping or anyone being knocked overboard. Minimum age is 6. The third trip is a new one. It is called "Team Extreme" as it is an intense and aggressive whitewater experience. It is also on the Lower New River. They use small rafts for 4 or 5 people (as opposed to 7 or 8) per raft. They provide intense instructional orientation and they encourage you to be in top physical shape. They say this is similar to the Galley in the fall, but warmer. Minimum age is 18.

All three trips will go on the same day, May 26, 2001 (Sunday). Once again we will be using ACE Adventures Company. Every raft will have a trained guide. The cost will cover rafting and all three meals that day, and camping FOR ALL THREE NIGHTS on their grounds. The cost will range from: \$85 for kids, \$160 for adults and \$200 for the "Extreme" experience (which can only be booked in groups of 4 or 5).

You can call me, Jim Gilfix at 734-513-9460 for more info. There will be a handout at the February to April Solar meetings. A \$20. Deposit is due by the March Meeting. The rest will be due at the April Meeting.

— Jim Gilfix

**New Pop Boy Needed** — Have you been looking for an opportunity to make a difference in your club? Have you wanted to try your entrepreneurial skills and provide a service to your fellow club members, at the same time? How about a fun, exciting and fulfilling part-time career in Pop Sales? Yes, you can have this opportunity of a lifetime, but don't wait, don't risk disappointment by being too late —take the plunge! There is no up-front money needed, pop sales are self-supporting.

Unfortunately, my last pop sales will be the March meeting. If you are interested, please contact right away! My phone number is 248.615.4000 and my e-mail is [ieshegene@aol.com](mailto:ieshegene@aol.com). I hope to hear from you soon!

—Gene Cordova

## 2002 Calendar

The Solar Ray will continue to provide a preview of upcoming trips in this helpful little table as they are planned.

Newly listed trips are in bold.

Trip leaders – be sure to share your plans with the Ray editor. Everyone else – remember, most trips fill very quickly, so if you're interested in going, sign up fast!

—Laura James

Dates	Trip	Location Trip	Leader	Notes
Feb. 1-3	Winter camping	Michigan	Tom Olofo	Sleep in an igloo
Feb. 9-10	Ski race	Traverse City	Jenny Carpenter	<a href="http://www.vasa.org">www.vasa.org</a>
Feb. 9-10	Mountaineering	Nordhouse Dunes	Mike Backus	Class practical
Feb. 9-12	<b>Sledding, skiing</b>	<b>Rapid River</b>	<b>Lisa Boose</b>	<b>Hiking, snowshoeing too</b>
Feb. 16	Kids Sking	Stoney Creek Pk	Meg Webber	Cross-country close to home
Feb. 15-17	Dogsledding	South River, Ont.	Karen Bates	Waiting list only
Feb. 15-18	Skiing	Idaho Falls, Id.	Chip Kleinbrook	Looking for Olympic fix
Mar. 2-3	<b>Ice Climbing</b>	<b>Sault Ste. Marie</b>	<b>Juli Penrod</b>	<b>Juli@mediasone.net</b>
March 16	Skiing	Sault Ste. Marie	Chip Kleinbrook	Untimed Wabos Expert
April 13-14	<b>Backpacking</b>	<b>Waterloo SRA</b>	<b>Mike Banks</b>	<b>Class Practical #1</b>
May 3-5	<b>Backpacking</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Mike Banks</b>	<b>Class Practical #2</b>
May 10-12	Rock climbing	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura Albin	SOLAR climbing class
Mem. Wknd	River rafting	West Virginia	Jim Gilfix	Family friendly
Mem. Wknd	<b>Backpacking</b>	<b>Somewhere</b>	<b>Leslie Cordova</b>	<b>Cancelled</b>
June 1	Nat'l Trails Day	Somewhere	Peggy Medved	<a href="http://www.americanhiking.org">www.americanhiking.org</a>
June 8-9	Rock climbing	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura Albin	Solar ropes avail. to grads
June 15-16	Archaeology dig	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura James	Field work Iroquois site
July 6-7	Rock climbing	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura Albin	Also hiking & hanging out
July 14	Fossil hunt	Ontario	Jim Gilfix	Close to Pt. Huron bridge
July 20-21	Archaeology dig	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura James	Excavate ancient garbage
July 27-28	Canoeing trip	Au Sable River	Tom Olofo	Canoe race, too
Aug. 3-4	Rock climbing	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura Albin	on the Niagara Escarpment
<b>August</b>	<b>Caving</b>	<b>Indiana</b>	<b>Leslie Cordova</b>	<b>In the works</b>
Sept. 7-8	Rock climbing	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura Albin	Can't get enough of it

## Photo Contest winners

The January SOLAR meeting featured a photo contest in which members submitted dozens of spectacular photographs of their adventures for the perusal and judgment of fellow members. Winners took home gift certificates to outfitters.

And the winners were:

Best overall photo – Rick Waller

Scenery, first place – Tom Olofo

Scenery, second place (tie) – Tom Olofo and Jen Crawford

Animals, first place – Rick Waller

Animals, second place – Tom Olofo

Animals, third place – Chris Delridge

Plants, first place – Peggy Medved

Humor, first place – Karl Overheul

Humor, second place – Jeff Enterkin

Humor, third place – Rick Waller

People, first place – Jen Crawford

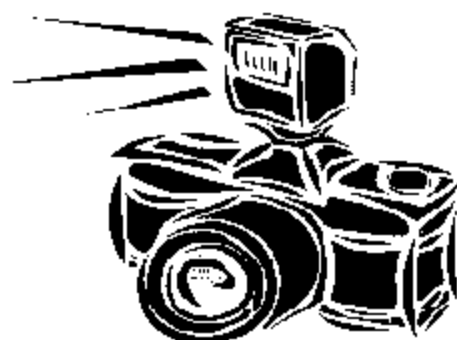
People, second place – Karen Bates

People, third place – Peggy Medved

Non-SOLAR, first place – Peggy Medved

Non-SOLAR, second place – Rick Waller

Non SOLAR, third place – Karen Bates



Congratulations  
the winners!

## "Bike-Feast" planned March 3

**Bike Feast on Sunday March 3, 2002** Hostelling International-Michigan Council is pleased to host this year's bike feast at the **Berkley Community Center** from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Call the Hostelling International Office at 248-535-0511 for more details or check the website at [www.HI-Michigan.org](http://www.HI-Michigan.org). Join bike riders from other Metro Detroit bike-riding clubs for this annual potluck dinner.

Tickets are \$5, which includes games, and other bike related festivities.

There will be an optional **fund raising** bike ride (\$5), weather permitting at 12:30 p.m.

—Kosalind Leiser, Hostelling International-Michigan Council



## Walk in the footsteps of the ancient Maya deep in the jungle....

I am thinking about putting together a SOLAR trip to Belize (Central America) in April or May if I can get enough folks interested. Archaeologists from the University of Texas working in a privately owned, 260,000-acre biosphere reserve deep in the jungle have found the ruins of a previously undiscovered Mayan city they call Dos Barbaras. The professor in charge is accepting volunteers for one-week sessions. The cost is around \$650 all-inclusive at the archaeologists' field camp (airfare not included).

Interested? See me for more info.

Laura James - [Laura4991@prodigy.net](mailto:Laura4991@prodigy.net)

*Photo: Two volunteers document the structures in Dos Barbaras, Rio Bravo Conservation Area, Belize*

## 2002 SOLAR ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL

In 2002, SOLAR will continue its foray into the exciting world of archaeological field work by returning to the Crawford Lake, Ontario area for digs at the Metate Iroquois village (circa 1450) under the supervision of archaeologist and author Dr. Bill Finlayson.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE:** There are 15 spots on each dig. SOLAR membership is required. Children over 8 are welcome at a reduced cost. No experience is necessary.

**LOCATION:** We will camp at Rattlesnake Provincial Park and visit a reconstructed Iroquois village at Crawford Lake Conservation Area. We will also participate in a dig on private land nearby.

**COST:** Last year, the program was \$160 US plus \$10 Canadian for camping (\$110 for children, plus camping). I am waiting for confirmation from Dr. Finlayson regarding this year's price. This program cost covers two days of lectures, demonstrations, tours, and digging, as well as two sandwich lunches and a barbecue steak dinner on Saturday night. *Please note that the SOLAR "no refund" policy will be strictly enforced this year.*

**DATES:** June 15-16 or -- July 20-21

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Friday night - Drive to campground (~4 hours from suburban Detroit)

Saturday, 8 a.m. - Dr. Finlayson picks us up from the campground.

Saturday morning - Visit the field lab for a slide show and lecture about how, when, and by whom the land was occupied, with hands-on examination of different types of artifacts we can expect to find, then have lunch at the field lab.

Saturday afternoon - At the Metate site, learn the basics of how to dig, grab a trowel, and unearth burnt animal and fish bones, stone flakes, stone tools, charcoal, burnt corn, and pottery. If you're very lucky, find arrowheads, stone knives, buttons, pendants, stone pipes, trade beads or copper.

Saturday night - Return with our treasures to the field lab for a delicious barbecue steak dinner. After dinner, go to the reconstructed village at Crawford Lake for a private, behind-the-scenes tour of an authentic Iroquois village with longhouses, fortified walls, ossuary (place for the bones of the dead) and gardens.

Sunday morning - More digging at the Metate site.

Sunday afternoon - Return to the field lab to wash, sort, and identify our finds. Dismissed about 3 p.m.

For more information, call Laura James at home (248) 446-8920 (I work at home so I can be reached during the day) or email [Laura4991@prodigy.net](mailto:Laura4991@prodigy.net).

*School of Outdoor Leadership, Adventure & Recreation*

# SOLAR Steering Committee

<i>President</i>	Leslie Cordova	<i>Equipment</i>	Carol McCririe	<i>At Large</i>	Mike Banks * Moe DeFrance
<i>Vice President</i>	Tom Oloffo	<i>Historian</i>	Denise Kordic		Al Fylak * Steve Gardner
<i>Secretary</i>	John Simonds	<i>Membership</i>	Mary Price		Bill Halvingis
<i>Treasurer</i>	John Moffatt	<i>Programs</i>	Any Fedyk		Cindy Harrison-Felix
<i>Activities</i>	Pam Riehl	<i>Pub. Relations</i>	Peggy Medved		Doug Lanyk * 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 generally 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.

**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, [lmprice@ameritech.net](mailto:lmprice@ameritech.net).

## Submission guidelines:

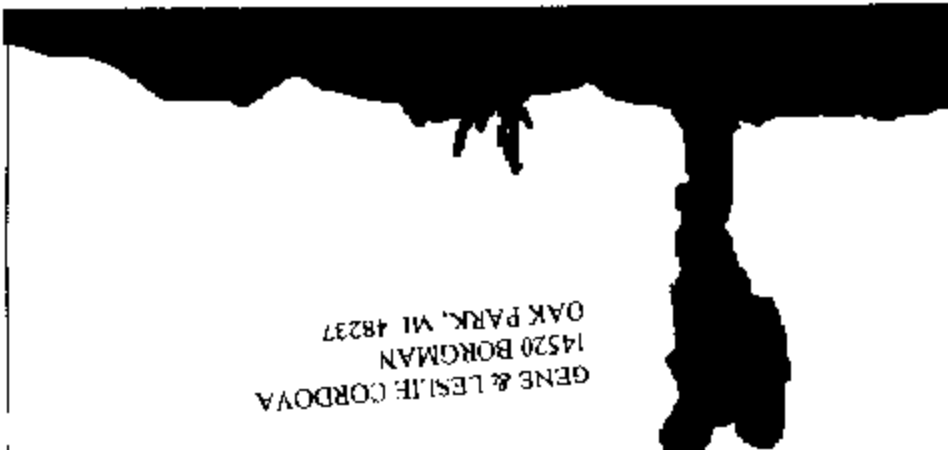
- ☑ Articles must be 500 words or less
- ☑ SOLAR events have priority over non-club events; events in the next 2 months have priority over other events
- ☑ Please submit via email or Word attachment to [Laura4991@prodigy.net](mailto:Laura4991@prodigy.net)
- ☑ Please submit via regular mail to Laura James, 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!

March issue deadline is **Sunday Feb. 17**; NO SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT DATE. ☺


Article  
Deadline  
**FEB. 17th**

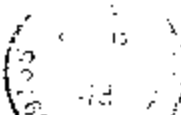
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48237+6000 38



GENE & LESLIE CORDOVA  
14520 BORGMAN  
OAK PARK, MI 48237





Solar Club  
P.O. Box 2938  
Southfield, MI 48307

SOLAR is a non-profit club with 400-plus members dedicated to the intelligent enjoyment of nature and outdoor pursuits.

Membership is only \$40 a year per person (\$55 per family) and includes discounts to a number of retail outlets, 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.