

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 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 48007



GENE & LESLIE CORDOVA
14520 DORGMAN
OAK PARK, MI 48237

SOLAR Steering Committee

<i>President</i>	Leslie Cordova	<i>Equipment</i>	Carol McCrie	<i>At Large</i>	Mike Banks * Moe DeFrance
<i>Vice President</i>	Tom Oloff	<i>Historian</i>	Denise Kordie		Al Fylak * Steve Gardner
<i>Secretary</i>	John Simonds	<i>Membership</i>	Mary Price		Bill Halving's
<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 Fortaine	<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.

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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
- ☑ 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 March 17**; NO SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT DATE ☺



SOLAR starts a club for KIDS!



If you missed the February SOLAR meeting, you missed some exciting news. We've started a club just for kids! We're calling it Kids SOLAR Club.

We've got some exciting events planned for the kids, such as cross-country skiing in February and rock climbing in March. This summer we're planning on going canoeing and backpacking, too. We'd also like to have a picnic and have the kids go foraging in the woods for their contribution to the food. With the help of a couple of knowledgeable Solarites, of course! We want to make cordage out of plants and possibly do some basic orienteering. Basically, we want to teach them to respect the outdoors and have fun while doing it safely.

The best part of all is that the kids don't have to be SOLAR members to join in the fun! So bring your nieces, nephews, grandkids, cousins and the kids next door to join us for the next Kids SOLAR Club event!

The only thing we ask is that the kids be accompanied by an adult at all times and adults be accompanied by a kid. We are leaving the age up to you. You know your kids best. If you feel they are mature enough for the activity we're doing, we'll be happy to have them and you along! So, keep your eye on the calendar and hopefully we'll see you soon!

If you'd like more information please feel free to contact one of us at:

Meg Webber (248) 980-3667 megann34@village.com

or Jim Hoffer jimhoffer@compuserve.com

—Meg Webber



Kids SOLAR Club Premier Trip Review and Upcoming Events

February - The February activity was a big success! We had 7 kids and 5 adults join us for a hike at the Stoney Creek Nature Center. While waiting for everyone to arrive, the employees of the nature center entertained us by feeding the resident snapping turtle a big juicy worm and another turtle a banana. We also saw a hawk that had a broken wing in a big cage outside. While on the hike we saw some deer. Lots of deer, raccoon, squirrel and rabbit tracks as well. Then someone had the idea of having a snowball fight. The kids really enjoyed that!! Back at the nature center we had a snack and some hot chocolate while we dried off and warmed up.

March - March 2 we are going rock climbing at the Pontiac Planet Rock. Meet us in the parking lot before 11:00, so we can be first in line for the classes. The cost of the classes are as follows: Age 5-8, \$19; 9-13, \$24; 14+, \$35. Prices include all equipment and day pass. The 14+ class learns the knots as well as how to belay. All other classes learn only the knots. If a parent is coming to belay only, the cost is \$8.00. If you don't know how to belay, Eric, Jim or I can belay for your child. Hope to see you there!

April - April 27 from 11-12 we will be going to the Auburn Hills Nature Center for a nature program and a hike. Please join us afterwards for a cookout at the fire ring. Bring a dish to pass and I will supply the hot dogs. Cost to be determined, but will be less than \$8.00.

Hope to see you at one or all of the events!

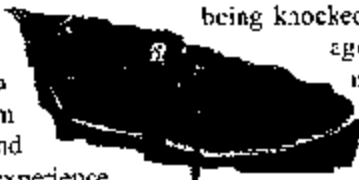


—Meg Webber (248) 980-3667

SOLAR Rafting Memorial Weekend

Jim Gilfix plans a SOLAR Rafting trip on the New River in West Virginia for Memorial Weekend, May 24-27. 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, for age 15 and up. The second trip will be the Kid-Friendly trip on the Upper New River. There is NO chance of the boat tipping or anyone being knocked overboard. Minimum age is 6. The third trip is a new one called "Team Extreme" — an intense and aggressive whitewater experience on the Lower New River. They use small rafts for 4-5 people per raft. They provide intense instructional orientation and 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 (Sunday). Once again we will use ACE Adventures Company. Every raft will have a trained guide. The cost covers rafting and all three meals that day and camping FOR ALL THREE NIGHTS, on their grounds. The cost ranges 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 at 734-513-9460 for more info. There will be a handout at the March to April Solar meetings. You MUST be a SOLAR member to go. A \$25. Deposit is due by the March Meeting. The rest will be due at the April Meeting. —Jim Gilfix



A whole new meaning to 'cave art'

SOLAR spelunking adventurer relays good time in rhyme

Walking through vast subterranean spaces,
Scrambling climbs in tight, rocky places.
Meandering canyons and endless crawls.
Underground rivers and waterfalls.

Awesome displays of hanging stalactites;
Columns, rim stone dams and mighty stalagmites.
You must wear your helmet and have 3 sources of light,
Because the darkness in here is much blacker than night.

Pads on your elbows and pads on your knees;
Wearing warm clothes, so you won't freeze.
Gloves on your hands and boots on your feet,
A bandana and cave bag makes your outfit complete.

The caves were populated by hibernating, brown bats.
As well as by albino crayfish and elusive pack rats.
And also with crickets, spiders and blind cave fish, too.
A variety of cave creatures that could fill a cave zoo.

Getting wet and muddy was quite impossible to avoid,
As we enthusiastically ventured down, into the dark void.
To get to the caves, a johnboat and ropes we did use,
And we also used leaky, duct taped canoes.

Incredible challenges, one right after another.
Experiences that will make you want to write home to your mother.
We may have wandered the home of a prehistoric shaman.
Or, explored the lair of an ancient, mythical dragon.

The Caver's Feast was an incredible buffet,
To feed the famished Cavers at the end of the day.
It was well stocked with ribs and chicken—all manner of meat,
And the salad, vegetables, bread and desserts made it complete.



"Journey into Amazing Caves" was the scheduled movie that day.
Nancy Aulenback and Dr. Hazel Burton had much of interest to say.

They were the stars of this film, in search of wild caving adventure.

Into ice caves, sea caves and the Grand Canyon they did venture

The "Squeezarama" begins shortly after the weigh-ins.

The suspense had us all sitting as if on needles and pins.

The children went first, they were able to squeeze through.

The larger ones squirmed and the smaller ones flew.

Once, twice three times they were squeezed, mashed and pinched,

They struggled and fought until one had the prize clinched.

Men, women, young and old, big and small, all competed.

They strove mightily until the competition was completed.

Some divisions were slow, while others set records.

All the champions certainly deserved their hard-won awards.

The newspaper from Lexington was there to cover the event.

To their readership, the allure of caving, was their goal to present.

Wherever the reporter went, S.O.L.A.R. was there.

We were asked many questions about the affair.

Several interviews later, and a couple of pictures, too.

The reporter was happy; she had elicited our view.

She wanted to publish our stories, and so we consented.

We made the front page; we were well represented.

Meeting new friends and getting closer to old ones.

It was a marvelous adventure, and of fun—we had tons!

We had two great days of caving; our energy almost spent,

And we hope you can attend next year's "Crawlathon" event.

—By Gene Cordova / S.O.L.A.R.

Kayak Class June 8 - 9

Taught by Ron Smith, Black Parrot Paddling, at Silver Lake State Park, Mears, MI; 10-12 Students Max. \$175 - with Ron's equipment (includes campsites); \$145 - your own equipment (includes campsites). The first 12 people to place their \$25 deposit will receive confirmations. Others will be put on a waiting list, in case of cancellations. Neither the deposit nor the fee are refundable. The campsites will be reserved and Ron's services booked for the weekend. I cannot get refunds from the State Park or Ron. However, you may sell your spot. We have campsites close to the beach at Silver Lake, which although it does have other boat traffic, also has sand dunes at one end where we can paddle and have our class. Silver Lake has a creek that flows into Lake Michigan. It may be possible to paddle all the way if it is not too shallow, approximately a mile. Ron Smith will provide all equipment for those who need it (kayak, paddle, PFD, wet suit, etc.) If you are using Ron's equipment we need your height and weight so that Ron can fit you for a kayak and wet suit. Ron provides insurance and waivers for this class. We have the campsites reserved for Friday night June 7 and Saturday June 8. You can check in after 3 on Friday and must check out by 1 on Sunday. You will need to buy a State Park sticker, however, the site fees are included in the class fee. Two tents are allowed per site, two persons per tent. You will receive a reservation number when the deposit is made. You may make your camping and site arrangements according to your own preferences. Bring your own meals, potluck on Saturday night.

Course: Basic to intermediate kayaking skills. Kayaks, kayaking equipment, entering and exiting a kayak, paddle strokes, wet exits, using paddle float, reentering the kayak individually and with assistance (rescues), basic tips on weather, navigation, Eskimo rolls and about anything else you would like to learn. If there is a specific skill you want to learn beyond the basics, let me or Ron know.

—John Moffat (248-515-7489; johnmoffat@yahoo.com)

2002 Calendar

For details and email addresses of trip leaders, visit the SOLAR calendar: www.solaroutdoors.org

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
March 2-3	Ice Climbing	Sault Ste. Marie	Juli Perrod	juli@mediasone.net
March 2	Kids Rock Climb	Pontiac	Meg Webber	Kids SOLAR Club
March 15-17	Skiing	Sault Ste. Marie	Chip Kleinbrook	Unlimited Wabos Lupper
April 2	Meeting	Colony Hall	Leslie Cordova	7:30 p.m. in Southfield
April 13-14	Backpacking	Waterloo SRA	Mike Banks	Class Practical #1
April 27	Kids Hike	Auburn Hills	Meg Webber	Nature program & cookout
May 3-5	Backpacking	Manitou, maybe	Mike Banks	Class Practical #2
May 7	Meeting	Colony Hall	Leslie Cordova	7:30 p.m. in Southfield
May 10-12	Rock climbing	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura Albin	SOLAR climbing class
Mem. Wknd	River rafting	West Virginia	Jim Gilfix	Family friendly!
June 1	Nat'l Trails Day	Somewhere	Peggy Medved	www.americanhiking.org
June 4	Meeting	Colony Hall	Leslie Cordova	7:30 p.m. in Southfield
June 14-16	Rock climbing	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura Albin	New dates
June 15-16	Archaeology dig	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura James	Fieldwork Iroquois site
July 2	Meeting	Colony Hall	Leslie Cordova	7:30 p.m. in Southfield
July 14	Fossil hunt	Ontario	Jim Gilfix	Close to Ft. Huron bridge
July 19-21	Rock Climbing	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura Albin	New dates
July 20-21	Archaeology dig	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura James	Excavate ancient garbage
July 27-28	Canoeing trip	Au Sable River	Tom Oloffe	Canoe race, too
August 6	Meeting	Colony Hall	Leslie Cordova	7:30 p.m. in Southfield
August 9-11	Rock climbing	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura Albin	New dates
August 16-18	Caving	Indiana	Leslie Cordova	Wyandotte/Marengo caves
September 3	Meeting	Colony Hall	Leslie Cordova	7:30 p.m. in Southfield
September 7-8	Rock climbing	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura Albin	Can't get enough of it!

Archaeology update

ONTARIO DIGS - SOLAR's archaeology digs in Canada will be the same price as last year (\$160 US per person), except the professor in charge must now add an Ontario 7% Goods and Services Tax which brings the total to \$177.20. Camping costs \$10 Canadian for the weekend. For more information email me at Laura4991@prodigy.net. Professor Finlayson's website is now up and running, and I am happy to report that many of the photos on his website are of SOLAR members at last year's digs, and he has even reprinted the Solar Ray trip reviews from last year. Check out www.adventurasinarchaeology.com.



BELIZE - the trip to Belize is now a reality! We are going to work on a newly discovered Mayan city deep in the jungles of Central America with a professor from the University of Texas. Cost is \$650 all-inclusive for a week and we found airfare at \$540 round-trip. Interested in going? There are up to six more spots for the week of April 21-28, so give me a call if this sounds like fun to you. (248) 446-8920.

Laura James

Rock climbing update

- The Rattlesnake dates (June 14-16, July 19-21, and August 9-11) are not the "traditional" dates, but if anyone is interested in leading additional weekends they can get in touch with me.
- For all trips to Canada, including the rock climbing class, having a second photo ID is necessary for crossing the border, and it might be a good idea to have a valid passport, ESPECIALLY if one is participating in the climbing class (I think lead time is 6 weeks, so now is a good time to think ahead – from what I know birth certificates are not cutting it).
- A non-mandatory rock climbing meeting (i.e. instructors, or anyone who is interested in taking/helping/complaining) for the climbing class is set for Wednesday, March 6 at 7 p.m. at Pages in Farmington Hills. For information, email or call me.

I can be reached at albinlau@msu.edu or 517-324-0564

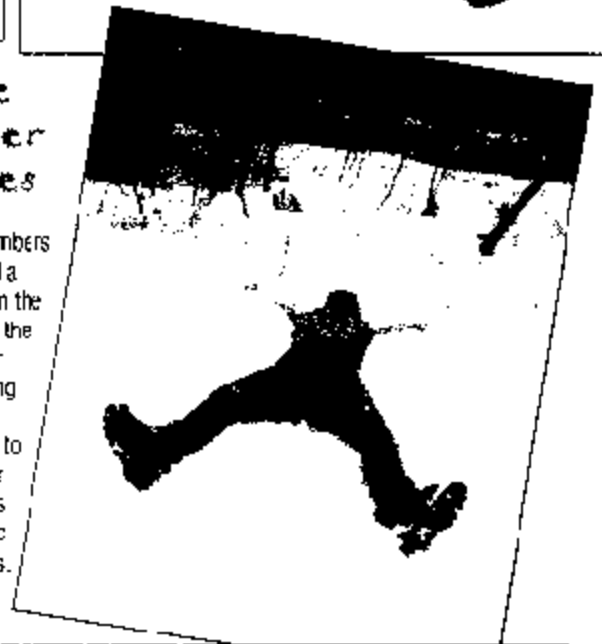
Laura Albin





The Winter Games

SOLAR members enjoyed a weekend in the snow for the Winter Camping class. Thanks to Roger James for the photos.



The Quiet Water Symposium

Saturday, March 2 from 9:00 to 5:00.

There are about 4 dozen exhibits so far (we expect 6 dozen) and lots of other things to explore/enjoy. We will have 6 lectures - 3 main ones (Lynn Bartley will present on the WomenQuest trek to the North Pole last year, Verlen Kruger will talk about his record setting paddle the length of the Mississippi last year and Joanie and Gary McGuffin - wonderful authors and photographers from Canada - are presenting on a 3-month canoe trip along Superior in a hand built canoe). There will also be shorter ones on paddling around the great lakes area. Attendance is \$5 for adults - Under 18 free (teal people to bring their kids).

The Pavilion is located at Farm Lane and Mt. Hope on the campus of Michigan State in East Lansing. From I-496, take the East Lansing exit (Okemos Road) and head north. About 3 miles (and about a half mile past the railroad tracks) Mt Hope enters from the left (with a school on the right). Turn left - go about 1 mile - again past a set of railroad tracks. Watch to the left - it's the big building in the farm fields. If you check our website, www.homestead.com/qws you can see maps, and sign up / information sheets.

Solar Members: I'm planning to have a Solar booth at this symposium. If any of you Solar members are planning to go to this Symposium. Please let me know if you are interested and helping me out for a little while at the booth. Email me at Sharon_Broderick@MichCon.com, (313) 256-6491-w, (248) 960-2095-h.

-Sharon Broderick

SOLAR Mountaineering trip tackles the Sierra Nevada-Palisade Range

"What lies ahead can only be experienced by being there!"

Up to nine members of SOLAR will have the opportunity to test their skills learned in some of our most advanced classes - backpacking, winter backpacking, mountaineering, rock climbing, orienteering, and photography. Yes, all these skills will be required as a minimum to reach the summits of Mt. Sill (14,153 feet), Polemonium Peak (14,080 feet), and North Palisade (14,242 feet). Hiking in from Big Pine, California we will pass through some of the most scenic alpine region of all the Sierras. While sitting on the rocky summit of Mt. Sill, the best summit view of any peak in the Sierra... and a sacred mountain of the Paiute, we will have received our reward.

SOLAR is allowing this trip to take place. The requirements are strict. Rick Waller will be leading and Mike Backus will be guiding. Contact Rick Waller at 248-414 6991 or klymr_rek@msn.com. —Rick Waller

CALORIES BURNED DURING ONE HOUR OF:

	130 lb. person	155-lb. person	190-lb. person
Backpacking (summer)	413	493	604
Bicycling 12 m.p.h.	472	563	690
Canoeing, moderate pace	413	493	604
Curling	236	281	345
Hiking cross-country	354	422	518
Kayaking	295	352	431
Rock climbing-ascending	649	774	949
Skiing cross-country, moderate pace	472	563	690
Skiing downhill, moderate pace	354	422	518
Scuba diving	413	493	604
Snowshoeing	472	563	690
Walking a dog, moderate pace	247	246	302
Whitewater rafting or canoeing	295	352	431
Entire day of outdoor activities	3,200	3,800	4,500

CALORIE COUNTER CHART

Ever wonder how many calories you're burning when you're out in the woods, hauling a 50-pound sled or carrying a 40-pound backpack? Ever wonder how much you really need to take in for calories to fare well on a winter adventure? The Solar Ray wondered too, while out on the trail deciding how many cheeseburgers waited at the end, so here are the stats for one hour of activity. The figures depend largely on your gender, weight, age, outside temperature, and overall conditioning, but here's a rough guide.

Editor



S.O.L.A.R. Membership Application



Name: _____ Birthdate (optional) ____/____/____
 Address: _____ Home Phone #: () _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Work #: () _____
 Email Address: _____

S.O.L.A.R. has permission to publish the following information on its roster Home # _____ Work # _____ Email _____

S.O.L.A.R. has permission to publish on SOLAR website my: name () phone () email address ()

Payment Type: Cash _____ Check (#) _____

How did you find out about Solar? _____

Type of Membership applied for: New Member _____ Renewal _____

Single Annual Membership: \$40.00 () Family Annual Member: \$55.00 ()
 Single Lifetime Membership: \$175.00 () Family Lifetime Membership: \$250.00 ()

The following information is required for family memberships:

Spouses name: _____ Age: _____ (optional)

Other family members (under the age of 18) If more than 2 additional members list on back of application.

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Age: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Age: _____

1. All memberships shall expire at the end of the current calendar year unless otherwise stated on your membership card.
2. IMPORTANT: THIS MEMBERSHIP WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS THE LIABILITY RELEASE IS READ AND SIGNED

School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure & Recreation ABSOLUTE LIABILITY RELEASE

Many outdoor activities are inherently dangerous and can cause injury or even death. By joining SOLAR, I agree to assume all of these risks. I agree that SOLAR will not be responsible if I am harmed while I am traveling to, attending, or participating in club meetings, classes or trips, or while using club equipment. In exchange for membership, I agree to release and discharge (waive my rights to bring any personal injury suit against):

1. SOLAR;
2. Its leaders, instructors, steering committee, and all individual members;
3. Its landlord at Colony Hall; and
4. The retail stores that let SOLAR use space for classes.

Exceptions: While SOLAR will have no responsibility for any injury to a member (even if SOLAR is grossly negligent), I understand that individual SOLAR members, including me, remain fully responsible and liable for any injury or damage caused either by their pets or by their negligent driving of a vehicle.

I have read, understood and agree to this Assumption of Risk Agreement and Liability Release this _____ day of _____, 200_____.

Mail application to: Mary Price, 22801 Tulane, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Member's Signature: _____

Spouse's Signature (REQUIRED on married people's family memberships): _____

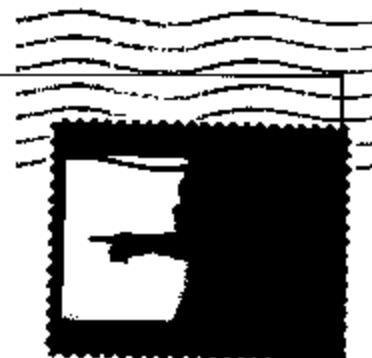
Parent's Signature, if under 18: _____

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GENE & LESLIE CORDOVA
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