



The SOLAR RAY

May 2002

BACKPACK THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

We're going to Wyoming!

**THE ADVENTURE
BEGINS ON
TUESDAY, MAY 7...**

The monthly SOLAR meeting is set for May 7 at 7:30 p.m., Colony Hall, Southfield, Evergreen and 8 1/2 mile. The usual mayhem will be followed by the annual steering committee election. See you there!

I'm leading a trip to the Wind River Range from Sept. 7 through 15. This is an area about an hour east of the Tetons. Highlights include alpine lakes, meadows, mountain views, wildlife, and the legendary Cirque of the Towers. All of this, and enough altitude to take your breath away (literally).

This will be a trip to challenge you. The trail elevations range from 9,100-11,853 feet. Days range from 2.75 to 7.75 miles with most around 6.5, with LOTS of elevation change. We will cross the Continental Divide twice and a mountain face that's even higher. The total distance hiked will be about 39 miles over 7 days.

This is *not* a mountaineering trip, but it *is* a trip for advanced level, well-conditioned backpackers. Good navigation skills are essential! Wilderness first aid training would be a plus. There will be a couple of shakedown trips coming up soon.

Cost is still kind of variable at this point, depending on some decisions to be made amongst the party. If you have questions, drop me an email, or talk to me at the meeting.

-Karl Overheul

CyberNomad@backpacker.com

Wildflower Walk on Mother's Day

Come commune with Mother Nature on Mothers' Day at a Wildflower Identification Walk at Crosswinds Marsh.

We'll meet at 2 PM on Sunday, May 12 in the parking lot. Please bring wildflower books, and wear comfortable shoes. We'll also have a picnic pot luck dinner at the end of the walk.

This park is dog friendly, the activity is kid friendly. The park also boasts a variety of birds, including a pair of nesting bald eagles.



Bring binoculars and bird books if you would like to check out the birds. Maps will be available at the May meeting. For more information, call Margaret at 734-721-2821.

—Margaret Martin

Kids SOLAR hits the water!

On June 8 we are going canoeing! We will meet at Heavner's Canoe Rental at 10 a.m., gather all our gear and go for a short paddle down the river. When everyone gets tired, or around noon (whichever comes first), we will stop for a picnic and then paddle back to Heavner's. Cost is \$24 per canoe.

On July 6 the kids have the opportunity to get a FREE kayak lesson!! EPI has volunteered kayaks specially designed for kids and their time to teach our kids how to kayak. We are meeting at Mill Pond in Island Lake at 10am. The kids will have a lesson, play a game and then break for lunch. After lunch we will go for a paddle around the pond so the kids can show off their newly acquired skills. Unfortunately the kayaks and lessons are only for the kids. However, if a parent would like to bring their own kayak, they are more than welcome to.

So, pack a lunch, your bathing suits and some sunscreen and join us for a couple of days on the water!

—Meg Webber, (248) 980-3667,
megann34@ivillage.com

SOLAR BRIEFS

Primitive Skills Workshop in June — MOSS, the Michigan Outdoor Survival School run by Jim Miller of Mikado, is putting on a five-day primitive skills workshop from Wednesday, June 12 to Sunday, June 16. The list of topics is very impressive: Fire by friction, cordage, edible plants, shelters, primitive weapons (bows, atlatl spears), baskets, porcupine quillwork, finger weaving, soapmaking, net making, bark containers, pottery, brain tanning of hides and pelts, drum making, bone tools, glue, sewing, food preservation, stone tools, flintknapping, trapping, sweat lodge, wooden paddles, copper bowls, felt hats, and more. The price is \$195 per person until May 24th, \$225 per person after May 24th. For more information, check out the website, <http://jmwiliowwinds.com>, or call 989-736-3487. Although I can't go since it conflicts with our first Iroquois archaeology dig, it sounds like a great experience with what would undoubtedly be interesting classmates. —Laura James

THIRD ANNUAL Double JJ Resort WEEKEND — *Located in Rothbury, Michigan, 3 hours west of Detroit - Halloween Theme Weekend Friday-Sunday, November 1-3, 2002 Arrive by 7:00 p.m. on Friday, check out by 1:00 P.M. on Sunday, but stay till 4:00 P.M. \$261 PER PERSON - INCLUSIONS:*

- Two nights in simple camp/hunk style rooms at the Adult Exclusive Ranch with private bath
- Horseback riding for every level Saturday & Sunday (one ride/day, but we'll wrangle more, so be prepared to be sore)
- Haunted barn, corn roast and hayride Friday night, B.I.D Saturday, brunch on Sunday
- Multiple activities throughout day & evening (archery, shooting, mechanical bull riding, line dance instruction, DJ dancing, Halloween cabin decorations, trick or treating, party at night)
- All taxes & gratuities

Packing list, driving directions, and all details mailed upon registration. Pre-trip meeting sat. Oct. 5 to go over carpooling, costumes decorations and treats! Payment Schedule & Cancellation Policy: • \$50 pp deposit due by June 4, 2002 • Balance due October 5, 2002 • All payments are non-refundable, unless you find a replacement. Contact Lisa Bouse, (w) 248-358-5330, lisa@cadillactravel.com



Can't find the gear you want? Make it yourself! Solarite Laura Albin fashions up her own sled for a SOLAR adventure. Photo by Laura James.

Return of the Land Navigation Class — It hasn't been done for a while, so I'm going to take a turn at it. Land Navigation Class will be held on Jun. 22-23. Spend a weekend learning how to find your way around in the woods with a map and compass. You will learn basic map reading, compass use, and all about the different North's. Not to mention some cool new words to amaze your friends!! Details are still a little hazy... (So many trips to plan...so little time...) I'll have firm details at the May meeting. Or drop me an email, and I'll catch you up. —Karl Overheul, CyberNomad@backpacker.com

Let's go fly a KITE — Join us for a fun-filled Afternoon of kite flying and Nature walk. We will meet at the Kensington Metro Park's Nature Center At 1 P.M. for a short hike around the pond. Then we will drive to the field and fly kites. When: May 18, Saturday 2002 Where: Kensington Metro Park, Cost: FREE (Of course this is Kid friendly) You can call me, Jim Gilfix at 734-513-9460. for more info.

Outdoor photography show (New Date): I will be having a photography exhibition at The Benchmark in Farmington on June 14 from 6-9 P.M. Many of you have seen my work in the photo contest and during my presentation at the February meeting. The prints are from my travels out west last year, as well as shots from various places in Michigan. I will have a variety of framed and matted prints, all of which are individually numbered and signed. They will be available for sale, and I will be accepting orders from my catalog for others. Custom framing and matting will be available for order. Come on out and enjoy the pictures! (And help support my quest to make a living by sharing the great outdoors!!) — Karl Overheul

SOLAR 2002 Archaeology Field School

Have you ever seen or read about archaeology and always wanted to give it a try? Here is your chance to participate in the excavation of a 600-year-old Iroquois village with a guarantee that you will find bones, tools, decorated pottery, maybe bits of jewelry or arrowheads. This summer, SOLAR will again offer beginner-level archaeology digs at an Iroquois site just four hours from Detroit at what is—for an archaeological field dig experience—a dirt-cheap price.

Visit the archaeologist's website, www.adventuresinarchaeology.com, for details and photos, including several pictures of SOLAR's adventures at last year's digs.

WHO: 15 spots on each dig – SOLAR members only – children 8 & up are welcome

WHEN: June 15-16 and/or July 20-21 (both weekends have the same itinerary)

WHERE: 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: \$160 plus Canadian Goods & Services Tax plus \$10 Canadian for camping. Children's price is \$110 plus tax. This covers two days of lectures, demonstrations, tours, and digging, 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. \$50 reserves your spot.

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.

—Laura James





Backpacking MANIA ! **Yet another great spring** **SOLAR backpacking class...**

Photos by Roger James. (Also to blame for the captions.)

Above left: Jennifer and Juli plot the day's course.

Above right: Lot illustrates the Leopard Pounce on an unsuspecting Karl.



Center right: Jeff masters the bowline.

Below left: Lester explains the difference between right-handed and left-handed rabbits.



The lakes have gone soft and it's time to paddle!

We will be teaching a basic flat-water canoe class on June 22 at my house. This is for those of you whom always seem to get canoe partners that paddle on the wrong side and run you into the bank. This year's class will be especially good for those who want to learn how to keep your partner from tipping the canoe over. We will also be teaching people how to give canoe obedience training. We will show you how to train your canoe to; stop, go straight, turn right, turn left, go sideways, spin in circles, and do the Cha-Cha, all on command. The basics of canoe safety and several useful and efficient paddle strokes will be covered. This is an excellent class for people who are unsure of themselves in or around a canoe, or for those who just need to fine tune their style.

Class will be 15\$ and a dish to pass. Bring a swimsuit, and your basic picnic supplies, sun-screen etc. Class starts at 11:00 AM!!!! You can and should bring your own canoe, paddle, and life jacket if you have them. They will be provided if you need them. Picnic and BBQ to follow.

—Douglas Lanyk, 10541 Tamryn Blvd., Holly, MI 48442, 248 634-4551 dsiany@earthlink.net.

Photo: The lake went a little too soft for some folks at last year's class...



School of Outdoor Leadership, Adventure & Recreation

RAVES FOR CAVES

A8 Lexington Herald-Leader
Monday, January 23, 2002

CAVERS: Tours in Carter County draw hundreds

By Page One

It was a New Year's Eve tradition for Jodie Gresham, president of the Carter County Cavers' Association, to lead a tour of the cave. This was her 10th trip. And she's already booked for 2002. "On New Year's Eve, we do our best. Then I'm gone. I'm on the phone."

The so-called field trip for caving, rappelling, hiking and rappelling is a tradition in Carter County. "Down for Days" is an introduction to rappelling. "In. Picking" is an eight-hour excursion into the cave. "Just for a moment" and "It's a Wilder" are first-time rappelling tours. "I had to take a deep breath and say, 'It's going to be OK.'"

Yesterday morning, dozens of beginners toured the Cascade Cave, the largest and longest in Carter County. They viewed pictures of sleeping bears clinging to the ceiling, and marveled at a baboon of astonishing dimensions over their heads.

Perhaps the easiest walking tour, with many cave maps and a hand-drawn map, the Cascade is a popular place for attracting people to the cave. Because the cave is in the 1920s, said Lori Steele, the group leader. Back then, landowners above the caves would guide adventurers to the caves. In years to come, the caves were used for hunting, trapping and other purposes.

The caves were formed by thousands of years of erosion and buildup. Rainwater seeps



David Greenish, 11, pretended to leave after being told he'd be in charge of operating a boat on an underground river during a spelunkers' session at Carter Caves yesterday.

Those who plant the subterranean world can't be in charge of anything. "It's an adventure of the mind," said David Greenish, 11, who was in charge of operating a boat on an underground river during a spelunkers' session at Carter Caves yesterday. "It's an adventure of the mind." "It's an adventure of the mind." "It's an adventure of the mind."

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Dianna Melrose of Oxford, Mich., slides through an underground creek during a Cascade Cave tour yesterday. Andrew Timony, left background, led the Orientation at Carter Caves State Resort Park.



Spelunkers made their way through Cascade Cave near Olive Hill yesterday as part of a three-day event that drew people from out of state.

700 cavers visited by their love for the cave. The cave is a popular place for attracting people to the cave. Because the cave is in the 1920s, said Lori Steele, the group leader. Back then, landowners above the caves would guide adventurers to the caves. In years to come, the caves were used for hunting, trapping and other purposes.

See CAVERNS, A8

Underground scene draws eager visitors

By Laura Yule

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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 fast, so if
you're interested in
going, sign up
now!
—Laura James

Dates	Trip	Location	Trip Leader	Notes
May 3-5	Backpacking	Hoist Lakes	Mike Hanks	Backpacking Class
May 3-5	Camping/hiking	Bryan St. Park, Ohio	Leslie Cordova	Kid friendly
May 3-5	Whitewater rafting	Pa./W. Virginia	Linda Hill	Cheat River
May 7	Meeting	Colony Hall	Leslie Cordova	7:30 in Southfield
May 10-12	Rock climbing	Near Sault Ste. Marie	Laura Albin	Climbing class
May 12	Wildflower walk	Crosswinds Marsh	Margaret Martin	Near Flat Rock
May 17-19	Biking	Cuyahoga Nat'l Area	Joanne Kostishaks	Near Cleveland
May 18	Kite fly	Kensington	Jim Gilfix	Nature walk too
Mem. Wknd	River rafting	West Virginia	Jim Gilfix	Family friendly
Mem. Wknd	Backpacking	N. Manitou Island	Bill Cowdin	SOLAR adventure
Mem. Wknd	Backpacking	Jordan River	Dave DeFrance	Defrance@ism.net
May 25-June 2	Mountaineering	Sierra Nevada's Cal.	Rick Waller	Trip full
June 1	Nat'l Trails Day	Island Lake	Peggy Medved	Weekend at Island Lake
June 4	Meeting	Colony Hall	Leslie Cordova	7:30 in Southfield
June 8	Kids canoeing	Heavner's livery	Meg Webber	Kids SOLAR Club
June 8-9	Kayaking class**	Silver Lake St. Park	John Moffat	**non-SOLAR- near Mears
June 14-16	Rock climbing	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura Albin	New dates
June 15-16	Archaeology dig	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura James	Field work – Iroquois site
June 22	Canoeing class	Rose Twp. (Holly)	Doug Lanyk	Flat water paddling class
June 22-23	Land Navigation	TBA	Karl Overheul	Weekend class
July 2	Meeting	Colony Hall	Leslie Cordova	7:30 in Southfield
July 8	Kids kayaking	Island Lake	Meg Webber	Free kayak lessons for kids
July 14	Fossil hunt	Arkona, Ontario	Jim Gilfix	Close to Pt. 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	Au Sable River	Tom Oloff	Canoe race, too
Aug. 6	Meeting	Colony Hall	Leslie Cordova	7:30 in Southfield
Aug. 8-12	Primitive skills	Bois Blanc Island	Glen Krueger	The big annual gathering
Aug. 9-11	Rock climbing	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura Albin	New dates
Aug. 16-18	Caving	Indiana	Leslie Cordova	Wyandotte/Marengo caves
Aug. 23-25	Canoeing	DeFrance cabin	Dave & Moe	Annual canoe outing
Sept. 3	Meeting	Colony Hall	Leslie Cordova	7:30 in Southfield
Sept. 7-8	Rock climbing	Rattlesnake, Ont.	Laura Albin	Can't get enough of it
Sept. 7-14	Backpacking	Wind River Wyo	Karl Overheul	On the Continental Divide
Nov. 1-3	Horseback riding**	Double JJ Ranch	Lisa Boose	**non-Solar - Halloween

Cave in to fun!

Wyandotte Caves State Recreation Area - Marengo Caves US National Landmark
August 16 - 18, 2002

Can't get enough slithering around underground? If you are 12 years old or older, come join SOLAR as we head down to Corydon, Indiana for 1½ days of guided caving. Saturday morning we will participate in the "ALL DAY TOUR" at Wyandotte Caves. The park's description is: extraordinary stamina is required for the inexperienced caver to survive six to seven hours of walking, climbing and crawling on this "All-Day-Tour". Lots of energy is spent as participants crawl past the appropriately named "Worm Alley" and "Crawfish Spring". Splendid formations can be seen in "Malroy's Temple". During many days, water cascades from the waterfall passage. Note: For those that went with us to Wyandotte Caves 2 years ago, this is a totally different tour.

Sunday we will go to Marengo Caves for a 2-hour "Underground Adventure". In this cave exploration you will get wet and muddy, learn safe caving and a little bit of cave ecology and conservation. All this caving might make your muscles a little sore, but don't worry I have thought of everything!! We will be staying at the Hampton Inn in Corydon, complete with hot tub. They also have an exercise room in case the caving was not enough for you. Did I forget to mention, swimming pool, free breakfasts, in-room coffee and real beds to sleep in.

All this fun can be yours for a mere \$100. Hurry, as space is limited and as always, first pay first go. Interested contact Leslie Cordova at lesliegene@aol.com or (248) 547-5626.

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.

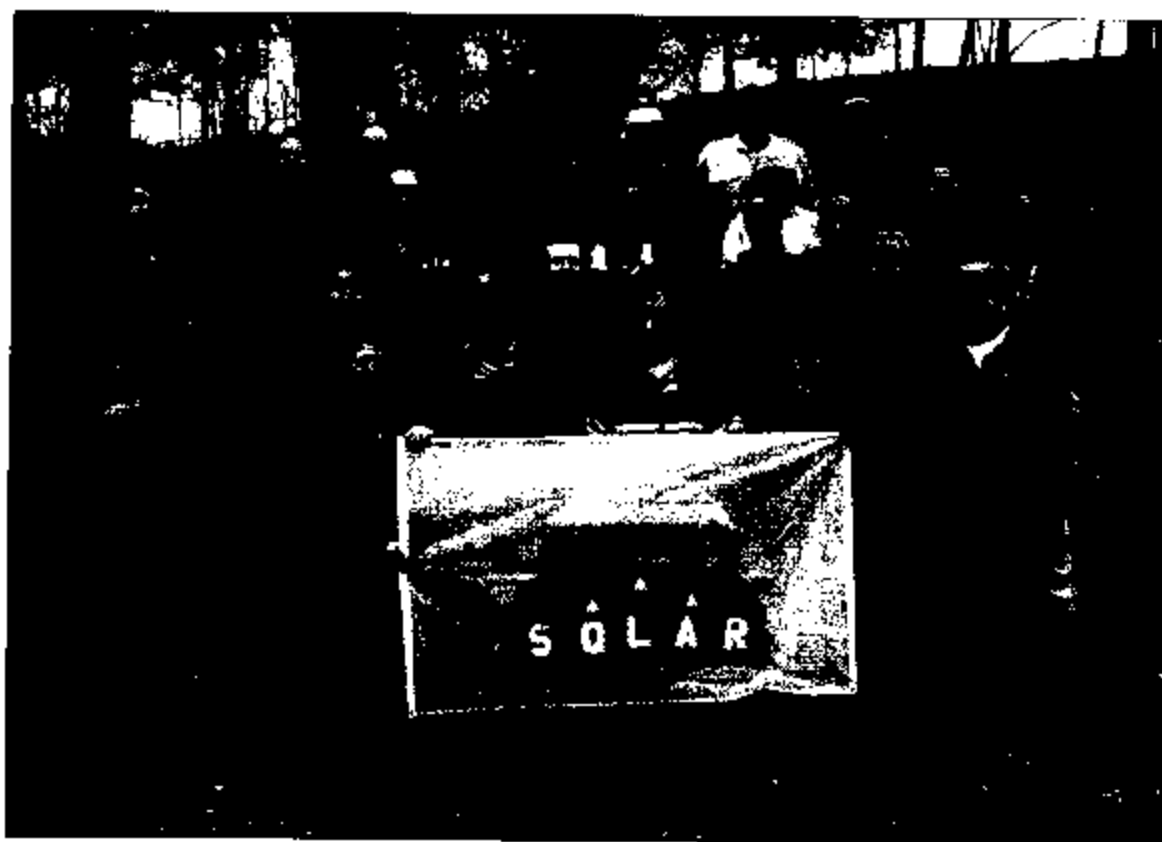
SOLAR is allowing this trip to take place. The requirements are strict. Rick Waller will be leading and Mike Backus will be guiding. Contact Rick Waller at 248-444-6999 or klymr_rekk@msn.com.

As of late April, the trip is FULL.

—Rick Waller

CONGRATULATIONS BACKPACKING GRADUATES!

The Solar Ray doesn't even want to attempt to accurately name all the students who participated in this spring's backpacking class.



Congratulations on completing the course.

School of Outdoor Leadership, Adventure & Recreation

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.

The School For Outdoor Leadership,
Adventure & Recreation
P.O. Box 2438
Southfield, MI 48037



GENE & LESLIE CORDOVA
14520 BORGMAN
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 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>	Amy Fedyk		Cindy Harrison-Felix
<i>Activities</i>	Pam Riehl	<i>Pub. Relations</i>	Peggy Medved		Deug 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, hmpri@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
- ☛ 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, May 19; NO SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT DATE ☺

Article
Deadline
May. 19th