



School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure & Recreation

www.solaroutdoors.org

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Enjoying Michigan Winters

When asked to describe their experience with SOLAR's Enjoying Michigan Winters, three recent students (2000, 2001, and 2002) had this to say:

3 Men and a Quinzee.

By Jean Tobin

Imagine spending five days and four nights during late February in a quinzee (snow shelter) built in four feet of snow with three friends in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Sub-zero temperatures? Yes. Heat? No. Running water? No. Does it sound like fun? Yes!—and it was also one of the most memorable and adventurous vacations I've ever had.

A year earlier, I would not have imagined that I would be taking a winter trip to the U.P. The topic arose during the SOLAR Advanced Backpacking and Leadership (ABL) Class. In order to complete the class, a week long practical is required. Most of my ABL classmates were going to hike the LaMurrin trail in Quebec during October, but I could not accompany them because of a work conflict. The proposed solution by two of the ABL instructors, Mike Banks and Tom Hayes was for me to join them on a week long winter outing in February.

While I readily agreed to the trip, I had never done any winter backpacking before, and I needed to do my homework. To begin preparing, I enrolled in "Enjoying Michigan Winters" in December 2000.

With great instruction from SOLAR volunteer instructors, I learned how to stay outside in the winter and maintain a comfortable body temperature through food, water, clothing and activity level. Topics covered in the class include methods of layering (and de-layering) clothing to stay warm, selecting foods that provide maximum energy in colder temperatures, techniques for comfortable sleeping, instruction on how to construct a sled to carry your extra winter gear and how

to build a quinzee where you will sleep as soundly as a hibernating bear!

After the class ended, I felt fully prepared to go on my trip to the Upper Peninsula with Mike Banks, Tom Hayes and Pat Mural.

In the pristine snow of the 18,000-acre Sylvania Wilderness Area in the Upper Peninsula, we set up a base camp. We constructed a four person quinzee, built a kitchen area next to our fire pit, and even had shelves and storage areas carved in the four feet of snow! We had made a snow condominium. The rest of our trip was spent

enjoying the beauty and silence of winter in the wilderness as we hiked on snowshoes and explored the old growth forest, returning to our base camp each evening to cook dinner and build a campfire. We didn't see another person until five days later when we hiked back to our car.

Learning to be comfortable in winter conditions was an empowering experience. The memories I have from that trip are unrivaled. Not only did I have a great time with my friends, I learned new skills and now I don't have to question the season when a trip opportunity arises.

Whether you want to improve your backpacking skills, learn to enjoy the winter outdoors, or just have fun, enrolling in Enjoying Michigan Winters will provide you with your own unique winter experience!

My Experience with the Enjoying Michigan Winters Class. By Cindy Taylor

I took the Beginning Backpacking class in the fall of 2000. At the time, I did not have any backpacking experience. During the first night of our practical at Pictured Rocks, we experienced cold and windy weather with frequent bouts of sleet. Since this was a beginning class, Carol McCrie and the other instructors decided it would be best to bail out on the second day of our three-day practical for safety's sake. That was my first experience with "winter camping." I didn't particularly enjoy the experience; therefore, I was in no hurry to sign up for the Enjoying Michigan Winters class that started a couple months later. At the time, I didn't think that class would be for me. By the following year, I had a little more backpacking experience under my belt and several SOLAR members encouraged me to take the Enjoying Michigan Winters class, so in 2001, I signed up for the class. Another reason I decided to take this class is because I believe it's important to get out of your comfort zone

on occasion in order to achieve personal growth. I really wasn't expecting to enjoy it, but as it turns out, I had a blast!

In addition to everything we learned about winter camping, we also learned how to build our own sled at a sled-building workshop held in Roger and Laura James' garage. At Pigeon River, we hiked in snowshoes, built a quinzee, told stories around the campfire, and laughed a lot. I also found there were some advantages to backpacking in the

winter such as: not having to carry a backpack because we were able to use the sleds we made, we didn't have to stick to the usual backpacking food, and there were no bugs. The most memorable experience was waking up to a beautiful crisp winter morning, with clear blue skies and a fresh coat of snow on all of the trees along the Pigeon River. It was an experience that could never be re-created in a photograph.

Of course, winter camping may not be for everyone, but I would recommend to anyone they at least take this class. They might be surprised at how much fun they can have while adding to their repertoire of outdoor skills.

Hey, it gets cold in winter, so deal with it! Take SOLAR's Enjoying Michigan Winters class! By Craig Kosniowski

We don't have to "hibernate" the chilly, dark months away. We can actually go outside and enjoy Michigan winters! With the help of SOLAR's skilled instructors, you'll learn all the basics of staying warm, dry, and comfortable in extreme weather. You'll unlock the secrets of the mighty calorie, learn proper hydration, and find out that the gear you use in summer may behave quite differently in winter. You'll use your own ingenuity to conquer the challenges presented by cold temperatures, and you'll probably have fun doing it.

Continued on Page 3



BASIC MOUNTAINEERING CLASS

*Have you ever wondered what it would be like to stand on the Summit of a Mountain?
Or to even know what it takes to get there?
Here is your chance to find out.*

Starting in January through February 2004, I will be teaching the Basic Mountaineering and Safety Skills Class to 12 lucky students who are interested in devoting their time and energy to the sport of Mountaineering.

Basic Mountaineering Skills
Ice Axe Use
Health/Fitness Issues
Navigation
Self Arrest
Leadership
Prussik Ropes
Avalanche Issues

COST \$100.00
Here's what you get:
Mountain safety
Technical Tool usage
First Aid Issues
Knots/Weather
Glacier Crossing
Optional Mountain Trip
Mountaineering Books
Crampon Use
Climbing Issues

gear issue
Clothing
Crevasse Rescue
Environmental Ethics
Reading Material
Expedition Planning
Webbing
Alpine Rescue
Sled Skills

Top Notch Instruction From Top Notch Instructors

PREREQUISITES

MANDATORY

Basic Backpacking
Land Navigation
Winter Camping
Red Cross First Aid
CPR Certification

RECOMMENDED

Wilderness First Aid
Rock Climbing
Intermediate Backpacking
Advanced Backpacking
Search and Rescue
Winter Survival

Spots are filling fast. Questionnaires will be distributed shortly. Interviews will begin in December.
Lou Szakal (248) 685-0367 or Everest2006@aol.com

Backpacking trip to Guadalupe Mountains

Consider it as an invitation to summer. This spot of Texas features warm weather, bright sun and blue sky all seasons. Scenic view, well developed trails and convenient camp sites are also guaranteed. Local rangers do not expect a crowd at Christmas time, which is exceptional for southern states during winter holidays. Guadalupe Mountains include famous El Capitan that oversees southern Texas and a bit of Mexico. Do not mistake it for a highest point of Texas - Guadalupe Peak, which is also there. Exceptional airfare rate to San Antonio makes this trip inexpensive. About \$480 will cover everything. The adventure starts December 26th and lasts til January 2nd (timing still is flexible and depends on air tickets availability). Backpacking in Guadalupe requires hiking about 8 miles a day. Maximum elevation gain: 1500 ft. The sun inclination and local relief give about 11 hours of light time. The campsites are rather primitive. The weight of your backpack should not exceed 32 pounds. Complete information about Guadalupe Mountains available at:

http://gorp.away.com/gorp/resource/US_National_Park/tx_guadu.HTM

<http://www.terrageria.com/parks/np.guadalupe-mountains.html>

http://www.thebackpacker.com/trails/tx/trail_22.php

<http://www.guadalupe.mountains.national-park.com/hike.htm>

<http://www.uwsp.edu/geo/faculty/heywood/GEO393wtz/393WTXGuadMtn.htm>

To sign up or if you have any questions contact Grey at greyofk@angelfire.com

From the SOLAR Program Director

By Lou Szakal

Upcoming SOLAR Program Schedule

Please note:

all programs will take place at Colony Hall immediately following the SOLAR Business meeting

DECEMBER PROGRAM

Annual Holiday Party

SOLAR will provide Subs, soft drinks and a DJ.
Fellow SOLARites are asked to bring a dish (salad, desserts e.c.).
More information published in this months Ray.

JANUARY PROGRAM

Annual Photo Contest

Get your pictures ready for this yearly event.
Complete rules are published in this months Ray.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Wonderland Trail Presentation "The Trek around Rainier"

By: The Wonderkinder group

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March: Michigan's Birds of Prey/Michigan United Conservation Clubs

April: Bugs and Insects/Bugs on Wheels

May: S.O.L.A.R. Steering Committee Elections

June: Bats/Organization for Bat Conservation

Winter Backpacking...continued from front page

Although I had done a bit of winter camping previously, I never had any formal training. Most of what I knew was learned through trial and error, and believe me, there were plenty of errors! (Not the least of which was an up-close and all too personal encounter with hypothermia.) This class provided an effective method to develop the skills necessary for me to tackle the special challenges of cold weather backpacking. It can do the same for you. It is loaded with information to keep you safe and cozy when the mercury takes a nose dive.

So why should you take this class? The answers are as varied and unique as you are as an individual. Perhaps it's because you want to increase your self-confidence. Maybe you want to feel the sense of accomplishment that comes from achieving something unknown. Or perhaps by being able to see things in a relaxed, intimate way, you seek a greater sense of the unique beauty of the natural world in winter. Whatever the reason, I encourage you to take this class. Let your soul experience the sublime wonder that is Michigan in winter.

T'Is the Season for Parties and SOLAR will not be left OUT!!!!

Please join us for the Annual SOLAR Holiday Party

On Tuesday, December 2, 2003

*8:30pm-?? (Star's right after the meeting concludes)
Colony Hall- Evergreen between 8 & 9 mile*

SOLAR will provide:

- Sandwiches/Subs
- Soda, Juice
- DJ Music
- Festive Atmosphere

Members to provide:

- A dish to pass (salads, desserts, snacks)
- Adult beverages (if desired)
- Dancing shoes, a holiday spirit, and the desire to have some fun!!

Children welcome.



Old Friends by Carol McCririe

Ran into an old friend of SOLAR at Pictured Rocks this year. Many of you will remember Mike Neiger who used to be a SOLAR Member until he moved back to the Upper Peninsula where he grew up. He's retired from the State Police now and is running trips for The Central Upper Peninsula Chapter of the Sierra Club. Visit his Web site at <http://the.rucksack.tipod.com/>

Photos submitted by:



Photos submitted by:

This Page: Left and Right: Brian & Amy Irving



Front Page: Tom Oloff, Brian & Amy Irving

Page 4: Karl Overheul

*Page 9/Calendar: Tom Hayes,
Search and Rescue Class
MORE photos shown in Jan.2004
HAY issue.*

*Page 10: Top: Roxanne Joann,
Kevin, Michal and Judy at the end of
the trip
Bottom: Joann, Roxana, Michal and
Judy on the beach*

Cult Members Caught in Conflagration! September 5, 2003

Five members of a cult named SOLAR met at Two Medicine campground in Glacier National Park to begin a 6 day pilgrimage to the Holy Mountains. The group was originally going to the area known as Martha's Basin to engage in various pagan rituals such as:

"pagan bagging" and animal sacrifice (also known as eating...)

Little did they know that they were about to embark on a journey of frustration instead...

Karl Overhaul (a high priest

in the cult) had this to say: "When I left Detroit on July 31st, it sounded like the fires were under control. How could I know that Glacier was about to have a fire season to rival the Yellowstone fires of 1998?"

When time came to begin the journey, the forest gods (also known as the National Park Service) said that our route was blocked by a firestorm... Being faithful believers, the cult members prayed to the forest gods and came up with another route. One day of traveling went by with many trials for the group, but they made it to camp. That night, the fires on the other side of the ridge raised the nighttime temperature from



65° to 80° and made the sky glow red. The next day they set off for a 7 mile hike, but were turned back by St. Patrick (the smoke jumper) who came down from the sky to save them. It seems the firestorm had come back down the valley and was consuming their campsite at that very moment. This caused a 5 1/2 mile return trip for a total of 13 miles that day (and dinner at 10:00).

The cult members then decided to give up on Martha's Basin and visit some of the other holy sites in the area. They proceeded across Going to the Sun Road to go and commune

with the goats and sheep (and see some stunning scenery) and fate granted them an easterly wind that cleared the sky. This restored their faith, so they set out to climb Mt. Okatomi where again they faced smoke and Karl broke the Scepter of Gabel (a trekking pole) during a steep descent down a scree slope. The next day they began their trek along the Highline trail to the monastery (chalet) at Granite Park. The smoke was thick, but the pilgrims pushed on and spent the evening feasting on smoked salmon and watching the fires in the dark. The following day they descended from Swiftcurrent Pass to the Temple of Mary Glacier (the Lodge) where they imbibed the Holy water (a.k.a. Moose Drool).

The trip concluded with some side hikes to Iceberg Lake and Triple Divide pass, after which the group headed home to Southfield, Michigan.



SOLAR Club Fall Beginning Backpack Class of 2003

When the days get noticeably shorter, the trees become splashed with color and you start to feel a cool bite to the evenings, you know it is time for the Fall Backpack Class. During September and October, Carol McCrie and her team of 9 experienced instructors, taught 18 willing and eager students a broad range of outdoor subjects and skills. These lessons took place over 5, 3-hour classroom sessions and a weekend practical, each, at Pinckney Recreation Area and Pictured Rocks, near Munising, MI.

Among the subjects covered were such topics as fitting and choosing the perfect backpack, footwear and clothing, finding the right tent, sleeping bag, camp mattress, water filter, stove, filtering water, planning & cooking meals, bear bagging, trail safety and etiquette, first aid, hygiene, survival, group dynamics and many others. Despite the dire predications of our local weathermen, for snow and cold weather, 5 teams of students made plans to backpack the scenic shoreline of Southern Lake Superior, through The Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

This 3-day trip was designed to test the students' self-sufficiency, equipment and newly acquired knowledge and skills within the context of a wild backpack setting. Each group of students had to plan the trip, independent of the other groups, to ensure they would be able to function as their own autonomous expedition, even though they would be backpacking with the entire class and their instructor/observers. The second, and final, practical was scheduled for the long weekend of October 4th, 5th and 6th (Friday through Sunday).

Students and instructors drove to Munising Thursday night, and began backpacking Friday morning. We had seen snow on the ground as far south as Gaylord. This weekend might push the limits of the student's resolve and put their attitudes to the test. Even though it rained hard all night long, by the time we got to the trailhead, got cars spotted and started hiking, the rain had stopped. We had about a 4-mile, rugged hike, from our start point at Little Beaver into the first campground, at Coves. We passed craggy rock formations, caves weathered out of the solid rock, scenic little streams stained with tannin and fern-lined stands of birch and cypress trees.

It was quite warm in the woods, but when we reached the shoreline, we got blasted by the howling winds, gusting to about 45 miles per hour, and heard the booming of the lake as it crashed against the rocky shore. When we got to camp, the teams immediately got to work, putting their tents up, filtering water, hanging their parawings, gathering wood for the fire and cooking dinner. We got a roaring fire going and settled in to relax and enjoy our woodland setting, before turning in.

The students faced a long day, Saturday—8 miles—mostly along the continuous cliff, fronting the lake. We started the day in high spirits, because everyone knew this day would treat us to the kind of spectacular scenery for which Pictured Rocks is known! We happily met up with 6 people, who couldn't make it in, the day before, at the halfway point—Chapel Rock. We stopped and had lunch, at the Chapel Beach Campground, with our new arrivals, while several of us made the 3-mile round trip to visit Chapel Falls. Chapel Falls is a beautiful, silvery, tumbling cascade that is really worth the effort to go see!

We still had a long way to go before we reached our camp at Mosquito Beach. Everywhere we looked we saw immense sand dunes, waterfalls, streams and those massive rocky cliffs. The wind was whipping, the waves were crashing and we were being pelted by spray, at times, but the rain held off. Many tired but happy people were relieved, when we finally reached the group campground at Mosquito. We set up camp and went to filter water. It turned into mass team effort, like I have never seen before, with one person dipping water from the river and multiple people filtering from the bucket. The whole process developed a rhythm and choreography of its own!

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Winter Outdoor Safety Class

This one day class will prepare novice cross-country skiers and winter hikers for their day trips. Topics include winter hazards, heat management, clothing, hydration, nutrition, hypothermia and frostbite, trip planning and back trail navigation.

**This class will be held on
Saturday, January 10, 2004, 9 AM to 6 PM.
The fee is \$15.**

There is no prerequisite for this course. The registration deadline is the January general meeting. More information about the course location and materials will be provided upon sign-up.

For additional information, please contact:
Lynn Dubay: ldubay@csc.com
Michelle Ganske: boudarymoon@famvid.com
Joan Tobin: BelleJT@aol.com

ANYONE INTERESTED IN DOG SLEDDING?

Start Planning your winter getaways. For those who are looking forward to this season's dog sled trip it is time to plan for it and sign up!

For those who think this idea is crazy enough to try, join us on this fantastic adventure. The dog sled trip will be taking place in South River, Ontario the weekend of February 20-22, 2004.

Sign-ups will start at the Solar Club Meeting starting in November. Last chance to sign up will be at the February meeting in the year of 2004. (Or, when all spots are sold)



For more information seek Karen Bates at the SOLAR Club meetings or e-mail at: lady_rusher@yahoo.com

Karen

Fall Beginning Backpack Class...continued from page 4

We only had a 3-mile hike out the next, and final, day to the Potato Patch exit point, and the time went quickly. The students learned much about backpacking, during this trip, but more importantly, they learned a lot about themselves. I can't wait for the following graduates to lead their own trips, for SOLAR, so I can go with them!

Wayne Wheatley
Chris Blunt
Ronald Young

Vera Morris
Amy Wagoner
Judy Petrella

Bob Mundt
Michael Douglas
Ted Kosik

Mary Short
Claudette Benser
Hope Ponsart

Tom Ponsart
Dave Sweeton
Rodney Gregg

Andrew Stoiko
Stefanie Kulpe
Kate Stratton

We would like to extend a special "THANK YOU" to Ted Kosik and the JFK Investments Company for generously allowing us the use of their conference room facility, in Bingham Farms! Your kindness helped make the class possible!

Thanks Carol, and instructors, for a great class!

- Gene Cordova

SOLAR Cross Country Ski Class

SOLAR will be putting on its Cross Country Ski Class, on Sunday, February 1, 2004. Are you tired of being cooped up in the house from December through March? Would you like to get out and see the beautiful, snow-covered landscape, and learn to enjoy the Michigan Winter? Have you always wanted to try cross-country skiing, but just haven't had the opportunity to learn? Were you afraid, because you were not sure how safe, or good, the trails and the instruction were going to be? Maybe you are already a "shuffler" and just want to improve your technique.

If any of these scenarios describe your situation, come out and join us at one of the premiere cross-country skiing venues in the Lower Peninsula—Cross Country Ski Headquarters, in Roscommon, MI. Gene Cordova, along with our Cross Country Ski Headquarters hosts, Bob and Lynne Frye, welcome all to come out and have a great day on the beautifully groomed trails. Although any skill level could probably benefit from these lessons, we are targeting those in the "beginner" to "intermediate" categories.

Jim Bradley, a well known X-C ski instructor from Mount Pleasant along with Leslie Cordova and Karen Bates, will be giving the personalized instruction, depending on class size. After you master your new skills, we will be going out on the trails to convert all of our new found knowledge into FUN! So, if you still cannot get enough instruction, Gene will provide "on-trail" coaching and answer any questions you may have. X-C Ski Headquarters offers several loop trails that are tailored to the beginning and intermediate skier. I hope some of you more advanced skiers will meet us out on the trails. SEE YOU THERE! THINK SNOW! (Hot beverages will be provided!)

Trip Limits: 6 students minimum and 20 student maximum (3 instructors)



Costs: 4 hour lesson, with skiing afterwards (for 6 to 20 students, the cost is \$17.00 per student)

Equipment Rental—

There is a \$10.00 rental fee for skis, boots and poles (4 hours), which includes a trail pass. There is a full-day rental which is \$14.00, and includes everything in the 4-hour rental. If you provide your own skis, boots and poles the trail pass is \$5.00. (skis, boots or poles can be rented, individually, if you only need one or 2 of the items)

- Leslie & Gene Cordova (lesliegene@aol.com)

LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW

Join SOLAR members and friends January 16-18 for a weekend of winter fun in the Boyre area. We will be staying at Boyre Valley Lodge Friday and Saturday night. There will be ample opportunities to ski downhill or cross country, go tubing or snow shoeing. The lodge is located west of US 131, just 7 miles north of Boyne Mountain. Rooms have 2 or 3 sets of bunk beds and a private bath. Saturday breakfast and dinner and Sunday breakfast are provided along with iners. Just bring your snow toys, snacks, bathing suit and towel for the heated pool which is open on Saturday. There is also a large lounge with a fireplace and a game room. This kid friendly trip is still open. The cost is \$80 with a \$40 dollar deposit due by the December meeting. YUP, THE TRIP IS OPEN FOR MORE SIGN UPS! Ski passes and trail fees are extra. Contact Mary Durn for more information. 248-585-8954.



2004 ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

It's that time of year again when all of you amateur photographers can brag about your trips and show off your stuff. Grab your photos from 2003 and enter them into this year's photo contest. We have added several new categories this year.

Official Rules

- Digitally enhanced - If you alter your photo in any way on your computer or splice several photo's together you can only enter them in the "Digitally Enhanced" category. Cropping is the only exception.
- The Digitally Enhanced category will have two sub-categories: Scenery and other.
- The Non-SOLAR category will now have three sub-categories: Scenery, Plants/Animals and People/Humor.
- Photos must have been taken between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2003.
- Standard photos must be no larger than 8"x10" and panoramic no larger than 8"x18"
- Photos must be matted with matt size no larger than 11"x14" on standard photos and 11"x21" on panoramic photos.
- Photos must have been taken by the person entering it.
- Photos must be taken at a SOLAR event unless entered in the non-SOLAR category.
- Only one photo entry per person per category and only ten entries per person overall are allowed.
- Prizes will be awarded to the first place winner in each category and the overall Grand Prize Winner.
- Photos will be voted on by SOLAR members who attend the January meeting and winners will be announced that evening.

Categories

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Scenery | • Humor | • Digitally Enhanced Scenery | • Non-Solar Plants/Animals |
| • Animals | • People | • Digitally Enhanced Other | • Non-Solar People/Humor |
| • Plants | • Black and White | • Non-Solar Scenery | • Best Overall |

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE RULES, E-MAIL: EVEREST2006@AOL.COM

Winter Backpacking/Enjoying Michigan Winters

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 fingers and toes warm & energy levels high while skiing or snow shoeing in the winter
- Build a snow shelter just in case something does go HORRIBLY WRONG on that simple 3 hr. ski trip
- The "ins and outs" of winter camping in Michigan
- You can also use these skills in the summer on glaciers and snowy peaks in the Rockies, Cascades, Alaska, or Kilimanjaro.

See Photos
Thru out this
Issue

The classes will be held December 4 & 11, January 8, 15, 22 and 29 and practicals will be held January 23-24 & February 6-8. The cost is \$100.00 for new students and reduced fee for past graduates. 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 Wilderness First Aid Course is highly recommended. With the recent warm winters keep your fingers crossed & pray for snow. To sign up or if you have any questions contact:
TOM OLOFFO (313)-386-0057 memountainman@yahoo.com

WHAT IS THE CARTER CAVES CRAWL-A-THON??

By Gene Cordova

CAVING AND/OR HIKING IN KENTUCKY JANUARY 23 - 25, 2004

The end of the holiday season marks the beginning of the annual SOLAR caving season. Yes, once the Thanksgiving turkey has been picked clean and the Christmas decorations have been taken down, and put away for another year, comes the time that all good cavers pull out their coveralls, helmets, headlamps, boots, pads and gloves, in anticipation of the Carter Caves Crawlathon!

This annual event takes place in Carter Caves State Park, outside of Olive Hill, Kentucky, during the last weekend in January. This will be SOLAR's 12th year to participate, and in the last 5 years, or so, we have had the largest contingent of cavers of any single group. This large turnout also requires that we book around half of the available lodge rooms!

Last year, over 600 cavers, from all over the country, congregated in this great park, near the West Virginia border. We go there, because this event is among the best opportunities, in the world, to explore the subterranean world. You begin to recognize many of the same people attending year after year, and friendships are developed with cavers from far and wide. Let me tell you some other reasons this is an unbeatable Adventure Value.

First, for \$75 you receive 2 days of guided caving, a place to sleep in the park lodge and a Crawlathon commemorative T-shirt. We stay right on the park property, in nice, comfortable rooms, in the center of all the activity. You cannot beat the convenience! SOLAR must book these rooms 3 years in advance to enjoy this benefit! Other groups must travel from up to 30 miles away to find a hotel room and then they must hang around all day in the lodge common room. We pop in and out of our rooms at our convenience and leisure! Do you want to rest, get a bite to eat, or clean up a little between trips? We can do that.

Another reason this is such a wonderful event is, the availability of caves. There are many, very nice caves on the park property, and in addition, private cave owners generously allow the Park Service access to their properties (which are otherwise off limits), just this one time a year! The park even provides transportation to and from several of the caves, in their late model, heated vans. Many caves are near the lodge and you can take your own transportation, or arrange car pooling with others going on the same trips.

The third reason for the event's popularity is the sheer variety of caves. There are beautiful caves for folks that just want to walk through them, without even getting dirty. There are caves, which require a nice feel for different caving skills, in a fairly relaxed manner. There are also caves that will challenge the most adventurous among us, with long, tight crawls, rope work if you so desire or canoe to some fairly

Fourth, all the trips will educate you as to the different good information on why caves are very important. You will know the difference, between a stalactite, stalagmite, first hand. The sheer beauty and size of some of these

Reason number 5: you say you don't feel up to and science of caves? The "park" provides programs. You, and your children, can spend an entire day doing activities, in the warmth and comfort of the lodge! Come and prepare to have some old myths shattered and popular beliefs debunked! There are also some great hiking trails in the park, leading to geologic features such as a box canyon, a natural bridge and other gorgeous scenery!

The sixth and most important reason this event is so popular is it is very safe. All our guides are volunteers. These folks, many of them, have spent a lifetime caving. They represent an accumulated treasure trove of cave knowledge and experience. They absolutely love what they are doing and enjoy sharing their enthusiasm with others! Some of them have taught the subject in colleges and universities. Each team has an excellent understanding of the geology and the history of the caves, in which they are guiding. They also have first aid, CPR or even Wilderness First Responder training. They want you to have a great time, and do their best to make you love caving as much as they do!

There are four basic levels of difficulty, in which the caves are categorized. This allows you to match your skills and abilities to the challenges of any particular cave. Level 1's are walk-through tours. These require no special equipment, and can even be done by small children in regular street clothes. Level 2's allow you to do some limited climbing and crawling, with some tight spaces, and you may even get a bit wet and muddy. These are very popular with many of the older kids. On Level 3's you may experience long, tight crawls, canyoning and rock climbing, which require a keen sense of adventure (you will get wet and muddy). Level 4's require either rope work, or canoeing and climbing in search of caves, many of which are wet! You get trip descriptions and you choose what you want to try!

By the way, you also have the unbeatable benefit of having fellow SOLAR members who can tell you what to expect. Some SOLAR members know these caves almost as well as the guides. Oh, I forgot to mention that SOLAR has much of the gear necessary to do this. The club has many helmets and a limited number of kneepads and headlamps! By the way, the caves stay a constant 55-58 degrees, so it is actually quite comfortable in them, even in the middle of winter!

So come and see Leslie Cordova at the December meeting, to find out even more and sign up!

The basic plan is to drive down to the park on Friday (about a 7-hour drive) and stay right at the Carter Caves Lodge. I have a limited number of rooms reserved, once they are filled; the nearest lodging is 10-15 miles away. The cost for 2 nights lodging is \$45 per adult and \$25 per child 16 and under, payable to SOLAR. Since this trip will fill up, only payments in full will be accepted to hold your spot.

You will need to download the Crawl-a-thon entry and release forms yourself from www.crawlathon.com, or call the park at (606) 286-4411. Generally the forms are not available until mid December. You will need to send in both forms yourself along with a check for \$30 to Carter Caves. Your \$30 includes 2 days of guided caving and a T-shirt from the event. Please do not delay as the trips fill up quickly.

See me at the meeting for a listing of equipment you may need. SOLAR has helmets, knee and elbow pads (limited) and headlamps (limited) that you may borrow. A refundable deposit is required. I do not have enough equipment for everyone, so you will need to reserve in advance. To be fair, those who have not been on SOLAR caving trips previously will get first dibs on pads and headlamps.

Need more info contact Leslie Cordova at (248) 547-5626 or LeslieGene@aol.com.



SOLAR Winter Survival Class

How many stories have you read in the news this year about outdoor deaths or escapes?

The lost youth from Northern Michigan, or the guy who amputated his own arm. Would you know how to get out of such a situation? Better yet do you know how to avoid these challenges? The winter survival class will cover the skills and preparations you need to avoid or survive emergencies. Modern equipment as well as primitive skills will be demonstrated in a survival context.

This is not an easy class! It is very rewarding! The lessons learned here will change your outlook on every outdoor excursion. It also has applications to everyday life. We will use a simulated winter survival situation to bring together the various skills you have brought to this class, as well as those learned during the class. It is intended to make you aware of the dangers you may face in the outdoors. How planning and education can mitigate unforeseen events and/or lapses in judgment. Give you the physical and mental skills needed to face unexpected challenges on the trail.

A Partial list of the topics we are going to cover and practice.

Leadership
Decision making
Prioritizing
Trip Planning
Orienteering

Shelter Construction
Fire Building
Sustenance acquisition
Improve your 10 essentials
Rope and Knot Skills

Cost \$100

Classroom Sessions Feb. 12, 19, 26 Mar. 4 Location TBD.
Practical Events Feb. 22 Mar. 5-7. Location: A park nearby.

Prerequisites

Enjoying Michigan Winters Without Leaving the State.
Wilderness First Aid (Strongly Suggested)
Search and Rescue (Strongly Suggested)

I will require 14 Paid students to start this class
Limit 20 students.

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

SOLARAY ARTICLE DEADLINE DATES

Please send all articles and photos not later than the dates given below for consideration:

JANUARY 2004 ISSUE - DEC. 12TH

FEBRUARY 2004 ISSUE - JAN. 9TH

to

Stacie Kitchen

239 E. 12 Mile Rd., Apt 17 • Royal Oak, MI 48073

Email: skitchen@wowway.com • 586-212-2335

and

albinlau@msu.edu • 586-524-3077



Photos submitted by:

*Left and Right Photos.
Kevin Cotter
and
Gene & Leslie Cordova
from the Intermediate
Backpacking Class*

*Above Right Photo:
Kevin Cotter, field
maintaining a therapist.
See article in this issue.*



SOLAR DECEMBER 2003 CALENDAR

School For Outdoor Leadership, Adventure & Recreation

D E C	DECEMBER ACTIVITIES						
8	TUES	GENERAL MEETING		COLONY HALL	Tom Oloffe	memountainman@yahoo.com	
		Program: Annual SOLAR Holiday Party			Lee Szakal	everest2006@aol.com	
14	SUN	CHRISTMAS CAROLING**		Botsford Cont. Care, Farmington	Margaret Martin	rmplascall1@cs.com	
Dec. 26-Jan. 2	MULTI	BACKPACKING		Guadalupe Nat' Park TX	Grey Ivanov	grey27@angelfire.com	
DECEMBER CLASSES							
4, 11	THUR	WINTER BACKPACKING CLASS		EMS Farmington	Tom Oloffe	memountainman@yahoo.com	
J A N	JANUARY ACTIVITIES						
6	TUES	GENERAL MEETING		COLONY HALL	Tom Oloffe	memountainman@yahoo.com	
		Program: Annual SOLAR Photo Contest			Lee Szakal	everest2006@aol.com	
16-18	WKND	XC & DOWNHILL SKIING, ETC.		Boyne Valley Lodge, MI	Mary Dunn	248-565-9954	
23-25	WKND	CRAWLATHON- Carter Caves		Olive Hill, KY	Leslie Cordova	esliegene@aol.com	
JANUARY CLASSES							
01.15.22.29	THUR	WINTER BACKPACKING CLASS		EMS Farmington	Tom Oloffe	memountainman@yahoo.com	
7.14.21.28	WED	BASIC MOUNTAINEERING CLASS		Gahans, Novi	Lee Szakal	everest2006@aol.com	
10	SAT	WINTER SAFETY CLASS		Island Lake	Joan Tobin	beliaj@aol.com	
23-24	WKND	WINTER BACKPACKING PRACTICAL		Waterloo State Park	Tom Oloffe	memountainman@yahoo.com	
F E B	FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES						
8	TUES	GENERAL MEETING		COLONY HALL	Tom Oloffe	memountainman@yahoo.com	
		Program: Wonderland Trail by the Wanderlids			Lee Szakal	everest2006@aol.com	
1	SUN	SUPER BOWL PARTY		DeFrance's	Mo DeFrance	moedefrance@aol.com	
16-Oct	MULTI	XC COUNTRY SKIING		Lillehammer Norway	Mary Dunn	248-565-9954	
20-22	WKND	DOG SLEDDING		South River, Ontario	Karen Bates	lady_musher@yahoo.com	
20-22	WKND	WINTER OUTING- DEFANCE CABIN			Mo DeFrance	moedefrance@aol.com	
20-22	WKND	XC SKIING, SNOW SHOEING, ETC		Hartwick Pines, Grayling	Maria Edwards	maria.edwards@eds.com	
FEBRUARY CLASSES							
1	SUN	CROSS COUNTRY SKIING CLASS		Rosecommon, MI	Gene Cordova	esliegene@aol.com	
8-Jun	WKND	WINTER BACKPACKING PRACTICAL 2		Pigeon River	Tom Oloffe	memountainman@yahoo.com	
4, 18	WED	BASIC MOUNTAINEERING CLASS		Gahans, Novi	Lee Szakal	everest2006@aol.com	
7	SAT	BASIC MOUNTAINEERING PRACTICAL 1		TBD	Lee Szakal	everest2006@aol.com	
12, 19, 26	THUR	WINTER SURVIVAL CLASS		TBD	Doug Laryk	dslaryk@earthlink.net	
22	SAT	WINTER SURVIVAL PRACTICAL 1		TBD	Doug Laryk	dslaryk@earthlink.net	
27-29	WKND	BASIC MOUNTAINEERING PRACTICAL 2		TBD	Lee Szakal	everest2006@aol.com	
FUTURE ACTIVITIES/CLASSES							
March	Various	WINTER SURVIVAL CLASS (4) & PRACTICAL (5-7)			Doug Laryk	dslaryk@earthlink.net	
April 2-4	WKND	WHITE WATER RAFTING**		New River, WV	Laura Altin	altinlu@msu.com	
April 10-16	MULTI	LIVING/SAILING			Bahamas	Roger James	rogerjames@quantumtraining.com
1-May	SAT	COUNTRY HOEDOWN**			Millford	Mo DeFrance	moedefrance@aol.com
W E E K L Y	WEEKLY EVENTS						
MONDAYS	WALLEY BALL**		Westland		Chip Kleverink	nmchip1234@aol.com	
THURSDAYS	ROCK CLIMBING**		Planet Rock Pontac		Michelle Delaporte	1a2spaz2@hotmail.com	
SAT OR SUN	HIKING**		Locations Vary		Peggie Hayes	206-778-3583	
FOR INFORMATION ON JOINING THE SOLAR CLUB, CONTACT MARY PRICE (248) 477-7547 or VISIT WWW.SOLAROUTDOORS.ORG							
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP PLAN AND/OR LEAD A SOLAR ACTIVITY CONTACT							
PAUL RICH SZAKAL AT (248) 685-0367 OR SOLARACTIVITIES@AFTERSCAPE.NET							
SOLAR HAS A NO-REFUND POLICY. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND AN ACTIVITY YOU MAY							
"SELL YOUR SPOT" TO ANOTHER CLUB MEMBER.							
**Denotes Non-Solar Activity (Solar will not be held responsible for these activities).							



Nordhouse Dunes Backpacking Trip November 7-9

Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area, located on Lake Michigan between Ludington and Manistee, is the only federally designated wilderness area in the Lower Peninsula. It includes over four miles of sandy beach, sand dunes, and woods.

Five Solarites set off to explore this gem on Friday, November 7 around 6 PM.

About a half hour from our destination, Roxann made a comment about the white bugs that were flying in front of the car. I noticed that these "bugs" melted as soon as they hit the windshield. Sure enough, the temperatures were dropping and we were encountering lake effect snow. We arrived at the Lake Michigan Recreation Area campground about 11 PM, and quickly set up our tents in the ambience of car headlights and a steady snow. We then feasted on wine and honey roasted peanuts while enjoying the snowfall and each others' company. Around 2 AM, we headed off to bed, struggling to keep warm on a night when the temperature dropped to 16.

Saturday morning, we loaded our backpacks and headed south into Nordhouse Dunes. The snow continued to fall and now covered the ground, making for some really pretty scenery. We hiked along a ridge at the back end of the wilderness area, away from the lake and the wind. After about 3 1/2 miles, we found a grove of cedar trees with a great view of Lake Michigan, where we set up camp. By that time it had stopped snowing and the skies began to clear. To celebrate, Michael led us in a group cheer she learned growing up in Israel. We enjoyed hot soup and a beautiful Lake Michigan sunset, followed by a potato-onion appetizer and a chicken curry dinner. After dark, Joann started a campfire using wood that Judy had gathered. Their efforts were greatly appreciated as it was getting very cold again. We marveled at the lunar eclipse; the full moon had turned into a dark rusty disk. After crawling into our tents, Joann and Roxann perfected the MacGyver method of keeping warm: tuck everything you can find or borrow between yourself and your sleeping bag. Their method was definitely effective; they both kept warm despite a record low temperature of 12 that night.

Sunday morning we enjoyed coffee while watching the moon over the big water. After breakfast we packed up and headed back along the ridge next to the beach, giving us a view of Lake Michigan all the way back to the campground where we left our cars. On the way we spotted a small hut made of sticks and branches, complete with a roof and a door. We wondered if it might have been left by some Solar members.



After enjoying lunch while overlooking Lake Michigan, we reluctantly headed to our cars for the trip home, with great memories, lots of pictures, and new found friendships.

By Kevin Cotter

The Haute Route Hut-to-Hut Trekking Trip/August 2004

By Lou Szakal & Pam Richt-Szakal

The Haute Route, "The High Route" between Chamonix, France and Zermatt, Switzerland is "The Mother" of all Hut-to-Hut alpine traverses. From Western Europe's highest Massif, Mont Blanc (4807 m/15770 ft.) to the Matterhorn (4477 m/14687 ft.), our route leads along some of the most exciting mountain scenery to be found anywhere. Contrasting the huge glaciers and rugged peaks are beautiful valleys with steep high pasture farms and quaint mountain villages. This is a recipe for a visual feast. A gourmet extravaganza of scenic wonders from the first day through the last and each one, a course that both satisfies and teases the palate for more. The highest point of the trip is the summit of the Ictte Blanche at 3800m (12500 ft). After spending two weeks high in the mountains, walking down Zermatt's bustling main street will feel like returning into a different world.

We will lodge in remotely and spectacularly located Huts, Hostels, Inns, Dormitories, and Hotels. The food is good and plentiful, the accommodations clean. The lodging in the valleys will be mostly family-run hotels in single or double bed rooms with excellent multi-course dinners certain to feature the regional cuisine and wines.

Strenuous Alpine Trekking. Although this 125 mile trail with its 40,000+ feet of elevation gain and loss is not technically difficult, it may require up to 9 hours of hiking in a single day reaching altitudes of 15,500 ft with single day elevation gains of over 5000 ft. The good news... we carry only a 20-25 lb. daypack. You must allow 2 1/2 - 3 weeks for this trip.

This is an *interest sign-up only*. Sometime in March of 2004, we will have a group meeting to discuss logistics, costs and formalize the travel dates as well as decide who is truly capable and conditioned to make this trip.

News Flash:

October 26, 2003 it had been two day's since family members had last seen Michael O'Duire. The family was concerned because he is a diabetic. Mr. O'Duire had been hiking in the backcountry of D-A Scout ranch and had not reported in. The weather was cool with a possibility of rain in the forecast. An organization called SOLAR had organized a search and rescue team to find Mr. O'Duire. A Command post was established at Beaver Creek, and four crews were sent out to search the area. After four hours of extensive searching Mr. O'Duire was found. He was confused and disorientated and had suffered a broken right arm. They were able to stabilize (HoneyBear) and transport him to safety. Another successful mission for the SOLAR SAR team.

Another great class with the help of Reggie Hayes, Gene & Leslie Cordova, and Lester Mok. We ran 24 students through a rigorous class of lecture and activities. They had three day's of class time and a weekend practical. During the weekend practical the students were able to hone their skills with a night exercise, which included a lost little boy (little Tommy Duffus). Then a major exercise on Sunday putting everything together and making it work, finding Michael O'Duire (Mike Banks). A written exam was given and everyone passed with flying colors. As with a lot of SOLAR activity, we had the SOLAR potluck for Saturday Night. A good time was had by all.

RED RIVER GORGE – ours

Intermediate Backpacking combines the lessons of the "Trip Planning Seminar" with the development and execution of an actual backpacking trip. This year's class culminated in a four-day trip in Kentucky's Red River Gorge Geological Area. The participants were two instructors (Carol McCrene and Leslie Cordova) and two students (Kevin Carter and Dick Ehrenhoe).

We began our trophy meeting on the evening of Wednesday October 15th for a "quick" ride to the Days Inn at Winchester KY (I really don't know why Leslie calls me "Lead-foot Louie"). After a good night's sleep we awoke to a warm sunny Thursday, a perfect day for hiking. We suited our gear, had breakfast and headed for the "Pinch-am-Tight" Trailhead.

The trail followed a ridge through pine and hardwood stands. We soon noticed an unusual tree with huge leaves. Various hikers we met during the trip called them "umbrella trees" or "elephant ears". Leslie immediately began collecting leaves to take home. Two college-aged young men had some leaves tucked in their belts and dubbed them "bin-cloth trees". We later learned they were Paw-Paw trees.

We also had our first nite eating wildlife encounter here. Leslie kept back shouting "snakes?" I've always been interested in snakes and hurried forward asking "what color is it?" I was hoping to perhaps see a copperhead or timber rattlesnake native to the area. It was hard to avoid a collision with Leslie who was moving just as fast in the other direction.

It was only a garter snake.

After hiking about two miles and crossing a sandstone outcropping we came to the aptly named "Rough Trail" where we encountered our first of many tough "up and down" trail sections. Throughout the gorge area elevations range from 1,300' along the ridges to 800' at the bottom of the gorge. I am not one who keeps track of total elevation change, but take my word for it, we had plenty. We hiked off of Pinch-am-Tight Ridge down a section called "Puro Misery Hill" to the ravine bottom. There were interesting rock formations and overlooks and the sound of water in "Chimney Top Creek" that paralleled the trail. Soon we came to the first of many stream crossings that tested our balancing ability on various stones, tree trunks, etc. Maintaining dry boots was not possible.

After having hiked another couple of miles, we reached our planned stopping area and pitched our tents. We then day-hiked up the "Sheltowee Trace" to see a suspension bridge on the trail across the Red River. It was along this trail that we encountered a second unusual type of vegetation. I noticed what appeared to be bamboo growing in a wetland area along the trail and commented on it to the others. None of us knew that bamboo occurred naturally in this area. I later learned it is a native variety of bamboo called "River Cane". There will be more about this interesting plant later.

Day one of our trip ended with a delicious dinner of chicken tacos complete with fresh lettuce and cheese, followed by a euchre game around the campfire. Leslie, Carol and Kevin all relaxed comfortably on their Therm-a-Rest chairs. I sat on a rock.

Friday morning was cloudy with scattered light rain showers. Because this weather had been forecast, we planned to spend Friday day hiking up a "goat track" (this is Carol's term) called the "Koomer Ridge Trail" with side hikes or the "Hidden Arch" and "Silvermine Arch" trails. The combination of these trails totaled about eight or nine miles hiked for the day.

We started the day with a 300 foot climb in less than a half-mile, after which the trail was either level or had fairly gentle grades. It was along this trail that Carol pointed out an interesting orange spotted creature. It was an eft, the juvenile land dwelling form of the Eastern Red-Spotted Newt. We also saw a number of inviting cave entrances in the rocks. Unfortunately, we didn't have our helmets, creepers, etc.

The Hidden Arch trail included our first encounter with steps built into the steep trails. There are 61 on this trail. For the rest of the trip someone was always counting the steps we had to climb or descend. I don't know why. The trail also included some of the more impressive of the many stands of Rhododendrons we saw. The arch itself, being only about four feet high and six feet long, was not that impressive. Carol would have missed it if I hadn't pointed it out to her. The Silvermine Arch, which is down two more sets of steep wooden stairways, was more interesting. The highpoint of this day's hike for Leslie was the porcelain facilities we encountered at the Koomer Ridge drive-in campground. On the way back, we ran into fellow SOLARite Tim Klepaczky who was also there camping and hiking with some friends.

The rain, for the most part, held us by time we returned to camp for another delicious supper of mock shepherd pie, complete with sausage. I showed Leslie an old Boy Scout tip that says to find dry wood on a wet day, look up. We settled down to another warm campfire and round two of our euchre contest.

While we were playing euchre, we were surprised to hear voices and see flashlights coming along the nearby trail in the dark. We greeted the night hikers and learned that they were a group of scouts with their fathers.

"We're going to get some bamboo!"

"It explodes when you burn it!"

A little while later the boys came back with arms full of bamboo stalks. We talked a little more and I asked if they would give us a piece to test their explosion theory. They gave me one piece. I placed the end of the stalk over the fire. The scouts proceeded down the trail and we returned to the euchre game.

After a short time, as promised, the end of the bamboo stalk exploded. Pop! in the fire. This was met by whoops and laughs from the boys down the trail and we too started laughing. I advanced the stalk into the fire and we continued the game. Shortly, Bang! It exploded again. More laughter and I slid the stalk further into the fire. Then,

BANG!

Sparks and embers are flying.

"KEVIN, GET UP!"

"KEVIN, YOUR LEG'S ON FIRE!"

"GET UP!!!"

We adjourned the euchre game to hold an impromptu hands-on class in the field repair of Kevin's Therm-a-Rest, since it was now noticeably hissing through two small burn-holes. We passed.

We awoke Saturday to cooler weather with rapidly clearing skies. It was another beautiful day for hiking. After went back up "Puro Misery Hill" to a new section of the Rough Trail toward Gray's Arch. The outstanding scenery continued along with more ups and downs, some places requiring use of hands and feet. Ask Carol about Mr. Corky. After 3 or 4 miles, we found a spot to set up camp again, filtered water and had lunch. We then hiked on to see Gray's Arch, which is about 50 feet high with an impressive 80 foot span. One stretch of the trail included over 100 steps.

After seeing the arch, Carol returned to camp to spend the afternoon with her book, while the rest of us continued on another mile and a half so that we could hike the two-mile Daniel Boone HiLoop. While the scenery was terrific, it was a steep and very strenuous trail. We never did see Daniel Boone's alleged hut. We had to really hustle to get back to camp so that we could start supper before dark.

After our tenth supper we sat around the campfire too tired from hiking to even play euchre.

Sunday was another clear sunny morning. After breakfast we had a final climb out of the gorge to an easy hike along the Rush Ridge and the Pinch-am-Tight Ridge back to the car. We changed to clean clothes, drove to a couple of tourist stops in the area and then headed back North.

After another "quick" trip we arrived back at our starting point. The car was unloaded and everyone had gone his or her separate ways in about ten minutes flat. The trip, the scenery, and the hiking were all outstanding. If you haven't been in the Red River Gorge, I highly recommend it. I also think the Fall is the best time to go there.

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 MEETINGS

Are held the first Tuesday of every month in Southfield at the Colony Hall, 21780

Evergreen
(between 8 & 9
Mile Roads)
at 7:30 p.m.

Visitors can
come for FREE!



SOLAR Steering Committee

President	Tom Oloffo	Equipment	Carol McCrine
Vice President	Tom Hayes	Historian	Charles Hailey
Secretary	Cindy Taylor	Membership	Mary Price
Treasurer	Reggie Hayes	Programs	Lou Szekal
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At Large: Mike Banks • Moe DeFrance • Al Fylax • Steve Gartner
Bill Halvingis • Cindy Harrison-Felix • Doug Lanyk • Larry Martin
Joan Hettinger • Leslie Cordova • Joan & Bob Westbrook

SOLAR Steering Committee Meetings - The Steering Committee meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. These meetings are usually open to the general membership. Anyone who is interested in learning what topics are being discussed, the decisions being made, or contemplating running for a position on the Steering Committee, is welcome to attend. If you are interested in attending the Steering Committee Meeting, contact Tom Oloffo at (313) 386-0057 or mcmountainman@yahoo.com.

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:

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or call (586) 212-2335 (leave message w/your ph. #)
email: skitchen@wowway.com
or aibinlau@msu.edu • (586) 524-3677

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.SOLARDOOR.COM

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S.O.L.A.R.