



SOLAR RAY

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Start the

Join and get started on some
new adventures
And great classes!!

NEW

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Right!!

JOIN SOLAR NOW!!



WINTER

Caving

Trips

CAMPING

SUMMER

Practicals

Classes

Hiking

Backpacking

SPRING

**Canoeing
& Kayaking**

**MOUNTAIN
CLIMBING**

FALL



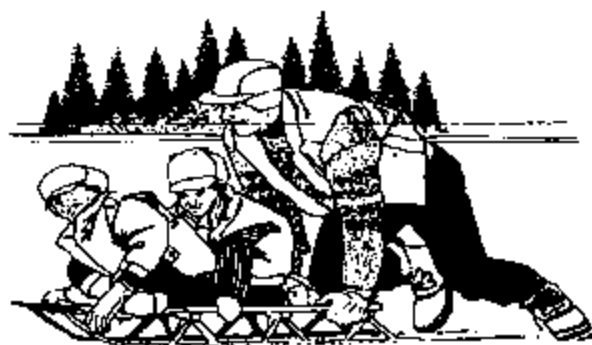
Congratulations
New SOLAR Members!!!

As part of the festivities at the Annual Holiday Party in December, 3 memberships were given away to new members who joined the club that night. All new members names were written on slips of paper and thrown into the hat to ensure everyone had an equal chance to win. The winners were Aaron Kleinow, Delores Schatz, and Laurie Sills. Welcome all new members!!!!

Come LUGE

At the most publicly accessible luge track in North America! You can go up to 30 MPH! Muskegon State Park Inter Sports Complex offers many activities, but the most exciting is definitely the LUGE run. You can work your way up to going 30 mph on the first day and possibly 40 mph on the second day. If speed isn't your thing they also have X-Country Skiing and Ice Skating. If the mini cabins are available we will stay there in the park Friday and Saturday nights. If the cabins aren't available we will stay in town at an inexpensive hotel. The cost is as follows: \$30/day for Luge; \$8/day for X-Country Skiing; \$2/day for Ice Skating; \$4 State Park daily pass or \$20 Annual; \$40 Super Daily Pass (includes ski and skate rental); \$10/Night for cabins; \$10-20/night for hotel. The dates are Feb. 28th to Mar. 2nd.

I will take sign ups at the December meeting. You can also contact me (David Foerster) at 586-497-9800 or e-mail me at dbfoerster@ameritech.net.



SOLAR Cross Country Ski Class

SOLAR will be putting on its Cross Country Ski Class, on Saturday, January 11, 2003. 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-Country ski instructor from Mount Pleasant, along with Fran Upton and Lynne Frye 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-Country 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!

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

Costs: 1 1/2 hour lesson, with skiing afterwards (for 6 to 20 students, the cost is \$15.00 per student)

Equipment Rental - There is a \$10.00 rental fee for skis, boots and poles (3 hours), which includes a trail pass. There is a full-day rental which is \$14.00, and includes everything in the 3 hour rental. If you provide your own skis, boots and poles the trail pass is \$4.00. (skis, boots or poles can be rented individually, if you only need one or 2 of the items)

CRAVING AND/OR HIKE IN KENTUCKY

ALL LEVELS. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!!!
KID FRIENDLY. NO PETS

January 24 26, 2003

If you have not already done so, you will need to download the Crawl-a-thon entry form from www.crawlathon.com. Mail the form along with your payment to Carter Gaver State Resort Park. Remember, you only paid SOLAR for the lodging. Failure to read in your registration form may mean that you will not get on any cave tours.

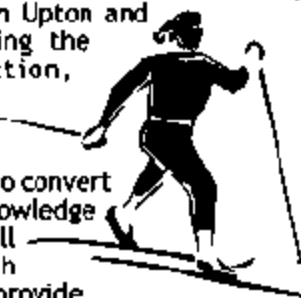
As far as gear goes, if you are just doing the walk-thru tour you do not need any special equipment except maybe a flashlight. For the son walk-thru tour you need: a helmet with a light mounted to it (duct tape works), knee and elbow pads, boots that cover the ankle and glove.

At the January meeting I will be bringing helmets, lights and knee and elbow pads. I am NOT planning to bring any extra gear with me to Kentucky as I have a limited amount of space in my vehicle. If you are unable to attend the January meeting, let me know and we can make some other arrangements for you to pick up gear. A \$25 fully refundable deposit, per piece of gear, is required. If you borrow a headlamp, you will need to provide 2-4 AA batteries (depending on the headlamp), as I am not sure how old the ones in the headlamp are. Also, you will need to bring a backup light source just in case.

If you have not already done so, please let me know if you need gear as I do not have enough to go around and it will be first to ask for gear, first to receive gear.

Contact Leslie at

(248) 547-5636 or leslie@eas@aol.com



Enjoy Michigan Winters BACKPACKING

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

This class will teach you the "ins and outs" of winter camping in Michigan. The first classes will be held on 12-11 & 12-18 and all other classes and practicals will be held in January & the beginning of February. The cost is \$100 for new students and reduced fee for past graduates who want to retake the course. Pick up details at the monthly meeting.

This course is open to the graduates of the Backpacking Course, graduates of non-SOLAR backpacking courses may be admitted by special permission only. This course is the prerequisite for the Winter Survival Course. For safety reasons the Wilderness First Aid Course is highly recommended for both of these courses. With the recent warm winters keep your fingers crossed & pray for snow.

To sign up or if you have any questions contact
TOM OLOFFO.

(313)-386-0057 or mcmountainman@yahoo.com

Winter Survival Class.

It's here. The class you've been begging for. The class that will leave you better prepared for emergencies. The class that may save your life.

We will be: learning and practicing basic survival skills, survival gear, decision-making, planning, and several other related topics. This will be an intense primer for those wishing a larger comfort margin in the field.

I need to have the class filled and paid by the January meeting. To all those who have been asking about the class. **Get your pens in gear and sign up!** The sign up sheet is looking very sparse.

Class will start immediately following the Enjoying Michigan Winters class in February.

It will run 5 consecutive weeks on Thursdays after work. We will have one Saturday or Sunday practical, and a final weekend practical. The class will be \$100. Sign-ups will be at the December and January meetings. But wait there's more. The prerequisites are: passing winter backpacking, CPR certification, and I strongly suggest wilderness first aid.

Class minimum size 16, maximum 24. Tell your friends.

Class Dates Feb: 6,13,20,27, Mar. 6

Practical Dates: Feb 22, Mar 7-9

Come have fun with me. Douglas Lanyk
(248) 634-4551 or dslanyk@earthlink.net

The Editor is still looking for
Photos. Please direct them to
Stacie Kitchen
skitchen@wideopenwest.com

*Weekly Open Hikes For Everyone
See Calendar in this newsletter issue*

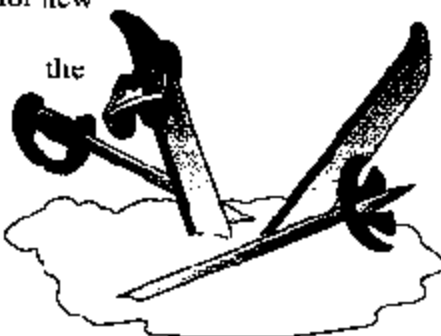


A reminder from your Membership Chairman

All annual memberships from 2002 will expire on December 31st, 2002, except for new members who joined during the months of October, November, and December.

Everyone needs to fill out an application (except Lifetime members who signed the new application form in 2002). Forms are available in this edition of the Ray, on the SOLAR website (www.solaroutdoors.org), or at the membership meeting. If you are unable to make the membership meeting just mail the application to me at the address on the bottom of the application along with your check or money order. Trip leaders and head instructors will be verifying your membership status for all SOLAR classes and SOLAR sponsored activities

~ Mary Price, Membership Chairman



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 Steering Committee

<i>President</i>	Tom Oloffo	<i>Equipment</i>	Carol McCririe
<i>Vice President</i>	Tom Hayes	<i>Historian</i>	Denise Kordic
<i>Secretary</i>	Cindy Taylor	<i>Membership</i>	Mary Price
<i>Treasurer</i>	Reggie Hayes	<i>Programs</i>	Pam Reihl
<i>Activities</i>	Peggy Medved	<i>Pub. Relations</i>	Laura James
<i>By-Laws</i>	Gloria Fontaine	<i>Solar Ray</i>	Stacie Kitchen
<i>Education</i>	Harry Price	<i>Web Master</i>	Roger James

At Large: Mike Banks • Moe DeFrance • Al Fylak • Steve Gardner
Bill Halvingis • Cindy Harrison-Felix • Doug Lanyk • Larry Martin
Joan Ryan • Leslie Cordova • Joan & Bob Westbrook

SOLAR Meetings are generally held the first Tuesday of every month in Southfield at the Colony Hall, 2178C Evergreen (between 8 & 9 Mile Roads) at 7:30 pm. Visitors can come for FREE.

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, hmprice@ameritech.net.

Submission Guidelines:

Articles must be 500 words or less or depending on the room available.
SOLAR events have priority over non-club events; events in the next 2 months have priority over other events.
Please submit all articles and photos w/SOLAR RAY in the Subject line if e-mailing (original Photo/Art, Microsoft Word, PDF, JPEG, TIFF, EPS, and or IMAGE files) to:
Stacie Kitchen, 239 E. 12 Mile Rd. Apt 17, Royal Oak, MI 48073 or call (586) 212-2335
email: skitchen@wideopenwest.com or rayeditor@solaroutdoors.org

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: SUNDAY, JANUARY 22nd
NO submissions will be accepted after that date



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