



# SOLAR RUN

1000 DUTCHMAN RD. N. W. ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87107-1000 [www.solarbikes.org](http://www.solarbikes.org)

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## JUMP ON YOUR BIKE!

### SOLAR BIKE RALLY - MAY 18, 2003

Get on your bike, and head out to somewhere! Where? Find out as your team rides along solving clues to win prizes and have fun! Designed for all skill levels. Get your own team of 4 or less or join one at the start! Time: 9:00 AM-?? Cost of \$10.00 per person. Rally starts at Island Lake State Park.

For more information call Jonnie at (734) 398-5315 or Alan at (734) 455-9144

### SOLAR COVERED BRIDGE BIKE TOUR - June 6-8, 2003

Imagine biking down dirt roads, riding through small historic towns and visiting approximately 10 covered bridges. Or maybe stopping along a few of the 3 wineries along the route. Over the weekend you are invited to experience these sites along a 54 mile route (ride as little or as much as you want.)

Cost of \$25.00 per person includes 2 nights of camping. Bring a pot luck dish for Saturday night.

Location: Ashtabula, Ohio (Northeastern Ohio)

For more information call Jonnie at (734) 398-5315

## PUT ON YOUR BACKPACK!



## LUG YOUR KAYAK OUT!

### Kayak Class - June 28-29, 2003

Taught by Ron Smith, Black Parrot Paddling, Silver Lake State Park, Mears, MI

\$175 - with Ron's equipment (includes campsite)

\$145 - your own equipment (includes campsite)

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. Silver Lake State Park has a beautiful day use beach in addition to camping. 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 will have the campsites reserved for Friday night June 27 and Saturday June 28. 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, [johnjmoffat@yahoo.com](mailto:johnjmoffat@yahoo.com)

# MOST OF ALL GET OFF THE COUCH, CAUSE THERES TOOOO MUCH TO DO

## North Manitou Island Backpack Memorial Weekend

North Manitou Island is part of Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes National Lakeshore. The island has a wide variety of natural beauty as well as an interesting human history, as evidenced by the interesting place names and ruins returning to nature, scattered across the island. There are 15,000 acres to explore and hike around. The topography varies considerably from low, sandy, open dunes to rugged bluffs.

There is a variety of wildlife on the island, including deer, raccoons that will steal your food, given the opportunity and the piping plover, a shore-bird which is on the endangered species list, BUT NO BEARS!!! Fishing is permitted on Lake Manitou, with a valid fishing license.

Be prepared for a rustic



outhouses.

backpacking experience, as you will need to hang your food, purify your drinking water, and bring a cook stove, as fires are not permitted in the wilderness area. Oh and by the way there are no  
Cost of the trip is \$25 for adults and \$15 for kids 12 and under, which will cover the ferry ride over to the island. The park service charges \$5 per night per site for camping as well as a \$7 vehicle fee. You will be responsible for this cost, as it is NOT included in the \$25 for the ferry. The park ranger will collect this money from you on the island. You may choose to take the ferry over either Friday or Saturday at 10:00 AM SHARP, returning Monday at 11:10 AM SHARP!!! Ferry times are subject to change, please double check the times, as the ferry will leave without

you.

Since this Island is very popular, I will be making the ferry reservations in April, thus I need everyone to pay by the April meeting. After this time, if you still want to go, you will need to make your own ferry reservations.

At the May meeting I will have a list of people who are going on both the Friday and Saturday ferry. Please take a copy and try to carpool as much as possible. Also, since there will be a lot of people going on this trip, we need to practice minimal impact camping, so try to set up small (less than 8 people) hiking groups. Remember that your group will be responsible for their own food and gear (stoves, water filters, tents, first aid, bear bag etc.) PLEASE COME PREPARED!!

If you need additional information, please contact Leslie Cordova at [lesliegene@aol.com](mailto:lesliegene@aol.com) or (248) 547-5626.

Please don't delay,  
as the ferry will fill up.

## YEEE-HA!

IT'S TIME TO TAP YOUR TOES AND STAMP YOUR FEET!

Come and join in an old fashioned COUNTRY HCE-DOWN!

WHEN: Saturday, May 31

TIME: Dancing from 8PM - Midnight

WHERE: Lazy J Ranch in Milford, Michigan  
(Map on back)

COST: \$20.00 per person

INCLUDES: 100+ year old barn, caller, hayride, and enough fun to knock your socks off!

YOU SHOULD: Layer for hayride and dancing, bring your own drinks (liquor allowed). Bring a dish to pass (Hors D'oeuvre)



### PROPER ATTIRE PLEASE!

Come join in for an evening of knee-slapping fun!  
Cowboy Joe will teach and call a variety of dances  
No experience necessary!  
Don't forget your dancin' boots!

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE

Please send your check (made out to Maureen DeFrance) by April 20th to:

Maureen DeFrance  
2111 Moorlands View  
Howell, MI 48855  
(Phone 517-552-8660)



## Upcoming Programs May- Club Elections • June-Open

At the end of each SOLAR business meeting there is a program for approximately 45 min to an hour. Programs vary from slide shows of members' trips to guest speakers on outdoor topics to special club events. 2003 programs are already filling up fast. Upcoming programs for the next several months are listed below. If you are interested in hosting a program or have an idea for a program, please contact Pam Riehl at [pariehl1@netscape.net](mailto:pariehl1@netscape.net). For the open months we are currently looking into guest speakers on SOLAR History, Weather, Archeology and Stars.

## Wildflower walk

What do Dutchman's breeches, spring beauties and May apples have in common? They are all spring wildflowers native to Michigan. This year we're going to a city park in Holly, MI to check out the wildflowers. We'll meet in the parking lot at 2 PM on Saturday, May 17, 2003 and seek out the native wildflowers. Please dress for the weather, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and other hiking gear. If you have wildflower identification books, please bring them along. After the hike we'll head over to Doug Lanyk's for a pot-luck bar-b-que. Please bring a dish to pass and something to cook on the grill. Usual Lanyk house rules apply. Directions will be available at the meeting.

For more information call Margaret at 734-721-2821 or Doug at 248-634-4551. Cost is FREE!

# SOLAR Backpacking Course

You joined SOLAR to begin a lifetime of wilderness adventure. Right? However, you have to admit you can't know everything there is to know about wilderness travel. Who does? Where do you start on the path to enlightenment? One answer is the SOLAR Beginning Backpacking course.

Beginning Backpacking is designed for you to learn how to travel through the woods with the confidence that you have the basic knowledge and skills to do it safely. Will it teach you everything you will ever need to know? Heck\* no! It will however, give you the foundation to build ever-increasing skills and knowledge if you should so choose. It may also teach you that life in the woods is not for you, but at least you'll be richer for the experience of having tried it\*\*.

Who is Beginning Backpacking for?

1. Anyone that hopes to take many of the other courses in SOLAR e.g. Wilderness Canoeing, Enjoying Michigan Winters, Advanced Backpacking & Leadership, etcetera.
2. Anyone who wants to increase his or her 'comfort zone' in the outdoors.
3. Anyone who wants to take a short cut to meeting many other SOLAR members, both new and old.
4. Anyone who wants to learn new techniques, gear and philosophy\*\*\* for traveling through the wilderness.
5. Anyone who needs one more excuse to spend more time talking about backpacking and more weekends doing it\*\*\*\*.

What can you get out of this course?

1. Equipment needs, selection and use.
2. Basic land navigation skills.
3. Trip planning skills.
4. Environmental sensitivity.
5. Snoring sensitivity.

6. Criterion avoidance.
7. Good times.
8. Friends.
9. A better understanding of yourself.
10. Something that I haven't written down here.

When does this course take place?

The class meets for 5 Thursday evenings in a row. The dates are March 27<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The weekend practicals are April 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The first weekend is compulsory!

Where does the course take place?

Thursday night classes take place at The Benchmark in the city of Farmington. Practical #1 will be in Pinckney State Recreation Area. Practical #2 is scheduled for the Foist Lakes area of the Huron National Forest.

WARNING: All students must be current members of SOLAR.

WARNING: Space is limited.

WARNING: All students must be registered in advance.

WARNING: Registration is available at the February and March meetings.

WARNING: The cost of this course is \$100 U.S. Make your checks payable to 'SOLAR'.

QUESTIONS? Contact Michael Banks at [slwywofg52@yahoo.com](mailto:slwywofg52@yahoo.com).

\* Politically corrected for a 'G' rating.

\*\* Politically corrected for overly sensitive wimps. Not that there is anything wrong with being overly sensitive or wimpy.

\*\*\* No knowledge of ancient Greeks wearing togas, ancient Indians wearing togas, ancient Chinese wearing togas of Harvard professors wearing togas is essential to this course. However, seeing 'Animal House' several times will help you better relate to your instructors.

\*\*\*\* What did you think was motivating your instructors?

Spring 2003

## CAESAR CREEK STATE PARK - LITTLE MIAMI STATE PARK AND RIVER JULY 3-6, 2003

Come join SOLAR as we celebrate the July 4th holiday. This kid and dog friendly outing is close to home, only a 4 hour drive, basically just South of Dayton Ohio.

Caesar Creek State Park is highlighted by clear blue waters, scattered woodlands, meadows and steep ravines. The park offers some of the finest outdoor recreation in Southwest Ohio including boating, hiking, camping and fishing. There are 43 miles of hiking trails, 8.5 miles of mountain biking trails, a lake with a 1,300 foot beach and fossil hunting. Nearby is the Little Miami paved bike trail system with over 100 miles of trails. There is also a bike rental, ice cream store and winery nearby. We are going to canoe or kayak the Little Miami River on Sunday and have the traditional polluck dinner on Saturday night.

We will be camping at the Group Horseman's Camp within the park. We will have the entire camp to ourselves. There is a pit toilet, but no running water. Please bring a water container with you that you can fill at the main campground, which also has showers.

Cost is: Adult	Camp and canoe \$30, camp and kayak \$40, camp only \$15
Child	Camp and canoe \$20, camp and kayak \$25, camp only \$5
Dogs	\$5, not allowed in canoes or kayaks and must be leashed at all times

If you are interested please contact Leslie Cordova at (248) 547-5626 or [lesliec@earthlink.net](mailto:lesliec@earthlink.net). It will be first pay first go with a strict limit of 30 human participants.

## Flat Water Canoe Class - June 21, 2003

With the warmer weather my thoughts are turning to spending time in my canoe. Floating and/or paddling in the canoe is one of life's simple pleasures. Unfortunately for many beginners it isn't quite as simple as it looks. This leads to frustration and a reduced value of your chill out time. Fortunately for SOLARites the Flat Water Canoe class is there to help. We will be teaching the nomenclature of the canoe and its accessories, canoe safety, the basic strokes, several ways to steer, how to keep the people side up, and what to do if you end up with a canoe full of water. For beginners we'll get you started, for intermediates we'll tweak your stroke into a ballet of motion.

Information you need. Class is on at 11:00 AM on Saturday, June 21 2003. Location is at my house in Rose Township Michigan, 10541 Tamryn Blvd. Holly, MI 48442 (248) 634-4551. [dstanyk@earthlink.net](mailto:dstanyk@earthlink.net). Cost \$22.00 Class will run until 3:10, and a polluck lunch will follow.

Stuff you need for the class: Clothes to get wet in, eye glass straps, sunglasses, sunscreen, and a sh to pass.

We will provide: Canoe's, paddles, life jackets, beverages, class notes.

Instructors please contact me.

Non-students are invited to the polluck.

# SOLAR Elections - May 6, 2003

Want to get more involved with SOLAR or help direct the future of the club? Well, now is your chance by running for a position on the SOLAR Steering Committee. SOLAR will hold its annual elections at the May meeting for all positions. All current dues paying members are welcome to run for the one of the 14-committee positions. No experience is necessary- just a willingness to make SOLAR the best outdoor club it can be!

In addition to the monthly membership meetings, the Steering Committee holds a club business meeting the third Tuesday of each month in which all committee members are encouraged to attend. SOLAR is a volunteer organization and thus all Steering Committee members give their personal time to participate in a larger way with the club.

The Steering Committee is comprised of the following positions:

**President-** Oversees monthly meetings, fields member questions/concerns

**Vice President-** Assists President and steps in for them when necessary

**Secretary-** Takes minutes at Steering Committee meetings and distributes

**Treasurer-** Manages organization finances, bank account, reimburses members

**Education-** Oversees all classes and provides direction to lead instructors

**Membership-** Manages membership lists, collects dues, oversees liability release forms

**Activities-** Collects, posts and announces monthly activities

**Programs-** Organizes all monthly programs held at membership meetings

**Public Relations-** Promotes club at local events, in media and organizes members for participation in grassroots events (i.e. National Trails Days)

**SOLAR Ray Editor-** Collects articles, organizes, lays out and prints newsletter

**Equipment-** Stores, organizes and distributes/collects SOLAR rental equipment

**Historian-** Collects and stores information about the club

**By-Laws** Oversees club by-laws and changes

**Web Master-** Manages, maintains and hosts club website



If you are interested in running for a position or have any questions, please contact or submit your name and the position to Pam Riehl at [pariehl1@netscape.net](mailto:pariehl1@netscape.net) or 248-709-6773 by April 18. All candidates will have an opportunity to introduce themselves before elections on May 6.

## LONDON TRIP

I am organizing a trip to England the last two weeks of June. We will be staying three days in London then spending some time going to Stonehenge, Avebury Circle, Bath, and Bristol.

Planning a walk in the Cotswolds or the Brecon Becons. Probably a hike called the three castle walk. We will be staying in youth hostels for the first part of the trip and the rest will be in a cottage that I can rent from the London Mountaineering Club.

This is not a back packing trip just day packs required.

There is plenty to do around the cottage, mountain walking and rock climbing right outside the door. There are several castles in the neighborhood and the North Atlantic beach is not far away. It could be

the Irish sea come to think about it.

There is a lot of biking around and bikes can be rented. If anyone is interested there are climbing classes up to what ever level you aspire to, also white water and sea kayaking classes guaranteed to get you rolling. Equipment for all can be rented.

I took peoples names and email at the meeting and sent out invitations to join the Fronwydar web site as of now only one person has replied. This is how I am going to put this trip together so if you plan on going you really should reply. I have already sent out some messages. This trip will be limited to 12 people because of the cottage sleeping capacity. I estimate the cost at \$1550 including air fare but not food.

Contact me Peter Lamb at [petekandu@yahoo.com](mailto:petekandu@yahoo.com)

**This is the hike schedule for April, May and June of 2003.** I will not be scheduling any hikes for July or August. I'm too busy during those months. If anyone else would like to run the hikes for those months please feel free to do so. Currently I am considering doing the hikes again in September.

**Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> Proud Lake Recreation Area**

Time: 0930 Hike leader: needed!

Directions: The park is 3 miles north of I-96, exit#159. Park Headquarters, 3500 Wixom Rd., Commerce Twp. Follow Wixom Rd. to Park Headquarters (field stone sign), turn on road before sign, follow to Annex parking lot.

Web address: <http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/ParksandTrailsInfo.asp?id=407>

**Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> Woodland Hills/Heritage park**

Time: 0930 Hike leader: Reggie Hayes

Directions: Woodland Hills is located just south of I-96 on Farmington Rd. Heritage Park is located on the west side of Farmington Rd. between Ten and Eleven Mile Road. First we hike Woodland Hills, Then drive 1 1/2 miles to Heritage Park and hike there.

Web address: ?

**Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> Highland Recreation Area**

Time: 0930 Hike leader: needed!

Directions: Take I-75 to M-59. Take M-59 west. Roughly 15 miles later you will come to Ford Rd. in White Lake Twp. Just west of Ford Rd. is Highland Recreation Area entrance on left (south side of M-59). Enter and go to Haven Hill Lake picnic area parking lot.

Web address: <http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/ParksandTrailsInfo.asp?id=455>

**Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> Island Lake Recreation Area**

Time: 0930 Hike leader: Reggie Hayes

Directions: Take I-96 West to exit#151 (Kensington Rd.) and go south a half mile to the park entrance. Park at the River Bend picnic area.

Web address: <http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/ParksandTrailsInfo.asp?id=462>

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**May 2003**

Dates	Day	Description	Location	Leader	Email
May 2	Wind.	White Water Rafting	Upper Youghiogheny	Linda Hill	<a href="mailto:mkerwoman@comcast.net">mkerwoman@comcast.net</a>
2-4	Wind.	Spring Backpacking Trip	(Class)	Mike Banks	<a href="mailto:slwywlfz3@lunatic.com">slwywlfz3@lunatic.com</a>
May 3	Wind.	White Water Rafting	Cheat River Canyon	Linda Hill	<a href="mailto:mkerwoman@comcast.net">mkerwoman@comcast.net</a>
<b>May 6</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>General Membership Meeting **</b>	<b>Colony Hall</b>	<b>Tom Oloffo</b>	<b><a href="mailto:mcmountainman@yahoo.net">mcmountainman@yahoo.net</a></b>
May 18	Sat.	Bike Rally	T.B.D.	Jornie	<a href="mailto:jandrust@ic.net">jandrust@ic.net</a>
May 23-26	Wind.	Backpacking	North Manitow Island	Leslie Cordova	<a href="mailto:lesliegene@aol.com">lesliegene@aol.com</a>
May 24-25	Wind.	Camping	Pont Pelee	Hope Ponsart	<a href="mailto:mshope30@aol.com">mshope30@aol.com</a>
May 31	Sat.	Hoe Down **	T.B.D.	Mos Defrance	<a href="mailto:mredfrance@aol.com">mredfrance@aol.com</a>

**June 2003**

<b>June 4</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>General Membership Meeting **</b>	<b>Colony Hall</b>	<b>Tom Oloffo</b>	<b><a href="mailto:mcmountainman@yahoo.net">mcmountainman@yahoo.net</a></b>
June 6-8	Wind.	Bike the Covered Bridge Tour	T.B.D.	Jornie	<a href="mailto:jandrust@ic.net">jandrust@ic.net</a>
June 7	Sat.	National Trails Day **	T.B.D.	Laura James	<a href="mailto:laura4991@prodigy.net">laura4991@prodigy.net</a>
June 13-27	Multi.	Welsh Trip	England	Pete Larab	<a href="mailto:petekandou@yahoo.com">petekandou@yahoo.com</a>
June 17-19	Multi.	Wilderness 1st Aid Class	Maybury State Park	Mary Price	<a href="mailto:mahildet@voyager.net">mahildet@voyager.net</a>
June 28-29	Wind.	Kayak Class	Siler Lake State Park	John Moffat	<a href="mailto:johnmoffat@yahoo.com">johnmoffat@yahoo.com</a>

**July 2003**

<b>July 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>General Membership Meeting **</b>	<b>Colony Hall</b>	<b>New President</b>	<b><a href="http://www.solarcutoffdoors.org">www.solarcutoffdoors.org</a></b>
July 3-6	Wind.	Hiking, Biking, Canoeing, Kayaking	Caesar Creek State Park	Leslie Cordova	<a href="mailto:lesliegene@aol.com">lesliegene@aol.com</a>

If you would like to plan / lead a SOLAR activity, call Peggy Medved at (248) 390-3969 or email her at [activities@solarcutoffdoors.org](mailto:activities@solarcutoffdoors.org)

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 this activity, On calendar for informational purposes only)

# ROCK CLIMBING

What happened to SOLAR's Rock Climbing Class??? Many of you want-to-be climbers are likely asking this question, as well as past instructors. This year, Laura Aloin decided to spend some time cultivating her own life. Laura has served SOLAR as head instructor of the Rock Climbing Class for several years. Her leadership has been exuberant and highly respected. Many of us are climbing today because of her enthusiasm. THANK YOU LAURA for your dedication over the past several years. I have volunteered to take over as lead instructor for this year's Rock Climbing Class, although in a modified format from past years. Any concerns or questions relating to rock climbing can be directed to me via email ([klymr\\_rekk@msn.com](mailto:klymr_rekk@msn.com)). Rock Climbing is an intricate part of SOLAR and every effort will be made to safeguard its place in SOLAR's program. Once again THANK YOU LAURA and much success in the future!

## ROCK CLIMBING WORKSHOP

### Top Rope Anchors

*Sunday July 13, 2003* This workshop will teach two different top rope anchor systems. If you are a rock climber and don't know how to set up an anchor for safe climbing then this workshop is a must for you. If you need a refresher class or are a beginner, then come out and you'll be taught. We will not be climbing. This workshop will take place at a local park. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Location has not been determined. Contact Rick Waller 248-414-6991 or [klymr\\_rekk@msn.com](mailto:klymr_rekk@msn.com). **Climb Safe!**

### The few, the proud, the Lopeteers!

The first weekend of spring brings us to the final ski event of the season, the Wahos Loppet. This year 8 intrepid souls successfully migrated to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario to enjoy the last XC skiing of the year. We will carefully avoid any references to those who signed up and didn't make the grand commute. The last of the group to arrive faced many challenges on their journey. The beginning of the trip involved a 50-mile detour to retrieve the skis left by the front door while packing. With the late start this entailed, the next 5 hours were a fine balance of making up time, while trying to avoid conversations with our favorite state employees. The UP presented it's own typical challenges, namely slush and ice covered roads. This white-knuckle ride was followed by the nice chat with the Canadian customs official working the late night shift in the rain. She couldn't find a valid reason to keep us out of the country so we headed on towards our destination, Glenview Cottages. It was now 2 AM. Which cabin were we to sleep in? It seems that all the guests at Glenview had Michigan license plates, and the office closed at 11. The 3 of us managed to wake up several people before finding out our cabin numbers. Those of us fortunate enough to have arrived early were determined to sleep



Doug and his tie-dye outfit. You are an original Doug.... Photo taken by Donna

through the pounding on the door from those of us who wanted out of the rain. Eventually the last obstacle was overcome our group was assembled and ready for the train ride.

6 AM came early and 6 of the heroic 8 managed to get up and head to the train station for our ride into the wilderness. We picked up our tickets, our souvenir toaks (hats to you Yanks) and joined 200 of our closest friends for the scenic ride to Wahos Ontario. After an hour or so we pulled up and got kicked off the train. Only 27K to ski to get back to Stokely Creek Lodge, and it was looking like a mean task to do it. The conditions were as challenging as the trail was beautiful. The rail and wet snow from the night before left the 4 ft of snow on the ground

a soft wet mass of slush. Once we got past the gravel-plowed portion of the path, we discovered that kick and glide were definitely not on the available skiing options list. The snow was also soft enough that my backcountry poles with the big baskets were almost useless for poling. Those with touring poles basically had toothpicks to stick in the snow as they skied by. Personally I found the downhill runs a great deal of fun. The pack in front of me had left their imprint(s) on the hills. I've never had so many sits marks, post holes, and facial impressions to avoid while negotiating a bumpy slushy hill. The crowd was friendly, the volunteers helpful and supportive, and Norm's cabin was as inviting as ever. Unfortunately Norm wasn't up to being out there to visit with everyone. The trip was 1 to 3 hours longer than in past years. That made the welcome at the end that much sweeter. The food, beer, band, and camaraderie were a perfect end to a rabbit's long journey. Special acknowledgment should go to Essie and Glenda (Jenny) (Another long story) for attempting the Loppet. They displayed a lot of spirit and determination on a very challenging ski. Extra special kudos should go to Donna who actually finished the whole trail. Throngs of cheering crowds greeted her as the last skier on the trail. My admiration is extended to those who reached for the sky when a lesser person would have given up and crawled.

~ The Tie Dye Guy. AKA Doug.

## What I Did on My Summer Vacation ~ by Lou Szakal

Well, it was summer where I went. Mendoza, Argentina. Home of "Cerro Aconcagua". At 22,841' it's the highest point in South America and the tallest mountain in the world outside of Asia. I left my home on December 13, 2002 (Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>), and after some major rerouting, overnights, and missed connections, I landed in Chile and traveled by taxi and bus through the heart of the Andes to arrive in Mendoza on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

I met the six climbers who were to climb the Normal Route (Coca Cola Route) and then met the only other climber to do the Polish Glacier Route (Whiskey Route) with me. Megan, a 25-year-old girl from the Canadian Military. We met our guide, Willie Benegas, a three-time Everest summiter and 60<sup>th</sup> time Aconcagua summiter and Jenny Morlock, both world class climbers. We were in very good hands.

We started out in the city of Penitentes and hiked through the Horcones Valley. We followed the Vinas River for 32 miles and ascended 7,000' in three days until we reached Plaza Argentina, our base camp at 14,300'. There were only about a dozen other climbers doing this route at this time. Mules carried most of the gear to base camp at the foot of the mountain. It was now up to the four of us to carry the 500+ lbs. of food and gear to the four high camps, since there are no porters on this side of the mountain. During the next two weeks, we set up camps at 16,000', 18,000', 19,000' and 20,600'. "Climb high and sleep low," so we went up and down the mountain twice to each camp. We had some 10-12 hour days as well as 3-4 hour days and a few rest days to acclimatize.

Aconcagua is known for its brutally cold and windy camps. With 40-50 mph winds and gusts up to 70 mph, they blew us over packs and all. Temperatures dipped to -35 degrees. Word of three Spaniards had summited. One lost all 10 fingers, another lost two toes and the other lost three fingers and a toe to frostbite. We were now taking this a little more seriously.

Reaching each camp was an accomplishment and a process and we knew what our jobs were. Build a rock wall to protect the tents from strong winds, build a bathroom (we carried everything off the mountain), chop and melt snow for water and eat and drink the rest of the afternoon and night. Building the rock wall was the toughest at 19,000' and 20,000' feet. The air is thin and the work was slow. We reached high camp (20,600') on Dec. 20. It was the warmest day since leaving base camp (18

degrees). We slapped on sun screen and ate outside under a dark blue sunny sky. The food we carried was all fresh pasta, rice and cans and jars of sauces. We also carried cans of peaches and pears, sardines, crackers, cheeses, sausages, meats and soups. Nothing was freeze dried. We cooked everything in a 3-gallon pressure cooker which at altitude cut the cooking time in half.

On December 30, summit day, we woke up at 3:00 A.M. It took four hours to melt enough snow for 6 liters of water each, eat and dress. We were on our way at 7:15 A.M. "Windy Pass" is a 2-hour stretch of 40 degree snow, mixed ice/snow and rock with one large rock about halfway for protection from the wind. Beyond this is more mixed ice and rock with 45-50 degree slopes, but we are protected from the wind. The last remaining stretch is about two hours of bouldering and climbing.

We reached the summit at 2:15 P.M., took pictures and signed the summit book. After about 45 minutes on top we started our descent reaching high camp at 5:00 P.M. We packed up and headed down to 19,000' via the Normal Route. We spent New Years Eve at the Normal Route base camp at 14,000'. This camp housed about 300 climbers and even had a hotel. On January 1, we headed for the trail head. A 25-mile hike which took us 7 1/2 hours. A 4-hour bus ride got us back to Mendoza where we took our first shower in 17 days.

All in all, it was a great experience. Next stop, Mount McKinley (Denali), June 18, 2003.



### Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> Seven Lakes State Park

Time: 0930 Hike leader: needed!

Directions: Take I-75 north to Grange Hall Rd. Exit toward Fenton, exit #101, turn west on Grange Hall Rd., Turn right on (north) on Fish Lake Rd., Turn left into the park entrance. Park at the parking area for the Big 7 Shelter.

Web address: <http://www.michigan.dnr.com/parksandtrails/ParksandTrailsInfo.asp?id=492>

### Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> Ortonville Recreation Area

Time: 0930 Hike leader: Needed!

Directions: Take M-15 north, from I-75 exit #31, 10 miles to Oakwood Rd. Go east on Oakwood for 3.5 miles to Hadley Rd. Turn north on Hadley Rd., go approximately 1.25 miles to Big Fish Lake and another 1/4 mile to Park Headquarters, go to Bloomer #3 unit

Web address: <http://www.michigan.dnr.com/parksandtrails/ParksandTrailsInfo.asp?id=48>

If anyone would like to volunteer to lead the hikes where Tom and I are listed please let me know. Hope to see you all out there. Reggie Hayes

**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

<i>President</i>	Tom Oloffo	<i>Equipment</i>	Carol McCrinie
<i>Vice President</i>	Tom Hayes	<i>Historian</i>	Denise Kordie
<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-Telix • Doug Lanyk • Larry Martin  
Joan Ryan • 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 hearing 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](mailto: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, [hmpriec@ameritech.net](mailto:hmpriec@ameritech.net).

### Submission Guidelines:

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 (588) 212-2335  
email: [skitchen@wowway.com](mailto:skitchen@wowway.com) or [rayeditor@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:rayeditor@solaroutdoors.org)

**NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: Sunday, May 18th**

NO submissions will be accepted after that date

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**S.O.L.A.R.**