



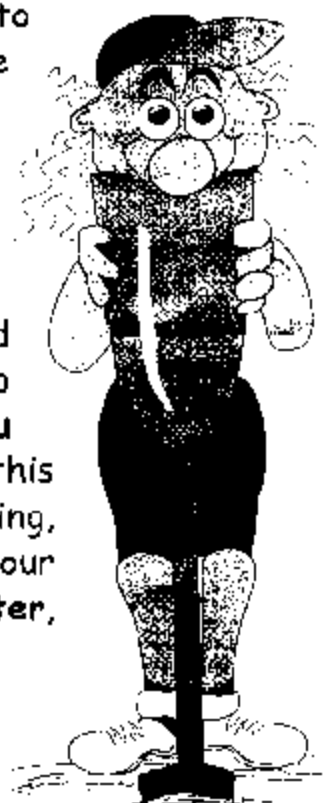
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Attention All Paddlers!

It's the 14th Annual DeFrance/Albin Canoe Outing!

Come join the **fun** on September 5-7th. This year promises to be **better** than ever! The event starts on Friday when you arrive to late night **card games**, setting up by **feel**, and sitting around the **campfire** or on our **bug-free porch**. On Saturday morning, we provide (the ingredients for) **breakfast** as well as opportunities to go **biking**, **hiking**, **swimming**, **volleyball** and **anything** else you can imagine. Saturday night you provide a dish to pass for the traditional "**SOLAR Potluck**" followed by evening hikes and **swim**, more cards, more campfire, and **whatever** else you want. Sunday morning we get up and head to the **canoe** livery (for 9 a.m.) where we **paddle** down the **Au Sable** river (Comins Flats to 4001 Bridge, 4-5 hrs). The **cost** this year is still \$25 for $\frac{1}{2}$ of a canoe, **breakfast** Saturday morning, **camping** in our luxurious forest, and access to amenities like our top of the line pit **toilet** facilities, (probable) running **water**, microwave, **stove**, and the **cabin** in general.



If you have any questions or can't wait to sign up, contact **Maureen De France** at 517-552-3660! (moedefrance@aol.com) Don't forget the **sun screen** and bug juice!!! This is near Hale off of M-65 about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours from Metro Detroit. Maps at the August and September Meeting.

- This outing is **friendly** to well-parented **kids** and **dogs**.
- We have had 13 years of **perfect weather** in a row. (Knock on wood).

From the SOLAR Program Director

By Lon Sakal

Upcoming SOLAR Program Schedule

September - **SOLAR Annual Gear Swap**

October - **Tentative - Search & Rescue**

November - **TBD**

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

KAYAKING CLASSES

Canoeing for the day with friends.
Shiawasee River - Sunday, August 14th
For more information contact
Margaret Martin, mlmpluscatl@cs.com

Kayaking is a very fun, safe and exciting water sport, when proper paddling and safety techniques are used. Michigan has many options for world class paddling adventures. Small private lakes, famous rivers and incredible National Sea Shores surround us. Experiencing any of these from a kayak is more than just a memorable experience.

Learn correct paddling and rescue techniques from a certified ACA kayak instructor. Introduction to kayaking classes are listed below and more advanced kayaking class will be scheduled, based on demand.

Saturday, September 13th

Additional times and dates can be made available based on individual and group needs.

Class Times 12:00 Noon till 4:00 PM

Location: TBD options include: (Cass Lake, Island Lake, Heaven's or a lake of your choice) Class size will be limited to no more than 6 students. More advanced kayak classes can be scheduled for advanced paddlers or graduate students

Price: \$50.00 with equipment or \$30.00 with your own equipment

All kayaking equipment will be provided. You will receive a list of what to expect and what you need to bring. Classes will cover topics on land and on the water. Discussions and demonstrations related to selecting a kayak to car topping and transporting a kayak will be covered. Basic paddle strokes, rescue techniques will be demonstrated and practiced.

The end of the class will include some fun and relaxing paddling. Advanced rescues, Eskimo rolling or rolling Eskimos, extreme surf kayaking and going over waterfalls will not be covered... at least not in the Introduction Class.

All classes scheduled are Introductory Classes. Students may sign up for more than one class and have a chance to practice skills learned in previous classes. Depending on class size and existing skill level of students, classes can focus on specific group requested skills.

Matt Dalton is an ACA certified kayak instructor, he kayaks locally and he has kayaked in 4 of the Great Lakes, California, Oregon, Texas, Florida and Alaska.

Contact: Matt Dalton: 248-360-0031 or email: mdalton@ameritech.net

Letters from the Road - Part two

The Lone Star State - After wandering through the for several days, I found myself on the Texas Gulf coast. It was scorching and I was looking for a place to call home for the night. I found a nice scenic stretch of beach across the bay from Galveston. After pitching my tent and sculpturing a section of a sand dune to match my weary butt, I was content to watch the locals swim and fish in the surf. The promise of a peaceful night was reassuring. Several local families invited me to join them. Barbecued ribs and corn on the cob cooked over an open fire, what bliss. After the sun retreated, the bonfire and the conversations were exhausted, everyone headed for bed. The locals to their cottages nearby and me to my rip stop home. Sometime in the middle of the night, my bleary eyes told me it was 3am, a local sheriff's deputy woke me up. She was ordering everyone off the beach because of an approaching storm. The deputy also had an alternative motive. Through out the night a gang of thugs from Galveston were mugging and robbing people camped on the beach. Why they passed by this solitary camping biker I will never know. Perhaps it was the dreaded SOLAR patch sewed onto my colors that scared them off.

To be continued - Sincerely, Tom Dunn



To: SOLARites



SOLAR Backpacking

Coming in September is one of SOLAR's most popular classes, the beginning Backpacking Class. Beginning Backpacking teaches basics about trip planning, equipment, food, and other backpacking issues. It also gives you hands on experience at practicals, fun times, and new friends. This class is for those of you that a) never backpacked and have always wanted to try it, b) new members that need the class as a prerequisite for other advanced classes or just to meet people, or c) members who just want a refresher or need an excuse to backpack.

Class begins September 3 and runs for five consecutive Wednesdays (9/3, 9/10, 9/17, 9/24 and 10/1). The weekend practicals are September 20 - 21 and October 3 - 5. Class time is from 6 to 9 pm and will be held at 30150 Telegraph Rd. (between 12 and 13 mile), 3rd floor, in Bingham Office Park.

In order to get a certificate for the class, you need to participate on a weekly basis and complete the entire 1st practical in September. The certificate for the class qualifies you for the Intermediate and Advanced Backpacking Classes, Wilderness Canoeing, and Enjoying Michigan Winters.

Locations for the classes and practicals are to be announced, however, we traditionally do our final practical at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Stay tuned for final information at the August and September SOLAR meetings.

The only prerequisite for the class is that you are a current paid member of SOLAR and that you are interested in new experiences, new friends, or both!

Space is limited so sign up and pay early.

The cost of the class is \$100 and includes a textbook, a class handbook, and most fees related to Practical 1. Please bring cash or a check payable to "SOLAR" when you sign up (Sorry, no credit cards.) This will guarantee your spot in the class.

Any questions regarding the class should be directed to Carol McCririe at (810) 523-0132 or cam@ism.net.

John Bryan is the most scenic State Park in western Ohio. The park contains a remarkable limestone gorge cut by the Little Miami River, which is designated as a state and national Scenic River. A portion of the gorge itself is designated as a national natural landmark. Nature lovers can enjoy any of the ten different trails found in the park. The trails follow the scenic river gorge and meander through majestic woodlands.

Drive down Friday night (3 ½ - 4 hours) and spend 2 nights camping and exploring. This is going to be a loosely organized trip. There are a lot of things to do in the area. The main plan is to hike the trails at John Bryan State Park and Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve. If there is time we can bike part of the 100 mile paved bike path that is in nearby Little Miami State Park.

If you wish to canoe, there are canoe liveries in the area. Also, you will need to register with the park if you want to rock climb or rappel. I will not be bringing rock climbing gear down.

There will be the traditional SOLAR (too much food) potluck on Saturday night. The rest of your meals you will be on your own. Bring a camp stove, and rain tarp (just in case).

All this fun can be yours for \$10 adults, \$5 kids under 18 and \$5 dogs (must be on leash).

Interested contact

Leslie Cordova at (248) 547-5626 or lesliegene@aol.com

JOHN
BRYAN
STATE
PARK -

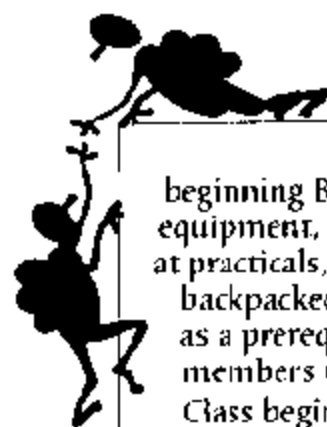
Dayton, Ohio
CLIFTON GORGE
STATE NATURE
PRESERVE

CAMPING, HIKING,
BIKING, CANOEING,
ROCK CLIMBING, REPELLING

SEPTEMBER 12 - 14, 2003

Come join SOLAR as we explore John Bryan State Park and Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve, just South of Dayton, on September 12 - 14, 2003

Course Fall 2003



SOLAR SEPTEMBER 2003 CALENDAR

SCHOOL FOR OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP, ADVENTURE & RECREATION

SEPTEMBER 2003

2ND	TUES.	GENERAL MEETING - COLONY HALL / SOUTHFIELD		TOM OLOFFO	mcmountainman@yahoo.com
		PROGRAM: SOLAR Annual Gear Swap		Lou Szakal	ljsdid409@aol.com
5-7th	Wknd.	DeFrance Annual Canoe Outing	Hale, Michigan	Moe DeFrance	moedefrance@aol.com
12-14th	Wknd.	Hiking & Biking	John Bryan State Park, Ohio	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
13th	Sat.	Rafting**	Cauley River, West Virginia	Linda Hill	rvenwoman@comcast.net
14th	Sun.	Canoeing**	Snawasee	Margaret Martin	m1mpluscatt@cs.com

SEPTEMBER CLASSES

3rd	Wed.	Basic Backpacking	T.B.D.	Carol McCririe	cam@ismi.net
10th	Wed.	Basic Backpacking	T.B.D.	Carol McCririe	cam@ismi.net
13th	Sat.	Kayak Class	T.B.D.	Matt Dalton	mdalton@ameritech.net
17th	Wed.	Basic Backpacking	T.B.D.	Carol McCririe	cam@ismi.net
24th	Wed.	Basic Backpacking	T.B.D.	Carol McCririe	cam@ismi.net
20-21st	Wknd.	Basic Backpacking Practical	Hockney	Carol McCririe	cam@ismi.net

OCTOBER 2003

5th	Sun.	Canoeing**	Heavner, Proud Lake	Carol McCririe	cam@ismi.net
7TH	TUES.	GENERAL MEETING - COLONY HALL / SOUTHFIELD		TOM OLOFFO	mcmountainman@yahoo.com
		PROGRAM: Tentative - Search & Rescue		Lou Szakal	ljsdid409@aol.com

OCTOBER CLASSES

1st	Wed.	Basic Backpacking	T.B.D.	Carol McCririe	cam@ismi.net
3-5th	Wknd.	Basic Backpacking Practical	Pictured Rocks	Carol McCririe	cam@ismi.net
8th	Wed.	Search & Rescue Class	T.B.D.	Tom Hayes	thomashayes@wideopenwest.com
15th	Wed.	Search & Rescue Class	T.B.D.	Tom Hayes	thomashayes@wideopenwest.com
22nd	Wed.	Search & Rescue Class	T.B.D.	Tom Hayes	thomashayes@wideopenwest.com
24-26th	Wknd.	Search & Rescue Practical	T.B.D.	Tom Hayes	thomashayes@wideopenwest.com

NOVEMBER 2003

4TH	TUES.	GENERAL MEETING - COLONY HALL / SOUTHFIELD		TOM OLOFFO	mcmountainman@yahoo.com
		PROGRAM: T.B.D.		Lou Szakal	ljsdid409@aol.com
7-9	Wknd.	Double JJ Ranch, Halloween	Rothbury, MI	Bill Cowdin	cowdin@accentremodeling.com
				Lisa Boose	elbows6000@aol.com

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Mondays	Wallyball**	Westland	Chip Kleinbrock	mchip1234@aol.com
Thursdays	Rock Climbing**	Planet Rock, Pontiac	Michelle Delaporte	lazspaz2@hotmail.com
Sat. Or Sun.	Day Hiking**	Locations Vary	Reggie Hayes	566-778-3589
Sat. Or Sun.	Day / Night Hiking**	Locations Vary	Jeff Ganley	jrgullo@yahoo.com
Sundays	Canoeing**	Locations Vary	Margaret Martin	m1mpluscatt@cs.com

For information on joining the SOLAR CLUB, contact Mary Price (248) 477-7547 or visit www.SOLAROUTDOORS.org

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAN AND/OR LEAD A SOLAR ACTIVITY CONTACT:
PAM RIEHL (248) 685-0367 OR PARIEHL1@NETSCAPE.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 activities (SOLAR will not be held responsible for these activities).

visit our Website
www.solaroutdoors.org

Spurs' on! The Double JJ trip for 2003 is rapidly approaching!!

2003 ANNUAL HALLOWEEN BASH AT DOUBLE JJ RANCH

Date: Friday, November 7 - Sunday, November 9

Price: \$242 - \$281 per person for Horseback Riding All Inclusive Weekend Package

Replacements for your spot are allowed with no penalty up to two weeks prior to arrival.

Inclusions: 2 nights accommodations in a basic cabin-style room with up to 4 beds (doubles available on request for couples), bonfire/hayride/comroast/haunted barn/dancing Friday night... Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner/horseback riding/Halloween party w/dancing Saturday night/Breakfast/Lunch horseback riding on Sunday.

NOTE: Horseback riding program is an hour. Lessons are available with 3 levels of rides going out about four times a day on Saturday and Sunday.

Mark the date on your calendar and get your deposits in if you are thinking about going. This weekend is a blast. **EVERYONE** who has ever gone (and we mean every single person) has had a great time. We both guarantee you will too.

Let us know if you are considering going. Beds can only be reserved 10 at a time, and they require deposits within 2 weeks. Once the 10 deposits are in, we can hold another 10 beds.

New this year...the price is based on supply/demand. As it gets closer to the weekend, they will fill up and the price can go as high as an additional \$42 pp. We've been told that we are probably OK from now until September. We'd like to get all our deposits in by September 1, just to be sure.

EEEEEEEEEeee hhhhhhhhhhaaaaaahhh! Hope you can make it,

Lisa Boose - Elbows6000@aol.com / Bill Cowdin - Cowdin@accentremodeling.com

Co-Leaders -Yes its that big we need two of us to handle it!!

October 2003 Issue - Sept. 21st

16th

November 2003 Issue - Oct.

19th

December 2003 Issue - Nov.

Send articles snail mail to Stacie Kitchen



Stacie Kitchen's 4 day trip, stops along the way to Copper Harbor

Left: Photo: Lake Superior near Paradise, MI

Right Photo: Ferry ride along the Pictured Rocks on Lake Superior, Munising, MI

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

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Activities
By-Laws
Education

Tom Cloffo
Tom Hayes
Cindy Taylor
Feggie Hayes
Pam Riehl
Gloria Fontaine
Harry Price

Equipment
Historian
Membership
Programs
Pub. Relations
Solar Ray
Web Master

Carol McGhie
Charles Hailey
Mary Price
Lou Szakal
Jenny Couch
Stacie Kitchen
Karl Overholt

At Large: Mike Banks • Moe DeFrance • Al Fytak • Steve Gardner
Bill Halvingis • Cindy Harrison-Feix • Doug Lanyk • Larry Martin
Joan Ryan • Leslie Cordova

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 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 Cloffo at (313) 386-0057 or momountainman@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, mprice@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 to:

Stacie Kitchen, 239 E. 12 Mile Rd. Apt 17, Royal Oak, MI 48073
or call (586) 212-2335 (leave message w/your ph. #)
emailing me???? Call me 1st - Computer is in shop for a week.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.SOLAROUTDOORS.ORG

GENE & LESLIE CORDOVA
14520 DORGMAN
OAK PARK, MI 48237

Editor Error on Page 2...
Margarite Martin's Shawwassee Canoeing
date should read
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2003
not August 14th

P.O. Box 2438
Southfield, MI 48037

S.O.L.A.R.

