



School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure, and Recreation www.solaroutdoors.org

March Ice Climbing at the Mad Moose Lodge North of Saulte Ste. Marie

By Pete Lamb

Organized by Rick Waller, this trip was a great extended weekend. The weather was variable—with a foot of snow one day and shirtsleeve climbing the next. The only way to get to the climbs was on snowshoes through the woods, as the snow was four foot deep. We had to climb just off the road as the longer climbs in the Montreal river canyon had collapsed during an unseasonably warm spell but we still managed to get in about a dozen climbs including Mother of Pearl, Three Mouseketeers and Brittany Spears.



Reiny in the Snow

Lamb did a sterling job of it.

The last night there was highlighted by a fantastic sunset across the frozen surface of Lake Superior.

Lester Mok directed Rick and me to some climbing opportunities we would have missed—right on the beach by the lodge. We spent some time before we left on Sunday just doing ice bouldering problems. It was a lot of fun and a great way to brush up on technique close to the ground. Mad Moose Lodge would be a great place for kids to learn to climb.



Great First Lead

Brittany Spears had melted for about fifteen feet up and required some very delicate dry pointing to get to the ice. This climb was way beyond this old Ray editor's ability, but Rick and Shannon



Rick on Brittany Spears

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Important Parking Notice

The City of Southfield has posted NO PARKING signs on the side street next to Colony Hall. The city is enforcing this new ordinance by issuing rather costly parking tickets. Please try to park in an orderly fashion in either the paved parking lot or on the lawn. We need to park as many cars in these two areas as possible.

Camp-Bike-Kayak Belle Isle

by Matt Dalton



Belle Isle Conservatory and Aquarium
Photograph courtesy of the Michigan State
Historic Preservation Office

Dates: May 14- 16, 2004

The Wolverine Bike Club is hosting their 44th Annual 200 mile bike ride around beautiful Belle Isle. This is the one time of the year that you can legally camp on Belle Isle. It's truly beautiful to wake up from your tent and see the boats and freighters coming down the river. We will be camping about 1000 yards west of the U.S Coast Guard station on Belle Isle.

You will wake up in the morning to the sounds of several hundred Canadian Geese. You don't have to ride 200 miles. Some people just come to camp with the group, others roller blade and a few crazy people, (experienced paddlers) like the view from the water and we kayak around the island 200 times. (Just Kidding, I wish I had the strength to go around 200 times. We go around 1 or 2 times and then go out and back to Peach Island.)

Detroit Police will have approximately half of the island barricaded and guarded for the participants of this event.

This event has had as many as 2000+ rides in the past. I'm guessing they'll have about 800 this year. You can register for the bike ride Friday p.m. or Saturday a.m. on the island. Cost is about \$40.00 and that includes a cool T-shirt, camping, security and the geese that wake you in the morning. You can register in advance on the Internet by entering *Wolverine 200* into your search engine, and the club will come up.

This is a non-Solar event. Our cost, not counting the bike event, is \$15.00. This includes breakfast Saturday and Sunday morning, the password to get onto the island, more security, a bunch of nice people to camp with and tips for having a great time on the island. All kayakers must have advanced skills, their own equipment, and be just a little bit crazy.

Contact Matt Dalton at 248 360 0031 to reserve a spot in advance.

Caesar Creek State Park Little Miami State Park and River July 2-5, 2004



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, just south of Dayton Ohio. **Parks' Amenities:**

Caesar Creek State Park has 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. It has 43 miles of hiking trails, 6.5 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. Also close by are a bike rental, ice cream store, and winery.

Planned Events: We are going to have the traditional potluck dinner on Saturday night and canoe or kayak the Little Miami River on Sunday.

Camp Conditions: We will be camping at the Group Horseman's Camp within the park where we will have the entire camp to ourselves. The camp has 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.

Costs:

- 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: Free, 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 lesliegene@aol.com. The trip is first pay first go with a strict limit of 30 people.

Land Navigation- Get it while it's hot!

By Karl Overheul

Come and join us for **Basic Land Navigation**. I have three spots left for this class. The first one to pay me gets them, but I will accept people for a waiting list. You must attend all classes to pass! Other class information is below

Cost: \$40.00

What you will learn:

- Map reading Skills
- Taking & plotting compass bearings
- The 3 norths & Declination
- Navigation strategies
- Primitive Navigation
- Participating in a cross-country route finding exercise.



Class Cost Includes:

- Book
- Cabin
- Handouts/Maps

Class Cost Does NOT include:

- State Park Permit \$6/day or \$24.00/yr
- Meals

When:

Wednesday, May 19, 6:30 PM-9:00 PM- EMS Farmington Hills

Saturday, May 22, 9:00 AM- Sunday, May 23, 1:00 PM- Waterloo Recreation Area

Contact:

Karl Overheul

Email (preferred): CyberNomad@Backpacker.com

Phone: (248) 890 0738

*Also, stay tuned for info on the all new **Advanced Land Navigation** class starting this fall*

Hoe Down Reminder

Lazy J Ranch

WHEN: Saturday May 8, 2004

TIME: 8-Midnight. Do not be late. This is a team sport.

COST: \$20 per person. Limit is 30 people

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

YOU SHOULD: Bring your own pass-around snacks (Hors D'oeuvre)

Hoe-downers have either signed up at the March thru April meetings or have given or mailed their check to Maureen DeFrance, 2692 Court Lane North, Howell, MI 48843

Directions

- I-96 to Exit#155 Milford
- Turn heading North on to Milford Road
- 4.2 miles to General Motors Road
- Turn left onto GM Road
- 2.4 miles to Hickory Ridge Road
- Turn right onto Hickory Ridge Road
- 3.6 miles to the Lazy J Ranch

The Lazy J Ranch is located on the east side of Hickory Ridge Road.



SOLAR Elections Are Coming—May 4, 2004

This is your chance to make a difference. On May 4, 2004, SOLAR will be holding its annual Steering Committee elections. By running for one of the 4-Officer positions or 10-Committee positions, or just participating in the voting process, you can have a say in which direction SOLAR is heading. All currently paid members are eligible to run and vote. No experience is necessary—just a willingness to make SOLAR the best outdoor club it can be!



For the past 28 years, SOLAR has strived to be a successful organization, school, and an all around fun place to be. It's people like you that make it happen.

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

All positions are considered open until voting concludes on May 4th 2004

The Steering Committee is comprised of the following positions:

President (Officer)– Oversees monthly meetings, fields member questions and concerns

Vice President (Officer)– Assists President and steps in for the president when necessary

Secretary (Officer)– Takes minutes at Steering Committee meetings and distributes them

Treasurer (Officer)– Manages organization finances, bank account, and reimburses members

Education (Committee)– Oversees all classes and provides direction to lead instructors

Membership (Committee)– Manages membership lists, collects dues, and oversees liability release forms

Activities (Committee)– Collects, posts and announces monthly activities

Programs (Committee)– Organizes all monthly programs held at membership meetings

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

SOLAR Ray Editor (Committee)– Collects articles, organizes, and lays out and prints newsletter

Equipment (Committee)– Stores, organizes, distributes and collects SOLAR rental equipment

Historian (Committee)– Collects and stores information about the club

By-Laws (Committee)– Oversees club by laws and changes

Web Master (Committee)– Manages, maintains, updates, 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 Lou Szakal at everest2006@aol.com or 248 756-7001 by April 30, 2004. All candidates will have an opportunity to introduce themselves before elections take place on May 4th.

Current Candidates

President	– Tom Hayes	Programs	– Linda Rodrick
Vice President	– Lou Szakal, Harry Price	Public Relations	– Mary Price
Secretary	– Cindy Taylor	SOLAR Ray Editor	– Pete Lamb
Treasurer	– Reggie Hayes	Equipment	– Carol McCutrie
Education	– Mike Banks	Historian	– Charles Hailey
Membership	–	By-Laws	– Gloria Fontaine
Activities	– Pam Riehl Szakal	Web Master	– Karl Overheul

SOLAR MAY 2004 CALENDAR

School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure & Recreation

MAY ACTIVITIES

2	SUN	WEEKLY HIKING	Pinckney	Tom Hayes	thomashayes@wideopenwest.com
4	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	COLONY HALL	Tom Oloffo	mcmountainman@yahoo.com
		Program: SOLAR Steering Committee Elections			everest2006@aol.com
8	SAT	WEEKLY HIKING	Island Lake	TBD	thomashayes@wideopenwest.com
8	SAT	COUNTRY HOEDOWN**	Lazy J Ranch	DeFrance's	moedefrance@comcast.net
9	SUN	WILD FLOWER WALK	Timberland Swamp	Margaret	mlmpluscat1@cs.com
			Nat Sanct	Martin	
14-16	WKND	WOLVERINE 200 BIKE**	Belle Isle	Matt Dalton	mdalton@ameritech.net
15	SAT	PADDLE 'N SCOOT**	Shiawasee River	Heavner Canoe	248-685-2379
16	SUN	WEEKLY HIKING	Heritage Park	TBD	thomashayes@wideopenwest.com
22	SAT	WEEKLY HIKING	Bald Mt.	TBD	thomashayes@wideopenwest.com
28-31	MULTI	POTS, PADDLES & CAVES	Hessel, MI	Jeff Ganley	jganley@fischerus.com
28-31	MULTI	HIKING/CLIMBING ADVENT.-FULL	Red River Gorge, KY	Leslie	lesliegene@aol.com
28-31	MULTI	HIKING, CAMPING	Red River Gorge	Cordova	
28-31	MULTI	BACKPACKING- FULL	N. Manitou Island	Mary Bogush	248-589-0689
				Pam Szakal	mtncimbrpar@netscape.net

MAY CLASSES

1, 8	SAT	ROCK CLIMBING CLASS	Planet Rock	Rick Waller	klymr_rekk@msn.com
14-16	WKND	ROCK CLIMBING PRACTICAL	TBD	Rick Waller	klymr_rekk@msn.com
19	WED	BASIC LAND NAVIG. CLASS	EMS	Karl Overheul	cybernomad@backpacker.com
22-23	WKND	BASIC LAND NAV. PRACTICAL	Waterloo	Karl Overheul	cybernomad@backpacker.com
22	SAT	INTRO TO KAYAKING	Cass Lake	Matt Dalton	mdalton@ameritech.net
MAY 14		JUNE SOLAR RAY SUBMISSION DEADLINE			SEND TO PETE LAMB AT petekandu@yahoo.com

JUNE ACTIVITIES

1	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	COLONY HALL	Tom Oloffo	mcmountainman@yahoo.com
		Program: Nocturnal Animals			everest2006@aol.com
4	FRI	HOWL AT THE MOON PADDLE	Proud Lake	Lou Szakal	248-685-2379
11-13	WKND	HIKING, CAMPING, ETC.	Big Bear Lake	Heavner Canoe	thomashayes@wideopenwest.com
18	SAT	NAT'L TRAILS DAY.	Maybury State Park	Reggie Hayes	Jacouch23@excite.com
		VOLUNTEERS NEEDED		Jenny Couch	
18	WKND	BIKING IN AMISH COUNTRY	Indiana	Jonnie Kostishak	jandrust@ic.net
20	SUN	Drop-In Canoeing	Island Lake	Margaret Martin	mlmpluscat1@cs.com

JUNE CLASSES

12-13	WKND	KAYAKING CLASS	Silver Lake	John Moffat	johnmoffat@yahoo.com
15, 17, 22, 24	T, TH	WILDERNESS FIRST AID CLASS	TBD	Mary Price	mathildet@voyager.net
19	SAT	Flat Water Paddling Class	Doug's House	Doug Lanyk	dslanyk@earthlink.net
19	SAT	INTRO TO KAYAKING	Cass Lake	Matt Dalton	mdalton@ameritech.net
26	SAT	WILDERNESS FIRST AID PRACTICAL	TBD	Mary Price	mathildet@voyager.net
TBD		ADVANCED BACKPACKING & LDSHP		Mike Banks	Slywolfe52@yahoo.com
JUNE 11		JULY SOLAR RAY SUBMISSION DEADLINE			SEND TO PETE LAMB AT petekandu@yahoo.com

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

THURSDAYS	ROCK CLIMBING**	Planet Rock Pontiac	Michelle Delaporte	tazspaz2@hotmail.com
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FOR INFORMATION ON JOINING THE SOLAR CLUB, CONTACT MARY PRICE (248) 477-7347 OR VISIT WWW.SOLAROUTDOORS.ORG

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP PLAN AND/OR LEAD A SOLAR ACTIVITY, CONTACT
PAM RIEHL SZAKAL AT (248) 685-0367 OR SEND EMAIL TO solaractivities@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 ACTIVITY (Solar will not be held responsible for these activities)

From the SOLAR Program Director

By Lori Szakal

Upcoming SOLAR Program Schedule

Please Note: All programs will take place at Colony Hall immediately following the SOLAR Business meeting

MAY PROGRAM

Solar Annual Steering Committee Elections

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

June: Nocturnal Animals/Organization for Bat Conservation

July: Annual Picnic/Gear Swap

August: Annual Core Class Presentation / All Instructors

September: Search and Rescue

October: Bats Presentation/Organization for Bat Conservation

November: SOLAR Trip Presentation/TEA

December: Annual Holiday Bash

Rock Climbing Class Reminder

It's Back! This spring ROCK CLIMBING returns to SOLAR. Top Rope anchor rigging, Belaying, Climbing and Technique, will be key elements of instruction. This class is designed for anyone who has never climbed before or those who have climbed but want to learn to rig their own Top Rope anchor system. There will be Saturday class sessions (4/24, 5/1, 5/8) and an outdoor climbing practical (5/14 - 5/16). Cost is \$130.00. This includes all classroom materials, book, Planet Rock climbing passes, shoe rentals, and use of climbing gear. All we need is YOU!! This class will be limited to 20 students, so sign-up early.



Contact Rick Waller at 248-414-6991 or klymr_rekk@msn.com.

Hiking Schedule

Any one wishing to volunteer to be hike leader, please let Pam Szakal or me (Reggie) know what week you are available so that we can update the information. All hikes are at 9:30 a.m. *Please note the need for hiking leaders this month and volunteer!*

Reggie Hayes e-mail-thomashayes@wideopenwest.com

Pam Riehl Szakal c-mail-solaractivities@netscape.net



Sun. May 2nd Pinckney State Recreation Area Hike leader: *Needed*. From US-23 west on N. Territorial Rd. about 10 miles to Dexter-townhall Rd. turn north for 1.2 miles to Silver Hill Rd. bear left to parking lot at Silver Lake Beach. Hiking Trail Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Sat. May 8th. Island Lake State Recreation Area. Hike leader: *Needed*. I-96 to exit 151 at Kensington Rd. then south to the park entrance. Follow the signs to Riverbend picnic area. Hiking Trail Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Sun. May 16th Heritage Park-Farmington Hills Hike leader: *Needed*. Located on Farmington RD. Between 10 and 11 Mile Rds. Meet in front of the visitor center. Hiking Difficulty: Easy.

Sat May 22nd. Bald Mountain State Recreation Area Hike leader: *Needed*. From I-75 to M-24 north on M-24 about 3 miles to Greenshields Rd. Turn right(east) and proceed for 1.5 miles to HQ. This day will be updated in the future for more accurate details. Hiking Trail Difficulty: Easy to moderate

Women's Backpacking Workshop

From the Beginning Outdoors Women to the Advanced Outdoors Women, You Will Gain More Knowledge from This Class Than You Can Imagine

Twenty Three Topic Sections

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Dealing with Stress | 13 | Common Injuries & Preventing Injuries |
| 2 | Yoga | 14 | Minimizing the Load |
| 3 | Building Self Confidence | 15 | Gear & Clothing for Women |
| 4 | Setting Goals | 16 | Equipment Repair |
| 5 | Medical Needs | 17 | Solo Hiking & Traveling |
| 6 | Hygiene Products for Women | 18 | Self Defense |
| 7 | Periods | 19 | Knots |
| 8 | Pregnancy & Children | 20 | Primitive Skills |
| 9 | Menopause | 21 | Orientceering |
| 10 | Bladder & Yeast Infections | 22 | Trip Planning |
| 11 | Cold Extremities | 23 | Women's Educational Groups |
| 12 | Tricks & Tips | | |



I personally have never seen a class in which the instructors were as enthralled in the class as much as the students.

Twenty Three Reasons from past students why you should take this class

- 1 I really appreciated the hands-on and interactive format of the workshop.
- 2 I learned so much more from this format as opposed to a strictly lecture format.
- 3 The workshop was much more personal and enjoyable.
- 4 Most of the topics covered were not included in the Basic Backpacking, so the information in the workshop was new and very relevant to women.
- 5 It was a very safe and open environment where everyone was able to learn and have a lot of fun at the same time.
- 6 Everyone's questions were taken seriously and answered thoroughly.
- 7 I would recommend this workshop to others because all of the information was new, relative to women, and very different than Basic Backpacking.
- 8 It was also very enjoyable and we all had a great time and came away with much more confidence and knowledge.
- 9 I definitely would recommend this class-I found it very rewarding and fun!
- 10 I loved the practical.
- 11 The workshop gave us gals time to talk openly about feminine topics or topics that guys sometimes make fun of us doing.
- 12 It was a good confidence builder.
- 13 All instructors were a tremendous help in answering questions without making the student feel dumb.
- 14 I liked the fact that each of you were able to share different opinions.
- 15 I like the fact that you continued to ask each of us how we were doing, and to be honest about it.
- 16 This is a great class for people to gain skills for being a leader.
- 17 I really appreciated your patience with each one of us.
- 18 You allow an environment for "on the trail" learning with-in keeping a good attitude.
- 19 I'm learning if I want to know something to speak up.
- 20 Because its almost impossible to assist everyone individually in the beginning backpacking class, this class helps people like me and gave me the needed time to learn things.
- 21 Gave me the chance to physically "do" stuff that I didn't get the chance to before.
- 22 What I really liked about the class were the outside speakers you brought in, the Yoga person, the Self-Defense people, Primitive Skills people, etc.
- 23 I would recommend this class to any women!

For more information contact Peggy Medved at (248) 390-3969 or meddsn@voyager.net

Pots, Paddle, and Caves Memorial Weekend

Depart Detroit area Thursday evening or early Fri morning for 11:00am arrival in Hessel, MI (I will have a campsite reserved for anyone coming up Thurs night)



May 28th (Fri.) – Kayaking Les Cheneaux Islands – Guided by a local naturalist- Spend a day kayaking among the beautiful Les Cheneaux Islands. Learn basic kayaking skills, or if you are experienced, polish up your skills with our coach. Les Cheneaux Island archipelago has unique Great Lakes marshes, bays and forested and limestone cobble features. We will journey to Government Island, which is the only publicly owned island of the 36 in the archipelago, where we will rest and enjoy a picnic. Take a stroll on the island's shore side trail. Look for warblers, see old growth cedar trees, and view limestone loving wildflowers and grasses.

May 29th (Sat) – Limestone Caves Tour - Guided by the Michigan Karst Conservancy. After breakfast we'll caravan to a Michigan karst cave. These limestone caves are rare to Michigan. Michigan Karst Conservancy has recognized their ecological value and protects several cave systems in Michigan through its ownership of them.

We will meet with a representative from the Conservancy who will guide us through the cave. We will see an underground waterfall and understand how these caves were formed. The Preserve also has fantastic foot paths through the hardwood forest. Plan to go on a naturalist guided nature walk and view beautiful spring wildflowers.

Before turning in for the night, we will visit a preserve that has an astounding amount of chorusing breeding frogs occupying a small inland lake protected by the Little Traverse Conservancy. Learn more about the Michigan frog and toad surveys taking place in the Eastern Upper Peninsula

May 30th (Sun) - Raku on the Rim. Learn a 16th century, traditional Japanese ceramic art process while glazing and firing your own pot. The outdoor kilns are located at the artist's home on the top of the Niagara Escarpment in Les Cheneaux. This Great Lakes basin rim formation has created some of the highest elevations in the region. Homemade lunch & hot drinks provided.

May 31 Mon (Memorial Day) - Free day - Open - Day hike the Horseshoe Bay Wilderness Area, Travel home.

Drive time to Hessel is approximately 4.5 - 5 hours (with no extended stops).

Price for a group of 6-7 people is: \$350 per person (camping at local campground) For 8 or more people, subtract \$50 per person.

If you would like motel or deluxe waterfront cabins for accommodations, please let me know. (Obviously, this will raise the price.)

Note: If you have your own kayak, you may bring it but for safety reasons, it must be at least a 15' sea kayak as we will be paddling the open waters of Lake Huron during May. Unfortunately, the price is the same whether you use your kayak or the outfitters.

Price includes: kayak & gear (pfd, paddle, spray skirt), guide service, expert kayaking instruction, cave helmets, 2 clay pots for firing, 3 lunches and 3 nights lodging. Also, as the caving will involve some water, wetsuits or neoprene and headlamps may be helpful. There are 4 wetsuits available, so probably 4 people will explore the cave while the others explore the surrounding forest on nature hikes and then vice versa.

This trip is open to anyone, beginners or advanced kayak and caving enthusiasts.

All instruction will be provided.

Those interested can pick up or download a reservation form to fill out. When you send the \$150 deposit to Woods & Water Eco-Tours, your spot will be reserved. (Mention you're from SOLAR).

Any questions, just call me Jeff Garley 248-766-3944 or Jessie Hadley from Woods & Water Eco Tours 906 484-4157 or Woods & Water Eco-Tours website

Canoeing for the Summer

Each month during the warmer seasons this year, a drop-in canoe outing is being held. The plan—we'll meet at the canoe rental at 1 p.m., pay the rental fees, break into groups and have fun on the water. Bring your own canoe or kayak or rent one here. All skill levels are welcome. This activity is kid and pet friendly, but your kids and pets need to go in YOUR boat. For more information, call Margaret Martin at 734-721-2821 or e-mail a: MLMPLUSCAT1@cs.com.



Additional special trips this summer.

For each of these canoe trips, you need to pre-register by contacting Rose Marie at Heavner Canoe Rental Huron River, Proud Lake State Recreation Area 2775

Garden Road, Milford, Michigan 48381 Phone: (248) 685 2379 Fax: (248) 681-7939 Email:

AlanHeavner@heavnercanoe.com Web Site: <http://www.heavnercanoe.com/>

Paddle and Scoot. River run between Holly and Fenton. BBQ to follow. We say scoot because some parts of the river are low. Rope in twice as much fun by camping at Holly State Park. Boats provided by: Heavner Canoe and Kayak Rental.

Date: Saturday May 15th

Price: \$25 (for ½ a canoe or a whole kayak)

Time: Gather at 8:30-8:45 a.m. Paddle and Scoot 9:00a.m.-1 p.m. At 1:30 p.m. POTLUCK BBQ at Doug Lanyk's

Three Moonlight Canoe Trips—weather permitting. Call the rental to confirm on the day of the event. All of these trips begin at at Heavner Canoe & Kayak Rental at Proud Lake State Recreation Area.

Howl at the Moon Party. Chow on cheeseburgers and then canoe or kayak the river in the mysterious moonlight. Afterwards, relax around a bonfire with friends and snack on smores.

Date: Friday June 4th

Price: \$32 (includes dinner and rental)

Time: 7:30-8:45 p.m. Dinner 9:00-10:30 p.m. Paddle 10:30 p.m. Bonfire

Get Lunar Party (Lunar Eclipse Night) Be whisked away through the waters in a canoe or kayak and watch the moon rise over the lake. Return for pizza, and smores, hot chocolate, soda, and watch the lunar eclipse beginning at 8:45 p.m.

Date: Thursday October 28th

Price: \$25 (includes dinner and rental)

Time: Arrive at 6:00 p.m. 6:30-8:00 p.m. Paddle Dinner from 8:00-9:00 p.m. Eclipse at 8:45 p.m. & Bonfire (at two locations)

Blue Moon Party Gather for a cookout and then paddle by the light of the blue moon. Afterwards, relax around a bonfire and snack on smores and anything blue.

Date: Saturday July 31st

Price: \$32 (includes dinner and rental) Double the fun by camping at Proud Lake Recreation Area

Time: Dinner 7:30-8:30 p.m. Paddle 8:45-10:30 p.m. Bonfire 10:30 p.m.

Kayak Class—Silver Lake State Park

by John Moffat—Class taught by Ron Smith, Black Parrot Paddling

Date: June 12-13, 2004

Place: Silver Lake State Park, Mears, MI

Limit: 10-12 Students Max.

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

\$145 - your own equipment: (includes campsite)

State Park sticker

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

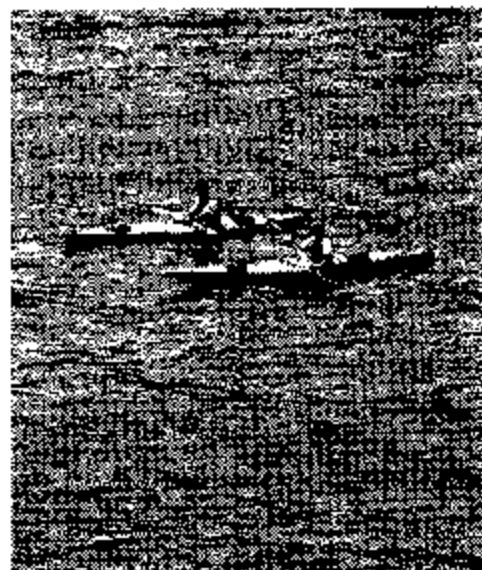
For further details on this weekend, see the article in the April SOLAR RAY.

John Moffat

248-515-7489

johnjmoffat@yahoo.com

Visit www.michigandnr.com for maps and directions



Introduction to Recreational Kayaking

By Matt Dalton, certified ACA American Canoe Association Instructor

Dates: Saturday, May 22, 2004

Saturday, June 19, 2004

Location: Oakland County, Cass Lake, Dodge Park # 4

Time: 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Cost: \$60.00

Class Size: Limited to 4 students (for individual attention)



So you've always wanted to try kayaking or you've rented a kayak once or twice, and now you want to learn fun, safe and effective techniques—to paddle forward, backwards and sideways, along with staying in your kayak even in rough water conditions. You may just want to learn proper paddling techniques so that you can paddle faster and longer than a few of your friends. Who knows, you also may be thinking of purchasing a kayak before the year is over and want to become more familiar with all the different types of kayaks, paddles and all that really cool kayak gear.

If you need a class that introduces you to the basics and then continues to more advanced paddling techniques, this is the class for you.

I highly recommend taking several classes during the year because there's a lot to learn and you can't master everything in one 4 hour session. Different instructors also focus on different skill sets. Take several classes. (John Moffat's kayak class [see above] taught by Ron Smith in June is also a very good class.)

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



HURON-CLINTON METROPARKS

2004 Major Events Schedule

Events are subject to change, please call ahead. A Metropark Vehicle Entry Permit is required to enter all parks:

Annual - \$20 ▼ Senior - \$12 ▼ Daily - \$4

For general information please contact Huron-Clinton Metroparks at 800-47-PARKS or visit our website at: www.metroparks.com

❄️❄️❄️ WINTER ❄️❄️❄️

Erie Ice Daze
Lake Erie
January 17 & 18

Martin Luther King
Appreciation Day
All Metroparks
January 19*

🌱🌱🌱 SPRING 🌱🌱🌱

Earth Appreciation Day
All Metroparks
April 17*

Spring Festival
Kensington Farm Learning Center
April 24 & 25

Bird Migration Festival
Metro Beach
May 8

Midwest Scholastic
Rowing Championship Regatta
Stony Creek
May 8 & 9

May Nature Festival
Kensington Nature Center
May 15 & 16

Astronomy at the Beach
Kensington
May 21 & 22

Family Appreciation Day
All Metroparks
May 22

Antique Gas Engine & Tractor Show
Hudson Mills
June 4 - 6

1700s Historical Encampment
Stony Creek
June 5 & 6

Salute to America
Appreciation Day
All Metroparks
June 12

Great Lakes Symphony of Fire
Lake Erie
June 12

Seventh Annual
Blaze From the Past Car Show
Metro Beach
June 13

🎵🎵🎵 SUMMER 🎵🎵🎵

Detroit Symphony Orchestra
Concerts

Kensington June 25
Lake Erie June 26
Metro Beach June 27

Antique Tractor Show
& Dairy Festival
Wolcott Mill Farm Learning Center
June 26 & 27

Great Lakes Open
Disc Golf Tournament
Hudson Mills
June 19 & 20

Fireworks
Stony Creek July 2
Lake Erie July 2
Hudson Mills July 3
Willow July 3
Kensington July 4

French & Indian War on the Frontier
Stony Creek
July 9 - 11

Country Fair
Kensington
July 10 & 11

Car Show
Willow
July 11

Children's Appreciation Day
All Metroparks
July 18

Carnival Day
Lake Erie
July 18

Festival of Lights
Metro Beach
August 7

Antique Tractor Show
& Farm Festival
Wolcott Mill Farm Learning Center
August 7 & 8

Senior Appreciation Day
All Metroparks
August 11*

Colonial Kensington
Kensington
August 14 & 15

Cruizin' the Park
Lower Huron
August 27 - 29

Voyageur Encampment
Metro Beach
August 28 & 29

🍂🍂🍂 FALL 🍂🍂🍂

Civil War Muster
Wolcott Mill
September 11 & 12

Acorn Festival
Oakwoods
September 12

Kensington Challenge XXI
Kensington
September 18

Hawtfest
Lake Erie
September 18 & 19

Fall Boat Show
Metro Beach
September 22 - 26

Fall Farm Festival
Kensington Farm Learning Center
September 25 & 26

Once Around the Weeping Willow
Disc Golf Tournament
Willow
October 10

Fall Nature Festival
Kensington Nature Center
October 16 & 17

Quilts at the Mill
Wolcott Mill
October 16 & 17

Veterans' Day Appreciation Day
All Metroparks
November 11*

Thanksgiving Holiday
Appreciation Days
All Metroparks
November 25 & 26*

Heritage Holidays
Wolcott Mill
December 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 & 18

Christmas Appreciation Day
All Metroparks
December 25*

*Free park entry and boat launching.



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 here.

Solar Steering Committee

President	Tom Oloff	Equipment	Carol McCrirk
Vice President	Tom Hayes	Historian	Charles Hailey
Secretary	Cindy Taylor	Membership	Mary Price
Treasurer	Reggie Hayes	Programs	Loa Szakal
Activities	Pam Kiehl	Pub. Relations	Jerry Couch
By-Laws	Gloria Fontaine	Solar Ray	Pete Lamb
Education	Harry Price	Web Master	Karl Overhaul
At Large:	Mike Banks • Moe DeFrance • Al Fylak • Steve Gardner • Bill Helvingis • 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 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 Oloff at (313) 386-0057 or mcmountainman@yahoo.com.

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 in 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, hmpprice@ameritoca.net.

Submission Guidelines:

(Submissions are due on the Friday two weeks prior to the monthly Steering Committee Meeting (Feb 6 for March issue). Electronic files accessible to Word are required.) Pete Lamb, 409 E. Southlawn, Birmingham, MI 48009 Or call 248-644-5331 E-mail: PeteLamb@yahoo.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.SOLAROUTDOORS.ORG

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