

School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure, and Recreation | www.sulanutdoors.org

Spring Backpacking: New skills, new friends

By Jennifer Tislerics, spring backpacking graduate. Photos by Al and Winnie Chrzanowski.

As those who attended the May SOLAR meeting have heard, the Spring Backpacking class this year was quite successful. For some of us, it was a refresher course and a way to meet new people and learn about new places to hike. For others, it was our first introduction to overnight outdoor activities and a way to learn new skills. And since it's a prerequisite to so many SOLAR activities, it was a must-do for all of us.

Learning New Skills

- Keeping warm is important on cold nights. It helps to keep a Nalgene full of hot water in your sleeping bag, and take a brisk walk before bed. Although instructors may say to wake them up if we're cold at night, that's much easier said than done in some cases.
- It's important to keep your pack weight down. It helps to feed your extra food to those around you, and try to leave your belongings behind for others to carry into camp (nice try, Al).
- The "Leave No Trace" philosophy is important to follow, even if that means you're carrying extra furniture, blankets, skillets and trash bags out of the park (thanks for showing us the way, Dave).
- Maps & compasses are great tools you don't even need trails to navigate, although they can certainly expedite the trip (thanks Pat and Karl).

Miscellaneous Things Learned

- Heel-Toe tag is harder than it looks, and you ain't seen nuthin' until you've seen Dave Helt's impression of the moon!
- Filtering water is good exercise, and tossing up the bear-bag rope can be a fun diversion for the evening.
- The most dangerous parts of any trip are traveling to and from the trailhead and putting your gear away when you get home (hope you're better soon, Tour!).



Trekking through the woods near Hoist Lake

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Spring Backpacking: New skills, new friends (cont'd)

Lessons Learned the Hard Way

- Starting a 3 day hiking trip hung over and dehydrated is not such a bright idea, after all (guilty parties shall remain nameless).
- Yes, there is such a thing as too much food!
- If your pack doesn't fit right, keep adjusting it until it does.
- Stop blisters before they start. Moleskin is our friend.
- It's no fun being cold at night.
- Other hikers don't necessarily follow the Leave No Trace system (but they should!).

Critters in the Wild

- Porcupines in the trees.
- Raccoon in a tree.
- Hog-nose snake in camp.
- Woodpeckers all around.
- Swans and geese in the lake.
- Evidence of bears all around.
- Proof of very industricus beavers in camp, on trails and in the lake
- Scat from a variety of mysterious local residents
- Deer and wild turkeys on the roads near the trailhead



Joen approves the tarp setup

Future Activities?

- Instructors obviously get a commission on each backpacking student who signs up for winter camping, wilderness first aid and search & rescue!
- Potential SOLAR class: Fine Dining on Dehydrated Foods

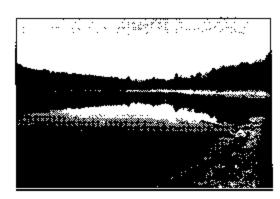
MANY thanks to our Lead Instructor (Mike Banks) and all of the Instructors and Assistant Instructors! Thank you for donating so many Thursday evenings to teach us these important skills and for giving up your weekends to make sure we actually learned it all, too. You taught us how to choose & care for our gear, stay safe & healthy in the outdoors, and you shared with us your love for the natural world around us. THANK YOU one and all.



Teem Wildfire after 3 days of hiking and our wonderful instructors



Team Testosterone with the brave souls who led them through the woods



Byron Lake - this is what it's all about

Spring Backpacking: New skills, new friends (cont'd)



Al -where s your sleeping bag?



Bigfoot takes a nap in the Woods



SOLAR Rock Class 2005 Practical: Limey on the Lam

By Mike Hubbard and Rick Waller

"Where are you going?" As if an ambassador visiting St. Petersburg, Sir Lam replies "Mad Moose Lodge of course, at Montreal River Harbor."

"And what is the purpose of your visit sir?"
"Rock climbing, my dear" the answer is given

"And who will be your guide?" now with suspicion in her voice and an icy penetrating

look in her eyes, the French-Canadian raven haired beaut. Customs Officer asks. With all the cockish pride of a British Officer representing the Crown, yet in reality a turncoat rebel with tea bags hanging from flannel pockets, and with chest puffed and authoritative voice, Sir Lam replies, "I AM THE GUIDE, THE LEAD INSTRUCTOR FOR SOLARRRR."

Completely unimpressed with the Ambassador, the feminazi interrogator thereupon hands over a yellow slip of paper and coolly says, "pull over to your left."

After lengthy, yet unfruitful discourse, Sir Lam thereupon is further humiliated by being issued an Expulsion Slip, a one way ticket back to the depths from whence he came, and unequivocally warned "not even Think! of trying to re-enter this Country from any border." With a swift, well placed kick in his arse from a spit polished boot, he is sent on his way, not to be seen again during the duration of the Practical, for he is now of course. "On the Lam."

Subsequent instructors at the gate of the Canadian Border are met with great suspicion, demonstrated by lengthy and anxiety arousing interrogations. Thankfully, due to prior Court experience, the instructors are able to successfully and diplomatically receive permission to enter the Crown Land.

From his Palace in Birmingham, Sir Lam, unable to bring his class to England, through alchemy and witchcraft, summons England to come to the class in the way of continuous rain, sleet, drizzle, dampness, and fog. Thus the Practical begins, minus the Commandeer and Lead Instructor.



SOLAR Rock Class 2005 Practical: Limey on the Lam (cont'd)



Cheeful despite the weather

Friday, with two Corporals, who even if unsure of their missing General's orders yet determined to press on, group the available students together and lead them off into the barely chartered wilderness of Ranwick Wall. There amongst the conifers and hardwoods dripping with wet, a series of unclimable. Top Rope anchors are set up. Unable to use these anchors, in part due to the High Seas experienced, the ship returns to Harbor early in the afternoon. True to the unflappable and enduring strengths that distinguish SOLAR members, alternate expeditions are made; a foray out upor, the wind and rain swept peninsula, a cycle ride to rival a Tour (Dave) De France mountain stage, and a cross country multidisciplinary journey to the Montreal River Harbor Mall, locally known as the Sand River

Upon return and well fed with outstanding chili and various culinary Stuff and Delights, the group remnisces and greets the final arriving students and instructors. Peppered throughout the evening gathering is speculation of the whereabouts and plight of the missing Sir Lam.

Saturday, just to make sure the exiled Commander had not illegally entered Canada, perhaps disguised as a Mexican migrant worker; a squadron comprising of various law enforcement agencies merges at Ranwick Wall to conducted surveillance operations.

Under such duress and a threatening sky, yet with boldness and determination, the students slog through the mud, moss and underbrush, braving all to complete their training and testing, and to a man and woman prove their skills as emerging Rock Stars.

The success of the class is demonstrated as several zealous students check out climbing packs in order to put into practice their newly acquired skills for the following Sunday, but are thwarted by rain that comes down unceasingly throughout the night and following morning. Thus with heavy hearts and sodden boots yet full in belly and camaraderie the class disperses back to the Home Land. At the border they are admirably welcomed by the United States Customs Border Patrol Officers for completing their mission and returning intact.

Mission Accomplished!



Ljust love this English weather

SOLAR JUNE 2005 CALENDAR

School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure & Recreation

JUNE ACTIVITIES

7	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	COLONY HALL	Tom Hayes	thomashayes@ wiceopenwest.com
7	TÜE	Program: Hostelling Fall Basic Backpacking (Linda Rodrick	lindamta@eol.com	
3-5	WKND	Bike Trip Kal-Haven Bike Trail	South Haven	Joni Kostishak	jandrust@ic.net
4	SAT	Canoe Race**	Holly to Fenton	Doug Lanyk	dslanyk@ earthlink.net
3	WED	Skip Work to Hike	Potowatam Trail	Dave Sweeton Libby	
18	SAT	Skydiving	Tecumseh	Will Gutmann	Will_H@)@yahoo.co m
10-26	MULTI	Mountaineering Class Trip	Olympus / Rainier	Lou Szakál	cvereet2006@aol.co m
18 Jul. 2	MULTI	Multi activity: Hiking, Biking, Wine Teating- FULL	Tuscany, Italy	Pete Lamb	petekandu@ yahoo.com

JUNE CLASSES

TBD	 -	Sea Kayaking Class	Heavner Canoe Rental- Milford	Matt Dalton	mdalton@ameritech.net
18	SAT	Flat Water Canoe Class	Rose Twshp	Doug Lanyk	dslanyk@eartlink.net

Articles due June 3 for the July RAY. (Note early date because of vacation) Please send to Pete Lamb at petekandu@yahoo.com

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/CLASSES

July 1-4	MULTI	Hiking, Biking, Canoeing, Kayaking, Camping	Caesar Creek State Park, OH	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
July 16- 23	MULTI	Wilderness Canoe Trip	Algonquin Park Ontario	Tom Dunn/ M. Merlin	ptomdunn@hotmail.com mpluscat@hotmail.com
August 13-21	MULTI	Kayaking Trip	Aposile Islands, Lake Superior	Matt Dalton	mdalton@ameritech.net
August- Oct.		Basic Backpacking Class	EMS	Carol McCrine	cmccririe@ sboglobal.net
August 21-27	MULTI	Cabin Cambing, Hiking, Canoeing, etc.	Ad rondacks, NY	Don Wold	
Sept. 24	SAT	Hoedown	Milford	Dave & Moe Defrance	moedefrance@ comcast.net
Sept 28, Oct. 5, 1-2	WKND WED/	Advanced Land Navigation Class	EMS/ Waterloo	Karl Overheul	cyternomad@ backpacker.com
Oct. 12, 15-16	WED / WKND	Basic Land Navigation Class	EMS/ Waterloo	Karl Overheul	cybernomac@ backpacker.com
Oct. 5, 12, 19	WED	Search & Rescue Class	Eastpointe HS	Tom Hayes	thomashayes@ wideopenwest.com

FOR INFORMATION ON JOINING THE SOLAR CLUB, CONTACT PENNI LOPEZ (248)336-2911, RANGE ENGLAR CLUB, RANGE OR VISIT WWW.SQLARQUIDOORS.ORG

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP PLAN AND/OR LEAD A SOLAR ACTIVITY, CONTACT KEV N COTTER AT 248 544-9637 OR SEND EMAIL TO kdcotter@wowway.com SOLAR HAS A NO-REFUND POLICY. IF YOU ARE LINABLE 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)

SOLAR Program Schedule

From the SOLAR Program Director Linda Rodrick

JUNE PROGRAM:



Presentation By Mike Willihnganz (Solar member & President of the Michigan Council of Hostelling International)

You will learn about the origins of the international hostelling movement, their growth & development in the United States, future plans, locations, activities and events and much more...

UPCOMING SOLAR PROGRAMS

JULY: Annual SOLAR Gear Swap & Summer Barbeque!

Here is your chance to sell your unwanted outdoor gear or pick up used gear at a good price

And there's even more fun...
A SOLAR barbeque always means great food and a great opportunity to socialize!

Please remember...

*Solar provides the main course and basics.

* Please bring a side dish to pass...dessert, salad, etc.

* We also need barbeque grills...please help by bringing one!

*All this takes place after the general meeting on Tuesday, July 5th at Colony Hall

AUGUST: Michigan and the Ice Age

By John Zawiskie (Geologist, Cranbrook Institute of Science)

You won't want to miss this presentation on the glacial history of Southeast Michigan, how plants and animals returned after the ice age as well as the extinction of large animals between 11,000 and 10,000 years ago.

SEPTEMBER: Nature and Wildlife Photography

By Julia Gordon

Please note: All programs take place at Colony Hall immediately following the SOLAR business meeting.

Steering Committee Election Results

President Tom Hayes
Secretary Debbie Zuchlewski
Activities Kevin Cotter
Public Relations Mary Price
By-Laws Cindy Taylor
Membership Penni Lopez
Equipment Dave DeFrance

Vice President
Treasurer
Carol McCririe
Programs
Linda Rodrick
Historian
Dick Ebenhoe
Education
Webmaster
Solar Ray Editor
Lou Szakal
Lou Szakal
And Szakal
Linda Rodrick
Pete Lamb

SOLAR T-Shirt Design Winner-Leslie Madel!



SOLAR would also like to thank Mike Hobig, Penni Lopez, Nancy Day, and Janet Schester for their fine contributions to the T-Shirt contest

Pete's Photo and Article Submission Request:

When sending photos for submission to the Ray, please send them as an attachment to your e-mail. This request also applies to documents. Documents written as e-mail have to be reworked to an acceptable format.

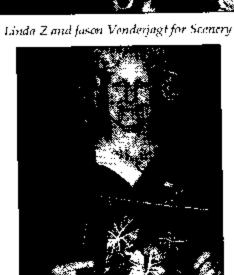
- You may have to attach photos in small batches as e-mail sending capacity is 10 megabytes
- Please do not reduce the pixel count or photosize because of reduction to quality.
- I have a two hundred megabyte e-mail storage capacity, so you will not clog up my files.

Interest Sign Up: Solar Wilderness Sea Kayak Course

Solar is considering an intermediate kayak course for the last two weekends in July —Students will learn skills for paddling or large lakes for extended trips. The class will cost about \$150 to \$200 and require 4-6 hours on Saturdays or Sundays in July. Please contact Matt Dalton at mailton@ameritech.net or 248 360 0031 if interested.

2005 ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST Winners

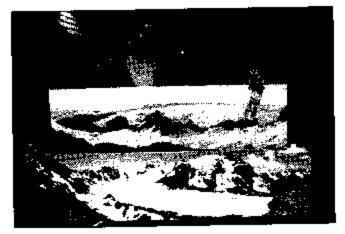




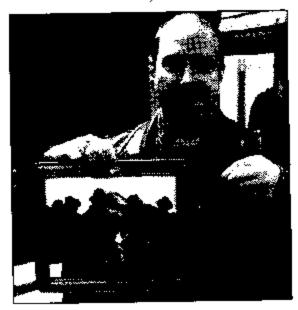
Narcy Day for Non-SOLAR Plants



Lou Szakal for Black & White & Phasis



Karl Overhuel for Photo Pro



Larry Mergentine for People



 $Linda\,Z\,fer\,People$

YEEE-HA!

Let's do it again. It's time for the third annual hoe-down



Come and join in for an old fashioned COUNTRY HOE-DOWN

WHEN:

Saturday September 24, 2005

TIME:

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

WHERE: COST:

Directions to the Lazy J are below. \$20 per person. Limit is 80 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) and drinks (liquor allowed).

Dress appropriately. Jeans, boots, handkerchiefs, checkered shirts. Laver as we will

get hot.

The Lazy J Ranch is truly a one of a kind facility located in the beautiful farming area of Milford, Michigan. The two-story barn was built at the turn of the century and provides a wonderful old fashion. atmosphere. Originally built as a dairy barn, the Lazy "J" has been restored and converted into two square dance halls operating year round, complete with indoor restrooms. We have the old hay loft reserved.

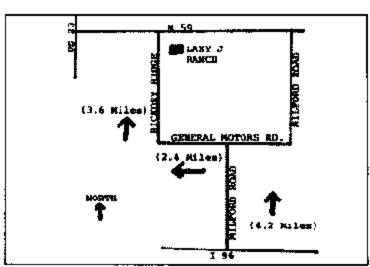
The evening is a full program of square dancing and mixers designed for the fun and enjoyment of beginners only. No prior knowledge of square dancing is necessary, nor expected.

 The Lazy "J" Ranch Hands will be available from the time of your arrival to smoothly handle every detail of the evening. The square dance caller orchestrates the entire program of events ensuring a relaxing and memorable experience for everyone.

Sign up at the June thru Sept, meetings and give or mail your check to Maureen De France, 2692 Court Lanc North, Howell, MI 48843



1-96 to Exit#155 Millord Turn heading North on to Milford Road 4.2 miles to General Motors Road Turn left on to GM Road 2.4 miles to Hickory Ridge Road Turn right on to 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.



Caesar Creek State Park Little Miami State Park And River July 1-4, 2005

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

Caesar Creek State Park is highlighted by clear blue waters, scattered woodlands, meadows and steep raymes. 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 fossi, hunting. Nearby is the Little Miami paved bike trail system with over 100 miles of trails. There is also a bike rental, icc cream store and winery nearby. We are going to canoe or kayak the Little Miami River on Monday and have a traditional polluck dinner on Saturday night.

We will be camping at the Wellman Group Camp within the park. We will have the entire camp to ourselves. There are flush toilets, a picnic shelter and showers nearby (8 miles) at the main campground. Weather permitting there will be a campfire each night.

Cost is:

Adul:

Camp and canoe \$35, camp and kayak \$45, camp only \$15

Child

Camp and canoe \$20, camp and kayak \$30, camp only \$5

free, not allowed in canoes or kayaks and must be leashed at all times Dogs If you are interested please contact Leslie Cordova at (248) 547-5626 or lesliegene@aol.com.



PLAY HOOKY FROM WORK DAY



Why work when you can commune with nature for a day?

WHERE:

Pinkney Recreation Area, Potawatomi Trail

WHEN:

Wed. June 8th 7:30am until ?

WHY:

Why not?

WHO:

Dave Sweeton and Libby Neumaier

BRING:

Water, lunch, trail snacks

CONTACT: veggiecamper@talkamerica.net or DaveSw@provide.net

For directions and details

DESCRIPTION:

We will meet at the trail head at 7:30 and start out by 8am. The Potawatomi trail is 18 miles long with the opportunity to take a short cut of 4 miles near the beginning if people want to. Bring your lunch, snacks and water. We can fill up again at the 10 mile mark if needed. If all goes well, we should hike for approximately 9 hours including a lunch break. At the end, those who want to, will go to Hell and have libations and food. The day before we will talk about rain if necessary, but the weather will be beautiful I'm sure. The hike is dog friendly provided your animal can hike long distances and is very good around other dogs. There is no cost for the trip except state park fees to enter the recreation area.



Notice: The Flatwater Canoe Class will be on June 18th at my house same as usual. 12:00 Noon till 3:00 PM picnic to follow. Douglas Lanyk, 10541 Tamryn Blvd., Holly, MI 48442, dslanyk@earthlink.net, 248-634-4551

Kal-Haven Bike Trip

By jonnie Kostishak

Hey, come on out for the first SOLAR bike trip of the season! It will be June 3-5 where we will be biking on the Kai-Haver Trail that goes from Kalamazoo to South Haven. The complete trail itself is 34 miles long. A shorter option is available. We will be camping at Van Buren State Park in South Haven. The cost is \$ 15.00 per person for 2 nights' camping. Don't forget to bring your bike! For more information call or c-mail Jonnie Kostishak at 734-398-5315 or jkoutdoors100@vahoo.com

NEWS FLASH! Fall Backpacking Course is Half-Filled

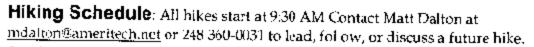
That's right! This fall's class is filling up quickly. Why is this class so popular? Is it the knowledge to be gained? Is it the friends to be made? Is it the long weekend to be spent at Pictured Rocks at the height of the fall colors? Who knows? The important thing is that you don't get left behind.

The fall course is scheduled for the Wednesday evenings of August 17th & 24th and September 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th. The practicals take place the weekends of September 17th & 18th, and September 30th through October 2nd. The cost is \$100.

To sign up, contact Carol McCririe ASAP at mccririoc@global.net.

Solar Weekly Hiking Leaders

Leading your very own Solar Club weekly hike is a great way to stay in shape, have fun, meet new people, and visit new places. It's time we get out there and log some miles and have fun. Contact Matt Dalton to discuss leading a few of our weekly (weekend) SOLAR hikes—Contact Matt at mailton@ameritech.net or 248 360 0031



Sunday, June 5th, Pontiac Lake State Recreation. Area. Meet in the beach parking lot, trail head is in the far right corner. (Leader Needed)

Saturday, June 11th, Highland State Recreation Area. Meet in the Haven Hill Lake parking area. (Leader Needed)

Saturday, June 18th, Seven Lakes State Park. Meet at the boat launch trailhead. Hike, than go a few more miles to Doug Lanyk's Canoe class and party. (Leader Needed)

Sunday, June 26, Island Lake State Park, Brighton. Meet at the Riverbend picnic area. (Leader Needed) Saturday, July 2nd, Maybury State Park. 8 mile Rd., west of Beck Rd. Meet at parking lot, far right corner. (Leader Needed)

SOLAR is a non-profit Club with 400 plus members dedicated to be intelligent encoment of nature and outdoor pursuits.

Membership is only \$40 a year per person (\$55 per family) and includes discounts to a mother of retail outfitters, access to clubowned equipment, a monthly nerosletter, and a chance to meet hundreds of other like-minded atventurers drawn together by a common lave of pristing takes, breathtaking vistus, ungin foresis and scenic shorelines, and the experiences to be found facte.

Secretary Tressurer Activities

President

By-Laws

Education

At Large

Tom Haves Vice President Lou Szakal Debbie Zuchlewsk: Carol McCririe Kevin Cotter Cindy Taylor Mike Banks

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Karl Overbeul

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SOLAR Steering Committee Meetings -The Steering Committee meets on the last Tucsday 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 Haves at (586) 778-0589 or thomashayes@wideopenwest.com.

SOLAR Steering Committee

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 frec.

SOLAR RAY is a morthly publication of SOLAR and is sent free to current dues-paid members. If you change your address please tell the membership chairperson, Penni Lopez at <u>kayekrawseriny abusecom</u>

Submission Guidelines:

(Submissions are due on the Friday two weeks prior to the monthly Steering Committee Meeting (June 3 for the July issue). Electronic files accessible to Word are required.) Pete Lamb, 409 E. Southlown, Brimingham, MI 48009 Or call 248-644-583. E-mail: Petekande by this com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.SOLAROUTDOORS.ORG

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> Southfield, M. 48037 P.O Box 2438



