



## Mt. Olympus

by Jason Vanderfagt

**Arriving in Seattle.** Waking up late after a red-eye flight to Sea-Tac, I jumped on a city bus to downtown Seattle. After touring the city on foot that morning I got a call from Mark Torres, Sharon Smelter, and Chris Myers. They were at the airport and trying to get to the city. We met up that afternoon, had lunch at Ivar's, and made plans for some sight seeing over the next few days. After buying a city pass we were off to cram in as many tourist destinations as possible over the next two days. We managed to hit the flight museum, space needle, aquarium, Pike Place Market (yes, they were throwing fish), and a narrated tour of Elliot Bay and Puget Sound. We tried to make a last minute rush to the Museum of Natural Science but our trolley hit a truck. The kid driving the truck was a little embarrassed, but everybody was fine. After the local police cleared the scene, it was back to Ivar's for some fine dining.

**The Approach.** Later that evening Lou and Pam Szakal and Judy Petrella met us at the airport, and at last our climbing team was complete. The next day was busy with renting climbing gear and our drive to a hostel near Olympic National Park. We stayed in an attached garage with more than enough bunks for the lot of us and plenty of room to prepare our gear. After a decent night's sleep we were off to the Hoh River trailhead with full packs and ambitious thoughts. The Hoh River Trail is 17.5 miles long with 4,400' of elevation gain. It also has some of the biggest trees and slugs I've ever seen. The slugs even change colors as you gain elevation.

**On the Glacier.** After packing up camp at the meadow we were finally out of the rainforest and headed up the lateral moraine. The view from the top of the moraine was one of the most stunning I've ever seen. We descended the moraine, roped up, and started our journey across the glacier. At one point the fog cleared, and the sun came out. The temperature change is extreme when this happens. We all stopped to take off as much as we could and sat on our packs (still on our rope teams) for a lunch break. Just as we were finishing up, the clouds rolled back in and we scrambled to get our layers back on. After a few hours of this we made it to our high camp and dug out our places for our tents. We camped near an outcropping of rock and used this for cooking and just hanging out.

**Summit Day.** Finally, after three days of hiking, it was time for our summit day! We roped up and headed up the steep terrain. After passing some more rock outcroppings and evaluating potential avalanche



*Climbing Team*

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## Mt. Olympus (cont'd)

hazards we were nearing Snow Dome which (as you guessed it) is a large dome of snow. From here there is a clear view of the summit. The view also revealed, to our dismay, a large impassable bergschrund (a large crevasse that separates the mountain's rock from the start of the glacier). We couldn't go any further, but the view was spectacular. We glissaded back down off of Snow Dome and headed back down around the rock outcroppings. We noticed some small avalanche paths and decided not to take our previous route back down. We opted for a steeper descent to reduce the possibility of being hit by an avalanche. While taking this route I felt a rumbling that very quickly got louder. I looked up in fear of an avalanche coming down at me but saw nothing. The avalanche was on the other side of the rock outcroppings. Descending a little further I could see it coming down towards my teammates. It stopped only a few feet from where they were standing. It wiped out the path we had created on our way up. If we had followed our original route we would have been hit by it. Lou's decision to take an alternate route probably saved us some broken bones and a lot of grief.

We got down early and spent the day basking in the sun on our comfy rock that started to feel like home. Most of us fell asleep while others tended to sore joints and took pictures (of us sleeping). The following two days were spent descending back to the trailhead.

**After Descending.** We got out of the rainforest a day early and opted for a relaxing day at the Sol

Duc hot springs... it was relaxing. We headed back to the hostel that night and prepared for our drive back to Tacoma. Pam returned home, and Karl joined us for the Rainier portion of our trip. We got a good night's sleep and headed to Paradise Lodge to meet up with Larry and prepare for a go at Rainier's summit.

Mt Olympus was lots of fun. At 7,969' it's not the biggest mountain around, but it was a good all around experience. It gave us, a mountaineering class, a good idea of what many mountains are like, including a long approach, avalanches, and dramatic temperature changes. Hopefully, next year's class will have an opportunity to climb this mountain. (Mt. Rainier summit will be covered in the October SOLAR Ray.)



*Off of the glacier*



*Our comfy rock*

Long time SOLARites (since 1985) Michael Maunebach and Karen Sinclair-Smith who met and wed through this wonderful club have relocated to beautiful Colorado Springs in the shadow of Pikes Peak and the magnificent Pike National Forest. They are now members of the unofficial Colorado SOLAR contingent. When they are not out exploring their new surroundings they can be found at: 2820 W. Platte Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80904 which is near Old Colorado City, the original settlement now incorporated into the Springs. This is a temporary address until Mike and Karen sell their home in Waterford and can purchase a house in the Springs. All SOLARites are welcome to visit, but check with them first via email at: [Mijoma@mac.com](mailto:Mijoma@mac.com)

## Tuscany and Beyond

by Winnie Chrzanowski

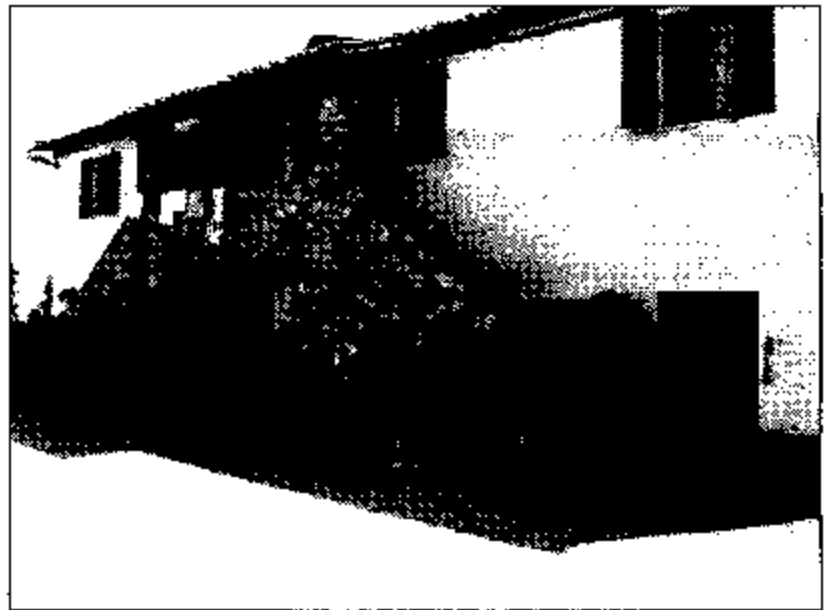
In the not too distant past, 10 stalwart and daring SOLARites ventured, along with Pete Lamb (aided by his companion Kathie Stanley, his brother Roger, and Roger's wife, Val), to a strange and wonderful place filled with golden sunshine, cloudless blue skies, green hills, fabulous food and wine, and unwieldy phones that proved daunting to many of them. They flew through time and space in fragile metal capsules fitted with seats designed for dwarves for what seemed like light years to get to this idyllic spot.

Arriving travel stained and weary at the Florence airport, Sue Tavidian, Bill Lynch and his daughter Sue (aka Chicago Sue) faced the task of finding lost luggage in a language unlike their own. Debbie Zuchlewski arrived intact but couldn't get the phones to work properly and traveled expensively by taxi to Podere Montecuccheri. Bill and Sue, in addition to arriving *sans* luggage, also had to fork out many Euros to taxi to the farm. The rest of the lucky ducks (Gloria Fontain, Cindy Taylor, Mike & Wendy Willhnganz, and Al & Winnie Chrzanowski) hooked up with Pete and Roger as originally planned. They experienced a thrilling, twisty-turny van ride on narrow roads designed for Vespas. Evidence of the hazardous driving conditions, the passenger mirror on Pete's van dangled from its mount like a partially severed limb and raw scrapes covered its side. (Many agreed, after riding and driving in Tuscany for a while, that their vans transported no atheists.)

Despite minor problems reaching their apartments at Podere Montecuccheri, a working farm about 4 km outside the modern town of Poggibonsi, by late Saturday night all (except Sue T. who arrived the next day) sat sighing in contentment and enjoying the soft summer night by the light of a full orange Tuscan moon. Filled to bursting from Val's luscious dinner, they appreciated the local red wine (bought by the gallon), chatted, snickered about the pungent aroma wafting from the pig sty that accompanied dinner, and watched fireflies wink at them until eyes



*Beyond the farm.*



*Our apartments*

drooped, mouths yawned, and bodies cried out for a comfy bed.

Ah, but 4:30 a.m. arrives too early — especially when the *basso profundo* rooster has *ch-cr-ch-cr-ch'd* them right out of the arms of Morpheus. Half awake, they hear the tenor down the road respond with his cock-a-doodle-doo. Not to be outdone, the bejeweled blue peacock squawks his presence in the orchestra, and Jocko, the yellow Lab pup (who greeted us yesterday with wagging tail, dripping tongue, and sharp

## Tuscany and Beyond (cont'd)



*Tuscan alarm clocks*

puppy teeth), adds to the tune. Cheerily chiming in, the sheep's bell tinkles a merry counterpoint to raucous performance begun by the deep voiced rooster. Some sleepers turn over and, to the rustic melody playing outside shuttered windows, go back to dreaming of nothing. The more energetic (and younger) souls spring out of bed, toss on jogging clothes, and hurtle themselves down the dusty road before the strong Tuscan sun heats up the morning. The rest sleep in or at least ease into the day gently—Pete, Wendy, and Val water coloring the landscape onto waiting paper, Mike and Roger reading, the rest just sipping coffee and enjoying the cool morning air and the camaraderie already evident in the group. They get moving early only if they have a hard and fast plan for the day.

Making plans for day trips took some doing since Tuscany offers so much to see and do. The region abounds with art treasures and *duomos*: the gigantic domed cathedrals and museums of Florence and Siena, medieval walled towns, Etruscan ruins, festivals, and just some darned great scenery to admire. The hardy crew took on many such expeditions. Their thirst for daring-do took them to Verona to see the extravagant opening performance of *Aida* staged in an amphitheater built during the Roma Empire. On this excursion, which was about a five-hour ride, they stopped to have "a wiggle" at Italian rest stops where they could shop, drink espresso—



*Tuscan Hike*

you get the picture—and then spent the night at the upscale Hotel Martini.

Their energy prompted hikes on flower-strewn paths around Foggibonsi and San Gimignano—in 90+ temperatures.

Roger and Pete drove them over narrow roads and heart-stopping motorways to the port town of Piombino where a ferryboat transported people and vans to Elba, Napoleon's place of exile and home of exquisite beaches and topless beauties—and some not so beauties. Visits to walled towns filled with magnificent medieval buildings captured their imagination, and the beckoning shops in these lovely old towns captured more than a few of their Euros. An outing through the vineyard region of Chianti and a stop at a local pub led to new friends, a visit to a winery they recommended, and several bottles of wine for Debbie to lug home.

Even though excursions, hikes and day trips filled many



*Aida in Verona*

## Tuscany and Beyond (cont'd)

days, relaxing around the crystal blue pool for cocktails and post-day trip snoozes took up a good part of their time as well. They've all been on enough SOLAR trips to realize this one isn't the standard SOLAR fare, and no one's complaining. It's completely agreeable to relax and take it easy. After all, seven in the group qualify for senior discounts, and those who don't are enjoying the leisurely pace of life on the farm.

The group rented all three apartments that belong to Podere Monteruccheri, the farm Val discovered in her search for accommodations for this trip. All are charmingly homey and come equipped with indoor plumbing—including bidets and showers, refrigerators that make ice, stoves that light with the turn of a knob, and water that splashes from the faucet—hot or cold.

Although no one on the farm really hurries because it's so hot, many are busy with daily chores. Roger, Val, Pete, and Kathie handle the driving, setting up sightseeing trips and hikes, grocery shopping, and getting meals ready. The Filippas, the family who lives on the farm, tend lush gardens filled with ripening tomatoes, 5" long purple beans, fresh garlic with heads as big as a hard ball, and blue-gray

spikily foliaged artichokes. They cultivate the bright green grape vines, dripping with charreuse hued plumping grapes that line the road bordering the farm. Gray-green olive trees, covered with nubbins of olives just starting to mature, stand sentinel to the vineyards. Tawny wheat fields contrast against the green of the lush countryside that resembles an opulently embroidered velvet patchwork quilt.

This article could go on and on. You could hear about Caterina, the charming resident three year old, who chatters rapid-fire baby Italian, plays in her tub of water, and eats ice cream with Grandpa in the dusty hot afternoons. You could learn about Jocko and that during the hot afternoons while the entire population of the farm slept or rested away the heat, he was more often than not chained up because he could be a nuisance and whimpered for attention and freedom. But, it won't. You've been attentive long enough. It's time to say *ciao* and end this commentary. So, I'll leave you with this viewpoint only realized it after being home a couple of weeks. Tuscany, in its magnificence and complexity, is not just a place. It's a state of mind that will soak right through to your soul if you just sit back, relax, and let it.

## S.O.L.A.R.'s Introduction to Kayaking

by Leslie Madill

Kayaking 101, also known as Beginning Kayaking, proves to be a great S.O.L.A.R. class for novice kayakers. Beginning kayakers gather at Heavener's Canoe/Kayak Rental Headquarters at the Proud Lake Recreation Area to be instructed by Matt Dalton. This Kayaking class is not just for SOLARites who have never before been in a kayak. It is also helpful and educational for a novice kayaker who has never had any formal instruction and wants to break some bad habits or just wants to learn the correct way to paddle. It is also a class for anyone who is looking for a good, safe kayaking experience before they venture out on their own, or for anyone else who wishes to become re-acquainted with the sport of kayaking.

Students begin by spending time ashore learning about the kinds of kayaks available to suit their interests and the type of equipment and accessories needed to paddle safely and comfortably. Matt spends time getting to know each kayaker's level of experience and what their plans are in the sport of kayaking. Some who have never been in a kayak want to find out if kayaking is something they would enjoy doing. Some plan on just having fun kayaking during the summer months. Others may plan to do day trips down rivers, or want to try weekend kayaking trips, and yet others aspire to sea kayaking and extended wilderness expeditions. So, wherever you plan to go in the sport of kayaking, this class is a great place to start. The last instruction on land involves learning the correct way to hold the paddle and the proper form in using it.

After students learn how to safely get into the kayak, they get on the water armed with new knowledge and techniques to practice their paddling. Much coaching and cheering encourages the students as they practice the proper way to paddle and make turns. The atmosphere of the class is relaxed, fun, and safety conscious. The class ends with a short paddle and hopes of getting together again with other SOLAR members, both novice and experienced, to enjoy Michigan's waterways. So, let's get together and do some paddling!

## Wilderness Sea Kayaking Class

*by Marcia Reinhart*

Congratulations to Matt Dalton for introducing to SOLAR the first "Wilderness Sea Kayaking Class." This class is for all of us that fear being upside down inside your boat, under water, waiting for a rescue. The class was both educational and a hands-on practical. First, we met at EMS to discuss the basics of equipment and clothing. Matt assigned us a book that was small enough to read before the class ended and still be helpful. Matt was relentless in practicing self rescues, assisted rescues and bracing. If you thought it stopped there—forget it. He continued the scenarios. "What if you're too tired to get back into your boat? What if you are hurt?" I don't think he missed a cue. He reinforced the proper way to paddle, as a lot of us have this short term memory loss and forget to push and not pull.



*Getting into the kayak*



*Checking equipment*



*Turning upside down*

So those of you wanting to learn the correct way to paddle and not tire in an hour, take this class first. It's awesome! And that was just the beginning. As our skills improved and we were deemed fit, the wilderness part began. We learned how to pack our boats for camping; tents, sleeping bags, food etc... and paddled off in to the sunset (literally blinded because we ran so late) and headed for our mystery destination after packing everything that our boats would allow us to take, and then repacking until it fit. Except Chuck who did it in 15 minutes.

Thanks also to the group for all the help and patience as our endurance level was tested. Chuck, Jeff, Sandy, Gloria, Nancy, me and most of all Matt.

### What Are the Odds? (cont'd)

*by Charles Hailey*

For this installment, we can add sharks kill 1 person per year, and deer, 168 per year (from *Outside* magazine). Who woulda thunk that deer were so dangerous? Actually the deaths from deer are caused when someone drives their car into them. No word on how many deer die from humans (cars or otherwise).

# SOLAR SEPTEMBER 2005 CALENDAR

School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure & Recreation

An updated version of this calendar is on the Web at [www.solaroutdoors.org/calendar\\_public.asp](http://www.solaroutdoors.org/calendar_public.asp)

**JULY 2005 TRIP LEADER DRAWING WINNER**  
**MARGARET MARTIN AND TOM DUNN, ALGONQUIN CANOE TRIP**

## SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

6	TUE	<b>GENERAL MEETING</b>	COLONY HALL at 7:30 p.m.	Tom Hayes	thomashayes@wideopenwest.com
6	TUE	Program: Nature and Wildlife Photography		Linda Rodrick	lindamra@aol.com
9	WED	<b>Submission deadline for October Solar Ray</b> Send to <a href="mailto:petekandu@yahoo.com">petekandu@yahoo.com</a>			
9-11	WKND	Woodland Moccasin Workshop Weekend**	Duck Lake	Margaret Martin/ Jonnie Kostishak	mjimscat@hotmail.com jkoutdoors100@yahoo.com
11	SUN	Bike/Hike the Paint Creek Trail**	Paint Creek Trail, Rochester Hills	Mary Dunn	
17	SAT	Autumn Party and Paddle**	Proud Lake State Park	Alan Heavner/ Margaret Martin	AlanHeavner@ heavnercanoe.com
17	SAT	Nordhouse Dunes Cleanup	Nordhouse Dunes	Vida Ruggero	raceti@hotmail.com
24	SAT	Hoedown	Milford	Dave & Moe DeFrance	moe@defrance@ comcast.net
Sep 30 - Oct 2	WKND	Rock climbing, hiking	Rattlesnake Point, Ontario	Jason VanderJagt	jason_m@wideopenwest.com

## SEPTEMBER CLASSES

Sep 28, Oct. 1-2, 5	WED / WKND	Advanced Land Navigation Class	EMS/ Waterloo	Karl Overheul	cybernomad@ backpacker.com
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## OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

4	TUE	<b>GENERAL MEETING</b>	COLONY HALL	Tom Hayes	thomashayes@ wideopenwest.com
4	TUE	Program: SOLAR Trip Presentation: Tuscany, Italy		Linda Rodrick	lindamra@aol.com
8-9	WKND	Jordan River Pathway backpacking trip	Jordan River Pathway	Kevin Cotter	solar@wvway.com
16	SUN	Pumpkin Party and Paddle**	Proud Lake State Park	Alan Heavner/ Margaret Martin	AlanHeavner@ Heavnercanoe.com
Oct. 31- Nov 5	MULTI	Archeological Survey**	DeSoto National Forest, Mississippi	Chip Kleinbrook & Gloria Fontaine	mchip1234@aol.com

## OCTOBER CLASSES

11, 15-16	TUE / WKND	Basic Land Navigation Class	EMS/ Waterloo	Karl Overheul	cybernomad@ backpacker.com
5, 12, 19, 21-23	WED	Search & Rescue Class	Fastpointe HS	Tom Hayes	thomashayes@ wideopenwest.com

## NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

1	TUE	<b>GENERAL MEETING</b>	COLONY HALL	Tom Hayes	thomashayes@ wideopenwest.com
1	TUE	Iditarod Odyssey		Linda Rodrick	lindamra@aol.com

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Feb	MULTI	Yellowstone Cross Country Ski Trip**	Yellowstone National Park	Pete Lamb	petekandu@yahoo.com
Feb 17- 19, 2006	WKND	Outhouse Race	Cassville, Michigan	Penni Lopez	kavekrawler@yahoo.com 248-259-3732
April 20- 30, 2006	MULTI	Caribbean Trip**	St John, Virgin Islands	Jim Gessner	gessnerj@prodigy.net

FOR INFORMATION ON JOINING THE SOLAR CLUB, CONTACT PENNI LOPEZ (248) 336-2911, [kavekrawler@yahoo.com](mailto:kavekrawler@yahoo.com) OR VISIT [WWW.SOLAROUTDOORS.ORG](http://WWW.SOLAROUTDOORS.ORG)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP PLAN OR LEAD A SOLAR ACTIVITY, CONTACT KEVIN COTTER (248) 544-9637 OR SEND EMAIL TO [kdcotter@wowway.com](mailto:kdcotter@wowway.com)

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)

**SOLAR Program Schedule**  
*From the SOLAR Program Director*  
**Linda Rodrick**

**SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: How to Photograph Nature**

By Julia Gordon (Solar member and Washtenaw Community College photography instructor and nature photographer.)

In this interesting and informative presentation, Julia will show slides and discuss creative techniques to help you improve your nature photography skills. Some of the topics covered will be composition, depth of field, color schemes and motion. This program is designed to help photographers of all skill levels and imaging formats (film or digital) learn new ways to achieve spectacular images!



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**UPCOMING SOLAR PROGRAMS**

**OCTOBER: Solar Trip presentation: Italy - Featuring Fabulous Tuscany and the Glorious Dolomites**

By Pete Lamb & other SOLAR Trip Participants

Join us to see the hill towns of Tuscany. Participate in its medieval pageantry and walk through the vineyards of Chianti country. Experience the glorious Dolomites as SOLAR members hike along the Via One, a foot path from Munich to Venice. Travel the Via Ferrates, used by hikers who really want to get off the beaten path. See the glories of Rome and the sensuousness of Venice. Just sit back in your chair to experience all this and more through the eyes of SOLAR trip participants.

**NOVEMBER: Iditarod Odyssey**

By Phil Crookshank and Karen Bates (Solar members and active dogsledders)

**DECEMBER: Holiday Party!**

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



## Into the Future — SOLAR Web

By Tom Oloff

Are you wondering how to get the latest up-to-the minute trip plans? Perhaps you want to see what SOLAR has to offer in the way of equipment or how to contact the Steering Committee.

Well the answer is the web of course! Our Club has two offerings:

- 1) The first is an official web site ([www.Solaroutdoors.org](http://www.Solaroutdoors.org)) which has a calendar of events, tons of useful info on gear, information about SOLAR's steering committee members, by-laws etc. Also, all of the SOLAR Rays are online at this address (more about that later...). This website is our "Welcome to SOLAR" site, sort of an electronic guidebook to the club.
- 2) Our second offering is a lot more informal (yes zip off hiking pants are allowed). It's our Yahoo group SOLARoutdoors, notice both names are the same just different locations. This is where all the excitement is! Let's say you're bored and looking for something to do this weekend. Odds are we will have either a hike going on or a trip somewhere in the state. All you have to do is post a message asking and you're sure to receive a reply. Right now, there are about 156 members. I hope that number doubles after this article. OK pay attention... In order to get to this site you have to join. Don't stop reading. It's FREE and takes only a few minutes!!! The easiest way is to e-mail yours truly at [memountainman@yahoo.com](mailto:memountainman@yahoo.com), and I will then send you an invite to our Yahoo group. You may need to fill out a yahoo profile before joining.

I know you're saying, but Tom I don't want any stupid e-mail messages sent to my account, but you have lots of choices in this regard. You can receive none or a daily digest or every posting—it's up to you. So send me an e-mail. After all, how often do you get free invites to anything anymore?

Now back to the Ray, we plan to go totally electronic with the Ray in the near future. Stop, take a deep breath, slowly exhale—that's it, breathe! Hard copies will always be available to those wishing to receive them!

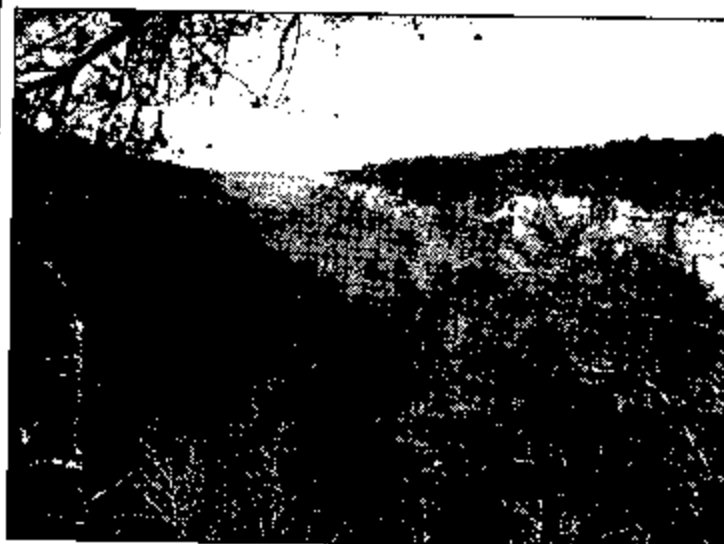
The reasons for doing this are twofold—first, printing costs keep going up and up. Secondly, wouldn't you like to see those last photos of your trip in glorious color? Plus, think of the trees you'll be saving.

So, go check out our official site [www.solaroutdoors.org](http://www.solaroutdoors.org), and then send me an e-mail for that free invite to our Yahoo group! Thanks, Tom O., President at Large

## Rattlesnake Hiking, Climbing, and Mountain Biking

by Jason Vanderjagt

Come join us at Rattlesnake Point from Sept 30 to Oct 2 for a fun weekend full of activities, camaraderie, and beautiful scenery. Rattlesnake Point and surrounding areas offer rock climbing from beginner to expert levels, hiking along the Bruce and other trail systems, and mountain biking along the Niagara Escarpment. Cost is \$6.00 per person per night. This covers campground fees and firewood for the two nights. Milton Ontario is a 3.5 hour drive from Detroit towards Toronto. We'll be staying in a group campsite with full bathrooms and showers. Rock climbing requires a belay card from Planet Rock and top rope set-up requires a certificate from the SOLAR rock climbing class. I'll be providing SOLAR climbing gear to qualified attendees. All mountain biking and hiking are at your own discretion. So bring your boots, bikes, and rock climbing gear for a nice fall weekend at Rattlesnake Point!



Rattlesnake

## Solar Hiking Update

by Matt Dalton



As everyone already knows, this has been one of the hottest summers we've experienced in Michigan in many, many years. Just in case if you thought everyone at Solar has been hiking except you.... I'll share a little secret. You're not the only one not hiking, but this is going to change really fast. My prediction is, as soon as the weather cools down a little bit and with the Fall Backpacking Class, more SOLARites will be participating in the Sat/Sun hikes.

To make this the best experience possible there are some optional guide lines that could be followed. These are drop in hike and you can choose to participate when you wake up Sat or Sunday morning but more people will benefit from the hikes if they have an idea of who and how many people may hike that day.

Please call or email me as soon as you know that you're planning to hike on a certain day. Let me know if you're open to car pooling, going out to lunch afterwards or if you're going to bring enough home made brownies to share with everyone. This will attract at least 5 more hikers.

**All SOLAR Club weekend hikes start at 9:30 AM.** A question I get is, are other SOLARites going to be there? After this article one of the questions will be, who's bringing home made brownies?

Last but not least, please don't email me at 11:00 PM Friday night and ask me about Saturday's hike. You will probably get an answer back on Sunday PM or Monday.

Don't forget dogs and guests are welcome on most SOLAR hikes. Both must be on a 6' leash unless your guest will really come back to you when you call them. Some Metro parks do not allow dogs on certain trails, such as Kensington's Nature Trail.

Happy Hiking. Let me know when YOU would like to lead a hike. This will get you in better shape, you'll make new friends and YOU may get treated to some home made brownies.

### September 2005, Solar Hikes

**Sunday: September 4, 9:30 AM** (Labor Day Weekend) Maybury State Park, this park is 5 miles west of I-275 on 8 Mile Rd. just west of Beck Rd. Meet at the 1st parking lot, far right corner. Hike is Easy to Moderate. Lots of great lunch spots on the hike or a few short miles after the hike.

**Saturday: September 10, 9:30 AM** Seven Lakes State Park, Exit I-75 at Grange Hall Rd. go 6 miles to Fish Lake Rd., then north on Fish Lake Rd. 1 mile to park entrance. Follow signs to the boat launch trailhead. Hike is easy to moderate.

**Sunday: September 18, 9:30 AM** Proud Lake State Park, Park is located in Milford, off I-96, Wixom Rd. near Garden Rd. If you went on Margret Martin's moon lit canoe paddle and got lost, just stay over until the sun comes back out and hike fellow with club members. (A little humor... you won't get lost on the canoe trip.) Meet at Heavner's, hike Proud Lake trails and cool off after with a canoe or kayak paddle. This time of year, there shouldn't be any lines or waiting. Plenty of lunch spots a few miles away.

**Saturday: September 24, 9:30 AM** Stony Creek Metropark, North of Utica off the VanDyke expressway (M-53) From M-53 take 26 Mile Rd. west 1.5 miles to park entrance. Follow signs to the West Branch Picnic Area. Hiking is easy to moderate.

**Sunday: October 2, 9:30 AM** Kensington Metropark, I-96 at Kent Rd., exit 151 Meet in the first right hand parking lot past the golf course. Hiking is easy to moderate and no hunting is allowed in Kensington.

**FYI:** Bow and arrow hunting for deer opens Saturday October 1. This Saturday and Sunday will have a high concentration of bow hunters in many of the State Parks. It doesn't hurt to wear bright colors when hiking in State Parks during the hunting season. Please don't ask one of your least favorite guests to wear your Rocky and Bullwinkle hat with the antlers.

Matt Dalton, 248 360 0031, mdalton@ameritcen.net

## YEEE-HA!



### 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:** For directions to the Lazy J see the June SOLAR Ray.  
**COST:** \$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. Layer as we will get hot.

Make your check out to SOLAR for \$20 and give it to Moe DeFrance at the September SOLAR meeting. There is a maximum of 80 people. That sounds like a lot of people, but we have sold out the last two years.

### Backpacking the Jordan River Pathway— October 8-October 9

We will meet at the Dead Man's Hill Overlook at 9 AM on Saturday and hike 10 miles along the Jordan River to the Pinney Bridge State Forest campground. The campground has drinking water, pit toilets, and picnic tables. We will camp here on Saturday, then return to the starting point on Sunday.

The Jordan River is a designated Wild and Scenic River. We will hike through the forest and should be able to catch some fall colors.

This is an 18 mile loop. Sections of the trail are hilly. Participants must have had beginning backpacking (including the current class) and be in good physical condition. The only costs of the trip are the camping fee, which is \$10 per campsite, and lodging on Friday night.

More information on the trail can be found on the Web at

<http://www.northcountrytrail.org/explorer/locus/jordan.htm>. We will coordinate rides and places to stay Friday night. The trailhead is 20 miles west of Gaylord, about a 4 hour drive from Detroit.

Kevin Colter, [solar@wowway.com](mailto:solar@wowway.com), (248) 544-9637

### Saginaw Bay Trip, Kayaking, Car Camping & Hot Showers

Interest Sign Up: September 16 to 18th "OR" Sept 23 to 25th. (TBD)

Camp at a private marina, (campground just for SOLAR) right on Saginaw Bay, just south of Standish, Michigan, only 2 hours from Southeast Michigan. Bring your kayak or rent one from the marina. The weather will be cooling down, and the crowds will be gone

- This is your chance to camp next to the water and kayak, bike or just play cards and watch the stars at night. I will provide breakfast on Sunday AM and free kayaking lessons.
  - Enjoy Lake Huron, weather permitting, relax, sharpen your kayaking skills or go fishing. Bring your own food or just drive into Standish, MI and eat 3 meals a day at the local restaurants.
  - Cost of the trip will be \$40.00 this will cover camping and breakfast Sunday. Kayak rental at the marina is \$25.00 a day and kayaks can be shared by all participants throughout the day.
  - We will meet at the marina Friday night after work and leave some time on Sunday.
- Contact Matt Dalton, at [mdalton@ameritech.net](mailto:mdalton@ameritech.net) or 248 360 0031 to discuss the trip.

<p>SOLAR is a non profit Club with 400 plus members dedicated to the intelligent enjoyment of nature and outdoor pursuits.</p> <p>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 views, virgin forests and scenic shorelines, and the experiences to be found there.</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;"><b>SOLAR Steering Committee</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>President</b></td> <td>Tom Hayes</td> <td><b>Equipment</b></td> <td>Dave DeFrance</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Vice President</b></td> <td>Lou Szakal</td> <td><b>Historian</b></td> <td>Dick Ebenhoe</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Secretary</b></td> <td>Debbie Zuchlewski</td> <td><b>Membership</b></td> <td>Penni Lopez</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Treasurer</b></td> <td>Carol McCtrie</td> <td><b>Programs</b></td> <td>Linda Rodrick</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Activities</b></td> <td>Kevin Cotter</td> <td><b>Pub. Relations</b></td> <td>Mary Price</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>By-Laws</b></td> <td>Cindy Taylor</td> <td><b>SOLAR RAY</b></td> <td>Fete Lamb</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Education</b></td> <td>Mike Dams</td> <td><b>Webmaster</b></td> <td>Karl Overbeul</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>At Large:</b></td> <td colspan="3">Mike Banks • Moe DeFrance • Al Fylak • Steve Gardner • Bill Halvingis • Cindy Harrison-Felix • Doug Lanyk • Larry Martin • Joan Hettinger • Leslie Cordova • Joan &amp; Bob Westbrook • Tom O'offo</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>SOLAR Steering Committee Meetings</b> –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 Hayes at (586) 778-3589 or <a href="mailto:thomashayes@wideopenwest.com">thomashayes@wideopenwest.com</a>.</p>	<b>SOLAR Steering Committee</b>				<b>President</b>	Tom Hayes	<b>Equipment</b>	Dave DeFrance	<b>Vice President</b>	Lou Szakal	<b>Historian</b>	Dick Ebenhoe	<b>Secretary</b>	Debbie Zuchlewski	<b>Membership</b>	Penni Lopez	<b>Treasurer</b>	Carol McCtrie	<b>Programs</b>	Linda Rodrick	<b>Activities</b>	Kevin Cotter	<b>Pub. Relations</b>	Mary Price	<b>By-Laws</b>	Cindy Taylor	<b>SOLAR RAY</b>	Fete Lamb	<b>Education</b>	Mike Dams	<b>Webmaster</b>	Karl Overbeul	<b>At Large:</b>	Mike Banks • Moe DeFrance • Al Fylak • Steve Gardner • Bill Halvingis • Cindy Harrison-Felix • Doug Lanyk • Larry Martin • Joan Hettinger • Leslie Cordova • Joan & Bob Westbrook • Tom O'offo		
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<p><b>SOLAR MEETINGS</b></p> <p>Are held the first Tuesday of every month in Southfield at the Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen (between 8 &amp; 9 Mile Roads ) at 7:30 p.m. Visitors can come in for free.</p>	<p>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 chairperson, Penni Lopez at <a href="mailto:kateklawl@comcast.net">kateklawl@comcast.net</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Submission Guidelines:</b>          (Submissions are due on the Friday two weeks prior to the monthly Steering Committee Meeting (Sept 9 for the October issue). Electronic files accessible to Word are required.) Pete Lamb, 409 E. Southlawn, Birmingham, MI 48009 Or call 248-644-0831. E-mail: <a href="mailto:PeteLamb@earthlink.net">PeteLamb@earthlink.net</a></p>																																				

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.SOLAROUTDOORS.ORG**

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**S.O.L.A.R.**  
 P.O. Box 2438  
 Southfield, MI 48037

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