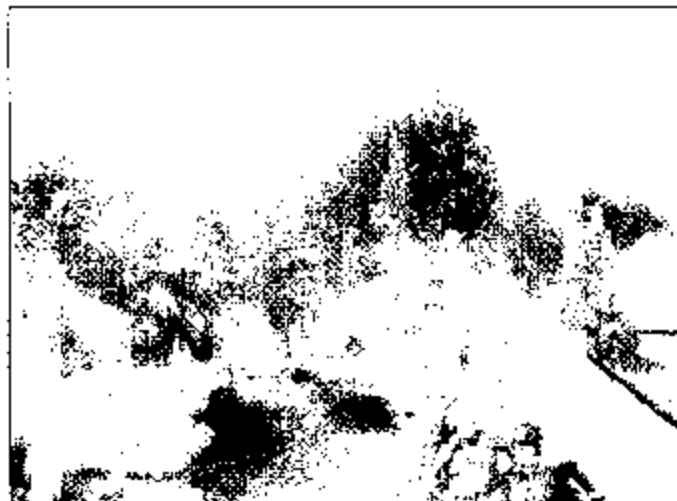




Winter's Finest

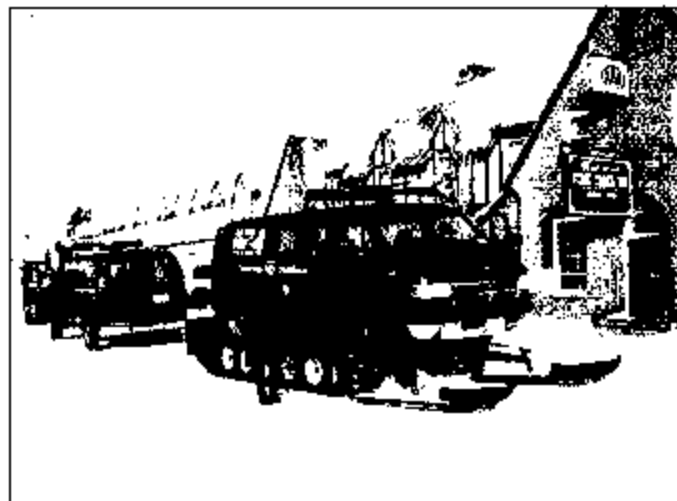
by Mary Dunn

Where can you find snow and steam? Feasting and scarcity? Howling and silence? The answer is Yellowstone National Park in February.



Fire and Ice

Nine SOLARites were greeted by Yellowstone Expeditions guides in the town of W. Yellowstone. Vans mounted on skis and tracks provided comfy travel over five feet of snow. There was plenty of opportunity to view Norris Geyser Basin with its



Snow Coach



Yurt Crew

steam vents and wildlife, such as bison, elk, eagles, and trumpeter swans along the way to camp.

Yes—camp. A five star yurt camp. We stayed cozy despite low temperatures of 20 to 40 ° Fahrenheit. Each yurt slept two and was equipped with a propane heater, thick sleeping bags, and pillows. The insulated plywood floor and walls were topped by canvas and plastic sheeting. The heated shower and outhouses were welcome additions. Aches and pains were soothed in a sauna too. This is not your typical winter camp. Two larger yurts were used for cooking

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Winter's Finest (cont'd)

and dining. This was the place for feasting. Big, hearty breakfasts and scrumptious dinners were served up daily.

The wonderful meals were a contrast to the scarcity of food for Yellowstone's year-round residents. Bison, coyote, and wolves search for food to get through the long winter. It was amazing to see these creatures in their natural setting. Bison sometimes surprised us along the ski trails. A lone coyote kept its distance as we traveled up a snow covered valley. The "National Geographic" moment though was watching a pack of five wolves relaxing on a hillside. We took turns viewing them with a spotting scope and binoculars.



Grazing Buffalo

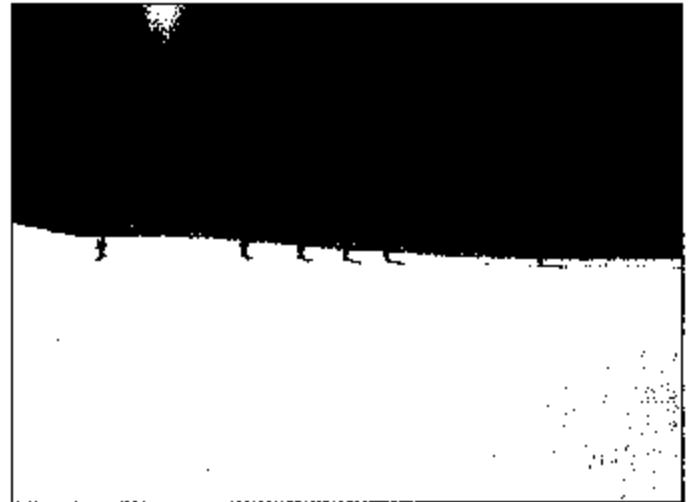
The wolves gradually roused and began to howl. The wintry silence was broken. Such a rare opportunity!

All this took place in a wonderland of snow which invited us to ski. Affable and patient guides broke



Madison River Overlook

trail across meadows and through forests of pine, spruce, and fir. Skiing at 7000-9000 feet presented a challenge for us flat-landers. But, what rewards! We visited back-country thermal areas, viewed the canyon and water falls of the Yellowstone River, and enjoyed vistas of meandering creeks and mountain ridges. A dream come true! We also got some telemark ski tips and sometimes crashed in the deep snow, like landing in a huge feather bed. Falling was FUN. Getting back up was WORK.



The Vastness of Yellowstone

All this adventure and beauty will be there next winter for you to enjoy too. Pete Lamb, Joann Gadbaw, Ted Kosik, Chuck Svalya, Eric Gardner, Cindy Taylor, Carolyn Frances, Brian Nordhaus and I will all be glad to share our experiences with you. All of us travelers owe a big thank you to Pete for organizing this trip to one of winter's finest locales. Thank you, Pete.



Heiden Valley Picnic

Winter's Finest (cont'd)

And in case you are wondering, the legend of SOLAR Chapstick retrieved from the outhouse lives on in Yellowstone in addition to our club. Way to go, Rob!

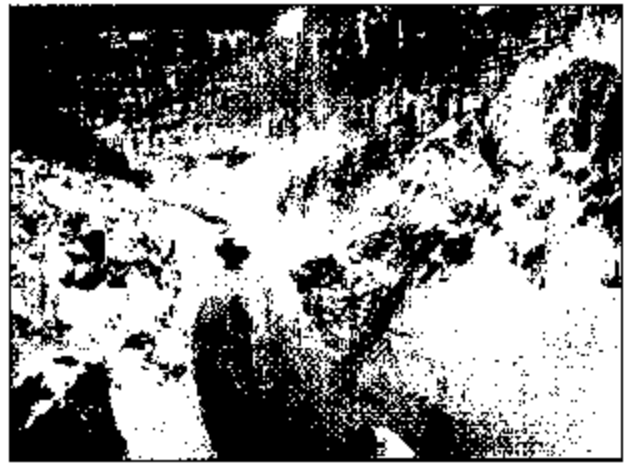


Dang, Where's my shovel?

Pete says that he will run another trip next year if he can get sufficient interest from at least ten people who will go on a winter Yellowstone trip. He will be taking up interest lists in the near future.



I'm a Jolly Lumberjack and I'm OK



Yellowstone Falls

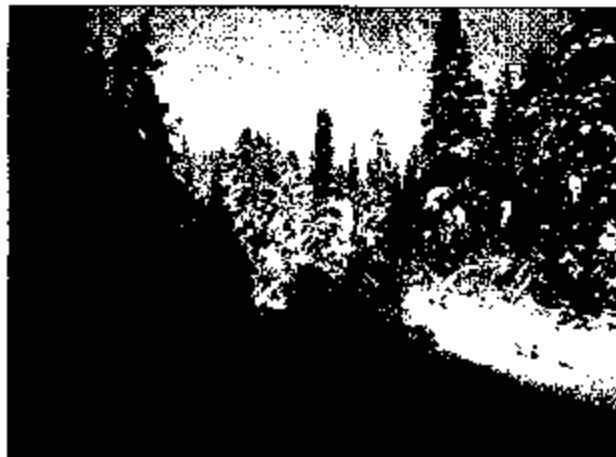


Early Morning in the Canyon

Dog Sledding 2006... PERFECT!

by Karen Bates

There is only one way to sum up the Chocpaw 2006 mushing trip this year... PERFECT! The wooded landscape was draped in snow, not to mention the two to three feet of snow that covered the ground. Being SOLAR members with the "let's do it" attitude, we were lucky enough to help our guide break a few miles of trail covered with all that fresh snow.



Craig Creek

The temperatures were also PERFECT... 20 F and sunny, not a cloud in the crisp blue sky.

This year's group of ten people meshed like old friends. We arrived in camp, and the group worked together like old pros. You would never know it was the first time for some. The guides even joked that they were going home because they didn't feel needed.



Chris Lee

Speaking of old friends... the dogs were working just as hard and having just as much fun as the mushers they were pulling. It still amazes me after



Snowy Trail

many years of dog sledding the strength and endurance of the dog teams.



Howling Dog

I have to thank Crissy Spafford and Dave Komerska for the memories of being a beginner. It was great to see them having so much fun. Even when they both fell off the sled backwards... at the same time! If you can't understand how this equals "FUN," join me next February 2007! Words can't describe...

Adventures of the 1st Annual Outhouse Race Team in Caseville, MI.

by Penn Lopez

What can I say? When I first heard about Outhouse racing from the all famous John Loose about this time last year, I was instantly intrigued. John does the videography for the Trengary, Michigan Outhouse race every year. After looking at the website he directed me to, I was hooked. I knew I wanted to race my way to toilet paper heaven! Crazy you say? Ha! Crazy like a fox with \$200 of winnings and a signed roll of toilet paper from the Caseville Chamber of Commerce was at stake!

So, starting in July of '05 an assembly of SOLARITIES was put together with like minds of doing the ridiculous. For 8 months we planned out and executed our Outhouse to be. We came up with many different names, but settled on the name of "The SOLAR Polar One Holer" for our racing cr_p house. Our minds then turned to envisioning the "One Holer," and we came up with Santa's sleigh (on skis) holding our outhouse inside of it as a gift to be delivered (never used of course. I think...Hey! We just wouldn't dooo that!).

Skip to February 17 - 19, 2006. Wouldn't you know it; the winter was a mild one—EXCEPT FOR THAT WEEKEND! With temps in the single digits and a mighty windchill around -15, we, the Outhouse Race team, made for Caseville, Michigan. At this point, I'm thinking...."you and your big mouth Lopez!" I'm a fair weathered winter bird, and frozen nose liquid just doesn't do it for me!

Everyone made it up to Caseville in one piece, not an easy feat due to the roads being covered with black ice much of the way. I for one was lucky, as I had Tom Oloffe guiding me and saying "Hey Lopez, let's get points and slide into that State Trooper!" "No thank you Tom, I think I'm taking a liking to the trees, and those 6 ft. guley drops on the sides there!" Needless to say, we all ran for Herschell's party lounge soon after getting there!

I could go on about our first interesting night in the hotel room with NO heat and NO phone, but I'm still trying to pull Karl's cold toes out of my hair, enough said. Karl, I promised I wouldn't say anything, and a promise is a

promise.

OK. Race day! We were luckily blessed with a morning full of face warming sunshine. We ate breakfast and then literally SCRAMBLED to get our outhouse put together before start time. Upon arrival at the city park, I expected to see a slew of race contenders, but only saw 6 or 7. As it turns out, Caseville usually has 25 -30 entries, and the race is completed in heat style. Due to the cold temps, many did not show up, and that left us with only one race to run. Our team made its way onto the ice covered canal and took its place next to the other contenders. Our two pushers, Dave and Karl, donned their reindeer antlers and blinking nose straps (they looked way cool) with a grace that Santa would have been so proud of!



Pushers Dave and Karl!

The tension was high as the race was to begin. "Or your marks!" the official called out. "Go!" All the teams started running down the canal path as if their last breaths counted on this win, (or they'd waited so long, they really did have to use an outhouse!). Ok, this is where it gets really exciting. As the teams neared the turnaround point, it seemed everyone was sliding here and there, trying to stop and turn, with the exception of OUR team. Dave and Karl had a plan (ha! that's basic backpacking taking over there!). Dave stopped cold in his tracks, and Karl pivoted around him. With that, they then dug their toes in and ran back to the finish line way ahead of everyone! Wooohoooo! \$200 and a signed roll of toilet paper, here comes the SOLAR Polar One Holer! We promptly accepted our gifts and ran off to celebrate!

I must add to this story, the braveness (maybe craziness) of my one son, Ryan. He drove up to cheer our team on, and while there found out that the Polar Bear Dip



To the Finish Line

would be taking place after the race. Please note, he was nowhere near prepared for this stint, with towels and a change of clothing. But like his mother in her younger years, felt inclined to be different! So, he strips all of his clothing except for basketball shorts, and does a cannonball worthy of an Olympic medal into an "unimaginably cold hole in the ice!" as he put it. All this exhilaration.....FOR A T-



SOLAR Outhouse Team

SHIRT!

Thanks goes out to all the Outhouse team members; Mark Bushor, Dave Komrska, Chrissy Spafford, Tom Olotto, Karl Overheul, Margaret Martin and Janet Schester.

I had a great time playing with you and look forward to another run on that canal ice!

Winter Survival 2006

by Doug Lanyck

SOLAR's Winter Survival Class of 2006 was a success. Nine students finished the class by going on a 4 hour hike Friday evening and becoming lost. With just the gear they would carry on a 4-hour hike, they survived and learned until their rescue on Sunday. Skills of fire starting, shelter building, teamwork, orienteering, and signaling were practiced. We also looked for food and had some primitive skills lessons. This year's students were well prepared and aggressive in their desire to survive comfortably. These are the people you want to go on trips with. They'll get you through.

Congratulations to the graduates: Team Stupendous, Michael Douglas, Scott Elliot, and Tim Davis; Team Awesome, Michael Pinewski, Ernie JR Brooks, Pam Schmelzer; and Team Incredible, Dave Sweeten, Mike Hobig, and Sharon Smelter.



Survival Class

SOLAR APRIL 2006 CALENDAR
School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation
www.solaroutdoors.org

APRIL ACTIVITIES

4	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	COLONY HALL	Tom Hayes	thomashayes@wideopenwest.com	
4	TUE	Program: Discovering the Underwater World		Linda Rodrick	lindamra@aol.com	
7	FRI	Deadline for submissions for May SOLAR Ray				
8-10	MULTI	Backpacking trip	Grand Teton NP	Grey Ivancov	Sergey.Ivanov@us.bosch.com	
17 MON		Free scuba night dive	Grosse Pointe North HS	Tom Hayes	thomashayes@wideopenwest.com	
13-20	MULTI	Caribbean Trip (FULL)**	St. John, Virgin Islands	Jim Gessner	gessnerj@prodigy.net	
28-30	WKND	Beach Cleanup**	Northhouse Dunes	Vida Ruggero	rageti@hotmail.com	

APRIL CLASS

5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, 6	TUES	Rock Climbing	REI Troy	Pete Lamb	petekand@yahoo.com	
TBD		Rock Climbing Practical	Kensington Metro Park	Pete Lamb	petekand@yahoo.com	
May 19-21	WKND	Rock Climbing Final Practical	Rattlesnake Ontario	Pete Lamb	petekand@yahoo.com	

MAY ACTIVITIES

2	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	COLONY HALL	Tom Hayes	thomashayes@wideopenwest.com	
2	TUE	Program: Elections and Photography Contest		Linda Rodrick	lindamra@aol.com	
7 SUN		Downriver Cycling Club's Metro Grand Spring Tour**	Willow Metropark	Dick Ebenhoe	rjebenhoe@yahoo.com	
13	SAT	Mother Nature's full moon canoe paddle**	Heavner's, Proud Lake	Margaret Martin/ Alan Heavner	mpluscat@hotmail.com	
21 SUN		Shiawassee River race and paddle**	Holly, MI	Willi Gutmann	Willi_H2O@yahoo.com	
26-29	WKND	Backpacking trip (FULL)	South Manitou Island	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com	
26-29	WKND	Backpacking trip	North Manitou Island	Pam and Lou Szakal	pariehl1@netscape.net	

JUNE ACTIVITIES

6	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	COLONY HALL	Tom Hayes	thomashayes@wideopenwest.com	
6	TUE	Program: A Drum Community Circle		Linda Rodrick	lindamra@aol.com	
June 2-4	WKND	SOLAR 30 th Anniversary celebration	Brighton State Rec Area	Dick Ebenhoe	rjebenhoe@yahoo.com	
June 30-July 4	WKND	Hiking and biking	Cuyahoga Valley National Park	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com	

JUNE CLASS

June 20, 24-25	TUE/ WKND	Basic Land Navigation	TBA/Waterloo State Rec Area	Karl Overheul	cybernomad@backpacker.com	
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UPCOMING CLASSES

Oct 4, 7-8	WED/ WKND	Advanced Land Navigation	TBA/Waterloo State Rec Area	Karl Overheul	cybernomad@backpacker.com	
Oct 17, 21-22	TUE/ WKND	Basic Land Navigation	TBA/Waterloo State Rec Area	Karl Overheul	cybernomad@backpacker.com	

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

June 30-July 4	WKND	Hiking and biking	Cuyahoga Valley National Park	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com	
July 13-16	WKND	Greek Lakes Sea Kayak Symposium**	Grand Marais, MI	Steve Hoffman	Shoffman@cranbrook.edu	
July 13-Aug 13	MULTI	Extended backpacking trip (FULL)	John Muir Trail	Dave DeFrance	defranceomn@comcast.net	
July 28- Aug 6	MULTI	Canoeing/kayaking trip	Killarney Provincial Park	Tom Dunn	ptomdunn@hotmail.com	
July 29- Aug 15	MULTI	Backpacking trip (FULL)	Kings Canyon/ Sequoia NP	Don Wold	dwold12972@aol.com	
Aug 18-20	WKND	Inshfest	Milwaukee	Pam and Lou Szakal	pariehl1@netscape.net	
Aug 26-Sept 4	MULTI	Wilderness paddling trip	Algonquin Provincial Park	Phil Crookshank/ Sharon Smelter	wanderphil3@netzero.net	
Sept 9	SAT	Harvest full moon canoe paddle**	Heavner's, Proud Lake	Margaret Martin/ Alan Heavner		
Oct 8 SUN		Pumpkin party and full moon canoe paddle**		mpluscat@hotmail.com	AlanHeavner@heavnercanoe.com	

FOR INFORMATION ON JOINING THE SOLAR CLUB, CONTACT PENNI LOPEZ (248) 252-3732,
kavekrawler@yahoo.com OR VISIT WWW.SOLAROUTDOORS.ORG

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP PLAN AND/OR LEAD A SOLAR ACTIVITY, CONTACT

KEVIN COTTER (248) 544-9637 OR SEND EMAIL TO solar@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

APRIL PROGRAM: "Discovering the Underwater World"

By: Mike Wrubel of Advanced Aquatics

Join Mike for an entertaining slide presentation that explores the underwater world from the perspective of a fish. No other environment approaches the abundance, diversity and vibrancy of a pristine coral reef.

Underwater more different species are visible in ten minutes than in ten hours of observation in the most unspoiled wilderness above water. You'll discover that even a seemingly empty, sterile lake or flooded quarry actually teem with life. This presentation will serve as a reminder that nature's imagination exceeds ours!

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

UPCOMING SOLAR PROGRAMS

May Program: Annual SOLAR Steering Committee Elections and Photography Contest

This is your chance to make a difference. On May 2nd, 2006, SOLAR will be holding its annual Steering Committee elections. By running for one of the 4-Officer positions or 10-Committee positions, or just by 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 30 years, SOLAR has strived to be a successful organization, school and all around fun place to be. Each of you has an important part in our success.

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. As SOLAR is a volunteer organization, all Steering Committee members give their personal time to participate in a larger way for the good of the club.

All positions are considered open until voting concludes on May 2nd, 2006

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 him or her when necessary

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

Treasure (Officer) – Manages club 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 event (i.e. National Trails Days)

SOLAR Ray Editor (Committee) – Collects articles, edits, organizes, formats, 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 me. You must submit your name and the position to Linda Rodrick at lindamra@aol.com or call (248) 673-1842 by April 8th, 2006 to have your name listed in the May SOLAR Ray.

The final deadline to submit your name in advance of the May meeting is April 29, 2006. After April 29th, you can select to be a write-in candidate. All candidates will have an opportunity to introduce themselves before elections take place on May 2nd.



2006 Annual Photo Contest

It's that time of year again when all of you amateur photographers can brag about your trips and show off your stuff. So dig out those photos from year 2005 and enter them into this year's photo contest.

Categories

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| ➤ Scenery | Digitally Enhanced Scenery |
| ➤ Animals | Digitally Enhanced Other |
| ➤ Plants | Non-SOLAR Scenery |
| ➤ Humor | Non-SOLAR Plants and Animals |
| ➤ Humor | Non-SOLAR People |
| ➤ Black & White | Best Overall |
| | Photo-Pro |

Category Explanations

Digitally enhanced: If you alter your photo in any way on your computer or splice several photos together, you can only enter them in the "digitally enhanced" category. Cropping is the only exception. Digitally enhanced photos may be entered in the "scenery" or "other" category.

Photo-Pro: Photos in this category won't be eligible for the "Grand Prize." This category is meant to encourage full creativity for the more advanced photographers, while not having others compete with them.

Official Rules

- You must be a SOLAR member to enter the photo contest.
 - Photos must have been taken between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2005.
 - Standard photos must be no larger than 8x10 & panoramic no larger than 8x18.
 - Photos must be matted with matt size no larger than 11x14 on standard photos and 11x21 on panoramic photos.
 - Photos must have been taken by the person entering it.
 - Photos must be taken at a SOLAR event unless entered in the non-SOLAR category.
 - Only one photo entry per person per category and only ten entries per person overall are allowed.
- Prizes will be awarded to the first place winner in each category and to the overall Grand Prize winner.

Photos will be voted on by SOLAR members who attend the May meeting, and winners will be announced that evening.

Car Break-Ins and Kayak Losses

By Pete Lunde

A series of break-ins of cars left in parks around the metro area have been occurring recently. The cars broken into have been left at kayak launches and bike trailheads, so watch what you leave in your car when out paddling or peddling.

Another problem is kayaks on cars at restaurants and parking lots. Apparently some people find it amusing to either loosen the tie downs or partially cut them. This has happened to several friends of mine at a variety of locations. Please check your tie-downs after you have left your boat on your car out of your sight. It's a bit of a gut twister to see your \$3000 kayak in the rear view mirror going through the windshield of the car behind you.

In the next issue, I will cover some guidelines for protecting your property.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Come join us for the 4th of July weekend. We are going to Cuyahoga Valley National Park for some hiking, biking, touring, and exploring. The park is located just South of Cleveland, so it's only about a 3-hour drive.

There are over 125 miles of hiking and biking trails. The main bike trail, Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath, runs through the Cuyahoga River Valley and is a 19.5 mile linear crushed stone trail. Other trails include the Bike and Hike Trail, which is a 16 mile linear asphalt trail. If you get tired from biking, you can bike one way and return by train. Or perhaps you would rather hike to see some waterfalls, gorges, or historic homesteads.

We will be staying at the Stanford Hostel, a restored 1830's farmhouse, within the National Park. The hostel is equipped with 30 beds in 8 rooms, 3 bathrooms, a fully equipped kitchen, dining room, living room, outdoor picnic tables and fire pit, outdoor picnic tables and fire pit.

Cost of all this fun is \$90 for 4 nights lodging. Can't get the Monday off work to make it a 4 day weekend? No problem, cost for 2 nights is \$45. Depending on how many people sign up, we may have the Hostel to ourselves.

Sound like something interesting? Contact Leslie Cordova to sign up. lesliecnc@aol.com or (248) 547-5626



June 30–July 4, 2006

Biking and Hiking—Kid Friendly, No Dogs

by Leslie Cordova

Backpacking South & North Manitou Island—Memorial Weekend, May 26–29, 2006

South Manitou Island is part of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. We will be hiking about 1.5 miles to the Bay Campground where I have 2 group campsites reserved for SOLAR. These sites are equipped with a fire ring, outhouse and water pump, but no picnic tables. You should be prepared to carry all of your gear in, as they do not allow any kind of wheeled device. Be advised that there is NO food service on the Island or any place to purchase supplies. Also, be prepared to hang your food from the killer CHIMP LINKS! A backpack stove is also a necessity, as well as a rain tarp in case of rain. Please try to double up in your tents as each site will only accommodate 10 tents and up to 20 people. (Trip is full.)

For the North Manitou Island Backpacking trip, contact Pam or Lou Szakal, parieh.1@netscape.net.



Hiking on North Manitou Island

Classical Guitarist—Colin McAllister—April 19

Wed. Evening, 7:30 \$10 or \$5—Students

Luron Valley Council for the Arts

205 W. Livingston, Highland

Contact Wendy Willifnganz at 248-8889-8660 or 248-505-6323

SOLAR Club Hiking Schedule for April 2006

Make New Friends. Hike with the SOLAR Club members, non-members,
Hikes start at 9:30 AM, unless otherwise stated.

Hike Coordinator: Matt Dalton, 248-360-0031 Phone:
mdalton@ameritech.net

Contact Matt or post a message on the SOLAR Club Yahoo site, after you decide to join one of the hikes: discuss car pooling or ride sharing, obtain a list of other hikers, and obtain additional details or directions for the hike. Make plans for an after hike restaurant stop.

Hike Schedule:

April 2, 2006: Sunday, 9:30 AM: Maybury State Park, Northville, MI., Meet at the Concessions Building, use the 8 Mile Rd entrance, (west of Beck Rd.) This 5-7 mile and will be a joint hike with approx 15-20 hikers from the BS Hiking Group. Lunch afterwards at Guernsey's on Novi Rd. North of 8 Mile.

April 8, 2006, Saturday, 9:30 AM and 12 noon, Pontiac Lake State Park. North of M-59 Highland Rd. and west of Williams Lake Rd. Meet in the NW corner of the Gale Rd. parking lot. Noon hike is led by Sudha Chhaya of The Sierra Club. Restaurant after.

April 15, 2006, Saturday, 9:30 and 11:00 Maybury State Park. The 9:30 am hike is SOLAR Club, the 11:00 hike is SOLAR and Sierra Club. 8 Mile Rd entrance and parking lot.

April 16, 2006, Easter Sunday SOLAR and BS Hikers, joint hike (Many hikers at church)

April 22, 2006 Saturday, 9:30 AM, Highland State Park, northeast of Milford, MI. M-59, east of Duck Lake Rd. Haven Hill parking lot

April 23, 2006 Sunday, 11:30 AM Earth Day, Join The Sierra Club for a 4 mile, slow hike at Huron Meadows Metro Park South of Brighton. Hike led by Lee Becker

April 30, 2006 Sunday, 9:30 AM SOLAR Club and 11:00 AM Sierra Club hike at Holly State Park, Spring flowers will be the big attraction. 8 to 10 miles, moderate, hilly.



Spring Beach Cleanup and Llama Hike

by Vida Ruggero

If you have ever enjoyed a beautiful day at Lake Michigan swimming, boating, fishing, camping or hiking, consider joining me for the annual spring beach cleanup. For a mere donation of 3 hours of your time Saturday morning, you can enjoy a serene weekend at one of Michigan's beautiful, undeveloped coastlines. (OK, maybe it wasn't serene last year with 50 mile an hour winds and sleet, but it was still fun!)

As many of you know, my family and I adopted Nordhouse Wilderness Dunes through the Great Lake Alliance "Adopt-A-Beach" program a few years ago. Twice a year we open up "our beach" (haha) to SOLARites, friends and dogs to help us with this large undertaking. We will meet Saturday, April 29th at 9 a.m. at the day use beach parking lot. Come and enjoy the beach for a few hours, or spend the night in the rustic campground or backpacking area, your choice. This year, there will be an opportunity to hike with your very own llama at Llamas, etc. farm in Ludington on Sunday. Contact me at ragebi@hotmail.com or 810 923 3839.



FEBRUARY 2006 Trip Leader Drawing Winner
Pete Lamb, Yellowstone Ski Trip

<p>SOLAR is a non-profit Club with 400-plus members dedicated to the intelligent enjoyment of nature and outdoor pursuits</p> <p><i>Membership is only \$40 a year per person. (\$55 per family) and includes discounts to a number of retail outfitters, access to club-owned equipment, a monthly newsletter, and a chance to meet hundreds of other like minded adventurers drawn together by a common love of pristine lakes, breathtaking vistas, virgin forests and scenic shorelines, and the experiences to be found there.</i></p>	<table><tr><th colspan="4">SOLAR Steering Committee</th></tr><tr><td>President</td><td>Tom Hayes</td><td>Equipment</td><td>Dave DeFrance</td></tr><tr><td>Vice President</td><td>Lou Szakal</td><td>Historian</td><td>Dick Ebenhoe</td></tr><tr><td>Secretary</td><td>Debbie Zuchlewski</td><td>Membership</td><td>Penni Lopez</td></tr><tr><td>Treasurer</td><td>Carol McCride</td><td>Programs</td><td>Linda Rodrick</td></tr><tr><td>Activities</td><td>Kevin Cutter</td><td>Pub. Relations</td><td>Mary Price</td></tr><tr><td>By-Laws</td><td>Cindy Taylor</td><td>SOLAR RAY</td><td>Pete Lamb</td></tr><tr><td>Education</td><td>Mike Fanks</td><td>Webmaster</td><td>Karl Overhaul</td></tr><tr><td>At Large:</td><td colspan="3">Mike Banks • Moe DeFrance • Al Hylak • Steve Gardner • Bill Halvingis • Cindy Harrison-Felix • Doug Lanyk • Larry Martin • Joan Hettinger • Leslie Cardova • Joan & Bob Westbrook • Tom Oloffo</td></tr></table> <p>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 Hayes at (586) 778-3589 or thomashayes@w.deopenwest.com.</p>	SOLAR Steering Committee				President	Tom Hayes	Equipment	Dave DeFrance	Vice President	Lou Szakal	Historian	Dick Ebenhoe	Secretary	Debbie Zuchlewski	Membership	Penni Lopez	Treasurer	Carol McCride	Programs	Linda Rodrick	Activities	Kevin Cutter	Pub. Relations	Mary Price	By-Laws	Cindy Taylor	SOLAR RAY	Pete Lamb	Education	Mike Fanks	Webmaster	Karl Overhaul	At Large:	Mike Banks • Moe DeFrance • Al Hylak • Steve Gardner • Bill Halvingis • Cindy Harrison-Felix • Doug Lanyk • Larry Martin • Joan Hettinger • Leslie Cardova • Joan & Bob Westbrook • Tom Oloffo		
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<p>SOLAR MEETINGS</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SOLAR RAY is a monthly publication of SOLAR and is available online at the SOLAR home website. For a copy to be mailed to you, contact the membership chairperson, Penni Lopez at kayekrawler@yahoo.com</p> <p>Submission Guidelines:</p> <p>(Submissions are due on the Friday two weeks prior to the monthly Steering Committee Meeting (Mar. 10 for the April issue). Electronic files accessible to Word are required.) Call Pete Lamb at 248-703-9927 E-mail: PeteLamb@yahoo.com</p>																																				

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.SOLAROUTDOORS.ORG



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