



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

Changes in SOLAR Ray Distribution

by Pete Lamb

Hi SOLARites. To ensure that you have been duly notified of the change in distribution of the SOLAR Ray, we are continuing the membership-wide mailing of the Ray for the month of February but will begin the digital distribution starting with the March issue. We are making this change in order to curtail the large publishing and mailing costs of the SOLAR Ray. While taking this course, we also realize that some of you who cannot easily receive the Ray online still need to receive a hardcopy. So we will also be sending out Rays by request.



How will I receive the Ray?

If you are a member of the SOLARoutdoors group, you will receive an e-mail with a hyperlink to the SOLAR Ray, and you can download it from there.

If I am not a member of the SOLARoutdoors group, what do I do?

Request a membership from Tom Oloffo at memountainman@yahoo.com for access to the SOLARoutdoors website. You need to be a SOLAR member for access to this site. As a member, you can also send and receive messages from the entire group.

How else can I access a digital copy of the Ray?

Anyone can download a digital copy of the Ray from the SOLAR outdoors web site (www.solaroutdoors.org).

Who will still want to receive a copy by mail?

If you either do not have an internet connection or have a dial-up or otherwise slow connection to the internet, you will want to receive a hardcopy of the Ray.

How do I arrange to receive the Ray by mail?

Request the Ray by mail by contacting the membership chairperson, Penni Lopez at kavekrawler@yahoo.com, and you will be put on the standing list of those who need to receive the Ray by mail.

Will the due date for the Ray be the same?

Yes, the due date for the Ray will continue to be the Friday two weeks prior to the monthly Steering Committee Meeting.

How do I submit an article or photo for the Ray.

Articles should be no more than 1200 words and submitted as an attachment in a word document. Photos should also be attached (not embedded in an e-mail) and not be downsized—in order to maintain photo quality

SOLAR Ray Contents

SOLAR Ray	1
Rock Climbing Class.....	2
Survival Class.....	2
Calendar.....	3
Program.....	4
Full Moon Schedule.....	5
Poem	5
Hiking Schedule.....	6
Holiday Photos.....	7
Club Information.....	8

Rock Climbing Class

by Pete Lamb

The Rock Climbing Class is designed to give a beginning climber a safe grounding in the basics of rock climbing and setting up a sound top rope system.

Class starts on Wednesday March 29th at REI Troy at 6:00 and will meet every Wednesday until May 26th.

Four practicals are planned, which are mandatory for a certificate:

- April 1 at Planet Rock to earn a belay card
- April 22 Kensington Metro park top rope set up
- April 29th Planet Rock rappelling and ascending and climbing technique
- Final practical at Rattlesnake Ontario May 5-7 or possibly at Red River Gorge

The class size limited to 20 participants. Cost is \$150. I will take signups and a deposit to SOLAR at the February meeting. For further information contact me at petekandu@yahoo.com.

From Last Year's Rock Climbing Events



Will you survive?

by Doug Lanyk

You're out for a light-backpacking trip at Nordhouse. You take a day hike to the lighthouse with the weather starting clear but degenerating into a 30-degree rain. You discover the trail map you have has blown away in the gale force winds, and the trail is getting icy as the temperature plummets. It's getting dark. Now what? Similar events have happened to SOLAR members, but with good foresight they had acquired the skills to deal with the unforeseen. So take SOLAR's Winter Survival Class.

Class is on all Thursdays in February and the first one in March. Practicals are February 19 and March 3-5. The cost is \$90. I need 12 students to run the class and have an upper limit of 20.

Prerequisites

- Enjoying Michigan Winters Wilderness
- First Aid (Strongly Suggested)
- Search and Rescue (Strongly Suggested)
- Land Navigation (Strongly Suggested)
- Top Rope Class (Suggested)
- Advanced Backpacking (Suggested)
- Primitive Skills Workshop (Suggested)
- Edible Plants Course (Suggested)
- Leadership (Suggested)

SOLAR FEBRUARY 2006 CALENDAR

School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation

www.solaroutdoors.org

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

3-5	WKND	Cross country ski weekend	Lake Ann, Michigan	Jim Coe	jimc36@comcast.net
5	SUN	Super Bowl party**	Howell, Michigan	Dave DeFrance	defranceomnex@comcast.net
7	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	COLONY HALL	Tom Hayes	thomashayes@wideopenwest.com
7	TUE	Program: Hands-On Massage		Linda Rodrick	lindamra@aol.com
10	FRI	Articles for SOLAR Ray are due		Pete Lamb	petekandu@yahoo.com
10-12	WKND	Dogsledding	Algonquin Provincial Park	Karen Bates	lady_musher@yahoo.com
17-19	WKND	Outhouse Race	Caseville, Michigan	Penni Lopez	kavekrawler@yahoo.com
18-25	MULTI	Baja Sea Kayak Trip	Baja, Mexico	Winnie Chrzanowski	wcinro@yahoo.com
19-23	MULTI	Yellowstone Cross Country Ski Trip one spot open	Yellowstone National Park	Pete Lamb	petekandu@yahoo.com
Feb 25- Mar 2	MULTI	Berkshire Ski Trip	South Lee, Massachusetts	Dave DeFrance	defranceomnex@comcast.net

FEBRUARY CLASSES

Feb 2, 9, 16, 19, 23, Mar 4, 5-7	MULTI	Winter Survival	TBA	Doug Lanyk	dslanyk@earthlink.net
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MARCH ACTIVITIES

7	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	COLONY HALL	Tom Hayes	thomashayes@wideopenwest.com
7	TUE	Program Search for Fossils in Antarctic		Linda Rodrick	lindamra@aol.com
17-19	WKND	Wabos Loppet	Stokely, Ontario	Mike Banks	michaelbsolar@yahoo.com

MARCH CLASS

Mar 9, 16, 23, 30, Apr 6, 8-9, 20, 28-30	MULTI	Beginning backpacking class	TBA	Mike Banks	michaelbsolar@yahoo.com
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APRIL CLASS

Mar 29, Apr 5, 19, 21, 26, Mar 3, 5-7	MULTI	Rock climbing class	Troy REI, Planet Rock/Rattlesnake	Pete Lamb	petekandu@yahoo.com
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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

April 13-20	MULTI	Caribbean Trip (FULL)**	St. John, Virgin Islands	Jim Gessner	gessnerj@prodigy.net
May 26-29	WKND	Backpacking trip	South Manitou Island	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
June 2-4	WKND	SOLAR 30 th Anniversary celebration	Brighton State Rec Area	Dick Ebenhoe	rjebenhoe@yahoo.com
July 13-Aug 13	MULTI	Extended backpacking trip	John Muir Trail	Dave DeFrance	defranceomnex@comcast.net

FOR INFORMATION ON JOINING THE SOLAR CLUB, CONTACT PENNI LOPEZ (248) 259-3732, kavekrawler@yahoo.com
OR VISIT 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 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

**FEBRUARY PROGRAM: Massage Therapy...
a Hands-On Presentation**

By: Karen Kazyak, M.A./M.T.

Massage Therapist, Hatha Yoga instructor and owner of
"The Hands-On Mind and Body Wellness Center" in Brighton

To set the mood, Karen will begin our experience with a short guided meditation followed by a reflective reading. Karen will then demonstrate yoga stretches and massage techniques while we follow and learn by doing. Through participation, each individual will have the opportunity to learn techniques in partner massage, self-massage and yoga. This promises to be a meaningful and informative evening of fun

for all participants. Karen welcomes your questions and notes of inquiry prior as well as after her presentation. Karen can be reached at: kazyak@hotmail.com



UPCOMING SOLAR PROGRAMS

March Program: "The Search for Fossil Reptiles in Antarctica"

By: John Zawiskie

Join Cranbrook geologist John Zawiskie as he describes his experiences on three expeditions to Antarctica, involving a search for fossil reptiles and the field study of the geology of the Transantarctic and Ellsworth Mountains. The program is illustrated by John's field photography of the wildlife, geology and glaciers of the frozen continent; including rare photos of the field excavation of the famous continental drift synapsid reptile *Lystrosaurus* and the skeleton of *Cryolephosaurus*, a ferocious Early Jurassic dinosaur collected by Wayne State University graduate Dr William Hammer 200 miles from the South Pole!



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

By the Light of the Moon

by Pete Lamb

Camping under a full moon can be a magical experience. In the winter it lights up the woods for cross country skiing at night. I remember a night on Batchawana Bay on a Wabos Loppet weekend when a group of us went out on Lake Superior ice on cross country skis under a full moon. A full eclipse occurred and in the dark the comet Hail Bop went over our heads.

Swimming or kayaking or camping in the mountains by the light of the moon in summer is something everyone in SOLAR should experience at least once.

So, when you are planning a trip, knowing when a full moon will be occurring may be something you want to consider. For your help in planning, you can consult the following chart.



Contributed by Lou Szakal

Fifteen Years of the Full Moon

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2006	14	13	14	13	13	11	11	9	7	7	5	5
2007	3	2	3	2	2	1,30	30	28	26	26	24	24
2008	22	21	21	20	20	18	18	16	15	14	13	12
2009	11	9	11	9	9	7	7	6	4	4	2	2,31
2010	30	28	30	28	27	26	26	24	23	23	21	21
2011	19	18	19	18	17	15	15	13	12	12	10	10
2012	9	7	8	6	6	4	3	2,31	30	29	28	28
2013	27	25	27	25	25	23	22	21	19	18	17	17
2014	16	14	16	15	14	13	12	10	9	8	6	6
2015	5	3	5	4	4	2	2,31	29	28	27	25	25
2016	24	22	23	22	21	20	19	18	16	16	14	14
2017	12	11	12	11	10	9	9	7	6	5	4	3
2018	2,31	x	2,31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22
2019	21	19	21	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	12
2020	10	9	9	8	7	5	5	4	3	1,31	30	30

Poem

by Paul Conrad Contributed by Elizabeth Schwab

There is a quiet place I know
 where nature sings to me
 the music of the mountains
 and the forest and the sea.
 It is not far away, and yet
 it sometimes seems a place
 removed from daily life.
 a distant dream of time and space.

I have been lost in city streets.
 in traffic fast and loud,
 where sirens scream and nature's voice
 is drowned out by the crowd.
 And so I go to seek that place
 where I become a part
 of nature's song—that quiet place
 I've found within my heart.

Solar Club Hiking Schedule for February 2006

Make New Friends, Hike with the Solar Club members, non-members, children, (dogs allowed in most areas). All hikes start at 9:30 AM, unless a different time is stated.

Hike Coordinator: Matt Dalton, 248-360-0031 Phone

Contact Matt after you decide to join one of the hikes to discuss, car pooling/ride sharing, obtain a list of other hikers, and obtain additional details or directions for the hike. You may also want to make plans for an after hike restaurant stop.

Hike Schedule:

Saturday, February 4, 2006, 6:30 PM Maybury in the Moonlight – Joint Hike Sierra Club, Led by Solar Club member Phil Crookshank 313-562-1873 or Matt Dalton 248-360-0031 for specific information



Sunday, February 5, 2006, 9:30 AM, Proud Lake State Rec. Area. I-76 to Wixom Rd. Exit 159, north 6 miles to park. Meet in 1st parking lot past Park Headquarters, Wixom Rd./Garden Rd right before Heavner's Canoe Rental. Hiking difficulty: Easy to moderate. (*Leader Needed*). Another great chance for cross country skiing or hiking.

Sunday, February 12, 2006, 9:30 AM, Stoney Creek Metro Park, Solar Club hike (cross country ski possible), north of Utica off (M-53) Van Dyke. Take 26 Mile Rd west 1.5 miles to park entrance. After hiking, Cross Country Ski with the Sierra Club, they will start skiing at 11:30 AM. Contact Matt for specific information.

February 18, 2006, Saturday, 9:30 AM, Highland State Park, northeast of Milford, MI off M-59, 1 mile east of Duck Lake Rd. Go to Haven Hill Lake parking, easy to moderate difficulty, option to hike and or cross country ski. Leader needed.

February 26, 2006, Sunday, 9:30 AM, Ice-Hike, Point Pelee (Ontario, Canada) Joint hike with the Sierra Club. This is the 15th Annual Sierra Club, February hike at Point Pelee. Contact Matt Dalton 248-360-0031 for specific information and car pooling.

March 4, 2006: Saturday, 9:30 AM, Kensington Metro Park, Milford, MI. Meet at the Nature Center. Park is located south of I-96 and Kensington Exit.

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

SOLAR December Holiday Party



Line Dance



SOLAR strutting their stuff



Very young Line Dancer



Handwriting Analyses



Member to be



Holiday Happiness

SOLAR thanks Linda Rodrick for all of her hard efforts in planning and putting on a truly festive holiday party!

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 dream together by a common love of pristine lakes, breathtaking vistas, virgin forests and scenic shorelines, and the experiences to be found there.

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 Steering Committee

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Activities
By-Laws
Education
At Large:

Tom Hayes
Lou Szakal
Debbie Zuchlewski
Carol McCririe
Kevin Cotter
Cindy Taylor
Mike Banks

Equipment
Historian
Membership
Programs
Pub. Relations
SOLAR RAY
Webmaster

Dave DeFrance
Dick Ebenhoe
Penni Lopez
Linda Rodrick
Mary Price
Pete Lamb
Karl Overhaul

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 Oloffo

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) 773-3589 or thomashayes@wideopenwest.com.

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 kavekrawler@yahoo.com

Submission Guidelines:

(Submissions are due on the Friday two weeks prior to the monthly Steering Committee Meeting (Feb. 10 for the March issue). Electronic files accessible to Word are required.) Call Pete Lamb call 248-644-5831 E-mail: Petekandu@yahoo.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.SOLAROFMICHIGAN.COM

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