



# The SOLAR Ray

THE MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS SOCIETY'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2007

## SEARCH & RESCUE CLASS HELPS FIND LOST PERSONS

by Heather Hall

How many of us have hiked a trail that "we know" and a few hours later realized the trail doesn't look familiar? Or wanted to ascend one more route before dark? Or been on a river when the weather suddenly turns bad?

It's not just the small children wandering away or the unprepared day hiker who get lost or need rescuing. Even the most skilled outdoors person can get into trouble. It could be the climber who falls and breaks bones, the backpackers who started late in the day and ran out of sunlight before the next camp or the hunter so focused on the big buck that he didn't pay attention to his path. It can be many unforeseen circumstances that cause someone to need a search and rescue team, making the SOLAR Search and Rescue (SAR) class an important one to take.

The first part of the class was spent in the classroom learning topics such as search management, resources used in a rescue and search tactics. Tom Hayes, and some of the other instructors, shared interesting real-life emergency and rescue stories.

The class gathered for the practical, held at Brighton Recreation Area, on a Friday evening, where a cabin became our command center for the weekend. Two presentations on looking for clues and lost subject behavior rounded out the lectures and the students were ready for hands-on searching. Practicing a few of the search tactics in the nearby woods on Saturday reinforced that teamwork and communication were key factors in a search and rescue procedure.

The cold, wind and rain kept us inside the cabin most of the afternoon where we practiced stabilizing and moving an injured person to a litter to carry the rescued person to safety. It wouldn't be a SOLAR class without an over-the-top



potluck and socializing in the evening before our SAR exam. Shortly after finishing the exam, Karen burst through the door, in character, saying her "child" was lost and our first SAR was underway.

We split off in our assigned crews to find our "lost child," realizing it's much different to search in the dark than daylight. Every shadow from the flashlights made one pause and every crunch of leaves or snap of a twig seemed to echo

loudly through the night. Our crews gathered again, still without our lost child, until a line search helped us find "little Tommy Doofus" under a bush. Back at the cabin, the students gave input on how we had done, acknowledging mistakes and tactics that could have been done better. It

## ANNUAL SOLAR HOLIDAY PARTY!

*'tis the season to celebrate*

Friday, December 14, 2007

When: 8:00 pm - ?

Where: Colony Hall

SOLAR will provide:

- Sandwiches/Subs
- Soda/Juice
- DJ - Music

Members to Provide:

- Dish to pass
- Adult beverages (if desired)
- Dancing shoes, holiday spirit and a good time

Please send DJ music requests by November 30 to:  
[Programs@SOLARoutdoors.org](mailto:Programs@SOLARoutdoors.org).



came down to one major point - we had to work better as a team or Sunday would be a very long day.

We woke early Sunday to a crisp, clear day, ready for the mock rescue ahead of us. Just as we gathered outside the cabin, Carol came running from the parking lot, yelling about her "lost sister." A few minutes later, Debbie ran up to the cabin, looking for her sisters. The actresses were great, staying in character as they switched from calm to loony. Jan probably regretted her decision to be the interviewer after a few minutes with the "sisters" as they yelled at each other! With Mike assigned to Incident Commander and Marie as Operations Chief, the remaining students got assembled into our crews, received our maps, GPS and other supplies, and were off on the search.

The three crews started at different locations along the last point known. While we found clues, such as empty beer cans and energy bar wrappers, we still weren't certain where our lost hiker was. Our break finally came when Crew 3 came upon a plastic bag with dog poop inside. Allen confirmed it looked to be from a 20-25 lb cog, which matched the description of the hiker's dog, and soon after they found the hiker. The remaining teams returned to the parking lot to get the litter and head to the location of the hiker. She had injured her shoulder and knee while chasing her dog, so several crew members administered aid learned in the SOLAR Wilderness First Aid class and then placed her on the litter for the hike to the parking lot. Upon arrival back at the cabin, our hiker had a miraculous recovery and we debriefed.

#### Lessons learned:

- If you are in a high-stress situation, Jan Duncan is the calming voice you want beside you.
- Debbie Zuchlewski and Carol McCrie are excellent actresses as crazy sisters (at least we hope they were acting!)
- A good leader often times steps back, listens and encourages others to be leaders.
- A little teamwork goes a long way but a lot of teamwork and communication rescues the lost subject faster—and with more fun!

Overall this is a great class, one that teaches many important skills and tactics that any outdoor person should be familiar with.

## SURVIVAL CLASS

by Douglas Lanyk

What would you do if you were on a light-backpacking trip and something went way wrong? Now you're stuck in the wilderness, off the trail, in bad weather, and injured, do you know what to do? How would you handle this situation? Do you have enough gear to survive? Will your skills see you through this challenge safely? Starting February 7 SOLAR will be putting on a winter survival class. By the end of the class you will be prepared to take on a weekend outing with minimal gear. More importantly you will know how to be prepared for unforeseen events. You will be better able to avoid or minimize any survival situation that may come your way.

Class will start immediately following the Enjoying Michigan Winters class in February. It will run 5 consecutive weeks on Thursdays after work. We will have one Saturday or Sunday practical, and a final weekend practical. The class will be \$100. Sign-ups will be at the December and January meetings.

But wait there's more. The prerequisites are: passing winter backpacking, CPR certification, and I strongly suggest wilderness first aid.

Come have fun with me. For more information, please contact, Douglas Lanyk at 248-634-4551 or by email at [ds\\_lanyk@earthlink.net](mailto:ds_lanyk@earthlink.net).

## QUEBEC CITY CARNAVAL

by Joanne Sarrasin

**WHEN:** One week trip arriving Sunday, February 10 and departing Sunday, February 17, 2008 during the best winter carnival in historic Quebec City (which is also celebrating its 400th year in 2008).

**WHERE:** Mont Ste Anne (ski resort) located 40 minutes from downtown Quebec City

**WHY:** Mont Ste Anne is Canada's largest cross country ski center. There are 212 kms of cross country ski trails (classic, skating and backcountry) with access from the door of your home for the week.

Two international class downhill ski resorts.

Many other destinations and activities are available within an hour's drive or less: more cross country ski trails, snowshoeing, dog sledding, and tobogganing.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** 7 nights in one of several homes available located at the foot of Mont Ste Anne.

**COST:** \$500 US per person if at least 6 people sign up and would decrease if we get more people. Need \$150 US to reserve your spot.

**OTHER COSTS:** Transportation to and from Quebec City, meals, trail fees, etc. are all in addition to the cost of the accommodations. **NOTE:** There is a free shuttle available to the Mont Ste Anne downhill ski slopes.

Please contact Joanne Sarrasin @ [jsarrasin@cogeco.ca](mailto:jsarrasin@cogeco.ca) for more information.

## SOLAR HIKE SCHEDULE

by Matt Dalton

Hike with the SOLAR! Lead a hike or post your own hike! It's all about getting out, exercising and enjoying Michigan's Great Outdoors. Everyone is welcome: members & non-members. Hikes start at 9:30 AM. Hike Coordinator: Matt Dalton: [mdalton@ameritech.net](mailto:mdalton@ameritech.net)

Post a message on the SOLAR Yahoo site, discuss car pooling/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.

December 2, 2007 Sunday - 9:30 AM, Maybury State Park, Northville, MI. Meet at 8 Mile Rd entrance and parking lot by concessions area. (approx. 35 hikers) Hike for about 2 hours and cover about 5 miles with stops for rest and water. Lunch stop after the hike.

December 8, 2007, Saturday - 9:30 AM, Highland State Recreation Area, White Lake, MI., east of Milford, enter the park from M-59 Highland Rd, meet at Haverhill Parking Lot. Volunteer hike leader requested.

December 16, 2007, Sunday 9:30 AM- Maybury State Park, Northville, MI Meet at 8 Mile Rd entrance and parking lot by concessions area. Hike for about 2 hours and cover about 5 miles with stops for rest and water. Lunch stop after hike. (25-35 friendly hikers).

December 22, 2007, Saturday, 9:30 AM, Kensington Metro Park, Milford, MI. I-96 and Kensington Road exit, meet at the Nature Center for a slow paced hike. Optional restaurant stop after the hike.

December 30, 2007, Sunday- 9:30 AM, Proud Lake State Park, Milford, MI Meet behind the Park Headquarters for a slow to moderate paced through level terrain. Optional restaurant stop after.

December 31, 2007, Monday 12:00 PM Jeannie and Jerry Bocci's 30+ Annual Walk or Run Fund Raiser on Belle Isle. Contact Matt Dalton for more info.

January 6, 2008, Sunday - 9:30 AM, Maybury State Park, Northville, MI. Meet at 8 Mile Rd entrance and parking lot by concessions area. Hike for about 2 hours and cover about 5 miles with stops for rest and water. Lunch stop after hike.



## CAVING IN KENTUCKY

by Leslie Cordova



It's that time of year again - time for the 27th annual Carter Caves Crawl-a-thon, January 25-27, 2008. What is a crawl-a-thon you might ask? This is an annual event put on by Carter Caves State Park in Olive Hill, Kentucky. It is a great way for people to get acquainted with caving as they offer a wide variety of cave tours, ranging from walking tours, a little bit of crawling, a lot of crawling and vertical caving. They even have trips for kids and seniors! If you do not like the underground, join us anyway, as there is some great hiking in the area too. This is NOT a pet friendly event.

The basic plan is to drive down to the park on Friday (about a 7-hour drive) and stay right at the Carter Caves Lodge. I have a limited number of rooms reserved, once they are filled; the nearest lodging is 10 - 15 miles away. The cost for 2 nights lodging is \$70 per person, payable to SOLAR. Since this trip will fill up, only payments in full will be accepted to hold your spot.

You will need to download the crawl-a-thon entry and release forms yourself from [www.crawlathon.com](http://www.crawlathon.com) or call the park at (606) 286-4411. Generally the forms are not available until mid-December. You will then need to send in both forms yourself with a check for \$30 per adult, \$15 per child 6 - 12 years old (last years fee, the current fee could be higher) to Carter Caves. Your \$15 - \$30 includes 2 days of guided caving and a t-shirt from the event. Please do not delay as the trips fill up quickly.

See me at the meeting for a listing of equipment you may need. SOLAR has helmets, knee and elbow pads (limited), and headlamps (limited) that you may borrow. A refundable deposit is required.

For more information, please contact Leslie Cordova at (248) 547-5626 or by email at [LeslieGene@aol.com](mailto:LeslieGene@aol.com).

## CLIMBING TO THE COLORS

by Dave DeFrance

### Part 1: The Adirondacks

On September 30th, eleven SOLAR adventurers embarked on a trip to the Adirondack (ADK) Mountains in New York for the fall color season. Right outside of Lake Placid, the ADK Lodge (Loj) made a great base to explore the high peaks area. New York boasts 46 peaks over 4,000 feet in this area.

The Loj provided us with a fabulous setting on Heart Lake at the foot of Mt. Joe with easy access to several popular trails. Also provided were bunkhouse style beds, a buffet breakfast, family style dinner, and huge box lunch.

Don Wold led the trip, his 3rd year in a row, and planned a variety of hikes that were rotated; strenuous one day followed by moderate/easy the next. Let me tell you, the easy ones were more challenging than anything in Michigan while the strenuous ones were so steep that you needed climbing skills on the way up and wore out the seat of your pants on the way down. Many of us bagged Algonquin, Cascades, Big Slide/Brothers, Gothics/Pyramid and Giant. Ever an "easy" hike around Algonquin Lake required scrambling, climbing ladders, and traversing rock faces suspended over the water. Pete also explored some difficult biking routes and some great, scenic kayak areas. On our last night there, the visitor center treated us to a free Irish concert.

We had great weather, great colors, great food, great hikes, and great companions. It doesn't get much better! We can't wait to go back.



### Part 2: The Appalachians

Building on the success of Don Wold's trip to the Adirondacks, Dave DeFrance continued the "Climb to the Colors" by leading a trip of 4 people to the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina.

We stayed at a condo on the summit of Beech Mountain overlooking the town of Banner Elk and several miles of undulating mountains in every direction. From there, we were a short drive to hike down into the Linville Gorge - called the Grand Canyon of North Carolina. Nearby, we could also hike up. So the second day, we bagged the 3 peaks of Grandfather Mountain. Remember the ruggedness of the Adirondacks? This was more challenging! It could be the most difficult hike I've ever been on. We had mud, roots, boulders, ladders and cables to conquer the 5,964 ft. Calloway Peak (it is the highest elevation in the Blue Ridge Mountains).

The Blue Ridge Parkway runs through the area as well so we were able to do some hikes along it, stop at the overlooks, and drive through the scenic rural areas. Beautiful waterfalls such as: Linville Falls and Elk River Falls, as well as myriads of minor ones abound.

We were within 30 miles of the South Carolina/Tennessee border where the Appalachian Trail (AT) passes. We couldn't resist the hike up to Roan Mountain - the highest peak and the highest shelter on the AT at 6285. Later, we hiked across several "balds" and were rewarded with warm sun, stiff breezes and fabulous views.

No trip would be complete without some cultural exposure. We got to hear Molly Andrews, the country's foremost ballad singer, perform some of the pieces that trace back to their British Isle ancestry. Various regional museums explained the history, geology and culture of the native Cherokees and the quest of the settlers to continue west. We, of course, mingled with the students of Appalachian State University and talked about (what else) U of M football.

All in all, we accomplished our mission of climbing some mountains and seeing fabulous colors. This is another "Must Repeat" trip.

## THINK SNOW - RUN WITH THE DOGS

by Karen Bates

It's that time of year again to think snow!

I am happy to announce that I will not be running a weekend dog sled trip this winter. Don't worry, the trip still goes on! Larry Mergentime will be filling in for me this year as trip leader. I will be on a two week dog sled dream trip to Moosonee, Ontario. Moosonee is located on James Bay, which is the southern edge of Hudson Bay in northern Ontario.

The SOLAR weekend dog sled trip will be February 15 - 17, 2008. The cost of the trip is \$360 Canadian, all inclusive from Friday night shared motel through Sunday lunch. Don't delay; there are only 10 spots available.

For details contact Larry Mergentime at the SOLAR meetings or [larry.mergentime@charter.net](mailto:larry.mergentime@charter.net).



## SOLAR SKI DAY

by Larry Mergentime

Once again I am happy to announce classes for beginners who want to learn how to cross country ski. As in the past, instruction will be provided by a certified cross country ski instructor at Cross Country Ski Headquarters up in Roscomon (2 hours drive north of the metro Detroit area).

Classes will be held on Sunday, January 13. A morning class will cover the basics of "classic" diagonal striding. An afternoon class will cover the basics of freestyle "skating".

You can bring your own skis and equipment, or you can rent brand new state of the art equipment at the shop. I will begin taking signups at the next SOLAR club meeting. Pricing and other details will be available at that time. This is a very popular class so signup early to secure your spot!

For more information contact Larry Mergentime at: [larrymergentime@yahoo.com](mailto:larrymergentime@yahoo.com). You can also visit the Cross Country Ski Headquarters website at: <http://www.cross-country-ski.com/>.



## TRIPPING WITH THE BUSH RATS IN OCTOBER

by Joanne Sarraasin with contributions from Mary Powell

With unexpected vacation days available to me this fall, I was on a quest to find a backpacking trip to enjoy the fall colours. My first read of Michael Neiger's various trip descriptions had sparked my interest but had also left me a little intimidated. After writing to Michael about the Pictured Rocks trip and asking a few questions, I was reassured that I was a good fit for this group. It turned out to be my favourite backpacking experience to date. I quickly found out that the Bush Rats are hardy and genial people, who love to share their knowledge.

We all arrived at different times on the Thursday night and I met my trip companions over tea that evening: Mary from Flint, MaryAnn from Sault Ste-Marie (a fellow Canadian) and Michael from Marquette.

We started Friday morning with a hearty breakfast at the Dogpatch Restaurant in Munising where the SOLAR fall backpacking class was also enjoying the food and entertaining waitress. After making plans to meet with them on Saturday night, we went our separate ways. Typical of the Bush Rats approach to tripping, our plans were to set up camp on public land outside the boundaries of the park each night. Michael Neiger describes his trips as largely "unscripted". There is a general plan, but the specifics evolve throughout the day.

The weather was unseasonably warm for that time of year, and there was quite a bit of rain in the forecast when we first set out for our four-day trip. But, Friday turned out to be a pleasant day. After parking at Chapel Lake trail head, we made our way off trail immediately. Within a few hundred feet of the parking area we came upon our first sea cave left behind in the Chapel Basin many years ago by the receding water levels of Lake Superior. Although Michael had charted a number of caves along this escarpment in the past, this one he had not seen before. It was the half dome shape typical of sea caves, about 30ft high and 40 ft wide. We continued exploring the caves along the escarpment throughout the day, stopping for a leisurely lunch along the way.



Although I was keeping up with the group, I wasn't used to finding my way through trees, shrubs, logs, uphill, downhill and marvelled at my fellow trippers' agility - a little like mountain goats.

After fording a beaver dam at a small creek, Michael discovered an overturned canoe that had lain upside down in that spot for such a long time that it was covered by several inches of decayed leaves and had a

small tree growing in the debris. Of course, we had to have a closer look. So we dug out along one edge and turned it over with an improvised pulley and pry bar. This camo-painted, 18 foot aluminium Aero-Craft canoe appeared to be as ready to venture out on the lake as when it was left there. After some speculation about what had happened to the owners, we realized that it was getting late and dusk was falling. We replaced the boat as it had been found and continued on our way to locate our camp for the night.

I was very interested in this part of the trip since we had to be outside of the park boundaries each night. How would we know if and when we were outside of the park boundaries? A topo map, a compass, a GPS and a good knowledge of the area are all necessary tools for this type of tripping. I came to learn that in this area there were some visual signs at ground level that were quite reliable as well (although this might not be the case in all backcountry areas). Things, like markings on trees (paint on the trunk or bright-coloured strips of cloth tied to branches), changes

in vegetation (mature trees vs tree stumps). Great care was taken to ensure that we were indeed outside of the park boundaries each night.



After setting camp, we had a leisurely dinner and I had a chance to check out the Bush Rats gear. The different configurations they created with their tarps strung between the trees quite intriguing. Much more lightweight than my solo tent, for sure. All my trip mates used esbit stoves and iodine for water filtration. I think I will adopt many of their ways for future trips. I was also happy to find out that we would plan a leisurely 9:30 am start the next morning. We had some rain and thunder through the night, but the rain took a break Saturday

morning as we started out

Our plan for Saturday was to bushwack back to the main trail leading to Chapel Falls and Chapel Rock; then follow the main trail between Chapel Rock and the Mosquito group site where we planned to meet up with the SOLAR fall backpacking group. The Bush Rats don't usually follow trails, but planned this day primarily for my benefit since I had not been to Pictured Rocks before. They felt that I couldn't come to here without seeing the sandstone cliffs that give the area its name.

Before we set out Saturday morning, Michael went to great lengths to refresh my land navigations skills which are quite weak from non-use. To get from our camping area outside of the park boundaries to the Chapel Falls trail, he showed me how to set an azimuth and estimate the distance of travel. I then became the point person and practiced counting the paces to our destination. I'm glad to say, I successfully led the group to the trail! I enjoyed this exercise but quickly realized that I would not venture off trail without knowledgeable people. To be good at this, you need to practice these skills regularly - as the Bush Rats do.

Shortly after exploring the bottom of Chapel Falls, there was a veritable deluge that lasted several hours. Buffeted by rain, we only paused a moment or two at Chapel Rock before continuing down to the beach area. Even with all the rain, I really enjoyed the sights afforded by the sandstone cliffs along the shoreline. As we ate lunch in an overhang at the far end of the beach, lightning flashed repeatedly close by, thunder crashed and rain poured: a rather spectacular storm. We started back on the trail and by mid-afternoon, the rain stopped, clouds cleared and the sun came out.

When we arrived at the SOLAR camp at Mosquito, it was bustling with activity. It was a village of tents separated by clotheslines full of gear drying in the sun. After setting camp about 600 meters away outside of the park boundaries, we came back to the SOLAR camp and shared a pleasant evening meal and varied conversation. For dessert, Mary had made brownies to share with the group, which Michael had been carrying in his pack for the last two days. By the time we went back to our camp not a single brownie was left.



Sunday morning, we followed the trail to Potato Patch and from there bushwacked to an area where Michael had discovered a large cave on his past trips, (I was actually happy to leave the trail and start bushwacking again) which he named the Amphitheatre. Shedding our packs, we set up a rope to help the climb down the steep slope (and back up later on). This cave was special since a small creek that feeds Miner's Creek further down Miner's Basin created a wonderful waterfall and pool of water perfect for a refreshing soak. Did I mention that Sunday, was quite hot with temperatures in the high 80s! Although certainly not as striking in terms of water volume as Chapel Falls and Miners Falls, the cave was large enough to fit a large group, yet had an intimate feel - a place where one could meditate. We had lunch and dried off in the last rays of the sun.

We found a wonderful campsite further upstream of the creek that feeds the waterfall in the Amphitheatre and spent a quiet evening on our last night out; except for the little Blue Spotted Salamander that came to visit Mary Ann's sleeping area! It placidly allowed itself to be picked up to be looked at and photographed.

It was cloudy overnight and we felt a few drops, but on Sunday we woke up to dry conditions and by mid-morning any remaining clouds had cleared up and we had another hot, sunny day more typical of July or August. The females on the trip resorted to backpacking in their sport bras! We were travelling towards Miners Falls where we had spotted a vehicle at the beginning of the trip. We made our way through a swampy area rich in mosses and ferns, which provided some of the most difficult off-trail hiking other than the first day. After a rest stop at the foot of Miners Falls, we followed Michael's azimuth to the road leading to the parking area; which also led us through an old apple orchard where everyone enjoyed fresh fruit for the first time in four days! Unfortunately, the trip had to end but I was rejuvenated from the experience and ready to tackle the busy work days ahead.

Thank you to Michael for organizing and leading this trip. What a great way to spend my extra vacation days and Canadian Thanksgiving weekend! Now I can call myself a Bush Rat.

## THE RECUMBENT VOYAGER

by Winnie Chrzanowski

### Garlic and Sapphires: The Secret Life of a Critic in Disguise

By Ruth Reichl

Penguin Books, 333 pages

\$15.00

ISBN 0-14-303661-0



Ever hungered to know what a food critic looks for when she reviews a restaurant? Or how she maintains anonymity and gets the kind of service the "average Jane" would get in a fancy, four-star restaurant? Or how to make an authentic New York cheesecake? Or how to fix Brussels sprouts so you'll like them?

Ruth Reichl's memoir, *Garlic and Sapphires*, about her five-year stint as the New York Times restaurant critic satisfies that appetite. The book opens with Reichl on a plane to New York City for her interview with the editors of the NYT. She just happens to sit beside a woman (Jackie—spelled out in a sparkly rhinestone bracelet) who works in a NYC restaurant. Jackie says all the restaurants in NYC have been studying Reichl and that "Every restaurant in town has your picture pinned to the bulletin board, next to the specials of the day" and that Reichl can "forget anonymity." At that moment, "food is the farthest thing" from her mind. As Reichl says, "One of the primary requisites of a good restaurant critic is the ability to be anonymous."

And so follows a hilarious and sometimes depressing character study of masquerade and anonymity. Reichl creates several characters as she reviews *Le Cirque*, *Lespinasse*, *Four Seasons*, and other well-known establishments anonymously. The NYT review by David Kamp (4-10-05) says, "The meat of the book...is the revelation of the elaborate lengths to which Reichl went to conceal her identity..."

Reichl is no anonymous grand dame of food, however, when describing the meals she's eaten at restaurants and those she's prepared for her family. She loves food and identifies with it. It reminds her of home, family, and some of the best times of her life. Her descriptions of meals made my mouth water—even over dishes I would never consider eating. Her knowledge of food and the food industry in all its aspects astonishes. She's not a dilettante when it comes to this subject. She cooks and provides the recipes to many of the dishes she prepares. All appear easy to recreate.

Reichl dishes up some good character studies of the high "muckety-mucks" at the NYT along with her recipes and doesn't hesitate to settle old scores in *Garlic and Sapphires*. In one entertaining chapter, she describes her efforts to set up a Chinese banquet in Flushing for the NYT chairman emeritus, Arthur "Punch" Sulzberger at the request of the paper's detail-obsessed managing editor, Joe Lelyveld. After months of planning, taking the Number 7 train to Flushing, and eating oceans of Chinese food, the dinner, planned around lobster, crabmeat and other expensive, luxurious seafood, collapses in disaster when it is revealed that Punch is allergic to shellfish.

Reichl's memoir mainly focuses outward, but she includes glimpses of her husband, Michael Singer, and their son, Nicky. While the book entertains and leaves the reader hungry for more of Reichl's writing, her style can be a bit saccharine at times. Nicky is always a wonder and speaks as if he's an adult. He's in pre-school when the book opens. Michael, always the supporting husband and a gem, gives Ruth her only come-uppance in the book when he calls her "The Princess of New York. Ms-I-know-I-am-right-about-food-and-don't-argue-with-me."

The book ends as Reichl leaves the NYT and takes the job as editor-in-chief for *Gourmet* magazine.

If your stomach growls for a good read that won't stress you out, won't even hint of politics, and will make you laugh out loud in several instances, pick up *Garlic and Sapphires* and drool your way through Ruth Reichl's appetizing array of disguises, anecdotes, reviews, and recipes.



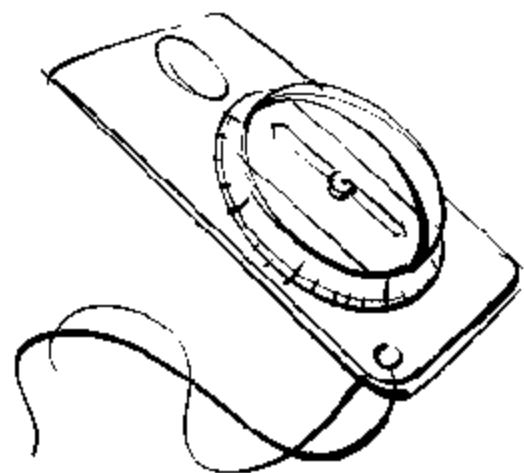


## ADVANCED LAND NAVIGATION

by Willi Gutmann

Karl Overheul assisted by Dave Sweeton and Dave Holt held an Advanced Land Navigation class using the geographic terrain of Waterloo Recreation Area in Chelsea, Michigan.

Karl and I arrived late Friday night, November 9th relaxing by a campfire in the great outdoors for a few hours.



George and I brought dual burner "suitcase" stoves to boil water for coffee, tea, hot cereal, etc. and the propane lanterns people brought lit up the cabin nicely.

Saturday was quite busy with plenty of indoor classroom activities in preparation for a successful day on Sunday using GPS units in the woods. The instructors went into detail regarding UTM coordinates and how they can be used to determine your position on a topographical map.

The weather wasn't outstanding, but it wasn't bitter cold or too rainy that weekend. Trekking thru the woods did involve navigating over many small hills, walking over an old rickety wooden bridge above a small creek, and routing around wet swampy marshy areas to find control points.

GPS units are great devices to supplement a paper map and compass. Practice makes all the difference between frustration and enjoyment.

## 2007 ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

by Allen Duncan

It's that time of year! SOLAR amateur photographers can brag about their trips and show off their camera skills. Dig up your best photos from 2007 and bring them to the January 2008 meeting.

### Categories

- Scenery
- Animals
- Plants
- People
- Black and White
- Best Overall
- Photo Pro\*

\*The Photo Pro category is for photos by advanced or professional photographers, not intended for the general competition



### Official Rules

- Entries must be taken and entered by SOLAR member
- Photos must have been taken between January 1 and December 31, 2007
- Standard Photos must be no larger than 8" x 10", panoramic no larger than 8" x 18"
- Matte size must be no larger than 11" x 14" for standard photos and 11" x 21" for panoramic
- Photos taken at Non-SOLAR events or activities must be entered in Non-SOLAR categories
- Limits: One photo entry per person per category; ten photos per person total
- Prizes will be awarded to first place winner in each category and to Best Overall
- Photos will be voted on at January meeting

## SPOTLIGHT ON CINDY TAYLOR

by Rebecca Sweeton



### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF SOLAR?

Since September 2000.

### HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH SOLAR?

I was hiking in Washington state during an active vacation with a friend from work, Paula Dirkes, when she suggested that I check out SOLAR. Paula met me at Colony Hall for my first meeting. I signed up for the backpacking class that was starting that same week.

### HOW DID YOU START BACKPACKING?

I loved camping and hiking but I had never backpacked before joining SOLAR. While I learned a lot during the beginning backpacking class, I did not feel confident about backpacking so I took the Intermediate Backpacking Class where we learned how to plan and execute a backpacking trip. It was during our backpacking trip practical in the Adirondaks that I really started to gain some confidence in my backpacking abilities. I don't think that I am a quick learner. I learn by doing, and doing over—and over again. Actually, I'm still learning!

### WHAT HAS YOUR FAVORITE TRIP BEEN SO FAR?

I have been on some really great trips since I joined SOLAR and it's really hard to pick just one but if forced to

I would have to say that my overall best trip was backpacking the Wonderland Trail in 2003. It was a magical experience right from the time we began planning the trip to coming off the trail and celebrating our accomplishment.

Other exceptional trips that stand out for me include a trip to St. John in 2006 and a trip to Italy in 2005.

### WHAT WOULD YOUR DREAM TRIP BE?

My number one dream trip would be Africa. Not the usual tourist trip to Africa, but a trip to villages where the modern world hasn't yet permeated the culture.

### WHAT CLASSES WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADD TO SOLAR'S CURRICULUM?

I would like to see SOLAR offer a Shelter Building Workshop. I would be interested in learning different techniques for building shelters in a class that is focused only on this topic.

### WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCE IN SOLAR?

I've had many rewarding experiences since I joined SOLAR. Just about every class and activity I've been involved with in SOLAR provides a feeling of camaraderie among many different people that I would not likely have met if it weren't for SOLAR. A particularly rewarding experience for me was the feeling of accomplishment when completing the 93 mile Wonderland Trail. At the same time, it was kind of sad because I didn't want the trip to end.

### HOW HAS SOLAR CHANGED DURING THE YEARS YOU HAVE BEEN A MEMBER?

Some of the faces have changed. Many of the people I have met in SOLAR are no longer members. While some membership loss is inevitable, I am disappointed when members disappear. At the same time, there are some wonderful people who have joined in the years since I first became a SOLAR member.



## ENJOYING MICHIGAN'S WINTER CLASS

by Cindy Taylor

Did you know that there are usually two or three times as many instructors as students for the Enjoying Michigan Winters Class? Does it make you wonder why? Well if you ask those instructors, I'm sure they would tell you that they do it because they have so much fun, not only teaching, but participating in the practicals. I know they would tell you that Pigeon River in February is an amazing place to be! Many would also tell you that they never would have expected to be camping in winter before joining SOLAR.

I am one of those instructors. I joined SOLAR in the fall of 2000, just in time to take the Beginning Backpacking class. When we finished the class, several of my classmates immediately signed up for Enjoying Michigan Winters. I told them there was NO WAY you were going to find me camping in winter. I do love the outdoors, but sleeping in the snow is just crazy!

Well that's what I said then. In the winter of 2002, someone convinced me to take the class. I don't remember who and maybe it was several people, but I am so glad they did because I really did enjoy it. I met some more great friends while learning new skills that I have been able to use in other sports such as X-Country skiing and snow shoeing. Most importantly, I have learned to appreciate the beauty of winter and, while summer will always be my favorite season, I consider winter to be the most beautiful season of all. I am no longer a couch potato in winter and I am much, much happier for it!

If you are one of those people who doesn't think that you would enjoy winter camping, you might want to reconsider. You just might find that you, like me, can have a blast camping in winter. So go ahead, give it a try!

To sign up, please contact TOM OLOFFO at 313-461-4933 or by email at [mcmountainman@yahoo.com](mailto:mcmountainman@yahoo.com).

The first classes will be held on Thursday, December 6 from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM in Southfield. Classes will continue on Thursday nights on December 13, January 3, January 10, January 24, January 31. The practicals are the weekends of January 13 through 14 and February 9, 10, and 11.

The cost is \$ 100.00 for new students and reduced fee for past graduates who want to retake the course. Pick-up details from me at the monthly SOLAR meeting.

This course is open to the graduates of the Basic Backpacking Class and is the prerequisite for the Mountaineering and Winter Survival courses. For safety reasons, the Wilderness First Aid Course is highly recommended for all of these courses.

## KNOW YOUR KNOTS:

### A KNOT-TYING WORKSHOP FOR BACKPACKERS

by Joan Tobin Rozelle

**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2008  
**Time:** 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM  
**Location:** Bowling Centers Association  
28200 Southfield Road in Southfield  
East side between 11 & 12 mile  
**Cost:** \$10.00 per person  
**Class Limit:** 12 people

**Objective:** Join us for a hands on clinic designed to give you the know how on tying knots. Knot tying is an invaluable skill to have in any outdoor setting.

In this workshop, we will focus on knots that are useful when backpacking, and learn and practice practical applications such as bear bagging, putting up a tarp for shelter, throwing a rescue line or simply hanging a clothesline. Increase your knowledge, your safety level and your comfort zone while backpacking.

**Skills:** Learn 10-12 different knots, what they would be useful for, and little tricks to remember them the next day! Also learn tricks to quickly untie your knots and preserve your rope (so you won't have to cut it).

**Knots Covered:** Overhand knot, Slip Knot, Square Knot, Double Half-Hitch, Bowline, One-Handed Bowline, Trucker's Hitch, Taut-line Hitch, Clove Hitch, Butterfly Knot, Figure Eight Knot and more (as time permits).

**Materials Provided:** handouts and practice rope

For more information, contact Joan Tobin Rozelle at 734-341-7028 or by email at [joanrozelle@yahoo.com](mailto:joanrozelle@yahoo.com). Sign-ups will be taken at the December and January SOLAR meetings.



## MACKINAC WILDERNESS TRACT ADVENTURE OR THANK GOODNESS FOR BEAVER DAMS

by Sarah Kirkish & Photos by Rob Schwenke

An intrepid band of eight ground pounders or Bush Rats as they are called all met a brisk and windy morning at McGowan's Family Restaurant in Trout Lake on November 2nd. It was my first trip led by Michael Helger or LandNavMan as he is called on the Backpacker forum pages. Michael introduced me and Rob Schwenke from SOLAR to the rest of the group - Gail (IsleRoyaleGirl), Cathy (WoodsRunner), Mary (NatureLady), Mary Ann and Bill. Group member number nine, Chris (NightBlazer) was going to meet us later that night.

Michael did everything he could to prepare us with an extensive list of things that we needed to bring (ultra light hikers need not apply) as well as a list things that could go wrong, including pictures of blown out knees tied to hand-made splints. We were not deterred as we signed a final waiver acknowledging that we were about to go into the wilderness and no one was going to rescue us. Instead we tackled our breakfasts with renewed gusto hoping that we ordered enough carbs, protein and fats to keep us going for the next few hours.

Our wilderness trek actually started an hour or so later after spotting all the cars at various bail out points. We started South East down a lesser used road that only had a forestry number on it and it wasn't long after that where we started to use a combination of topographical, local maps and satellite images to wander into the wilderness. Our first encounter with a beaver dam was fun as we ran into an actual beaver trapper and his wife. Michael led the way across the dam ignoring the sounds of the trappers wife saying "If you don't have hip waders, prepare to get wet!" We all made it across without so much as a soaked foot. In retrospect this was one of the easier dams we crossed, but of course it still stands out as my first beaver dam crossing.

We started bushwhacking South in earnest and it wasn't as bad as I feared, but eye protection and keeping a healthy distance behind the person in front of you is a must. We crossed Kenneth Road and started leaving three sticks as signs for Chris to follow us into the wilderness to our first bivouac spot. We were on a non-motorized road, that really looked liked an overgrown trail that branched Southeast again as we kept along

the West side of Taylor Creek. We kept going until we hit the North Country Trail or NCT heading North East as a way to cross Taylor Creek without too much hassle.

The group then started pacing and at a certain point we really began to bushwhack heading Northwest along the East bank of Taylor Creek and across another spectacular beaver dam to get to our bivouac site for the night. We were treated to a scrumptious dessert of apple crisp made by Mary. It's true that everything does taste better with whipped topping. It must have been the scent of cinnamon that helped Chris to find us around 9pm. He credits perseverance for his night navigation skills, but they are impressive nonetheless and he definitely earned his handle of NightBlazer.

The next morning we were glad to have been under the pines because if we had been more out in the open we would have been covered with frost. We back tracked to the NCT heading South West again pacing to find a South bushwhacking route to cross Bissel Creek via another beaver dam. After crossing Bissel Creek, we took a nice break along the clearing for a gas pipeline, which also happens to be the Northern edge of the Mackinac Wilderness tract. We paralleled along Bissel Creek heading Southeast until we caught up again with Taylor Creek to have lunch. We kept going along the creek and found an old ATV trail and it was fun to connect the white tacks that were pushed in to the trees to guide hunters through this part of the wilderness tract.

We did our best to avoid the 40 acre parcel of private land, but wound up on it anyway and quietly walked through to the other side to catch the road heading East towards the North fork of the Carp River. We also found a few remnants of a log shelter that was much more impressive than the

hunter's blinds we saw along the ATV trail. We camped our second night along the North Branch of the Carp River. The different group member tarp set-ups gave me an appreciation for the versatility of bivouacking with a tarp versus using a tent. This was especially true the third night when it rained.

The morning of the third day, Chris left as early to try his hand at fishing. It started raining just as we were breaking down



camp. We found an old logging road that used to cross the Carp River, but instead all that was left were some bridge abutments. Michael led a rock brigade to build us a walking bridge, but in the end, most of the team took off our boots, rolled up our pants and waded across in our water shoes. This was another first for me and while the river was cold and flowing rapidly, I was very proud of myself for wading right in and across using my hiking pole for stability. It also helped to have a bandana to dry my feet and dry socks and boots to get back into right after the crossing.



The group continued to head East along the North bank of the river and found Chris at his fishing spot. Sadly the fish weren't biting, but he still said it was worth bringing along his fly rod and reel. This was our group picture site along a bend of the Carp River. We continued and found a very nice lunch spot where the sun came out for an hour with a very large beaver dam, lodge and fresh beaver signs on a huge tree before crossing Spring Lake Creek. Beyond that was East Lake Road where Chris left us to head home. We kept going and crossed Upper Farm Hill Creek before finally crossing another impressive and much newer beaver dam at Lower Farm Hill Creek. The water was flowing quite a bit over the dam and it seemed a bit more tenuous with each member crossing the dam. Fortunately we made it across without incident, it stopped raining and we camped along the Carp River one more final night.

I chatted with the ladies and got to know more about them. Michael did a good job with leading us and making sure we took breaks and kept warm with layers of clothing. Still he encouraged Cathy, Gail, Mary and Mary Ann to do most of the navigating and I was impressed by their independent spirit and skills. I also noted that myself and Rob were the 'youngsters' of the group and that were more women than men on this trip. Poor Bill and Rob got stuck sweeping the group most of the time because they were taller and Michael could spot them more easily as the group spread out.

Our final day was rainy and cold. Still I was prepared for the weather and noted how comfortable I was in 35 degree weather. Layering really does help and I was glad I had taken SOLAR's Enjoying Michigan Winters class earlier this year.

We stayed along the East side of Lower Farm Hill Creek and headed North. We crossed a minor tributary again via a beaver dam to find an old logging road. The old, moss-covered, corduroy roadbed - logs laid crosswise, one after another, to permit vehicles to cross the swamp - was very picturesque. It was like walking on mattresses. We made it into some low lands across our final beaver dam to a clearing. Then we found a road heading West to lead us to Edison Road and to my car. The rain never let up on the fourth and final day, but again being prepared made it doable. I was truly challenged by this adventure and the group dynamics were great.

I would highly recommend anyone who wants to expand all their outdoor skills to contact Michael Neiger mneiger@hotmail.com for one of his future trips. I know I plan to be back and next time try my hand at bushwhacking navigation.

## poetic nature

by Elizabeth Schwab

### LOST

Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you  
Are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here,  
And you must treat it as a powerful stranger,  
Must ask permission to know it and be known.  
The forest breathes. Listen. It answers,  
I have made this place around you,  
If you leave it you may come back again, saying Here.  
No two trees are the same to Raven.  
No two branches are the same to Wren.  
If what a tree or a bush does is lost on you,  
You are surely lost. Stand still. The forest knows  
Where you are. You must let it find you.

-David Wagoner

Obtained from: [judithpordon.tripod.com](http://judithpordon.tripod.com)

If you have a favorite poem relating to the outdoors that you have read or have written yourself that you would like to see here in a future edition of the SOLAR Ray, send it to Elizabeth Schwab by email at: [qes1339@yahoo.com](mailto:qes1339@yahoo.com). Include the source you obtained it from.



## SOLAR PROGRAM SCHEDULE

by Allen Duncan

**December: Meet and Greet at Mr. Joe's**  
26077 W. 12 Mile Road



### Upcoming Programs:

- December 14: Holiday Party
- January: SOLAR Photo Contest
- February: The Massasauga Rattler with Yu Man Lee, MSU Extension Scientist
- March: Author Jim Dufresne presents his new book: "Backpacking Michigan"
- April: SOLAR Annual Business Meeting
- May: SOLAR Officer Elections

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

Do you have an idea or suggestion for a SOLAR Program? Please e-mail me: [programs@SOLAROutdoors.org](mailto:programs@SOLAROutdoors.org).

## SOLAR STEPS UP!

by Lisa Boose

We are the few...we are the proud...we are...

Mary Bogush! Lisa Boose! Dan Butterworth! Jim Coe! David Dahl! Dave De France! Naureen De France! Allen Duncan! Jan Duncan! Linda Dzwigalski! Marie Martinko! Michael Martinko! Brian McCown! Bonnie Michalek! Chris Myers! Rob Nami! Michael Pniewski! Mike Schick! Donald Wold!

We are the SOLAR StairMasters!

We are all members of SOLAR, teaming together to train on a weekly basis so we can do our best at climbing all 69 flights of stairs at the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit for a special fundraising event called ClimbDetroit2. This is the Michigan Chapter of the American Lung Association's second annual event to raise funds to fight lung disease in Michigan. The actual event takes place at the RenCen on Sunday, February 24, 2008.

If you are interested in joining our team, the only requirement is that you be a SOLAR member. It doesn't matter what shape you are in or not in. As long as you have a sense of fun and adventure, a commitment to improving your own health with a desire to help others while doing so...YOU'D be perfect! WE WANT YOU! WE NEED YOU! And you can come as you are!

You will be required to pay a registration fee of \$20 (now through November 25). Hurry, because the price of registration increases as we get closer to the event. You are also required to have an additional \$100 in donations (through what you collect or out of your own pocket) to submit prior to February 24 in order to actually participate in the event.

All team members are challenged to raise a minimum of

14

\$200 each. Our team goal is \$4,000.

Please support SOLAR by either joining our team or making a donation to our team or to any team member(s). Every little bit helps, and even a \$5 donation puts us in a positive progression towards our goals.

To join our team or to donate, visit our team page at <http://www.mrsny.com/evt/e01/team.jsp?rid=720790&id=-17300&acct=3213289906>

Thank you so much for your consideration of our request. We do appreciate whatever you can do. It's going to a wonderful cause.

For additional information, please contact Lisa Boose at [elbows6000@att.net](mailto:elbows6000@att.net).



## SOLAR 2007 CALENDAR

12/1	SUN	Toledo Zoo Lights Display**	Toledo Zoo	Leslie Cordova	lestiegene@aol.com
12/4	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	Colony Hall	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net
12/4	FRIDAY	PROGRAM: Informal Meet & Greet at Mr. Joe's	Colony Hall	Allen Duncan	alenduncan@agglonetwork.com
12/7-17/10	MULTI	Off-trail Winter Backpacking Trip**	MacKinnon State Forest: Onawa	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://tinyurl.com/2v25p2
12/14	FRIDAY	SOLAR Holiday Party**	Colony Hall	Allen Duncan	alenduncan@agglonetwork.com
12/16, 12/13, 1/3, 1/10, 1/12-1/13, 1/24, 1/26, 1/31, 2/5-2/10	MULTI	Enjoying Michigan Winters	Southfield/Waterloo Rec Area/Pigeon River State Forest	Tom Oloff/Roxann Bittne	Roxann.bittne@gm.com
1/8	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	Colony Hall	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net
1/8	FRIDAY	PROGRAM: Photo Contest	Colony Hall	Allen Duncan	alenduncan@agglonetwork.com
1/10-1/22	MULTI	Off-trail Snowshoe & Sledge Trip**	Delirium Wilderness Tract	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://tinyurl.com/3bn6js
1/25-1/27	WKND	Crawlathon	Carter Caves State Park, Kentucky	Leslie Cordova	lestiegene@aol.com
1/13	SUN	Beginning Cross Country Ski Class - Classic Morning Session	Roscomon, MI (Cross Country Ski Headquarters)	Larry Mergentime	Larrymergentime@yahoo.com
1/13	SUN	Beginning Cross Country Ski Class - Skate Afternoon Session	Roscomon, MI (Cross Country Ski Headquarters)	Larry Mergentime	Larrymergentime@yahoo.com
1/29	TUE	Know Your Knots Workshop	Southfield	Joan Rozelle	joanrozelle@yahoo.com
4/5	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	Colony Hall	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net
2/5	FRIDAY	PROGRAM: Massasauga Rattlesnake - human Lee, MSU Extension	Colony Hall	Allen Duncan	alenduncan@agglonetwork.com
2/9-2/17	MULTI	21st Annual Canadian Snowshoeing Expedition**	Lake Superior Provincial Park, Ontario	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://therucksack.tripod.com
2/10-2/17	MULTI	Winter Sports/Carnival Getaway	Mont Ste. Anne Ski Resort, Quebec	Joanne Sarvasin	jsarvasin@yahoo.ca
2/14-2/29	MULTI	Costa Rica Adventure**	Costa Rica	Jim Gessner	Gessnerj@comcast.net
2/15-2/17	WKND	Dogsledding	South River, Ontario	Larry Mergentime	Larrymergentime@yahoo.com
2/24	SUN	Detroit Climb 2	Renaissance Center, Detroit	Lisa Boose	Elbows6000@att.net
2/7, 2/14, 2/11, 2/24, 2/28, 3/6, 3/7-3/9	THR, MULTI	Winter Survival	TBA	Doug Janyk	dslanyk@earthlink.net
3/7-3/11	MULTI	Winter Camping and Ice Exploration**	Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://therucksack.tripod.com
3/29-4/5	MULTI	GAU Ski Club Trip**	Mammoth Mountain, California	Danrel Ahlberg	DaveDuvall@wowway.com
4/4-4/7	WKND	Off-trail Backpacking**	Pigeon River Country State Forest	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://therucksack.tripod.com
5/2-5/5	WKND	Off-trail Backpacking**	Eastern Upper Peninsula	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://therucksack.tripod.com
5/24-6/1	MULTI	21st Annual Canadian Backpacking Expedition**	Lake Superior Provincial Park	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://therucksack.tripod.com

All classes and activities are limited to SOLAR members except for non SOLAR events marked with \*\*. If you would like to help plan and/or lead a SOLAR activity, please contact Kevin Cotter at (248) 544-9637 or [activities@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:activities@solaroutdoors.org). If you would like to help plan and/or teach a SOLAR class, please contact Sarah Kirkish at [education@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:education@solaroutdoors.org). 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 or non-SOLAR class (SOLAR will not be held responsible for these activities/classes).

#### WHAT IS SOLAR?

SOLAR is a non-profit club with 400-plus members dedicated to the intelligent enjoyment of nature and outdoor pursuits.

#### MEMBERSHIP

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, scenic shorelines, and the experiences to be found there.

#### MEETINGS

Our monthly 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 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

#### SOLAR RAY NEWSLETTER

The SOLAR RAY is a monthly publication of SOLAR and is available online at [www.solaroutdoors.org](http://www.solaroutdoors.org). To receive a copy in the mail, please contact Mary Price at [membership@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:membership@solaroutdoors.org).

#### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions for the SOLAR Ray are due on the Friday two weeks prior to the monthly Steering Committee Meeting (December 14 for the January issue). Electronic documents only. Word is preferred and please attach your images. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Sweeton at [rayeditor@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:rayeditor@solaroutdoors.org).

#### STEERING COMMITTEE

President: Lou Szakal	Vice President: Cindy Taylor
Secretary: Michelle Delaporte	Treasurer: Carol McGinnis
Activities: Kevin Cotter	By-Laws: Chuck Smith
Education: Sarah Kirkish	Equipment: Rob Schwenke
Historian: Pam Schmetzer	Membership: Mary Price
Programs: Allen Duncan	Public Relations: Heather Hail
Ray Editor: Rebecca Sweeton	Webmaster: Dave Sweeton

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Steve Gardner | Bill Halvings | Cindy Harrison-Felix | Tom Hayes  
Doug Lanyk | Larry Martin | Joan Hettinger | Tom Oloff  
Joan & Bob Westbrook

#### STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Steering Committee meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. 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, please contact Lou Szakal at [president@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:president@solaroutdoors.org).

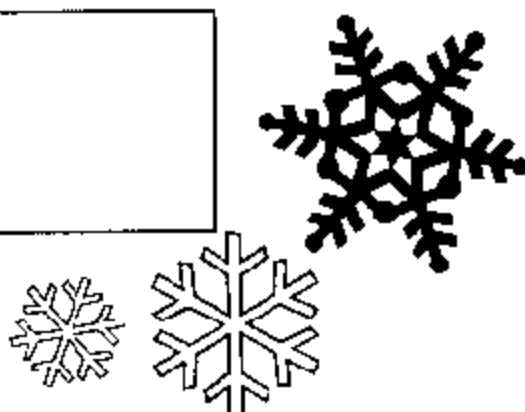
#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at: [www.solaroutdoors.org](http://www.solaroutdoors.org).

#### SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SOLAR RAY ASSISTANT EDITORS

Winnie Chrzanowski, Kathy Drewyore, Sheila Hardy, Pam Schmetzer, Carol McGinnis, Elizabeth Sulwaby, and Ati Tiskerics

Visit our website: [www.solaroutdoors.org](http://www.solaroutdoors.org)



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