



The SOLAR Ray

A Monthly Publication of the School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure, and Recreation (SOLAR)

February 2007

CAVORTING IN CADILLAC

By Elizabeth Schwab

March can be such a blah month, not quite winter—not yet spring. This year it's been especially wishy-washy, not even giving us much snow to make it more bearable or at least prettier. To help you make it to spring, come join us for an invigorating w/e at McGuire's Resort in Cadillac on March 2-4, and we'll have fun no matter what the weather. There are outside activities like downhill or cc skiing, snowshoeing, sleigh rides, and if the white stuff doesn't cooperate, hiking and indoor ice skating in town. There are trails steps from the door or at nearby Mitchell State Park and the Manistee River.

In the afternoon and evening you can relax in the indoor pool and hot tub, or in the adjacent commons room, which has a wood-burning fireplace. We can meet there for games or camaraderie, or go to the pub for karaoke Fri. nite, and live entertainment Fri. and sat. So if you didn't burn enough calories on the trails, you can do it dancing!

Speaking of calories, there is a great restaurant there and the pub also serves food. There are other restaurants in Cadillac, a mile away. If the budget is tight, all rooms have coffee makers and you can bring coolers so with a little imagination you could have at least a couple meals a day in your room.

The price for all this is \$86 based on double occupancy, less if you want to bunk up with an extra friend or two. There are both king rooms and dbl queen rooms available. To sign up I need a \$50 deposit to put you on the list. The deadline is Feb 12th. After that the price is up to \$107 and you'd have to make your own reservation. I'll be taking deposits at the Feb meeting, cash or check made out to Solar. You can also send it to me at:
3839 Bacon Ave, Berkley 48072.

Questions? See me at the meeting, email: qes1339@yahoo.com, or call 248-544-7636.

I hope you can make it!



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please send all articles and photographs for the March edition of the SOLAR Ray to Ati Tislerics at atisleri@med.umich.edu.

Send all articles as .doc (Word), .txt (text), or .rtf (rich text format) attachments and all photos as .jpg attachments. DO NOT paste your photos into the email or Word document directly.

The deadline is February 16, 2007.

Thanks!

Rebecca Sweeton
SOLAR Ray Editor

CONTENTS

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|----|
| • Cavoriting in Cadillac | 1 | Mountain Biking Class | 5 |
| • Hike Schedule | 2 | Spotlight On | 6 |
| • Quoth the Raven | 3 | Spring Backpacking Class | 6 |
| • Superbowl Party | 3 | Book Review | 7 |
| • Enjoying All Winters | 4 | Membership News | 8 |
| • Know Your Knots Clinic | 5 | Equipment List | 9 |
| • Memorial Weekend Trip | 5 | Membership Application | 10 |

SOLAR Activity & Education Calendar 11

SOLAR HIKE & BIKE SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2006

by Matt Dalton

Start the New Year off right and healthy. Hike with the Solar Club. Non-members & children welcome. Hikes start at 9:30 AM. Hike Coordinator: Matt Dalton, contact at 248-360-0031 or mdalton@ameritech.net.

Post a message on the Solar Yahoo site, after you decide to join one of the hikes: 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.

February 3, 2007, Saturday, Sierra Club, 6:30 PM Maybury, meet at the horse stable parking lot, take 8 mile Rd to Beck Rd (2 miles west of Northville) Moonlight hike 4 miles, safe moderate pace. Restaurant stop after, contact: Phil at 313-562-1873 for additional information.

February 4, 2007, Sunday - 9:30 AM Solar Club and BS Hikers are hiking at Maybury State Park, Northville, MI. Meet at 8 Mile Rd entrance and parking lot by concessions area. Most hikers go out for brunch after the hike. Over 25-35 hikers.

February 4, 2007, Sunday - 1:00 PM, Sierra Club hike at Pontiac Lake State Park, meet for car pooling at the Rochester Hills Meijers parking lot or meet at the park entrance on Gale Rd, near the beach area. Call if weather is questionable, Hike Leader: Sudha at 248-219-3326

February 10, 2007, Saturday, - 9:30 AM (Solar Club) AND 11:00 AM, Pontiac Lake State Park: Sierra Club hike, North of M-59 Highland Rd. and west of Williams Lake Rd. Meet in the NW corner of the Gale Rd. parking lot. Sierra Club 11:00 AM, Hike Leader: Tom, 248-349-8782 Hike rain, snow or shine.

February 11, 2007, Sunday Sierra Club hike 12:30 PM ish Brighton Rec Area, Mod to brisk 5 mile hike in hilly, wooded terrain, option of adding 2 more miles. Call if weather is questionable, meet in Southfield at the Tel-12 Mall S.E corner to car pool at noon or meet at Brighton Rec Area around 12:30 PM. Sierra Club hike leader is: Jo Ellen, 586-773-3104

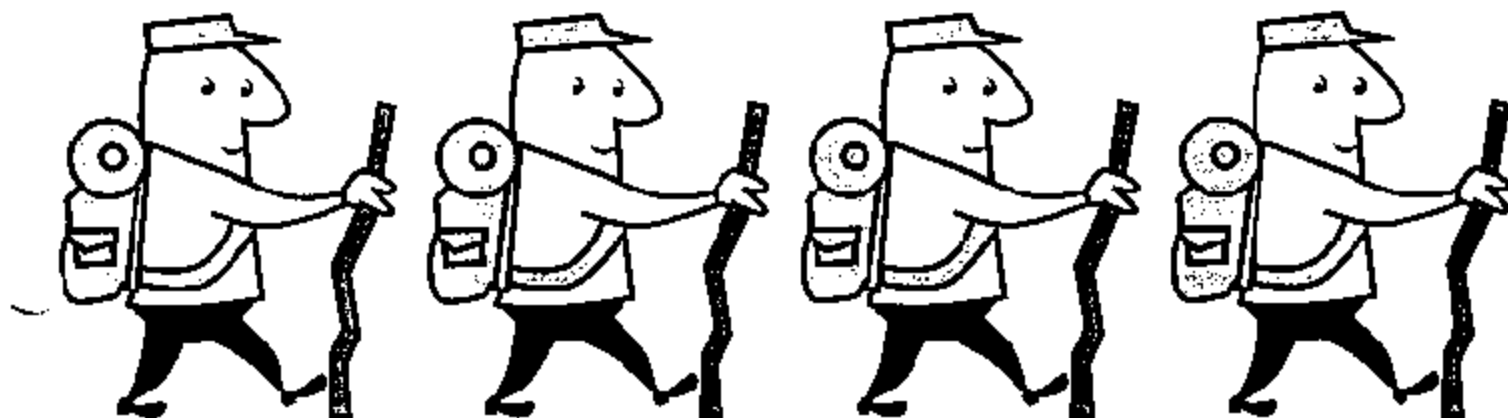
February 18, 2007, Sunday 9:30 AM, Solar Club and BS Hikers, Maybury State Park, Northville, MI. Meet at 8 Mile Rd entrance and parking lot by concessions area. Brunch afterward for most of the hikers. (25-35 friendly hikers)

February 18, 2007 - 10:00 AM, Sierra Club. Bald Mountain hike, meet at the Bloomfield Hills, CVC or at the trail head around 10:20 AM. Contact Sierra Club hike leader for more information: Bonnie, 248-589-2251

February 24, 2007, Saturday 9:30 AM, Kensington Metro Park, Meet at the Nature Center, North of Kensington Rd entrance, past the golf course. Go out for lunch afterwards or keep hiking until dinner time and then go out to eat.

February 24, 2007, Saturday - 9:30 AM Point Pelee (Ontario- Canada) 16th Annual Ice Hike We are hoping for mounds of breaking ice and snow pushed onto the Pointe by Lake Erie winter winds. Call if weather is questionable. Meet in Windsor at the Ontario information Center on Route 3, Huron Church Rd., ¾ mile south, past the Ambassador Bridge. Restaurant stop after. Sierra Club hike leader: Liz, 313-562-1873

March 4, 2007, Sunday - 9:30 AM, Solar Club and BS Hikers, Maybury State Park, Northville, MI. Meet at 8 Mile Rd entrance and parking lot by concessions area. Brunch afterward for most of the hikers. (25-35 friendly hikers)



QUOTH THE RAVEN, "CR-R-R-CRUK!"

by Jim Coe



Despite what Edgar Allen Poe told us, a raven can't say "nevermore!" A typical raven remark comes out more like his vocal rendition of, "Cr-r-r-cruk!" Just exactly what that might mean, nobody is sure, but it is considerably far removed from what Poe said it was.

The raven is noted as a bird of the wilderness. As such, it was once commonly found all over Michigan. Today it remains in fair abundance in the wilder areas of the Upper Peninsula. In Lower Michigan, however, some ravens are found in the Pigeon River Country State Forest, but are considered fairly rare elsewhere.

Visitors to raven country often see these big, black birds and don't recognize them. When a raven is seen alone, it is easy to mistake it for a common crow, which is also big and black. Crows have a very distinctive "Caw," that sounds nothing at all like "Cr-r-r-cruk!" A typical raven is about two feet long and, when flying, can stretch his wings out to perhaps four feet or more. The crow, however, is two-thirds to three-quarters the size of a raven and seldom has a wingspan of more than three feet. Most of the year, the majority of ravens stay in their U.P. wilderness haunts as well as on up into the far reaches of Canada. They seem to enjoy sailing on the air currents instead of flapping their wings heavily along "as the crow flies", although they often move along that way, too.

While the raven is an interesting type of wildlife, and is very intelligent, it is far from a nice bird. A raven will eat nearly anything it can catch or find. Small mammals, reptiles, other birds and fish are commonly eaten. So are carrion, garbage, and the droppings of larger creatures.

When the ranges of ravens and nestling gulls overlap, the gulls take a real beating. The ravens often invade the gull colonies and steal as many eggs as possible, then hide them for later food sources. Irate gulls frequently gang up and drive the black raiders away when they can.

Proving how adaptable they are, some ravens nest as far north as Greenland. They subsist, when necessary, on the droppings of Eskimo huskies, although that banquet is now beginning to vanish. Many Eskimos have switched from using dog teams to snowmobiles for winter travel, leaving ravens with no more droppings.

Regardless of their bad table manners, they are a reminder of a true wilderness, and the sound of "Cr-r-r-cruk!" echoing through a quiet canyon or forest can be a memorable experience.

Composed from articles and information from other writers.

2007 SUPERBOWL (FEBRUARYFEST) CELEBRATION!

by Dave & Moe DeFrance

WHEN: Superbowl Sunday, of course February 4th

TIME: ½ hour before 6:25 PM kickoff

BRING: Dish to pass, slippers, cheering voice, couple bucks for a football pool., BYOB

WHERE: Dave and Moe DeFrance's in Howell

DIRECTIONS: On back of sheet

We'll Supply: Main Course

Please RSVP by Thursday, February 1 at 517-552-3560
so we know how much meat to cook/buy.



FIRST PRACTICAL -- ENJOYING MICHIGAN WINTERS

by Willi Gutmann



KNOW YOUR KNOTS: A KNOT-TYING WORKSHOP FOR BACKPACKERS

by Joan Tobin

Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2007
Time: 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Location: Livonia Public Library
32777 Five Mile Rd., Livonia 48154
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 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

Bowline, Square Knot, Double Half-Hitch, Trucker's Hitch, Taut-line Hitch, Clove Hitch, Buntline Hitch, and Double Fisherman's Knot, Figure Eight Knot and the Bowline on a Bight.

MATERIALS PROVIDED

Knot tying handouts and practice rope.

CONTACT

Call Joan Tobin at 734-281-1568 for more information.

Sign-ups will be taken at the January 2007 SOLAR Meeting.



MEMORIAL WEEKEND HIKING, BOAT TOURING, SITE SEEING TOBERMORY, CANADA

by Leslie Cordova

Come join us as we spend Memorial Weekend, May 25 - 28, exploring this magnificent area of Canada. Tobermory is considered a paradise by naturalists, hikers and kayakers. It offers a wide variety of outdoor activities, and a scenery that is absolutely breathtaking. Hike the majestic cliffs of the Niagra Escarpment along the Bruce Trail or the inland trails of the Bruce Peninsula National Park. There are numerous boat tours that are available. Or bring your kayak and paddle on the hopefully calm waters. There is a lot to do in the area, visit the official website, www.tobermory.org.

We will be staying at the Trails End Lodge, <http://members.rogers.com/artamos/home.htm>. The lodge is situated on five acres of waterfront property overlooking the Islands of Fathom Five National Marine Park, just a 15 minute walk to the shops and restaurants in the Village of Tobermory. We have the entire 9 bedroom, 3 bath, 2 kitchen lodge reserved. There is a living room, a verandah and deck. Most kitchen utensils are provided, along with bedding and towels.

There will be the traditional potluck on Saturday night; the rest of the meals will be on your own.

This kid friendly, no pet weekend can be yours for a mere \$55 USD for 3 nights lodging. Interested? Contact Leslie Cordova at (248) 547-5626 or lesiegene@aol.com. Hurry as there are only 25 spaces available, and as always, it will be first pay, first go.

NEW MOUNTAIN BIKING CLASS

by Nancy McMahon

And winter camping is not a pre-requisite!! Only requirement is a good attitude!

Why learn things the hard way? Here's your chance to be ahead of the game before you ever get on your bike!

The class will cover:

- Equipment
- Riding Skills Set
- Nutrition
- Repair and Maintenance
- Mountain Biking Ten Essentials
- Safety
- First Aid on the Trail

Sign up and find out who our famous mystery speaker is and Nancy's Golden Rule of Mountain Biking!

SPOTLIGHT ON WINNIE CHRZANOWSKI

by Rebecca Sweetor



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF SOLAR?

I'm not sure; maybe four years.

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH SOLAR?

I was ushering a Shakespeare play in the park in Royal Oak. It was raining. I started discussing rain gear, etc. with a fellow usher--Chuck--who said, "you might like the club I belong to." Chuck was right; I checked out SOLAR, went to a meeting, and joined immediately.

HOW DID YOU START BACKPACKING?

Until the SOLAR backpacking class, I'd never been backpacking before. My husband and I had car camped a lot and hiked, so 'packing was a new experience for me.

WHAT HAS YOUR FAVORITE TRIP BEEN SO FAR?

My favorite SOLAR trip was, without question, the two week stay at the Tuscan villa. All of the SOLAR trips I've been on have been fun, but Tuscany was outstanding. Of course, Tuscany is always outstanding, but we had a great trip leader (Pete the Purist) and a terrific group of SOLARites to hang out with.

WHAT WOULD YOUR DREAM TRIP BE?

A photo safari to Kenya, a summer in the south of France, a hike through the British Isles, blah, blah, blah. I've never been anywhere that wasn't a dream trip so I dream of going everywhere. My motto: Have tent will travel.

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

The classes currently offered are comprehensive. I can't think of anything to add at the moment--well, maybe some more classes on how to identify local flora and fauna.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCE IN SOLAR?

Meeting so many people who don't think it's crazy to take a hike in the rain . . . or snow . . . or . . .

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

Hah! The faces keep looking younger.

2007 SPRING BACKPACKING COURSE

by Mike Banks

The Backpacking Course is at the heart of SOLAR. Sure it's the prerequisite for many of the other courses that SOLAR offers. It is also much more. It is here that you learn basic backcountry skills. It is here that you build confidence in yourself and others. It is here you meet your friends. It is here that you meet your fellow adventurers. It is here that you take your first steps into a new world.

What does \$100 get me? It is a good question. Why don't we start with your instructors? You get a staff of instructors who have logged almost as many hours instructing as they have miles of backpacking and they have collected thousands of miles on the trail. You will have an overall ratio of at least one instructor for every two students. They don't do this for pay. They are doing it for the love of it.

You will be getting 18 hours of class time. This time will be spent learning subjects such as clothing, shelters, sleeping systems, conditioning, packs and pack fitting, knots, water filtration and treatment, backcountry hygiene, trip planning, stoves and cookware, food, maps and much more.

You will be getting 2 weekend practicals. Practical #1 will give you a taste of hiking over a trail with all the gear you and your team need for your overnight adventure. Your weekend will be spent giving you hands-on experience. It is here that your new knot knowledge will allow you to place bear bags and tarps. It is here that you will learn the operations of stoves and water filters. It is here that you will learn some of the basics of land navigation and first aid. You will pitch your tent, cook your meals and sleep the good sleep.

Practical #2 is where the real fun begins. You are still learning, but it is with every step you take. Here you have the choice of 2 or 3 days in the backcountry. You practice 'Leave No Trace' camping. You wake up to the call of jays and the sight of eagles. You fall asleep to the distant howl of coyotes and the last slap of the beaver's tail on the water. There is no doubt you are 'Up North'.

DATES: Class dates are: March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 12 & 26. Practical #1 is April 14 & 15. Practical #2 is May 1, 2 & 3.

LOCATION: Berkley Community Center

CONTACT: Michael Banks at slywo.fe52@yahoo.com if you have questions or to sign-up.

Hurry! The class is limited to 24 students.



THE RECUMBENT VOYAGER

by Winnie Chrzanowski



The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth
By E. O. Wilson
W. W. Norton and Company, 175 pages
\$21.95

The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth is a small book with a huge message. As Wilson plainly says, "The Creation—living Nature—is in deep trouble. Scientists estimate that . . . half the species of plants and animals on Earth could be either gone or . . . fated for early extinction by the end of the century." He goes on to say that if humans don't act quickly, they will pauperize Earth's ecosystems. We've been seeing the effects of civilization on Nature for many decades now, and the recent articles in the news on fish disappearing from the oceans along with the warm winter we're having are just two danger signals that jump instantly to mind.

E. O. Wilson, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner (for *The Ants* and *On Human Behavior*), an eminent Harvard entomologist, and author of more than 20 books, is a humanist as well as a scientist. For him, science is the source of all wisdom and the best answer to our collective problems. Yet, he was raised as a southern Baptist and understands the culture. As a result of these two dichotomies, Wilson frames *The Creation* as a letter to a southern Baptist pastor. He appeals to the two most powerful forces on earth (especially in the U.S.)—science and religion—to join forces to protect Earth's ecosystems. He proposes that these two forces set aside their differences in order to accomplish that mission. Wilson identifies the dichotomy between the two forces quite poetically: "For you, the glory of unseen divinity; for me, the glory of the universe revealed at last. For you, the belief in God made flesh to save mankind; for me, the belief in Promethean fire seized to set men free."

Differences between scientific knowledge and religious beliefs aside, Wilson feels that part of the problem exists because "while most people around the world care about the natural environment, they don't know why they care, or why they should feel responsible for it." His book tries to help explain these two "whys."

The Creation explains the environmental and spiritual reasons as to why we should be alarmed by pollution, global warming, and the Earth's declining biodiversity. However, most of us are aware of these problems. So for this book's readership, he may be preaching to the choir. Nevertheless, he tries to bring the religious community onto the environmental battlefield to fight side by side with the scientists. Whether he does it or not isn't clear in the book, and some of us may never see that happen in our lifetime.

Wilson guides us through the living environment one chapter at a time. Through facts and statistics, anecdotes, histories, and illustrations, he enlightens us on a wide range of topics. *The Creation* contains chapters on invasive species, conservation biology, biodiversity, the nature of Nature, and how science works. He stresses the importance of introducing children to Nature and how to teach them about biology. In some instances, I thought I was studying a biology textbook. Those instances aside, I learned a lot reading *The Creation* and enjoyed what I read.

Although *The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth* may not be for the average reader, the subject fascinates, and Wilson's vast knowledge informs on a level we don't normally get in a book as easily read as this one. Although Wilson sometimes strays from his topic, his passion to save Earth as we know it remains obvious.



ATTENTION ALL SOLAR MEMBERS...

By Mary Price

As of January 1st, 2007, all 2006 annual memberships will have expired. Be sure to stop by the Membership table at the General Meeting on January 2nd or fill out an application or mail completed application to Mary Price, 22801 Tulane, Farmington Hills, MI 48336 along with a check or money order made out to SOLAR (NO CASH).

Not at the meeting? Membership forms can be downloaded from the SOLAR website, www.solaroutdoors.org or form is provided in this month's Ray. Prices remain: \$40 for a single membership, \$55 for family, \$175 for single Lifetime, and \$250 for Family Lifetime. Don't miss out on the upcoming classes or trips because you haven't renewed your membership. Lifetime members do not need to complete a new form.



SOLAR PROVIDES SPECIAL GIFTS TO MEMBERS AT FEBRUARY MEETING

By Heather Hall

It's a New Year, sure to be filled with great trips, exciting classes and never to forget memories! An organization is only as successful as the members who join - with more than 300 active members, SOLAR continues to grow and provide wonderful opportunities to enjoy the outdoors.

At the February general meeting, all current and lifetime members will receive a membership gift. These gifts will kick off a membership program to promote SOLAR in the community and encourage members to recruit new people. Members must be present to receive kit and dues must be current.

SOLAR EQUIPMENT

by Dave DeFrance

Over the years, SOLAR has purchased a full range of gear to help our members enjoy the many classes, trips and activities that we offer. While outdoor fun can be an expensive thrill at times, SOLAR members have access to a wide variety of gear for many activities at minimal or no cost. Members can also borrow equipment for non-SOLAR activities.

How do I reserve a piece of equipment?

Contact the Equipment Manager, Dave DeFrance, via email at equipment@solaroutdoors.org. Please read the "Rules and Guidelines" prior to reserving equipment.

Rules and Guidelines

Equipment is for use by current dues-paid members only.

A deposit of \$250 is required for the first two items borrowed. The length of time that equipment will be borrowed is determined by the equipment manager and borrowing member. Generally, the equipment is due by the next monthly SOLAR meeting immediately following the activity, or returned to the equipment manager within 5 days of member's activity. Failure to return equipment in good condition, in a timely manner, or not at all, could result in loss of some or all of deposit.

All equipment that SOLAR owns is available to members, with the exception of rock climbing and caving equipment.* Rock climbing gear is dependent on experience. Caving equipment is only available for SOLAR caving trips or caving classes.

The member must have completed the Basic Backpacking class or shown proficiency in backpacking activity to borrow backpacking equipment. (The equipment manager will determine member's qualifications.)

All classes have priority over the equipment while the class is in session.

The equipment manager maintains record of borrowed equipment. The equipment is available on a first come, first serve basis.



SOLAR EQUIPMENT AVAILABILITY

Below is a partial list of available equipment:

Tents

1. Eureka Timberline TL4 (sleeps 4)
2. REI Clipper (sleeps 2)
3. REI Clipper (sleeps 2)
4. Sierra Design Clip Flashlight (sleeps 1-2)
5. Sierra Design Clip Flashlight (sleeps 1-2)
6. MSR Sidewinder (sleeps 2)
7. REI Convert winter (sleeps 2)
8. Eureka Apex (sleeps 2)
9. Mtn Hardware Windlight (sleeps 2)

Backpacks

1. Kelty Yukon/Klondike (ext. frame)
2. Eureka Eagle (ext. frame-gray)
3. Kelty Trekker (ext. frame-gray)
4. Lowe Alpine Outback (int. frame-blue)
5. Lowe Alpine Outback (int. frame-green)
6. Lowe Alpine Outback (int. frame-green)
7. Lowe Alpine Outback 70 (int. frame-purple)
8. Camp Trails McKinley (ext. frame-red/black)
9. REI Cima 80 (int. frame-gray)
10. REI Cima 80 (int. frame-gray)
11. REI Cima 60 (int. frame-gray)
12. REI Trekker Wonderland (ext. frame)
13. Lowe Coutour 3 (int. frame-blue)
14. Lowe Vision 10 (int. frame-green)
15. Gregory (int. frame)
16. EMS Internal Frame (Lt Blue)
17. EMS Internal Frame (Lt Blue)
18. EMS Internal Frame (Lt Blue)
19. EMS Internal Frame (Lt Blue)

Stoves & Water Filters

1. Whisperlite Stove w/16 oz fuel
2. Whisperlite Stove w/22 oz fuel
3. Optimus 99 stove (for demo)
4. MSR Water works filter
5. MSR Water works filter
6. Pur Hiker
7. Pur Hiker

Donating Equipment to SOLAR

If you have some gently-used equipment that you no longer use, please consider donating it to SOLAR for member use. All equipment must be in good condition. Contact the Equipment Manager, Dave DeFrance, via email at equipment@solaroutdoors.org for more information on donating equipment to the organization.

Sleeping Bags & Pads

1. Polarguard HV- 30 deg. (blue)
2. Polarguard HV- 30 deg. (blue)
3. Polarguard HV- 30 deg. (blue)
4. REI- 20 deg. (maroon)
5. Iron Mtn- 20 deg. long (blue)
6. Iron Mtn- 20 deg. long (blue)
7. Moonstone Maxima- 0 deg. long left
8. Moonstone Maxima- 0 deg. long left
9. Moonstone Maxima- 0 deg. long left
10. Moonstone Maxima- 0 deg. reg right
11. Moonstone Maxima- 0 deg. reg right
12. Moonstone Maxima- 0 deg. reg right
13. Thermarest pad
14. Thermarest pad
15. Thermarest pad
16. Thermarest pad
17. Ridgerest pad
18. Ridgerest pad
19. EMS crash pad w/repair kit
20. EMS crash pad w/repair kit
21. Thermarest in EMS crash pad sack

Miscellaneous

1. Snow shovels (4-coal type)
2. RCA Camcorder
3. Volley Ball - net - pump
4. Snowshoes 1-pr. W/bindings
5. Moss Parafly (tan)
6. Campmor Parafly(2-blue)
7. Kmart Dining Fly (2-blue)
8. MSR Parawing
9. MSR Vistawing
10. MRS Snowshoes w/6 inch tails
11. MRS Snowshoes w/4 inch tails
12. Snow shovels/snow claws - various for winter
13. TV/VCR w/remote
14. (4) Midland Radios w/chargers
15. (4) Cobra Radios w/chargers
16. (4) Garmin GPS
17. (2) Water rescue ropes
18. (4) Coleman Northstar Lanterns

SOLAR APPLICATION

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Name: | Home Telephone # | |
| Address: | Work Telephone #: | |
| City: | State: | Zip Code: |
| Email: | | |
| Birthday (optional): | | |

SOLAR has permission to publish the following information on its roster: ☐ Home # ☐ Work # ☐ Email
 SOLAR has permission to publish on the SOLAR website my: ☐ Name ☐ Telephone # ☐ Email
 The SOLAR RAY Monthly Newsletter is available each month at the SOLAR website www.solaroutdoors.org. Would you prefer to have it mailed to you? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Payment Type: ☐ Cash ☐ Check (#) _____ Make checks payable to SOLAR
 Type of Membership: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal
☐ Single Annual Membership: \$40.00 ☐ Family Annual Member: \$55.00
☐ Single Lifetime Membership: \$175.00 ☐ Family Lifetime Membership: \$250.00

The following information is required for family memberships:

Spouse's Name: _____ Age: _____
 Other Family Members (under the age of 18): If more than 2 additional members list on back of application.
 Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Age: _____
 Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Age: _____

How did you find out about SOLAR? _____

1. All memberships shall expire at the end of the current calendar year unless otherwise stated on your membership card.
2. **IMPORTANT: THIS MEMBERSHIP WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS THE LIABILITY RELEASE IS READ AND SIGNED**

School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure & Recreation ABSOLUTE LIABILITY RELEASE

Many outdoor activities are inherently dangerous and can cause injury or even death. By joining SOLAR, I agree to assume all of these risks. I agree that SOLAR will not be responsible if I am harmed while I am travelling to, attending, or participating in club meetings, classes or trips, or while using club equipment. In exchange for membership, I agree to release and discharge (waive my rights to bring any personal injury suit against):

1. SOLAR;
2. Its leaders, instructors, steering committee, and all individual members;
3. Its landlord at Colony Hall; and
4. The retail stores that let SOLAR use space for classes.

Exceptions: While SOLAR will have no responsibility for any injury to a member (even if SOLAR is grossly negligent),

I understand that individual SOLAR members, including me, remain fully responsible and liable for any injury or damage caused either by their pets or by their negligent driving of a vehicle.

I have read, understood and agree to this Assumption of Risk Agreement and Liability Release this _____ day of _____, 200_____

Mail application to: Mary Price, 22801 Tulane, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Member's Signature: _____
 Spouse's Signature (REQUIRED on married couple's family memberships): _____
 Parent's Signature, if under 18: _____

SOLAR 2006-2007 CALENDAR
 School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation
 www.solaroutdoors.org

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-------|--|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2/4 | SUN | Super Bowl Party** | Howell, MI | Dave & Noe DeFrance | vicepresident@solaroutdoors.org |
| 2/6 | TUE | GENERAL MEETING | Colony Hall | Lou Szakal | Everest2008@comcast.net |
| 2/6 | TUE | Program: Mountain Top Removal Roadshow | Colony Hall | Karl Overheul | Cyber.nomad@comcast.net |
| 2/9-2/11 | WKND | Dogsledding | South River, Ontario | Karen Bates | Lady_musher@yahoo.com |
| 2/16-2/18 | WKND | Skiing & Snowshoeing | Hartwick Pines State Park | Maria Edwards | mariaedwards1@peoplepc.com |
| 2/18-2/24 | MULTI | Skiing | Gatineau Park, Quebec | Mary Dunn | mdunn4@peoplepc.com |

MARCH ACTIVITIES

| | | | | | |
|---------|------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 3/2-3/4 | WKND | Skiing, Snowshoeing & Hiking | McGuire's Resort | Elizabeth Schwab | ges1339@yahoo |
| 3/6 | TUE | GENERAL MEETING | Colony Hall | Lou Szakal | Everest2008@comcast.net |
| 3/6 | TUE | Program | Colony Hall | Karl Overheul | Cyber.nomad@comcast.net |

MARCH CLASSES

| | | | | | |
|--|-------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29; 4/12, 4/14, 4/15, 4/26; 5/4-5/6 | MULTI | Beginning Backpacking | Berkley Community Center | Mike Banks | Slywolfe52@yahoo.com |
| 3/13 | WED | Know Your Knots Clinic | Livonia Public Library | Joan Tobin | joanrozelle@yahoo.com |
| 3/24 & 6/23 | SAT | Tree ID Clinic | Maybury State Park | Mary Costello | mcostell@mich.com |

APRIL ACTIVITIES

| | | | | | |
|-----------|------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 4/3 | TUE | GENERAL MEETING | Colony Hall | Lou Szakal | Everest2008@comcast.net |
| 4/3 | TUE | Program | Colony Hall | Karl Overheul | Cyber.nomad@comcast.net |
| 4/20-4/22 | WKND | Backpacking | North Manitowish Island | Mike Banks | Slywolfe52@yahoo.com |

APRIL CLASSES

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--|---------------|-------------------------|
| 4/17 & 4/24 | TUE | Mountain Biking | Cycle and Fitness Center, Royal Oak | Nancy McMahon | funoutside1@aol.com |
| 4/18, 4/21-4/22, 4/25 | WED/ WKND | Advanced Land Navigation | TBA | Karl Overheul | Cyber.nomad@comcast.net |
| 4/25, 4/28-4/29 | WED/ WKND | Basic Land Navigation | Livonia Public Library/ Waterloo Recreation Area | Dave Sweeton | davesw@provide.net |

MAY ACTIVITIES

| | | | | | |
|-----------|------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 5/1 | TUE | GENERAL MEETING | Colony Hall | Lou Szakal | Everest2008@comcast.net |
| 5/1 | TUE | Program | Colony Hall | Karl Overheul | Cyber.nomad@comcast.net |
| 5/18-5/20 | WKND | SOLAR Reunion | Brighton Recreation Area | Maureen DeFrance | moedefrance@comcast.net |
| 5/25-5/28 | WKND | Hiking | Tobermory, Ontario | Leslie Cordova | lesliegene@aol.com |

MAY CLASSES

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----|---------------|-------------------------|
| 5/16, 5/19-5/20 | WED/ WKND | Basic Land Navigation | TBA | Karl Overheul | Cyber.nomad@comcast.net |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----|---------------|-------------------------|

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.

If you would like to help plan and/or teach a SOLAR class, please contact Mike Banks at 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. To receive a copy in the mail, please contact Mary Price at hmprice@ameritech.net.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions for the SOLAR Ray are due on the Friday two weeks prior to the monthly Steering Committee Meeting (February 16 for the March issue). Electronic documents only. Please send articles for the March issue to Ati Tislerics at atisleri@med.umich.edu.

STEERING COMMITTEE

President: Lou Szakal
Secretary: Heather Hal.
Activities: Kevin Cotter
Education: Mike Banks
Historian: Dick Ebenhoe
Programs: Karl Overhell
Ray Editor: Rebecca Sweeton

Vice President: Moe DeFrance
Treasurer: Carol McCrie
By-Laws: Cindy Taylor
Equipment: Dave DeFrance
Membership: Mary Price
Public Relations: Pam Szakal
Webmaster: Dave Sweeton

PRESIDENTS AT LARGE

Mike Banks | Leslie Cordova | Moe DeFrance | Al Fylak
Steve Gardner | Bill Halvingis | Cindy Harrison-Felix | Tom Hayes
Doug Lanyk | Larry Martin | Joan Hettinger | Tom Oloffo
Jean & 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.

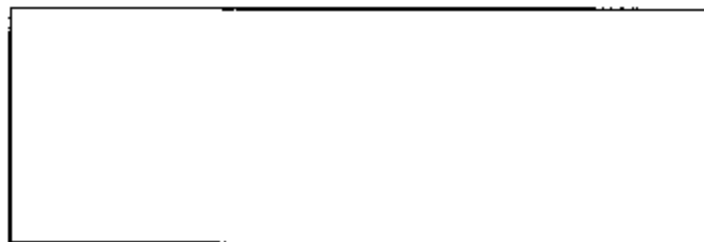
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at: www.solaroutdoors.org.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SOLAR RAY ASSISTANT EDITORS

Winnie Chrzarowski, Kathy Drewyore, Sheila Hardy, Pam Schmeizer, Carol, McCrie, and Elizabeth Schwab

Visit our website: www.solaroutdoors.org



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