



The SOLAR Ray

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

March 2007

LUCKY SNOWFALL!! OR WAS IT?

By Pete Lamb

Jim Coe's annual x/c ski trip to Lake Ann had all the necessary ingredients for a very successful weekend for the twenty-four participants: good company, food and drink in nice surroundings, and most importantly, SNOW. As you probably all know, I bunk out at Jim's, and for several weeks prior to the trip he had been acting strangely, like vanishing on full moon nights. Coming back late at night with a smile on his face, I didn't want to ask, but you can imagine what I thought was going on. I was wrong for once; I happened to go for a walk late one full moon night in Island Lake and I noticed a glow in the woods. I investigated, thinking it may be a fire, but as I came through the trees I saw a teepee covered with symbols, and sitting in front before a fire was Jim. I could tell he was not looking for company, as he had plenty. I could see Geronimo, Seneca, Sitting Bull and many others, and I heard just a bit of the discussion. It was about global warming, and what it would take to get snow on a particular weekend. I sunk back into the woods and went home to wax my skis. I had planned just to hike that weekend; skiing just did not seem possible given the so-called winter so far.

There is no doubt about it, Jim has pull. Three of us, Don Wold, Jim and I, left Brighton on Thursday in a blizzard which continued until we reached Lake Ann, a bit west of Traverse City. The weeks before had been filled with rain and unseasonably warm weather, but now we had almost perfect ski conditions. The three of us skied the Lake Ann trail and a rather nice golf course on Friday. SOLAR members started to show up late Friday afternoon with stories of snow on the way up, and we eventually ended up with about nine or ten inches of snow. Jim had rented two cabins on Lake Ann to accommodate our party. "Cabins" is a misnomer; they are luxury dwellings with plenty of sleeping space and room to socialize in the evenings.

On Saturday, everyone went out to ski or snowshoe somewhere. The weather was stunning, snow showers with sun and temps just right to prevent a thaw but not freeze your hands. A large group did the Lake Ann trail; this took some time, as we had to wait for people to clear several hills before going down ourselves. There are some good ones on that trail, and it pays to go one at a time. Several people took detours into the woods as they failed to negotiate the bends, and they of course had to endure the comments of

their friends. Lunch time caught a large group in Lake Ann village, at a diner that served huge portions and has the most amazing breakfast burritos. After lunch we drove out to Alligator Hill in Sleeping Bear Dunes. It is a long slog on skis up to the top of Alligator Hill and the overlook across Lake Michigan. When they finally reached the top, no one was cold. From the top of the hill both Manitou Islands are easily seen, as well as islands further north; the climb up was well worth the effort.

I cannot personally report on the run down Alligator Hill but I did hear it was a thigh burner. I took a less strenuous hill down with a couple of less experienced skiers. We had our own adventure, with trees fallen across the trail and getting lost as light was failing. Suffice it to say I will carry a cell phone on future trips. I must add, three got lost, one winter camping student and two instructors, and it was the student who had the phone with the right telephone numbers on it to summon help to get us picked up. I must admit to taking the wrong trail which brought us to the wrong parking lot.

Saturday evening was celebrated with a potluck as usual. Jim contributed 4 lbs. of venison, and I had turned it into a stew before leaving home. This was served over noodles and was well received. Of course, there was plenty of other food, salads, cakes, and pies, more than enough as usual. Later in the evening there were games and conversation in one of the cabins. It was a fun evening.

Sunday dawned a fine day, and after cleaning up the cabins, groups left to go home, with stops to ski on the way. From reports I have heard, most skied at Sand Lakes Quiet Area

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and the skiing was good. The drive back was tough, as it snowed hard for most of the journey and it took an extra hour or so to get home. So, to all that went and had such a great time, you must thank those shadowy figures I saw in the woods that night and the deal Jim made with them.

FIRST MOUNTAINEERING PRACTICAL: D-BAR-A SCOUT CAMP, METAMORA, JANUARY 20 & 21, 2007

by Allyson Kemp

Students: Gary, Tim, Susan, Mark, Dave, Doug, Chuck, Michelle, Lisa, Brian, Sherri, Mike

Instructors: Pam, Judy, Craig, Rick, Allyson, Chris, Sharon

It was another great SOLAR weekend. I was psyched to see snow on the ground as I got closer and closer to the Scout camp. When I got to Christoph cabin, our home away from home, I was kicking myself for not bringing skis. The cabin was cozy, with bunk beds, large communal tables and a small kitchen. Our water came from a pump outside, at least until the next day. Pam was our leader this weekend, and by the time I got there Saturday morning things were already rolling. Chris, Judy and Sharon led the way with seminars on gear use and making prusiks, which we would use later in ascending. Knowing how to get out of a crevasse and rescue your teammate comes in handy on a glacier.

While students made their Texas and waist prusiks, Rick and Craig set up a rope in a tree for ascending practice. In Michigan you have to use what is available to simulate prusiking out of a crevasse! Craig and I also set up a Z-pulley system. A Z-pulley gives you a 3:1 advantage, so in the event your rope mate can't prusik out, pulling him or her out is feasible.

After lunch, the students practiced ascending and descending and setting up their own Z-pulley. As people went up the rope to "ring" (or smooch...Mike) the carabiner, clothing came off, as using a prusik takes a lot of effort. At the Z-pulley station, students set up the system in pairs, while another cheerfully played the role of victim being pulled up the slope. It just so happened that some victims were fighters and could get a good foothold on the stairs buried in the snow, making their ascension just a little more difficult.

After dinner, we decided to take a walk before watching movies. It was a lovely, crystal clear night, with Orion, Cassiopeia, the Big Dipper and the Pleiades watching over us. I could write another article about our walk, but you will just have to ask someone. Make sure you include the words map, compass, consensus, time and blue trail markers in your questions.

Back at the cabin, Craig set up the computer and screen for our movie and Susan made popcorn. We settled in to watch a NOVA special and a DVD on climbing Mt. Rainier. Many retired for the night at this point, but some of us couldn't resist "Touching the Void". If you haven't seen this movie, you're missing out.

The next morning we made backpack safety ropes and roped up for rope team practice. Students practiced falling, avoiding crevasses drawn artfully in the snow, and keeping the slack out of the rope. There was much humor, laughter and concentration as we rounded the open field, ate peanut butter swirl bars, and avoided the deadly crevasses.

Once at the cabin, we had to clean and sort out gear. Then we took off for lunch in Metamora. Many of us went to the White Horse Inn, complete with a tea room upstairs. As always with a SOLAR group, the food and spirits after a weekend outdoors were appreciated with great gusto, as are the restaurants that accept us.



THE RECUMBENT VOYAGER

by Winnie Chrzanowski



Park Ranger: True Stories from a Ranger's Career in America's National Parks
Nancy Eileen Muleady-Mecham
Vishnu Temple Press, 244 pages
\$14.95

After reading *Park Ranger*, one can't help but think that Nancy Muleady-Mecham may have provided the inspiration for Anna Pigeon, the park ranger extraordinaire of Nevada Barr's novels. *Park Ranger* is an easy read about incidents and events in Muleady-Mecham's 20+ years with the National Park Service (NPS) as a fire fighter, EMT, park naturalist, and protection ranger in Sequoia-Kings Canyon, Everglades, Death Valley, Pearl Harbor, Great Smoky Mountains and Grand Canyon National Parks. It's obvious after reading the 19 stories in this book that she's skilled at her profession, confident, and competent. It's astounding that one person has all the skills she has.

Nancy goes beyond the campfire conversations and helps us look past the familiar green uniforms to provide a feel for what really goes on behind the scenes at our National Parks—things we as visitors hardly ever think about, unless we're in trouble and need a ranger to rescue us. She offers up background information and details about wilderness first aid, swift water search and rescue, law enforcement, fire fighting, and backcountry adventures. Through the stories, she communicates the dedication these people have to our natural resources and to the public that enjoys them. If anyone thinks he/she should go into a career with the NPS, *Park Ranger* offers an up-close and personal look at what's involved.

In the story *Grand Slam*, we discover that when a park ranger responds to a law enforcement incident, a fire, an emergency medical incident, and a search incident in one 24-hour period, it's known as a *Grand Slam*. Her own *Grand Slam* takes place in Death Valley as a series of unrelated emergencies conspire to prevent her from making it to court in time for the arraignment of a suspect.

While the information and the anecdotes about the backcountry in the stories are interesting, I really only enjoyed a couple of them. After a while, they became repetitive and dull. Nancy's style is matter-of-fact and devoid of emotion. That's great in a ranger but not in a storyteller. Her almost clinical tone may be a result of her medical training. Due to that training, she uses many acronyms. Thoughtfully, she provides explanations and a glossary to help the reader. It provides a nice touch and evidence of her concern for her fellow creatures. Unfortunately, for me, the acronym explanations started to detract from the stories.

The writing, though filled with details, was a bit too simplistic. I didn't get a sense of place from the book even though I'd been to some of them. The book read like a journal she kept so she could remind herself of her accomplishments. While she has earned the right to be impressed with her skills and accomplishments, she comes across as being too self-important. A touch of humility and fewer sentences starting with "I did" or "I" would have gone a long way toward making this book more agreeable. Some of the stories came across like a first year composition student's personal essay: "what did you do and what did you learn from it?"

It's a good book to borrow if you want a quick read where you don't have to think too much.



CRAWLATHON 2007

by Dick Ebenhoe



Rappelling



Horn Hollow Cave



Leslie Cordova

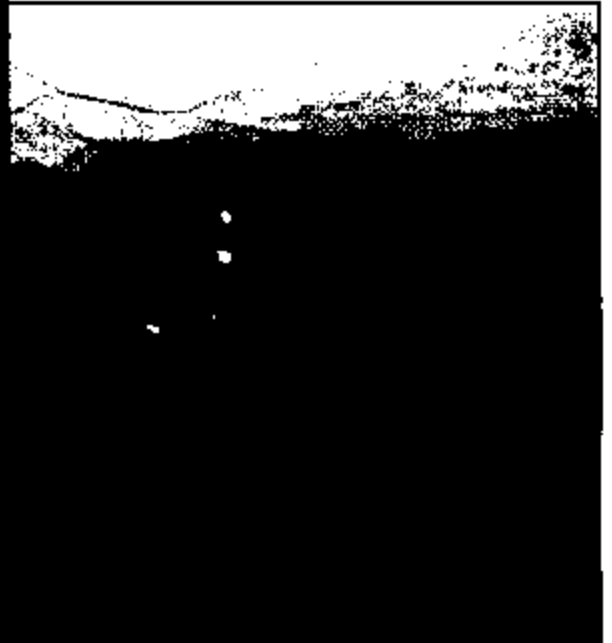


Peggy Skaggs & Heather Hall

CRAWLATHON 2007
by Dick Ebenhoe



Gene Cordova



Leslie Cordova



Peggy Skaggs & Dick Ebenhoe



Rapelling

SPOTLIGHT ON DAVE SWEETON

by Rebecca Sweeton



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF SOLAR?

I joined in August of 2003, so it's been almost 4 years.

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH SOLAR?

When I started getting back into outdoors sports, I looked around for local hiking clubs. I didn't manage to find SOLAR through my web searches (maybe because I was focused more in the Ann Arbor area?). However, while I was doing a solo training hike on the Manistee River Trail I ran into a member (Doug Lanyk, if I remember correctly) who told me all about the club. It sounded like an interesting and diverse club, so I decided to make the drive to Southfield the next month. It was a little intimidating not knowing anyone, but I joined that first meeting and signed up for the Fall Basic Backpacking course. The rest is history!

HOW DID YOU START BACKPACKING?

I have always loved the outdoors, and was very active in Boy Scouts as a kid (as well as camping in the backyard and on family vacations). In my early 20's, when I was getting my career started (i.e. being a workaholic), I didn't find any time to get outdoors. Fortunately, after a few years I realized that my life was missing a big dose of nature, as well as adventure and exercise. I decided that backpacking was a great way to blend my love of hiking and camping, while allowing me to get to more remote places. I didn't know anyone who backpacked, so I started reading books to figure out the how, and I made a lot of mistakes. I still remember my first training trip (in a steamy August) when I did an 18 mile hike with boots that didn't actually fit, and dressed in all cotton that chafed under my pack straps and never dried! I've developed a few more skills since then, so I enjoy it much better now!

WHAT HAS YOUR FAVORITE TRIP BEEN SO FAR?

Many, many great trips, but my favorite has to be a SOLAR trip to the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico in 2004 (led by Dick Eberhoe). We went with a small, but good group of people. The Gila Wilderness is a huge protected area (one of the first designated wildernesses), and has a very diverse landscape. We spent 3 days hiking up a river canyon (crossing the river at least 69 times). After leaving the canyon, we hiked up into the mountains (now relying on very small springs for our water). One day after trudging up hill, literally all day, we came to a clearing on the side of the mountain named Snow Park. It was a beautiful and huge grassy meadow with spectacular views. Reminds me of the "Hills are alive" scene from the Sound of Music, except much much better! Being up in the mountains, in the middle of nowhere (2 hours from a small town), in New Mexico, that peak had the best star viewing I've ever seen. It remains one of the most beautiful places I've ever experienced, and will always be a favorite spot.

WHAT WOULD YOUR DREAM TRIP BE?

I want to go everywhere! After hearing about it from so many people, I want to visit the Wind River Range. Glacier National park is also high on my list (before they melt!). I just visited New Zealand (on my Honeymoon), and seeing all the great hiking there, I have to go back and do some more of their "Great Walks" including the Milford Track, the Routeburn, and Tongariro National Park. I want to hike in Vancouver, Yellowstone, Maine, Washington and everywhere in between!

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

Not sure actually. I really like all the new classes and clinics we've been developing lately and some of the upcoming ones sound really interesting (car camping, biking, tree identification). In general, I'd just like to see lots of classes on diverse topics (anything that interests SOLAR members).

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCE IN SOLAR?

Serving on the Steering Committee (I'm in my first term as webmaster) has been very rewarding and enjoyable. However, I'd have to say the most rewarding experiences have been in helping to teach the classes. It's a great way to get to know members (including newly joined members). I enjoy introducing people to the activities I'm passionate about, and hopefully imparting some of my skills and lessons learned.

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

Only being in the club for 4 years, I don't have a huge basis for judging. Membership has generally increased over the years, some old friends leaving (usually because they've moved out of state), and many new faces have joined. We seem to be having an increasing amount of interest in classes lately. Activities have gone up and down, I've seen times with more stuff going on (and more interest from members), and times with less. Definitely less winter activities going on, but I think that's explained by the general lack of suitable white stuff. Basically, I guess the club is always changing and evolving. It's hard to say for sure where it will be in 5 - 10 years, but as long as the membership is engaged and people volunteer to lead trips and teach classes, the club should always be a fun and interesting place to be.



SOLAR HIKE SCHEDULE - MARCH 2007

by Matt Dalton

- Keep Your New Year's resolution, stay active and healthy. Hike with SOLAR. Non-members & children welcome. Hikes start at 9:30 AM. Hike Coordinator: Matt Dalton, 248-360-0031, 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.
- We need more club members to join and lead these or other hikes !!!
- This is a great way to get MORE active with SOLAR, make more friends and get into better shape. Let's see more of the backpacking class folks.
- March 4, 2007, Sunday - 9:30 AM, SOLAR 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.
- March 4, 2007 Sunday - 11:00ish AM, Sierra Club, Highland State Rec Area. Join us on a 6 mile hike through varied terrain and habitat. Moderate pace. Optional restaurant stop after. John Herrgott, 248-766-9575
- March 10, 2007, Saturday - 9:30 AM, SOLAR, Pontiac Lake State Park: North of M-59 Highland Rd. and west of Williams Lake Rd. Meet in the NW corner of the Gale Rd. parking lot.
- March 11, 2007, Sunday - Heritage Park Hike, 10:00 AM, Sierra Club. 4 mile hike at a moderate pace, good birding. Park off Farmington Rd. between 10 & 11 mile. Hike leader Phil, 313-562-1873
- March 18, 2007, Sunday - 9:30 AM, SOLAR 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. If you slept in, start later: Join the Sierra Club at 12:00 Noon, Joanne 248-932-5370
- March 24, 2007, Saturday - 9:30 AM, Kensington Metropark. 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.
- March 24, 2007, Saturday - 10:30 AM, Proud Lake State Park, Sierra Club, 4-5 miles, moderate pace, restaurant stop after. Liz 313-581-7579
- April 1, 2007, Sunday - 9:30 AM, SOLAR 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.

SOLAR 2ND ANNUAL REUNION

May 18 20, 2007

by Carol McCririe

Many of you were in attendance when SOLAR celebrated its 30th anniversary reunion at Brighton Recreation Area in 2006. It was such a success that we decided to make it an annual event. So, if you're up for a relaxing car-camping weekend with old and new friends, go to www.midmrreservations.com and book a campsite at the Bishop Lake campground. Last year, SOLAR booked sites 4 to 47 in the upper campground. On the web site you will not be able to reserve a specific site, but you can use the comments section to ask for a site in the upper campground and/or a specific site number if you have a favorite. They don't guarantee the results, but they do their best. Plan to bring your own supplies for the weekend and whatever toys you want. There are sure to be hikes, bike rides, swimming, and more! New members and long-time members, please come and enjoy the fun! For more information or questions, contact Carol McCririe at cmccririe@sbcglobal.net.

TAKE SOLAR MOUNTAIN BIKING 101 AND DISCOVER THE ADVENTURE!

"Mountain biking is about adventure and the rediscovery of your childhood freedom. It removes you from the daily grind and puts you in an environment with endless possibilities - wildlife, epic views, a personal epiphany about what really matters, and tasting your own endorphins after a long, hard climb. The reward is looking back at obstacles that are now behind you, and feeling anything's possible."

- Gary Klein

Contact: Nancy McMahon, funouts.de1@aol.com

THE INFAMOUS PEE BOTTLE

by Allyson Kemp

No, pee bottles aren't commonly written about, but they are quite often discussed - maybe not around the dinner table but certainly around the campfire. One of my goals for the final mountaineering practical was to be able to use one competently so I wouldn't freeze my butt off outside. After getting advice from a couple of women, I had my course of action: practice, and then go for it. Don't laugh. I wasn't planning to use a Freshette, so accuracy was of great importance. I practiced in the bathtub a couple of times, and it went surprisingly well. Unfortunately, on my first attempt I was so focused on hitting the bottle - just a regular old Nalgene bottle - that I forgot about toilet paper. It was a bit of a reach from the tub. Sigh. Anyhow, I tried it out in the tent that first blustery night. Yeah! Success! I tell you, it is the way to go. I think of all the times I didn't hydrate well enough because I didn't want to have to get up or the times I spent swatting mosquitoes .. well, no more!

A HANDS-DOWN GREAT SUMMER EXCURSION

by Mike Hobig

Ever considered vacationing on the little finger of your left hand? Probably not, but... take your left hand, place it palm down on the table, and imagine it's a map of Michigan. Now, look at your little fingernail. You'll find some pretty neat places there: Leland, Sleeping Bear Dunes, and Frankfort, to name just a few.

My plan is to explore those exotic places June 30 through July 4. Eight spots are available. I expect to be tenting, but campsites and accommodations will be worked out closer to trip time. I want to get early input and commitment from interested parties so I can make reservations and establish a trip plan. This area is popular and fills up quickly so I want to get an early start.

The trip focus is to day hike some dune areas - Sleeping Bear and Pyramid Point - and to tour the Port Oneida Rural Historic District (old farm buildings, barns, houses, sugar shack, schools, cemeteries), either by foot or by car. I'm still gathering information on these places.

Other destinations I plan to include are more touristy, but worth visiting. "Fish Town", an old fishing area, now houses a trendy outdoor collection of shops and also includes a general store, a maritime museum, the old cannery boathouse, and a blacksmith shop.

At least one refreshing dip into Lake Michigan would be great. Another possibility is to go down the Lake Michigan hill at Sleeping Bear from the scenic drive. Remember, though: climbing back up to the top is a real heart check. If you're not up for that, just enjoying the gorgeous Lake Michigan shoreline works.

Fireworks and an art fair in Leland and Frankfort for the Fourth promise to provide extra fun and entertainment. Jim Coe promises some recommendations on great places to eat, so we'll be exploring with our taste buds too.

I'll be staying 'up north' after the 5th of July, so I can carpool for the trip up to our little fingernail but not for the return. Cost is currently pegged at \$25 per person; it's expected that we'll share the cost of gas, camping fees, food, and park passes. The final cost will be set once the planning and reservations are in place. I'll announce this trip at the next meeting to determine interest.

Now's the time to consider joining me on my visit to the Sleeping Bear Dunes area to do some day hiking, historical sight seeing, and fun touristy stuff.



FINAL MOUNTAINEERING PRACTICAL: NORDHOUSE DUNES, FEBRUARY 3, 4, 5, 2007

by Allyson Kemp

What a fantastic time! Despite the cold temperatures, I had a blast, in no small part due to everyone who participated. This is a story about our weekend. There was a winter storm watch, cold weather advisory, wind chill advisory, and whiteout conditions predicted. Sounds like the perfect time to sleep in a tent and practice mountaineering skills on the dunes of Lake Michigan.

Craig and I arrived at the trailhead at dusk after filling up our Thermos with hot water at Subway. We got our sleds packed and attached to our backpacks, and our headlamps in place. It was probably 4 degrees Fahrenheit before factoring in wind chill. Lou, our fearless leader, had already pulled a sled in, so all we had to do was follow his tracks over the hills and through the woods.

Coming in to camp was lovely. Just as we came up a small hill, there was a candle lantern flickering. There is something magical about seeing a little burning light in the distance and knowing you are almost home. We set up the tent and boiled some water to fill our water bottles to stay cozy and a Thermos for morning coffee/soup. Did I mention that the wind was blowing, even in our protected little bowl?



We weren't the last ones in, either. Other instructors and students arrived over the next few hours. There was stomping down tent beds, pack explosions, and more melting of snow. How many people do you know who would willingly go out well after dark in such low temperatures?

The next morning, after getting our watches in sync (one frozen, one dead and one 12 hours off), we all skied/hiked out to the trailhead to meet the rest of the group. After they packed their sleds and packs, we all roped up and hiked in together. At camp, more setting up, and more boiling water (a never ending job). Despite the many non-functioning stoves, with repair kits and enough stoves to go around, people took care of each other.

We roped up and took a short hike in the afternoon on the dunes in bitter cold winds to practice rope management. We also practiced falling, to improve our team response time in arresting the fall. Once back at camp, yet more melting of snow to hydrate and stay warm. Saturday

afternoon we practiced self-arrest and did a wee bit of sledding - thanks to Rick, Mike and Judy for making such wonderful chutes. Confidence grew as people went head first and upside down. Most everyone went for another hike to warm up and explore the area before dinner.

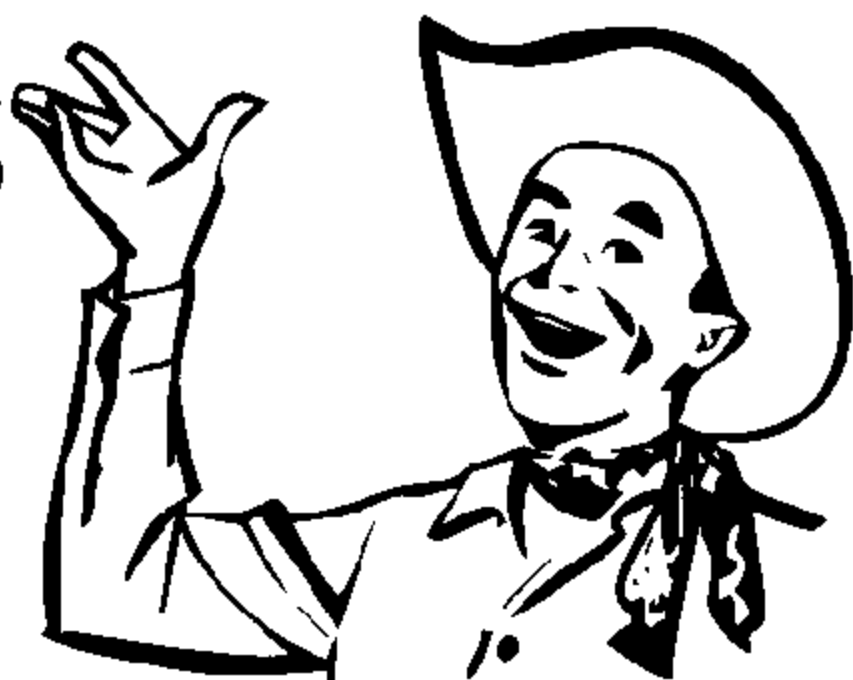
The prize for the best dinner goes to Chuck, Doug and Michele for their venison with a side of organic wild mushroom soup. Now that is livin'. Dave was a close second with frozen pizza in a Ziploc bag re-heated with hot water. We can't forget the Oreos, either. I'm telling you, you can't go wrong with Oreos and peanut butter cups out in the cold - they don't freeze! The best drink award goes to Mark with his special hot cocoa mix.



In bed by 6 PM. Well, almost... just that one pesky pot of water that wouldn't boil! At midnight, up for our alpine start. We got dressed, downed something warm and clipped into our ropes. It was 0 degrees with a wind chill of -24. With snow falling and winds whistling by, Lou led the way across the dunes and around bowls, happily post-holing along the way. Ice axes in hand, we followed, our headlamps strung out across the dunes. The students were awesome... staying focused, practicing rope management and team arrest. Some teams empathized with other teams a little more than necessary, and self-arrested when another team's member "fell." While we didn't have the amazing ice formations of years past, it was a great simulation of an alpine start and gave everyone a good idea of what conditions could be like, especially on a summit.

Back at camp, around 2:45 AM, we headed to bed. The next morning it was 1 degree without factoring in the wind. We decided to break camp and head out. It was a beautiful hike, with fresh snow on all the pines and hemlocks and more falling. We arrived at the trailhead with frosty lashes and hair, ready to hit the James Port Pub in Ludington. Warm food, hot cocoa, coffees and beer all around (diet Coke for those running 16.9 miles later!). Whipped cream was a big hit - any luxury was appreciated! We parted company to begin the long drive home.

*Special thanks to
Ati Tislerics for
organizing all the
articles and photos
for this month's
SOLAR Ray!*



WHAT'S MISSING?

Your article!

Your pictures!

Your trip recommendation!

Email YOUR contributions to the SOLAR Ray at:
rayeditor@solaroutdoors.org

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

MARCH EVENTS

3/2-3/4	WKND	Skiing/Snowshoeing/Hiking	McGuire's Resort	Elizabeth Schwab	qes1339@yahoo.com
3/6	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	Colony Hall	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net
3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29; 4/12, 4/14- 4/15, 4/26; 4/5 & 4/4- 4/6	MULTI	Beginning Backpacking Class	Berkley Community Center	Mike Banks	Slywolfe52@yahoo.com
3/13	SAT	Know Your Knots Class	Livonia Public Library	Joan Rozelle	joanrozelle@yahoo.com
3/24 & 6/23	SAT	Tree ID Class	Mary Costello	Maybury State Park	mcostell@mich.com

APRIL EVENTS

4/3	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	Colony Hall	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net
4/17, 4/24	TUE	Mountain Biking Class	Cycle and Fitness Center, Royal Oak	Nancy McMahon	funoutside1@aol.com
4/20-4/22	WKND	Backpacking Trip	North Manitou Island	Mike Banks	Slywolfe52@yahoo.com
4/25, 4/28- 4/29	WED/ WKND	Basic Land Navigation Class	Livonia Public Library/ Waterloo Rec Area	Dave Sweeton	davesw@provide.net

MAY EVENTS

5/1	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	Colony Hall	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net
5/1	TUE	Program: Annual Elections	Colony Hall	Karl Overheul	Cyber.nomad@comcast.net
5/16, 5/19- 5/20	WED/ WKND	Basic Land Navigation Class	TBA	Karl Overheul	Cyber.nomad@comcast.net
5/18-5/20	WKND	Annual SOLAR Reunion	Brighton Recreation Area	Carol McCririe	crnccrine@sbcglobal.net
5/25-5/28	WKND	Memorial Weekend Getaway	Tobermory, Ontario	Leslie Cordova	lesliegere@aol.com

JUNE EVENTS

6/5	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	Colony Hall	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net
6/30-7/4	MULTI	Summer Trip	Leland, Sleeping Bear Dunes, Frankfort	Mike Hobig	mhobig@ford.com

JULY EVENTS

7/3	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	Colony Hall	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net
7/20-7/23	MULTI	Backpacking	Monongahela National Forest, West Virginia	Natalie Jewell	woodsromer@yahoo.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.

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 (March 16 for the April issue). Electronic documents only. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Sweeton at rayeditor@solaroutdoors.org.

STEERING COMMITTEE

President: Lou Szakal	Vice President: Moe DeFrance
Secretary: Heather Hall	Treasurer: Carol McCrinie
Activities: Kevin Cotter	By-Laws: Cindy Taylor
Education: Mike Banks	Equipment: Dave DeFrance
Historian: Dick Ebenhoe	Membership: Mary Price
Programs: Karl Overheul	Public Relations: Pam Szakal
Ray Editor: Rebecca Sweeton	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
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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at: www.solaroutdoors.org.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SOLAR RAY ASSISTANT EDITORS

Winnie Chizarowski, Kathy Drewyure, Sheila Hardy, Pam Schmezer, Carol, McCrinie, and Elizabeth Schwab

Visit our website: www.solaroutdoors.org



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