



The SOLAR Ray

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

April 2008

JORDAN RIVER VALLEY PATHWAY

Shakedown for SOLAR Grand Canyon Backpacking Trip
by Sara Cockrell

Well, there have not been many recent springtimes when we've had snow this late in the season in Northwest Michigan. The forecast for our "shakedown" was for high 30s on Saturday, with snow then rain, and low 20s overnight, followed by partly cloudy on Sunday, up to low 40s. Not particularly similar to the Grand Canyon in May. Susan offered us a place to stay Friday night, where we enjoyed a wonderful late dinner and watched a video on backpacking in the Grand Canyon.

Due to the deep snow in the woods, the dirt seasonal roads into Jordan Valley were still unplowed, so Grey decided we should start our trek from M-32 at Warner Creek on the North Country Trail. When we arrived at the trailhead Saturday morning, we were all surprised how deep the snow was, until we passed the Dead Man's Hill loop. From then on, it was mostly dirt pathway. As the afternoon progressed, the snow changed to wetter flakes, finally raining, after we set up our tents. As the evening cooled down, the moisture relented, and Grey, with lots of patience and supplies, was able to get the moist wood to burn. Oh, how we enjoyed the warmth, socializing around the fire ring, drying jackets, gloves and boots, after our 11-mile trek.

It was a cold night for most, with sleet on our tents Sunday morning, but we shoved off fairly early, for our 13-mile loop back, with the help of some ibuprofen and a hot breakfast. Up and down we hiked on frozen leaves, past cascading



creeks, enjoying the sunshine, almost warm again. After a lunch stop, we reached Dead Man's Hill, postholing back down to the Jordan River Valley through 6 inches of snow to return to M-32. This time, it seemed a long 3 miles, probably due to fatigued legs and shoulders, and the soft snow. The trail looked so different from 24 hours before, when it was snowing and gray. We had done it, learned much from each other, and bonded for our upcoming trip to the Grand Canyon, where our packs will be lighter, our bodies stronger, and the scenery, oh so AWESOME!

ANNUAL SOLAR STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

On May 6, 2008, SOLAR will be holding its annual Steering Committee elections. By running for one of the positions, or just by participating in the voting process, you can have a say in which direction SOLAR is heading. All currently paid members are eligible to run and vote. No experience is necessary—just a willingness to make SOLAR the best outdoor club it can be!

The Steering Committee is comprised of the following positions:

OFFICERS

- President—Oversees monthly meetings, fields member questions and concerns
- Vice President—Assists president and steps in for him or her when necessary
- Secretary—Takes minutes at Steering Committee meetings
- Treasurer—Manages club finances, bank account and reimburses members

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

- Education—Oversees all classes and provides direction to lead instructors
- Membership—Manages membership lists, collects dues and oversees liability release forms
- Activities—Collects, posts and announces monthly activities
- Programs—Organizes all monthly programs held at membership meetings
- Public Relations—Promotes club at local events, in media and organizes members for participation in grassroots event (i.e. National Trails Days)
- SOLAR Ray Editor—Collects and edits articles, formats and prints newsletter
- Equipment—Stores, organizes, distributes, and repairs SOLAR rental equipment
- Historian—Collects and stores information about SOLAR
- By-Laws—Oversees SOLAR by-laws and changes
- Webmaster—Manages, maintains and updates SOLAR's website

The following people are currently on the ballot:

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

- ☐ Cindy Taylor
- ☐ Lou Szakal

VICE PRESIDENT

- ☐ Carol McCririe

SECRETARY

- ☐ ?

TREASURER

- ☐ Michelle Delaporte

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

EDUCATION

- ☐ Allen Duncan

HISTORIAN

- ☐ Debbie Zuchlewski

PROGRAMS CHAIRPERSON

- ☐ Jan Duncan

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRPERSON

- ☐ Pam Riehl Szakal

ACTIVITIES CHAIRPERSON

- ☐ Kevin Cotter

SOLAR RAY EDITOR

- ☐ Pete Lamb

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

- ☐ Mary Price

EQUIPMENT

- ☐ Adam Greener

BYLAWS CHAIRPERSON

- ☐ Chuck Smith

WEBMASTER

- ☐ Willi Gutmann
- ☐ Grey Ivanov

If you are interested in running for a position or have any questions, please contact Allen Duncan, Programs Chair, at programs@solaroutdoors.org. After April 11, you may select to be a write-in candidate. All candidates will have an opportunity to introduce themselves before the elections take place at the May general meeting on May 6. All positions are considered open.

SPOTLIGHT ON JIM COE

by Rebecca Sweeton



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF SOLAR?

If my memory is correct, I have been a member of SOLAR for 6 years.

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH SOLAR?

I heard about SOLAR through several outdoor shops including The Benchmark. I was familiar with the club for years, but had not made an effort to search out how to join until many of my skiing, backpacking and climbing partners had moved away. I was searching for people of like interests so I finally made it to a meeting. Honestly, I felt a bit like a fish out of water at the meeting not knowing anyone. It seemed like a friendly group so I decided to join and eventually become a life member and have not regretted it since.

HOW DID YOU START BACKPACKING?

My father was an avid outdoorsman and I spent time with him traveling in the Killarney Ontario area in the late 1960s and 70s. We traveled the hard way carrying a canoe between lakes and swatting bugs. He encouraged me to join Boy Scouts where I was able to reach the level of Life Scout. Having suffered from asthma badly as I child, my idea was to do everything they said I could not do, including becoming the Troop 38 bugler. I really thought that the other scouts appreciated me playing reveille at 7 am every morning until I discovered my mouthpiece had somehow become unchained from my bugle and disappeared.

Later after having graduated with a degree in Parks and Recreation I worked at Interlochen State Park for 3 years then got laid off. That's when I moved to Colorado and scored a job working as Recreation Crew Forman for The US Forest Service in the Rio Grand National Forest, Saguache district. My job was taking care of the campgrounds, checking in campers and backcountry trails as well as fighting forest fires. I lost some friends on Storm King Mountain one year, but it was never a dull movement. Later I transferred to the Deschutes National Forest and lived in a cabin on the shores of Paulina Lake in a dormant volcano called Newberry Crater. It is between Bend and Crater Lake National Park in Oregon. I would like to lead a winter backcountry ski trip around Crater Lake some day. Well, that was the start.

WHAT HAS YOUR FAVORITE TRIP BEEN SO FAR?

As most people would say, how do I choose? For SOLAR trips I would have to say backpacking in Yosemite or Glacier National Park, but I enjoyed walking through Ireland as well.

WHAT WOULD YOUR DREAM TRIP BE?

Wow! Maybe the Napali Coast Trail in Hawaii or the Rockwall Trail in Kootenai Provincial Park. But if I could go anywhere I would like to go to the moon and walk the rim of the Sea of Tranquility someday. Maybe I will post that trip next year what do you think, Kevin?

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

A lot of new classes have been added lately which I think is fantastic. I was thinking after talking with other instructors at the EMW class at Green Lake that maybe we could do a short half day class on equipment maintenance such as how to thoroughly clean a backpacking stove or how to seal a tent.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCE IN SOLAR?

The most rewarding thing I can think of would be when people e-mail to say thank you for leading a trip. I should say thank you because I got to stay for free. Nothing is better than having friends to share a good time with and enjoy it as much as I do.

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

I have said it already, but I have seen a great effort by members to step up and lead more classes like mountain biking, knot tying, car camping and such. What a great job. I think members should step back and say, wow these people do all this work and don't get paid a dime. Think about that the next time you complain. It seems like the group has gotten younger as well. Wait a minute, maybe it's me getting older?!? I wouldn't have traded my experiences with all my SOLAR friends for anything. Thanks for putting up with me!

6 DAYS OF SNOWSHOEING AND SLEDGING

*Across The Heart Of Lake Superior Provincial Park In Ontario, Canada With The Michigan Bush Rats And Michael Neiger
by C.A. Susan*

Friday—At the Mad Moose Lodge on the shore of Lake Superior

Drove up to the Mad Moose Lodge on Lake Superior just south of the Montreal River to meet up with the rest of the trip crew: Dave who was there when I arrived, Dennis who arrived shortly after me, Michael, our trip leader who had planned the trip and coordinated all the details, and Gail who had decided only that morning to come on the trip (as someone who takes days, make that weeks, to prep and pack for these trips, I was impressed!)

We caught up with one another (some of us having not seen each other for almost a year), did “show and tell” with new equipment acquisitions, and talked about recent gear-making projects.

And, of course, we went to bed too late...

Saturday—Mijin Lake

Up by 7:00 a.m. to start breakfast and heat water for our water bottles for the day. Dave lit his auxiliary MSR Dragonfly stove to expedite the process and we all worked on getting our gear organized and making sure everything we needed was stowed on our sledges. Anything we forgot we'd have to live without for the week ahead (hopefully it wouldn't be an essential like food or a sleeping bag)!

As usual, it took some time to spot cars at a couple of locations, drop the sledges off and dig out space in the snow for Dennis' car at our starting point: Highway 17 at Mijinemungshing Lake Road (hereafter referred to as Mijin Lake for obvious reasons). At around 11:30 a.m. we started our trip by heading east on Mijin Lake Rd (closed and unplowed for the season) up and over a series of long gradual climbs in the Baldhead River watershed.

Michael set a pretty good pace in order to get to Mijin Lake tonight which would set us up for what seemed very reasonable distances to travel across Lake Superior Provincial Park in the days to come. Our goal was to cross the park from Highway 17 on the west to the Algoma Central Railway (ACR) train tracks on the east side of the park.

Last year we encountered extremely difficult travel conditions (lake slush under the snow which froze solid on our snowshoes and sledges, tough terrain, deep snow, and brutal cold) that prevented a similar crossing of the park. In fact, all previous attempts to cross the park were unsuccessful for various reasons and this year's was the Bush Rats' 5th attempt (my 3rd) to make it across the park. The plan this year was to reach the train tracks, flag down the southbound train, take it to Old Frater and trek the last 5km back out to Hwy 17 and our cars.

At our lunch stop on Mijin Lake Road, Dennis told us that

he was not feeling well and thought he may be on the verge of getting sick. Much to our disappointment, he made the decision to turn back at that point and not risk getting a full-blown illness in the middle of the wilderness. Definitely a tough decision, given all the preparation for and anticipation of a trip like this. (Turned out to be the right one though because he told us after the trip that he did indeed get sick after heading out.) We missed him badly—he is a regular on these Canadian winter trips and he brings a lot of experience, companionship and good stories. Not to mention those blueberry muffins last year!

It's always disconcerting when someone leaves a trip like that. You worry about whether they'll get out OK, even though in this case it was a straight shot back out Mijin Lake Road. You also have to adjust your expectations of the trip when someone who has been an integral part of previous trips is no longer part of the mix.

After lunch and saying our good-byes, we proceeded along Mijin Lake Road until we got to the lake itself, then headed up the lake to its north arm and chose a bivouac site just southwest of a projecting point of land. We were now in the Anjigami River watershed.

We set up our respective shelters, had our dinners, then settled in for the night.

Sunday—Blizzard dumps loads of deep powder

I awoke in the night (actually very early Sunday morning) to my tarp closed in around my face by the weight of the fresh fallen snow. I got up and swiped and shoveled some of it off to give myself a little more sleeping space until daylight. When I got up and around, it looked like we had had an accumulation of about 4-6 inches and it was still snowing. The morning temp was minus 4°F.

After breakfast and packing up, we continued our trek



east on the north arm of Mijin Lake. The lake effect snow allowed an intermittent appearance of the hazy sun. Michael did the lion's share of trail breaking on this trip but I helped him when I could, including a stretch on the lake today, which felt good. You never know how you're going to feel on these trips and after an exhausting effort last year, I was encouraged by how I felt physically, at least at this early stage of the game.

We left Mijin Lake and headed up toward Maquon Lake on the portage trail, where the snow was deep and the hills short, but steady. I was struck by how well my snowshoe crampons worked on these hills. Michael had made them by hand for his, Dave's and my traditional wooden Ojibwa snowshoes.

Like many folks, I was accustomed to the lighter but smaller aluminum snowshoes with crampons, but after struggling in very soft and deep snow the last couple of years, I bought the Ojibwas, even the smallest of which were said to have more floatation than many of the aluminum snowshoes currently on the market. My new Ojibwas were working great in the deep snow conditions we were encountering on the flats, but my one concern about them had been how well they would climb. Today's hilly portage trail answered my questions about their climbing ability.

We headed a short distance up Maquon Lake and stopped for lunch. We thought we were getting out of the wind, but either the wind shifted or it was just swirling around the lake as it sometimes does, and the crew got cold, especially after sweating on the hills of the portage trail we had just climbed to get to the lake. Everyone put on their heaviest insulated jackets and pants (affectionately known as "puffy suits") and there was a lot of moving around trying to warm up.

After we'd had enough stomping and arm swinging and eating and drinking, we made for the northeast edge of the lake and our exit back into the protection and exertion of traveling through the bush. We followed the terrain in a northeasterly direction, over the height of land into the Ogas River watershed. We climbed a draw and set up camp



near the top. After a bad tarp set-up and a frustrating fire-starting experience, I was happy to call it a night and go to bed early. Tomorrow is a new day...nighttime temp: minus 20°F.

Monday—A very cold night: minus 31 °F

The temperature hovered around minus 20°F this morning as well. The sun was bright and the sky, the beautiful shade of blue that accompanies those really cold clear days. The bright white snow piled on the tree branches was striking. We had been accumulating several inches of snow each of the last few days.

After packing up our gear we headed out of camp, climbing for a while before descending to an unnamed lake where we took a brief break and some photos before heading back into the bush. We bushwhacked for a while with Michael leading the way until we reached an open area at a creek, where we took another rest. I was very cold and realized I hadn't been eating or drinking enough which has a big impact on keeping warm, so I devoured some trail mix and drank some water before we headed off again.

After lunch at the edge of another unnamed lake, we continued in a southeasterly direction where the lake narrowed. We skirted a beaver dam, then bushwhacked northeast to a small flattened knoll surrounded by spruce trees where we decided to camp for the night. We set up our respective bivouacs: Dave under his tarp, using his combined, aluminum sledge traces for a VERY tall rear tarp pole. We wondered what stations he was going to pull in on that thing at night.

Gail and Michael opted for a very long, end-to-end snow trench. I pitched my tarp in an explorer configuration, at





which time I noticed a small diamond shaped burn hole near one corner. It must have happened last night, either from my stove or attempted hobo stove fire. I decided that even if it snowed, the hole would have little impact on me since it was not in a critical location (at least for tonight), plus not a lot of snow could accumulate under it (or so I hoped) and I would be in my bivy sack.

I had a nice fire in my hobo stove that night (albeit a bit smoky), cooked dinner over it and enjoyed a little warmth from it. The temperature dropped gradually through the evening: by 9:00 p.m. it was minus 17°F and a sliver of a moon shone in the clear night sky.

Dave and Michael visited for a while around my hobo stove fire and we talked about sledge building details.

As of today we are in the Sand River watershed and I am getting my hopes up that we might actually make it across the park. We have a good, strong group and are making great time.... Nighttime low: minus 31°F!

Tuesday—Finally, we're in the Sand River Valley

The morning temp rose to minus 30°F...:)

No snow accumulation on or under the hole in my tarp—a good start to the day.

Got my hobo stove going and made scrambled eggs with

cheese and a bagel grilled in butter. Most of my friends know me as a pretty health-conscious eater (OK, except for a serious sweet tooth)—a vegetarian chocoholic for many years—but on these cold weather trips I take some liberties with my diet in that I don't worry about the extra calories of cheesy eggs or butter as a cooking medium. It tastes great at 30 below and for better or worse I still end up losing a couple of pounds over the course of these long, cold, strenuous trips.

We left camp and worked our way generally upward through some open hills punctuated by spruce and birch trees. We were treated again to mounds of bright white snow on the trees, beautiful blue sky and sunshine.

We crossed some challenging terrain, in one case traversing the edge of a side slope that dropped off steeply and dragged our sledges down with it. To top things off, the sleds jackknifed around a tree trunk making extricating them even more difficult. We were forced to unhitch ourselves from our sledges, climb down and heft the sleds up out of the snowy gully. This, despite their best and repeated efforts to re-settle themselves at the bottom! Immediately after this, we faced a short but steep climb, our steepest of the trip thus far, so we used a rope Michael had fixed to get up and over the hill.

We took a well-earned lunch break, then worked our way to our next night's bivouac site on the western bank of a widening in the Sand River.

Throughout the last couple of days (and true to his moniker), LandNavMan did an incredible job of route planning and land navigation. He broke trail for most of the trip with a very little help on the lakes (read: flat). And he worked the terrain in a way that (with a few unavoidable, annoying, hilly, side-sloping exceptions) optimized our chances of making it across the park in the allotted time.

On the Sand River, we set up our respective bivouac sites, made hot drinks, then our dinners. Afterward we gathered at Michael's place for a while before heading off to bed.

Wednesday—Awoke to a whiteout

We awoke to not quite a whiteout, but definitely diminished visibility due to heavily falling snow, although I was able to make out Dave as he made his morning coffee in his "kitchen" just a snowball's throw from my tarp.

After breakfast (yes, more eggs and bagels) and packing up our gear, we headed out into the snowy morning and upstream (north) on the Sand River, roping up in pairs as a precaution on a narrow section of rapids where we were concerned that the ice might not have been completely frozen.

After only one minor breakthrough right at the edge of the shore, we made our way eastward along a somewhat flat section of a tributary creek and were pleasantly surprised to find the travel relatively open with less bushwhacking that we had expected.

We crossed yet another unnamed lake, worked our way up and over a saddle, then down into the Agawa River watershed and the last lake before the train tracks. The sight of the ACR tracks along the far side of the lake meant we had made it across the park....Yea! We took a lunch break on the west edge of the lake and watched a northbound train pass by on the tracks opposite us as the sun came and went behind the clouds.

After lunch we crossed the lake and headed south alongside the tracks. We found a power line service road (unplowed in the winter, of course) and crossed the tracks to take advantage of its relatively easy traveling. We climbed up a big hill on the power line to check out the panoramic view of the winter countryside, then continued on looking for a good bivouac spot on our last night.

We wanted it to be close to the tracks to make it easy to eat breakfast, break camp, pack our sledges and flag the train down when it approached the next day. Even knowing that the train wasn't due until noon, we didn't want to run any risk of missing it! We chose a bivouac site amidst an aspen grove beside a long straight stretch of track to make it easier for the train to see us and have enough time to come to a stop.

We set up our respective shelters and those of us using hobo stoves gathered wood for our fires. We heated water for hot drinks, spent time talking around our wood stoves, cooked and ate our dinners. Eventually I got tired of being upright so I crawled into my sleeping bag, lay down and wrote in my journal for a while before going to sleep.

I took a snack bag of trail mix to bed with me in case I got cold in the night (eating revs up one's metabolism enough to take the chill off), and sure enough when I cooled off at around four in the morning (typical for me), I munched on some of my trail mix. It did the trick and I fell back to sleep, toasty and warm. The down side of this simple yet effective procedure (especially the part where I ate while lying on my back because I was too tired to sit up) was that when I awoke in the morning I was lying in a little scattering of seeds, nuts and dried fruits which I had to clean out of my sleeping bag!

Thursday—Aboard the Algoma Central Railway

Up in the morning fairly early, we all set to breaking camp and packing our sledges. We had plenty of time, though, for a leisurely breakfast (cheesy eggs yet again, this time with pan-fried naan—Indian flat bread). We moved our gear a little ways down the track and proceeded to wait for the train, which we knew from our previous experiences would most likely be late.

We talked and joked and snacked and rested on our sledges and eventually heard the southbound train in the distance. It always amazes me that we can hear the train rumbling along the track and blowing its whistle for a long, long time before we ever see it round the nearest bend in the track.

When we finally laid eyes on it, Gail (in her bright red

parka) stood in the middle of the tracks and waved her arms to flag it down. We then stood back as it approached and slowed to a stop with a freight car, door wide open, directly in front of us. Michael and Dave hoisted the sledges up into the car while some of the passengers watched with interest and shot video footage of what to them was the unusual sight of four people in the middle of nowhere in the middle of winter, self-contained with snowshoes and all of their belongings on sleds, waiting for the train.

We climbed into the freight car behind our sledges, then made our way forward to the relative luxury of the warm passenger car where we drank water, relaxed and watched the scenery pass by for the one hour ride to our next stop, Old Frater, where we would disembark for our last 5km trek out to Hwy 17. On the train we chatted and shared stories with other passengers who were returning from snowmobile trips and their own share of adventures (including frostbite) during the previous week's frigid temps.

Once off the train and geared back up for our last stretch, we pulled our sledges down an old overgrown road and across an unnamed creek to Frater Road. Along the way, Michael realized his new hat was missing and thought he may have inadvertently left it on the train. We hit Frater Road and worked our way down the hills, the late afternoon sun glowing through the trees as we headed toward Lake Superior. This last leg of the trip took about an hour and forty-five minutes and we eventually arrived at Highway 17 where Dave and I had left our vehicles (plowed in by the snowplow, of course). Next project: shovel out the three feet of snow that the snowplow had piled up around our cars!

We did the final car shuttle: got Michael's van from Red Rock Headquarters, then all headed toward the Soo. As we drove south what had started as flurries evolved into a full blown snowstorm with limited visibility and potentially hazardous driving conditions. Michael, Gail and Dave stopped for pizza while I decided to press on and try to get a little further south, hopefully beyond the worst of the snow this evening.

As always, the long drive home allowed me to turn over in my mind the events of the trip—the many highs and the (fortunately) few lows, and to be thankful for all the experiences that made it a one-of-a-kind trip.



SOLAR HIKE SCHEDULE

by Kevin Cotter



I am organizing the weekly hikes now, with one major change. Now the dates and locations are completely up to YOU. If you want to lead a hike, just give me the date, time, location, and where to meet, and I will post it on the hike schedule. Those will be the only hikes we will schedule. That means if you want more weekly hikes, hikes in your favorite area, or on your side of town, then pick your place and lead a hike!

Who is up to creating fun, fitness, and fellowship for the Solar club? Contact me at activities@solaroutdoors.org.

Just to get things started for May, I will be leading the following hikes:

Saturday, May 10, 9:30 am
Highland Recreation Area
Meet at the Haven Hill Lake parking lot (off M-59)
Approximately 6 miles
State park permit required

Sunday, May 18, 1:00 pm
Pontiac Lake Recreation Area
Meet in the NW corner of the beach parking lot (off Gale Rd.)
Approximately . 6 miles
State park permit required

Finally, a big THANK YOU to Matt Dalton for taking care of the weekly hikes for the past two years.

KENSINGTON CLEAN UP

by Elizabeth Schwab

Well Mother Nature smiled on us again this year with a beautiful day. Saturday April 19th originally had showers forecast but they never materialized and the temperature was perfect. It's like She knew we were there to help remove the some of the scars people leave accidentally or on purpose. To me this was less about helping Kensington and more about an early celebration of Earth Day.

I requested the area of Possum Hollow, a portion of the location we had picked up last year. (If you're in a mood for a picnic I'd highly recommend it, it's a jewel of a place in a jewel of a park.) We concentrated on the water line and the woods adjacent to it. The good news is those of us who were there last year agreed there was less junk to pick up this year. The six of us had the area quite spic and span in the three hours allotted. I had a hiking stick with me which was incredibly helpful for getting things out of the bush, the water and lending support to for stuff that were a-l-m-o-s-t out of reach. It also came in handy when I contemplated removing a 40 gal oil can from the water, but realized it was suppose to be there, and too heavy to deal with if it wasn't.

I'd have to say nothing of any interest was found; just assorted bottles, cans, trash, balls, diapers and a t shirt. Although I did find a child's sand toy which will come in handy for gardening! With the water line down, we were able to get to areas normally not accessible by foot and clean them as well. You could tell some of the litter had been there quite awhile and that was especially gratifying to remove.

So I'd call this another overwhelming success! Many, many thanks to Michaela Gearin and her mom Paula (veterans from last year), as well as Carly and Clair Doebel and their mom, Sherri.

Hope you can join us next year. Giving back to the Earth and the outdoor places we enjoy so much is an incredibly proud and gratifying feeling.

SOLAR PROGRAM SCHEDULE

by Allen Duncan

May 6: SOLAR Officer Elections

SOLAR Steering Committee Members will update the members on the current state of financial affairs, critical business items and plans for the future.

Upcoming Programs:

- June: "Outdoor Weather Safety," Richard Pollman, National Weather Service
- July: Annual Gear/Book/Map Sale/Swap and Bar-B-Que!
- August: Oakland Land Conservancy, Donna Folland, Executive Director
- September: Successful Eco-system Management in the Serengeti, William Cowger
- October 7: "National Trail System," Derek Blount

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.

CAESAR CREEK STATE PARK

by Leslie Cordova

Come join us as we celebrate the July 4th holiday (July 3-6, 2008). This kid and dog friendly outing is close to home, only about a 4 hour drive, basically just South of Dayton Ohio.

Caesar Creek State Park is highlighted by clear blue waters, scattered woodlands, meadows and steep ravines. The park offers some of the finest outdoor recreation in Southwest Ohio including boating, hiking, camping and fishing.

There are 43 miles of hiking trails, 8.5 miles of mountain biking trails, a lake with a 1,300 foot beach and fossil hunting. Nearby is the Little Miami paved bike trail system with over 150 miles of trails.

There is also a bike rental, ice cream store and winery nearby. We are going to canoe or kayak the Little Miami River on Sunday and have a traditional potluck dinner on Friday night.

We will be camping at the Wellman Group Camp within the park. We will have the entire camp to ourselves. There are flush toilets, a picnic shelter and showers nearby (8 miles) at the main campground. Weather permitting there will be a campfire each night.

Cost:

- Camp and canoe \$40/adult
- Camp and kayak \$45/adult
- Camp only \$20/adult

If you are interested please contact Leslie Cordova at (248) 547-5626 or lesliegene@aol.com.

poetic nature

by Elizabeth Schwab

Although this poem is about the Porkies, one of my favorite places, I think it applies to countless other areas.

Mountains

Mira T. Moore

Shadowed by a cloud's swift passing,
Gladdened by the river's songs,
Mountains are the world's romances,
There one gay of heart belongs.
Breath of pine and craggy fortress,
Watchtowers that the stars may share
Lure the valiant to their summits,
Challenge men to look--and dare.
On the heights with God, when sunset
Floods the caverns far below,
Sharing night and stars together,
There the lonely heart may go.
Man must climb to be a neighbor
With the clouds and stars and night,
Though his feet may slip and stumble,
Though death wait upon the height.

From: Forty Salutes to Michigan Poets

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 editoin of the SOLAR Ray, send it to Elizabeth Schwab by email at: qes1339@yahoo.com. Include the source you obtained it from.

SOLAR BOOK CLUB

by Vida Ruggero

The next meeting will be before the May SOLAR meeting at 6 p.m. at Chipolte on Evergreen, just a few miles north of Colony Hall. Join us to discuss the next book, "A Leaky Tent is a Piece of Paradise." I enjoyed the variety of short stories about the outdoors and it reminded me of a childhood camping experience in a storm when we woke up in the middle of the night floating around the tent on our air mattresses! The book club list is growing every month. Contact me at rageti@hotmail.com to get on it!

A Leaky Tent is a Piece of Paradise

By Bonnie Tsui

Amazon New: \$13.57, used from \$12.89

From Publishers Weekly

Former magazine editor Tsui asked 20 writers aged 30 and under to reflect on ways in which they have connected with nature, and in this collection presents their original, often humorous answers. In the essay that inspired the book's title, Tim Neville tells how he spent his senior year in high school living in a tent in his parents' suburban yard, imagining he was having a Thoreau-like experience. Some of the writers tried to emulate explorers of the past. Sam Moulton and three friends, for example, made a three-month-long canoe trip to the Arctic Circle with little know-how and ridiculously inappropriate supplies. Thoughts of Ernest Shackleton inspired Traci Joan Macnamara to take a disillusioning job at McMurdo Station in Antarctica. Others fulfilled their need for nature in unlikely places—Adam Baer on an outdoor tennis court, Christine DeLucia in Massachusetts's Mount Auburn Cemetery, Liesl Schwabe in a Brooklyn, N.Y., greenmarket. No matter what the approach, all the essays are imaginative and unusual, harbingers of what we may expect from nature writing as the last truly wild places disappear, and people have to take nature wherever they can find it.

IT'S PARTY TIME

by The DeFrances

Come help us celebrate a couple of 'once in a lifetime' events. Maureen is retiring and Dave is turning 60. And many other good things are in the works.

When: Saturday June 21st (Also the first day of summer) at 1p

Where: Island Lake Recreation Area, Riverbend Shelter (no electricity) http://www.michigandnr.com/Publications/PDFS/RecreationCamping/island_lake_map.pdf

Line up of events:

- Swim
- Bike
- Hike
- Paddle
- Horseshoes and other games

We'll serve up the food at 3:00 PM. We are providing top round beef roast and ask that you bring a side dish and your favorite beverage.

No gifts please. Dogs and kids welcome.

We need your RSVP ASAP, please contact us at 517-552-3660 or moedefrance@comcast.net. Thanks!



SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS HUT-TO-HUT ADVENTURE

by Sara "Energizer" Cockrell

Come share miles of jaw-dropping vistas, with vast lines of sight, up to 190 miles. The 14,000 ft snow-capped peaks of the San Juans and the famous Lizard Head spire. Last Dollar Road to the 11,000 ft pass, one of the most scenic and photographed backroads, with panoramic views. Hastings and Horsefly Mesas. The 100-mile Uncompahgre Plateau, 6,000 ft above the surrounding canyon and valley floors, and its former chuckwagon trail along Divide Road's ridge. A turn-of-the-century, working cattle ranch and hot shower at Graham Ranch Hut on the 4th day. A shelf trail above the awe-inspiring canyons of the Dolores River Valley, to the tiny town of Gateway, for a cold beer on day #5. The rugged La Sal Mountains, rising high above the surreal, redrock palisades, canyons, mesas and deserts of the Mountain bike 'Mecca', Moab. An odyssey of geologic and geographic diversity!

Imagine combining all the excitement of a multi-day mountain biking trip with the luxury of spending each night in a rustic, alpine paradise, stocked with assorted amenities. Hut-to-hut pedaling lets you ride longer and stronger, without wasting your energy or knees on the weight of six days' worth of food and drink.

San Juan Hut Systems operates two 215-mile mountain bike routes, from Telluride, CO to Moab, UT (us), and from Durango, CO to Moab, UT. The 6 huts are approximately 35 miles apart, and are fully equipped with food (3 meals/day), drinking water, propane cook stove, propane light, wood stove, and kitchen facilities, in addition to padded bunks and sleeping bags for a max of 8 riders each night.

This route follows US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management dirt roads, with "alternate" singletrack routes between some huts. The route is designed for intermediate riders in good physical condition, able to ride 3-5 hrs/day. The riding is not technically difficult, but the routes are remote, at an average elevation of 9,000 ft. It will test your stamina more than your skills. All riders must possess basic bike maintenance and repair skills, carry necessary tools for repairs, and also know basic first aid and survival skills. San Juan Hut Systems does not allow vehicle support while using the huts. Within the total 7 days of riding, there is 16,300 ft of ascent and 21,050 ft of descent. See route info on the website for each day's elevation changes and mileages.

I hope you will join me in the San Juan Mountains for some spectacular scenery, lasting friendships, and way too much fun! I would expect all who come along to be able, willing and ready for this unforgettable adventure. This is a non-SOLAR, self-guided trip. Obviously, there are necessary logistics to get bikes, vehicles and other gear shuttled between hotels in Telluride and Moab. Acclimation to altitude and increased hydration is recommended for a few days in advance, if possible.

To get better acquainted with this adventure, visit the website at www.sanjuanhuts.com/

You should check out the National Geographic photos and trip details, in addition to the Mountain Bike Adventure Photo Album, FAQs, Food and Reservations. The Biker's Bible is a "must" read, all 26 pages, which includes transportation, lodging, health, first aid kit, water treatment, clothing, bike gear, weather and hut use.

Our departure on Wednesday, June 25 will be sold out before the end of February, so you need to make your reservation by calling (970) 626-3033 ASAP, if you want to join our group. As of 2/4/08, Jeff Peregrine has one reservation, and I have made 3, one for me and 2 others, the 4th FREE. We will share the discount among the first 4 who reserve space. Numbers on the SJHS calendar indicate the number of bikers booked for that start date. Reservations: A deposit of 50% of total cost, or \$375, is required for confirmation and is non-refundable. Visa or Mastercard are accepted. There are no refunds due to weather or other complications. The remaining 50%, or cancellation, is due 30 days before departure.

After we depart Telluride on June 25, we must progress to the next hut each night and will be with the same group for the duration of the trip. We will arrive in Moab on Tuesday, July 1. Unfortunately, this trip will not work for a one-week vacation schedule, since there will be at least 2 days of travel and 7 days of Mountain bike riding. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I can be reached in Traverse City at sarac369@charter.net or (231) 620-3543.

Kevin Cotter suggested I introduce myself as your Trip Coordinator. I am a new member of SOLAR. I am an experienced mountain biker, ex-racer and age class winner of the Iceman 1994 -2003, Ore-to-Shore 2000-2003, and Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival 2001.

Since I retired early from my career and racing (XC skiing and canoeing, too), I have been visiting the national parks. I attended National Outdoor Leadership School's (NOLS) "Light and Fast Backpacking" class last summer in WY's Absaroka Wilderness, hiking 116 miles in 12 days with a 27 lb pack. I will have also completed my Wilderness First Aid certification before this trip, and a Bike Maintenance and Repair class.

I did my first week-long backpacking trip to Isle Royale solo in August '06, my first group trek at Pictured Rocks in September '06, another week-long group journey on the Appalachian Trail in Georgia in April '07, and led a 3-day Pictured Rocks trip in October '07, camping next to SOLAR at the Mosquito campsite.

IN MEMORIAM

Received: Wed, 20 Jun 2007 08:03 AM

Subject: Thoughts and update

To my dear friends,

Thanks so much for your prayers, light, and love. I have truly felt the energy of strength and courage that you have sent me. I have also felt more energy in the past couple of weeks than I have in years!!!!

This morning as I sat on my porch watching the hummingbirds at the feeder, a thought flashed through my mind, which said, "I feel the happiest I have ever felt in my whole life." I then asked myself why I feel so happy, and the answer was, "I feel a peace within my spirit like none that I have ever known." Then the question came to me, "How could I feel so happy, knowing I am going to face much pain and difficulty over the next month?" The answer that came to me was that I believe in my ability to overcome adversity. I have developed a confidence, a knowing that I can triumph over this, just like I did last year when I found out that I had stage IV breast cancer."



My wish for all of you is that sense of peace that I have found through all of this, and the realization that all that matters is that we love each other, demonstrated through behaviors such as patience and acceptance (not an easy feat for a hot-headed ARIES woman), caring and nurturing. The cards and calls, love and caring, that I have received from all of you have been so deeply appreciated. I invite you all to come and share with me my porch and birdfeeders.

Love, Ronda---

Cards can be sent to Ronda's husband, Gary, and her children, Scott Tuchklaper and David Rudoi:

Gary Brodley
4117 Toles
Mason, MI 48854-9759

Donations can be made to:

Susan G. Komen For The Cure
Greater Lansing Affiliate
P.O. Box 4368
East Lansing, MI 48826

Telephone: 517-886-4901

<http://komengreaterlansing.org/>



INTRODUCTION TO KAYAKING—ENJOYING MICHIGAN'S WATERWAYS

by Matt Dalton

Kayaking is one of the best ways to explore Michigan's wonderful lakes and streams. It's also a great form of exercise and a great way to relax.

Introduction to Kayaking is a complete 4 hour beginner's class taught by Matt Dalton at Heavner's Canoe & Kayak in Milford, MI., on the clean, quiet and safe Huron River.

You'll be introduced to safe kayaking skills, basic paddling techniques and kayak equipment. This will assist you in choosing and paddling kayaks in the future. You'll learn about required and optional equipment and clothing. You'll learn the fundamentals of safe paddling, how to paddle fast and efficiently and how to stay in your kayak.

If you're thinking about trying kayaking for the first time or you'd like to learn how to polish you existing skills. This is a great class. Class size is limited to insure personal attention for each student, so please sign up early.

Saturday, May 24, 2008 Class starts at 12:00 PM and ends at 4:00 PM

For people who can't make the May date the class repeats itself in June on: Sunday, June 8, 2008 Class starts at 12:00 PM and ends at 4:00 PM

Cost \$60.00 this includes everything you need, including dinner after class. (\$40.00 with your own boat)

For more information or to sign-up, please contact Matt Dalton at 248-360-0031 or mdalton@ameritech.net.

SOLAR-ITES JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL MICHIGANDER 2008

by Caroline Kudwa

*Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance annual
fund raiser, The Michigander Bicycle Tour*

- 6-Days starting July 13 - 18, 2008 with an option of 7-Days starting July 12, 2008

- Both Experienced and Beginner Cyclists 35 to 60 miles a day allows time to enjoy the countryside

- Two meals a days, breakfast and dinner, camping, shuttle service and rest stops are provided, cost is \$298.00. To be shuttled to the start point the cost is \$50 per person. Due date for payment is April 24. There is a late fee after May 1, 2008.

- All paved route for Road Bikes with a Single Track option for Mountain Bikes.

- 6-Day route starts in Muskegon, you take the Musketawa Trail to Rockford and pick up the White Pine Trail, then on the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail up to Edmore, then back to the White Pine Trail on to Cadillac with an over night stay in Big Rapids. From Cadillac we will be taking back roads to the Tart Trail in Traverse City, the final ending point. On the last day of the weeklong trip you have three choices: (1) a loop on the Tart and Leelanau Trail to Suttons Bay (2) on the Vasa Trail for the Single Track riders (3) a chance to just stay put and enjoy Grand Travers Bay.

BIKING AND HIKING

by Leslie Cordova

Come join us Memorial Weekend. We are going to Cuyahoga Valley National Park for some hiking, biking, touring and exploring. This is located just South of Cleveland, so only about a 3-hour drive.

There are over 125 miles of hiking and biking trails. The main bike trail, Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath, runs thru the Cuyahoga River Valley and is a 19.5 mile linear crushed stone trail. Other trails include the Bike and Hike Trail, which is a 16 mile linear asphalt trail. If you get tired from biking, you can bike one way and return via the train. Or perhaps you would rather hike to see some waterfalls, gorges or historic homesteads. Let's not forget about the Herons nesting in the trees along the trail, and the great marsh area too!

We will be staying at the Stanford Hostel within the National Park. This is a restored 1830's farmhouse. The hostel is equipped with 33 beds in 9 rooms, 3 bathrooms, a fully equipped kitchen, dining room, living room, outdoor picnic tables and fire pit.

Cost of all this fun is \$70 for 3 nights lodging. Depending on how many people sign up, we may have the Hostel to ourselves. KID FRIENDLY, NO DOGS

Sound like something interesting?

Contact Leslie Cordova to sign up. lesliegene@aol.com or (248) 547-5626.

THE RECUMBENT VOYAGER

by Winnie Chrzanowski

Water for Elephants (Paperback)

By Sara Gruen

Algonquin Books, 335 pages

\$13.95

Water for Elephants begins on a quiet note. All seems to be as it should under the Big Top of the Depression-era circus. However, circuses trade in illusion and make believe, and the calm under the red and white awning of the grease joint where Jacob Jankowski, the protagonist of the novel, sits with Grady and the fry cook is nothing more than that. Within seconds, the calm is shattered. "That moment, the music screeched to a halt. There was an ungodly collision of brass, reed, and percussion - trombones and piccolos skidded into cacophony, a tuba farted, and the hollow clang of a cymbal wavered out of the big top . . . Grady froze . . . I looked from side to side. No one moved a muscle . . . 'What is it? What's going on?' I said. 'Shhh,' Grady hissed. The band started up again, playing 'Stars and Stripes Forever.' 'What?' . . . I yelled. 'The Disaster March!' he screamed over his shoulder."

So begins a tale so engrossing that I had to force myself to put it down. Sara Gruen, the author who also wrote *Riding Lessons* and *Flying Changes*, creates not only the bizarre, highly-structured world of the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth with all its perversions but also illustrates the abnormalities existent in the Depression-era social order.

Orphaned, penniless, aimless, and grief stricken, Jacob leaves his final exams for veterinary science at Cornell without writing a word on his exams. He is unable to function after he learns that his parents were killed in an auto accident and had mortgaged everything to pay for his college tuition. He hops a train and happens to get a job as an animal doctor for the Benzini Brothers.

Jacob plunges into the subcultures of the strange circus family he has joined, mastering the vernacular that reflects the rigid class system rampant throughout it. Ringling Brothers is nicknamed "Big Bertha." Performers are "kinkers," new hires are called "first of Mays," and the members of the audience are always "rubes."

The troupe crisscrosses the country rooking rubes and cannibalizing circuses that have gone bankrupt in the sorry economic times of the 1930s. Uncle Al, the autocratic ringmaster, purchases Rosie, an elephant with a large thirst for lemonade and an inability to follow simple commands. August Rosenbluth, the schizophrenic menagerie director, is charged with training her, and Marlena, August's beautiful and talented wife, must work up an act that will wow the rubes. Jacob's involvement in this peculiar group forms the crux of the story.

Gruen enhances the chapters recounting the young Jacob's experiences with the circus by contrasting them with the elderly Jacob's experiences in the nursing home. The circus world's rigid social structure is mirrored in the nursing home society. The cruelties and antagonisms of circus life become more apparent when contrasted with loyalties and instances of caring when it comes to the animals. She again mirrors the circus attitudes in the people running the nursing home. Gruen portrays the animals—particularly Rosie the elephant—as intelligent and sympathetic characters. The human characters don't come off quite as well.

Gruen serves up history, social commentary, adventure, humor, and romance in a novel that is as complex as Rosie the elephant. And the ending is the best ending I've read in a long while. Do yourself a huge favor; read *Water for Elephants*. It'll give you an entirely new perspective on aging.



SOLAR 2008 CALENDAR

MAY ACTIVITIES					
5/2-5/4	WKND	Backpacking Beach Clean-up	Nordhouse Dunes	Vida Ruggero	rageti@hotmail.com
5/2-5/5	WKND	Off-trail Backpacking**	Eastern Upper Peninsula	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://therucksack.tripod.com
5/2-5/4	WKND	Wildflower Identification Walk	Metamora-Hadley State Park	Margaret Martin	Mpluscat@hotmail.com
5/4	SUN	Brighton Spring Fling **	Brighton State Recreation Area	Heather Hall	hnh912@gmail.com
5/6	TUE	GENERAL MEETING**	Colony Hall	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net
5/6	TUE	PROGRAM: Steering Committee Elections	Colony Hall	Allen Duncan	allenduncan@aggienetwork.com
5/6	TUE	SOLAR Book Club	Chipotle, Southfield	Vida Ruggero	rageti@hotmail.com
5/10	SAT	North Country Trail Workday**	TBA	Allen Duncan	allenduncan@aggienetwork.com
5/10-5/17	MULTI	Backpacking Trip**	Grand Canyon National Park	Grey Ivanov	sergey.ivanov@us.bosch.com
5/10-5/11	WKND	Michigan Mushroom Weekend and Campout	Huron-Manistee National Forest	Jim Coe	jimc36@comcast.net
5/18	SUN	Full moon canoe paddle **	Heavner's, Proud Lake State Park	Margaret Martin	Mpluscat@hotmail.com
5/23-5/26	MULTI	Hiking and Biking	Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ohio	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
5/24-6/1	MULTI	22nd Annual Canadian Backpacking Expedition**	Lake Superior Provincial Park	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://therucksack.tripod.com
MAY CLASSES					
5/7, 5/14, 5/17-5/18, 5/21; 5/30-6/1	WED WKND	Beginning Car Camping	Berkley Community Center & Various	Mark Speece	Mspeece @med.wayne.edu
5/29; 6/5, 6/12, 6/19, 6/26	THR	Costal Kayak Open Water Skills	TBA	Chuck Smith	CBryansmit@aol.com
JUNE ACTIVITIES					
6/6-6/8	WKND	Summer Kick-Off and Nat'l Trails Day Campout **	Brighton State Recreation Area	TBD	TBD
6/14	SAT	North Country Trail Workday**	TBA	Allen Duncan	allenduncan@aggienetwork.com
6/25 - 7/1	MULTI	San Juan Mountains Hut-to-Hut Adventure**	Telluride, CO	Sara Cockrell	sarac369@charter.net
6/28-7/5	MULTI	Off-trail Backpacking**	Porcupine Mountain Wilderness SP	Michael Neiger (http://tinyurl.com/4jqzat)	mneiger@hotmail.com http://therucksack.tripod.com
JUNE CLASSES					
6/8	SUN	Introduction to Kayaking	Heavner's, Proud Lake State Park	Matt Dalton	mdalton@ameritech.net
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES					
7/3-7/6	MULTI	Car camping, hiking, biking, etc.	Caesar Creek State Park, Ohio	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
7/13-7/18	MULTI	Michigander Bike Ride	Muskegon to Traverse City, MI	Caroline Kudwa	Caroline.A.Kudwa@delphi.com
8/15-8/31	Multi	Best of Yosemite Camping and Backpacking	Yosemite National Park	Kevin Cotter	solar@wowway.com
8/15-8/31	MULTI	The Best of the JMT	John Muir Trail, California	Dave DeFrance	defranceomn@comcast.net
8/16	SAT	Full moon canoe paddle **	Heavner's, Proud Lake State Park	Margaret Martin	Mpluscat@hotmail.com
8/28-9/2	MULTI	Off-trail Backpacking**	McCormick Wilderness Tract	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://therucksack.tripod.com
9/13	SAT	Full moon canoe paddle **	Heavner's, Proud Lake State Park	Margaret Martin	Mpluscat@hotmail.com
10/3-10/6	MULTI	Off-trail Backpacking & Caving**	Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://therucksack.tripod.com
10/12	SUN	Full moon canoe paddle **	Heavner's, Proud Lake State Park	Margaret Martin	Mpluscat@hotmail.com
11/7-11/10	MULTI	Off-trail Backpacking**	Hiawatha National Forest	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://therucksack.tripod.com
12/5-12/8	MULTI	Off-trail Backpacking & Sledging**	Pigeon River Country State Forest	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. If you would like to help plan and/or teach a SOLAR class, please contact Sarah Kirkish at education@solaroutdoors.org.

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 membership@solaroutdoors.org.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions for the SOLAR Ray are due on the Friday two weeks prior to the monthly Steering Committee Meeting (May 16 for the June 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.

STEERING COMMITTEE

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

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Mike Banks | Leslie Cordova | 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.

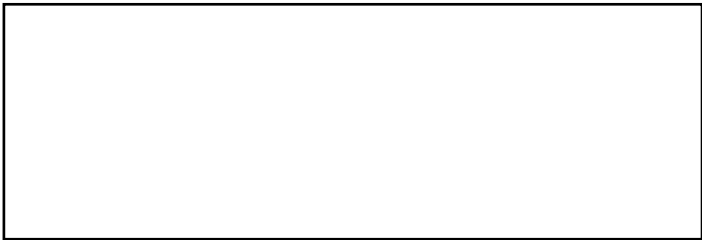
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at: www.solaroutdoors.org.

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Visit our website: www.solaroutdoors.org



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