

The

SOLAR RAY

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

December 2008

2008 Annual Photo Contest

It's that time of year! SOLAR Amateur photographers can brag about their trips and show off their camera skills. Dig up your best photos from 2008 and bring them to the January, 2009 meeting.

Categories

Scenery Animals
Plants People
Black and White Best Overall
Photo Pro



There are no longer "SOLAR" and "Non-SOLAR" categories.

Official Rules

- Entries must be taken and entered by SOLAR member
- Photos must have been taken between January 1 and December 31, 2008
- Standard Photos must be no larger than 8" x 10", panoramic no larger than 8" x 18"
- Matt size must be no larger than 11" x 14" for standard photos and 11" x 21" for panoramic
- Limits: One photo entry per person per category; seven photos per person total
 - Prizes will be awarded to first place winner in each category and to Best Overall
 - Photos will be voted on at January meeting-ANNUAL SOLAR















SOLAR will provide:

Ham/Turkey Soda/Water DJ - Music

Members to Provide:

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

For Additional Information: Programs@SOLARoutdoors.org





Call It The Solar Club Sequel. Returning to Lake Ann, MI. Feb 20 - 22, 2009. This time, for a little added variety, the village will be hosting their annual Winterfest.

Accommodations at the Bear's Den and Th Lodge at the Sleeping Bear Resort. http://www.sleepingbearresort.com/cabins.html

- Two house, Eleven bedrooms, Five full baths
- Living Room, Full Kitchen, Dining Room, Rec Room

Plenty of area trails for Cross-Country Ski and Snow Shoe

- The "Venerable" Vasa trail within 20 minutes.
- Lake Ann Pathway Right outside the house
- Many other area ski opportunities
- Downhill Resorts nearby

Coincides with The Annual Lake Ann Winterfest

- Something in the village for those who don't do the All Day Ski Thing
- Games, exhibitions, food, beer, and more

Cost: \$45 any MDSC Club Member \$55.00 non-member

Enjoy Michigan Winters!

By Tom Olofo

BACKPACKING & Winter Skills Class
skills are not just for the winter, they are a useful back-up for the unexpected cold days in early spring and late fall. In this class we'll teach you how to keep warm & your energy level up when skiing or snow shoeing in the winter & how to build a snow shelter just in case something does go HORRIBLY WRONG on that so called simple 3 hr. ski trip. You can also use these skills in the summer on glaciers and snowy peaks in the Rockies, the Cascades, Alaska, etc...

If you've already have taken our beginning backpacking class & are looking to expand your skills to the next level or just wanting some adventure this is the class for you!

We usually have six classes & two practicals in the great outdoors. Our second practical includes a play day in the great white north, where you can Snowshoe, ,Ski or just sit by a nice warm roaring campfire sipping hot chocolate. So its up to you lay around on a couch all winter watching outdoor shows on TV or take my class & actually live the adventure! After all isnt that why you joined SOLAR?

The cost is \$ 100.00 for new students and reduced fee for past graduates who want to retake the course. I will have complete dates & info at the Oct. or Nov. general meetings. Classes will start in Dec. probably on Wed. nights. (That however hasnt been finalized as of this printing.)

This course is open to the graduates of the Backpacking Class and is the prerequisite for the Mountaineering & Winter Surivial Courses. For safety reasons, the Wilderness First Aid Course is highly recommended for all of these courses. Keep your fingers crossed & Think SNOW!!!

To sign up or if you have any questions contact --- TOM OLOFFO. Iter just in case something does go HORRIBLY WRONG on that so called simple 3 hr. ski trip. You can also use these skills in the summer on glaciers and snowy peaks in the Rockies, the Cascades, Alaska, etc..

This course is open to the graduates of the Backpacking Class and is the prerequisite for the Mountaineering & Winter Surivial Courses. For safety reasons, the Wilderness First Aid Course is highly recommended for all of these courses. Keep your fingers crossed & Think SNOW!!!To sign up or if you have any questions contact --- TOM OLOFO (313) 461 -4933 or mcmountainman@yahoo.com

BASIC MOUNTAINEERING & SAFETY SKILLS CLASS

By Lou Szakal

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to stand on the Summit of a Mountain? Or to even know what it takes to get there? How about just advancing your Winter Camping or Snowshoe and Cross-Country Ski skills to include one to two week expeditions to places like Yellowstone or the Canadian Rockies? Here is your chance to find out. Starting in December 2008, I will be teaching the Basic Mountaineering and Safety Skills Class to a few lucky students who are interested in devoting their time and energy to the sport of Mountaineering and Advanced Winter Adventure.

Here are some of the things you will get:

Self Arrest, Fixed Lines, Roped Travel, Running Belays, Risk Assessment, Snow Shoeing Skills, Health/Fitness Issues, Cross Country Ski Skills, Basic Mountain Skills, Avalanche Issues, Chest Harness, Camaraderie, Ice Axe Use, Leadership, Navigation, Prussiks, Fun, 2 Mountaineering Books, Technical Tool Usage, Mountain Safety, First Aid Issues, Crampon Use, 3" Binder, Nutrition, Knots, LNT, Weather, Sled Skills, Glacier Travel, Climbing Issues, Group Dynamics, Frost Bite Issues, Winter Safety Skills, Z & C Pulley System, Optional Mountain Trip, Clothing, Rappelling, Gear Issues, Effects of Cold, Reading Material, Crevasse Rescue, Expedition Planning, Environmental Ethics, 2 Weekend Practicals, Altitude Awareness, Ascending Ropes, Ropes/Webbing, Alpine Rescue, Team Building, Stewardship, Movies, Clinic

PREREQUISITES:

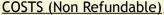
MANDATORY

Basic Backpacking Land Navigation

Winter Camping (aka Enjoy Michigan Winters)
Belay Card (Rock Gym)

CLASS SCHEDULE Location: TBD 6:00 - 9:00 PM

THE RESERVE TO LOCAL CO.		AT LESS HOST AND LESS HOST > 1.25
Class 1	12/11/08	Thu.
Class 2	12/18/08	Thu.
Class 3	01/08/09	Thu
Clinic 1	01/10/09	Sat.
Class 4	01/15/09	Thu.
Practical 1	01/23-25/09	FriSun
Class 5	01/22/09	Thu.



01/29/09

02/6-8/2009

Pay in Full on or before Oct. 7
Pay in Full after Oct. 7
Couples: On or before Oct. 7
Couples After Oct. 7
Couples After Oct. 7
S140.00 ea.
\$160.00 ea.
\$255.00 cpl.Couples:
\$295.00 cpl

*Couples will receive 1 full binder for <u>each</u> person and 1 set of

textbooks to share.

Class 6

Practical 2

If you want your own personal textbooks, add \$25.00 to your total.

Thu.

Fri.-Sun

CONTACT: Lou Szakal @everest2008@comcast.net





CAVING AND/OR HIKING IN KENTUCKY

ALL LEVELS, NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!!!!
KID FRIENDLY (MUST BE 6 TO CAVE)
NO PETS
January 23-25, 2009

It's that time of year again - time for the 28th annual Carter Caves Crawl-a-thon. What is a crawl- a-thon you might ask - - this is an annual event put on by Olive Hill, Kentucky. It is a great way for people to get acquainted with caving as they offer a wide variety of cave tours, ranging from walking tours, a little bit of crawling, a lot of crawling and vertical caving. They even have trips for kids and seniors!! If you do not like the underground, join us anyway, as there is some great hiking in the area.

The basic plan is to drive down to the park on Friday (about a 7-hour drive) and stay right at the Carter Caves Lodge. I have a limited number of rooms reserved, once they are filled; the nearest lodging is 10 - 15 miles away. The cost for 2 nights lodging is \$75 per person, payable to SOLAR, \$50 for kids 16 and under. Since this trip will fill up, only payments in full will be accepted to hold your spot.

You will need to download the crawl-a-thon entry and release forms yourself from www.crawlathon.com, or call the park at (606) 286-4411. Generally the forms are not available until mid December. You will then need to send in both forms yourself with a check for \$35 per adult, \$20 per child 6 - 12 (last years fee, the current fee could be higher) to Carter Caves. Your \$20 - \$35 includes 2 days of guided caving and a T-shirt from the event. Please do not delay as the trips fill up quickly.

See me at the meeting for a listing of equipment you may need. SOLAR has helmets, knee and elbow pads (limited) and headlamps (limited) that you may borrow. A refundable deposit is required. I do not have enough equipment for everyone, so you will need to reserve in advance. To be fair, those who have not been on SOLAR caving trips previously will get first dibs on pads and headlamps.

Need more info contact Leslie Cordova at (248) 547-5626 or LeslieGene@aol.com.

Attention All Lifetime Members

ALL Lifetime members are requested to complete the new membership application/ waiver that will be available either at the general membership meetings or can be downloaded off the SOLAR website, www.solaroutdoors.com. Just mail the completed application to Mary Price at the address on the bottom of the form. If it is a Family Lifetime membership, be sure to have both adult members sign form.

Cont. 12/1-1 Mon Color Martin Monthly Meeting Colory Hall Janet Duncan Solar/Programs@solaroutdoors Pigeon River Country Michael Neiger Multi Information at http:// thenucksack.htmpd.com/htmps.htm) Pigeon River Country Michael Neiger Michael Neig	DECEMBER ACTIVITIES						
2 215	6	Tues.	Monthly Meeting	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org	
12/15-8	6	Tues	Book Club Meeting	Chipolte, Southfield, M	l Vida Ruggero	rageti@hotmail.com	
12/5-8 Multi Information at http:// informationation at http:// informationationationationationationationation	2 2/5	Tues	Holiday Party - 7:00pm	Colony Hall	Janet Duncan	SolarPrograms@solaroutdoors.org	
12/14-21 Multi Canoe thru the Everglades Florida Everglades Grey Ivanov Sergey ivanov@us bosch.com	12/5-8	Multi	information at http://	rigeon River Country	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com	
12/26-1/2 Multi Canoe thru the Everglades Florida Everglades Grey Ivanov Sergey.ivanov@us.bosch.com	2	Sat	Holiday Movie Classic – Redford Theat	er Redford, MI	Darrell Ahlberg	dahlberg7@comcast.net	
DECEMBER CLASSES Cont. 12/1.	12/14-21	Multi	Winter Getaway to Arizona	Scottsdale, AZ	Maureen DeFrance	moelifeisgood@lavabit.com	
Cont.) 12/14	12/26-1/2	Multi	Canoe thru the Everglades	Florida Everglades	Grey Ivanov	sergey.ivanov@us.bosch.com	
6,12-14 Wind without Solivina status boughs Larly. StrainyR@yahoc.com (6/559 Multi Mountaineering TBD Tom Oloffo mcmountainman@yahoc.com (6/559 Multi Mountaineering TBD Lou Szakal Everest2008@comcast.net SANUARY ACTIVITES 1/6 Tues Monthly Meeting Colony Hall Cindy Taylor SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors (7/16-18 Wind Weekend Colony Hall Janet Duncan SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors (7/16-18 Wind Weekend Multi Information at http:// wheekend Multi Information at http:// therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm) Froest Hawatha National Forest Wind Crawlathon Crawlathon Crawlathon Crawlathon Crawlathon Crawlathon Steamboat, CO Darrell Ahlberg dahlberg?@comcast.net Steamboat, CO Darrell Ahlberg dahlberg?@comcast.net JANUARY CLASSES (cont) 1/7, 14, 17-18, 21, 21, 22-25, Multi Enjoying Michigan Winters TBD Tom Oloffo mcmountainman@yahoo.com January Classes (Cont) 1/8, 12, 22-25, Multi Mountaineering TBD Lou Szakal Everest2008@comcast.net Darry Mergentime Iarry.mergentime@charter.net FEBUARY ACTIVITIES 2/6-8 Wind Hartwick Pines Archic Ocean Expedition (James Bay) (more information at http:// therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm) Moose River, Ontario Michael Neiger mneiger@hotmail.com mneiger@hotmail.com Moose River, Ontario Michael Neiger mneiger@hotmail.com Moose River, Ontario Michael Neiger mneiger@hotmail.com mneiger@hotmail.com Moose River, Ontario Michael Neiger mneiger@hotmail.com Moose River, Ontario Michael Neiger mneiger@hotmail.com Herucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm) Moose River, Ontario Michael Neiger mneiger@hotmail.com Herucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm) Fibrury. Lake Ann, MI Darrell Ahlberg dahlberg?@comcast.net FEBUARY CLASSES (cont) Multi Mountaineering TBD Lou Szakal Everest2008@comcast.net FEBUARY CLASSES (cont) Multi Mountaineering Detroit Renaissance Leater Lisa Boose elbows6000@att.net Detroit Center Colon Tomolong Michael Neiger Moose Michael Neiger Moose Pictured Rocks Michael Neiger Michael Neiger Moose Pict			DE	CEMBER CLASSES			
Solar Sola			Winter Survival	Various	Douglas Lanyk	dslanyk1@yahoo.com	
SANUARY ACTIVITES 1/6 Tues Monthly Meeting Colony Hall Cindy Taylor SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors 1/16 Tues Picture Contest Colony Hall Janet Duncan SolarPregrams@solaroutdoors 1/16-18 Wknd Weekend Off-trail Winter Camping (more information at http:// therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm) Lake Ann, MI Jim Coe jimc36@comcast.net Winter Camping (more information at http:// therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm) Forest Lake Ann, MI Jim Coe jimc36@comcast.net Michael Neiger mneiger@hotmail.com Michael Neiger mneiger@hotmail.com Torest Leslie Cordova Lesliegene@aol.com Lesliegene@aol.com Lesliegene@aol.com JANUARY CLASSES Leslie Cordova Lesliegene@aol.com Lesliegene@aol.com JANUARY CLASSES Leslie Cordova Lesliegene@aol.com Lesli	6/155	Wed	Enjoying Michigan Winters	TBD	Tom Oloffo	mcmountainman@yahoo.com	
1/16 Tues	6/559	Multi	Mountaineering	TBD	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net	
1/16 Tues			JA	NUARY ACTIVITES			
1/16-18	1/6	Tues	Monthly Meeting	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org	
1/16-20 Multi Meekend Michael Neiger Michael Ne	1/6	Tues	Picture Contest	Colony Hall	Janet Duncan	SolarPrograms@solaroutdoors.org	
1/16-20 Multi Information at http://	1/16-18	Wknd		Lake Ann, MI	Jim Coe		
1/31-2/7 Multi Down Hill Skiing Steamboat, CO Darrell Ahlberg dahlberg7@comcast.net Steamboat, CO Darrell Ahlberg dahlberg7@comcast.net	1/16-20	Multi	information at http://	l .	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com	
Con't) 1/7, 14,17-18, 21, 28, 30-2/1 Con't) 1/8 10, 15, 22-25, Multi Mountaineering TBD Lou Szakal Everest2008@comcast.net	1/23-25	Wknd	Crawlathon		Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com	
Con't) 1/7, 14,17-18, 21, 28, 30-2/1 Multi Enjoying Michigan Winters TBD Tom Oloffo mcmountainman@yahoo.com	1/31-2/7	Multi	Down Hill Skiing	Steamboat, CO	Darrell Ahlberg	dahlberg7@comcast.net	
14,17-18, 21, 28, 30-2/1 Con't) 1/8 10, 15, 22-25,			JA	ANUARY CLASSES			
10, 15, 22-25, 29 Multi Mountaineering TBD Lou Szakal Everest2008@comcast.net 1/25 Sat Cross Country Skiing Clinic TBD Larry Mergentime larry.mergentime@charter.ne FEBUARY ACTIVITIES 2/6-8 Wknd Hartwick Pines Grayling, MI Kevin Cotter kdcotter@wowway.com Arctic Ocean Expedition (James Bay) (more information at http:// therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm) 2/7-22 Multi Costa Rica Adventure Costa Rica Maureen DeFrance moelifeisgood@lavebit.com Lake Ann, MI Darrell Ahlberg dahlberg7@comcast.net FEBUARY CLASSES (con't) 2/6-8 Multi Mountaineering TBD Lou Szakal Everest2008@comcast.net UPCOMING ACTIVITIES 3/8 Sun American Lung Assoc. of MI Climb Detroit Renaissance Center Pictured Rocks Michael Neiger making and more production of bits:// pictured Rocks Michael Neiger making and more pictured Rocks Michael Neiger pictured Rocks Pictured Rocks Pictured Rocks Pict	14,17-18, 21,	Multi	Enjoying Michigan Winters	TBD	Tom Oloffo	mcmountainman@yahoo.com	
FEBUARY ACTIVITIES 2/6-8 Wknd Hartwick Pines Grayling, MI Kevin Cotter kdcotter@wowway.com Arctic Ocean Expedition (James Bay) (more information at http:// therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm) 2/7-22 Multi Costa Rica Adventure Costa Rica Maureen DeFrance moelifeisgood@lavebit.com 2/20-22 Wknd Cross Country Skiand Shoeshoe Lake Ann, MI Darrell Ahlberg dahlberg7@comcast.net FEBUARY CLASSES (con't) 2/6-8 Multi Mountaineering TBD Lou Szakal Everest2008@comcast.net UPCOMING ACTIVITIES 3/8 Sun American Lung Assoc. of MI Climb Detroit Renaissance Center Lisa Boose elbows6000@att.net Off-trail Winter Camping (more Pictured Rocks Michael Neiger manager@hotmail.com	10, 15, 22-25,	Multi	Mountaineering	TBD	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net	
2/6-8 Wknd Hartwick Pines Grayling, MI Kevin Cotter kdcotter@wowway.com 2/7-22 Multi (more information at http:// therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm) 2/7-22 Multi Costa Rica Adventure Costa Rica Maureen DeFrance moelifeisgood@lavebit.com 2/20-22 Wknd Cross Country Skiand Shoeshoe Lake Ann, MI Darrell Ahlberg dahlberg7@comcast.net FEBUARY CLASSES (con't) 2/6-8 Multi Mountaineering TBD Lou Szakal Everest2008@comcast.net UPCOMING ACTIVITIES 3/8 Sun American Lung Assoc. of MI Climb Detroit Renaissance Center Lisa Boose elbows6000@att.net Off-trail Winter Camping (more Pictured Rocks Michael Neiger magigar@hetmail.com Michael Neiger kdcotter@wowway.com Moose River, Ontario Michael Neiger kdcotter Moose River And Neiger kdcotter Moose Riv	1/25	Sat	Cross Counrty Skiing Clinic	TBD	Larry Mergentime	larry.mergentime@charter.net	
Arctic Ocean Expedition (James Bay) (more information at http:// therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm) 2/7-22 Multi Costa Rica Adventure Costa Rica Maureen DeFrance moelifeisgood@lavebit.com 2/20-22 Wknd Cross Country Skiand Shoeshoe Lake Ann, MI Darrell Ahlberg dahlberg7@comcast.net FEBUARY CLASSES (con't) 2/6-8 Multi Mountaineering TBD Lou Szakal Everest2008@comcast.net UPCOMING ACTIVITIES 3/8 Sun American Lung Assoc. of MI Climb Detroit Renaissance Center Lisa Boose elbows6000@att.net Off-trail Winter Camping (more Pictured Rocks Michael Neiger maeiger@hotmail.com Michael Neiger mneiger@hotmail.com Michael Neiger mneiger@hotmail.com Michael Neiger mneiger@hotmail.com Moose River, Ontario Michael Neiger mneiger@hotmail.com			FE	BUARY ACTIVTIES			
2/7-22 Multi (more information at http:// therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm) Moose River, Ontario Michael Neiger mneiger@hotmail.com	2/6-8	Wknd	Hartwick Pines	Grayling, MI	Kevin Cotter	kdcotter@wowway.com	
2/7-22 Multi Costa Rica Adventure Costa Rica Maureen DeFrance moelifeisgood@lavebit.com	2/7-22	Multi	(more information at http://	Moose River, Ontario	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com	
Con't) Multi Mountaineering TBD Lou Szakal Everest2008@comcast.net	2/7-22	Multi	Costa Rica Adventure	Costa Rica	Maureen DeFrance	moelifeisgood@lavebit.com	
Con't) Multi Mountaineering TBD Lou Szakal Everest2008@comcast.net	2/20-22	Wknd	Cross Country Skiand Shoeshoe	Lake Ann, MI	Darrell Ahlberg	dahlberg7@comcast.net	
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES 3/8 Sun American Lung Assoc. of MI Climb Detroit Renaissance Center Lisa Boose elbows6000@att.net Off-trail Winter Camping (more Pictured Rocks Michael Neiger manager@hetmail.com	FEBUARY CLASSES						
3/8 Sun American Lung Assoc. of MI Climb Detroit Renaissance Center Lisa Boose elbows6000@att.net Off-trail Winter Camping (more Pictured Rocks Michael Neiger project Obstrail company)	(con't) 2/6-8	Multi	Mountaineering	TBD	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net	
3/8 Sun American Lung Assoc. of MI Climb Detroit Renaissance Center Lisa Boose elbows6000@att.net Off-trail Winter Camping (more Pictured Rocks Michael Neiger project Obstantial Company Com	UPCOMING ACTIVITIES						
Off-trail Winter Camping (more Pictured Rocks Michael Neiger Project Pictured Rocks Michael Neiger Project Pictured Rocks	3/8		merican Lung Assoc. of MI Climb	Detroit Renaissance	Lisa Boose	elbows6000@att.net	
therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm)	3/8-14	Multi ir	Off-trail Winter Camping (more nformation at http://	Pictured Rocks	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com	
3/14 Sat Hoedown Livonia, MI Margaret Martin mpluscat@hotmail.com	3/14		· · · · · · · ·	Livonia, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@hotmail.com	

4/5-12		Return to St John USVI	John, USVI	Jim Gessner	gessnerj@comcast.net
4/24-27	Multi	Off-trail Backpacking (more information at http://therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm)	Pigeon River State Forest	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com
5/23-6/1	Multi	IEADOUITION (MOLO INTOLMATION AT ULTU-//	Lake Superior Provincial Park	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com

If you would like to plan/lead a SOLAR activity, contact our Activities Chairperson, Samantha Schafer, at SolarActivities@SolarOutdoors.org.

If you would like to teach or suggest a SOLAR class, contact our Education Chairperson, Allen Duncan, at SolarEducation@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

Going to Camp

By Elizabeth Schwab

There was cold, rainy, blustery November weather expected, when a small but enthusiastic group of Solarites descended on Camp Pet O Seg A, near Petoskey, for a warm wonderful week end. It started as soon as we had all settled in and lit a fire in the fireplace. We had hoped to use the fire pit, but the rain had already started. We were somewhat disappointed we had ALL forgot marshmallows, especially since Sam brought her special roasting forks. We managed to have a great evening regardless, just gabbing and recovering from the rigors of the week.

We set out Saturday morning after breakfast, and another fire, to check out the property. The campground there is beautiful with lots of pines separating the sites, so there is much more privacy than often seen in campgrounds. This coupled with it being right on Pickerel Lake, which connects to the much larger Crooked Lake, makes me dream of returning in the summer for camping, paddling and swimming. The resource I had, reported about 6 miles of trails in the park. It turned out to be much shorter than this, but was right along Cedar Creek, then the lake, which made for a scenic warm up to the rest of the day.

After lunch we decided to hit the road to check out other nearby hiking spots. The one that piqued my interest most was Colonial Point Memorial Forest near Burt Lake, a short drive away. Despite being armed with a Michigan Road Atlas and Trail Atlas we had some challenges finding it--but I just chalked it up to being part of the adventure! (And we had a few good laughs about it throughout the day.) It was well worth the effort to find it. It has the largest stand of red pines in the Lower Peninsula, as well as deciduous trees. I found the the thick blanket of leaves on the ground in shades of apricot, bronze, gold, and beige absolutely mesmerizing. We did one loop there and it's fully worth a return visit to explore the others.

Our last hiking stop was the scenic Boyne Highlands. The plan was to check out the cross country ski trails, sans snow, but we happened to spot the hike/bike trail first and did that. I truly have no idea how many miles we did, or how long we were out, but it was a wonderful day, despite the intermittent rain and dropping temperatures.

The evening consisted of yet another fire, eating, making supper, showering, eating, euchre, eating, and more general gabbing and laughing. Late, late in the evening we finally had room for the roasted marshmallows. In the morning after breakfast, with a fire, we packed up and hit the road back with snow beginning to fall and continuing to fall intermittently home. A glimpse of the coming months and other outdoor adventures.

I want to thank Samantha Mozdzierz, Dave Norkus and Jim Gessner for making this such a fun, successful and memorable trip.

Farewell to Norwood Catron

At the end of September, SOLAR lost a lifetime member – Norwood Catron. His departure left a hole in the hearts of many who cared for him. Many members knew Norwood as a gentle, kind, and sensitive man with a smile that lit up the room. He was a dedicated and loving son, brother, uncle and friend. Norwood loved nature and travel and was also on the board of Hosteling International. We will miss you Norwood!

SOLAR Winter Survival Class

The winter survival class will cover the skills and preparations you need to avoid or survive emergencies. Modern equipment as well as primitive skills will be demonstrated in a survival context. You cannot be too prepared for the unplanned events on your outdoor adventures. If you want a large dose of self-confidence and a chance to test your skills we have a great class. As a student you will not be made to do anything. However you will be given multiple opportunities to push your comfort level past it's edges.

This is not and easy class! It is very rewarding! The lessons learned here will change your outlook on every outdoor excursion. It also has applications to everyday life. We will use a simulated winter survival situation to bring together the various skills you have brought to this class, as well as those learned during the class. It is intended to make you aware of the dangers you may face in the outdoors. How planning and education can mitigate unforeseen events and/or lapses in judgment. Give you the physical and mental skills needed to face unexpected challenges on the trail.

A Partial list of the topics we are going to cover and practice.

Leadership Decision-making Prioritizing Trip Planning Orienteering Shelter Construction
Fire building
Sustenance acquisition
Improve your 10 essentials
Rope and Knot Skills

I will require 10 Paid students to start this class. Limit 20 students.

The dates for the Winter Survival class are as follows; November 3, 10, 17, 24, and December 1 for the classes, The practicals will be Nov 23, Dec 6, and 12-14th.

Douglas Lanyk 10541 Tamryn Blvd. Holly, MI 48442 248-634-4551 dslanyk@comcast.net

Poetic Nature

By Elizabeth Swab

The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference

If you have a favorite poem relating to the outdoors that you have read or have written yourself that you would like to see here in a future edition of the SOLAR Ray, send it to Elizabeth Schwab by email at: qes339@ yahoo.com. Include the source you obtained it from.

"A SALLIE KEYES INTERVIEW"

SALLIE KEYES: I understand that you were lost for 3 hours one night on the spit of land between two Lakes during the Best of the JMT Trip?

EMBARRASSED INTERVIEWEE: I have to admit that I was. My ordeal started at 10pm. The mountains were calling...and I had to go....

SALLIE: Did you take your ten essentials with you?

INTERVIEWEE (Whose name shall remain anonymous): Only 4 of them: My whistle, mini Swiss army knife, white & red tab lights, and a lighter. More on tab lights later.

SALLIE: Did you take a compass reading from your campsite?

INTERVIEWEE (Who won't reveal that his initials might be GLS): No, a compass was an essential that I essentially left behind. I could see my way since the clearing that we camped in was starlit and bright.

SKL: How did you get lost?

GLS: The "far" group of trees that I hiked to was not so starlit and at this point I was not so bright. I headed back to camp at the wrong angle. I found out that tab lights are not good illuminators over long distances. I should have taken my headlamp, but it was keeping my compass company.

SALLIE: Did you yell out?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, a number of times, but no one heard me at the time. I should have yelled "free beer" but I did not think of that...the whistle hanging around my neck choked off a number of rational thoughts. I did a number of things wrong and I did a number of things right. It was textbook.

SALLIE: What did you do next?

GLENN: After my fourth pass on the peninsula I thought that it would be best to stay put. I stopped by a large rock the size of a good sized tent for a base. I cleared the ground, collected a lot of firewood, built up a rock igloo and gathered pine branches for a mat, back pillow and overhang. I used my pocket knife to whittle wood shavings for tinder and to cut kindling. It was midnight now. I did not start the fire because I was not cold, was not sweating, and wanted the fire wood to last until day break.

SALLIE: Did anything scare you?

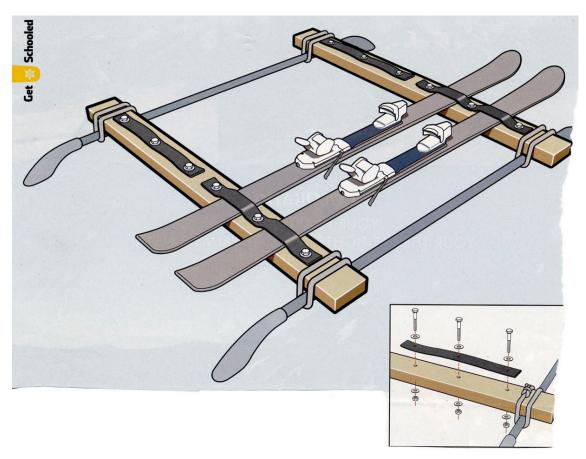
GLENN: At 1 am a pack of coyotes ran howling through the hills. I have been around since 1957 so I pretty much know were the bear went in the buckwheat, but I felt that soon the buckwheat was going to be in the seat of my smart woolies. Hearing those Cujo Banshees made me whittle faster than a jigsaw on steroids and I lit the fire as quick as I could after I experienced that pine needles don't necessarily light the first time when you really, really need them to.

SALLIE: How were you found at 1:15 am? And how did you find your way back?

GLENN: Andrew, on a night trek of his own, saw my white tab light swirling around like a mini light house beacon. I was trying to see the eyes of the wolves that were going to eat me. He said that he was kind of miffed that I did not tell him about my plan for the midnight campfire ahead of time. He said that he would have brought marshmallows. Always thinking of food, that guy. On the way back to camp, we saw that Don had by coincidence turned on a night light for his own night rendezvous. We were glad that he did, because Andrew and I had become "a little perplexed" ourselves in finding our way back.

SALLIE KEYES: How did you deal with the mountains calling you the next night?

GLENN SCHULTZ: My tarp mates, Andrew & Don tied 30 foot of paracord to my waist. Got to love 'em.



DIY

BUILD YOUR OWN ROOF RACK

with Greg Bridges

If your car already has a factory-installed luggage rack, all you'll need is a couple of two-by-fours, some cord (parachute cord or six-millimeter rope works well), a couple of mountain-bike inner tubes, and six two-inch wood bolts with fender washers for each pair of skis you want to carry.

Place the two-by-fours across your luggage rack (perpendicular to the length of the car) so they rest on the rack's rails. Cut the boards to length so they extend past the rails by at least a few inches.

Place the two-by-fours back on the ground and set your skis across them. Rather than stack your skis together, set the skis side-by-side. The bases of the skis should sit directly on the wood, with about an inch between them. Use a pencil to mark where your skis sit on each board.

For each pair of skis, drill three holes in the front two-by-four and three holes in the rear two-by-four: On each board, place one hole on the left side of your skis, one in between, and one on the right side.

Cut the inner tube into sections at least three inches longer than the width of your skis when they're sitting side-by-side. You'll need two sections of inner tube for each pair of skis—one for the tips, one for the tails. Drape the cut tube across the holes. Once you fasten the rubber to the wood (see below), the tube will hold your ski tips and tails to the two-by-fours.

Using a utility knife, cut a small X in the inner tube to pass a bolt through it and the hole in the two-by-four. Stretch the tube across the other holes, cutting Xs for each bolt. The more you stretch, the tighter the

hold on your skis. But don't overdo it; they won't blow off. You just need to keep the skis from sliding around. Use washers and Loctite adhesive to help keep the nuts from cutting into the tube and working loose. Repeat for each pair of skis you wish to carry.

Fasten the two-by-fours to the luggage rack with the rope or parachute cord using a slipknot cinched down with a series of overhand knots. Slide your tips and tails between the tubes and the wood. Commence laughing at others who spent \$600 on a rack.

—TIM NEVIL

Greg Bridges—a Mt. Bachelor, Oregon-bass wooden-kayak builder, teacher, and expert jury-rigger—has built racks from all manne of materials. He once accidentally skewered a coyote with a homemade fishing-rod rack made of rebar on his truck's bumper.

68 | skiing

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 (June 13 for the July issue). Electronic documents only, Word is preferred and please attach your images. If you have any questions, please contact **Pete Lamb** at rayeditor@solaroutdoors.org.

STEERING COMMITTEE

President: Cindy Taylor Vice President: Carol McCririe
Secretary: Sherri Doebel Treasurer: Michelle Delaporte
Activities: Samantha Schafer By-Laws: Chuck Smith
Education: Allen Duncan Equipment: Adam Greener
Historian: Debbie Zuchlewski Membership: Mary Price
Programs: Jan Duncan Public Relations: Pam Szakal
Ray Editor: Pete Lamb Webmaster: Willi Gutman

PRESIDENTS AT LARGE

Mike Banks | Leslie Cordova | Al Fylak | Steve Gardner Bill Halvingis | Cindy Harrison-Felix | Tom Hayes | Doug Lanyk Larry Martin | Joan Hettinger | Tom Oloffo | Lou Szakal 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 Cindy Taylor at president@solaroutdoors.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at: www.solaroutdoors.org.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SOLAR RAY ASSISTANT EDITORS Winnie Chrzanowski, Kathy Drewyore, Sheila Hardy, Pam Schmelzer, Carol McCririe, Elizabeth Schwab.

Visit our website: WWW. SOLAROUTDOORS. ORG

SOLAR

33228 W 12 Mile Road, P.O. Box 220 Farmington Hills, Mi, 48334