



The

SOLAR RAY

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

November 2008

CLIMBING at the RED

By Sherri Dobel

It was memorial weekend when a group of us SOLARites drive to Red River Gorge in Kentucky, a popular climbing area. Mike Pniewski, Mike Malon, Chris Myers, Judy Petrella and I drove down in a very packed van. When we arrived at Lago Linda's Hideaway Campground, it was packed with other climbers! Linda is from Europe, so she must be advertising there, because we could not speak the other languages.

On Saturday morning, we head over to Muir Valley which is privately owned land with a cliff line. The owner's are gracious to open their land for us to climb. You need to sign an online waiver in prior to climbing there.

We hike over to the Great Wall to find it crowded, but we were not discouraged as is a nicely shaded area to avoid the hot Kentucky sun. Some of us start our climb with 'La Escalada' a 5.6 climb. This is a really good beginner and warm-up climb, because it has ledges like a stairway. Next is 'Legends of Limonite' a 5.8 climb with 55 ft and 6 bolts. This is the furthestmost left sport climb on

the wall. It has a pumpy start with a pull-up feel, then a traverse to the left. A little bit of heighten nerves, because the first clip is after the traverse and climbers tend to z-clip on this climb, too. Next climb shares the same pumpy start, 'Glory & Consequence' a 5.7 climb with 50 ft and 5 bolts. After these climbs, we move farther down the wall where it is less crowded.

We came upon two climbers cleaning a climb called, 'International Route of Pancakes'. It is a 5.8 climb with 35 ft and 3 bolts. The challenge is that it is on an Arête and very exposed. A bowling ball size piece of the wall came off a couple of years ago! Plus, I left an expensive piece of gear on the climb a few years ago, because a missing ring. Ah, the excitement of climbing! Our final stop is 'Boltergeist' a 5.10b climb with 100 ft and 13 bolts. I personally love this climb. It has crimpy a start, then a bit slabby, with rope drag and a top-out at the anchors. It provides a beautiful view of the area and is destined to become a classic climb of the Red



Kokopeli's Dream

On Sunday, we drove to Muir Valley again and hike to Rebel Camp Hollow (aka Rebel Holler). We choose Bruise Brothers Wall, which is mostly in the sun. We warm-up on various climbs. Next we choose 'Flutterby Blue', a 5.9 climb with 40 ft and 5 bolts. This has a bouldery start in which each of us attack it differently. First Clip is past the bouldery start and a tree is a few feet from the start that adds to the excitement! 'Send Me On My Way' is a fun 5.9 climb with 75 ft and 9 bolts. There are two other climbs we are scouting out but can't find in the main climbing area. However, we spot an underutilized trail off the main trail and take it. Climb On! These next two climbs we sent are in the shade and have huge boulders to sit or lay on. 'Redeye Blue' is a 5.8 climb with 45 ft and 5 bolts. 'RedRiverOutdoors.com' is a 5.10a climb with 40 ft and 4 bolts. It's a little crimpy, no big jugs. Our final climb is at Sunny side Wall, 'Kokopeli's Dream'. It's a 5.9 40 ft Pinnacle that is a technical slab, layback at the Arête and 4 bolts. Don't fall on a slab!

On Monday, we slept in and packed at our leisure. All of us are still in one piece and no injuries present, another successful climbing weekend. Then we fill our bellies on Miguel's fabulous pizza before our long ride home.

A WORD FROM THE HISTORIAN

By Debbie Zuchewski

Many people have asked how SOLAR came to be. Following is a brief history of SOLAR. In 1974 Peg Campbell read an article in the newspaper that the Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office was recruiting 4H Leaders. Peg signed up to participate in a new program, the 4H Challenge, which was going to be offered through the MSU Extension Service to train kids in outdoor skills. The program's mission was to "train adults interested in using the outdoors to help develop life skills in young people. The program included training in backpacking, caving, canoeing, rock climbing, map and compass orienteering, winter camping and first aid. Adults receiving the training were expected to work with young people in the 4H Challenge Program. Peg attended the 16 week 4H Challenge Leader Training Course taught by Doug Maddox and Bill Halvangis. After the 16 week Leader Training Program ended Peg agreed to help train a second group of leaders.

Although 4H decided to stop the training program, friendships were forged during the first and second leadership training programs. Several of the participants decided to start a club to continue their outdoor adventures as a group. The group talked about calling the club AIM (Adventures in Michigan) and a few other assorted names, but when the name SOLAR (School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure, and Recreation) was suggested, everyone was in agreement. The group started meeting to establish the structure of the club and write by-laws. SOLAR was officially formed in 1975. The Club bylaws state that the purpose of the club is "(A) To promote and advance interest in the outdoors through information and participation in activities related to the S.O.L.A.R. program, and (B) To provide a medium and a format for the exchange of ideas, information, skills, equipment, etc. related to the planning and conducting of outdoor activities, expeditions, etc. by and with people who are interested and involved in supporting and promoting these purposes as stated".

SOLAR approached Livonia Parks and Recreation about offering classes through the organization. Livonia Parks and Recreation started advertising the classes in their catalog, provided classrooms and meeting space. Our ties to Livonia Parks and Recreation was discontinued after a few years because of budget cuts. There was also a period of time in the early 80's when SOLAR was a subgroup of AYH (American Youth Hostels). As the club grew we needed a larger meeting space. Bob Westbrook and Bill Halvangis went shopping for a new place to hold the monthly meetings. This is when Aries Colony Hall in Southfield was found. To this day, we still hold our monthly meetings at Colony Hall.

Thirty three years ago the classes that SOLAR promoted were vastly different from what they are now. In the early years, SOLAR had classes such as Nature Study, Fishing, Bicycling, High Ropes, and Windsurfing. Some classes that have stood the test of time include Backpacking, Enjoying Michigan Winters, Wilderness First Aid, Survival, Kayaking, Cross Country Skiing, and Rock Climbing, which have been taught every year since SOLAR began. New classes have been added over the years to accommodate new members and new interests. Some of these classes include Intermediate and Advanced Backpacking, Search and Rescue, Mountaineering, SCUBA, Introduction to Car Camping, Introduction to Adventure Racing, Canoe Paddling, Tree Identification, Gardening, Mountain Biking, and Women in the Woods. In addition to classes taught by volunteers who want to share their knowledge and experience, SOLAR provides a forum where members can organize trips and activities and invite other SOLAR members to join them. Since we are a volunteer organization, our knowledge, interests, and adventures are as diverse as our members. There have been more trips and activities than I could possibly mention, from dog sledding, backpacking, caving, white water rafting, bicycling, and travel to places like Costa Rica, Tuscany, San Juan, and Tibet. Special mention should go to Leslie Cordova who holds the record for leading more than 60 activities to date.

So, what is SOLAR today? SOLAR is made up of approximately 450 individuals with a passion for the outdoors and a willingness to share their skills in a loosely structured volunteer organization. In other words, YOU ARE SOLAR. Bob Westbrook, who was SOLAR Vice President in 1977, put it nicely when he said that when he joined SOLAR he admired the easy grace and experience of SOLAR leaders. As time went by and SOLAR leaders shared the benefit of their experience, somehow a transition seamlessly took place and Bob found himself exhibiting the same easy grace and experience in the outdoors. It is a "play it forward" experience. Members share their experience and knowledge with others thus providing new members with the experience and easy grace to pass on to more new members. Bob also said that we just wanted to share our knowledge so we would have someone to go play with in the outdoors. A big thank you goes out to all of the

**ALL LEVELS,
NO EXPERIENCE
NECESSARY!!!!
KID FRIENDLY (MUST BE 6
TO CAVE)
NO PETS**

CAVING AND/OR HIKING IN KENTUCKY

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 Carter Caves State Park in Olive Hill, Kentucky. It is a great way for people to get acquainted with caving as they offer a wide variety of cave tours, ranging from walking tours, a little bit of crawling, a lot of crawling and vertical caving.. They even have trips for kids and seniors!! If you do not like the underground, join us anyway, as there is some great hiking in the area.

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



Enjoy Michigan Winters! **Backpacking & Winter Skills Class**

Winter backpacking 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 isn't 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 hasn't 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 Survival 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.
(313) 461 - 4933 or mcmountainman@yahoo.com

A LUCKY DOG'S LIFE IN THE ADIRONDACKS-2008

By Dave DeFrance

On October 4th through 13th, my Uncle Don Wold led a trip to the high peaks area of the Adirondack Mountains. I got to go with my masters, Maureen and Dave De France.

The trip started with a long ride through some foreign country. I was stuffed in a little corner of the van along with a ton of hiking and camping gear. I couldn't see the great colors they talked about and was only let out to pee when they felt the urge. We left in the dark and arrived in the dark. The High Peak Hostel in Lake Placid had some great fields and woods behind with some great smells. I only got to run there a few minutes while the masters checked in and waited for some other humans from the Michigan Pack to arrive. Then it was back in the car while they went to some place called Lisa G's. They went for a walk and didn't take me. They went for food and didn't take me. I'm pretty down at this point, but at least I'm not left home.

Oct. 5 Yippee, we got to go for a walk—my favorite thing. My pack took me up Ampersand Peak. The weather was perfect. Boy was it steepish (that's how Uncle Don described it) near the top. I had to use all my climbing skills to get up the roots and rocks. The top was bare, windy and cold. I scrounged for food while the humans marveled at the colors, the lakes and the peaks. Some of the peaks even had snow on them. That would prove to create quite an adventure a couple of days later. We drove a few miles to the ADK Loj on Heart Lake. What a gorgeous place. The humans said they also had great beds, meals and something called ambiance.

Oct. 6. Today, my mom, Maureen, went on something called a kayak with my former roommate, Pete and some others. I got to go hiking again. Today it was a place called Hurricane. I expected the worst and indeed, we did have a blizzard on top. We had lunch--I got part of a PB&J that comes as part of a great bag lunch from the Loj--and the sun came out long enough for the humans to take some great fall color photos

Oct. 7. A big day planned today. We are going to Avalanche Lake and then up the back side of Algonquin and plan to hit two other peaks—Iroquois and Wright—as well. The trip started well as we went passed the Marcy Dam and then

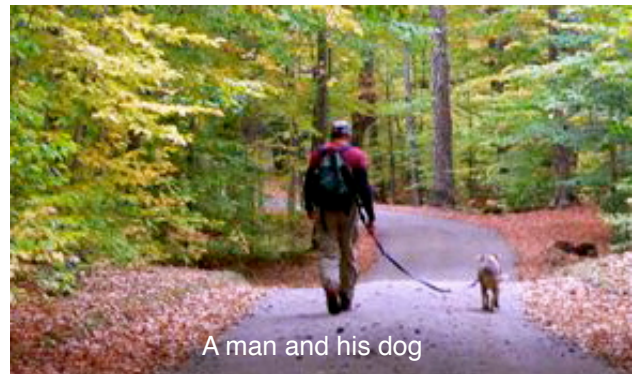
onward. The trail was interspersed with steps and boardwalks and

when we got to the lake, we had to go up and down ladders and hanging walkways. What a challenge but I wasn't scared. After a couple of side trips, we started up the mountain. Again, it was very steepish. The snow that we saw was still at the top and was smashed down into ice. On the way down, a human named Tim laid down, like for a nap, but didn't get up. All the other humans wrapped some stuff on his ankle and then we started down the mountain with Tim sliding on his butt. It got very dark and cold. I was so tired that I took a nap every chance I got. Then some more humans came in red shirts, grabbed Tim and hauled him down the rest of the way to the Loj. Was I ever glad to get into the car and pass out.

Oct 8. We all dragged around for a while after a short night and then went to a place called the Adirondack Mountain Reserve and hiked along many waterfalls on our way to Indian Head. I sprained my ankle chasing chipmunks so did not make it to the top. I hear the view was fabulous. On the way out, some angry man talked to my masters and kept saying "no dog". I don't know what I did wrong.

Oct. 9. Today, my mom and I went with Riley's mom back to Avalanche Lake. (I don't know why Riley didn't come. Boy, he missed a great time). Dad, Uncle Don and Bonnie went to Noonmark Peak. I guess they had a good time and saw some great view. Some others went rock climbing on beer wall. The humans really like the word beer. After being put back in the car, I had this urge to be free. I chewed through a pack and 3 straps along the doors of the van but still didn't get out. My owners are mad at me.

Oct. 10. We left the Loj today and drove around Lake Placid, Keen



A man and his dog



On top of Ampersand



Just a short nap please



My Mom in Pete's kayak

and Keen Valley looking for camping and hiking places. We ended up back near the Loj and hiked up Mt. Van Hoevenberg. There were great views at the top and great smells including beaver and deer along the way.

Oct. 11. I'm exhausted
humans coaxed me up Blueberry
Great views from the many
this was a great hike and would

Oct. 12. OH NO! Hiking
Pitchcoff. Again, I had to use my
had lunch at the top but there
we started early, we had time to
dinner before checking into the
to roam the woods behind the

Oct. 13. Long drive home.
Uncle Don invited me back.
It's good to be back in my own
year old bones. It was great to see
such a scenic area. I hope we go

Adirondack color



after a hard week of hiking. My
Cobbles and up to Bald Peak.
overlooks and the top. They said
like to do it again.

again. This time it was up Mt.
climbing skills near the top. We
was no views up there. Because
hike around Lake Placid and have
High Peaks Hostel. I couldn't wait
place again.

I must have been OK because

house and I'm still resting my 11
and hang out with everyone in
again next year.

New SOLAR Activities Policy

As of Nov 1, there will be changes to the SOLAR Activities Policy. There will no longer be a distinction between SOLAR and Non-SOLAR Activities.

What does this mean to you as a member? Very Little. The same great trips, parties and day activities at a great price will still be open for you sign up for and enjoy. In addition, you will now be able to bring along friends, family members, etc. to any of the SOLAR member coordinated activities. Non-SOLAR members might be asked to pay extra to enjoy these same activities. If you are participating in an upcoming activity or thinking about signing up for an activity, please review the Participant Guidelines on the SOLAR website

If you have been considering organizing an activity, these changes should make it easier for you to do so. There are new Guidelines for Coordinating an Activity on the SOLAR website. It covers how to get the activity on the SOLAR Calendar, what information to supply to potential participants, how to run the finances thru the club, and other useful information to consider for your activity.

You can find the new Activities Policy on the SOLAR website.

If you have any questions, please contact Samantha Schafer, Activities Chairperson,
solaractivities@solaroutdoors.org

solaractivities@solaroutdoors.org



YOU KNOW YOU ARE A KAYAKER WHEN

By Jim Coe

Inspired by Pete and Sharon

- 1: Even though you are heterosexual you are sometimes seen in public in a skirt
- 2: You own more kayaks than there are days in the week.
- 3: You are so into Greenland Eskimo style that you and your gal don't kiss anymore you rub noses.
- 4: You will never be asked to model for "Play Girl Magazine" because of winter paddling shrinkage.
- 4: Women don't care about fitting into old jeans anymore they just want to fit into their old kayaks.
- 5: Your wet neoprene paddling shoes smell more like dead raccoon than dead raccoon.
- 6: A good roll, is in the lake not the hay.
- 7: You and your significant other talk about a wet exit and you are not talking about sex.
- 8: The smell that hits you when you open your car door on a hot day is not a body in the trunk but your paddling gear in your bag.
- 9: The criterion for a new car is, can I reach to put two kayaks on the roof.
- 10: You buy matching Fuzzy Rubber outfits, at "Kayaks Are Us" not "Lovers Lane".
- 11: You know what anthropomorphic measurements are and how to use them.

BOOK CLUB CHANGE

BY Vida

I noticed that the next SOLAR meeting and book club date in Nov. is on election day. So I think it would be best to change it to **Dec. 2** before the SOLAR meeting, 6 p.m. at Chipotle in Southfield on Evergreen, just a few miles north of Colony Hall. Remember we will be discussing Three Cups of Tea, a great book about a climber who decided to try to really help fight terrorism by building schools for children in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Looking forward to it!

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

My November Guest

By Robert Frost

*My Sorrow, when she's here with me,
Thinks these dark days of autumn rain
Are beautiful as days can be;
She loves the bare, the withered tree;
She walks the sodden pasture lane.*

*Her pleasure will not let me stay.
She talks and I am fain to list:
She's glad the birds are gone away,
She's glad her simple worsted gray
Is silver now with clinging mist.*

*The desolate, deserted trees,
The faded earth, the heavy sky,
The beauties she so truly sees,
She thinks I have no eye for these,
And vexes me for reason why.*

*Not yesterday I learned to know
The love of bare November days
Before the coming of the snow;
But it were vain to tell her so,
And they are better for her praise.*

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.

Natural High

by Ati "Scout" Tislerics

Our trip on the John Muir Trail began with a two-day detour by way of the High Sierra Camp near Vogelsang Peak, since that was the only permit we could get. Thus, instead of a nice, easy first day along a nearly level canyon, we climbed 1400 feet and spent our first night at 10,000 feet. But, rather than being an inconvenience, the detour allowed us to add an extra dash of adventure to the trip. Several of us were looking forward to climbing Vogelsang Peak on the morning of our second day, since that day promised to



Ati on the trail

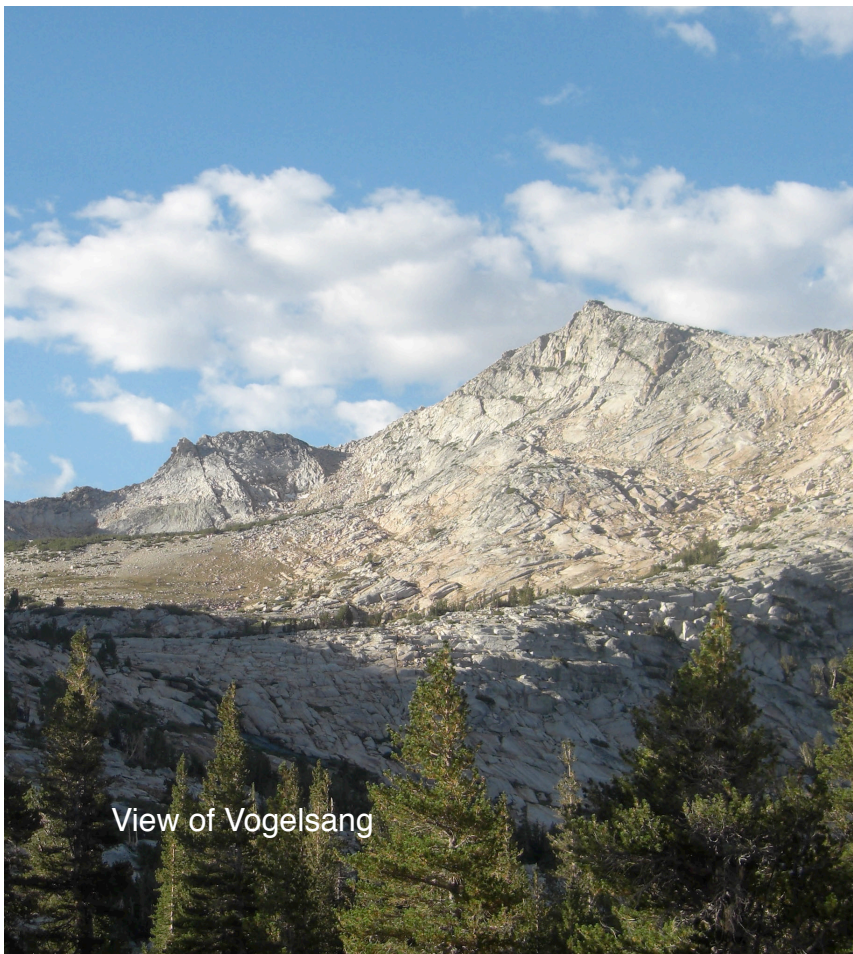
be fairly short and mostly downhill.

It sounded like a great idea to me, but I was also concerned about overdoing it so early in the trip. I had had some knee problems a few months before, and altitude was a wild card. But, I suspected that I would regret it more if I didn't tackle the summit than if I did.

Well, Dave DeFrance and Glenn Schultz got in to camp in midafternoon, and decided to bag the summit right away. There's a well-established route to the summit, but they somehow got off track and ended up doing a lot of scrambling. Don Wold and I planned to climb it the following morning.

When morning arrived, I felt pretty good. Jen and I had actually arrived at Tuolumne Meadows a day early to help ourselves acclimate, and that decision now paid off. Don, however, had gotten dehydrated the previous day and was not feeling so well. So, Dave and I stood in the valley, and he pointed out the route to me, and described the key turns. I took my Ten Essentials and set off alone. As a joke, I told Jen to look at the summit at 9:30, and I would wave to her.

It was a beautiful morning, cool, clear and



View of Vogelsang

bright. I followed the trail for about 20 minutes, then stepped a bit off to stretch. By a huge coincidence, however, the spot I chose to stop was only a few yards from a fork in the trail, where a closed side trail continued straight and the real trail took a very sharp left turn. Thus, when I resumed walking, I had unknowingly gotten off track onto the side trail, and it soon vanished. But, I could see my general route ahead of me, and felt I had a pretty good understanding of Dave's directions. I hiked up a boulder-strewn meadow to a line of scrubby trees. Dave had said I would work my way up and to the right, and so I did. I followed a vague shelf that ascended as it traversed the slope below



the summit, and soon found myself scrambling across some steep and difficult terrain. I now suspected this wasn't exactly the route Dave had described, but I knew he and Glenn hadn't been able to follow the established route either. In any case, I was making progress, and relishing the challenge.

The climbing got trickier, the going slower and more deliberate. My route sometimes became impassable, and I had to backtrack. A few times, I felt dangerously exposed, and hoped I could find an easier route down. But, the granite was solid, with good footing and handholds, and though I'd never tried anything like this before, I trusted my abilities. I continued upward, and eventually emerged onto a saddle below the summit. A couple hundred feet of relatively easy scrambling took me to the top. It was 9:33, and I totally forgot to wave to Jen!

The summit of Vogelsang is 11,493 feet. As mountains go, it's nothing extraordinary, but for me it was one of the two highlights of the trip. I was the first person up that day, and I had half an hour alone at the summit. Only as I descended did I realize how rare and precious that time was. I took some photos, ate some celebratory Swedish fish, and ogled the landscape. I was higher than pretty much anything else around. I could see forever. I could look down at Half Dome in the middle distance. It was awesome. I looked all over for the summit register, finally found it, and added my name - my first official summit. I studied my map and the terrain to find a better way off the mountain. I decided on a route, and a few moments later was glad to see some people coming up that same way! This was both a welcome confirmation that the route was good, and a validation of my nascent route-finding skills. As I was getting ready to head down, I was joined at the summit by a kid of about 12, followed by his 10-year-old sister! It made me sort of glad I had pioneered the more challenging "Hungarian Route" up.

About 10:00, I reluctantly left the summit behind. A few minutes later, who should I meet but Don, escorted by a young couple who actually knew the correct route up. Apparently, a gourmet breakfast in the High Sierra Camp dining room had cured whatever was ailing him. The trip down was quick and easy, and now I understood how I misinterpreted Dave's directions. It's not so easy to take some general directions and apply them to an actual landscape.

During the remainder of the trip, we crossed three 11,000-foot passes, but Vogelsang Peak was the highest point for any of us. When it seemed like we would have some time to spare, I studied the map for other peaks that might be within range, but the opportunity never materialized. That's all right, I'll be back, and the mountains will be waiting.

SOLAR NOVEMBER 2008 CALENDER

NOVEMBER ACTIVITES					
2 3/4	Tues	Monthly Meeting **	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
2 3/4	Tues	China Presentation – Maureen DeFrance**	Colony Hall	Janet Duncan	SolarPrograms@solaroutdoors.org
11/7-9	Wknd	Autumn Rendezvous	Nordhouse Dunes	Mike Banks	michaelsolar@yahoo.com
11/7-9	Wknd	Camp Pet O Se Ga	Petoskey, MI	Elizabeth Schwab	qes1339@yahoo.com
11/7-10	Multi	Off-trail Backpacking (more information at http://therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm) **	Hiawatha National Forest	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com
NOVEMBER CLASSES					
11/3, 10, 17, 23-24	Mon Wknd	Winter Survival	Various	Douglas Lanyk	dslanyk1@yahoo.com
11/5, 7-8	Wed Wknd	Basic Land Navigation	TBD/Waterloo Rec Area	Karl Overheul	cyber.nomad@comcast.net
DECEMBER ACTIVITES					
6	Tues	Monthly Meeting **	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
6	Tues	Book Club Meeting	Chipolte, Southfield, MI	Vida Ruggero	rageti@hotmail.com
2 2/5	Tues	Holiday Party** - 7:00pm	Colony Hall	Janet Duncan	SolarPrograms@solaroutdoors.org
12/5-8	Multi	Off-trail Backpacking or sledging (more information at http://therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm) **	Pigeon River Country SF	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com
12/26-1/2	Multi	Canoe thru the Everglades**	Florida Everglades	Grey Ivanov	sergey.ivanov@us.bosch.com
DECEMBER CLASSES					
(cont.) 12/1, 6, 12-14	Mon Wknd	Winter Survival	Various	Douglas Lanyk	dslanyk1@yahoo.com
6/155	Wed	Enjoying Michigan Winters	TBD	Tom Oloffo	mcmountainman@yahoo.com
6/559	Multi	Mountaineering	TBD	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net
JANUARY ACTIVITES					
1/6	Tues	Monthly Meeting **	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
1/6	Tues	Program TDB**	Colony Hall	Janet Duncan	SolarPrograms@solaroutdoors.org
1/16-18	Wknd	4 th Annual Lake Ann Cross Country Ski Weekend	Lake Ann, MI	Jim Coe	jimc36@comcast.net
1/16-20	Multi	Off-trail Winter Camping (more information at http://therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm) **	Hiawatha National Forest	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com
1/23-25	Wknd	Crawlathon	Carter Caves State Park, Ky	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
12/26-1/2	Multi	Canoe thru the Everglades**	Florida Everglades	Grey Ivanov	sergey.ivanov@us.bosch.com
JANUARY CLASSES					
(con't) 1/7, 14, 17-18, 21, 28, 30-2/1	Multi	Enjoying Michigan Winters	TBD	Tom Oloffo	mcmountainman@yahoo.com
(con't) 1/8 10, 15, 22-25, 29	Multi	Mountaineering	TBD	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES					

2/7-22	Multi	Arctic Ocean Expedition (James Bay) (more information at http://therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm) **	Moose River, Ontario	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com
2/7-22	Multi	Costa Rica Adventure	Costa Rica	Maureen DeFrance	moelifeisgood@lavebit.com
3/8	Sun	American Lung Assoc. of MI Climb Detroit	Detroit Renaissance Center	Lisa Boose	elbows6000@att.net
3/8-14	Multi		Pictured Rocks Lakeshore	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com
4/5-12	Multi	Return to St John USVI	Maho Bay Camps, St. 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	Off-trail Winter Camping (more information at http://therucksack.tripod.com/trips.htm) **	Lake Superior Provincial Park	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com
UPCOMING CLASSES					
(con't) 2/6-8	Multi	Mountaineering	TBD	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net

Camp Pet O Se Ga Week End

I had a very deprived childhood (sniffle, sniff.) I never got to go to camp. Help me change this by joining me the w/e of Nov 7-9th at this old kids camp, now a county park, west of Petoskey on Pickeral Lake. It is one of the places mentioned in Jim Dufresne's book, "The Best Campgrounds in Michigan."

There are 6 miles of hiking trails on the property, some in wet areas, so we'd have plenty of chances to slosh through mud! How cool is that?! For paddlers, bring your Canoe or Kayak for the lake, which has a channel to the quite large Crooked Lake to the north. There are also other hiking trails nearby and plenty of country roads for biking.

Lodging is in a heated cabin, with a kitchen area and a dormitory on the second floor with 10 single beds (bring your earplugs!) There is a fieldstone fireplace as well as a firepit outside for roasting marshmallows to eat straight or to make s'mores. The cabin is semi rustic, meaning there are pit toilets but there is the luxury of a shower house. Bring your sleeping bags and kitchen supplies, bedding and utensils are not included. The cabin is adjacent to the woods and Cedar Creek, with a view of the lake.

This will be a GREAT week end to get out of town for a little R&R, before the craziness of the holidays start. We'll have the traditional pot luck Saturday nite, as well as games and cards, so bring your favorites. And all this for only \$15 for the w/e! Sadly, much as I love the SOLAR dogs, pets are not allowed.

You can see how beautiful the area is at the website: co.emmet.mi.us/parkrec.

For any questions, or to reserve your spot, e mail Elizabeth: ges1339@yahoo.com.

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
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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, and Ati Tislerics

Visit our website: WWW.SOLAROUTDOORS.ORG

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