

# The SOLAR Ray

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A monthly publication of the School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation (SOLAR)

December 2009

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## Finding My Way to SOLAR

*By Elizabeth Shaw*

Of all the things you can learn in SOLAR's Basic Land Navigation class, there's one little truism that simply can't be taught: You will never know how much you need it until the day you get lost.

It's a lesson I brought with me in October to the first classroom session at the community center in Berkley, safely tucked away in a back pocket of my mind. That's why I'm starting this story about the BLN class with another story that has nothing - and everything - to do with it.

Back in 2005, a friend and I thru-hiked the Foothills Trail, an 80-mile ridge runner that zigzags along the Blue Ridge Escarpment as it dances across the borders of North and South Carolina and Georgia.

Oh sure, we had our compasses, our trail guides, our basic topo maps. But like a lot of hikers - even very experienced ones - we relied on those trusty blazes more than I'd care to admit, especially on a trail like the Foothills that has the best mile-by-mile trail guide I've ever used.

There's one little problem with trail guides, however: they're not much help if you somehow get *off* the trail.

We were somewhere into our 4<sup>th</sup> day out when we fell into that hiker's daze, staring at your boots as they hit the trail, lost in wondering whether you'll have the dehydrated beef stroganoff or pad Thai for dinner that night. I don't remember which one of us noticed it first, but suddenly we couldn't remember the last time we'd seen a blaze, and nothing around us matched where we thought we were on the trail map.

Obviously we'd somehow gotten off on a spur in an area where old logging roads crisscrossed the trail. Studying the maps and

guides only confirmed what we already knew: we had no idea where we were, or where we'd lost the trail. Not a comforting feeling when you've seen exactly four people in as many days, and the nearest road was untold miles away and in who-knew-which direction?

We didn't panic, and within a half-hour, we managed to



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pick up the right trail again at the bottom of a gully and those bright blazes were soon back in view. We took care to never lose sight of them again. But the deeper lesson was one I barely realized at the time: If we'd been using our topos for reference instead of leaving them neatly folded in our packs, we'd have *known* where we were, no guesswork, on or off the trail.

Since then I've tried to get better at it but I still rely more heavily on simple trail maps than I should, and I'm embarrassed to admit my approach to declination has been to pretty much ignore it — which of course means that, in a bushwhacking situation, I still do more fumbling and wandering than anything you could call actual navigation.

So that's why I decided to join SOLAR and take the Basic Land Navigation (BLN) class. I was hoping someone could show me how to match those squiggly contour lines with the real-world features around me, how to decode the mysteries of declination, and how to *really* use my compass to always know exactly where I am on the map - or at least how to get back to where I did.

And that's exactly what Brian Andrews and his team of fellow BLN instructors delivered, in a totally fun and engaging way.

The first session's meet-and-greet immediately put to rest any anxieties I had about joining SOLAR. Everyone was just like me, looking to learn the very same things. Leah and Dave Pelfrey were adventure racers looking to boost their orienteering IQ. Marie Izzo was an avid hiker eager to add to her outdoor skills. Mary Donahue's boots had plenty of miles on them as a hike leader but she wanted to acquire more technical expertise. We even had Mad Max Aghili, an engineer's engineer who literally applauded every time the

word "math" came up.

The rest of the class - Natalie Jewell, Teresa Koch, Bill Morse, Helen Peters, Debbie Rodriguez, Beth Ann Rognlie and Nancy Thomas — were also each somewhere along the map-and-compass experience scale from zero to 10. The point is, it didn't matter what any of us did or didn't know - we all started at "this is the needle, this is the dog house" and worked our way up from that together as a team, all the way to triangulation and beyond.

The classroom sessions were like kindergarten play dates. We filled a tray containing a miniature mountain with colored water a centimeter at a time, to illustrate exactly how contour lines are created on a topo map. Under the guidance of Michelle Delaporte and Linda Rodrick we cut and folded compass roses, magnetized needles and did little point-and-go exercises with our compasses.

Then it was time for the weekend practical at Waterloo Recreation Area, one of the few not-flat places in lower Michigan. We spent part of the first day out in the drizzle. First, we bushwhacked our way out and back to the cabin like a herd of drunken ground squirrels, counting paces and struggling to keep one eye on our compass headings without crashing headfirst into the next tree ahead.

Later, we followed Brian like little ducklings from point to point as he helped us trace our route through the woods on our topo maps. Ati Tislerics, Robin Vargyas and Michelle Delaporte, the other co-instructors, hammered the



lessons home with more hands-on learning. (And yes, everyone agreed Michelle's Play-doh mountain modeling was the most fun.)

The last  
(Continued on page 3)



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classroom session was held by lantern-light in the cabin. For the first time, a light bulb literally went off in my head when guest instructor Dave Holt used a globe and string to explain declination and why it really does matter if you're hiking anywhere except along the Mississippi River.

Around the campfire that night, we took a break from higher learning to discuss the dubious origins of Jell-O and marshmallows (which unfortunately prompted an enlightened Marie to toss her s'mores in the trash), and got serenaded by a Boy Scout troop singing Jimmy Buffet songs. By the time we bunked down, we were all burned out from stuffing so much in our heads but eager to get out on the orienteering course for real. I don't think we even minded the herd of scouts who'd pitched their tents all around us.

On Sunday, each team set out with an instructor in tow (probably to make sure we didn't end up in downtown Chelsea) as we hiked through the woods from point to point, finding our way to a series of objectives marked on a topo map.

It turned out that Max had an almost uncanny instinct for matching real-world features to the topo and barely needed to shoot a compass bearing. In another group, Helen achieved near-legendary status for her ability to "see through trees," as Nancy described it.

Some of the best things we learned weren't even in the syllabus - like Michelle showing Nancy how to find the pit door handle in the dark "without a flashlight, all the better to appreciate the stars!" or the food dehydrating websites she shared. Or Brian's amazing chocolate fruit bar recipe (stolen, he says, but with due credit given to Marie Martinko). And for me, the "newbie," all the great history and insights on SOLAR that Ati shared, giving me even more incentive and encouragement to go beyond this "first date" with the club. Like stone soup, everyone brought a little

something of themselves to share and we all left richer for it.

By the time the afternoon ended and the last team made it back, parting with hugs and cheers all around, I felt I hadn't just found my way on a compass - I'd also found a great new group of friends. If this class is any indication of what SOLAR as a whole is all about, I think I just might follow my back bearing to another great SOLAR event.

*Additional photos of the Basic Land Navigation class are available courtesy of Brian Andrews at <http://bit.ly/BasicLandNav09>.*



### Words to Wander By

The old Lakota was wise. He knew that man's heart away from nature becomes hard; he knew that lack of respect for growing, living things soon led to a lack of respect for humans, too.

*~ Chief Luther Standing Bear*

*Thanks to Pam Esper for submitting this quotation!*

We asked SOLAR club members...

*about their plans for winter adventures this year.*



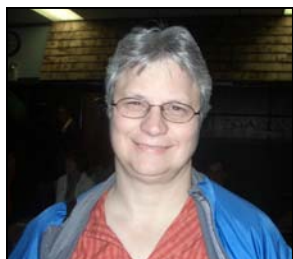
*Mark Carson*

I'm going to Nordhouse Dunes, if that counts as winter. I will be a volunteer instructor for the Enjoying Michigan Winters class, and hope to get in a lot of hikes and cross country skiing. I don't have any big trips planned; I'll be staying close to home since I'm unemployed.



*Pam Esper*

At the moment, I have no plans and I'm excited about that! It was a busy summer.



*Natalie Jewell*

I'm hoping to go caving—we'll have to wait and see if the bats are still diseased.



*Mike Hobig*

I'll be working at the Thanksgiving Day Parade, going camping with the club and serving as lackey for the Enjoying Michigan Winters class. I'll be hosting a 'Cabin Fever' party in February with a bonfire.

*Want to see this new feature again? Have a question to suggest?  
Contact the Ray Editor at [SOLARrayeditor@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:SOLARrayeditor@solaroutdoors.org).*

## Pete's!!!! Annual Jim's Trip To Lake Ann

The annual Lake Ann C/C Ski Extravaganza is a must for winter-loving SOLARites so come and ski, eat and play euchre/games with us at the beautiful Bear's Den near Lake Ann. You can snowshoe, too, if you prefer.

The dates are January 15 -17 (Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend). The cost is \$65, make checks out to SOLAR. The first with checks on the barrelhead get the pick of the rooms.

This trip is noted for its fantastic potluck and once again Pete will cook a turkey.

Jim is practicing the magical snow dance he has performed in past years; when he has it right, he will be turned loose in Island Lake in nothing but his mukluks to dance under a full moon, guaranteeing us the fabulous snow we get on this trip.

If you are interested in busting the winter blahs contact Pete Lamb at 248-703-9927 or email [petekandu@yahoo.com](mailto:petekandu@yahoo.com).



Did you catch the  
*Detroit Free Press* column  
about SOLAR?

Read it here:

<http://bit.ly/Freep-SOLAR>



## **SPOTLIGHT ON...**



***Debbie Zuchlewski,***  
**SOLAR Programs Chair**



***How long have you been a member of SOLAR?***

I've been a member for 8 years.

***How did you learn of SOLAR in the first place?***

While growing up in Michigan I did not participate in many outdoor sports. I moved away from Michigan for 20 years and during that time started backpacking on Mt. Shasta, hiking, whitewater rafting, downhill skiing, canoeing, windsurfing, and SCUBA diving. I moved back to Michigan in 2000 and started an MBA Program. SOLAR member Tom Dunn sat next to me in one of my classes and told me all about the club. I was so happy to hear that there were others in Michigan who enjoyed outdoor activities as much as I did. As soon as I graduated I joined SOLAR and have been active in the club ever since.

***What are some outdoorsy activities you enjoy?***

I enjoy kayaking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, hiking, and just being out in nature. Arthritis now prevents me from backpacking, downhill skiing and other high impact activities, but that is what is so wonderful about SOLAR — there is something for everyone at all levels, from extreme activities like mountaineering, to easier activities like hiking.

***What has been your favorite trip/activity so far?***

Wow - they've all been so fantastic it's hard to pick out a favorite. Some of my favorite trips include going to Tuscany, St. John (US Virgin Islands) and

the Adirondacks. However, my favorite activity would have to be building a custom skin-on-frame kayak with 19 other SOLAR members this past year. It was the most challenging and rewarding thing I've ever done.

***What would your ideal trip be like?***

I would like to perfect my Eskimo roll and then go on a kayaking trip in Alaska. I took two rolling classes this summer and hope to perfect my roll by next summer. (An Eskimo roll is flipping over in your kayak and bringing yourself back upright with a flip of your hip, sculling your paddle, and returning to the surface without exiting your kayak - an important skill to have when kayaking in frigid water).

***Which SOLAR classes have you taken? Taught?***

I have taken Beginning Backpacking, Enjoying Michigan Winters, Survival, Search and Rescue, Land Navigation, Kayaking, Wilderness First Aid, Cross-Country Skiing, Mountain Biking, and Women's Backpacking. I helped teach the Survival class once, I helped teach the Women's Backpacking class once, and I have helped teach Search and Rescue for the past four years.

***Do you have any pets? Kids? Significant Other?***

I have two cats, Milo and Patch. They love it when SOLAR members come over — they jump from lap to lap purring. I'm fortunate that my next-door neighbor is retired and does not mind catsitting while I'm off on my numerous activities with SOLAR.

***What inspired you to run for a Steering Committee position?***

I have gained so much from SOLAR. I have experienced a tremendous amount of personal growth by learning new skills and constantly pushing myself beyond my comfort zone. I've also made many wonderful friends through SOLAR. I wanted to give back to the club by being on the Steering Committee. I've been on the Steering Committee for three years; one year as Secretary, one year as Historian, and currently as Programs Chairperson.

# Fun at Nordhouse Dunes

*By Kevin Cotter*

As the only designated wilderness area in the Lower Peninsula, Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area is one of the finest places in Michigan for a weekend backpacking getaway. Even at 3450 acres (5 1/3 square miles), its undeveloped sandy Lake Michigan beach and widespread dunes convey a feeling of remoteness.

Five SOLARites (Joanne Sarrasin, Jennifer Tislerics, Mark Carson, Pablo Balan, and I) made their weekend escape from civilization on Friday, November 6. Since we were arriving at different times, we decided to meet at the Lake Michigan Recreation Area campground just north of Nordhouse Dunes. Those of us who arrived early enough hiked to the beach Friday evening to watch the



sun set, only to see the sun disappear behind a thick cloud cover. Since the forecast called for clouds all weekend, we were not optimistic about seeing much sun during our trip.

Saturday morning we left our cars near the campground and backpacked south

into Nordhouse Dunes, following a ridgeline trail overlooking the beach. To our pleasant surprise, the clouds disappeared, leaving us with sunny blue skies and warming temperatures that would reach into the 60s. After hiking for an hour, we came across a large area of downed trees, the result of a tornado that hit the area in June 2008. Hiking through this area became a challenge since some of the trees were still blocking the trail. We were so focused on getting through the obstacle course that we were easily ambushed by a second group of SOLAR members who were having their annual reunion nearby. We

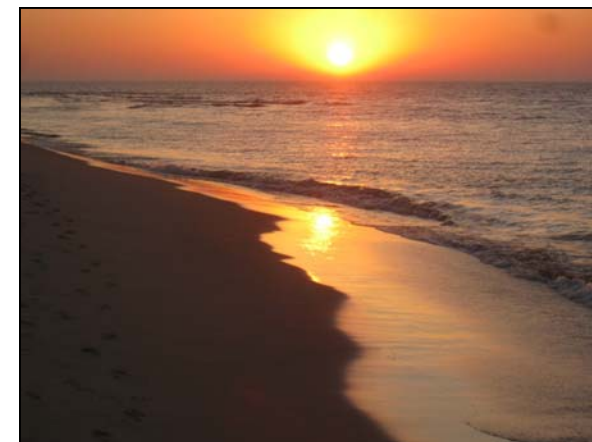


exchanged hugs, took pictures, and promised to get together later that day, then continued on to find a place to camp. We settled on a flat spot between the forest and the dunes, with a great view of Lake Michigan and a short walk from where the other SOLAR group was camping.

I was very grateful for the warming temperatures

because my first task was to go into the lake to get drinking water. In the meantime, Jennifer and Joanne offered a demonstration on food bag hanging techniques, even though our biggest concerns were "microbears" (chipmunks) and people from the other camp.

We took advantage of the sunshine by going for a walk along the beach, continuing until we found a construction barrel standing upright in the middle of the beach. Apparently there is no escape from Michigan construction zones. The sunset on Saturday was beautiful, with mostly clear skies and just enough cloud cover to give us some interesting colors. After dinner we walked over to the other camp to enjoy their campfire and fellowship well into the night.



Sunday morning we slowly and reluctantly broke camp, said our goodbyes to members of the other group who were also leaving, then hiked back to our cars before heading home.



## Additional photos from the Nordhouse Dunes trip

*From Pablo Balan and Jennifer Tislerics (Pablo's are the better ones)*



*Downed trees (above)*



*Pablo found a great natural bench*







## Drumunity

By Ken Lemieux

No one will ever mistake me for John Bonham, the deceased drummer of Led Zeppelin (or even Ringo Starr for that matter). If I'd been the only one banging on a drum, I'm fairly certain my comrades would have begged me to stop, beaten me senseless, or walked out. But when you have forty SOLAR members banging on drums, cowbells, pop bottles, and various other percussion-related instruments at the same time, it strangely sounds very good - and is a lot of fun.

Following the November meeting the program for the night was Drumunity, led by the dynamic Lori Fithian ([www.drumunity.com](http://www.drumunity.com)). After letting us warm up a little Lori led us through different tempos, rhythms, and musical exercises. Although some people brought their own instruments, Lori had plenty to go around. She gently gave instruction when needed and provided subtle guidance. A gentleman named Frank even pitched in a few songs on his violin, including a solo called *Shenandoah*.

As I sit here writing this article, two thoughts keep running through my mind: *I don't want to work, I just want to bang on the drum all day.* That and this article needs more cowbell.



Photos courtesy of Jeff McWilliams

## Climb Detroit 2010

The "race" up the Renaissance Center building stairs - Fight for Air Climb - Detroit - will take place on February 28, 2010. The team is shaping up nicely (13 members so far), and welcomes new members. This is a fundraiser for the American Lung Association. All you have to do is go to [www.climbdetroit.com](http://www.climbdetroit.com) and look for the SOLAR Stair Star team. The registration fee is currently \$30.00, but will go up to \$40.00 after January 4th. The minimum amount each team member needs to raise is \$100.00.



I will help each member of the team with conditioning/ training, setting your personal goal for the event and helping you attain that goal. Please email me if you have any questions at [mldonahue824@gmail.com](mailto:mldonahue824@gmail.com).

~ Mary Donahue

*Pictured are some members of the 2009 SOLAR Stair Star team.*



## Behind the Scenes

*By Mike Hobig*

A bright, warm Saturday in November turned out to be a great day for a very PC tour in Detroit - PC as in Parade Company, that is. Close to the sleepy hamlet of Hamtramck sits an older industrial building, an Albert Kahn-designed factory space that now houses the creative force behind the annual America's Thanksgiving Day Parade®. About 30 folks (SOLARites, family, and friends) toured where the magic happens. We spent a busy day there: float driving school, orientation for volunteers, and many groups getting an inside look at float building, costuming, maintenance of the big heads, and so much more. We learned a lot of history, and as if having a great day seeing everything at the PC wasn't terrific enough, we even got a contact high from all the bright colors and creativity that abounded in that atmosphere. We ate at Buddy's Pizza, the original one, for an all-Detroit day.

We raffled off some great items from in & around Detroit and Michigan, to keep with the theme. Buddy's even donated a gift certificate for the occasion. The pictures shown here highlight what great fun we had being in the PC zone. Keep the PC and Buddy's in mind for volunteering, eating, or just going to see.



As the PC's website (<http://www.theparade.org/events/index.php>) says, "America's Thanksgiving Parade®, one of the country's oldest and most celebrated Parades, will step off at 9:20 a.m. on Woodward Avenue and Mack and end at Woodward Avenue and Congress in downtown Detroit on Thursday, November 26, 2009. Hundreds of thousands of parade-goers will be watching as the Parade makes its way down Woodward Avenue. Live broadcast on WDIV Channel 4 begins at 9:00 a.m."

Keep your eyes open - you might just see folks from SOLAR enjoying or participating in this annual parade.



**SOLAR welcomes the following  
new or renewing members  
to the club:**

Mohammed (Max) Aghili  
Howard Andrews  
Bill Dukus  
Adam Edelstein  
Roberta Goyt  
Don Jones  
Madelyn Kleitch  
Mark Alan La Rouché  
David & Leah Pelfrey  
Nancy Perks  
Elizabeth Shaw  
Sheila Smith

# ADIRONDACK ADVENTURE I

*By Glenn Schultz*

Does this mean there may be an Adventure II? You betcha! Jeff Green accompanied me on this ADK Adventure of fun, strenuous trails, peak-bagging, backcountry camping, and lodge visiting this first week in October.

Jeff and I are similar in age, build, and trail speed, so one could consider this a two man scramble. But as I always remind myself, "It's not a race...it's a vacation."

Saturday morning began our eleven hour car drive from Plymouth via I-90 through PA to our North Creek, New York State campground and our Sunday white water rafting through the Hudson River Gorge. Recent heavy rains fueled the river's rise and current, giving us 17 miles of consistent class III rapids. And to our delight and sometimes trepidation there were a few class IVs.

We signed on with North Creek Rafter, a smaller but experienced outfitter, in order to stay away from the larger outfitters with the weekend college or family crowd. Jeff and I got a five seat raft with Nate the proprietor as our guide and rudder. We would really feel the river with only the three of us in the raft.

This trip for Nate was around his 700<sup>th</sup>, while the photographer celebrated his

900<sup>th</sup> on the Hudson. That's a lot of trips per year for a good number of years. A six person raft of students from Singapore studying in NYC accompanied us. It was a first time for them. Jeff and I had previous experience on the Gauley, New, Flathead and Northern Colorado.

Our first three miles were on the Indian River. Our splash shirts and full body wetsuits proved valuable since the entire distance was a white water

washboard wave train. Wet & Wild.

Our roller coaster smoothed out at the conflux to the Hudson and we could look around at the trees brilliantly painting the hillsides of the gorge. Colorful.

The calm did not last long as our inflatable skiff picked up speed. We paddled between boulders and drop-offs and through turbulent hydraulics and eddy whirlpools. At times our raft would go sideways, riding a wave's crest and me looking immediately to my left and straight down into a hole the size of a bus that we would drop into and bust out of. Exhilarating.

Jeff and I stayed in our raft the entire route. Some in other rafts were not so fortunate. Cold.

We paused midway on shore for a lunch break of hot chocolate, Tex-Mex veggie burritos, and cookies. Warming.

Back on the river we darted and dashed, plunged and popped over and through a good number of rapids until we floated the final mile to our take-out where we helped load the two rafts onto the trailer pulled by the van that the ten of us piled into. Cozy.

During the lull times between the riffles we were able to chat with Nate about a whole lot of things, one of which was local places to eat good food. We also garnered some recommendations from the campground owners. The best tips are from Locals.

Fun & Food. Life is Good.





## Can you find the missing mammals?

Badger  
Beaver  
Black Bear  
Bobcat  
Chipmunk  
Cottontail  
Coyote  
Deer Mouse  
Ermine  
Ground Squirrel  
Hoary Bat  
Jumping Mouse  
Marmot  
Mink Shrew  
Mountain Lion  
Mule Deer  
Pocket Gopher  
Pocket Mouse  
Porcupine  
Prairie Dog  
Raccoon  
Red Fox  
Striped Skunk  
Vole  
Weasel  
Shrew  
Wood Rat

J	G	R	O	U	N	D	S	Q	U	I	R	R	E	L	M	T	A	R	U
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U	F	X	U	G	W	X	F	E	U	Q	L	M	E	F	O	S	K	A	R

*The answer key is available on page 13 of the SOLAR Ray.*



Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went on a camping trip. After a good meal and a bottle of wine, they laid down for the night and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend. "Watson, look up and tell me what you see." Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars."

"What does that tell you?" Holmes asked. Watson pondered for a minute.

"Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. Why, what does it tell YOU?"

Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke. "My dear Watson, someone has stolen our tent."



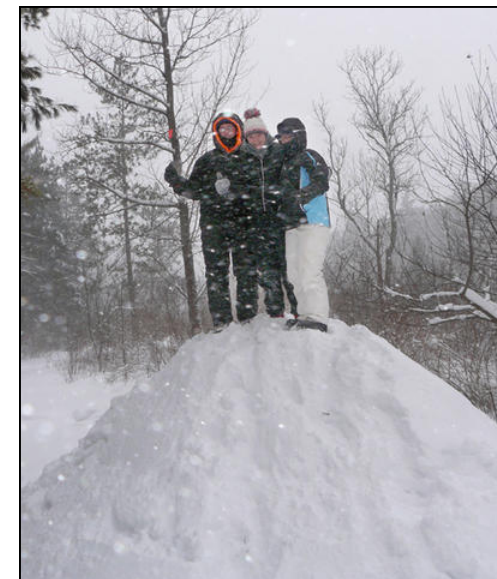
## Enjoy Michigan Winters!

### Backpacking & Winter Skills Class



Winter backpacking skills are not just for the winter; these skills are a useful back-up for the chilly days in early spring and late fall, at higher elevations and on those unexpectedly cold nights. In this class we'll teach you how to keep warm and maintain high energy levels when skiing or snowshoeing in the winter (just in case something does go HORRIBLY WRONG on that so-called "simple," 3 hour ski trip). Students in this class will learn how to build a snow shelter and work on many other winter skills. 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 the beginning backpacking class through SOLAR, or have comparable experience and are looking to expand your skills to the next level, this is the class for you!



We will have six classroom sessions and two practical exercises 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 it's up to you - lay around on the couch all winter watching outdoor shows on TV, or take this class and actually live the adventure! After all, isn't that why you joined SOLAR?

The cost is \$100.00 for new students (there is a reduced fee for past graduates who want to retake the course). Classroom dates are December 2, 9, 16 and January 6, 20 and 27. Outdoor practical exercise dates are January 16-17 and February 5-7.

To sign up or to ask questions about the class, contact Allen Duncan at (734) 276-3194 or [allenduncan@aggienetwork.com](mailto:allenduncan@aggienetwork.com).





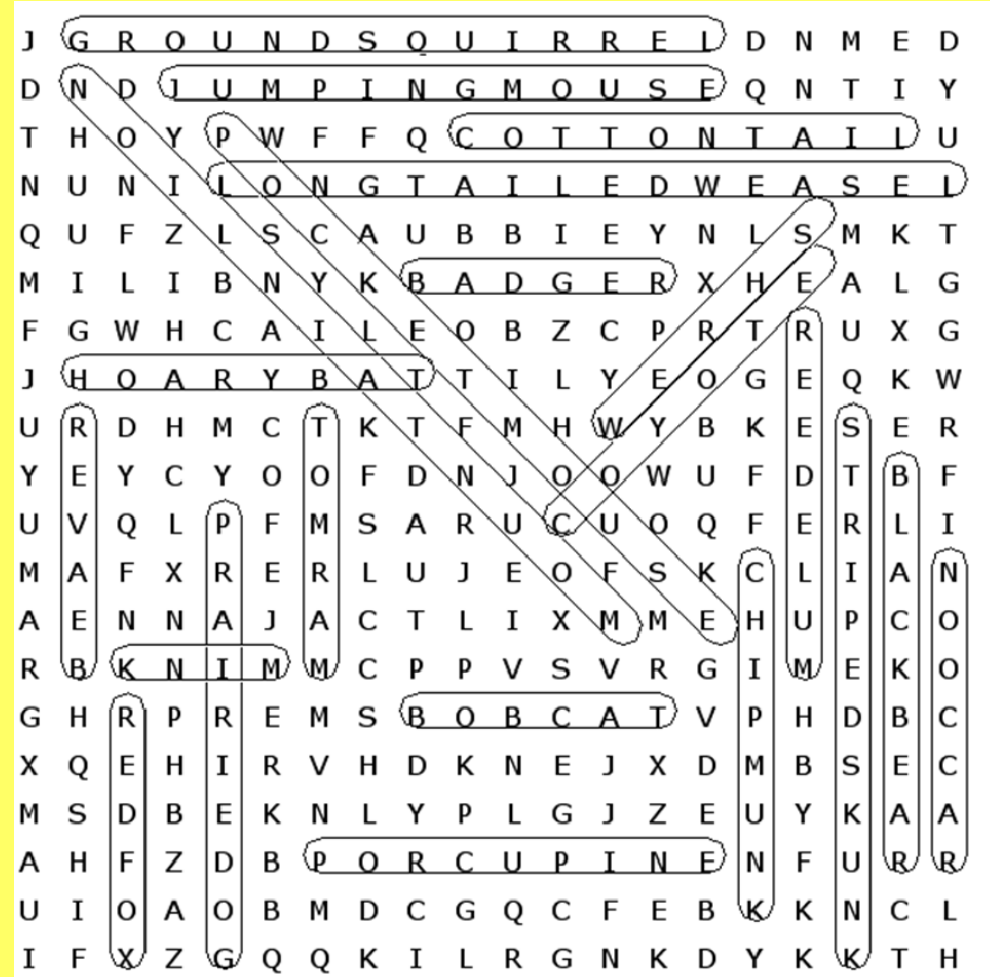
# Moonlight Canoeing

November 1, 2009

Photos courtesy of Jeff Enterkin



## Missing Mammals - Answer Key





# Search and Rescue 2009

*Photos courtesy of Jeff McWilliams*





# SOLAR DECEMBER 2009 CALENDAR

[www.SolarOutdoors.org](http://www.SolarOutdoors.org)

DECEMBER ACTIVITES					
12/1	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall, Southfield	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
12/1	Tues	Program - Winter Gear Swap and Presentation about SOLAR	Colony Hall, Southfield	Debbie Zuchlewski	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
12/4	Fri	SOLAR Holiday Party 7:00pm	Colony Hall, Southfield	Debbie Zuchlewski	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
12/17	Thurs	January SOLAR Ray Deadline		Jennifer Tislerics	SOLARrayeditor@SolarOutdoors.org
12/26 - 1/3	Multi	Glenview for the Holidays	Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
DECEMBER CLASSES					
12/2, 9, 16	Weds	<a href="#">Enjoying Michigan Winters</a>	Schoolcraft College Livonia, MI	Allen Duncan/ George Zapp	aduncan85@gmail.com gzapp@comcast.net
JANUARY ACTIVITES					
1/5	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall, Southfield	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
1/5	Tues	<a href="#">Program - Annual Photo Contest</a>	Colony Hall, Southfield	Debbie Zuchlewski	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
1/14	Thurs	February SOLAR Ray Deadline		Jennifer Tislerics	SOLARrayeditor@SolarOutdoors.org
1/15 - 17	Wknd	<a href="#">Cross-Country Ski &amp; Snowshoe</a>	Lake Ann, MI	Pete Lamb	petekandu@yahoo.com
1/30 - 2/6	Multi	Western Swing Ski Trip	Breckenridge, CO	Darrell Ahlberg	dahlberg7@comcast.net
JANUARY CLASSES					
1/6, 16-17, 20, 27	Weds & Wknd	<a href="#">Enjoying Michigan Winters</a>	Schoolcraft College Livonia, MI Wknd - Waterloo Recreation Area	Allen Duncan/ George Zapp	aduncan85@gmail.com gzapp@comcast.net
FEBRUARY ACTIVITES					
2/2	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall, Southfield	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
2/2	Tues	Program - TBA	Colony Hall, Southfield	Debbie Zuchlewski	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
2/11	Thurs	February SOLAR Ray Deadline		Jennifer Tislerics	SOLARrayeditor@SolarOutdoors.org
2/19-21	Wknd	Cross-Country Ski and Snowshoe	Lake Ann, MI	Darrell Ahlberg	dahlberg7@comcast.net
2/28	Sun	<a href="#">American Lung Association Climb Detroit</a>	Ren Cen, Detroit, MI	Mary Donahue	mldonahue824@gmail.com
FEBRUARY CLASSES					
2/5-7	Wknd	<a href="#">Enjoying Michigan Winters</a>	Pigeon River State Forest Vanderbilt, MI	Allen Duncan/ George Zapp	aduncan85@gmail.com gzapp@comcast.net
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES					
9/9 - 10/7	Multi	Gaelic Adventure	Ireland/Scotland	Jim Gessner	gessnerj@comcast.net

If you would like to coordinate a SOLAR activity, contact our Activities Chairperson, Samantha Schafer, at [SolarActivities@SolarOutdoors.org](mailto:SolarActivities@SolarOutdoors.org).

If you would like to teach or suggest a SOLAR class, contact our Education Chairperson, Marie Martinko, at [SolarEducation@SolarOutdoors.org](mailto: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.

Do you know of a great place that you would like to share with your friends? Is there a place that you would love to go, but have not found the reason to go? How about planning a trip to this wonderful place and bringing your SOLAR friends with you? It's easy! To get started, check out the "Coordinating an Activity" guidelines at [SolarOutdoors.org](http://SolarOutdoors.org). If you have any questions, please contact Samantha Schafer at [SolarActivities@SolarOutdoors.org](mailto:SolarActivities@SolarOutdoors.org). I am waiting to hear from you, and looking forward to going on a great adventure with you.



#### WHAT IS SOLAR?

SOLAR is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization with 400-plus members who enjoy the outdoors. Members share their knowledge and experience with each other by leading classes and coordinating activities/trips.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Membership is only \$40 a year per person (\$55 per family) and includes free access to most 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, deep forests, scenic shorelines, and the experiences to be found there. Lifetime memberships are available for \$175 (single) and \$250 (family).

#### MEETINGS

Our monthly meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month in Southfield at Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen (between 8 Mile & 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](http://www.solaroutdoors.org). To receive a copy in the mail, please contact Mary Price at [SOLARmembership@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:SOLARmembership@solaroutdoors.org).

#### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions for the *SOLAR Ray* are due on the Thursday three weeks prior to the monthly Membership meeting. Articles, poems, recipes, etc. should be submitted in electronic format, preferably in Microsoft Word. Please attach images separately. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Tislerics at [SOLARrayeditor@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:SOLARrayeditor@solaroutdoors.org).

#### STEERING COMMITTEE

President: Cindy Taylor	Activities: Samantha Schafer	Bylaws: Allen Duncan
Vice President: Carol McCririe	Education: Marie Martinko	Equipment: Laura Buhl
Secretary: Samantha Mozdzierz	Historian: Chuck Smith	Membership: Mary Price
Treasurer: Mary Donahue	Programs: Debbie Zuchlewski	Public Relations: Gloria Fontaine
	Ray Editor: Jennifer Tislerics	Webmaster: Jeff McWilliams

#### PRESIDENTS AT LARGE

Mike Banks | Leslie Cordova | Al Fylak | Steve Gardner | Bill Halvingis | Cindy Harrison-Felix  
Tom Hayes | Joan Hettinger | Doug Lanyk | Larry Martin | 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 [SOLARpresident@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:SOLARpresident@solaroutdoors.org).

#### SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SOLAR RAY ASSISTANT EDITORS

Winnie Chrzanowski, Jennifer Hill, Ken Lemieux, Pamela Schmelzer-Anzicek, Rebecca Sweeton and Ati Tislerics.

#### MORE INFORMATION

Please visit our website at [www.solaroutdoors.org](http://www.solaroutdoors.org) or attend one of our monthly meetings.

**SOLAR**

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

Visit our website: [www.solaroutdoors.org](http://www.solaroutdoors.org)

