

# The SOLAR Ray

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

July 2009

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## Thoughts from the Spring Beginning Backpacking Class of 2009

Twenty-three people took the same classes, participated in the same field day, and hiked the same practicals. Yet, each of us had a unique experience doing them. We were a bunch of students and leaders thrown together for a short time, or so we thought. All of us left the class knowing that we had added friends to our lives. Even if we did not come with smiles, we had them when it was over. Here is our collective impression of our unique experiences. Names have been omitted to protect the innocent and the not so innocent.

Through the classes and field day we learned all about gear, packing the pack, hiking with the pack, and navigation. We learned the importance of the little orange shovel and that cotton is rotten. We learned dehydration in food is good, but not in a person. Five essentials, ten essentials, square knot, all those other knots, eating a lot of food is good. I am responsible for me and walk right through it. We had our first lesson in "get in a circle."

With all these lessons drilled into our heads, we headed for our first practical - an overnight hike at Waterloo State Park. We had stretching lessons to learn along the trail and constant reminders from



Setting up a tent during Field Day

our leaders to drink that water. The weekend taught us how to weather severe storms. The first storm came through as we were setting up camp. Don't try to attach rain fly to tent in 40-50 mph winds. It becomes a kite. How many people can fit in one latrine? The contest was on as many used it as convenient place to wait out the rain storm. After the storm we learned about bear bags, blister busters and other first aid tidbits, and more knots. Classes were cut short as our fearless leader feared the worst of a storm heading our way (and with good cause); all hikers into their tents to ride this one out. The storm came from the opposite

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direction with even stronger winds and a torrential downpour. No matter where a tent was pitched, there was a 50% chance it ended up with a river running under it, or as a raft in a small pond. We were grateful for good tents with well-sealed seams and decided that the maximum number of severe storms per outing is two. We spent the morning hunting for flags in the woods. And how could we complete the practical without lesson 2 on "get in a circle?"

Two weeks and one more class lay in store before we headed out to our final practical. Hoist Lakes, here we come.

Six students and twice as many leaders headed out on Friday. At the trailhead we learned about ticks and the buddy system (or don't take "get out of here" literally). It was a good day for a hike. As we set up our campsites, we got to apply our lesson on ticks. Good job leaders, hands on training. Additional tick lesson learned: camp shoes in tick country should not include bare feet. Also, it does not hurt to put bug repellent on your butt when in tick infested areas. A dinner lesson: when it does not go as planned, always have "emergency rations" in case that dehydrated dinner turns out to be so nasty you

cannot even give it away. It rained in the early morning hours; the rain stopped in time for us to eat breakfast and break camp, but not in time to dry the gear. Wet gear is heavy.

On Saturday morning we headed to the east trailhead to meet up with the rest of the students and leaders. We learned yet another knot. Will any of these knots tie a



bowtie? The fashion statement of the day was pants tucked inside hiking socks. Such a chic look. We headed out for the day's hike under gloomy skies. By lunch time the skies were blue again. Lunch gave us the opportunity to see how well we packed our packs. It was soon learned that no matter how well thought out the arrangement of articles in the backpack, the thing needed next is invariably at the bottom. Vocabulary lesson learned: Declination does not mean "No thank you, I have had enough water..."

We woke Sunday morning to chattering teeth and shivering bodies as the temperatures dipped into the 20s. There was frost on the leaves (sorry, no pumpkins yet) and ice crystals in the water bottles. At least it sent the ticks into hiding. As we gathered together for our final hike out, we had one more lesson on "get into a circle." Not sure we will ever get that lesson right. Map and compass got us back to the trailhead as we hiked the few miles out. We could barely see 30 yards ahead at times and had only a bearing to guide us along the way, moving from marker to marker. Welcome to the world of bush whacking, and what a wonderful world it is.

What more can be said? It was a wonderful experience. We students cannot thank our leaders enough for all the effort and time they put into making the class experience as great as it was. We can only hope that the leaders received a bit back from us to make it as much worth their while as it was worth ours.

Now everyone, get in a circle... watch out Land Navigation and Wilderness First Aid, here we come.





# When Darkness Covers the Land...

by Jeff McWilliams

I walked out of my local Walgreen's pharmacy the other day after purchasing a miniature LED clip-on flashlight and a bottle of red nail polish. Don't be alarmed. I'm not some strange "pedicure prowler" nor was the nail polish bought to match a closet full of ladies' clothes in my size! There's a perfectly reasonable explanation for my odd procurement.

Two of the most popular activities most of us SOLAR members participate in are backpacking and car camping. Whether you're planning a backpacking trip to Isle Royale or a car camping trip to Port Crescent State Park in Michigan's thumb, chances are that your destination is less populous than where most of us live in Southeast Michigan. For me, less population means less light pollution. That, in turn, means darker skies.

The Milky Way galaxy contains over 300 billion stars. Of those, approximately 2,500 stars are visible to the unaided eye from a single spot on Earth under ideal conditions. How many can you see from your back yard on a clear, moonless night? I live in Troy, and I can attest to not being able to see many due to the amount of light pollution surrounding me.

Backpacking and car camping are perfect opportunities to view the nighttime sky in a way that we can't from our back yards. Here are a few cheap, lightweight, portable things you can bring along to enhance an evening of gazing in wonder up at the stars.

## Finding Your Way

One of the first things you may be interested in taking is called a planisphere, which is two wheel shaped pieces of cardboard pinned together at the center. You rotate the two pieces to match the current date and the time to the nearest hour. The result is a depiction of the

night sky containing all the brightest stars, planets, and constellations. Planispheres are available online for roughly \$10. You may also find them for sale at places like the Detroit Science Center, Cranbrook Institute of Science, or your local bookstore.

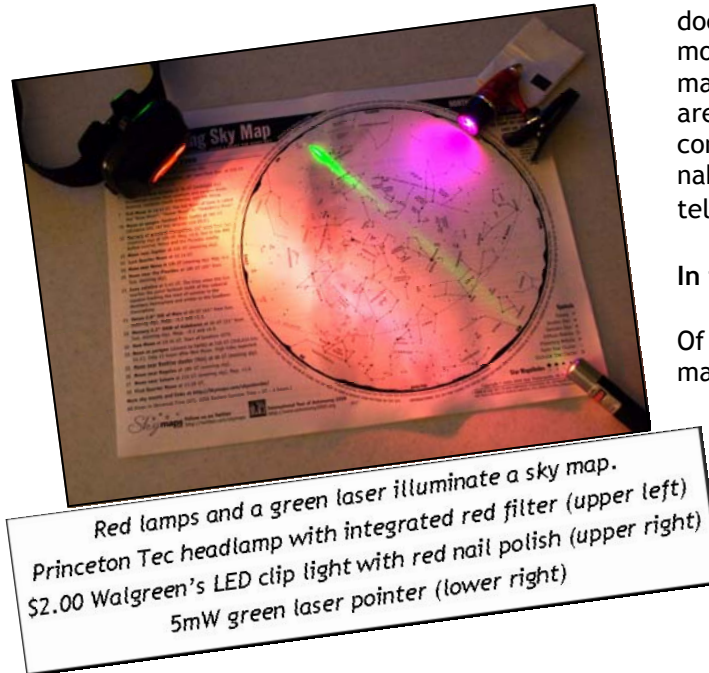
You can get a FREE evening sky map from [www.skymaps.com](http://www.skymaps.com). A sky map is similar to a planisphere. It's a printable PDF document depicting the night sky for the current month around 10 or 11pm. The front of the sky map lists dates when interesting events occur and are visible in the sky. The back of the sky map contains a list of celestial objects visible with the naked eye, with binoculars, and with a small telescope.

## In the Red

Of course, once you have a planisphere or a star map, you're going to want to look at it while star gazing. You may be tempted to reach for your LED or Crypton bulb head lamp to illuminate your map. Think twice before doing this. It takes an average of 30 minutes for your eyes to become fully accustomed to seeing in the dark. Each time you shine a bright white light onto your star map, you're ruining your night vision and decreasing your ability to see in the dark.

Instead, you'll want to use a red lamp to illuminate your star map. Red light does not ruin your night vision. Some headlamps or flashlights may come with a red filter you can put in place to create a red lamp. There are also red LED retrofit kits for mini-maglite flashlights.

If you're really budget conscious, you can make a red lamp for a couple of dollars. Here's where that perfectly reasonable explanation for my



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Walgreen's purchase comes in! I took apart a \$2 miniature light and coated the inside of the lens with the red nail polish. Once dry, I reassembled the light. Voila! A serviceable and cheap red light! Don't coat the lens too heavily with the nail polish or not enough light will get through.

### Seeing Green

Another useful star gazing device is a green laser pointer. You can use this to point out items in the sky to your stargazing companions. The pointer should be green, not red. As it turns out, our eyes are most sensitive to green light, so green laser pointers work best. You can find these on eBay for about \$10. Look for the ones that say 532nm and 5mW. The wavelength of the green light emitted from the pointer is 532 nanometers. The 5 milliwatts indicates how powerful the beam of light is. More expensive pointers may be brighter, but you don't really need them.

The last item you may consider bringing is a pair of binoculars. You may already own a pair that you use for bird watching. You'll be able to see things with binoculars that you cannot see with the naked eye. For example, Epsilon Lyrae appears to be a star located very close to Vega. However, binoculars will reveal it to be a DOUBLE star: two stars located very close to one another. If you had a powerful telescope, you could see that each of those two stars is itself a double star. Epsilon Lyrae is what's called a double double!

Another interesting item to see under dark skies is the Andromeda galaxy. On a clear, dark night, it may be barely visible with the naked eye, but binoculars definitely help bring it closer and make it much brighter and visible.

When the moon is up, there are many interesting things to see there as well. If it is waxing or waning, look along the dividing line between the light and dark portions. That line is called the terminus. The terminus gives moon features like craters strong shadows, making them more prominent and interesting to look at.

If you're curious about how dark the skies are at your favorite camping destination, check out [http://www.jshine.net/astronomy/dark\\_sky/](http://www.jshine.net/astronomy/dark_sky/). It uses Google maps to depict how much light pollution is present. According to the map, some areas at the tip of the thumb area okay, parts of northeast Michigan are better, and Isle Royale has very little light pollution.

There you have some tips and inexpensive tools that you can take along to look at the stars. Take those items with you on your next trip, and spend some time looking up when it gets dark. The Milky Way, twinkling stars, and meteors may give you a whole new appreciation for being outdoors!

## **Lifetime members - UPDATE your membership waiver/application SOON**

While we all hope that lifetime membership in SOLAR brings continuous and uninterrupted enjoyment for a very long time, the paperwork of lifetime membership has changed. Therefore, ALL Lifetime members are requested to complete the new membership application/waiver ASAP.

The new forms are available at the general membership meetings the first Tuesday of every month or can be downloaded at [www.solaroutdoors.org](http://www.solaroutdoors.org). Please 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. Don't forget to read the waiver prior to signature - we want you to know what you're getting into for all those enjoyable years to come. Thank you for your support of SOLAR!

*The updated waiver/application is  
available on page 5 of this month's  
SOLAR Ray newsletter.*

# SOLAR Membership Application



Full Name:

Birthdate (optional):

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Email:

Telephone #:

Alternate Telephone #:

Check one: ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

Type of Membership (check one):

☐ Single Annual Membership (\$40)

☐ Single Lifetime Membership (\$175)

☐ Family Annual Membership (\$55)

☐ Family Lifetime Membership (\$250)

Payment Type: ☐ Cash ☐ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a list of additional names and ages for Family Memberships.

Make checks payable to SOLAR

SOLAR has permission to publish on its roster my: ☐ Telephone # ☐ Alternate Telephone # ☐ Email Address

The SOLAR Ray newsletter is available online, would you like to receive it by mail? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How did you hear about SOLAR? \_\_\_\_\_

## SOLAR LIABILITY WAIVER

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that SOLAR provides a forum for the exchange of ideas, information, skills, and equipment as well as the planning and conducting of outdoor activities and classes by and with people who share similar interests. SOLAR does not directly provide activities or classes, and the individuals who lead and participate in such events as members of SOLAR are not professional guides or outfitters. SOLAR is a volunteer organization made up of members like yourself who enjoy outdoor recreation and are interested in sharing this enjoyment with others.

I understand that there are inherent risks associated with participating in outdoor activities. These risks include, but are not limited to: falls, burns, dehydration, exposure to the elements, insect and animal bites, human errors, equipment failure, and falling debris that may result in serious injury or even death. I understand these risks and agree to assume them.

I hereby release from any and all liability, for myself and my heirs, any and all members, participants, instructors, or leaders of SOLAR events, including SOLAR steering committee members, as well as the SOLAR organization itself, for any harm or injury that I suffer as a result of my participation.

This release is to include any risk or harm listed above, as well as any and all risks, known or unknown, which I may encounter through my participation in the activities in which I may choose to engage. This would include risks associated with the transportation to and from such activities; except as allowed by Michigan Law for Negligence of a driver of an individual automobile (not owned by SOLAR) who may be at fault in a personal injury accident. I understand that SOLAR does not provide insurance for such risks and any automobile insurance is solely the responsibility of the owner of the automobile.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(member's signature)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(spouse's signature)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(parent's signature)

**Mail check and completed application to: Mary Price, 22801 Tulane, Farmington Hills, MI 48336**



# Annual SOLAR Picnic and Gear Swap

## *Island Theme*



Tuesday, July 7, 2009  
Colony Hall, Southfield



Have outdoor gear you no longer use?

Have several of the same items you have acquired over the years?

Well, here is your chance to sell or barter your unused/unwanted gear and help other SOLARites at the same time!

Bring your outdoor gear to the July general meeting and be ready to sell it to other people\*

**After the meeting we will have the annual SOLAR picnic.  
We are going to liven it up this year with an Island theme.  
SOLAR will have a pig roast, veggie burgers, pop and water.  
Bring a side dish to pass.**

***Wear your wildest Hawaiian shirt or island wear!***

\*SOLAR takes no responsibility for warranty, guarantee, quality, price or satisfaction on this outdoor gear.

## SOLAR Programs

*By Debbie Zuchlewski, SOLAR Programs Chairperson*

SOLAR provides a wide array of programs for members and guests at the end of each monthly SOLAR General Membership Meeting (the first Tuesday of the month at Colony Hall, Southfield). We strive to provide monthly programs that broaden our knowledge and appreciation of the outdoors, recreation, nature, and community.

There are a few annual programs, such as our annual picnic and gear swap, photo contest, and Steering Committee elections. Other than our set programs, we are always looking for new program ideas that our members and guests would enjoy.

Some popular programs from the past have included a live presentation on Raptors In Our World: Up Close and Personal with a Live Eagle, Falcon, Hawk and Owl; Michigan and the Ice Age, by John Zawiskie, Cranbrook Institute of Science; Farther than the Eye can See, a DVD documentary of the first blind climber to summit Mt. Everest, by Erik Weißenmayer; and the very moving Mountain Top Removal Roadshow presentation.

If you have topics, speakers, or presentation ideas that you would be interested in seeing, please send your ideas to [SOLARprograms@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:SOLARprograms@solaroutdoors.org)



## SPOTLIGHT ON...



**Laura Buhl,**  
SOLAR Equipment  
Chair



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

*Nine months*

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

*I was new to the area and decided to get involved with an outdoor club, so I did an Internet search and SOLAR came up. I couldn't find any outdoor clubs in Detroit, but luckily Southfield isn't too far away. In terms of activities, SOLAR is pretty much what I was looking for and, surprisingly, seems to be the only club of its kind in this area.*

### What are some outdoorsy activities you enjoy?

*The activity that I've done most is hiking, especially long-distance backpacking. Since coming to Michigan I've enjoyed getting into cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, though I'm still quite a novice. I sometimes bike, but usually for transportation rather than recreation. In the past I have rowed and done downhill skiing and scuba diving.*

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

*I have yet to do any trips or activities. I have only taken classes. My favorite class was Enjoying Michigan Winters. It was a wonderful and empowering experience to learn how to camp in the coooooooold winter weather. I look forward to taking my first trip (to Chain of Lakes State Park) this coming Fourth of July.*

### What would your ideal trip be like?

*My ideal trip is a multi-month hike on a long trail.*

### Which SOLAR classes have you taken?

*I have taken Basic Land Navigation and Enjoying Michigan Winters. By the time this interview is published I also will have taken Wilderness First Aid.*

### Tell us something about you that would surprise us!

*I have four siblings and we're all adopted.*

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

*I have a cat named Alba and a husband named Pablo.*

# SOLAR/Proud Lake Moonlight Canoeing 2009

This popular event is great for the experienced paddler as well as the novice. Come to Proud Lake and paddle either a canoe or kayak into the setting sun, then return by paddling back into the moonrise. When you return to the canoe rental, a bonfire will be awaiting you. Each evening will include pizza dinner. No partner necessary, all skill levels are welcome. Dress for the weather, including headlamps and water bottles.



Photos of May's Moonlight Canoe trip  
compliments of Jeff Enterkin



**Who:** All are welcome. Child and dog friendly.

**Where:** Heavner Canoe Rental,  
2775 Garden Road, Milford,  
Michigan 48381

**When:**

Saturday, July 11: 7:15 dinner,  
8:30-11:30 paddle

Saturday, August 8: 7:00 dinner,  
8:00-10:30 paddle

Friday, September 4: 6:30 dinner,  
7:30-10:00 paddle

Saturday, October 3: 5:30 dinner,  
6:30-9:00 paddle

Sunday, November 1: 4:15 dinner,  
5:00-8:00 paddle

**Cost:**

Canoe or Kayak \$30 per person. Includes pizza dinner, boat rental (canoe or kayak), bonfire

Boat rental only (no dinner) \$25 per person

Dinner only (bring your own boat) \$15 per person

Bonfire only (no dinner, bring your own boat) \$5 per person



**Preregister by calling  
Heavner Canoe Rental at  
(248) 685-2379.**

**Please call in your  
reservation AT LEAST  
twenty-four hours**

**before the event.**

**Dinner will not be  
available for those who do  
not preregister.**

**For more information call  
Margaret at 734-721-2821  
or email her at  
[Mpluscat@yahoo.com](mailto:Mpluscat@yahoo.com).**

## FULL MOON PADDLE

By Glenn Schultz  
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*The full moonlight dances  
Across the water glade  
As crickets and bull frogs  
In the night serenade*

*Paddle blade it enters  
Into flat water plane  
It moves vessel forward  
Away, from where it came*

*The fine trickle of droplets  
One can hear the cascade  
Gently land on the surface  
As they bead down the blade*

*Carriage slowly glides  
By cattails and lilies  
The quiet, and the movement,  
Have touched our Achilles*

*Canopied channels  
With their moss covered logs  
For those that love paddling  
It's the tunnel of love*



# Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Park Trip ~ Memorial Weekend 2009

*By Samantha Schafer*

Great trip to start the summer off right!

My husband Gary, our dog Sophie and I started out to Illinois after work on Friday, looking forward to some hiking and relaxing. And we did just that.

Upon arriving at our campsite at about 10:00pm CDT, we were greeted by many SOLARites that had arrived before us, who were all enjoying a campfire at our site. Sophie, our pet monster, enjoyed jumping on as many people as her leash could reach. Of course our exercise in restraint was futile.

Saturday morning took awhile to get started as many people got in late, and slept in late (including Gary).

Sophie and the other dogs on the trip were ready to go early and let us know to get moving. By the time the group moved to the lodge to start our day's hike, it was almost 11:00am. The "group" consisted of 15 humans and 5 canines. We took our time hiking the beginning of the trail with that many people, but we slowly spread out along the trail. The trail system at Starved Rock was very well marked and had nice stairs for the steep parts. This area had a considerable amount of rain in the weeks before we arrived, so the trails were muddy (very muddy) in

parts. Everyone came back from the trails with wet feet or paws. I just don't get how Sophie's black paws at night would be white again in the morning, but my boots were still black with mud. That just does not seem right.



The day was getting hotter, the dogs were getting tired, and the people visiting the park were getting thicker. Carol McCririe, Maggie and Missy (her two dogs), Sophie and I made the turn back to the lodge before the rest of the group did. Big mistake! We missed the best canyons and waterfalls. We did, however, enjoy the nap in the hammock back at the campsite. That would be the relaxing part of the trip.

That evening was the traditional SOLAR potluck dinner. The food was great as always. We had everything from hotdogs to chicken chili. And dessert for all! We also had s'mores around the campfire later that night.

On Sunday, everyone was up early to hit trails again. Sophie was up earlier than most. I woke up to find that she had escaped the tent to visit our campsite mates. Not quite sure what she did after that, but she heard us moving around in the tent (panicking was more like it) and came to see what we were doing. Note to self: make sure that the tent doors are fully zipped up at night.

Carol, Gary, the dogs, and I went back to see the canyons that we had missed the day before, while most of the others headed over to Matthiessen State Park to explore. The waterfalls were extraordinary

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and the water was misty and refreshingly cool. Maggie and Missy enjoyed playing in the pools of water under the falls. We moved further down the park system to investigate more falls after we ate our lunch. It was nice to get an early start because the crowds had not made it out yet, and the air was cooler. At the last falls, the crowd started to come in and we knew it was time to go. Besides, the Red Wings game was on soon! We all know Carol was not going to miss that.

The rest of the day was spent listening to the game, napping in the hammock, snacking, and just generally relaxing. Some of us headed into town for dinner, then everyone met at the ice cream store for the traditional ice cream treat on a Leslie Cordova trip.

On Monday morning we all packed up early, with plans to make a stop on the way home to do something. As we were leaving, the clouds came in and the rain started to fall.

Overall the trip was wonderful. Nice trails, great company, and good food. The weather cooperated for the most part and a good time was had by all. Sophie slept all the way home, so we know she was tired. My favorite saying is “a tired dog is a good dog.”



## National Trails Day at Brighton State Recreation Area

Nearly a dozen SOLAR members gathered to maintain and improve the hiking trails in the Brighton State Recreation Area on June 6th, as part of National Trails Day volunteer efforts. (Most of the SOLAR volunteers had also camped out all weekend, enjoying the natural landscape and camaraderie of SOLAR's “Kick off the Summer” event.) The volunteers cleared away overgrown brush, pulled invasive plants and extended a wooden fence to deter hikers and joggers from using an unauthorized “use trail” near the trailhead parking lot.

Many thanks to all who volunteered!



*Chris Free, with the newly extended wooden fence*

Please send feedback on the SOLAR Ray to  
[SOLARrayeditor@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:SOLARrayeditor@solaroutdoors.org)

# The Mulberry Tree Café

by Winnie Chrzanowski

A hot new eating establishment took over the dining scene this summer in northeastern Royal Oak. Situated in an out of the way spot, this relatively small but popular eatery rivals those in the downtown area. Although narrowly constructed, it's tall with an outdoorsy yet urbane ambience.

The Mulberry Tree Café occupies a small space but draws visitors upwards with a single ascending flight that divides into a low, open round eating area on the upper levels. From that vantage point, the guests get a good view of the surroundings. Disappointingly, the upward flight is not designed for those with below average climbing skills as no hand rails or other safety measures exist. The tables, simple shiny green ovals, perch on boughs overhanging the fences and rooftops below. The owner, though, doesn't want her guests to just look around. She wants diners to engage as many of the five senses as possible, so she's added some tactile effects to the café like little hairy tufts on the undersides of the tables and a rough orangey brown, deeply furrowed effect that the upwardly mobile can grab on the way up.

The owner keeps the color scheme simple—lush greens during the spring and summer months, and glorious yellows for fall. In keeping with her taste for simplicity, she offers one signature dish. This distinctive entrée consists of tiny, sweet, abundant berries that attract a variety of diners.



In July and August, when the fruit is ripe, the cafe fills with activity. Cardinals, jays, sparrows, and starlings show up regularly. Chipmunks, red squirrels, black squirrels, gray squirrels, and the common brown add to the urbanity of the café. The conversations between this upwardly mobile urban crowd can be ear shattering at times, but we mere humans enjoy the cacophony and never cease to wonder what they have to say to each other. We speculate that they're watching us and wondering why we're messing with their habitats.

We spotted a unique visitor this season amongst the squirrel population: a startlingly white character that we suspect is an albino. Thought quite small, its appearance continues to be a source of amazement to the residents of the property and their visitors. Sitting in the yard in the early morning or at twilight, we keep our eyes glued to the trees and the overhead wires hoping the little critter continues to visit and that we can watch its progress over the course of the summer.

*There was more to the trip...*

## WHILE DRIVING TO NMI:

Rendezvous 3 a.m. Friday

At the Northville REI

Stuffed four packs in my Taurus

Took off on 96-I.

The 96 stands for highway

Not the speed limit, hey

Drove to Leland in 4 hours

No speed record in play

Speed limits are laws

Not suggestions to follow

We were driving all safe

Not to be reckless or sorry

After hitting a deer

While on M-23 strip

Our eyes wide as saucers

The whole rest of the trip.

My car was not damaged

Woke the sleepers, that's a given

The unfortunate animal

Is now in deer heaven

© Copyright 2009 by Glenn Schultz





**Many thanks to the kayak builders who brought their new “toys” in for Show-n-Tell at the last SOLAR meeting!**



## **Adventures on the Bruce Peninsula**

*By Sara Cockrell*

After a scenic drive through Canada to the base of the Bruce Peninsula, I picked up my backcountry permit. I stopped by the Bruce Peninsula & Fathom Five Marine National Parks Visitor Center in Tobermory. This visitor center contains diverse, informative exhibits; some of the best I've ever seen. The exhibits cover a wide range of subjects: First Nations, alvars (an alvar is a biological environment based on a limestone plain with thin or no soil and, as a result, sparse vegetation.), orchids (over 44 species), wildlife (including the endangered Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake), shipwrecks, caves, Flowerpot Island's two sea stacks, the Niagara Escarpment, and the World Biosphere Reserve.



*Indian Head Cove*

After leaving this enlightening visitor center, I backpacked 8.5 miles from Little Cove, south of Tobermory, to meet up with Jen & Ati Tislerics at our Storm Haven campsite on the Ledges. Our campsite overlooked Georgian Bay and Cave Point. We enjoyed a fiery red sunset, and then slipped off into a blissful rest as the rolling waves massaged our minds.

Hiking here reminded me of my first backpacking trek on Isle Royale, but this trek was much tougher on my muscles, knees and feet since there is no flat terrain, except the rocky beaches. It is constant whoop-de-doo, up and down over the rough, uneven escarpment rock. But the vistas from the many rock outcroppings, looking down on the

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aquamarine water below, were worth the effort. We enjoyed cool and sunny weather along with some wind which kept the black flies under control.

Saturday morning we awoke to the high-pitched songs of the American Redstart, then backpacked six miles to our campsite at High Dump. We shared our dinner time on the cobble beach with a pair of loons as we watched a beautiful lavender sunset.



On Sunday, we returned to Storm Haven.

On Monday, we hiked back to The Grotto so I could climb down to see where the divers swim under the cave wall. We then returned to the Tislerics' car at Cyprus Lake Campground, so they could give me a ride back to my van at Little Cove.

Tuesday morning, I boarded the MS Chi-Cheemaun ferry in Tobermory & sailed to South Baymouth on Manitoulin Island, before driving back into the U.S. from Sault Ste Marie.



*Sara Cockrell on the Bruce Trail*



*Jennifer Tislerics on the rocky, hilly Bruce Trail*



# SOLAR JULY 2009 CALENDAR

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

JULY ACTIVITES					
7/2-5	Multi	<a href="#">Camping Weekend</a>	Chain O' Lakes State Park, IN	Leslie Cordova	<a href="mailto:lesliegene@aol.com">lesliegene@aol.com</a>
7/7	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	<a href="mailto:SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org">SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org</a>
7/7	Tues	<a href="#">Gear Swap and Summer Picnic</a>	Colony Hall	Debbie Zuchlewski	<a href="mailto:SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org">SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org</a>
7/11	Sat	<a href="#">Moonlight Paddle</a>	Proud Lake Rec Area	Margaret Martin	<a href="mailto:mpluscat@yahoo.com">mpluscat@yahoo.com</a>
7/16	Thurs	August SOLAR RAY Deadline		Jennifer Tislerics	<a href="mailto:SOLARrayeditor@SolarOutdoors.org">SOLARrayeditor@SolarOutdoors.org</a>
7/17-19	Wknd	<a href="#">Diving World Record</a>	Gilboa Quarry, Ottawa, OH	Gary Schafer	<a href="mailto:saniglowcfm@gmail.com">saniglowcfm@gmail.com</a>
7/24-26	Wknd	<a href="#">Canoe Float Down the Manistee River</a>	Grayling, MI	Tom Oloffo	<a href="mailto:mcmountainman@yahoo.com">mcmountainman@yahoo.com</a>
AUGUST ACTIVITES					
8/4	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	<a href="mailto:SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org">SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org</a>
8/4	Tues	Program- TBD	Colony Hall	Debbie Zuchlewski	<a href="mailto:SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org">SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org</a>
8/8	Sat	<a href="#">Moonlight Paddle</a>	Proud Lake Rec Area	Margaret Martin	<a href="mailto:mpluscat@yahoo.com">mpluscat@yahoo.com</a>
8/13	Thurs	September SOLAR RAY Deadline		Jennifer Tislerics	<a href="mailto:SOLARrayeditor@SolarOutdoors.org">SOLARrayeditor@SolarOutdoors.org</a>
AUGUST CLASSES					
8/13,20	Thurs	Beginning Backpacking ( <i>continues in Sept</i> )	TBD	Carol McCrie	<a href="mailto:cmccrie@sbcglobal.net">cmccrie@sbcglobal.net</a>
SEPTEMBER ACTIVITES					
9/1	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	<a href="mailto:SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org">SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org</a>
9/1	Tues	Program- TBD	Colony Hall	Debbie Zuchlewski	<a href="mailto:SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org">SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org</a>
9/4	Fri	<a href="#">Moonlight Paddle</a>	Proud Lake Rec Area	Margaret Martin	<a href="mailto:mpluscat@yahoo.com">mpluscat@yahoo.com</a>
9/17	Thurs	October SOLAR RAY Deadline		Jennifer Tislerics	<a href="mailto:SOLARrayeditor@SolarOutdoors.org">SOLARrayeditor@SolarOutdoors.org</a>
SEPTEMBER CLASSES					
9/3, 10, 17, 18-20, 24	Thurs	Beginning Backpacking ( <i>continues in Oct</i> )	TBD	Carol McCrie	<a href="mailto:cmccrie@sbcglobal.net">cmccrie@sbcglobal.net</a>
9/16, 26-27	Multi	Women in the Woods ( <i>continues in Oct</i> )	TBD	Pamela Riehl	<a href="mailto:pariehl@gmail.com">pariehl@gmail.com</a>
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES					
10/3, 11/1	Sat or Sun	<a href="#">Moonlight Paddle</a>	Proud Lake Rec Area	Margaret Martin	<a href="mailto:mpluscat@yahoo.com">mpluscat@yahoo.com</a>
10/4-10	Multi	Week in the Adirondacks	Lake Placid, NY	Don Wold	<a href="mailto:dwold12972@aol.com">dwold12972@aol.com</a>
Fall 2010	Multi	Gaelic Adventure	Ireland/Scotland	Jim Gessner	<a href="mailto:gessnerj@comcast.net">gessnerj@comcast.net</a>
UPCOMING CLASSES					
10/2-4	Multi	Beginning Backpacking ( <i>continued</i> )	TBD	Carol McCrie	<a href="mailto:cmccrie@sbcglobal.net">cmccrie@sbcglobal.net</a>
10/16-18	Wknd	Women in the Woods ( <i>continued</i> )	TBD	Pamela Riehl	<a href="mailto:pariehl@gmail.com">pariehl@gmail.com</a>

If you would like to plan/lead 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.





### 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.

### 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 [SOLARayeditor@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:SOLARayeditor@solaroutdoors.org).

### STEERING COMMITTEE

President: Cindy Taylor	Activities: Samantha Schafer	Bylaws: Allen Duncan
Vice President: Carol McCrie	Education: Marie Martinko	Equipment: Laura Buhl
Secretary: Samantha Mozdierz	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

Laura Buhl, Winnie Chrzanowski, Sheila Hardy, Jennifer Hill, Ken Lemieux,  
Pamela Schmelzer-Anzicek, Elizabeth Schwab, Rebecca Sweeton and Ati Tislerics.

### MORE INFORMATION

Please visit our website at [www.solaroutdoors.org](http://www.solaroutdoors.org).

**SOLAR**

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