

# The SOLAR Ray

Find us on  
**Facebook**  
[Facebook.com/SOLAROutdoors](https://www.facebook.com/SOLAROutdoors)

Visit us at [www.solaroutdoors.org](http://www.solaroutdoors.org)

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

April 2010

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

New Calendar Tool	1-2
Basic Land Navigation Class	3
Intermediate Backpacking	3
Quiet Water Symposium	4
LOL - April Fools' Ray	4
Glacier N.P. Trip	4
Spotlight On	5
Wildflower Hiking/Camping	5
Memorial Weekend Camping	6
July 4th Camping in Ohio	6
We Love Our Pets	7
Words to Wander By	7
Welcome to the Club!	7
SOLAR Accomplishments	8
Moonlight Canoeing	9
Shiawassee River Paddle	9
Grand River Expedition	9
We Asked Club Members...	10
Banff Film Festival	10
My First Trip with SOLAR	11
SOLAR Stair Stars	11
The Vestibule & the Bear	12
Poll on Calendar Style	12
Square Dancing Photos	13
SOLAR Calendar	14

## A New Online Calendar for SOLAR

**Editor's Note:** *This article varies somewhat from the article in the print version of the Ray. SOLAR leadership is still learning about Meetup.com and the tools it offers, and there have been some changes to how we are utilizing Meetup.com since the April Ray print deadline. Those changes are reflected in this article. Thank you for your patience as we continue to learn about the features of Meetup.com for our membership!*

When you open your web browser and go to the SOLAR website to view our calendar of events, you're using a custom calendar application written by previous SOLAR webmasters. The information in the calendar is maintained by Steering Committee members. Not only does it drive the online calendar, it also plays a key role in generating the printed calendar that gets handed out at every monthly

meeting. The calendar is clearly a vital part of the club. It has served us well for several years. However, computer and internet technology continue to move forward at breakneck speeds. As things have evolved, our calendar has lost some of its original shine.

We examined what it would take to modify or rewrite the SOLAR website calendar and also examined multiple web-based calendar systems offered by other providers. After careful consideration, we have decided to give the Meetup.com calendar a test run as the replacement for the SOLAR calendar.

## About Meetup.com

Meetup.com is an online social networking site designed to help groups schedule face-to-face gatherings, and to help users of the site find Meetup groups that suit their interests. The site boasts 6 million users, 68,000 groups, and 180,000 monthly events, which they call "meetups".

Joining Meetup.com is free. You can find the SOLAR Meetup calendar at [www.meetup.com/SOLAR-Outdoors/calendar/](http://www.meetup.com/SOLAR-Outdoors/calendar/). You'll also find a link to the fully featured Meetup.com

(Continued on page 2)



calendar when you visit the [www.solaroutdoors.org/Calendar/](http://www.solaroutdoors.org/Calendar/) calendar page. You need to be a current member of SOLAR in order to join the SOLAR Outdoors Meetup group. Your request to join the Meetup group will be processed by SOLAR's membership chairperson.

### Meetup Terminology

Every event, whether it is a class, activity, meeting, or "other" is called a Meetup. Those of us who manage the SOLAR Meetup group are called organizers and assistant organizers. Event hosts are put in charge of individual Meetups.

### New Features

Here are some features the Meetup.com calendar offers that we haven't had with the old calendar:

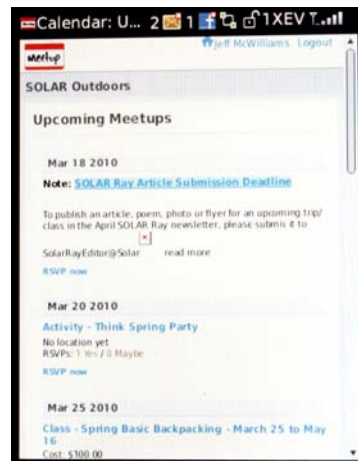
RSVP tracking. SOLAR members will be able to see who and how many fellow SOLARites are planning to attend the event. They will also know when an event is full.

Detailed event information. Each event entry on the calendar contains a description as well as information about where the event will take place, who's leading it, and any costs associated.

Google maps. Events have a link that uses Google Maps to show you where the event is located and can give you turn by turn driving directions.

Ideas. Want to host a Meetup or suggest an idea for an activity or class? Click the ideas link along the top of the Meetup page and you can post your idea for others to see. Meetup.com will allow other SOLAR members to vote on whether they like or dislike the idea. Remember, someone has to step up to actually lead it. If someone does want to lead the event, that person should contact the education or activity chairperson, who can create an event. This is a great way to get a weekend hike, bike, paddle, or other outdoor activity onto the SOLAR calendar for others to see and join!

Mobile phone support. Do you have a smartphone or iPod Touch? You can access a



*Mobile Meetup*

version of the Meetup site optimized for mobile devices. Go to <http://m.meetup.com/>, log in, and then proceed to the SOLAR Meetup group to view the calendar, RSVP to events, etc.

### How We Will be Using Meetup

The same procedure will be followed in order to have an activity or class added to the calendar. Please contact the Activities or Education Chairs if you have any questions. The Chairperson will then add the event to the Meetup calendar. They will then assign an Event Host. The Event Host will be able to fill in any information they wish about the event. This will make it easier for those members that are unable to attend the monthly meeting to get information they need to decide if this event is something they would be interested in. Meetup also gives members the ability to discuss items that might be important to that event, like carpooling, meals (SOLAR potlucks), or sharing of rooms or campsites. We hope that Meetup will make it easier for the Activity Coordinators and Class Instructors to manage their events.

### What is Not Changing

SOLAR is not becoming a Meetup Group. We will continue to have our monthly meetings where members can learn about and sign up for activities and classes.

The calendar at [www.solaroutdoors.org](http://www.solaroutdoors.org) isn't going away. It will be modified to access the SOLAR event information at Meetup.com and present it in a format similar to what we've been using in recent years. If you're comfortable with using this format, you can continue to do so. We also intend to use the SOLAR website to generate the printed calendars handed out at meetings.

SOLAR's Yahoo! Group will continue to be used for communication among SOLAR members. At this time, we will not be using the message board functions of Meetup, and instead will continue using the SOLAR Yahoo! Group.

Keep in mind that the SOLAR Meetup calendar is a trial. If it's well liked, we plan to make the changeover permanent by September. If it turns out to be a flop, we'll revert to using the SOLAR website calendar.

We're still new to Meetup.com and the assistant organizers are learning as we go. We are working on ironing out all the kinks. Our Webmaster still has to get the solaroutdoors.org calendar modified to access the event information stored at Meetup.com. Your patience during the transition will be greatly appreciated.

We'd like to hear what you think. If you have questions, comments, or ideas, feel free to e-mail them to [solarmeetup@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:solarmeetup@solaroutdoors.org).

## Basic Land Navigation

### The class includes:

- Map reading / terrain visualization
- Taking & plotting compass bearings
- The "3 Norths" & Declination
- Navigation strategies
- Primitive navigation (time permitting)
- Terrain recognition exercise
- Cross-country route-finding exercise



### When/Where:

- Wednesday, May 26, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM - Berkley Community Center
- Wednesday, June 2, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM - Berkley Community Center
- Saturday, June 5 (9 AM - 7 PM) & Sunday, June 6 (9 AM - 4 PM) - Waterloo Recreation Area

Due to the amount of material covered, no "excused absences" are possible - students must attend both evening classes and both days of the practical.

This class is a prerequisite for the Advanced Land Navigation class, which focuses on GPS. GPS is not covered at all in this class.

The class fee is \$45, which includes a book, maps, handouts and overnight accommodations at Burns Cabin for the practical. Students are responsible for their meals and state park permits.

### To sign up, or for more information, contact:

Brian Andrews, [briangandrews@comcast.net](mailto:briangandrews@comcast.net), 248-224-1067

or Ati Tislerics, [atisleri@umich.edu](mailto:atisleri@umich.edu), 313-794-0164.

## Intermediate Backpacking Class

*Thursday, April 29, 2010*

Have you taken the basic backpacking class? Are you looking to put your new-found skills to the test, but need a little more guidance? Are you ready for your next big adventure in backpacking? Then this class is for you!

Class will be held on Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>  
from 7:00—9:00 p.m. at the:

Royal Oak Senior Community Center  
3500 Marais  
Royal Oak, MI 48073



The Community Center is located just north of 13 Mile Road  
between Crooks Road and Main Street.

You and your fellow students will plan your own backpacking trip, from start to finish. Class will start out with a 2 hour lecture on trip planning. After that, where, when and how often we meet is up to you. The cost is a mere \$10 to cover materials and handouts. This class will be limited to 12 students.

The only rule is that the trip must be within a 12 hour drive of the Detroit area. Learn to pick the area to backpack, when to go, who to go with, how to obtain permits, local regulations, climate, trail conditions, crowds, trail difficulty, hiking speeds, take training/conditioning hikes, etc. The final practical can be a weekend, long weekend or a week; it is all up to you.

If interested, contact Leslie Cordova at (248) 547-5626 or [lesliegene@aol.com](mailto:lesliegene@aol.com).



## 15th Annual Quiet Water Symposium

March 6, 2010 - MSU campus - East Lansing Michigan

For the past 15 years, various non-motorized outdoor enthusiasts have gotten together to share information, gear, techniques, and to network.

A wide variety of outdoor skills such as flint knapping, Dutch oven cooking, snowshoeing, hiking, etc. were featured in addition to presentations on hiking, camping, touring, and paddling.

Various outfitters, vendors, and crafts were exhibited along with outdoor conservancy/ environmental groups, trail building groups, and numerous non-profit agencies.



*Chuck Smith talked to Symposium-goers  
about the great SOLAR Kayak Build*



*Snowshoes on display*



Did you miss the April Fools' edition of the Ray?

You can find it here:

[http://www.solaroutdoors.com/Flyers/  
Solar\\_Ray\\_2010\\_AprilFools.pdf](http://www.solaroutdoors.com/Flyers/Solar_Ray_2010_AprilFools.pdf)

*Thanks to Ken Lemieux and Ati Tislerics for their creative help,  
and to all our involuntary participants, for being such good sports!*

## Glacier National Park

August, 2010

I am planning a trip to Glacier National Park in August and would like to see how much interest there is in this trip. The trip would start on Sunday and end the following Saturday (7 days/6 nights). The dates and route will depend on the availability of a permit.

The first choice itinerary would be from Logan Pass to Kintla or Bowman Lakes (60 - 65 miles). The trip would be 8 - 12 miles per day with the difficulty ranging from "moderate" to "moderately strenuous"



The second choice itinerary would be a circular route from Logan Pass to The Loop. This trip would be similar to the first choice in distance and difficulty.

Permit requests are processed starting on April 15<sup>th</sup>. I do not anticipate having an approved permit before late April.

Group Size: Maximum eight (8) people

Bill Lynch

(313) 378-1727

[blynch@mayne-mckenney.com](mailto:blynch@mayne-mckenney.com)

## SPOTLIGHT ON...



**Tom Dunn,**  
SOLAR Member

*How long have you been a member of SOLAR?* 16 years

*How did you learn of SOLAR in the first place?* From my cousin, Mary Dunn.

*What are some outdoorsy activities you enjoy?*  
Canoeing, camping and especially motorcycle touring.

*What has been your favorite trip/activity so far?* The series of 8-10 week motorcycle tours with no reservations, no expectations. Just myself, my machine and the open road.



*What would your ideal trip be like?*  
I have made plans for a 3 year solo around the world motorcycle ride. The custom bike is already built and sitting in my garage. Currently in a holding pattern waiting for the opportunity to leave for parts unknown.

*Which SOLAR classes have you taken?* I took a trip planning seminar. I have helped teach several classes over the years.

*Tell us something about you that would surprise us!* I have toured with my motorcycles in 49 states and every province of Canada that you can drive to. I have been to 49 American National Parks and 24 Canadian ones.

*Do you have any pets? Kids? Significant Other?* No time for pets, my 2 kids are grown with kids of their own. I am single.

*What would you like to see changed in SOLAR in the next year?* Nothing that I can think of.

## Wildflower Hiking and Camping at Metamora-Hadley State Park

*April 30 – May 2, 2010*

Metamora-Hadley State Park is a great place to find spring wildflowers, hike on a wide variety of trails, go for a bike ride, fish, or head over to Metamora or Lapeer for the afternoon or evening. Bring your tent, or bring your camper! We'll go hiking for wildflowers on Saturday morning and head over to Seven Ponds Nature Center on Sunday for a guided hike (cost \$3 per adult). Come to camp or come by just to day-hike!

For more information, contact Margaret at 734-721-2821 or [mpluscat@hotmail.com](mailto:mpluscat@hotmail.com).

When: Friday, April 30-Sunday, May 2, 2010

Come for 1, 2, or 3 days!

Who: All welcome. Family- and pet-friendly.

Cost: \$20 per person. Includes camping for 2 nights, Saturday morning pancake breakfast. Does not include state park entry sticker for cars.

Bring: Wildflower identification books, hiking gear, camping supplies, Saturday night potluck dish to pass.



## Indiana Dunes State Park and National Lakeshore

*May 28 - 31, 2010*

*Hiking, Biking and Swimming*

*Kid and Dog Friendly*

Come join us May 28 - 31, 2010. We will drive 3.5 - 4 hours to Indiana Dunes State Park, which features a wide variety of habitats including beaches, sand dunes, black oak forest, wooded wetlands, and a button-bush marsh; the park is renowned for its birding. Together these areas contain some of the most diverse flora and fauna of the Midwest. Indiana Dunes State Park is surrounded by Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, which includes 15,000 acres of hiking trails, sand dunes and beaches.

There are more miles of hiking trails than we can get to in a 4 day weekend. Plus, there is a 9.2 mile crushed stone linear bike path nearby.

We will spend 3 nights camping and exploring. Saturday night will include a traditional SOLAR potluck. There are 8 individual campsites reserved in this modern campground with showers and flush toilets.

All this fun can be yours for a mere \$30 per person. The state park charges an additional \$10 entry fee (good for the weekend); the National Lakeshore charges an additional \$6 entry fee.

Contact Leslie Cordova to reserve your spot today - [lesliegene@aol.com](mailto:lesliegene@aol.com) or (248) 547-5626.

## Caesar Creek State Park

### Little Miami State Park and River

*July 2 - 5, 2010*

Come join us as we celebrate the July 4th holiday. This kid- and dog-friendly outing will be close to home; only about a 4 hour drive, just south of Dayton, Ohio.

Caesar Creek State Park is highlighted by clear blue waters, scattered woodlands, meadows and steep ravines. The park offers some of the finest outdoor recreation in southwest Ohio, including boating, hiking, camping and fishing. There are 43 miles of hiking trails, 8.5 miles of mountain biking trails, a lake with a 1,300 foot beach, and fossil hunting. Nearby is the Little Miami paved bike trail system with over 150 miles of trails. There is also a bike rental shop, ice cream store and winery nearby. We are going to canoe or kayak the Little Miami River on Monday and have a traditional potluck dinner on Saturday night.

We will be camping at the Wellman Group Camp within the park. We will have the entire camp to ourselves. There are flush toilets, a picnic shelter and showers nearby (8 miles) at the main campground. There is also a huge lawn for playing croquet or bocce ball. Weather permitting, there will be a nightly campfire. There may be ice cream included if we have enough money.

#### Cost:

Camp and canoe \$40; camp and kayak \$45; camp only \$20

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

# We Love Our Pets

*by Chuck Smith, Incident/Feedback Committee*

Many of us are pet owners and enjoy having them enrich our lives. Club members have cats, dogs, ferrets, birds, and a menagerie of others, too. Well behaved pets are welcome at many SOLAR functions. Usually these functions are promoted as “dog friendly”. If you are not sure whether your pet would be welcome, contact the leader or coordinator and ask.

As pet owners, we also want to make the event enjoyable for our pet. Not all animals like crowds, the outdoors, new faces, etc. It is our responsibility to bring our (furry) friends only to places where they will be happy and not to push them outside of their comfort zones. Even a normally well-behaved pet can react unpredictably when frightened. Likewise, we need to make sure pets are under our direct supervision and control at all times. If your pet is barking excessively or creating a problem, please take action to remedy the situation.



As a participant, if a pet is creating a problem, please let the owner know, politely, as soon as possible. If you don't know who the pet belongs to, talk to the leader or coordinator.

Naturally, animals that have shown aggressive behavior are not welcome. We want to keep things fun for both people and pets, and worrying about the safety of either

is not fun.

As pet owners, it is also our responsibility to remain aware of other people's reactions to our pets. Not all people or all SOLARites like animals. So, try to keep pets in an area where other participants can avoid encountering them if they choose. This will help avoid conflicts and keep things enjoyable for all, people and pets.

Finally, poop happens! Please clean up after your pet. In a building or on the trail, let's keep it a clean world.

Thanks!

## Words to Wander By

I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man if he spent less time proving that he can outwit Nature and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her seniority.

~ E.B. White



**SOLAR is pleased to welcome  
the following new members  
to the club:**

Mahmoud Abbas

Rosendo Asevedo

Lizabeth Binns

Diane Bobcean

Todd Brockdorf

Lizabeth Ann Dent

Nancy Donohue

Roger & Laura James

John Ostrowski

Marilyn Scozeski



# A Word from the President: 2009-2010 Steering Committee Accomplishments

by Cindy Taylor



As we near the end of this term, I would like to acknowledge this year's talented [Steering Committee members](#) for all their hard work over the past 10 months, and at the same time, communicate to our members what we've been up to during that time. The Steering Committee's work is not always visible to the membership, so I want to take this opportunity to share some of our accomplishments with our members.

This year, we began renting a climate-controlled storage unit near Colony Hall for storing [SOLAR's equipment](#). Previously, all equipment was kept in the home of the Equipment Chair. In addition, a committee was established to create and manage a system for loaning equipment to our members.

Since you are reading this, I probably don't need to tell you about the great additions to the SOLAR Ray, but I'm going to anyway. Some examples are the inclusion of an index, micro-interviews of members, and the bonus articles and photos available in the [online version of the Ray](#). Of course, we couldn't have a Ray without submissions from our members, so we need you to keep those coming.

If you are reading this in the web edition of the Ray, it is now possible to go to the calendar on page 14, click on some of the activities and classes and be taken to a flyer with additional details about that activity or class.

We now have a "welcome table" set up at each of our monthly meetings for the purpose of welcoming visitors and new members to SOLAR and introducing them to the club. We have done this to create an environment that feels less intimidating to those who haven't yet participated in a class or activity and made connections in the way that the rest of us have.

We have put a system in place for electronically capturing committee reports from Steering Committee members. This has helped us to keep concise, prompt and useful minutes of our Steering Committee meetings.

A [Facebook fan page](#) has been created for SOLAR as another way to reach out to our members, and also to introduce ourselves to those with similar interests in the greater community. Thank you to everyone who has posted

comments and photos on our fan page.

We have increased our efforts to communicate to our members what we are doing. The presentation at the December meeting and this article are a couple examples of our efforts to do this.

If you have written a check to SOLAR or submitted a request for reimbursement to our Treasurer this term, you probably already realize that, once the Treasurer has received them, financial transactions are processed promptly.

Much of our time and attention recently has been focused on researching [Meetup.com](#) as a convenient tool for our members to lead and/or sign up for activities and classes. We are excited to try this service, and welcome your feedback. (For more information, see the article about Meetup.com on pages 1-2.)

We have been writing detailed "job descriptions" to capture the tasks associated with our Steering Committee positions in an effort to make it easier to recruit future SC members and to help them learn the responsibilities of their positions.

Although I associate the Steering Committee with many of these accomplishments, this year we made a conscious effort to provide more opportunities for members to pitch in and get involved. We couldn't have done many of these things without the support of our members who step up to volunteer whenever possible. Thank you!

We have had some really good PR this term thanks to some of our members. We are proud that our members have had experiences they felt worthy of sharing with [local newspapers](#).

Much of what has been accomplished this term could not have been done without the groundwork laid by many of our predecessors. I hope that our successors build on these achievements and accomplish even more great things in the years to come.

As I write this, we still have about two months left in this term and we want you to know that we are not done working. There is always more to be done!



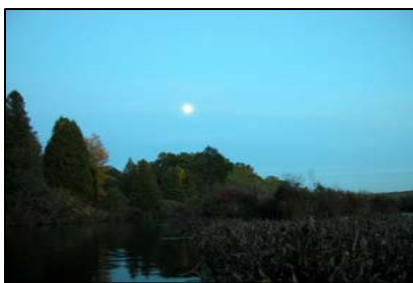
## SOLAR/Proud Lake Moonlight Canoeing

This popular event is great for the experienced paddler as well as the novice. Come to Proud Lake State Recreation Area and paddle 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.

Who: All are welcome. Child and dog friendly.

Where: Heavner's Canoe Livery, 2775 Garden Road, Milford, Michigan 48381

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.



When: Five moonlight canoeing/kayaking trips will be offered this year; to see a [full schedule](#) visit the Files section of the Yahoo! Group, the [Meetup.com calendar](#) or click on the link in the Ray's calendar to view the flyer.



The first moonlight paddling trip of the year will be on Saturday, June 26, 2010. Dinner will be at 8:00, paddling at 8:45. Sunset will be at 9:13 pm and moonrise at 9:36 pm.

Preregister by calling Heavner Canoe Livery at (248) 685-2379. Please call in your reservation AT LEAST 24 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).

## Shiawassee River Paddle

*June 6, 2010*

This is one of the larger paddling get-togethers of the summer in Southern Michigan, which has drawn well over 100 local canoeists and kayakers for the past 5 years.

There is both a leisure paddle (open to all paddlers with proper lifevest) and a race (for those who wish to compete).

Put-in: WaterWorks Park— 602 South Broad St, Holly, MI 48442-1674

Take-out: Strom Park— 299 South East Street, Fenton, MI (near the East Street Bridge)

Distance: 7 scenic miles of numerous twists and turns

Schedule:

10:00 am : On-site registration at WaterWorks Park

11:30 am : Introductory Ceremony

11:45 am : Experienced Canoeists Start

12:15 pm : Novice/Youth Canoeists Start

12:45 pm : Kayak/ Single person canoeists Start

1:15 pm : Leisure/fun paddle Start

6:00 pm : Final river sweep completed

Canoes are available for rental through Heavner's Canoe Livery.

Shuttle transportation will be available all day long until 6 pm.

Questions?

Call Doug Lanyk 248-634-4551 or email [dslanyk@comcast.net](mailto:dslanyk@comcast.net)

Call Willi Gutmann 586-215-6387 or email [Willi\\_H2O@yahoo.com](mailto:Willi_H2O@yahoo.com)

## Grand River Expedition

*July 14 - 26, 2010*

Join hundreds of passionate, like-minded people in traveling from Jackson to Grand Haven in the style of the 1700s. Paddle Michigan's longest river, the 260 mile Grand River. Last held in 1990, the Grand River Expedition is unlikely to be held again until 2020! If you choose to do the whole 12 day expedition, you will help the river's health, paddle 225 miles and make 14 portages. The special memories and friendships you make during GRE2010 will last long after the boat is clean and dry.

For more information, contact Don Jones at [jonesdlus2@yahoo.com](mailto:jonesdlus2@yahoo.com) or visit [http://michigan.sierraclub.org/pdfs/GRE2010\\_Goals\\_Objectives\\_July2009\\_final.pdf](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/pdfs/GRE2010_Goals_Objectives_July2009_final.pdf)

We asked SOLAR club members...  
*about their biggest challenge on a trip with SOLAR.*



*David Komrska*

The most challenging trip for me was the Carter Caves trip. You're trying to squeeze your body through spaces that you probably shouldn't. Some places are so small that you're on your stomach to pass and the constant grinding on your knees and elbows can get to you after several hours. However, the underground beauty is well worth it.



*Amy Fedyk*

I couldn't fall asleep for the Winter Survival practical.



*Judy and Rob Mair*

Judy: Camping Yellowstone in the Summer  
Rob: Camping Yellowstone in the Winter

Thanks to Janet Schester  
for interviewing and  
photographing club  
members!



*Samantha Mozdierz*

The showers in the bath house at Maho Bay in St. John. The way the showers worked was that you would pull a rope and COLD water would come out. Not the most enjoyable experience! I never realized how much I appreciated a warm shower that did not have to be turned on with a rope!



*Jennifer McWilliams*

By far the most challenging thing I have done so far with SOLAR is the Enjoying Michigan Winters class. I entered the class with some hesitation because I have NEVER been warm during the winter. I was certain that during the practicals I was going to be miserably cold and not exactly enjoying Michigan winters. Surprisingly, I found that with the proper clothing, hydration, nutrition, and (the best secret of all) hot water bottles at night in your sleeping bag you can stay very warm. Winter camping is now an option for me.

## Banff Film Festival

*April 11, 2010*

Max Aghili is coordinating a trip to the Banff Film Festival in Ann Arbor, and dinner downtown beforehand. Max will have tickets available at the April 6 SOLAR membership meeting. Stop by his table to purchase your tickets for this popular event!

The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, presented by the University of Michigan Outdoor Adventures, is coming to Ann Arbor's Michigan Theatre on Sunday April 11, 2010. Doors will open @ 6:30 p.m. (showtime is 7 p.m.). Tickets are \$15 for general public and \$10 for student through MUTO (Michigan Union Ticket Office).



# My First Trip with SOLAR

Sara Cockrell's first trip with SOLAR was dog sledding!



Left to right:

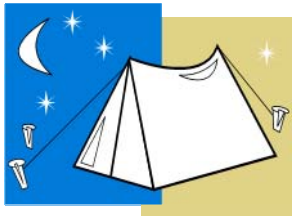
*Top: Larry Mergentime, Amy Fedor, Susan Woelke, Sara Cockrell, Scott Elliott*

*Bottom: Mike Pniewski, Karen Kish, Lis Kroepel, Chuck Svalya*

## SOLAR Stair Stars

*Photos by Jeff Enterkin*





## The Vestibule & the Bear

*By Glenn Schultz, as told by Michael Banks*

© 2009 All Rights Reserved



I once pitched my tent  
In a Canadian Park  
On a wooden framed platform  
Just before dark

The weather was turning  
So my bets I did hedge  
I positioned my vestibule  
Hung over the edge

That way if it rained  
I could easily dress  
By hanging my feet  
Right over the ledge

And put on my shoes  
Without any trouble  
One at a time  
In my vestibule bubble

And pack my stuff sacks  
With more elbow room  
In my tent with the rain fly  
This would give me more room

So I lay down to sleep  
With my head near the door  
Made of mesh with one zipper  
From the top to the floor

Sometime in the night  
I was surprised when awakened  
To a warm wet nose  
Breathing on top of my noggin!

With paws on my platform  
Head pressed against screen  
Eyes peering in close  
Black bear supreme

I moved with a startle  
The bear he did snort  
He stood up alarmed  
Shook his head with retort

In my domed archway  
He pivoted his haunches  
He turned to retreat  
With my tent as his poncho

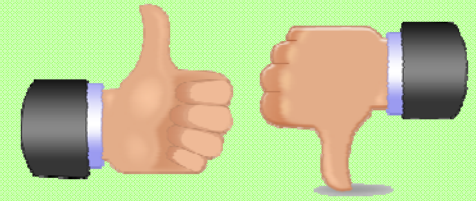
He tripped upon guy lines  
That held my hut down  
He pulled on my house  
Brought it down to the ground

He stumbled and shook  
And got his head loose  
I still in my tent  
Somewhat dazed and confused

As quick as it started  
It was well over  
My tent there uprooted  
My bear visitor...nowhere

My other camp partners  
In their own solo tents  
Woke up with the noise  
In the darkness so dense

"Banks, quiet down!"  
"What's going on over there?"  
As I caught my breath...  
"Just me...and a bear."



What do you think of the  
new SOLAR calendar?

Take a quick poll online

<http://twtpoll.com/e5y0jy>

Do you like the new SOLAR Calendar format?

By @jbslenics | Twtpoll created about 1 minutes ago

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#)

- ☐ Yes, I like the way the new calendar looks.
- ☐ No, I prefer the old style.
- ☐ I am undecided.
- ☐ There's a new calendar format?
- ☐ Other

[Vote](#) or see results

or contact the Activities Chair  
[SOLARactivities@SOLAROutdoors.org](mailto:SOLARactivities@SOLAROutdoors.org)

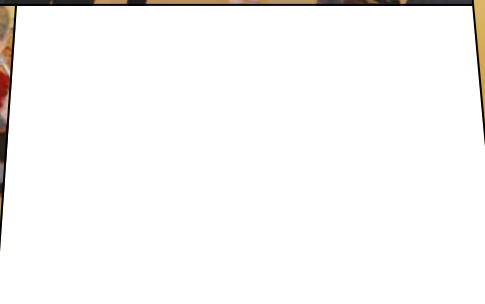


# Square Dancing - SOLAR Style

*Photos by Janet Schester*



*"Having fun Jeff?" asked Wendy Z*



*Line dancing—girls on one side,  
guys on the other*



*Anthony with Mom, Amy Fedyk.  
Anthony and his sister Elizabeth were  
in our square dance circle of 8. We  
couldn't keep up with them!*



*Debbie Z, Al and Peggy V can't stop dancing,  
and Glen S. is trying to figure out the moves.*

# SOLAR APRIL 2010 CALENDAR

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

SOLAR MEETING AND PROGRAM DATES					
4/6	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program- Conditioning to Minimize Injuries and What To Do If You Get One	Colony Hall	Debbie Zuchlewski	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
5/4	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program- SOLAR Steering Committee Elections	Colony Hall	Debbie Zuchlewski	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
6/1	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program- TBA	Colony Hall	Debbie Zuchlewski	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
SOLAR ACTIVITIES					
4/10	Sat	Feather Bowling	Mt. Clemens, MI	Samantha Mozdierz	backpacker0617@yahoo.com
4/11	Sun	Banff Mountain Film Festival Dinner	Ann Arbor, MI	Max Aghili	maxaghili@gmail.com
4/30-5/2	Wknd	<a href="#">Wild Flower Hiking and Camping</a>	Metamora -Hadley State Park	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
5/7-9	Wknd	Mother's Day Weekend Escape	North Manitou Island, MI	Michael Banks	slywolfe52@yahoo.com
5/21-23	Wknd	Hocking Hills Camping Weekend	Hocking Hills, OH	Darrell Ahlberg	dahlberg7@comcast.net
5/28-31	Wknd	<a href="#">Memorial Day Weekend Camping</a>	Indiana Dunes State Park	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
6/5-7	Wknd	National Trails Day Camping Weekend	Brighton, MI	Carol McCririe	cmccririe@sbcglobal.net
6/6	Sun	<a href="#">Shiawassee River Paddle Event</a>	Holly, MI	Willi Gutmann	Willi_H2O@yahoo.com
6/26	Sat	<a href="#">Moonlight Canoe Paddle</a>	Proud Lake State Park	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
6/26	Sat	Dutch Oven Cook-off	Island Lake Rec. Area	Jim Coe	jimc27K@gmail.com
7/2-5	Wknd	<a href="#">Fourth of July Weekend Camping</a>	Caesar Creek State Park	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
7/14-26	Multi	<a href="#">Grand River Expedition 2010</a>	Lower Michigan	Don Jones	jonesdlus2@yahoo.com
7/24	Sat	<a href="#">Moonlight Canoe Paddle</a>	Proud Lake State Park	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
7/24-25	Wknd	MS Canadian Bike Ride	Grand Bend to London, Ontario	Samantha Mozdierz	backpacker0617@yahoo.com
8/2010	Multi	<a href="#">Backpack Trip</a>	Glacier National Park	Bill Lynch	blynch@mayne-mckenney.com
8/28	Sat	<a href="#">Moonlight Canoe Paddle</a>	Proud Lake State Park	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
8/28	Sat	Crim 10 miler, Team Challenge	Flint, MI	Allen Duncan	aduncan85@gmail.com
9/9 - 10/7	Multi	Gaelic Adventure	Ireland/Scotland	Jim Gessner	gessnerj@comcast.net
9/25	Sat	<a href="#">Moonlight Canoe Paddle</a>	Proud Lake State Park	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
10/23	Sat	<a href="#">Moonlight Canoe Paddle</a>	Proud Lake State Park	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
SOLAR CLASSES					
3/10, 24 4/3, 7, 18 5/8, 23	Various	<a href="#">Introduction to Adventure Racing</a>	Royal Oak/Troy, MI	Pam Riehl Szakal	pariehl@gmail.com
3/25 4/8, 10, 22, 24 - 25 5/6, 14 -16	Thurs, Sat, Wknds	<a href="#">Spring Basic Backpacking</a>	Birmingham, MI	Michael Banks	slywolfe52@yahoo.com
4/29	Thurs	<a href="#">Intermediate Backpacking</a>	Royal Oak, MI	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
5/26, 6/2 6/5-6	Weds, Wknd	<a href="#">Basic Land Navigation</a>	Berkley Comm. Center, Waterloo Recreation Area	Brian Andrews	briangandrews@comcast.net

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. 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, Janet Schester, 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)

