

The SOLAR Ray

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

January 2010

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SOLAR members dance into the night at annual party



SOLAR members kicked off the holiday season in the typical club fashion - with lots of energy and fun. On December 4, more than 100 people came to Colony Hall for the annual holiday party. This year's theme was Winter Wonderland, transforming the hall into a ski resort with snowflakes, snow equipment and lodge signs. As with most SOLAR parties, there was plenty of food, drink, conversation and laughter. Music was provided by Superior Sounds—the DJs kept people on the dance floor until well after midnight.

Thanks to the planning committee (Debbie Zuchlewski, Karen Haroutunian and Heather Hall) as well as a crew of volunteers who helped with set up and clean up.



SOLAR Equipment - Yours to Borrow!

By Laura Buhl, Equipment Manager

This is the seventh in a continuing series of articles on SOLAR Steering Committee positions.



SOLAR has a storeroom full of equipment for members and classes to borrow. There is a wide range of equipment that can be checked out; we can provide nearly everything one would need to go on a backpacking trip, from sleeping bags and packs to tents and stoves and more.

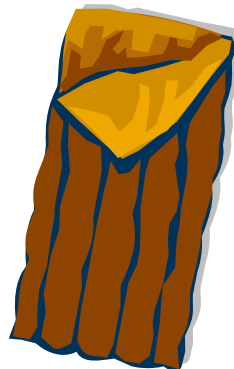
The equipment manager is in charge of cataloging, managing, and maintaining the equipment, as well as communicating the need for new or replacement equipment to the Steering Committee. The equipment manager also chairs the equipment committee. The equipment committee currently has two members in addition to me (the chair): Krisanne Schmidt and Karen Haroutunian. Equipment committee members assist the chair in nearly all duties associated with managing equipment. However, it is important to note that committee members do not maintain the inventory list; checkout/in of equipment can only be coordinated through the equipment manager. Club members and class instructors should always deal directly with the equipment manager, not the equipment committee members.

In previous years the equipment was stored at the manager's home. However, for many years club members have suggested that the equipment be moved to a storage unit. So my first task as equipment manager was to find an

appropriate unit and coordinate the transfer of the equipment to that unit. The equipment is now stored in a climate-controlled 10x10 unit at Mini-U-Storage (19510 W. Eight Mile Rd.) in Southfield, just a few blocks from our regular meeting place at Colony Hall.

Since the most important part of the Equipment Manager's job is to check equipment out to SOLAR members and instructors, I would like to outline that procedure:

1. Equipment will normally be picked up and dropped off **at the storage unit** immediately before SOLAR's monthly general meeting (generally between 6:30-7:00 pm). While equipment can be delivered to you at the meeting if you know exactly what you want, equipment to be checked in should not be brought to the meeting, but rather delivered to the storage unit. If you cannot check out/ in the equipment on the day of the general meeting then you need to arrange another time with the equipment manager; allow ample notice for this alternative (ideally, at least two to three weeks). Class instructors who need equipment for their classes/practicals should contact the equipment manager **before** the start of



their classes so that all the logistics can be properly worked out.

2. Contact the equipment manager via phone or email (SOLARequipment@SOLAROutdoors.org) to arrange a time to pick up the equipment. Note that even if you plan on picking up / dropping off your borrowed equipment at the storage unit you still need to contact the equipment manager beforehand in order to confirm a meeting time.
3. Once a request for use of equipment has been made, the equipment manager will confirm that you are, indeed, a SOLAR member. There is no other requirement to check out most equipment, though you should feel comfortable using a certain type of equipment before checking it out or using it. For example, if you don't know how to use a camp stove like an MSR Whisperlite then you should learn how to use it before going on a trip with that stove. (SOLAR classes, like Beginning Backpacking, provide a great opportunity to learn how to use equipment.) If you don't know how to set up a tent that you've just borrowed, make sure that you take time before your trip to figure out how to set it up. I can advise you on the use or performance of equipment brands/

(Continued on page 3)



models that I'm familiar with. However, I have not used most of our equipment, so it would be prudent to test the equipment you check out well before a big trip, just in case you want to exchange it.

4. Certain items, such as mountaineering and caving equipment, are only available for classes and activities run through SOLAR and may not be checked out to individual members. Also, the equipment manager does not manage the hiking poles (check with Leslie Cordova for those) or the laptop and digital projector (check with the club president for those). I do have a slide projector, however.
5. When you check out the equipment you have to provide a deposit check of \$250 for the first two items and \$50 for each additional item (or some other amount agreed upon). I will hold the check until the equipment is returned in satisfactory condition; then it will be given back to you.
6. A due date for the equipment will be determined when you check it out. The procedure for returning equipment is

similar to that of checking it out:

- a. Contact the equipment manager to either arrange to meet at the storage unit before the monthly general meeting (preferred) or at some other time that is convenient for both parties (not preferred).
- b. Note any problems you had with the equipment and let the equipment manager know. This is very important because it is the best way we can find out if a piece of equipment needs attention and assure that our inventory stays in good condition.
- c. Empty the fuel from all fuel bottles, lanterns, etc. If you are using a piece of equipment that uses a pressurized fuel canister then the canister must be removed. The storage facility will not allow fuel of any kind to be stored in the unit.

I hope that this brief summary of the equipment manager's duties helps people understand how SOLAR's equipment program works. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have a question or need some equipment.



Editor's Note: Actual SOLAR equipment may vary from items depicted in this article!



Ways to cut weight for Backpacking

by Ken Lemieux

1. Toothpick instead of toothbrush
2. Whittle that toothpick on the trail
3. Cut the middle out of my Band-Aids
4. Edible bootlaces
5. Do sleeping bags really need all that darn stuffing when there are leaves on the trail?
6. Hollow out the noodles in my Ramen
7. Cut holes in underwear in non-essential spots
8. Suck the outside off those Peanut M&Ms
9. Combine food into one big Ziploc
10. Round off those maps - nothing exciting ever happens in the corners anyway!

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Leslie Cordova,
Member-at-Large
(Former SOLAR President)

How long have you been a member of SOLAR? 17 years

How did you learn of SOLAR in the first place?

A friend told me about SOLAR and I called Joan Govan (now Joan Westbrook) for more information. I joined at the next meeting and have missed very few meetings since then.

What are some outdoorsy activities you enjoy?

It would be easier to ask what I do not enjoy. I like it all, but my favorite activity is backpacking.

What has been your favorite trip/activity so far?

My favorite trip was to Kenya and Tanzania and then climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro. I did this trip with SOLAR friends I had met over the years. I also really liked the Haute Route, a 120 mile hike from Mont Blanc to the Matterhorn.

What would your ideal trip be like?

I have been doing a lot of international travel, and have a lot of trips on my wish list including Mt. Everest base camp, Galapagos, Iceland, Antarctica and biking in Holland.

Which classes have you taken through SOLAR?

Enjoying Michigan Winters, Rock Climbing, Search and Rescue, CPR, Wilderness First Aid, Primitive Skills, Land Navigation, Cross Country Skiing.

Do you have any pets? Kids? Significant Other?

I met Gene in the club back in 1992 (on his first SOLAR trip) and we have been married since 1995. We have 3 cats, a bird, 2 step-kids and 1 granddaughter.

What would you like to see changed in SOLAR in the next year?

As always, I would like to see more people lead trips. I would say that only 5 - 10% of members actually lead trips. It would be great to have a choice of several activities every weekend.

What inspired you to run for a Steering Committee position?

I wanted to give back to the club as I have gained so much both in knowledge and lifelong friendships. I joined the Steering Committee in 1994 and served as the Activities Chair until 2000. I was President for the following 2 years. Now I enjoy my role as a Member-At-Large.





SOLAR welcomes the following new members to the club:

Steven Choc
Kristy Deskovitz
Kimberly Ethridge
Christina Goll
Robert Harrington
Jim Lemire
William & Lois Matthews
Carolyn Milroy
Michael & Amy Murawka
Karen & Damon Steinhebel
Jay Winter

We are excited that the following people recently became Lifetime Members:

Allen & Jan Duncan
Gloria Fontaine
Kathy Spitler

CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER

Thursday, February 11, 2010

Come join fellow SOLARites (and whoever else you want to invite) on Thursday, February 11, 2010 for a Chinese New Year dinner celebration. This is going to be at the New Peking Restaurant in Garden City.

- * 12 course meal (served family style)
- * drawing for prizes
- * traditional lion dance
- * music, entertainment and fun



We will have several large round tables depending on the number of people.

Location: New Peking Restaurant, 29105 Ford Road, Garden City (734) 425-2230

Time: 6:30pm - 9:00pm (Plan to arrive early to get the best seats)

Cost is \$30.99 per person, \$10 of which is a non-refundable deposit. This does not cover drinks or tip.

I will need the \$10 deposit at the January 5 SOLAR meeting, payable to Leslie Cordova, to reserve our tables; the remaining \$20.99 plus drinks and tip you will pay yourself at the restaurant (they will do separate checks).

I did this 2 years ago and it was a lot of fun. Come hungry and adventurous.

Contact Leslie Cordova (248) 547-5626 or lesliegene@aol.com.



A Word from the SOLAR President

By Cindy Taylor

About SOLAR...

Those of you who attended the December membership meeting heard the presentation about SOLAR. For those who were not at the meeting, here is a recap of the presentation.

SOLAR in the Beginning...

SOLAR was formed in 1976 by a group of people who wanted to share their newly acquired skills and knowledge with others. In doing so, they found they had more people to have adventures with.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee's (SC) purposes according to SOLAR's bylaws are (1) *To establish the agenda and program for all meetings of S.O.L.A.R., and (2) To regulate and govern the affairs of S.O.L.A.R.* The SC meets on the last Tuesday of every month. These meetings are open to members.

Who/What SOLAR is Today...

Today SOLAR is not all that different from what it was in 1976. Sure, we've had some amazing growth and accomplished a lot over the years, but who and what SOLAR is hasn't changed much. The foundation laid in the early years has been a good, solid, long-lasting one.

We are still a loosely formed volunteer organization made of members who are interested in sharing their skills and knowledge and doing fun things outdoors. For the most part, we are volunteers and SOLAR leaders (Steering Committee, class, trip, etc.) do these things in addition to our work, family, and other obligations. There are a whole lot of people working hard to make SOLAR a great club!

SOLAR provides a forum for members to lead and/or participate in activities and classes. It's a great way to connect people who want to learn and do things with like-minded people.

SOLAR's leaders are here to encourage and support members who are willing to share their skills and knowledge with others. We think of it as mentoring, or passing the torch on to others. We offer opportunities to learn and practice leadership skills through classes, trips, activities and positions on the Steering Committee.

SOLAR is unlike most other organizations. People who have moved to other parts of the country say they have been unable to find another club like SOLAR. Our classes are FUN! Most importantly - we are what you, our members, make us! This is your club.

What SOLAR is Not...

Members also need to understand what we are not. There are some misperceptions from both members and those in the greater community, and it is important to shed some light on these misperceptions.

- We are not professionals.
- We are not outfitters or guides.
- We are not an official or accredited school. Although our name is similar to the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), we are very different.
- Most of the classes offered through SOLAR do not provide a certification of skill attainment, although there are some exceptions such as the Wilderness First Aid class.
- We do not sponsor, approve or have the resources to "qualify" offerings. We do not generally have the resources or expertise to exercise oversight of classes and activities. Additionally, the priorities, skills and experience of one Steering Committee do not necessarily carry over to the next SC.

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Risks

There are risks associated with the kinds of things we do in SOLAR and SOLAR does not have insurance for activities or classes. We have looked into how other organizations operate and found many that do have insurance for activities. Other organizations also reduce high-risk activities (mountaineering, mountain biking, and rock climbing are all considered high risk). These kinds of activities are important to our members; therefore, we don't want to prevent members from promoting them through SOLAR. Other organizations we looked at have resources that SOLAR does not, are usually professionally run and are better able to commit to risk management initiatives. Commitment to risk management requires time and resources to develop and implement policies, and as a loosely formed volunteer organization SOLAR does not have the resources necessary to do these kinds of things on a consistent basis. It is also important to note that SOLAR does not have lawyers working for us, nor do SOLAR leaders have the expertise to recognize or manage all risk factors.

In the past, we have tried to create policies to oversee SOLAR activities and classes. We have had only limited success, largely due to the all-volunteer leadership structure of SOLAR. SC members have limited time available for oversight, and there is frequent turnover on the SC, so we have at times gotten tangled up in our own rules, or simply forgotten them, so enforcement has been inconsistent at best. These kinds of things have the potential to create unknown liabilities.

Activities

An important part of SOLAR is and always has been the various trips and activities available to members. Our members coordinate fun trips and activities which provide low cost options to others. SOLAR provides the forum for connecting people with others wanting to do fun things. SOLAR does not approve or qualify trip leaders.

Last year, we made changes to our Activities policies and we no longer categorize trips as SOLAR, non-SOLAR, or SOLAR-sponsored. We found the categories to be confusing for many and it also added layers of bureaucracy. The new guidelines allow the activity coordinator to decide whether the

activity is open to non-SOLAR members. Activity coordinators are encouraged to charge a few dollars more to non-members. The activity coordinator also has the right to prevent someone from participating in a particular activity. The coordinator may consider a potential participant's experience, past classes, group dynamics, etc. when making their decision.

SOLAR does reserve the right to exclude certain activities from the calendar. We have a responsibility to do this in some cases. We don't expect this to occur very often, but if we find negligent, illegal, or inappropriate behavior, we may choose not to let that leader use SOLAR as a forum.

Education

The classes available through SOLAR are also an important part of the club. After all, this is how the club was originally founded.

SOLAR offers opportunities, a forum, and support to gain leadership skills by mentoring other members in a supportive, friendly and fun environment. SOLAR is basically members sharing their skills and knowledge with others. SOLAR does not qualify instructors or provide certification to class participants, although there are some exceptions such as the Wilderness First Aid class which is certified by the American Red Cross. There are some parameters for leading a class, but not many. Some examples are: members wishing to lead a class should have knowledge and/or a skill to share, alcohol consumption is not allowed during classes, all participants must sign a liability waiver, etc.

Late last year, the Steering Committee made a change related to class prerequisites. Lead instructors now have the prerogative to determine prerequisites for their class. We still feel our beginning backpacking class has a lot to offer and encourage everyone, regardless of skill level, to take the class but we as an organization no longer mandate that it be a prerequisite for other classes.

Recently, we put out some new guidelines for leading a class, but found they did not accurately communicate the message we wanted to share. We received some helpful feedback, and will be introducing updated guidelines in the near future which should more accurately communicate expectations for the classes available through SOLAR.

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Member Responsibilities

Since SOLAR is a loosely formed volunteer organization and our members engage in some risky activities, members must understand that they have a responsibility to manage their own risks.

Knowing that SOLAR does not approve or qualify trip or class leaders, it is important for members to choose their activities and classes carefully. Members should base their decisions on the leader or coordinator's experience, history, previous interactions with that leader, etc. Members may want to question leaders about their experience, skills/knowledge, any credentials, etc. Basically, ask questions that give you the answers you need to feel comfortable taking part in the class or activity. Members should choose their activities and classes based on their interests and abilities. It is important to be candid about your abilities and limitations with the leader and other participants.

Recent Changes

The SOLAR Yahoo! Group was recently changed so that replies to Yahoo! Group messages are sent to the original sender by default, but can be sent to the entire Yahoo! Group if that is the sender's intent. The Yahoo! Group is only available to current SOLAR members. The Yahoo! Group is used as a bulletin board for the SOLAR community. It is a helpful forum for connecting members. Not everything will be of value to every member. We ask that you be tolerant of those posts that are not of interest to you.

Several years ago, a SOLAR member created a Yahoo! Group for folk music lovers in SOLAR to share information about music. The Yahoo! Group (called SOLARfolkers) has evolved into one where a variety of social outings are posted. SOLARfolkers is not an official SOLAR communication forum.

SOLAR's Facebook Fan Page was created in mid-November, 2009. Facebook provides a new means of reaching out to existing SOLAR members as well as other Facebook users who may be interested in SOLAR. It allows links, video and photo postings from fans. The SOLAR webmaster and his/her committee are responsible for posting updates to the SOLAR fan page. The fan page does not replace the website, Yahoo! Group or Ray newsletter. It

is intended to complement those media, and to attract people to our website and possibly to SOLAR. Examples of the type of information you will find on the fan page include:

- Information about classes and activities
- Monthly meeting reminders, including program descriptions
- Special events (holiday party, gear swap, etc.)
- Links to the SOLAR Ray newsletter



The new Welcome/Greeting Table

We now have a Welcome/Greeting Table at the monthly meetings for people who are new to SOLAR. People are often intimidated when walking into Colony Hall for the first time and this table has helped to make people feel welcome, and provide answers to questions about SOLAR.

We recently introduced an Incident Reporting/Feedback System to give members a means to provide feedback or report incidents directly in

their own words. The Incident Reporting forms and instructions for using them are accessible through SOLAR's Yahoo! Group and will be available on the website soon. This is a work in progress and will be evolving.

Members of the Steering Committee are in the process of creating descriptions of duties involved in the different SC roles. These descriptions can be passed on to successors in an effort to make SC transitions easier.

The SC has been reaching out to non-SC members for help. This has been extremely successful and we are grateful to all our members for their efforts to make SOLAR the best club it can be.

We will continue to look for ways to improve SOLAR. We are always open to questions and concerns from our members.

We asked SOLAR club members...
what their favorite thing is about the club.



Margaret Martin
The camaraderie.



Michael Banks
The people.



Diane Bancroft
The people I've met.



Bill Lynch
The activities.



Jim Coe
Being able to do trips that other people plan—all the work's done!



Pat Murad
(once and future member)
Learning, and good people.

*Have a question to suggest? Contact the Ray Editor at
SOLARrayeditor@solaroutdoors.org.*

Words to Wander By

Don't knock the weather; nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change once in a while.

~ Kin Hubbard

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

Reminder!

Membership Renewal

Annual SOLAR memberships start anew each January. Contact Mary Price (Membership Chair) to renew your club membership for 2010. You can also renew your membership at the monthly SOLAR meeting.

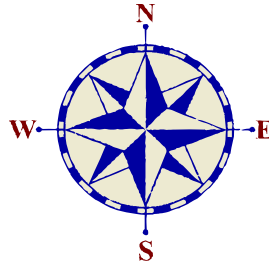
Annual memberships are \$40 per person, or \$55 for a family. Lifetime memberships are \$175 per person or \$250 per family.



2010 Introduction to Adventure Racing Class



Adventure Racing (AR) takes many of the activities you may already participate in and combines them into a single race, lasting anywhere from 2 hours to 10 days. Most adventure races include the basics: trail running/trekking, canoeing/kayaking, orienteering, mountain biking, and fixed ropes. More advanced races will also add other activities.



This class is designed to introduce you to the skills, training, teamwork, and equipment needed to complete a successful Sprint Adventure Race (6-8 hours). The class will consist of formal classroom sessions, outside seminars, and training sessions, with the end goal being to participate in and complete an adventure race in June or July.

Topics to be covered:

- How to get started
- Basic Navigation for AR
- Training
- Teamwork
- Nutrition
- Equipment
- Disciplines (mountain biking, canoeing, trail running)
- Tricks & tips

Class Dates:

- Four Wednesday evening classroom sessions, 6-9pm: February 24, March 10, March 24, April 7. Location in Royal Oak/Troy area.
- Four one-day clinics running for 4-6 hours on a weekend day at local Metro/State parks.

- ◇ April 3 - Navigation/Trekking
- ◇ April 18 - Mountain Biking
- ◇ May 8 - Canoeing
- ◇ May 23 - Mini 3-hr Adventure Race
- ◇ March thru June- Optional training sessions on weeknights/weekends run by instructors

- June or July - Beginner Adventure Race (race TBD)

Class Cost:

- \$75 for SOLAR members (includes all clinics, canoe/PFD rentals, books, & class materials). Students must supply their own bicycle and other personal equipment.
- \$115 for non-SOLAR members (includes SOLAR membership, all clinics, canoe/PFD rentals, books, & class materials). Students must supply their own bicycle and other personal equipment.

Not included: June or July Adventure Race fees, 1-2 nights hotel for race weekend, transportation, food, personal equipment, etc.

Prerequisites: Sense of adventure, fun spirit, and commitment to train. Experience with map and compass are helpful but not required.

Class Size: Limited to 24 people. A minimum of 8 paid students are needed to run the class.

To register or for more information contact Pam Riehl Szakal at 248-756-7002, pariehl@gmail.com or Lou Szakal at 248-756-7001, everest2008@comcast.net.

Headless Snowman

by Glenn Schultz with Dave DeFrance

This snowman's head
We found it in August
How it got here,
we have not the foggiest

Near Volgelsang Peak
Winter in summer?
Discovered it while climbing
down from the summit

'Twas a thing of beauty
A rare treasure of stone
If it wasn't so heavy
we'd have hauled it home



White milky quartz
Sitting high on this base
Where was its body?
We had not a trace



We looked 'round for hints
Found nary a clue
While going to the summit
saw tracks of mule shoes

But the mule tracks are
another tale in themselves
About Santa's lost sleigh
and some Volgelsang Elves...

Yet somewhere around in
backcountry Yosemite
roams a headless snowman...
...there can't be that many?

Boxing Day Hike

Fourteen energetic SOLAR members and three friendly dogs enjoyed a brisk post-holiday hike at Holly State Recreation Area on December 26th. Despite some icy trails, the hikers avoided falls and other winter weather mishaps. Between the five mile hike and calories burned staying warm, many holiday indulgences were well compensated for on Boxing Day.



(left to right) Gene Cordova, Lois Matthews, Pam Esper
and other SOLARites enjoying the Boxing Day Hike.

SOLAR JANUARY 2010 CALENDAR

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

1/5	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
1/5	Tues	Program- Annual Photo Contest	Southfield, MI	Debbie Zuchlewski	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
1/14	Thurs	February SOLAR Ray Deadline		Jennifer Tislerics	SOLARrayeditor@SolarOutdoors.org
1/15 - 19	Multi	Off-Trail Winter Camping – McCormick Wilderness Tract	Champion, MI	Michael Neiger	http://tinyurl.com/01-15-10mneiger@hotmail.com
1/16 -17	Wknd	Cross Country Ski & Snowshoe	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	Enjoying Michigan Winters (<i>cont'd</i>)	Schoolcraft College Livonia, MI Wknd – Waterloo Rec Area	Allen Duncan/ George Zapp	aduncan85@gmail.com gzapp@comcast.net
1/17	Sun	Learn How to Cross Country Ski	Roscommon, MI	Larry Mergentime	larrymergentime@yahoo.com

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

2/2	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
2/2	Tues	Program- TBA	Colony Hall	Debbie Zuchlewski	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
2/11	Thurs	Chinese New Year Dinner	Garden City, MI	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
2/19 - 21	Wknd	Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe	Lake Ann, MI	Darrell Ahlberg	dahlberg7@comcast.net
2/28	Sun	American Lung Association Climb Detroit	Detroit, MI	Mary Donahue	mldonahue824@gmail.com

FEBRUARY CLASSES

2/5 - 7	Wknd	Enjoying Michigan Winters (<i>cont'd</i>)	Pigeon River State Forest, Vanderbilt, MI	Allen Duncan/ George Zapp	aduncan85@gmail.com gzapp@comcast.net
2/24	Wed	Introduction to Adventure Racing	Royal Oak/Troy, MI	Pam Riehl Szakal	pariehl@gmail.com

MARCH ACTIVITIES

3/2	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
3/2	Tues	Program- TBA	Colony Hall	Debbie Zuchlewski	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
3/5 - 8	Multi	Grand Island Ski Tour	Munising, MI	Michael Neiger	http://tinyurl.com/030510mneiger@hotmail.com

MARCH CLASSES

3/10, 24	Various	Introduction to Adventure Racing (<i>cont'd</i>)	Royal Oak/Troy, MI	Pam Riehl Szakal	pariehl@gmail.com
3/25	Thurs	Spring Beginning Backpacking	Birmingham, MI	Michael Banks	slywolfe52@yahoo.com

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

5/28-31	Wknd	Memorial Day Weekend Camping	Indiana Dunes State Park	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
7/2-5	Wknd	Fourth of July Weekend Camping	Caesar Creek State Park	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
9/9 - 10/7	Multi	Gaelic Adventure	Ireland/Scotland	Jim Gessner	gessnerj@comcast.net
9/11	Sat	Dances With Dirt 100k Relay Run	Hell, MI	Allen Duncan/ Jeff McWilliams	aduncan85@gmail.com jeff.mcwilliams@gmail.com

UPCOMING CLASSES

4/3, 7, 18, 5/8, 23	Various	Introduction to Adventure Racing (<i>cont'd</i>)	Royal Oak/Troy, MI	Pam Riehl Szakal	pariehl@gmail.com
4/8,10, 22, 24 - 25, 5/6, 15 -16	Thurs	Spring Beginning Backpacking (<i>cont'd</i>)	Birmingham, MI	Michael Banks	slywolfe52@yahoo.com

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

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

SOLAR HAS A NO-REFUND POLICY. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND AN ACTIVITY, YOU MAY "SELL YOUR SPOT" TO ANOTHER CLUB MEMBER.



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. To receive a copy in the mail, please contact Mary Price at 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.

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
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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.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SOLAR RAY ASSISTANT EDITORS

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

MORE INFORMATION

Please visit our website at www.solaroutdoors.org or attend one of our monthly meetings.

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