

The SOLAR Ray

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

March 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Seven Below Zero	1-2
Who Would Have Thunk It?	3
Enjoying Mich. Winters photos	4
Banjo Man	5
Glacier Nat'l Park Trip	5
EMW Lessons & Musical Tribute	6
Words to Wander By	6
Basic Backpacking Class	7
Intermediate Backpacking	7
SOLAR Square Dance	8
We Asked Club Members...	8
Intro to Adventure Racing	9
Indiana Dunes State Park	10
SOLAR T-shirts/Sweatshirts	10
Welcome to the Club	10
Steering Committee Elections	11
Tips for Filling Class/Activity	12
NEW Proud Lake Cabins	12
SOLAR Calendar	14

Seven Below Zero

by Jeff McWilliams

That's how cold it was Sunday morning, our final day of the second Enjoying Michigan Winters practical. It was just past 7:00 a.m. I woke up to our lead instructor's voice alerting us that it was time to get moving. I had spent the night in a tent, zipped up so deep into a sleeping bag that just a small, melon sized circle of my face was exposed. A friend of mine used to jokingly compare my whole head to a giant melon, so the comparison seems rather fitting.

I thought about cold weekend mornings at home, when I would be reluctant to climb out of bed. I was reluctant because underneath the covers was warm and cozy, while outside of them was cool and inhospitable. What had the house temperature been on those mornings? 64 degrees? 62, perhaps? Seven degrees below zero was so much colder than that!

I climbed out of my sleeping bag, a protective cocoon that was covered in a fine layer of frost. I noted that the sides of the tent were also frosted. I quickly donned

additional layers of protective clothing: heavyweight fleece liner, parka, glove liners, mittens, and heavy boots. I was like a parfait with all these layers. Shrek would be proud.



The view from inside a quinzee

Funny things start to happen when temperatures dip this low. For example, disposable lighters won't light. The butane fuel in them remains a liquid.

Fingers also get numb very quickly. I experienced this while trying to start our backpacking stove. It was set up on top of a picnic table, where I had left it the previous night. I

took off my mittens to open the stormproof matches I kept in a chest pocket of my parka. This, too, was no small feat. My pockets were full of stuff, important things that needed to be kept warm and close by. Spare

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

glove liners and my head lamp were in one pocket. Extra batteries and chapstick were in another. Yet a third contained wet wipes and toothpaste. I had a Clif bar jammed into one of them, too. Last, but certainly not least, were the matches in that breast pocket. I was positively bulging with bits of gear, and



Just seven more, Max!

phosphorus, and grains of silica were all working together to spark a fire. I saw a little wisp of smoke come from the match, and then... nothing. I struck the match a second time. Again, nothing. I struck the match against the striker a third time. I saw another wisp of smoke, but still, no flame. I furrowed my eyebrows, and pulled out a fresh piece of striker material. I struck the match against the striker for a fourth time. Still, there was nothing! I discarded the match and reopened the box to retrieve a new one. I could begin to feel the cold seeping into my fingers during the brief amount of time they had been exposed.

With fresh match in hand, I once again struck it against the cardboard striker. It ignited! The air filled with the familiar smell of burning brimstone as a small flame erupted from the tip of the match. I felt a small psychological



It takes a lot of snow to make a quinzhee.

remembering what had been stowed where was a continual challenge.

Once I had a match and striker handy, I momentarily opened the valve on the stove until a minute amount of fuel pooled into the priming cup below the burner. I firmly struck my match against the striker. I could hear the reassuring scratching sound as the match head rubbed the striker. Sulfur,



Jim Penrod carving out the inside of a quinzhee.

surge and a little internal voice shouted, "Yippee!" as contact with life-giving fire was reestablished. I quickly, but carefully, lit the priming pan on the stove. After a minute, I opened the fuel valve. The main burner of the stove roared to life, and I set a kettle of water on top to boil.

I put my mittens back on my hands and stood next to the picnic table, stomping my feet while feeling the warmth return to my fingers. I was nowhere near being a lonely traveler trying to survive in the Yukon, but the



Karen Haroutunian and Mark LaRouche checking out their shelter.

temperatures of 22 degrees below zero. It's funny how easily things can be put into perspective.



This quinzhee got Dave Sweeton's seal of approval.

moment still reminded me of how tricky things can become in harsh conditions.

A short while later, one of the class instructors told us how a previous class had endured



Quinzhee-men are much cooler than snowmen.



2009-2010 "Enjoying Michigan Winters" students

Who Would Have Thunk It?

By Max Aghili

Who would have thunk it, that Michigan winters could be so enjoyable? Who would have guessed that building a quinzhee would be so much fun? Who would have imagined ...



Frozen lips, warm smiles

You see, I usually feel very cold in my own bed, so it's beyond me how I survived sleeping in a room built by snow and ice. OK, quinzhees weren't as quiet as they were advertised (my roomies snored like they were in a competition), but I slept like a baby bear in hibernation. What surprised me the most was how much fun I had building a quinzhee. Don't believe me? Just ask others who camped at Pigeon River with me. I had so much fun the first time, I was able to convince several people to help me build another quinzhee the next day.

If you haven't taken the class (you missed a good one this year) make sure to clear your calendar for next year's class. It's an experience you don't want to miss. I learned more (including how to keep myself warm) in the Enjoying Michigan Winters class than I have learned in the past 13 years since I moved from Texas to Michigan. And where else could you lounge with the lead instructor and SOLAR president to floss?!



Spectacular view from a quinzhee vent hole



Gourmet desserts ala campfire



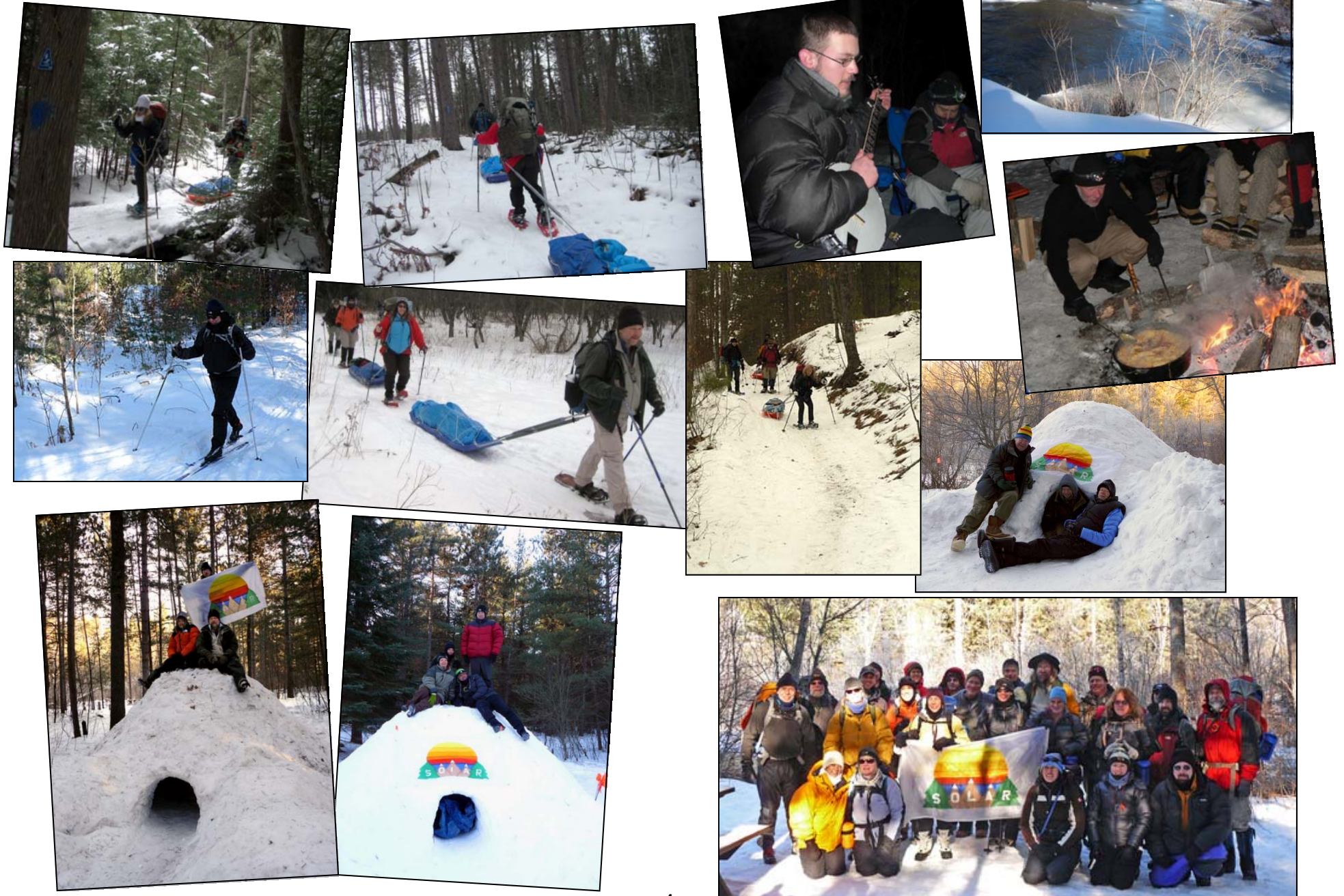
Their dentists would be proud.



5:30AM: Listening to coyotes howl while waiting for the sun to come up

More “Enjoying Michigan Winters” Photos

EMW photo contributions from Jeff McWilliams, Mark Carson, Jennifer Tislerics, Tom Oloffo.



Additional photos are available at <http://bit.ly/9yjXhN>

Many thanks to the “Enjoying Michigan Winters” Instructors!

THE BANJO MAN

By Glenn Schultz

Sitting around the campfire
In winter's wonderland
And nothing warmed our spirits
Quite like the Banjo Man

He picked and plucked and skiffled
Engaging moving tunes
He captured our attention
Beneath our winter moon

That shone so brightly with the stars
Up here in Pigeon River
Along with lively melodies
We clapped away the shivers

With a jump the fire leaped about
To the sounds of this Banjo Man
With a flash, a snap, a sparkling dance
While he rolled on each string and strand

We sang along, what words we knew
Warm smiles on our faces
With this pied piper, who never tired,
Who blessed us with his graces



This Banjo Man, he played and played
He continued there to strum
He chased our chills into the dark
Until his hands were numb

And then he played a little more
He made it look so easy,
Yes, there is no one who compares
To this Banjo Man of Quinzhee.

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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 be in August, starting on Sunday and ending the following Saturday (7 days/6 nights). The dates and route will depend on the availability of a permit.

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



The second choice for the 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 15th. I do not anticipate having an approved permit before late April.

Group Size: Maximum eight (8) people

Bill Lynch

(313) 378-1727

blynch@mayne-mckeeney.com

A few words from the 2009-2010 "Enjoying Michigan Winters" students

During the EMW class, I was surprised to learn...

- that I could spend an entire weekend out in the cold and be happy doing so.
- how clumsy I am when wearing gloves.
- how thick the walls of our quinzhee were when we tore it down. During construction, foremost in our mind was accidentally making the walls too thin. We discovered several sections were more than two feet thick!
- what it takes to "trick out" a sled.
- how much food SOLARites can consume while gathered around a fire.
- how much better (?) an outhouse smells in the winter.
- how easy pulling a sled was and, at times, how easily it can tip.

My favorite part of "Enjoying Michigan Winters" was...

- the wise counsel, enthusiastic advice, good humor & wonderful warmth (pun intended) of all the EMW instructors.
- spending time with friends, new and old alike...building the quinzhee was pretty fun too!
- making new friends and getting to know "old" friends better.
- night walks under the star-studded skies.
- making new friends
- the fellow students and instructors. The friendliness and camaraderie is such a huge part of what makes these classes successful. I'm always grateful for the new friendships I've made, and the existing ones that have strengthened.



A Musical Tribute to "Enjoying Michigan Winters"

by Karen Haroutunian

To the tune of "Winter Wonderland"

Here we are, winter camping
Through the snow, we are trampling
A beautiful sight
We're happy tonight
Campin' in our thermal underwear.

At the campsite we will build a quinzhee
Pack it tight with lots and lots of snow
Allen said it would be warm inside the quinzhee
But lookin' at it, gee, I just don't know.

Later on we'll conspire
As we warm by the fire
And face unafraid the quinzhee we made
Campin' in our thermal underwear.

Words to Wander By

Knowing trees, I understand the meaning of patience.
Knowing grass, I can appreciate persistence.

~ Hal Borland



Backpacking Class Prepares Members for the Great Outdoors

Do you think jeans are a fashionable clothing option for the trail? Tired of nibbling on cold food at camp because you don't have a clue how to use a camp stove? Are you perplexed at how to get your backpack to weigh less? Do you know many outdoor skills but want to learn new ones and meet some fellow SOLAR members?

Whatever your reason and motivation, the Basic Backpacking class offers opportunities to learn skills in a variety of outdoor topics ranging from stoves/cookware to clothing to shelters to backpacks. The field day and weekend practicals provide hands-on experience and opportunities to enjoy miles of beautiful Michigan trails.

No matter your backpacking experience, this class is a great opportunity to meet people in the club and learn new skills. Space is limited so reserve your spot today!

Class dates: March 25, April 8, April 22, May 6; 6:00—9:00 p.m.

Location: Baldwin Library, Birmingham. May 6 class will be held at Birmingham Community House.

Field Day: April 10, 8:30 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. at Maybury State Park

Practicals: April 24-25; May 14-16

Space is reserved with \$100 payment (make checks payable to SOLAR).^{*} Please contact Michael Banks at slywolfe52@yahoo.com or Heather Hall at hmh912@gmail.com for additional information.

^{}All participants must be current SOLAR members. Additional costs may be incurred for students needing personal items such as boots, clothing, toiletries and food.*

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 29th
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.



SOLAR Square Dance

Join us for a fun night of traditional square dances, mixers, and finish the night off with the Virginia Reel. We'll start the night with the traditional SOLAR potluck dinner, then we'll dance the night away. If weather permits, there will be a bonfire on the patio with all the makings for s'mores. This is a family friendly event.

Date: Saturday, March 13, 2010

Time: Dinner 6:00—7:30, dance 7:30—10:00 p.m.

Who: All are welcome. Family friendly. Babysitting available for an additional fee (please indicate that you will need babysitting at least 5 days in advance of the event).

Where: St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church, 16700 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI

Directions: From I-275: Take the 6 Mile Road exit. Go east to Newburgh Road (one block). Turn right (south) onto Newburgh. St. Timothy's Church will be the third driveway on the left (east side of the street).

Cost: \$10 per adult, \$5 per child over 3 years old. **AT LEAST 20 PEOPLE NEED TO PAY BY THE MARCH MEETING IN ORDER TO RUN THIS EVENT.**



Please pre-register at the March SOLAR meeting. For more information please contact Margaret at 734-721-2821 or mpluscat@yahoo.com.

Note: Due to this being a family friendly event, please do not bring alcoholic beverages.



We asked SOLAR club members...

about their most unusual "essential" for an outdoor adventure.



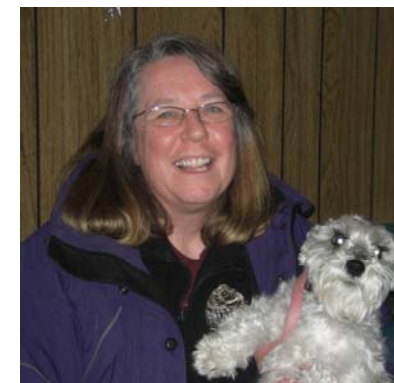
Tom Oloffo

Christmas lights—I take them winter camping every year.



Brent "Pez" Williams

My travel pillow—the kind you take on an airplane. Also my 6 pound sleeping pad. I used to carry a bone saw, but I stopped after I cut myself.



Marie Harrington

My portable, battery-operated CPAP machine. But most important are ear plugs!



Dana Buxton

Full size Snickers bars—but I try to get my son to carry them for me.



Pete Lamb

I just take a bottle of rum and hope for the best.



Douglas Cook

An appreciation for the absurd—I find humor where other people find frustration.



2010 Introduction to Adventure Racing Class

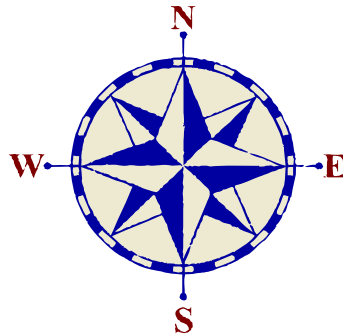


Adventure Racing (AR) takes many of the activities you may already participate in and combines them into a single race, lasting anywhere from 2 hours to 10 days. Most adventure races include the basics: trail running/trekking, canoeing/kayaking, orienteering, mountain biking, and fixed ropes. More advanced 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, 6:00–9:00 p.m., on 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.

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.

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 or (248) 547-5626.

SOLAR T-shirts, Sweatshirts Available

Get yours while supplies last!

SOLAR is still taking orders for T-shirts and sweatshirts, but this opportunity won't last much longer, so get your orders in soon!

The shirts feature Rebecca Sweeton's winning graphic (see below) on the front. A small SOLAR logo is located on the back of the shirt, or in the case of the hooded sweatshirt, on the shoulders.

The graphics are silk screened onto the shirt. These are not vinyl or plastic transfers.

There are four styles of shirts to choose from: short sleeve wicking unisex, short sleeve wicking women's v-neck, long sleeve wicking unisex, and a long sleeve hooded sweatshirt made of 50/50 cotton/polyester. Colors vary for each style.

Prices are \$31.98 - \$39.98 depending on the style.

Please contact Gloria Fontaine, the SOLAR public relations chair at SolarPublicRelations@SolarOutdoors.org for exact pricing and color availability. You can also check out samples and place your order at the next SOLAR meeting on Tuesday, March 2.



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

*Rachael Abler
Judy Bennett
Kathleen DeSnyder
Hope Dixon
Tom Henderson
Jan Mack
Elizabeth Starr*

We are excited that the following people have become Lifetime Members of SOLAR:

Michela and Frank Forest

WANTED: Positive Team Players Who Can Make A Difference in SOLAR

...by running for one of the 4 Officer positions or one of the 10 Committee Chair positions on the SOLAR Steering Committee.

On Tuesday, May 4, SOLAR will hold its annual Steering Committee elections. By running for one of the Steering Committee positions, or just by participating in the voting process, you can have a say in the direction SOLAR is moving. All currently paid members are eligible to run and vote. No experience is necessary - just a willingness to work collaboratively with others to make SOLAR the best outdoor club it can be.

SOLAR is a loosely formed volunteer organization made up of people who enjoy the outdoors. SOLAR Steering Committee members are volunteers who give their personal time to participate in a larger way for the good of the club. SOLAR is what our members make it.

The Steering Committee holds its business meetings on the last Tuesday of each month. In a club made up of people who love to travel and have adventures, it is understood that Steering Committee members may not be able to attend every meeting. However, it is important that members attend as many meetings as possible.

All positions are considered open until voting concludes on May 4. The Steering Committee is comprised of the following positions:

- *President (Officer) - Presides at General Membership and Steering Committee meetings.*
- *Vice President (Officer) - Assists President and stands in for him/her when necessary.*
- *Secretary (Officer) - Informs members of General Membership and Steering Committee meetings, records the minutes of Steering*

Committee meetings, makes required reports, carries out necessary correspondence.

- *Treasurer (Officer) - Has custody of SOLAR funds, processes bank deposits and expense reimbursements, provides the Steering Committee with an accounting of income and expenditures at monthly meetings.*
- *Education (Committee Chair) - Coordinates and promotes educational programs offered through SOLAR; develops and maintains related guidelines; assists and supports members who develop, instruct, organize and/or promote these programs and explore new areas that may be of interest to members of SOLAR.*
- *Membership (Committee Chair) - Strengthens and expands the membership of SOLAR; maintains membership records and mailing lists; provides new members with information about SOLAR.*
- *Activities (Committee Chair) - Promotes activities in keeping with the purpose of SOLAR; maintains and revises Activities Guidelines; provides assistance to SOLAR members who organize and/or promote Activities.*
- *Programs (Committee Chair) - Arranges, develops, and assists in carrying out the programs presented at the general membership meetings.*
- *Public Relations (Committee Chair) - Promotes SOLAR activities and organizes and publishes other materials for the good of SOLAR.*
- *SOLAR Ray Editor (Committee Chair) - Organizes and publishes the SOLAR Ray newsletter; ensures that all official SOLAR communications are consistent with club*

policies.

- *Equipment (Committee Chair) - Establishes guidelines for the loaning and use of all SOLAR property; maintains inventories; monitors the condition, and oversees the storage, maintenance and procurement of SOLAR property.*
- *Historian (Committee Chair) - Compiles records of SOLAR activities (written, photographs, etc.) to document SOLAR's success in fulfilling its mission.*
- *By-Laws (Committee Chair) - Ensures that SOLAR actions and activities are consistent with the By-laws; recommends changes to the By-laws to meet changing needs.*
- *Web Master (Committee Chair) - Maintains SOLAR's online presence through the website and Facebook page.*

If you would like more information about a specific Steering Committee position, please feel free to contact the current holder of that position or any [Steering Committee member](#). You can also review SOLAR's [By-laws](#) on our website. If you are interested in running for a position or have any questions, please contact Debbie Zuchlewski at SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org. Please submit your name and the position you would like to run for to Debbie by April 7 to be included in the May SOLAR Ray article listing the Steering Committee candidates. The final deadline to submit your name in order to appear on the printed ballot is April 30. After April 30 you can select to be a write-in candidate. All candidates will have an opportunity to introduce themselves at the May 4 SOLAR meeting before the voting takes place.

Tips for Filling Your Class/Activity (and Finding a Class/Activity)

by Chuck Smith

So, how do you fill your class or activity? Or find a fun one?

To encourage participation, be upbeat and positive — give people reasons to come.

Start early and give people plenty of information and time to make plans.

Things you may want to include:

What fun might they have? What might they learn? What else have you led, who else can tell how much fun they had? What experience do you have?

SOLAR has several ways to “get the word out”:

Probably the most visible way is to make an announcement at a meeting. Activities and classes on the [online calendar](#) can be announced at our meetings. The calendar (available at meetings) is printed directly from our website, and is maintained by the [Activities](#) and [Education](#) Chairs. The appropriate Chair can guide you on the procedure for getting your class or activity on the calendar.

The SOLAR Ray, our club newsletter, is published monthly and can also be used to announce anything that is on the calendar. Contact the [Ray Editor](#) for more information.

Our [Yahoo! Group](#) is for members to

communicate in a less formal way. Within reason and our Yahoo! Group guidelines, most anything can be posted. It's a great place to generate interest, post your event flyer, and disseminate information. Only members can post, but anyone can view.

SOLAR also has a [Facebook page](#). It's a great place to keep up with other members and to see what they are doing. It can reach a wider audience than our other media. Many of our Facebook fans are not SOLAR members, and may be interested in our introductory classes. It is a good place to post a brief write-up and to direct readers to another source, such as the [Yahoo! Group](#), for more information about your class or activity.

If you are looking for an activity or class, the calendar is the place to start. It has the dates and contact information for what is happening and who is coordinating it. Check out the club's [Yahoo! Group](#) for last-minute activities and loosely organized events.

In short, we have many ways to publicize what we are doing. Yes, it takes a few minutes to put your information everywhere. However, having a positive message and reaching interested people are the keys to filling your event, so get the word out!

Try the New Camper Cabins at Proud Lake



If you're looking for an alternative to camping, the newly constructed Camper Cabins at [Proud Lake Recreation Area](#) may be your answer. These two 400-square foot cabins offer a view of the Huron River. There is a brand new ADA-compliant vault toilet just outside the cabins. Showers and bathroom facilities are nearby in the modern campground from mid-May to early September.

The difference between the highly popular mini-cabins and the new camper cabins is the amount of space. The camper cabin sleeps up to six people with two sets of bunk beds in their own rooms and a futon in the main living area. Another difference is the view. The covered front porch is the ideal place to park a comfortable lawn chair and enjoy a peaceful view of the Huron River.

The cabins offer electrical outlets and space for food and supplies. Campers must supply their own bedding, dishes, and cookware.

Outside each of the cabins, campers will find fire circles, picnic tables, and charcoal grills for cooking, eating, or just relaxing by the fire. All Camper Cabins are universally accessible.

Proud Lake has generously offered a special deal for members of SOLAR.

Until April 1, 2010:

Pay \$80 per night and get a second night free

OR

Pay \$80 and get both cabins for one night

Contact Paul Augsburger at (248) 685-2433 to reserve one or both of the camper cabins.



SOLAR MARCH 2010 CALENDAR

www.SolarOutdoors.org

MARCH ACTIVITIES					
3/2	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
3/2	Tues	Program- "A Dream Come True"	Colony Hall	Debbie Zuchlewski	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
3/5 - 8	Multi	Grand Island Ski Tour	Munising, MI	Michael Neiger	http://tinyurl.com/030510 mneiger@hotmail.com
3/13	Sat	SOLAR Square Dance	Livonia, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
3/18	Thurs	April SOLAR Ray Deadline		Jennifer Tislerics	SOLARrayeditor@SolarOutdoors.org
3/20	Sat	Think Spring Party	Howell, MI	Carol McCririe	cmccririe@sbcglobal.net
MARCH CLASSES					
3/10, 24	Weds	Introduction to Adventure Racing (cont.)	Royal Oak/Troy, MI	Pam Riehl Szakal	pariehl@gmail.com
3/25	Thurs	Spring Basic Backpacking (cont. in April)	Birmingham, MI	Michael Banks	slywolfe52@yahoo.com
APRIL ACTIVITIES					
4/6	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
4/6	Tues	Program- "Conditioning to Minimize Injuries and What To Do If You Get One"	Colony Hall	Debbie Zuchlewski	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
4/15	Thurs	May SOLAR Ray Deadline		Jennifer Tislerics	SOLARrayeditor@SolarOutdoors.org
APRIL CLASSES					
4/3, 7, 18	Various	Introduction to Adventure Racing (cont'd)	Royal Oak/Troy, MI	Pam Riehl Szakal	pariehl@gmail.com
4/8, 10, 22, 24 - 25	Various	Spring Basic Backpacking (cont'd)	Birmingham, MI	Michael Banks	slywolfe52@yahoo.com
4/29	Thurs	Intermediate Backpacking	Royal Oak, MI	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
MAY ACTIVITIES					
5/4	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall	Cindy Taylor	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
5/4	Tues	Program- SOLAR Steering Committee Elections	Colony Hall	Debbie Zuchlewski	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
5/7-9	Wknd	Mother's Day Weekend Escape	North Manitou Island, MI	Michael Banks	slywolfe52@yahoo.com
5/13	Thurs	June SOLAR Ray Deadline		Jennifer Tislerics	SOLARrayeditor@SolarOutdoors.org
5/21-23	Wknd	Hocking Hills Camping Weekend	Hocking Hills, OH	Darrell Ahlberg	dahlberg7@comcast.net
5/28-31	Wknd	Memorial Day Weekend Camping	Indiana Dunes State Park	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
MAY CLASSES					
5/8, 23	Various	Introduction to Adventure Racing (cont'd)	Royal Oak/Troy, MI	Pam Riehl Szakal	pariehl@gmail.com
5/6, 14 -16	Thurs, Wknd	Spring Basic Backpacking (cont'd)	Birmingham, MI	Michael Banks	slywolfe52@yahoo.com
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES					
7/2-5	Multi	Fourth of July Weekend Camping	Caesar Creek State Park	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
7/24-25	Wknd	MS Canadian Bike Ride	Grand Bend to London, Ontario	Samantha Mozdierz	backpacker0617@yahoo.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					

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
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.

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.

SOLAR

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Visit our website: www.solaroutdoors.org

