



# The SOLAR RAY

A Monthly Publication of the School for Outdoor Leadership and Recreation (SOLAR)

August 2011



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## *The Bruce - It Rocks*

BY NANCY AUSTIN

Taking a long weekend over the July 4 holiday, I joined **Heidi Tietjen** and **Dan Butterworth** for a short trek on the Bruce Trail. The Bruce, "Canada's oldest and longest footpath" according to the Bruce Trail Conservancy, meanders 885 kilometers (550 miles) along a lip of rock called the Niagara Escarpment. That geologic feature runs from Niagara on Lake Ontario to the town of Tobermory on the tip of the Bruce Peninsula, the land form that divides Georgian Bay from Lake Huron proper on the southwest. To get to Tobermory, near where we hiked, cross the Blue Water Bridge between Port Huron and Sarnia and keep the water on your left. When you run out of land, you're there.

If you imagine the Bruce Peninsula as a flex-footed boot with its sole to the north and toe to the west, the Bruce Peninsula National Park is largely on the instep. At this point the Bruce Trail runs east-west along the northern shoreline. We could watch both the sunrise and the sunset over Georgian Bay from our backcountry campsites. After a preliminary night of car camping at the park's Cypress Lake Campground on Thursday, June 30, a local woman referred by the park service met us at the Cypress Lake overnight parking area and shuttled us to the end of Crane Lake Road, the last few kilometers of which were a mere two-track.

The first day's hike was unexpectedly easy and quick, over mostly level or gently rolling ground through pleasant woods. Arriving at the backcountry High Dump Campground was startling: the entrance is nearly vertical, consisting of two sections with rope to aid backpackers entering/leaving the campground plus additional steep and treacherous campground trail. Campsites consisted of wooden decks, there being no appreciable level ground. A sign warned that a black bear had been seen in the area, and a good food bag hanging setup was provided. The composting toilet was great, too, although it required a steep climb. The campground was well laid out so that we didn't even see our neighbors' tents and sometimes even walked past our own.

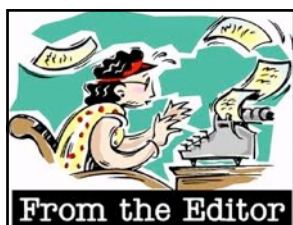
High Dump, like the other beaches we encountered, was covered in white cobble stones, a lot of fist sized rocks, few much bigger than a bread box. Because there is no sand or plant life, the water was perfectly clear--and very cold! But it was lovely, too. The rock shelf that extended from shore made the sun-stippled water glow gold close to shore but deepen to Mediterranean shades of bright green, blue-green, azure, and indigo further out.

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Wow! Another super-sized Ray! We've got 6 great articles this month from various contributors involved in several events and activities this last month. I am overwhelmed by the quality of contributions that I've gotten since I became editor and by our members willingness to put themselves "out there" to showcase the great goings-on in the club. We want to keep that going, and encourage even more of it. Which brings me to repeat a plea I made last month. If you are receiving the mailer at home, but find that you prefer to read the Ray on the web, please let us know that you don't want the Ray mailed to your home anymore. It will save lots of postage, lots of trees and keep us from having to limit

content. Let Jen T know at [solarmembership@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:solarmembership@solaroutdoors.org).

I'm still finding my way around here. We tried something new this month and we'd love to know what you think! You will notice in this issue that we've highlighted (in **BOLD**) the names of SOLAR members in articles about events, classes and activities. I still get a little thrill when I see my name in print. Do you feel the same? Keep it or lose it?

Send your thoughts, ideas and other musings to [solarrayeditor@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:solarrayeditor@solaroutdoors.org)



## Opportunity to Meet New People and Become Famous!

by Jennifer Tislerics, Assistant Editor

SOLAR has a **fantastic opportunity** available for a select few members – you could be one of them! Do you like getting to know new people? Do you enjoy talking to people about their experiences in SOLAR? Would you like to see your name in print?

We're looking for 2 or 3 club members to conduct the "micro-interviews" of other club members at our monthly meetings. This would involve approaching both friends and

strangers alike to ask a specific question, write down their answer, and take their picture. Later, at home, you translate your notes into full sentences and forward everything to the Ray Editor. That's about it! Simple as can be.

**Do you prefer to communicate by email?** Well, do we have a great opportunity for YOU! A volunteer is needed to conduct the "Spotlight On" interviews. This job can be done from the comfort of your own home, on the couch in your Snuggie, laptop in front of you. Just email a club member or four, ask them nicely to answer some questions you provide and to send back a photo of themselves having fun outside. When you get their interview back, check it for basic spelling/grammar mistakes and forward it to the Ray Editor. Done!

In acknowledgement of your contribution to the club's well-read

newsletter, your name will be included in every edition of the SOLAR Ray, as one of the Assistant Editors (it's in the fine print on the last page – you mean to say you haven't read the last page before today? Check it out!). You'll receive fame galore, although the "fortune" leaves a bit to be desired since these are volunteer positions. However, your efforts will be greatly appreciated, and make for an even more interesting Ray for club members to read each month.

To "apply" please contact Sheila Smith, SOLAR Ray Editor, at [SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org](mailto:SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org).



## SOLAR WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Barbara Armstrong  
Michael Knese

Bruce Coppola  
Kurt LaFrance

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# Mountaineers Come Home

BY JIM LEMIRE

**Mt. Rainier:** It's 3:00 AM and our rope team is perched on the side of a glacier at 13,000 feet, being battered by 40 mph winds, gusting to 60. We only had one thought: don't slip! We were forcing ourselves to eat and drink, neither appealing but necessary if we wanted to make it to the top... and back down again. This was our second rest break since leaving camp at 11:00 PM. Our first break was on top of Disappointment Cleaver. I love those names, and it sounds so much better than Cadaver Gap, our other option to reach the summit. But the story actually starts almost two weeks before, at....

**Mt Olympus:** On June 24<sup>th</sup>, thirteen SOLAR members (the author not among them) left Detroit and landed in Seattle. Over the next several days they made their way to the west side of the Olympic Forest. Upon arriving at the Ranger Station to secure permits, the group was given some bad news by the rangers: the trail above 3,500 feet was snow covered and there had been no attempts on Mt. Olympus this season. In addition, the actual peak was enclosed in a huge snow mushroom which would have made the last eighty feet extremely dangerous to climb. Glacier Meadows, a camp to be reached on the second or third night, was buried in six feet of snow! There were also new avalanche chutes and they tried to discourage our group from even hiking above the snow line. As **Lou Szakal** described the conversation, he explained to the

rangers how this group had trained and the experience they were bringing, and the rangers lightened up, maybe even a little bonding going on.

So on the night before the group started out, they took out their maps and GPSs and plotted a route that would hopefully reduce their exposure to danger. There was a little anxiety in the hostel that night as they tried to get some sleep.

Early the next morning, the ten who were attempting the climb set off in bright sunshine and good spirits. The trail was beautiful; mature rain forest with centuries-old Douglas Fir and hemlock trees, waterfalls, and a trail as soft as a carpet. They hiked twelve and a half miles that first day, making it all the way to - you guessed it, "Twelve and a Half Mile Camp". The next morning the trail transitioned to a steep vertical route which quickly reached the snow line. Proceeding through several feet of snow was difficult and if it was not for one pair of snow shoes, the group may not have been able to get as far as they did. Since the trail was completely under snow, the only way they could find the trail was by following the little yellow ribbons attached to the tree

limbs. They made it to Glacier Meadows on the second day, buried under 6 feet of snow. For those who had been there before, it was unrecognizable.



On the third day, the group had to climb up and down a lateral moraine, and then cross the Blue Glacier. They did this while roped up into two teams of five climbers each. They made it to the base of the snow dome that afternoon, and quickly realized that after two days in the rain forest they had not been paying attention to the sun and many suffered because of lack of sun protection.

The fourth day would begin with their attempt to summit the snow dome and reach the highest elevation they could realistically achieve. After a good dinner and sleep, they awoke the next morning with every intention to reach the top of the snow dome and be essentially within shouting distance of the peak. But the weather had other plans, deteriorating rapidly.

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## WEEKEND AT MOM'S

BY HEIDI TIETJEN



I always enjoy heading to Jackson and hanging out at my mom's house. She's got a pool and air conditioning, after all, and her refrigerator is usually full. But it is even more fun to visit Jackson, using my mom's house as a home base, when joined by friends and with a full slate of activities.

**Pat Charbonneau, Nancy Austin, and Kurt La France** arrived on Saturday morning. Kurt, a friend of Laura Albin (a longtime SOLAR member now living in Colorado), rode his bike over from his house on the east side of Jackson. He'd heard about SOLAR from Laura and was excited to come across the announcement of this activity on Meetup.com. We got on our bikes and took the scenic route through Ella Sharp Park's winding roads and then connected to the Jackson InterCity Trail. The JICT runs diagonally through the city but we joined it about a mile and a half from its western end. It crosses Park Road and segues into the Falling Water Trail, a wide paved trail completed a few years ago. Both trails follow the former railway corridor that runs from Niles, Michigan near Kalamazoo to Romeo in Macomb County and on into southern Canada.

The Falling Water Trail passes wetlands, woodlands, and farm fields. It is pleasantly green and often shaded. One of my favorite sections

is on the Lime Lake causeway when there is open water on both sides of the trail. There were anglers and swimmers near the shore and farther out on the water what looked to be a kayaking class taught by Quiet World Sports.

After about an hour-and-a-half ride the trail ended but a short street ride took us into the center of the village of Concord. We stopped for lunch at the Silver Spoon diner. The sign board out front advertised "the best fish sandwich in town". A glance up and down the small downtown suggested it might be the *only* fish sandwich in town.

After lunch we took a spin around Concord's residential streets to check out the Victorian houses and then headed back on to the trail to return to Jackson. The slight grade in the trail was now downhill so the ride felt much faster. We turned off near the Falling Water Trail/Jackson InterCity Trail junction to take a more direct route back to my mom's house about a mile and half away. Odometers showed we rode about 33 miles.

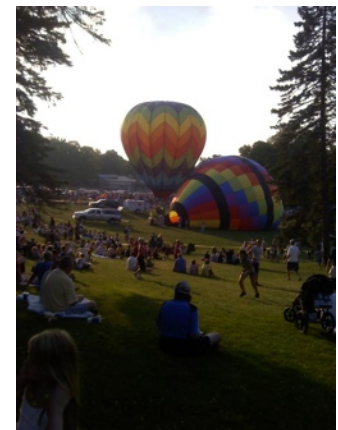
Kurt headed home after the ride as he had another balloon-viewing party to attend. Pat, Nancy, and I headed to the back yard to swim in the pool. **John Ostrowski** arrived in time to jump into the water and then eat dinner with us.

After dinner we walked over to Ella Sharp Park for the Hot Air Jubilee, a big event on Jackson's calendar. We sat up on the hill overlooking the launch area. The evening looked beautiful to us but balloon pilots have a different set of criteria for good weather. Indeed, they announced that the air was too still for a complete launch—the balloons need a good wind to be swept far enough afield so

they can have an empty spot to land—so liftoff was at the discretion of the individual pilots. We watched about 20 brightly-colored balloons inflate but only about a half-dozen actually launched. One basket grazed a stand of tall trees just off to the side of the launch field and it quickly put down again. Other balloons rose up 20 or 30 feet in the air but remained tethered to the ground. It was, however, quite impressive to see all these bright balloons together and so close to us.

The original plan had been to watch the launch and then stick around the jubilee to listen to music, see the nighttime "balloon glow", and watch the fireworks. Instead, we decided we'd seen enough of balloons on the ground and wanted to walk back with Pat, who needed to get home. John also headed out with plans to return the next day. Nancy pitched a tent in the backyard and crawled in to get some sleep. I, however, love fireworks and was happy to discover that I could see them perfectly from the street behind my mom's house.

The next morning was hot and humid. With the temperature rising and (air conditioned) house chores beckoning, Nancy decided to skip the canoe trip and head home. John returned and



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# BEAT THE HEAT IN A BOAT

BY SHEILA SMITH



Moonlight Paddling always brings in a good crowd at Heavner's Canoe & Kayak Rental, but this year multiple events and multiple groups participating might have made the July 16 outing the largest gathering of SOLAR members and friends ever (we may never know since it was too chaotic for counting). Activities at Proud Lake started early and ended late, with a kayak builders' showcase by the **Southeast Michigan Kayak Builders (SEMKB)**, a beginning kayak class taught by Matt Dalton, dinner for 100, moonlight paddling, and a bonfire that lasted into the wee hours of the morning. We had participation (in addition to our SOLAR regulars) from Michigan Adventure Club, SEMKB, BS Hiking, Hostelling International, Great Lakes Kayakers, the GM Ski Club, and even a couple who said they saw the ad in Sea Kayaker magazine!

It was a perfect day for this kind of fun, and **Alan Heavner** was, as always, a perfect host, from graciously clearing prime real estate in the shade for the kayak showcase, to ordering plenty of food and dealing with the logistics of the large crowd, to leaving a light (bonfire) on for us as we paddled back in the moonlight. **Margaret Martin** did a great job herding the cats as well, and it was the best paddle in my personal memory.

Things heated up at 4:00 p.m. as the SEMKB started to arrive with their beautiful hand-crafted boats; all in all, about a dozen boats were showcased, with their proud builders answering questions from

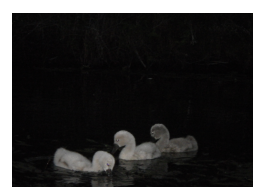
all corners about the skills and costs involved. Meanwhile, two members (ok, one of them was me) put on a paddle-making demonstration, starting from a cedar 2x4 and ending with... well, something smaller than a 2x4 but not yet a Greenland style paddle; it was hot, hard work, and I gave up.

**Matt Dalton's** Beginning Kayaking class was over-subscribed, but he recruited some assistant instructors and tried to accommodate everyone. They did some dry land technique training, and then took the show on the water.

Dinner was served around 6:30 p.m., and there was a lot of food. Alan went all out for the big crowd with pizza, salad, ribs, pasta, chicken, breadsticks, and plenty of pop for the thirsty participants. I think Alan was worried that he'd ordered too much or too little, but he got it just right. I didn't hear any complaining.

Finally, it was time to hit the water. We paddled into a beautiful sunset, beached the boats at Milford and walked into town for ice cream. Then we paddled back under a brilliant moonrise to Proud Lake, where a bonfire awaited us. Believe it or not, between the falling temps and the wet seats, the bonfire was appreciated for both its beauty and its warmth. There, the revelers stayed until around 2:00 a.m.

If you've never been on a Moonlight Paddle, you should; there are still a couple of chances left this year.



photos by Chad Woodruff and Sheila Smith

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## A FISH TALE

BY ROBERTA GOYT

I recently re-joined SOLAR and was eager to participate in one of the excursions, classes and other activities offered. My timing was perfect; I joined one week before the great Lake St. Clair Perch Expedition. I love to fish, but do not have a boat of my own and do not have an opportunity to fish very often. Along with enjoying the fishing experience, I also love the eating experience; the cleaning I could do without. I joined the trip through the club's Meetup.com site – which is pretty cool in itself.

I got to **Chuck Smith's** house at 2:30 p.m. and soon all of the fishing group participants (**Jim Coe, Sheila Hardy, Rick Wisz** and I) were ready to board the **P.O.S.** (If you are not sure what P.O.S. means, you will know by the end of the story!) So off we went to buy fishing licenses and minnows, and to launch into the Great Fishing Adventure. Chuck turned the key and the boat sped off. We passed by his dad and another guy who were kayaking in homemade kayaks, which were really beautiful to see.

When Chuck located what he thought was a good spot, he threw the anchor in and the poles came out. Sheila, Jim and I were on one side and Chuck and Rick were on the other side. It didn't take long for Chuck to begin pulling the fish in. Unfortunately, he was the only one catching anything for a while. Then Jim's pole bent to the point where we knew he had to have a "biggie". And he did... he pulled up a smallmouth bass that was about 24" long (I think). I was just about as thrilled watching him as I would have

been pulling my own fish in. After a short time, Jim pulled in another bass, but this one he could not keep. Chuck continued to pull in perch, but most of them were also too small to keep.

Things slowed down and we decided to move to a new spot. First, Jim and Chuck took a quick swim and then we started to pull the fish in. I am not sure if it was chivalry or pity for the two ladies, but Chuck and Jim swapped poles with us, and, boy, what a difference that made. I put my hook down for a minute and up came a perch. The rest of the time Sheila and I were pulling in perch but again many of them were too small to keep. Then I caught a small bass and Sheila caught one about as big as Jim's. We had so much fun we did not want to stop, but Chuck felt that we should start heading back since he did not want to drive back in the dark. We started back about 8:30 p.m.

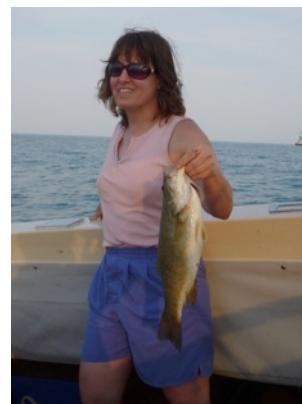
We were clipping along when all of a sudden the engine stopped. Chuck tried to fix the situation in multiple ways, then realized that it was likely a fuel pump which could not be fixed while in the water (hence the name P.O.S.). So we were stuck about one mile from the boat launch; I was told this is not an unusual thing to have happen on these outings. But my mind was beginning to think the worst and for a moment I felt that I was on the "I Shouldn't Be Alive" show. But soon my worries were put to rest,

since Chuck got ahold of his dad who was going to come and tow us in. Since it would take a while for Chucks'



dad to get to us, Rick and I fished for a while until we couldn't see the fishing lines anymore in the dark.

The next 45 minutes were a treat. Jim told mostly bad jokes, Chuck told a bunch of stories on the boating/water experiences in his life, and we saw two beautiful fireworks displays. The weather was good and the bugs were not bad. Soon, Chuck's dad arrived and we slowly got back to the launch and out we went. By the way – I got back home to Brighton about 12:45 a.m. It was a very fun experience and I would surely do it again. Sunday morning I cleaned fish and mmmmmmm were they delicious.







photos by Dan Butterworth

The following day's hike was... challenging. The distance was either 9 or 11 km, depending on the map you consulted. But the distance posted on signs and maps sometimes bears little resemblance to the backpacker's perceived distance and this was one of those times. Our group decamped quickly in the morning, hearing ominous thunder in the distance and wanting to get over as many rocks and roots before they became wet and slippery. Fortunately we got only a few light sprinkles as the storm went around us.

The trail between High Dump and Stormhaven campgrounds which runs along the cliffs overlooking Georgian Bay is composed of lots of quick ups and downs, usually not dramatic elevation changes, but quite often short, steep ascents/descents. Long legs are a definite plus here. Even in those short stretches where the trail is relatively horizontal, the rock surface is knobby, grooved, and cratered. Concentration is required to search out footholds and to prevent twisted ankles or worse.

Much of the trail runs through cypress forest or some sort of scrubby evergreens but occasionally the trail breaks out on top of the bluff and allows a breathtaking view of the lake, cliffs, and rocky beaches. Gorgeous!

We arrived at Stormhaven Camp mid-afternoon exhausted and thankful the day's walk was over. After soaking our feet in the cold lake water, we sat on the big slabs of rock that run along the bay and cooked our dinner while enjoying the breeze.

This beach is partially fist-sized cobble, but also horizontal ledges,

tiers, and boulders up to the size of small cottages. We sighted a few snakes – garter snakes, and a water snake disappearing between rocks in water a couple feet deep.

The next day, Sunday, we stayed over at Stormhaven. Heidi and Dan day hiked west further along the trail to the rock formations and rock ledge beach called Grotto Cove and the cliff called Overhanging Point. The day was hot and sunny and day trippers teemed in on the well-groomed paths from the parking lot a couple of kilometers inland. It was, however, a quick walk to leave them behind once the trail again ascended from the water. After returning to Stormhaven in the afternoon, there was time for a nap, reading on the beach, and short ambles along the shore. About 8:30 in the evening, two young couples arrived. They had left Tobermory at noon and had hiked about 15 (or is it 18?) miles to Stormhaven. They planned to hike down the coast to Lionshead in four days, covering roughly the same distance each day. Ah youth, we salute you!

Monday morning, we anticipated a relatively long hike back to Cypress Lake campground and the parking lot. Wanting to get home at a reasonable hour, we pulled ourselves out of our sleeping bags at 5:30am. The trail went along cobblestone beach for two stretches, though fortunately neither stretch was very long. Other portions of the trail were similar to what we experienced Saturday, but not so grueling (that or we were getting used to this...). We left the white blazes of the Bruce Trail for the blue blazes of Horse Lake Trail, a deluxe trail of wood chips and frequent benches – clearly we were nearing civilization! We skirted

*continued on p. 8*



Horse Lake and Cypress Lake and were pleasantly surprised to reach the car around 9 or 9:30 am and begin the drive back to Michigan.

Oh, the bugs...I haven't mentioned them. Well, the mosquito and fly bites healed after a few days, so...enough said.



*The author cooling her toes*

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WEEKEND AT MOM'S *(continued from p4)*

H. TIETJEN

we drove back to Concord. We arrived at the put-in point, handed in our waivers, and were assigned our boats. I was able to snag the one-person kayak Nancy had reserved and John had a one-person canoe. We then drove the few miles to Albion to park at the take-out and got shuttled back to the boats.

The Grand River Environmental Team, the very friendly folks who organized this trip, are the ones who put together the long trip down the entire 260 miles of the Grand River every 10 years. They organize monthly river trips on the Grand, Kalamazoo, and Raisin Rivers. You can use one of their canoes or kayaks (absolutely free) or you can use your own. Their website

has a great set of river maps for the Grand River.

The section of the north branch of the Kalamazoo River that we paddled had lots of twists and turns. The river was shallow—often no more than six inches deep—and the bottom was generally sandy with a few rocks here and there. The current was deceptively swift. Although the river was clear of snags, we needed to keep a sharp eye out for where the channel was clear of water weeds. John found a stick stripped clean of bark—a telltale sign of beaver activity—and there were lots of small fish darting through the clear water. I was worried about being too hot out on the water, but there was a good breeze blowing that kept us cool. It took about

two and a quarter hours to cover the seven mile stretch of river, which was long enough to get a nice farmer's tan but not long enough for me to start hoping for the trip to end.

Hot but happy after the river trip we turned off at the village of Parma for a mandatory (in my book) ice cream stop and then drove the pretty back roads to Jackson. Back at my mom's house John got into his truck to head home and I headed to the pool for another float in the cool water.



WORDS TO WANDER BY

*"Ah, summer, what power you have to make us suffer and like it."* [Russell Baker](#)

Margaret warned us. Your canoe partners won't know very much about paddling. They will probably hold their paddles incorrectly. They may forget to paddle. They may paddle backwards.

She was right on all counts, but she was also right when she said we would have a great time as a canoe captain on the annual outing on the Huron River for the Western Wayne County Therapeutic Recreation Program Canoe Trip.

Margaret organizes this trip every year and recruits SOLAR members to help out as part of her job. I had the pleasure of participating in this event in 2010.

I was partnered with Brian, a gregarious and charming man in his early 30s. Brian kept me entertained through most of the trip, telling me about his relationship with his girlfriend of 15 years (Jenny, who was also on the trip), his love of sports, and his job. He was an enthusiastic paddler and we worked on a mnemonic so that he could remember the right way to hold the paddle and how to do a basic forward stroke. When Brian ran out of steam on the way back from Milford and I had to provide all the power for our canoe, I realized what a good teammate he had been.

Some canoe captains had partners with severe physical disabilities who were strictly passengers. These duos paddled in two-person kayaks to keep the center of gravity lower and a tip over less likely. We worked on finding a way to keep the passengers from slipping down in their seats, as they looked very uncomfortable but they weren't able to express what they needed or how they felt. We hoped a better solution could be found for future trips.

Back at Heavner's canoe livery we said goodbye to our paddling partners and I, at least, got a big hug from mine before heading home. It was a lot of fun and felt great to know that I was able to help someone else get out and enjoy the beautiful Huron River.

As your bowman will be very inexperienced, you must be able to handle a canoe independently. This trip is free to the volunteers. Those who would like to come, but do not wish to canoe with a therapeutic program member, are invited to rent a canoe and come along... the more the merrier!!

### Canoe with Wayne Therapeutic Program and Therapeutic



Attention canoe captains! Western Wayne County Therapeutic Recreation Program and Westland Therapeutic Recreation Program, which provide recreation and leisure programs for people with impairments, need volunteer canoeing teachers for their next canoe outing at Proud Lake Recreation area in Wixom, Michigan.

This is a fun afternoon where you can share your canoeing skills while having a great time! We'll meet at Heavner's Canoe Rental at Proud Lake, canoe along the river, and then take a break before returning to the rental facility. Snacks are provided at the break stop.

Your bowman will be very inexperienced so you must be able to handle a canoe independently. This trip is free to the volunteers. Those who would like to come, but do not wish to canoe with a therapeutic program member, are invited to rent a canoe and come along... the more the merrier !!

When: Saturday, August 27, 2011  
Time: Meet at 12:30pm, instructions provided at that time  
Canoeers will arrive at 1:00pm. There will be a bonfire with hot dogs and a sing along after returning to the canoe rental.

For more information contact:

Margaret Martin ([mmartin@cityofwestland.com](mailto:mmartin@cityofwestland.com)) 734-722-7620  
Debi Marlow ([dmalow@cityofwestland.com](mailto:dmalow@cityofwestland.com)) 734-497-7796  
Sandi Moebs ([sandiwest@aol.com](mailto:sandiwest@aol.com)) 734-564-4250

**Directions:** From Detroit take I-96 West to Wixom Rd., Exit and go north. From Brighton/Lansing take I-96 East to Wixom Rd., Exit and go North. Proceed through the town of Wixom, and then follow the brown State Park signage to Proud Lake. The Canoe rental will be on the left side of the road.

### 2011 Hike and Paddle



We will meet at Seaton Creek campground 8/5 Friday night camp for the night then drive down to Red Bridge 8/6 Saturday morning. We will park there and hike up the Manistee River trail to our camp at Seaton Creek and camp for the night.

Sunday morning 8/7 we will break camp and hike down to the river and load into canoe or kayaks that will be delivered by Pine river canoe livery. Once loaded we will paddle downstream to Red Bridge approximately 3 hours to our cars and head for home.

Cost: 45.00 per canoe (share cost with a partner) or 45.00 per kayak

15.00 per night x 2 for camp site.

If you have a way to transport your own personal canoe or kayak you can certainly do that but we need enough people 12-16 to rent to make it cost effective. I would prefer to keep the group at 20 or under.

Contact: Jim Coe [jimc27k@gmail.com](mailto:jimc27k@gmail.com)

Rain, sleet, snow, and fog soon engulfed the climbing teams. A rope team member only forty feet away soon disappeared into the fog. As some of the climbers recalled, the horizon line began to disappear and the team member in front of them began to look like they were floating. After another half hour of this dangerous trekking, the group decided the only safe thing to do was turn around. They returned to their camp at the Snow Dome to spend their fourth night.

During the night several members were awoken by a loud long rumble, the sound of a very large avalanche not too far off. Several members remembered that the

importantly they were able to travel further than the rangers had predicted. This was possible only because of the training, preparation and experience that they put into the climb.

The Olympus team members then hiked out on the same trail they had taken in, picking up cached food along the way. They spent a day at Ruby Beach on the coast and tried to relax before the climb on Mt. Rainier.

Two members left the Olympus group as it was joined by four more SOLAR members (including the author) on Sunday, July 3.

The **Rainier** trip started with a visit to the Paradise Ranger Station on

Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. Being in a beautiful national park at the foot of Mt. Rainier will make even the most jaded feel a little national pride. Some 12 miles from the park entrance and at an elevation of 5,400 feet above sea level, the Visitor Center, Lodge and Ranger Station are all sited at the base of

the Muir Snow Field, and the trailhead for most climbers attempting to climb Mt. Rainier. The experienced members of our group indicated that we should stay in Paradise for at least 4 hours to help with acclimatization. So, after a nice check in and chat with

the rangers, we proceed to walk around and get used to the mile-high elevation.

In the afternoon, we headed back to Ashford and the Whitaker Bunk House, a great little place that houses climbers before or after they attempt to summit Mt. Rainier. That evening, **Gary Wilkinson** and **Mike Pniewski** made rounds and made sure that no one was over-packing. The weather forecasts were calling for near-perfect conditions, which definitely took the edge off for those who were there for the first time. Gary also made everyone put their crampons on to make sure they were fitted correctly to the boot, and there were no loose parts or stray straps. I guess having to do this in ten degrees and in the dark was a good lesson.

The next morning we drove back up to Paradise, unloaded the equipment and began to put our gear on. We began hiking at 8:45 AM and eventually reached Camp Muir at 10,000 feet elevation at about 3:45; some arrived sooner, a few arrived later. We climbed 4,600 vertical feet in about 4.1 miles. We were pleased to see that the bunk house had a few vacancies, and there were plenty of recently vacated tent sites, making establishing camp easy. The hike up was very pleasant, sunshine and 55 degrees, all in the snow. Most of us were dressed in shorts and short sleeve shirts; my

*continued on p. 11*



avalanche seemed to last at least 30 seconds. In the morning they thought they were able to identify an area that looked distinctly different from the day before.

The Olympus team almost made it to the summit, but more





only concern was if I had enough sunscreen for all of that exposed skin!

After a good dinner and six hours of darkness, the sun made its presence known by blasting its rays into our tents. By 5:30 we were up and making breakfast. We were divided into three rope teams of four people each. We only had to travel about 1 mile but it included going through a break in the mountain called Cathedral Gap, which was fortunately almost entirely covered in snow.

Arriving at Ingraham Flats at 11,000 feet, everyone could feel the elevation. It was relatively warm, probably 40 degrees with intense sun. After making camp, we proceeded to a day of lounging, some of us made water from a solar still (black sheet of plastic), and began to prepare for the evening's climb. An early lunch was quickly followed by an even earlier dinner, and after crawling into our

tents at 6:00 PM we began to rest; most of us realizing that sleep would be impossible.

Shortly after the three rope teams left camp that night, we passed an exposed vertical rock face when several boulders decided to leave their perch. They were released from the wall by freezing water that got behind the rocks during the day, when the snow melted from the sun. The rocks tumbled toward the first rope team, eventually passing between the first and second climber, with one rock actually hitting the rope as it passed. After that adrenaline rush, everyone was wide awake. It helped us climb the nearly 800 vertical feet that took us to the top of Disappointment Cleaver. At 1:00 AM we made it to the top and had our first break. Someone suggested turning off our headlamps for a moment and since it was a moonless night, the stars seemed to explode above us. The Milky Way was so defined and close - you felt that you could reach out and touch it!

The first rope team made it to the summit at 4:40 AM, about 15 minutes before the sun came up. For a few minutes they had the summit to themselves, before the guided, private rope teams made it up. For the first time since they arrived on the mountains, they were rewarded with a 360 degree view of distant mountains: Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Baker, Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams. They crossed the volcanic dome, about 1 ¼ mile across, and signed the registry

book, took photos and at 14,410 feet just tried to take it all in.

Rope teams 2 and 3 each had a member experience altitude sickness on the way up and didn't quite make it to the top. Rope team 2 made it to within 150 feet of the summit and rope team 3 made it to within 700 feet of the summit.

The descent down was slow and slippery, as the sun came out and began to melt the snow and ice. Eventually all of the rope teams made it back to the Ingraham Flats camp by 11:00. Fortunately, the team had not only experienced climbers but experienced climbers who were trained in first aid. A decision was reached by consensus that the two members who were sick from the altitude had to be brought down from Ingraham Flats at 11,000 feet at least to Camp Muir at 10,000 feet. At that point they would be assessed to determine if they needed to go all the way down. We had also received weather reports that a front was moving in, bringing the potential for thunderstorms in the afternoon. Indeed, we could see the front moving in from the coast, filling the valleys with clouds. At 11,000 feet, weather prediction and observation took on a whole new perspective. The decision was made that everyone should hike down to Camp Muir.

We quickly broke camp and made our way down. Once at Muir, the group reconvened and decided that hiking all the way down to the trailhead

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would be in everyone's best interest. The climbers left in sunshine from Camp Muir at 3:00 PM, hiking in slushy snow, sometimes "glissading" (sliding on plastic or their backsides). The final descent was going well, until an intense fog and mist enclosed the hikers. Soon members were separated and had to negotiate their way down with visibility cut to less than 40 feet. There was some danger, in that if a hiker wasn't paying attention, the descent would push them naturally to the right, onto the Nisqually Glacier, which had crevasses. Eventually, we all made it down, with the last hikers arriving at about 7:00 PM.

From the start of the final ascent, at 11:00 PM, until we arrived at the trailhead the next day at 6 or 7:00 PM, our Mountaineering group had climbed up 3,500 feet, down 9,000 feet, and covered 12 miles in 17 hours.



This was with no sleep and little substantial food from the night before. We were all pretty tired and sore, and only because we had been training for months were we able to do this. I do

not think that many of the first-timers would have believed, back in November, that they would be capable of doing this.

We spent the next two days recovering and discussing the lessons learned, one of which was the need to have better communication between the teams. This would have allowed the non-affected members of rope teams 2 and 3 to somehow make the summit. Everyone knew that those individuals were more than capable of making it, but the immediate safety of those who were sick took precedence.

Over 10,000 people attempt to summit Mt. Rainier every year; only 6,000 succeed. The vast majority of those who succeed do so under the guidance of one of three organized and paid companies. Our Mountaineering group is truly unique in that we did this as a volunteer organization, relying on the expertise of the leaders who

contributed so much to make this a success.

Oh, and did I mention?... Two of the SOLAR members got married on the

Muir Snowfield the day after we came back down. **Mike Pniewski** and **Mary Dean** said their vows in a beautiful pine tree-sheltered area, officiated by minister **Lou Szakal**. The guests included a rag tag bunch of hungry



mountaineers, who proceeded to toss snow balls at the newlyweds, since rice was in short supply. Thank you, Mary and Mike, for giving us something to hike down for!

**Mt. Olympus group:**

Pam Riehl, Brandon Nascimento, Ken Swartz, Tom Black, Jacob Black, Glenn Schultz, Brian Schultz, Jeff McWilliams, Eric Braun, Howard Weiss

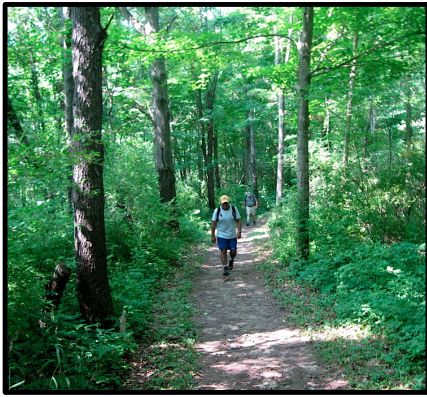
**Mt. Rainier group:**

Gary Wilkinson, Dave Dahl, Brandon Nascimento, Marie Martinko, Tom Black, Jacob Black, Glenn Schultz, Brian Schultz, Jeff McWilliams, Eric Braun, Howard Weiss, Jim Lemire

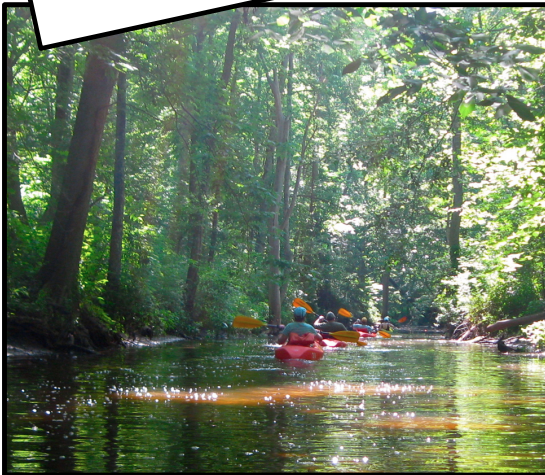
**On-site support, logistics and additional ibuprofen:**

Lou Szakal, Mike Pniewski, Mary Dean





JULY 2011 CHAIN O'  
LAKES (INDIANA)  
TRIP  
A PHOTO COLLAGE  
BY MARK CARSON





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## Why do I have to keep signing that waiver? And what does the first paragraph mean?

by Kevin Cotter, Education Chair

It's a ritual we all go through when joining a gym, renting a canoe, or signing up for a rafting trip. You're given a waiver to read and sign. If you're like most people, you probably give it a quick look, notice the scary stuff about serious injury or death, decide that it's the kind of legalese only attorneys could come up with, then sign it and move on to the event at hand. SOLAR is no different – we have waivers, too. Every SOLAR member signs a waiver when joining or renewing their membership. Even lifetime members are now asked to sign a waiver once a year. And anyone signing up for a class is expected to sign still another waiver.

In most respects, the SOLAR waiver is similar to any other waiver. The signer agrees that he/she understands there are risks associated with participation in SOLAR and assumes sole responsibility for his/her participation and anything that may happen as a result.

However, the first paragraph of the SOLAR waiver adds an unusual twist. The principal reason members are asked to sign the waiver so many times is to emphasize the following:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that SOLAR provides a forum for the exchange of ideas, information, skills, and equipment as well as the planning and conducting of outdoor activities and classes by

and with people who share similar interests. SOLAR does not directly provide activities or classes, and the individuals who lead and participate in such events as members of SOLAR are not professional guides or outfitters. SOLAR is a volunteer organization made up of members who enjoy outdoor recreation and are interested in sharing this enjoyment with others.

What does this paragraph mean? One might assume from the club name (School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation) that SOLAR is, in part, a school that offers classes. But the name, which was chosen almost 35 years ago, is misleading in today's SOLAR. A typical school chooses what classes to offer, decides on the content of those classes, hires instructors to teach them, and may offer certification (such as a degree) to students who complete certain classes or meet other requirements. The school is responsible for each class; the instructor is simply an employee of the school. Even though the instructor may have some discretion over how to teach the class, the school retains ultimate responsibility. Also, by hiring an instructor, the school represents (albeit indirectly) that the instructor is qualified to teach that course.

SOLAR does not fit this description. In a way, despite the name, SOLAR is not a school at all. What SOLAR is can be found in the club bylaws:

### Section 1.2: Purpose

The particular business and purpose of S.O.L.A.R. shall be as follows:

1. To promote and advance interest in the outdoors through information and participation in activities related to the S.O.L.A.R. program.
2. To provide a medium and a format for the exchange of ideas, information, skills, equipment, etc. related to the planning and conducting of outdoor activities, expeditions, etc., by and with people who are interested and involved in supporting and promoting these purposes as stated.

In short, SOLAR is simply a way for people with a common interest in outdoor leadership, adventure and recreation (the "SOLAR program") to share outdoor experiences, knowledge, and information. SOLAR is akin to a group of friends who get together to share a common interest such as backpacking. Each person may have some experience with backpacking, some knowledge gleaned from resources such as books, and lots of opinions. That kind of gathering can be very useful and a lot of fun. We all enjoy sharing experiences and interests we have in common, but no one would confuse it with a backpacking class offered by a professional outfitter or community college.

This is the sense in which classes are offered through SOLAR. A member (or members) decides to offer a class, puts the class together, and announces it

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*continued on p. 15*

through SOLAR. As long as the class is consistent with the purpose of SOLAR, the club does provide some resources to support instructors, such as the services of the Education Committee, the use of club communication channels (e.g., SOLAR Ray, Yahoo! and Meetup groups, and the monthly general meeting) to promote the class, and preferential access to club-owned equipment for the class. In any case, SOLAR does not offer the class; the class is offered by its instructors. There is no SOLAR "catalogue" or "curriculum" of classes. Even longstanding classes such as Beginning Backpacking are available only through the continuing efforts of their instructors. These classes are, as stated in the Bylaws, a "medium and a

format for the exchange of ideas, information, skills, equipment, etc...."

This also means that SOLAR does not provide any certification of skills or knowledge attained. An instructor may offer a certificate of participation for students who meet certain criteria that are determined by that instructor. In a few cases, an instructor may arrange for an outside group to offer certification for completing a course; one example is the American Red Cross offering certification for completing the Wilderness First Aid course.

It is also important to understand that class instructors are all volunteers and not professionals. They teach because

they want to share what they know with others, and have other people to share experiences with, but they do not necessarily have the time or expertise that, for example, a professional outfitter would have.

So, think of signing up for a course as joining a group of like-minded individuals to learn some skills, share some experiences, and have some fun – and most importantly, to do these things safely. Everyone is expected to make their best effort to make sure all classes are conducted safely. Ultimately, however, you are responsible for your own safety. We're just friends with a common set of (somewhat uncommon) interests.

### Green Timbers/Shingle Mills Pathway Backpacking Weekend October 8-9, 2011

**Trip Organizer:** Wendy Wernet,  
[hoppiefrog12@hotmail.com](mailto:hoppiefrog12@hotmail.com)

We'll hike in approximately 4 miles to the Green Timbers Special Use Area of Pigeon River Country near Grayling. We'll spend the night camping near Honeymoon Cabin with spectacular views of the changing colors in the Sturgeon River Valley. With luck we'll be able to hear and possibly see some bull elk in the area. The next day we'll hike back out, and for those up for it, drive down the road for a 10-mile no-pack hike on the Shingle Mill Pathway. If you've taken Enjoying Michigan Winters, you'll want to check the trails out when there are leaves on the trees and you're not knee-deep in snow!

We'll meet at the Sturgeon Valley Road parking area trailhead at noon on Saturday. Dogs are welcome!



Photo: MichiganTrailMaps.com

### LAKE HOPE STATE PARK LABOR DAY WEEKEND Hiking, Biking, Canoeing, Kayaking, Camping & Swimming September 2 - 5, 2011

**Activity Organizer:** Vera Morris, [vem4@yahoo.com](mailto:vem4@yahoo.com)

Come join us for this fun kid- and dog-friendly weekend in southeast Ohio! A natural paradise, 2,983-acre Lake Hope State Park lies entirely within the 26,824-acre Zaleski State Forest in the valley of Big Sandy Run. It is a rugged, heavily forested region traversed by steep gorges and narrow ridges.



Hike 17 miles of trails in the state park or trek the 26 mile backpack trail in Zaleski State Forest. Hike or bike the nearby Moonville Rail Trail. For mountain bikers, Lake Hope's 23-mile single-track bike trail was chosen as Ohio's top mountain bike trail by readers of *Mountain Bike Magazine*.

120-acre Lake Hope offers a sand beach and laid-back boating which is limited to non-motorized boats and boats w/electric motors only. Kayak, canoe, and row boat rental is available. If you enjoy fishing, you can fish from shore.

We will spend 3 nights camping, and exploring. Saturday night will be a traditional SOLAR potluck dinner. We will be camping in the Lake Ridge Group Camp which is a secluded campsite with water available and pit toilets. Showers are available in the Class B Lake Hope Campground.

All this fun for only \$20.

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Portals/2/parkmaps/lakehopeparkmap.pdf>;  
<http://www.lakehopestatepark.com/>





## *Beginning Backpacking Class*

### **Class dates:**

Dates: Thursdays, August 18 and 25 and September 8, 15, 22, and 29. (No class on September 1<sup>st</sup> due to Labor Day)

Time: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Location: To Be Determined

Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> - day hike and equipment demo at Maybury State Park.

Friday night to Sunday afternoon, September 23-24, 2011 overnight practical at Brighton Recreation Area.

Friday morning to Sunday afternoon, October 7-9, 2011 final practical at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

### **Cost:**

\$110 (and you must be a dues paid SOLAR club member). Cost includes textbook, class handbook, camping fees for both practicals, and dinner at practical #1. Cost does not include meals at practicals (with exception of dinner above), state park fees, and travel costs for practicals.

### **Prerequisites:**

No prerequisites are necessary. You do not need your own gear, except for hiking boots. All other gear can be borrowed from SOLAR.

### **Minimum Requirements:**


You must participate in the Maybury day hike, the overnight practical at Brighton Recreation Area, AND participate in the group trip planning for the second practical trip in order to get a class certificate and to participate in the Pictured Rocks trip.

### **Class Instructors:**

Carol McCririe (810) 523-0132 mobile  
[cmccririe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmccririe@sbcglobal.net)

Leslie Cordova (248) 421-2080 mobile  
[lesliegene@aol.com](mailto:lesliegene@aol.com)





Don't put the camping gear away yet! Come to the Metamora/Hadley State Park Harvest Weekend. Activities include decorating your campsite for Halloween, so that all the children can trick-or-treat Saturday night, haunted house, costumes. Other activities include hiking, cider mills, and a visit to 7 Ponds Nature Center.

Kid friendly, dog friendly, RV friendly.

Cost: \$25 per adult, \$20 per child. Fee includes camping fees, pancake breakfast, campfires Friday and Saturday including s'mores. Pot luck Saturday night. Bring your own decorations for your campsite and candy to distribute to the trick or treaters!

# Metamora/Hadley Fall Camping Trip

Date: Friday-Sunday,  
Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2011

For more information, Call Margaret at 734-721-2821  
[mpluscat@yahoo.com](mailto:mpluscat@yahoo.com) or Frank and Julie Barrett at  
734-729-5019 e-mail <[fire\\_dude59@yahoo.com](mailto:fire_dude59@yahoo.com)>;  
sign up at the Meetup site ([www.meetup.com/SOLAR-Outdoors](http://www.meetup.com/SOLAR-Outdoors))

## Proud Lake Moonlight Canoeing 2011



This popular event is great for the experienced paddler as well as the novice. Come to Proud Lake and paddle either a canoe or a kayak into the setting sun. Stop briefly for dinner before continuing to paddle. When you return to the canoe rental, a bonfire will be awaiting you.

Dinner will be at the park in Milford. No partner necessary, all skill levels welcome. Dress for the weather, including headlamps and water bottles.

Note: For those who would like canoe instruction, please come 30 minutes early for some paddling tips. For those who would like to learn kayaking, Matt Dalton will offer a class prior to moonlight canoeing. Check with Heavner Canoe for more information.

Who: All are welcome. Child and dog friendly.  
Where: Heavner Canoe Rental, 2775 Garden Rd, Milford, MI

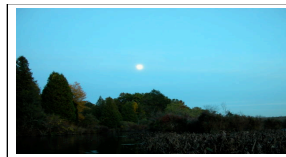
Saturday, August 13 Paddle 7:45 p.m. Sunset: 8:38pm  
Moonrise: 8:17pm Full Moon: 1:59pm

Saturday, September 10 Paddle 7:00 p.m. Sunset: 7:53pm  
Moonrise: 6:46pm

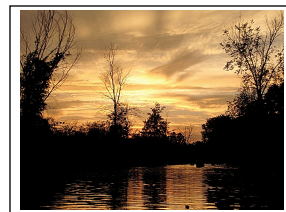
Saturday, October 15 Paddle 6:00 Sunset: 6:52pm  
Moonrise: 8:43pm

Saturday, November 12 Paddle: 5:00 p.m. Sunset: 5:15pm  
Moonrise: 6:27pm

Cost: Canoe or Kayak \$30 per person.  
Includes dinner, boat rental (canoe or kayak), bonfire.  
Boat rental only (no dinner) \$25 per person.  
Dinner & bonfire (bring your own boat) \$15 per person.  
Bonfire only (no dinner, bring your own boat) \$5 per person.



Photos courtesy of Jeff Enterkin.



## Introduction to Kayaking 2011

### Class & Dinner

**August 13<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 to 7:30**

Join SOLAR's Moonlight Paddlers after class

Sponsored by Heavner's Canoe & Kayak Rental  
**No Child Left Inside Program**

2775 Garden Road - Milford, Michigan 48381  
Phone: (248) 685-2379 Fax: (248) 684-7939

**Instructor: Matt Dalton, [mdalton@ameritech.net](mailto:mdalton@ameritech.net) or 248-760-3792**

Cost for class and dinner: \$40, for adults; for accompanying child, FREE!

<http://www.meetup.com/SOLAR-Outdoors/events/22449111/>

Register by August 10<sup>th</sup>

Kayaking is one of the best ways to explore Michigan's waterways, relax and get some much needed exercise. It's also a great way to spend time with friends and family.

Introduction to Kayaking is a complete 3 hours class geared toward the person who has never kayaked, and the person who has kayak many times but has never had a formal lesson. The class is taught by Matt Dalton, long time Solar Club member and former AKC Kayak Instructor. The class is taught at Heavner's Canoe and Kayak in Milford, on the beautiful and safe Huron River, inside Proud Lake State Park.

You will be introduced to the correct way to paddle a kayak efficiently and fast, with the focus on safety and fun. Basic paddling skills will be taught and students will be introduced to a variety of kayaking equipment, clothing, boats and places to paddle. Students will learn skills that will allow them to paddle safely and stay inside the kayak.

Class size is limited to 10 adults to ensure personal attention. After class we will have a pizza and salad dinner and a nice relaxing paddle down the Huron River. If you're thinking about trying kayaking this year or purchasing a kayak someday, this is the class for you.

Heavner's Canoe & Kayak Rental is committed to promoting No Child Left Inside. Alan Heavner has a special offer for Solar Club members who sign up for this class. Each student is encouraged to bring one child (ages 10 to 17) for FREE!!! You will learn more about Michigan's and Heavner's No Child Left Inside movement before the class. So please bring a child, even if you have to borrow one. Your son, daughter, niece, nephew or neighbor is welcome to join you.



## Adirondack Adventure

### Lake Placid, NY

**October 2-6, 2011**

**Activity Organizer: Don Wold, [Dwold12972@aol.com](mailto:Dwold12972@aol.com)**

This popular trip is now in its seventh year. Five nights are spent at the beautiful Adirondack Loj at Heart Lake and days are spent hiking the surrounding mountains or paddling nearby lakes and rivers. Three meals

a day are included in the price of \$350. Reservations must be made directly with Adirondack Loj: 518-523-3441 (8 AM-7 PM). Ask for the mid-week special. Loft space is currently available. Once you have your reservations, please sign up on Meetup.com so we can keep track of who is coming.

# SOLAR AUGUST 2011 CALENDAR

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

## SOLAR MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

8/2	Tues	<a href="#">Monthly Meeting 7:30pm</a>	Colony Hall	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program: Upcoming Fall and Winter Classes	Colony Hall		SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
9/6	Tues	<a href="#">Monthly Meeting 7:30pm</a>	Colony Hall	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program: Tips for Organizing a Class or Activity	Colony Hall		SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
10/4	Tues	<a href="#">Monthly Meeting 7:30pm</a>	Colony Hall	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program: TBA	Colony Hall		SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org

## SOLAR RAY DEADLINES

8/18	Thurs	September SOLAR Ray Deadline		Sheila Smith	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org
9/15	Thurs	October SOLAR Ray Deadline		Sheila Smith	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org
10/13	Thurs	November SOLAR Ray Deadline		Sheila Smith	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org

## ACTIVITIES

8/5-7	Wknd	<a href="#">Manistee River Hike and Paddle</a>	Manistee River	Jim Coe	jimc27k@gmail.com
8/13, 9/10, 10/15, 11/12	Sat	<a href="#">Moonlight Canoeing</a>	Proud Lake Rec Area	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
8/27	Sat	<a href="#">Volunteer for Therapeutic Recreation Program Canoe Trip</a>	Proud Lake Rec Area	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
9/2-5	Wknd	<a href="#">Lake Hope State Park Labor Day Weekend</a>	Zaleski State Forest, OH	Vera Morris	vem4@yahoo.com
9/30-10/1	Wknd	<a href="#">Camping at Metamora</a>	Lapeer County, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
10/2-6	Multi	<a href="#">Adirondack Adventure</a>	Lake Placid, NY	Don Wold	dwold12972@aol.com
10/8-9	Wknd	<a href="#">Green Timbers Backpacking Weekend</a>	Vanderbilt, MI	Wendy Wernet	hoppiefrog12@hotmail.com
10/27-30	Multi	<a href="#">Otter Creek Wilderness Backpacking Trip</a>	Monongahela National Forest, WV	Gary Benninger	benninger@comcast.net

## CLASSES

8/13	Sat	<a href="#">Intro to Kayaking (Bring a Kid for Free)</a>	Proud Lake Rec Area	Matt Dalton	mdalton@ameritech.net
8/18, 25, 9/8, 10, 15, 23-25, 10/7-9	Multi	<a href="#">Basic Backpacking</a>	Royal Oak Community Center	Carol McCririe	cmccririe@sbcglobal.net

If you would like to organize or suggest an activity for SOLAR, contact our Activities Chairperson, Heidi Tietjen at [SolarActivities@SolarOutdoors.org](mailto:SolarActivities@SolarOutdoors.org).

If you would like to teach or suggest a class for SOLAR, contact our Education Chairperson, Kevin Cotter 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



Become one of the growing numbers of SOLAR members joining Meetup.com! Visit our Meetup page to learn about and sign up for upcoming classes and activities. You can even pay on-line!

<http://www.meetup.com/SOLAR-Outdoors/>

If you aren't a member of Meetup in general, you'll need to create an account before you can apply for membership of the SOLAR-Outdoors group. Just follow their directions. Once you apply for membership to the SOLAR-Outdoors group, Jennifer Tislerics (our Membership Chair) will confirm that you are a paid member of SOLAR and approve your membership in the SOLAR-Outdoors Meetup group. Please be sure to include your first and last name when you apply to the group, so she knows exactly who you are.





#### 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, tranquil 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 Jennifer Tislerics 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. Please attach images separately as JPG files. If you have any questions, please contact Sheila Smith at [SOLARrayeditor@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:SOLARrayeditor@solaroutdoors.org).

#### STEERING COMMITTEE

##### OFFICERS

President: Chuck Smith  
Vice President: Laura Buhl  
Secretary: Ati Tislerics  
Treasurer: Paul Williford

Activities: Heidi Tietjen  
Bylaws: Tim Davis  
Education: Kevin Cotter  
Public Relations: Jennifer Hill  
Ray Editor: Sheila Smith

Historian: Chip Kleinbrook  
Membership: Jennifer Tislerics  
Programs: (vacant)  
Equipment: Glenn Newa  
Webmaster: Bob Innes

#### PRESIDENTS AT LARGE

Michael Banks | Leslie Cordova | Allen Duncan | Al Fylak | Steve Gardner | Bill Halvings  
Cindy Harrison-Felix | Tom Hayes | Joan Hettinger | Doug Lanyk | Larry Martin | Tom Oloffo | Lou Szakal | Cindy Taylor | 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 about 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 Chuck Smith at [SolarPresident@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:SolarPresident@solaroutdoors.org).

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

Karen DeCoster, Jennifer Hill, Ken Lemieux, Helen Peters, Janet Schester, Pamela Schmelzer-Anzicek, Elizabeth Shaw, Ati Tislerics and Jennifer Tislerics.

#### MORE INFORMATION

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



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