

# The SOLAR Ray

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

March 2011

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## Backcountry Cross-country Skiing from Yellowstone Expeditions' Canyon Skiers Yurt Camp

by Sara "Energizer" Cockrell

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*Grand Geyser's eruption is always  
GRAND-IOSE! Viewed from Old Faithful  
Upper Geyser Basin.*

Yellowstone was where I wanted to ski, rather than other destinations. Yellowstone won by a landslide, since there really is nowhere else that can compare to cross-country skiing among thermals, bison and other wildlife, and along the north and south rims of the "Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River!"

Since I may not get back for another winter trip in the future, and wanted to see and do everything while there, Charlotte agreed to join me for 2 extra days beforehand, skiing the Rendezvous (popular for racing camp) and Riverside Trails in West Yellowstone first.

When Maureen and Dave DeFrance and Charlotte Zinkus invited me to join them the last week of January in Yellowstone, I had to consider if I wanted to leave home during my favorite season in Northwest Michigan, winter, to cross-country ski somewhere else, and if so, if

Charlotte had never visited Old Faithful, and the geysers are even more spectacular in winter! Ooh-la-la, pure magic, sparkling in the sun! Yellowstone really is the Disneyland of geysers, hot springs, steam vents (fumaroles), and mud pots - a geologic and scenic wonder!

Since I am so very cold-natured I was worried that I wouldn't be warm enough, but Mother Nature came through for me, with perfect 20-degree Michigan-like weather: mostly sunny, very little wind, and perfect snow conditions. The only cold day was my last, minus 8 degrees at Big Sky while downhill skiing, as that HUGE storm was getting ready to blow across the country.



*Moe & Charlotte loading up for  
the Yellowstone Expeditions'  
snowcoach ride to Yurt Camp.*

So, here's more on our Yellowstone adventure.

We left West Yellowstone on Saturday, January 22 on

*(Continued on page 2)*

SOLAR members are encouraged to use

the online calendar at  
[www.meetup.com/  
SOLAR-Outdoors](http://www.meetup.com/SOLAR-Outdoors) for  
convenient class and  
trip sign-ups.



(Continued from page 1)



*Dave, Moe, Sara & Charlotte at dinner  
at Yellowstone Expeditions' Canyon  
Skier's Yurt Camp.*

snowcoach "Steam, Stars and Winter Soundscapes" tour, under a star-filled, clear, dark sky.

Since Yellowstone Expeditions would not be picking us up until after lunch on Sunday the 23rd, we took the shuttle south to Spring Creek, skiing the Divide Trail through the narrow, undulating gorge to the Lone Star Geyser. From there, a gradual uphill through the forest on the Howard Eaton Trail north of Shoshone Lake, then a gradual, winding downhill through a burn area, with views of Old Faithful to the east. We wound up, down and around on the Fern Cascades Trail before heading back to Old Faithful. Charlotte and I joined Moe and Dave DeFrance and our guide, Tom, for the snowcoach trip back to Madison, continuing north to the Norris junction along the Gibbon River, then east to the Canyon Skiers Yurt Camp, between the Ranger Station and the campground. We settled in, hanging our clothes on the pegs in our 2-person, propane-heated yurtlets, before our hearty, family-style dinner in the dining room yurt.

On Monday, January 24, our guides, Sarah and Tom, chose the Clear Lake Trail to Forest Hot Springs in East Hayden Valley for our morning ski from the south rim of the "Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River." At lunch, we basked in the 20-degree sunshine, surrounded by steaming fumaroles and bubbling mud pots. When we returned to the trail, we skied to Artist Point for views of the Lower Falls. It was dramatic - a huge, frozen column, like the waterfalls in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Afterwards, we

the Xanterra snowcoach. We entered Yellowstone National Park along the wildlife (bison, elk, swans, ducks, bald eagle) corridor, heading east along the Madison River, then south along the Firehole River to the Old Faithful Snow Lodge. We visited the exhibits at the new Visitor Center, walked the Upper Geyser Basin, and watched Old Faithful erupt 3 times on a sunny, warm afternoon. After dinner we enjoyed the



*Sara, Dave, Moe & Charlotte  
getting ready for the first  
morning's ski from the South  
Rim at Chittenden Bridge.*

stopped for afternoon photos of the Upper Falls before returning to camp.

Since we still had time for another ski, Dave, Charlotte and I joined Tom on the Roller Coaster Trail through the Canyon Campground, where I caught air on a bump at the bottom of the steepest hill, then slalomed before doing a face plant. When we came out of the woods, we headed down North Rim Drive to Inspiration Point, skiing the Canyon Rim Trail to Grandview and Lookout Points, with views of Artist Point, the Lower Falls and the hill we'd climbed and descended earlier in the day. At Lookout, Sarah met us, breaking trail on the North Rim Hiking Trail along the ridgeline to the brink of the Lower Falls, where our snowcoach was parked for a ride back to camp. What a great way to start our visit, a "double your pleasure, double your fun" kind of day, all warm and sunny!



*Grand Canyon of Yellowstone River & Lower  
Falls from Artist Point on South Rim.*

Since Moe had not had a chance to ski this season in Flagstaff or Colorado, and was trying to get over a bad cold, she went on a wildlife tour on Tuesday, while the rest of us took the snowcoach up to the Dunraven Pass Trail, where the road to Tower is closed for the winter. From there, Dave, Charlotte and I skied with Tom up to the pass and Mt. Washburn trailhead, then down through deep snow in the woods and across Sulphur Creek to East Washburn (Jimmy Hoffa) Hot Springs. The mud pots and steam vents helped keep us warm, along with some hot tea in a thermos, during lunch on a cloudy day. Of course, what comes down must go back up... we switchbacked up, up, up to the road, then skied down to our yurt camp at Canyon.

Sarah chose an easy, flat, shorter ski for Wednesday for Moe, Dave, Charlotte and me from the yurt camp to Cascade Lake. First, we skied through the winding creek and meadow, where 2 pairs of bison were enjoying the sunshine and some "cardboard" grass, buried 3 feet deep in the snow, sweeping their big heads back and forth to unearth it. When we reached the frozen lake for lunch, I decided to ski back on

(Continued on page 3)

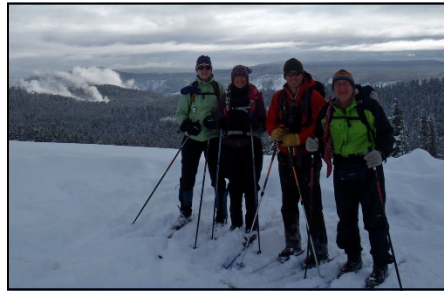
(Continued from page 2)

my own, enjoying a faster pace and an opportunity to head out to Hayden Valley for an afternoon of wildlife viewing. I saw coyotes devouring the remains of a cygnet, 2 red foxes on a ridge, and a gorgeous sunset. Almost a 3 dog day!

We started Thursday on a sunrise snowcoach tour through Hayden Valley to Yellowstone Lake, but Mother Nature didn't cooperate, since we were fogged in too much to see any wildlife. So, Dave, Charlotte and I got a later start with Sarah at 11:00 a.m., as the sun came out on our ski west from Hayden Valley along Alum Creek, among herds of bison, to Violet Hot Springs for lunch and a soak. At Carcass Flat, an elk's skull, skeleton, one leg and hoof were picked clean in the snow. This was an easy, flat ski again, so we had plenty of time to relax in the creek flowing out of the hot springs, in the rock bathtubs under the 3-foot waterfall. As Charlotte and I were enjoying the steam, I looked up and saw 2 bison crossing the creek below us within 15 feet. After a while longer, I became too hot, wrapped up in my camp towel, only to see that 10 more bison were heading for the creek crossing nearby, too near for me to get back into my ski clothes. So, I backed up in my Crocs, while they made their way across the creek, the last one pausing to eyeball me. I assured him I was not a blade of grass (green towel), and this was not Madrid! As he ran across, I was sure glad he did not head my way!



5'10" Charlotte showed how deep the snow is at Wrangler Lake when she took off her right ski for lunch. Needless to say, she didn't take off the other one; she used both skis for a seat instead.



Charlotte, Sara, guide Tom & Dave skiing the Dunraven Pass Trail, then down to Washburn Hot Springs for a cold lunch with Jimmy Hoffa.

On Friday a new guide, Kyle, accompanied Charlotte and me back into East Hayden Valley, through meadows and thermal areas in the sun, to our lunch spot along frozen Wrangler Lake, where Charlotte took off one of her skis and sank down 2 feet (she's 5'10", so above her knee). From there, we followed the winding Sour Creek valley until it narrowed to 12-15 feet, skiing along its edge through the gorge, which looked like a 5-layer chocolate cake, with 5 layers of white icing each. As we skied back across the meadows and up the hill, the afternoon sun became red, lavender and

gold on the Washburn Range to the north, before a telemark back to the Upper Falls parking lot to meet our snowcoach pick-up.

For our last full day on Saturday, the snowcoach took us through Hayden Valley along the Yellowstone River, to the north side of Yellowstone Lake and the Pelican Valley Trail. Arden, the owner, led our group this day and broke trail with me, while Moe, Dave, Charlotte, Paul and Dominic followed behind. We skied north through the creek meadow, around some bison, and up through the woods and meadows to Sulphur Hills, where we enjoyed a warm, sunny lunch. From there we hiked up to the Valley of Death, surrounded by steam vents and "ghost" trees caked with frozen snow. We enjoyed views of the Absaroka Mountains to the east and the Tetons to the south. Since the trail was clearly marked, Arden allowed us to ski back on our own, and I enjoyed a faster pace down, switchbacking through the woods.

On Sunday we planned to depart camp at 11:00 a.m., so I chose to ski Roller Coaster to the North Rim again, on my own, while the others packed up and skied out to Inspiration Point. Afterwards, we loaded our bags and skis for our final group ski at Virginia Cascades, along the Gibbon River between Canyon and Norris, on our way back to West Yellowstone before going our own ways: Moe, Dave and Paul to Lamar Valley to watch wolves, Charlotte to fly home to Detroit, and me to Big Sky to downhill ski on Monday.

Arden, Tom, Sarah, Adam, Kyle, Dominic and Erica with Yellowstone Expeditions worked hard to make this a memorable adventure for us. It was another trip-of-a-lifetime! Yellowstone is truly a winter traveler's paradise, when all of the thermals and wildlife are silhouetted in the pristine, sparkling white snow! For more photos, see <http://bit.ly/SaraYellowstone>.



Ghost trees at Valley of Death in Sulphur Hills, north of Yellowstone Lake from Pelican Valley Trail. Pictured are Charlotte, Sara, Dave and Moe.



## Square Dancing with SOLAR

Join us for a fun night of traditional square dances and mixers, and finish the night off with the Virginia Reel. We'll start the night with a 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.

When: Saturday, March 12, 2011

Time: Dinner 6-7:30, dancing 7:30-10:00 p.m.

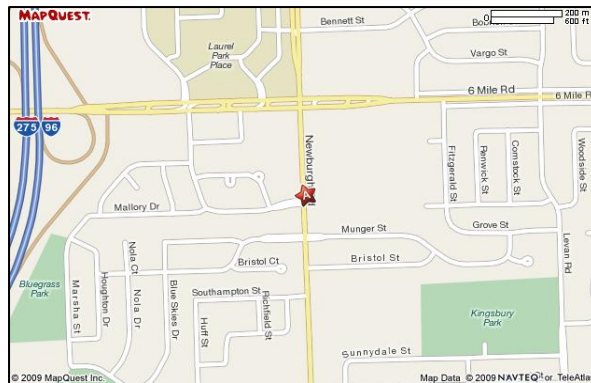
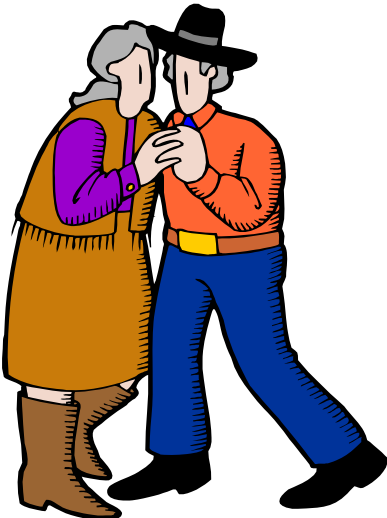
Who: All are welcome. Family-friendly. Babysitting available for an additional fee. (Please indicate that you will need babysitting at least 5 days in advance of the event.)

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

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

Cost: \$10 per adult, \$5 per child (4-18 years old).

Please pre-register by March 1, 2011. For more information please contact Margaret Martin at 734-721-2821 or [mpluscat@yahoo.com](mailto:mpluscat@yahoo.com).



## Moosejaw

### Discounts for SOLAR Members

SOLAR is excited to announce that we have worked out a deal with Moosejaw to help our members save money on gear! In order to get the Moosejaw discount you need to do two things:

- First, you must be a current, paid member of SOLAR.
- Second, when shopping at any of the Moosejaw locations, be sure to mention that you are a member of SOLAR and give the discount code, which is [solar15](#).

What will you receive? You'll get a 15% discount on all full price, in-stock items (some exclusions apply) and 25% off all full price, in-stock Moosejaw Private Label items.

Be sure to thank the fine folks at Moosejaw for their support of SOLAR next time you're shopping there!

### Words to Wander By

*The conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem. Unless we solve that problem, it will avail us little to solve all others.*

—Theodore Roosevelt, Address to the Deep Waterway Convention, October 4, 1907

## Wilderness State Park Hiking Mackinac Island Biking

*Kid Friendly, No Pets*



Join fellow SOLARites as we bike around Mackinac Island and hike in Wilderness State Park from May 27 - May 30, 2011. There are a lot of things to do in the area. The main plan is to go to Mackinac Island (11 miles from the park to the ferry) and do some biking, visit the

fort, eat some fudge, eat some ice cream, take a carriage ride or visit the butterfly house. Additionally, Wilderness State Park has 16 miles of hiking trails and 26 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline to explore. Or you could take a trip to Tahquamenon Falls.

We will be staying in rustic bunkhouses (i.e., no electricity) with mattresses provided, outhouses nearby and this time of year the showers and flush toilets should be available. Bring a sleeping bag or sheets. Also, please bring a lantern, camp stove, games, and ear plugs. Everyone will be expected to help clean up the cabins before we leave on Monday.



All this fun can be yours for a mere \$20 per person for 3 nights lodging. Ferry cost, state park stickers, entrance fees and other costs extra.

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

## Tour de Cure: Benefitting the American Diabetes Association

*by Carol Rogers*



*The Tour de Cure bike ride will be on Saturday, June 11, 2011, starting at Brighton High School. A kickoff meeting will be held Wednesday, March 2 from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at Fifth Avenue Bar in downtown Royal Oak.*

Spring is only 2 months away and we will be getting the cobwebs off our bikes, tires pumped, chains checked and oiled... all in time to train and ride with the *Pirating for a Cure* team!

What type of rides? Pick your passion:

- Mountain Trails at Brighton Recreation Area - 6-14 miles
- Road Riding - from 10 to 100 miles on routes departing from and returning to Brighton High School.

After riding, enjoy the festivities at the high school. Lunch will be provided by Carrabas Restaurant, there will be music, a silent auction and more!

Register by going to the Tour site (<http://main.diabetes.org/goto/PiratingForACure>) and click on 'Join A Team'. The registration fee is only \$15 until April 1. More details are available on the Tour website.

Have more questions? Attend the kick-off meeting to register in person and get more details at Fifth Avenue in Royal Oak ([www.fifthavenueroyalok.com](http://www.fifthavenueroyalok.com)). The entire second level is reserved for the kick-off party; they will have finger-foods and drink specials.



We asked SOLAR club members...  
*why they joined SOLAR.*



*Mary Donahue*

I joined SOLAR to find cool, fun people to do cool, fun things with!



*Jeff McWilliams*

I wanted to find other people who enjoyed the outdoors, like I do.



*Jeff Enterkin*

Because Leslie told me about the Carter Caves Crawl-a-thon trip.



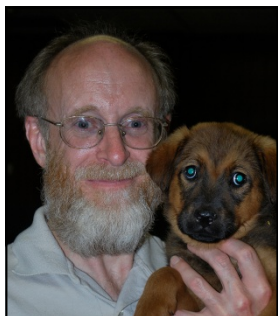
*Pam Riehl Szakal*

I was looking for people to do crazy outdoor stuff like I do. I met Nancy Day from SOLAR on a bike trail my 3rd day in Michigan.



*Samantha Modzierz*

I wanted to find people that shared the same passion for the outdoors that I did.



*Don Jones*

I joined SOLAR as part of my preparation for wilderness trekking in Paradise Valley, Kings Canyon National Park, Sierra Nevada Mountains, CA. I wanted to talk with people that had backpacked in similar terrain, to gain skills that would increase my enjoyment and security while being outdoors in all kinds of weather and to find a hiking partner. The trip was so rewarding that I'm returning to experience a more remote valley, July 4-13, 2011. I hope to share this trip with 1 to 3 highly motivated SOLARites. Ideally, our team will include recent backpacking class graduates.



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

*Ian Humphreys*

*Brian Schultz*

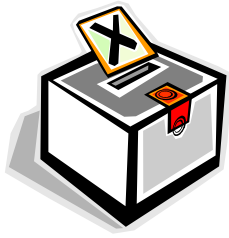
*Ryan Shell*

*Robert Shell*

Does SOLAR have your correct  
email address?

*We'll be sending a survey to all  
SOLAR members soon. Stop by the  
Membership Table at the next  
meeting to check the roster, and let  
us know if we need to correct your  
contact information.*

*Thanks!*



## 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 3, 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 3. 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.*

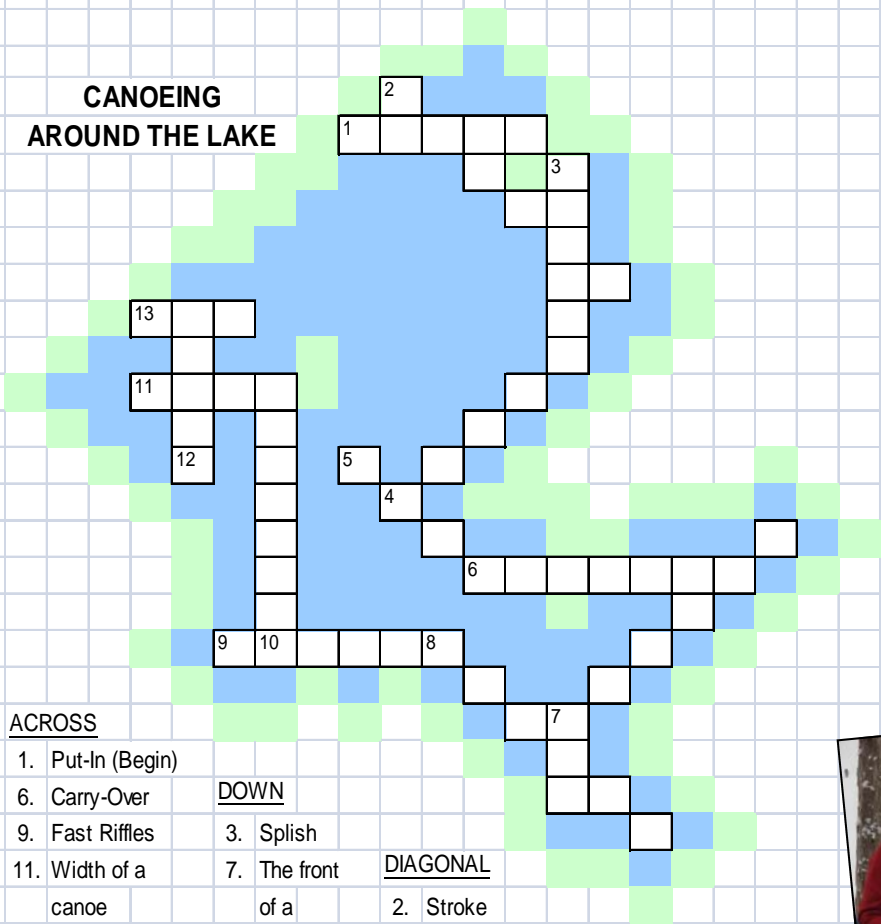
- *Equipment (Committee Chair) - Establishes guidelines for the loaning and use of all SOLAR property; maintains inventories; monitors the condition, and oversees the storage, maintenance and procurement of SOLAR property.*
- *Historian (Committee Chair) - Compiles records of SOLAR activities (written, 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 , Meetup and Facebook.*

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](mailto: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 29. After April 29 you can select to be a write-in candidate. All candidates will have an opportunity to introduce themselves at the May 3 SOLAR meeting before the voting takes place.

# CANOEING AROUND THE LAKE

By Glenn Schultz

## CANOEING AROUND THE LAKE



### ACROSS

1. Put-In (Begin)
6. Carry-Over
9. Fast Riffles
11. Width of a canoe
13. Take-Out, Finish

### DOWN

3. Splish
7. The front of a canoe

### DIAGONAL

2. Stroke
4. Noon Meal
5. Capsize
7. A pail spelled with a B.
8. Paddle

### UP

10. Canoe Material
12. The rear of a canoe

The answer key is on page 9

## Photos from the 2nd Practical of the Basic Mountaineering & Safety Skills Class

*Photos on pages 8 and 9, courtesy of Lou Szakal and Jeff McWilliams.*



*Base Camp at Nordhouse  
Dunes, 12 tents, 16  
students, 10 instructors.*



*Don Dusenberry and Jake Black  
cooking dinner in their "kitchen"*



*Bob Innes ties on his prusiks while  
Gary Wilkinson supervises.*

## More Mountaineering Class Photos



*The ice built up along the shore of Lake Michigan.*



*Rope teams at Nordhouse Dunes*



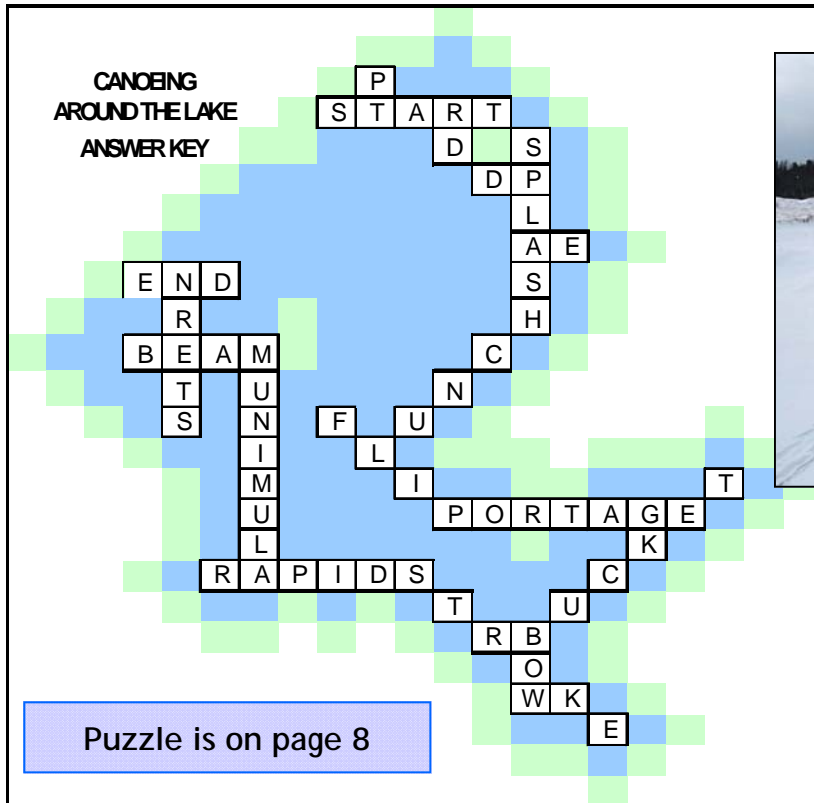
*Practicing self-arrest*



*Don Dusenberry and many others hike along the Lake Michigan shoreline in rope teams.*

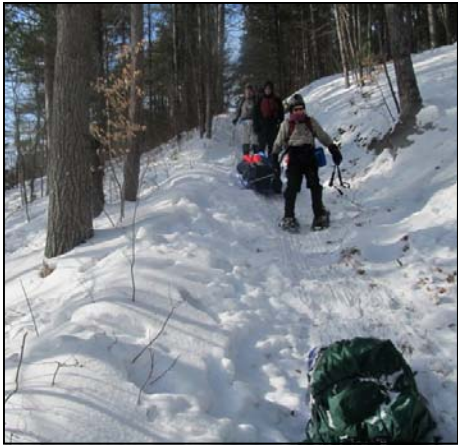


*Rope skills on the beach. The shoreline is about 10-20' or more over the edge.*



# Photos from the Enjoying Michigan Winters practical in Pigeon River State Forest

*Photos courtesy of Sheila Smith, Tom Oloffo, Jennifer Tislerics*



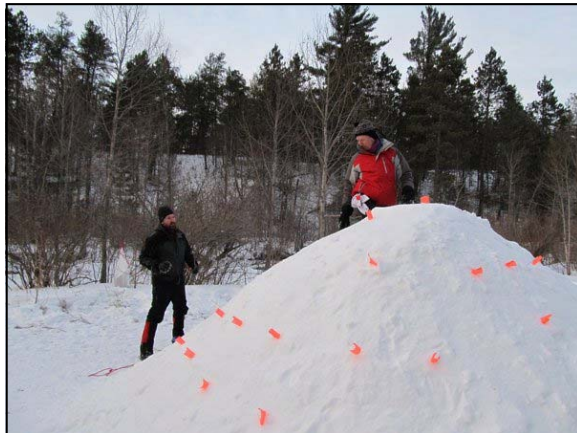
*Snowshoeing into camp*



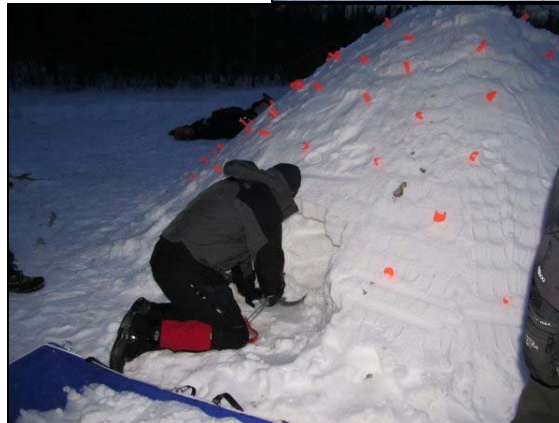
*Marking the quinzhee footprint*



*Piling on LOTS and LOTS of snow!*



*Adding depth gauges*



*Carving out the doorway*



*Digging out the inside of the quinzhee*



*This group went all-out on their interior design, with raised beds and a window!*



*Mary Dean, checking out a quinzhee*

## More photos from the Enjoying Michigan Winters class



*Sheila led a group in geocaching one day...  
interesting find!*



*We had some furry visitors to camp.*



*Teams with  
their finished  
products, on  
Sunday. The  
quinzhees were  
strong enough  
to stand on!*



*Quinzhee DEconstruction on Sunday*



*Very creative decorating theme on this quinzhee!*



*Sheila  
would  
have  
stood  
here.*

## SOLAR/Proud Lake Moonlight Canoeing



This popular event is great for the experienced paddler as well as the novice. Come to Proud Lake and paddle either a canoe or kayak into the setting sun. Stop briefly for dinner before continuing to paddle. When you return to the canoe rental, a bonfire will be waiting for you. Dinner will be at the park in Milford. No partner necessary, all skill levels welcome. Dress for the weather, and bring your headlamps and water bottles.

Who: All are welcome. Child and dog friendly.

Where: Heavner Canoe Rental, 2775 Garden Rd, Milford

Cost: Canoe or kayak for \$30 per person. Includes dinner, boat rental (canoe or kayak) and bonfire.

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

Dinner and bonfire (bring your own boat): \$15 per person

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



### Saturday, April 16

Paddle: 7:45 p.m. Sunset: 8:14 p.m. Moonrise: 6:56 p.m.

### Saturday, May 16

Paddle: 7:45 p.m. Sunset: 8:14 p.m. Moonrise: 6:56 p.m.

### Saturday, June 18

Pre-paddle fun! Come see many handmade kayaks in the afternoon. Sunset paddle at 7:45 from the Proud Lake Campground. Meet at the canoe rental and a shuttle will be provided to the campground. Dinner will be provided en route. Sunset: 9:11 p.m. Moonrise: 11:20 p.m.

### Saturday, July 16

Paddle: 8:15 p.m. Sunset: 9:07 p.m. Moonrise: 9:49 p.m.

### Saturday, August 13

Paddle 7:45 p.m. Sunset: 8:38 p.m. Moonrise: 8:17 p.m.

### Saturday, September 10

Paddle: 7:00 p.m. Sunset: 7:53 p.m. Moonrise: 6:46 p.m.

### Saturday, October 15

Paddle: 6:00 p.m. Sunset: 6:52 p.m. Moonrise: 8:43 p.m.

### Saturday, November 12


Paddle: 5:00 p.m. Sunset: 5:15 p.m. Moonrise: 6:27 p.m.

Preregister by calling Heavner Canoe Rental at (248) 685-2379. Please call in your reservation AT LEAST 24 hours before the event.

For more information contact Margaret Martin at 734-721-2821 or [plusplus@yahoo.com](mailto:plusplus@yahoo.com).



**Editor's Note: The  
hyperlinks below will  
take you to the  
Meetup page for each  
class/activity.**



# SOLAR MARCH 2011 CALENDAR

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

JANUARY 2011 ACTIVITY COORDINATOR DRAWING WINNER

LESLIE CORDOVA - CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER

## SOLAR MEETING AND PROGRAM DATES

3/1	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.	Colony Hall	Allen Duncan	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program- Longs Peak Summit via the Keyhole Route	Colony Hall	Debbie Zuchlewski	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
4/5	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.	Colony Hall	Allen Duncan	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program- TBA	Colony Hall	Debbie Zuchlewski	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org

## SOLAR RAY DEADLINES

3/17	Thurs	April SOLAR Ray Deadline		Jennifer Tislerics	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org
4/14	Thurs	May SOLAR Ray Deadline		Jennifer Tislerics	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org

## ACTIVITIES

3/6	Sun	<a href="#">Fight for Air-Climb Detroit</a>	Renaissance Center Detroit, MI	Mary Donahue	mldonahue824@gmail.com
3/12	Sat	<a href="#">Square Dance</a>	Livonia, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
4/2-9	Multi	St John Escape	St John, USVI	Jim Gessner	gessnerj@comcast.net
4/10	Sun	<a href="#">Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour</a>	Ann Arbor, MI	Max Aghili	maxaghili@yahoo.com
4/16-23	Multi	<a href="#">2011 Pinhoti Trail Bikepacking Expedition</a>	Northern Georgia	Robert Schwenke	robert.schwenke@yahoo.com
5/27-30	Multi	<a href="#">Wilderness State Park Hiking, Mackinac Island Biking</a>	Northern Michigan	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
6/11	Sat	<a href="#">Tour de Cure</a>	Brighton, MI	Carol Rogers	cjrjune30@yahoo.com
7/2-8	Multi	<a href="#">Alaskan Expedition Cruise</a>	Alaska	Robert Schwenke	robert.schwenke@yahoo.com

## CLASSES

2/23, 3/9,23,4/6, 16,30,5/7, 22	Multi	<a href="#">Adventure Racing</a>	Berkley Community Center, Proud Lake State Rec Area, Bloomer Park	Pam Riehl Szakal	pariehl@gmail.com
4/7,9,14, 16-17,21, 5/5,13-15	Multi	<a href="#">Basic Backpacking</a>	Berkley Community Center, Maybury State Park, Waterloo State Rec Area, TBA	Michael Banks	slywolfe52@yahoo.com

If you would like to plan/lead an activity for SOLAR, contact our Activities Chairperson, Jennifer McWilliams, at [SolarActivities@SolarOutdoors.org](mailto:SolarActivities@SolarOutdoors.org).

If you would like to teach or suggest a class for SOLAR, contact our Education Chairperson, Chuck Smith, 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.

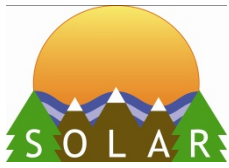
## How Can I Become a Member of the SOLAR Yahoo Group?

If you aren't a member of Yahoo in general, you will need to create an account before you can apply for membership in the SOLAR Outdoors Yahoo group. To create your account, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com>.

Once a member of Yahoo, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Solaroutdoors/>. Click "Join this Group." On the next page you will need to enter your first and last name and identify yourself as a SOLAR member (so our Membership Chairperson will know who you are). Finally, click the "Join" button. Your request will be approved soon, and you'll be able to join the between-meeting discussions and spur-of-the-moment activities!

## How Can I Become A Member of the SOLAR Meetup Group?

If you aren't a member of Meetup in general, you'll need to create an account before you can apply for membership in the SOLAR-Outdoors group. To create your account, visit <http://www.meetup.com/SOLAR-Outdoors/>. Apply for membership to the SOLAR-Outdoors group at the same link. Once you apply for membership to the group, our Membership Chairperson will confirm that you are a paid member of SOLAR and approve your membership in our 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, deep forests, scenic shorelines, and the experiences to be found there. Lifetime memberships are available for \$175 (single) and \$250 (family).

#### MEETINGS

Our monthly meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month in Southfield at Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen (between 8 Mile & 9 Mile Roads) at 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

#### SOLAR RAY NEWSLETTER

The *SOLAR Ray* is a monthly publication of SOLAR and is available online at [www.solaroutdoors.org](http://www.solaroutdoors.org). To receive a copy in the mail, please contact Mary Price at [SOLARmembership@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:SOLARmembership@solaroutdoors.org).

#### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions for the *SOLAR Ray* are due on the Thursday three weeks prior to the monthly Membership meeting. Articles, poems, recipes, etc. should be submitted in electronic format, preferably in Microsoft Word. Please attach images separately as JPG files. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Tislerics at [SOLARrayeditor@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:SOLARrayeditor@solaroutdoors.org).

#### STEERING COMMITTEE

President: Allen Duncan  
Vice President: Heather Hall  
Treasurer: Mary Donahue  
Secretary: Glenn Schultz

Activities: Jennifer McWilliams  
Bylaws: Ati Tislerics  
Education: Chuck Smith  
Equipment: Marcia Murphy  
Historian: Pam Riehl Szakal

Membership: Mary Price  
Programs: Debbie Zuchlewski  
PR: Samantha Mozdzierz  
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  
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 Allen Duncan at [SOLARpresident@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:SOLARpresident@solaroutdoors.org).

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

Winnie Chrzanowski, Jennifer Hill, Ken Lemieux, Helen Peters, Janet Schester, Pamela Schmelzer-Anzicek, Elizabeth Shaw, Sheila Smith, Rebecca Sweeton and Ati Tislerics.

#### MORE INFORMATION

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

**SOLAR**

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Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Visit our website: [www.solaroutdoors.org](http://www.solaroutdoors.org)