



The SOLAR RAY

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



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November 2011

Bikes Ruled the Streets: A Day in the

*This was Motown, this was New France
Where the Chippewa did the fire dance
That was long ago
This is here and now
But the memory still remains somehow.*
~ The Sam Roberts Band, "Detroit '67"

By Bill Morse

On Saturday, September 24th, as the day was dawning, 4,300 bicyclists descended on Roosevelt Park in Detroit to ride the city streets. SOLAR members/friends who participated in the 10th annual Tour de Troit included **Ati and Jen Tislerics, Mark Carson, Bruce Wolfe, Pat Charbonneau, Steve Hunt, Mary and Michael Price, Jim Hartwig, Dave & Rebecca Sweeton, Karen DeCoster, Heidi Tietjen and Bill Morse**. With a crowd that size, there may be others, too, that we just never met up with. We chose the leisurely 22 mile ride, though a metric century ride (62 miles) was also offered.



The ride was a huge logistical effort, as police blocked the city streets so that they belonged to us. The Southwest Detroit Business Association sponsored the ride to promote biking, to publicize the growing greenways network in Detroit and southeastern Michigan, and to raise money for the Southwest Detroit Greenlink. The Greenlink is a continually expanding series of bike lanes and off-road pathways that connects city neighborhoods to each other and to the Detroit Riverwalk. The ride was well-organized, though the beer line at the end of the ride was really long! Food was also available after the ride, from a variety of local restaurants. The weather was just about perfect for a late September day - cool, but dry and sunny.

The city of Detroit was the star attraction. Our route included well-known areas, as well as sections not familiar to me. We pedaled past some grand buildings and homes, but some of the structures we rode by are abandoned and covered with graffiti. If only they could talk and tell the stories of the people who lived and worked in them (sigh). We started and ended the ride in front of the Michigan Central train station, a once magnificent edifice that is now an empty shell. I felt sad thinking of days past that have come and gone, but this was tempered by what else we saw. Crossing the McArthur Bridge to Belle Isle and circling the island

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I'm putting this November issue of the Ray "to bed" just before I put myself to bed on the night before my **Basic Land Navigation** class practical. The winds and rain of October are taking a break and it promises to be a beautiful fall weekend for those of us wandering (hopefully not lost) the woods of

Waterloo, and for those of us going to the Oktoberfest party, and for those of us enjoying all manner of Fall fun.

Basic Backpacking just finished up with an unbelievably beautiful weekend up north at Pictured Rocks. I'm hoping for an article from them next month in the December Ray with lots and lots of pictures. We may need to be reminded of the warmth of the Indian Summer by then.

Soon Winter will be here bringing its own kind of SOLAR fun. **EMW** is about to start; I was part of the class last year and this year promises even more snow for building those quinzhees! Meetup just notified me that the **Lake Ann Ski trip** is in the works again this year, another SOLAR event that defines winter for a lot of us. Lots of goings on! Don't forget to pack your ten essentials and to share your adventures!

SOLAR WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Maria Ferreira

Stephen Frank

Lane & Janet Hotchkiss

Brenda Pams



New Lifetime Members

Karen Haroutunian

Fred Miller

Stanley Rarick

Charlotte Zinkus

Mike & Marie Martinko

Jessica Monroe

Howard Weiss

Green Timbers Backpacking Weekend

BY ERIN CAMARGO

"Every SOLAR outing is an opportunity to collect anecdotes," SOLAR member Tom Griebe joked during the Columbus Day Green Timbers backpacking weekend. Eight SOLARites and three SOLAR dogs can attest to the eternal truth of this statement after a weekend of fun and frolic (not all of it ours) in the Pigeon River Country of northern Michigan.

The trip, capably planned by **Wendy Wernet**, called for a hike of four miles on Saturday to camp at Honeymoon Cabin in the Green Timbers Special Use Area, and then a hike on the Shingle Mill Pathway on Sunday. Our group met at the Green Timbers parking area on Sturgeon Valley Road, east of Vanderbilt, around noon on Saturday, October 8. After cheerful greetings and introductions, we hoisted our packs, removed the bottoms of our hiking pants to accommodate the welcome warmth of the day, and set off up the grassy two-track. **Heidi Tietjen's** papillons- Marco and Tilly, wove in and out at our feet while Donovan- Wendy and **Kevin's** dog, paced ahead. The birch trees glowed in the sun against a backdrop of pine; occasional flares of bright red ignited the landscape. We had plenty of opportunities for photos of trees and fellow hikers (proportions varied depending on the photographer's personal preference). Before we knew it, we reached the halfway point, crossing the Sturgeon River on a sturdy wooden bridge and approached Green Timbers Cabin. This cabin is a three-sided log structure with a stone fireplace, nestled in a partially wooded area near the intersection of the Sturgeon River and Pickerel Creek. We briefly debated staying put for the evening, but in the end agreed that it would be worthwhile to move on to Honeymoon Cabin as planned. This second cabin sits on top of a ridge and has a reputation for its outstanding views of the river valley.

The trail began to climb and after less than two miles we spotted the stone chimney of Honeymoon Cabin on our left, with an adjacent covered cooking area. The cabin boasts a long porch overlooking on the Sturgeon River valley.

Although the river itself wasn't visible, fall colors traced the gentle curves of the distant landscape. After admiring the view for a while, we pitched our tents on the limited flat space available.



SOLARtown was born, but unbeknownst to us, it would soon be invaded by anecdote-generating strangers.

The advance forces arrived in the form of four or five twenty-somethings carrying bottles of beer. They greeted us enthusiastically as we sat in the cooking area and offered **Fred Miller** a sample of Michigan-brewed beer, which he readily shared with the rest of us. (For anyone who's interested, it was New Holland Brewing Company's Golden Cap, which really is excellent.) It turns out that there is another access point to the cabin that only requires a one-mile hike from the road. The leader of the group, a barefoot neo-hippie with longish sandy hair, informed us that he had severely injured himself years ago by hanging upside down from the top of the very tall pine tree next to the cabin while playing his harmonica. He lost his grip and slid down the tree trunk, knocking off all of the branches on the tree's front side. After being air-lifted out, he lay in a coma in the local hospital for three days. We greeted this story with some skepticism, but inspection revealed that the tree was in fact missing all of its branches on one side. The young man also assured us that while the cabin is a well-known party spot for the

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THERE'S HOPE!

By Glenn Schultz

Ken Lemiux, Jim Klosinski, Bob Shell & I hiked the Grand Canyon the last week of September. Passing through the Bright Angel campground/Phantom Ranch area headed back towards the South Rim we ran into Hope Dixon, a student in the 2010 Spring Backpacking class that Ken & I helped teach.

At first we didn't recognize her. As we looked at each other a fair distance away on the path, Ken said "Hope, is that you?" and sure enough, it was. There's Hope! We had to take our hats off for her to recognize us. 4.5 million people visit the Grand Canyon a year and who do we meet but another SOLARITE! How cool is that! What a refreshing encounter on a 100 degree day. Yes, there's Hope!



TEN TRAIL TIPS FOR HIKING THE GRAND CANYON

By Glenn Schultz

1. Don't yell "yahoo!" when standing behind a mule.
2. Remember that gravity always works.
3. Don't back up while looking forward through the camera lens.
4. The lanyard attached to your camera is very important.
5. Don't approach anything on the ground that rattles or looks like a rope.
6. Don't startle a ringtail cat for they may skunk you.
7. If not for pack weight, the sun, heat, dust, scree, thirst, exposure, cliffs, elevation change, switchbacks, possible thunderstorms, varmints, ravens, snakes, scorpions, spiders, seven days of dehydrated food...now where was I?
8. Look before you sit...anywhere.
9. Don't try to body surf the Colorado River rapids.
10. Make your Grand Canyon trip grand.

10 THINGS I LEARNED BACKPACKING IN GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

By Ken Lemieux

1. Dry heat will kill you just as much as wet heat.
2. Schmooze the Rangers. It will pay off.
3. The Phantom Ranch Canteen has everything from batteries to bagels to Clif Bars, all reasonably priced considering it's brought in by mule.
4. Electrolyte depletion was a bigger issue than I expected.
5. The North and South Rim, near the lodging, both have good cell reception.
6. Hitchhiking at the North Rim between the North Kaibab Trailhead and the Lodge is easy. Almost too easy.
7. My headlamp was not adequate for any possible night hiking.
8. You will night hike.
9. North Rim Deli pizza rocks no matter what a Mississippi Yahoo may tell you.
10. Water faucets in the campgrounds are like water coolers and coffee makers at work, but better. A great place to meet other hikers.

A Rope, a Tree...

BY ATI TISLERICS



Top: SC members wait in the damp and chill October morning **Middle:** This SC is all business! **Bottom:** There's one in every crowd.

"Gentlemen, after you get your harnesses on, you may want to take a private moment to make sure all your furniture is in the same room."

On Saturday, October 1, the Steering Committee did something that may be as unprecedented as it is important: we went out and did something FUN together! This was one of Chuck Smith's priorities from the very beginning of this term, although the best date turned out to be four months later. Eleven of the currently elected SC members (and one guest) met at the Walled Lake Schools Outdoor Education Center for a day that combined team-building and recreation. In the morning, we did a couple hours of structured team-building activities (you know the kind) led by a trained facilitator. These helped us to get to know each other better and develop communication and leadership skills. After lunch, we played among the treetops on their high ropes course for several hours. We saw our fellow SC members challenge themselves, get into predicaments, overcome difficulties, sometimes fall (not very far!), and exceed their own expectations.

I think we all felt it was valuable AND fun, and I am glad that eleven of us were willing to spend the time (and \$20 out of our own



Hold me?

pockets for the high ropes portion) to do this. Quite a few members of the SC have little contact with each other outside of meetings, so it was good for us to see different facets of each other. When Chuck originally proposed this, I heard one of the outgoing SC members wish that it had been done at the beginning of her term. I believe this current SC works well together as it is, but we haven't really been tested. I think of this experience as insurance against future difficulties, a reservoir of camaraderie that we can draw on if the going gets tough, to keep us functioning smoothly for the good of the club.



Just hangin' around.

“AHOY, MATEYS! – HOW SOLAR HELPED ME TO BE A DECKHAND IN THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS.”

BY SARAH KIRKISH

You never know where SOLAR skills will come in handy. My name is **Sarah Kirkish** and I am a lifetime member of SOLAR. I took many classes and I even served as Education Chair before I began my nomadic lifestyle of moving about the country in 2008. After moving four times in three years, **Rob Schwenke** and I wound up in Bellingham, WA, where my adventure as a deckhand aboard the Motor Vessel (M/V) David B began.

The M/V David B is a restored 1929 wooden boat with one of eight remaining three-cylinder Washington diesel engines. It was built to tow fishing vessels out to sea in Alaska and was named after one of the cannery’s company managers. Jeffrey and Christine Smith of NorthwestNavigation.com bought the M/V David B in 1998 and they took eight years to rebuild it. Now they have spent the past five years running small ship cruises (with big ship eating!) for up to six passengers in the San Juan Islands, the Inside Passage, and in South East Alaska. I first met Jeffrey and Christine in 2010 on one of their San Juan cruises, but I never thought I would wind up a year later as a crew member!

Fortunately, classes I have taken through SOLAR help me considerably with my deckhand duties. Whether on land or at sea, you are still outdoors and there are many skills that are useful in both environments. Below are the classes that I use on the M/V David B.

Knots Workshop: Well this class seems obvious. There are a lot of lines and knots on the M/V David B. As deckhand, I help launch the skiff to go ashore and take

up the lines after we pull away from port. I use the Bowline, half hitches and many more.



Beginning Backpacking: Sure you get your own cabin on the M/V David B, but it is still tent-like cozy, so packing light is essential. It goes without saying that you need plenty of insulating layers and wicking materials in the Pacific Northwest. While each cabin has a head and the boat has a shower, conserving water is still a goal. Thank goodness no one really cares if I wear the same fleece to dinner every night!

Basic Land Navigation: Christine is a naturalist and she often takes us on hikes throughout the various San Juan Islands. Having the ten essentials is still key because sometimes we get back after dark and the island trails are not well marked. Plus, have you seen how those marinas are laid out? Try going ashore for provisions and getting back in time for dinner without getting lost. A compass is crucial here too.

Tree Identification: I don’t know if anyone in SOLAR still offers this class, but I am glad I took it. In the Pacific Northwest they have these gorgeous madrone trees with red peeling bark, firs and ferns taller than you are. Ok technically ferns are not trees, but anything taller than I am should qualify.

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was a highlight. (Belle Isle was settled by French colonists in the 18th century and was formerly called Hog Island. Just so you know.) We rode through the gracious Indian Village neighborhood. Such sights are a reminder that there are still people who live, work and play in Detroit, and have pride in their city.

I talked with Bruce as we rode, and he shared a story that was quite appropriate. A man from his company's head office in Germany was visiting. He was very sad one day, as he wanted to explore downtown Detroit that evening but someone advised him not to do that. Nothing to see. Too dangerous. Bruce disagreed with that assessment. He supplied him with maps marked with the RenCen, Fox Theater and over a dozen more places to see.

The result? Bruce explained, "He came back the next morning like a kid just back from the candy store. He'd gone downtown, and was thrilled with what he'd seen. But what thrilled him the most weren't the places I'd suggested. Instead, it was little things that he'd never seen in Germany: an old water tower on top of an office building, steam escaping from access covers in the street, and a steel fire escape on the back of a building."

I encourage you to ride the Tour de Troit in a future year. Or get a few of your SOLAR buddies together and spin your two-wheelers in Detroit, whenever. You may discover hidden gems. And maybe get a sense of hope that some of the city's best days are yet to come.

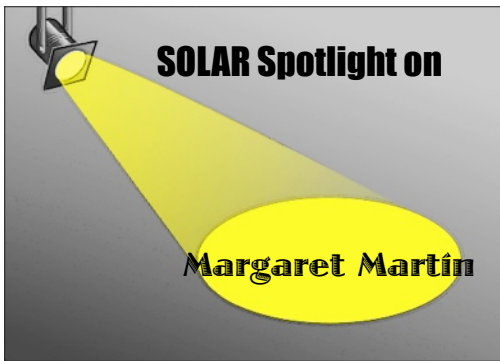


Words to Wander By

"I like spring, but it is too young. I like summer, but it is too proud. So I like best of all autumn, because its tone is mellow, its colours are richer, and it is tinged with a little sorrow. Its golden richness speaks not of the innocence of spring, nor the power of summer, but of the mellowness and kindly wisdom of approaching age. It knows the limitations of life and it is content."

- Lin Yutang





How long have you been a member of SOLAR?
Since September 1991.

How did you learn about SOLAR?

My sister-in-law worked with Tim Stangl. She came to me about three weeks after I moved to Michigan and gave me the needed information and told me, "GO MEET PEOPLE!!!"

What are some outdoor activities you enjoy?

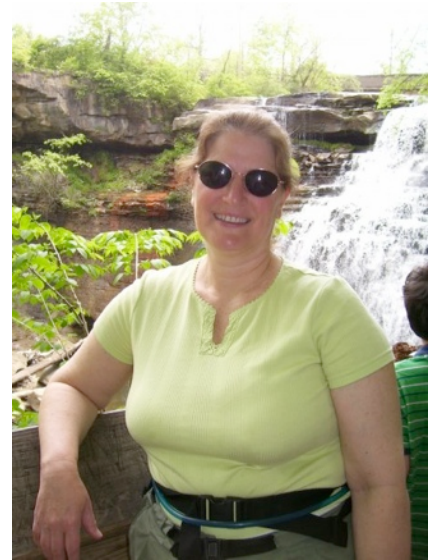
Camping, hiking, canoeing, back-country canoeing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing.

What has been your favorite trip/activity so far?

How do I pick just one! For me, the camaraderie is as important as the activity. We had a great group for all the back country canoe trips to Algonquin and Quetico. The white water trips to the rivers in West Virginia and South Carolina were thrilling and each was special because of the people on the trips. (Watching my brother get tossed into the river was an extra bonus!) The trip to the Adirondacks took my breath away! I remember rising at sunrise on Point Pelee to watch the monarch butterflies launch across Lake Erie. Then there were all those weekend canoe and camping trips. Because of SOLAR, I have been able to discover many of the special outdoor areas in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. From Hartwick Pines to Hocking Hills, Metamora to Cadillac, I have been able to share a love of the outdoors with others who feel the same.

What's the most challenging thing you've done through SOLAR?

Well, there was that dog sled trip.....and then there was that trip to the Smokies.....



What would your ideal trip be like?

It would involve going someplace I've never been where a friendly group could do a variety of things including paddling, hiking, scuba and learning about a new cultural. Fiji, Australia, Greece, or the Galapagos all come to mind.

Which classes have you taken through SOLAR? What class(es) do you wish were offered that are not currently?

I have taken wilderness canoeing, wilderness first aid (several times), tree identification. It would be nice to learn more about birds, insects, astronomy, geology and plant identification. I would also like to learn how to do basic bicycle repairs. A basic canoe instructor certification class would also be great.

Tell us something about you that would surprise us!

Once I went hang gliding. I have the scars to prove it!

Do you have any pets?

Two cats, Tasha and Zoe.

Wilderness First Aid: When you are in the middle of the San Juan Islands, sure there is the coast guard for emergencies, but being prepared to administer self-first aid is necessary. There is a wood burning stove to burn yourself on, knives for salad prep to cut yourself with and I cannot tell you how many mysterious bruises I have, not to mention the risk of stinging nettles and blisters on the nature hikes.

Actually, the most common ailment on the M/V David B is caused by overeating. Christine is a world class cook with homemade croissants, soups, and other gourmet meals all made on a wood burning stove. Indigestion is a real risk after each meal.

Sea Kayaking: Now I did not actually take a kayaking class through SOLAR, but there are several kayaks on the M/V David B. Therefore, having working knowledge of a kayak is extremely useful.

All in all, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a deckhand on the M/V David B. Jeffery and Christine are extremely friendly and have been very patient with me as I “helped” them. I am just sorry that their cruising season is only from May through October. Thank goodness I took a ton of pictures so I can remember all the beauty and wildlife while I work on my knot tying skills and losing the ten pounds I gained from eating all the great meals these past few months!



SOLAR Meeting Minute: Microinterviews

Heather Hall asked attendees of the September General Meeting at Colony Hall:

“What is your favorite park in southeast Michigan to participate in outdoor activities?”



Mary Price –
Maybury State Park,
Northville

Dennis Phillips –
Maybury State Park,
Northville



Karen Haroutunian –
Kensington Metropark,
Milford

Jim Klocinski –
Waterloo State
Recreation Area,
Chelsea



Krisanne Schmidt –
Proud Lake State
Recreation Area, Milford

locals, he and his friends would be leaving the area before it got too late. This was followed by some debate amongst ourselves over what exactly his definition



of “late” might be. They were a disarming and friendly group, but we began second-guessing our decision to leave Green Timbers Cabin behind, especially after another cadre of ten or fifteen people showed up with coolers!

Meanwhile, a few of us ventured down the steep ridge to find the Sturgeon River and filter water. We bushwhacked through thick conifer and managed to reach the river bank, where we enjoyed the cool and quiet as if at the heart of an emerald. The steep climb back up made our hearts race and reminded us that we were alive. We emerged out of the woods to an amazing backcountry pizza prepared by Heidi, complete with veggies, cheese, and a delicious spicy tomato sauce. Heidi had heroically packed in the heavy pan as well as all of the fresh ingredients, and did a great job working with a Pocket Rocket after the untimely demise of her gas stove.

By this time, the twenty-somethings in the cabin had consumed many more bottles of beer and had undertaken the questionable sport of jumping from the roof of the cabin to the roof of the cooking area. Unfortunately for him, the barefoot boy who had allegedly fallen out of the pine tree earlier in his life missed the cooking area, landed hard, and injured his knee severely enough that he and his friends decided to go home. (The pine tree story suddenly became more believable.) The upshot of all of this was that we were left to ourselves in the gathering dark, with a full moon

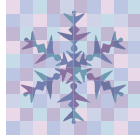
peeking through the golden leaves over the campsite. Kevin built a fire in the cooking area’s stone fireplace and we toasted giant marshmallows provided by Wendy. Good conversation eventually wound down along with the fire’s embers and we retired to our tents.

The next morning, after a leisurely breakfast and more time spent admiring the view, we drove down the road to the Shingle Mill Pathway trailhead. Originally we had thought we would hike the 10-mile loop, but time constraints limited us to six miles. The pathway is in great shape, possibly through the efforts of mountain bikers – we saw 10 or 15 at the beginning of the hike. It turned out to be another glorious fall day. The breeze wafted red and yellow leaves around us and sang in the pines, giving the hike an alpine feel. **Tim Davis** and **Jessica Monroe**, who had previously participated in Enjoying Michigan Winters, got a kick out of experiencing the area without snow and ice everywhere. I think we all enjoyed the peace and beauty around us.

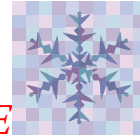
Thanks to Wendy for planning a fantastic, low-key weekend trip, and thanks to the SOLARites who provided the camaraderie. A final word to the wise: unless you are looking for anecdotes to share at the next SOLAR gathering, you may want to avoid camping at the misleadingly-named (though beautiful) Honeymoon Cabin!



ANNUAL SOLAR PARTY



WINTER WONDERLAND THEME



Friday, December 2, 2011

7:00 p.m. – midnight

Colony Hall – Evergreen between 8 and 9 Mile Road

SOLAR will provide:

Ham and Turkey

Soda and Water

DJ – Music

Members to Provide:

Dish to pass

Additional beverages you may want

Dancing shoes, festive spirit, and a good time

It's a “Winter Wonderland” theme



If you would like to bring your creativity to the party, please make and bring a home made snow flake (yes, the kind you made as a kid) to add to the decorations



For more information contact: Christine Pawyl at

SolarPrograms@Solaroutdoors.org



Holiday Nights in Greenfield Village

Saturday, December 17

6:30pm - 10pm

Vera Morris,
vem4@yahoo.com

Step into a Christmas card from the past and wander the candle-lit paths of Greenfield Village for a magical experience. Don't miss the most popular holiday event in the area!

Program Highlights

- Visit Santa with his live reindeer at the Robert Frost House
- Bonfires
- A real ice rink: Skates will be available for loan
- Fabulous fireworks finale and sing-along
- Horse-drawn wagon and Model T rides
- Skilled artisan demonstrations
- Live musical performances including: the Christie Street Carolers, the Main Street Carolers, the Dodworth Saxhorn Band, the Festival Singers, Neil Woodward, Picks & Sticks Stringband, Ranka Mulkern, the Livonia Civic Chorus, the Greenfield Carolers, and the 1st Michigan Colonial Fife & Drum Corps
- 6 enchanting holiday vignettes including a great photo-op
- Strolling costumed presenters
- 4 performance stages with nonstop events
- 6 delightful holiday shops
- 7 food stops

Because it sells out quickly, I need to take sign ups early, as the tickets need to be purchased well in advance (I have no way of knowing just how fast!). If you are interested please let me know – sign up by October 4th and I will purchase the tickets at a member discounted price. After that date, it may be difficult to get tickets. The discounted tickets are \$14.50 for ages 13 & up, \$12.75 for ages 5-12, and children 4 & under are free. Cash payment at meeting preferred but you can pay via check to SOLAR or on Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/SOLAR-Outdoors/events/34251892/>

Lake Ann Cross-Country Ski Weekend

January 13-15, 2012 *or* January 13-16, 2012

Organized by Pete Lamb
petekandu@yahoo.com

This very popular trip is over the MLK Day weekend so you can choose between making it a two-day or three-day trip. Located southwest of Traverse City, Lake Ann is near areas for cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, and snowshoeing. The Vasa Ski system is 20 minutes away.

The accommodation is in two houses that have full kitchens, stove, fridge, microwave, cutlery and dishes. All bedding is also supplied. There are several double rooms (going fast) and a variety of rooms with bunk beds (some are doubles).

We will have a pot luck dinner on Saturday. All other meals are on your own.

Price: 2-Day option - \$65/person
3-Day option - \$95/person

Sign up at a SOLAR meeting or on Meetup.com.



Mackinac Island Cross Country Ski Trip

- Who:** Linda Hill, activity organizer, riverwoman@comcast.net
- What :** Ski the miles of dedicated X-C ski trails on Mackinac Island
- When :** February 24 - 26, 2012
- Where :** Drive to St. Ignace, fly to the island, take a horse-drawn carriage to Pontiac Lodge
- Why :** It's going to be FUN!
- How :** Sign up on Meetup.com/SOLAR-Outdoors or at a meeting or email me
Then call the hotel to reserve your room.
- Info :** Pontiac Lodge - Mackinac Island, Michigan 906-847-3364
www.pontiac lodge.com
Rooms sleep 2 to 8 people, prices from \$85 to \$250. Most rooms are \$105.
Rooms have mini-fridges and microwaves. Some have kitchenettes or full kitchens.
- Great Lakes Air 906-643-7165
Cost is \$27 each way. They will take skis and baggage.
- Suggested Itinerary:** Leave Friday morning from Detroit area
Arrive St. Ignace between 1:00 and 5:00
Fly 5 minutes to Mackinac Island
Take carriage to hotel (906) 847-3323 \$6.75 per person
Ski around town, buy any needed groceries at the local store
6:00 - ? Meet at Patrick Sinclair's Irish Pub for dinner and drinks (906) 847-8255
- Saturday: Ski morning and afternoon in Mackinac State Park
Ski from hotel onto groomed trails
Pack a lunch or return to the hotel to eat
Dinner at the Village Inn (906) 847-3542 (next door to the hotel)
- Sunday : Ski the trails in the morning
Noon - 2 Check out, fly back to mainland
Drive home



SOLAR NOVEMBER 2011 CALENDAR

www.SolarOutdoors.org

Click to get
the details on
Meetup.com!

Winner of the October Activity Organizer Drawing: Margaret Martin, Metamora Autumn Campout

SOLAR MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

11/1	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30 pm	Colony Hall	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program: Updates from the Steering Committee	Colony Hall	Christine Pawyl	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
11/29	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm	TBD	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
12/6	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30 pm	Colony Hall	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program: Winter Gear Swap	Colony Hall	Christine Pawyl	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
1/3	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30 pm	Colony Hall	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program: Annual Photo Contest	Colony Hall	Christine Pawyl	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
1/31	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm	TBD	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org

SOLAR RAY DEADLINES

11/18	Fri	December SOLAR Ray Deadline		Sheila Smith	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org
12/16	Fri	January SOLAR Ray Deadline		Sheila Smith	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org
1/20	Fri	February SOLAR Ray Deadline		Sheila Smith	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org

ACTIVITIES

11/11	Fri	11-11-11 Hike	Pontiac Lake State Rec Area, Waterford, MI	Ati Tislerics	atisleri@umich.edu
11/12	Sat	Moonlight Canoeing	Proud Lake State Rec Area, Milford, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
12/2	Fri	Annual Holiday Party	Colony Hall	Christine Pawyl	SolarPrograms@solaroutdoors.org
12/17	Sat	Holiday Nights at Greenfield Village	Dearborn, MI	Vera Morris	Vem4@yahoo.com
1/13-16	Wknd	Lake Ann Cross-Country Ski Weekend	Lake Ann, MI	Pete Lamb	petekandu@yahoo.com
2/24-26	Wknd	Cross-Country Skiing on Mackinac Island	Mackinac Island, MI	Linda Hill	riverwoman@comcast.net

CLASSES

11/30; 12/7, 14; 1/4, 14-15; 18, 21, 25; 2/3-5	Wed, Sat, Wknd	Enjoying Michigan Winters	Schoolcraft College/Northville, Waterloo State Rec Area, Pigeon River	Allen Duncan	aduncan85@gmail.com
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SOLAR HAS A NO-REFUND POLICY. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND AN ACTIVITY, YOU MAY "SELL YOUR SPOT" TO ANOTHER CLUB MEMBER

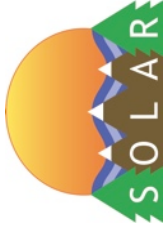
Want More Information about an Activity or a Class?



Become one of the growing number 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 online!

Start by visiting 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 in the SOLAR-Outdoors group. Just follow Meetup's directions. Once you apply for membership in 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. To receive a copy in the mail, please contact Jennifer Tislerics at SOLARmembership@solaroutdoors.org.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions for the SOLAR Ray are due on the Thursday three weeks prior to the monthly Membership meeting. Articles, poems, recipes, etc. should be submitted in electronic format. Please attach images separately as JPG files. If you have any questions, please contact Sheila Smith at 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: (vacant)
Ray Editor: Sheila Smith

Historian: Chip Kleinbrook
Membership: Jennifer Tislerics
Programs: Christine Pawyl
Equipment: Glenn Newa
Webmaster: Bob Innes

PRESIDENTS AT LARGE

Michael Banks | Leslie Cordova | Allen Duncan | 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 Chuck Smith at SolarPresident@solaroutdoors.org.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SOLAR RAY ASSISTANT EDITORS

Karen DeCoster, Heather Hall, 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 or attend one of our monthly meetings.



SOLAR

33228 W. 12 Mile Road

P.O. Box 220

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Visit our website at www.solaroutdoors.org

