

The SOLAR RAY

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



facebook.com/SOLAROutdoors

Visit us at www.solaroutdoors.org

HOPE for Labor Day

by Meg Braun

The Lake Hope trip was fantastic! The scenery was beautiful and the chance to view wildlife optimal. The group campsite was far away from the regular campground, which made it a little harder to find, but well worth the effort. We were at the top of a hill in what felt like the middle of nowhere. The only sounds at night were the crickets and tree frogs, and the stars seemed so close, you felt like you could reach out and touch them.

The first day was spent hiking in 95 degree heat with 100% humidity. So, of course, the hike took us to the beach where we cooled off, had a bite to eat and had our toes nibbled on by the fish. After cooling off, the majority of us continued on around the lake. We took a short break at the old iron furnace which used to be the main source of income in the area.

Afterwards we continued back to camp. The problem with camping on the top of a hill is that you have to climb it to get back to your tent. In this case there was no trail to follow so we bushwhacked almost straight up over rocks and around trees to our camp where some took naps and others sat and talked. The evening was spent enjoying a typical SOLAR potluck and chatting around the campfire.

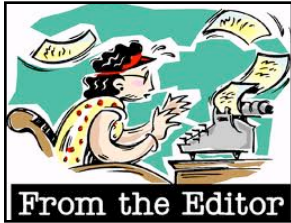
The next day some hiked, while others biked the mountain bike trails. The mountain bike trails at Lake Hope rank 53rd in the world according to Singletracks.com. I know they were very nice for hiking! Lots of beautiful wild flowers lined the trails and we even did a couple of river crossings. Ok so they were only creeks this time of year, but I bet they have a lot of water in them in the spring! This hike led us to the Nature Center where we attempted to hand feed Hummingbirds. Unfortunately they were being shy that day. However, we did see 3 go to the feeders they had around the building. Afterwards, 2 of us hiked back to camp and back up the steep hill,



In this issue

Hope for Labor Day	1
What you said: Membership Survey Report	3
Manistee River Trip	4
Membership Matters	5
Meeting Minute: Microinterviews	6
Spotlight on	7
Upcoming classes and activities	8-14

continued on p. 6



As I sit here on this rainy first day of Fall putting finishing touches on the October Ray, I can't help but think of how fast the four months since I was elected Ray editor have passed.

We've revived both the Spotlight Feature and the Meeting Minutes (Microinterviews) that used to run regularly in the Ray. I love these features because they're all about you and you are what makes the club special.

I also have plans to start a new feature, but I need your help. A lot of what goes on in the club isn't just the planned classes and events that make it onto the monthly calendar, but the more spontaneous outings that get posted on the Yahoo site. We all joined the club to meet more people that we could get outside and play with. Last minute hikes at Proud Lake, and kayak rolling practice at Kensington, and XC skiing at Huron Meadows are just as big a part of why we join as classes and weekend long camping trips. These activities don't get much recognition at the General Meetings, but I want to recognize them here in the Ray.

And here's how you can help. Next time you get a few of your SOLAR friends together for a hike or other spontaneous activity, drop us a line at solarrayeditor@solaroutdoors.com. Let us know who came and how it went. Maybe send us a snapshot and we'll feature your event in the Ray!

SOLAR WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:



Mark Brown
Thomas & Sandra Griebe
Frederick Miller

New Lifetime Members

Nancy Austin
Jim Hartwig

Vani Katta & Ken Gray
Mike & Marie Martinko

Sue Segel

What You Said
Report of General Membership
Survey Now Available
by Ati Tislerics

In March, 2011 the Steering Committee conducted a survey of all current SOLAR members via the Survey Monkey website. Thank you to all who participated. We received responses from 134 people, which means there's a lot to digest. The timing of the survey was a bit unfortunate in that the results became available shortly before the annual Steering Committee elections, and a bunch of new people took office soon after. Now that the new SC is getting its bearings, we're again looking at the survey results and figuring out how we can use them to make a better SOLAR.

One issue we've been discussing is whether and how to share the survey responses with the full membership. I'm sure some of you have been hoping to see them, while others would not want your responses shared. Actually, both points of view are represented

within the SC itself. (Of course, all responses are anonymous – no one knows who said what, but human nature being what it is, people will speculate...) We recognize that we've made some inconsistent statements regarding sharing the results. We've decided to publish the tabulated statistical data for all questions, along with summaries of the comments. We hope this will satisfy the curious while addressing any concerns about anonymity.

I've had the challenging task of summarizing the survey comments in a way that will protect respondents' anonymity while still being informative. It's a somewhat subjective exercise and I apologize if you feel your particular feedback has been given short shrift. I was looking for themes; when two or more comments seemed to address a similar theme, it is represented in the summary report. If you don't see your point of view represented, it most likely means you're the only person who made that particular point. Even so, rest assured that your comments have been read and considered by the SC, but we do

have to give greater attention to the more common themes.

As to what we're doing with the input you provided, you've seen some outcomes already (e.g., publishing SC meeting minutes). Now that the new SC is getting settled in, each of us is taking a close look at the survey responses to identify needs that we can address within our area(s) of responsibility. Watch for these efforts over the remainder of this SC term. Some needs will be more easily and quickly addressed than others and there are sure to be some that we simply can't address, given the nature of the club and/or our limited SC time and energy. We will also be looking to the broader membership to help. As always, SOLAR is what you make of it!

The survey report is available on the SOLAR Yahoo! Group (Files > General Membership Survey). A special thanks goes out to Heather Hall, who oversaw the construction of the survey, and Jackie Ostrosky, who ran it in Survey Monkey and prepared the initial report.

Words to Wander By

Autumn is a second spring
when every leaf is a flower.

Albert Camus



This trip was originally offered by **Jim Coe** and was supposed to be a hike and paddle along the Manistee River. Unfortunately, there weren't enough members interested in paddling to make it worthwhile for the outfitter so Jim had to cancel the trip. Since I had really been looking forward to the trip and needed to get away for some camping and hiking, I decided to go anyway and invited SOLAR members to come along with me. Fortunately six others decided to join me on the trip.

While I promoted this as a backpacking trip, it was that and much more. Some people hiked, some paddled, and one biked. All in all it turned into a very enjoyable weekend. Friday night, **Lynn Dubay, Mike Hubbard, Heidi Tietjen**, and I met at the Red Bridge Campground where we camped for the night. **Pete and Sharon Lamb** arrived the day before and had already canoed the Pine River on Friday. They were camping elsewhere Friday night, although they did join us for an hour or so at the Red Bridge Campground. **Mark Mirzoian** showed up there also for a little bit, but headed off to camp with Pete & Sharon so he could help them shuttle their car for canoeing on Saturday. Saturday morning, after parking our cars at the trail head, Lynn, Heidi and I hiked up the North Country Trail side of the Manistee River. Mike took off on his bike for a day of mountain biking. We ran into him a couple times on the trail. We were all planning to meet at Seaton Creek Campground, which is at the north end of the Manistee River Trail, but we were prepared with food and shelter in case we were not able to meet there. The temperatures were on the warm side, but fortunately, not the 90+ temps we had in July.

Lynn, Heidi, and I were extremely happy to see Pete and Sharon when they met us on the trail close to camp. They said it was about another mile or so to the campground. That last mile was a killer and it seemed like three. When we finally made it to the campground, everyone was already there. Mark had gotten us a nice campsite and some wood for a fire. He also had some wine and cold beer to share with us, not to mention a comfy hammock all set up. Once at camp, some of us went for a swim in the Manistee River. It felt so good to cool down and get clean! We all had dinner together, then sat around a campfire (another luxury). We even had a picnic table. I guess you can't really call it backpacking, but none of us were complaining. I really appreciated the cold beer Mark shared with me. I was starting to think that I could get used to this kind of backpacking! Seaton Creek is a very nice campground and was well worth the extra miles--mainly because of the good company.

Sunday morning, we packed up and headed south on the Manistee River Trail back to Red Bridge Campground. Pete & Sharon enjoyed a leisurely day, before heading home. Mike did some more mountain biking and had parked the car at the campground, saving us a mile or so of hiking. We were very appreciative! We spent a little time cooling off in the river at the boat ramp next to the campground, then headed for home.

I think everyone really enjoyed the weekend--I know I did. It was the typical SOLAR experience, which I always enjoy. I want to thank Jim Coe for planting the seed that grew. This trip wouldn't have happened if it weren't for Jim!

*By Jennifer Tislerics, SOLAR
Membership Chairperson*

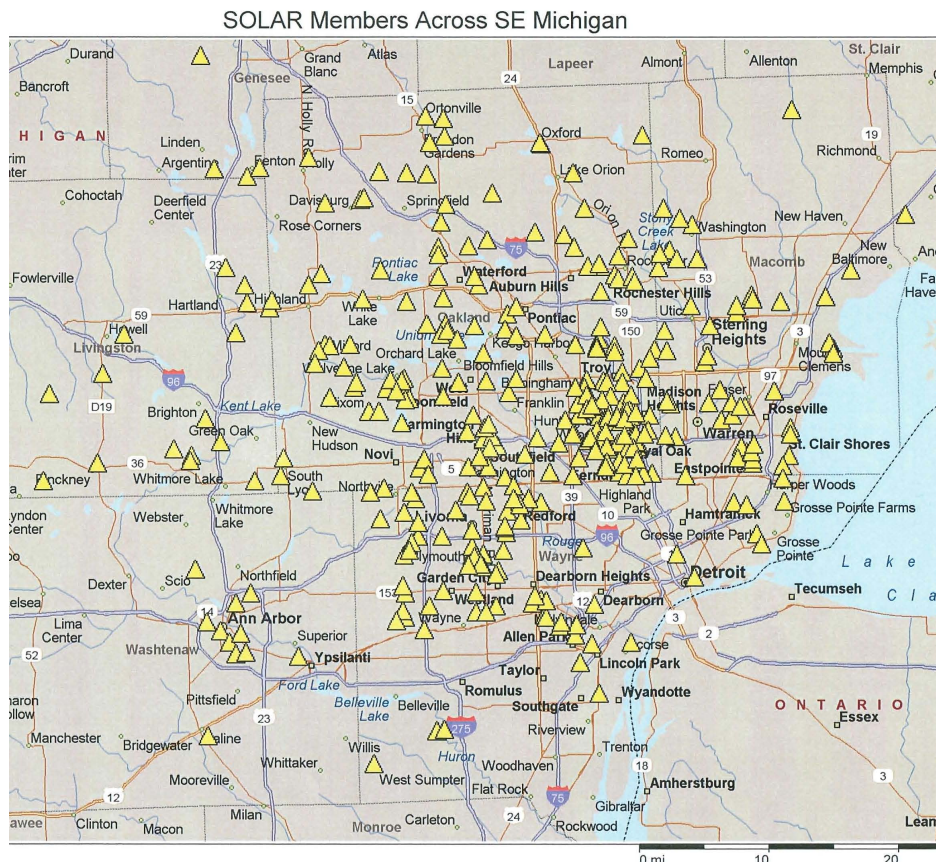
With a little help from some fancy software, we've generated a few maps showing where SOLAR club members live. Not surprisingly, most of us are in Southeast Michigan. But not all! In addition to the perpetually nomadic Rob & Sarah, we have members in Washington, Colorado, Arizona, Kansas, Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio, along the East Coast, Ontario and even in Alberta, Canada (Hi Robin!). We also have members near Kalamazoo, Jackson, Lansing, Flint and several in the northern lower peninsula of Michigan.

In this article you'll find a map of Southeast Michigan showing the distribution of SOLAR members in this part of the state, plotted by zip codes. There's an eight mile square centered near Royal Oak that seems to be a particularly popular place to live. I'm not quite sure what this map proves, but it's interesting to look at.

Did you know SOLAR maintains a roster of all current members? Copies are provided at the monthly meetings, just stop by the Membership Table to pick one up. The roster can be useful when arranging carpools for trips/classes, and getting in touch with friends in the club. However, some of the information in the roster is out of

date. ***Please stop at the Membership Table at the next meeting, look over the information we have listed for you and tell us if anything needs to be updated.*** To answer the question some of you are thinking, no, we do not provide the roster electronically to the general membership. It's too easy for information like that to be stolen and sold to spammers or other bad guys.

What other Membership issues would you like to see addressed here? Send me your ideas, and I'll try to use them in future articles. You can reach me at SOLARmembership@SOLARoutdoors.org.





while the smart ones got a ride with the people who drove to the Nature Center.

Shortly after getting back to camp it started to rain. But being SOLARites, we were all prepared with rain gear, umbrellas and a gazebo to sit under. While eating dinner we had a deer run through our campsite. Our last evening was spent huddled under the gazebo chatting and getting to know each other even better.

Lake Hope is a beautiful park with lots of trees, flowers and wildlife. And being so far from any cities makes it a perfect spot for star viewing. Thank you, **Vera** for organizing and running this trip! I'm looking forward to the next trip!



Shortly after getting back to camp it started to rain. But being SOLARites, we were all prepared with rain gear...

SOLAR Meeting Minute: Microinterviews

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

What was your favorite activity that you participated in over Labor Day weekend?

Bill Morse:
I went swimming.



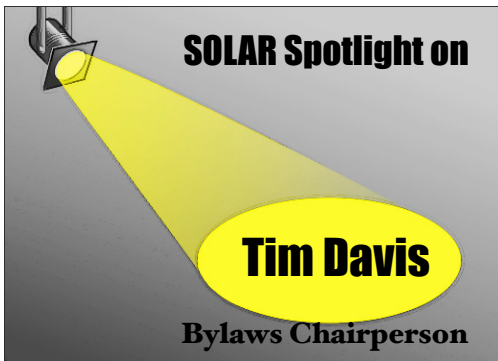
Tom Hayes:
I had a great time visiting with family.....golfing was nice too.



Don Wold:
Mary (Donahue) threw me a birthday party and I also went on a great hike.



Laura Buhl:
I came home from a fun vacation in Oregon.



How long have you been a member of SOLAR?

I joined SOLAR in spring of 2004 so I guess that would make it about 7 1/2 years.

How did you learn about SOLAR?

I remember seeing SOLAR listed in the events section of the Free Press a long time ago and decided to check it out. I went to a meeting and they were talking about the Basic Land Navigation class. It sounded interesting so I became a member so I could participate. I enjoyed the class and had a great time on the practical. I was sold on SOLAR as a group.

What are some outdoor activities you enjoy?

I enjoy doing a lot of different activities outdoors. As long as I'm outdoors I am happy. Some of my main activities include hiking, backpacking, mountain biking and canoeing, although I'm usually up for trying just about anything else outdoor related.

What has been your favorite trip/activity so far?

That's really a hard one to answer. I've gone on a lot of great trips since I've been in SOLAR. Even the many short weekend trips that I've done have been a lot of fun, especially when you're with a great group of people; then any trip is great. If I had to pick just one trip as my all time favorite I would have to say the Algonquin canoe trip I did with a bunch of SOLAR folk back in 2005. Then again, summiting Mt. Rainer was a great experience and is definitely worth noting as well.

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

I have had a number of personal challenges while in SOLAR. Some of the class practices have been challenging, such as the winter camping practical when we got a foot of

snow and it got down to -3 degrees at night. That was a challenge. The winter survival class definitely pushed me as well.

Training for and climbing Mt. Rainier was a challenge physically. On some personal notes, having an accident while climbing in the Adirondacks was a

tremendous physical, mental and emotional challenge that gave me a real perspective on what our true capabilities really are. On a different level, stepping up and organizing the Spring Backpack class provided a different kind of challenge that was no less significant.

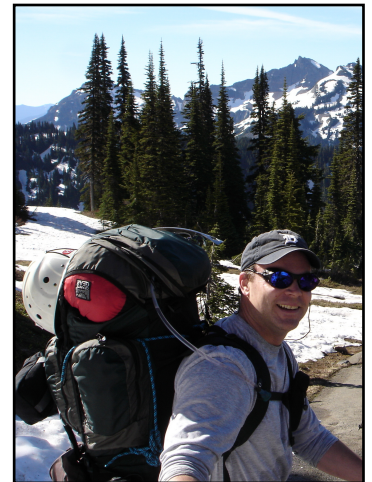
What would your ideal trip be like?

I'm not sure I have an ideal trip. There are a lot of things I look for in a trip but I think as long as it involves good friends, scenic vistas and maybe a good euchre game then it's pretty much ideal.

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

I've taken pretty much all of the classes that SOLAR has offered in the time that I have been a member. I guess that would include Basic and Intermediate Backpacking, Winter Camping (EMW) and Winter Survival, Basic Land Nav, First Aid, Search & Rescue, Rock Climbing, Mountaineering, Adventure Racing, Basic Paddling, what else.... a few one-time classes, light weight backpacking (I failed that course apparently), and the cooking class (failed that as well; still learning to improve my backcountry cooking skills).

As far as classes to offer, I'm not sure. It would be nice to bring a few back so that others can experience them. I'm thinking of Winter Survival and Rock Climbing. I would like to see a course offered on long paddling trips (canoe or kayak). I've done trips like this but would like to learn more.



SPOTLIGHT ON TIM DAVIS

Tell us something that would surprise us!

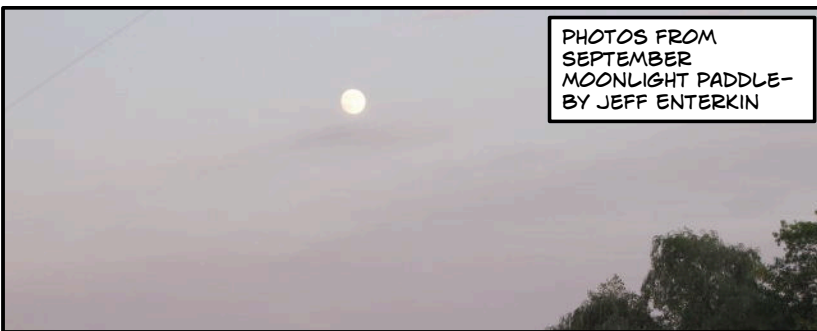
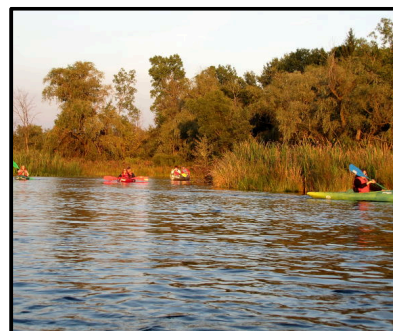
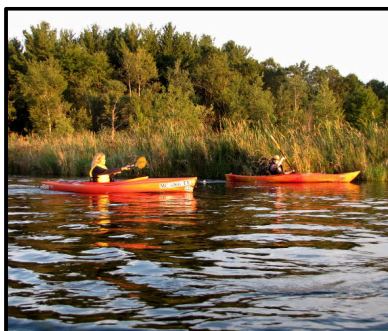
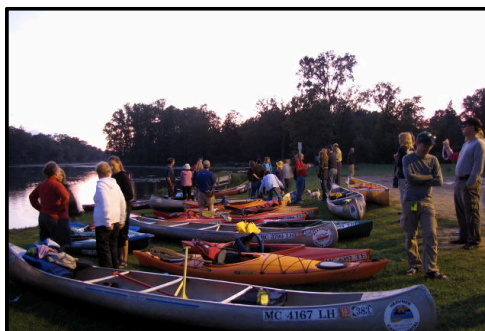
Hmmm...not sure about this one. No, I don't have any crazy hidden talent or skills. One thing that some people may not know is that I have a Commercial Pilots License and am also a Certificated Flight Instructor. I actually spent several years working as a flight instructor and pilot before deciding to change course and work in a more stable career field. HA!

Do you have any pets? Kids? Significant Other?

No, no and no.

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

That's hard to say. Although there have been some changes in the past few years, in many ways it still seems like the same old SOLAR. I'm not sure if that's good or bad and I'm not meaning that as any kind of opinion for or against the changes. I would like to see more people offering to lead trips and activities which I believe the Steering Committee is working hard to encourage. For my part, I am looking to lead some trips in the future as well as continue being involved in either leading/organizing classes or helping out in classes.



PHOTOS FROM
SEPTEMBER
MOONLIGHT PADDLE-
BY JEFF ENTERKIN

Green Timber/Shingle Mill Pathway Backpacking Trip

October 8-9, 2011

Organizer: Wendy Wernet

wwhoppiefrog12@hotmail.com

We'll have an easy 4-mile hike in on Saturday and spend the night camping near Honeymoon Cabin with spectacular views of the changing colors in the Sturgeon River Valley in the midst to Michigan's elk territory. With luck we'll be able to hear and possibly see some bull elk in the area. On Sunday 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. The trailhead for is located near Vanderbilt, MI in Pigeon River Country, not far from Grayling.

Some backpacking experience is required.

Dogs are welcome!

You can sign up on [SOLAR's Meetup site](#) as well as at a meeting.





Otter Creek Wilderness Backpacking Trip



- What** Backpacking Trip
- Where** Otter Creek Wilderness, Monongahela National Forest, West Virginia
This is approximately an 8-hour drive from the Detroit area.
- When** October 28 thru October 30
The backpacking trip will start at the trailhead at 9:00am on the morning of October 28. The entry point is off US Route 33 East of Elkins, WV (more detail to be available to participants). Consider October 27 to be a travel day and October 30 to be hiking and travel day.
- Conditions** The terrain is the Appalachian Mountains. There are stream crossings and hills. At the end of October the night temperatures will likely drop below freezing.
- Group Size** Group size in the Wilderness area is limited by the Forest Service to 10 people (no animals).
- Nearby Sights** Seneca Rocks, Dolly Sods, Canaan Valley and Blackwater Falls State Park are all within 20 miles. You may want to visit one or more of these sights while you are in the area. The leader can provide more information.
- Cost** There is no cost.
- Sign-up** You can sign up with the trip leader, Gary Benninger, benninger@comcast.net, or 248-318-0802 or through Meetup.

The first 10 people to sign-up will be the group.
A waiting list will be maintained in case of cancellations.
Any person that does not show up and has not cancelled will not be allowed on any future trips with this trip leader.



Explore the New Lion Habitat at the Detroit Zoo!

Family-Friendly! Bring the Kids!

Sunday, October 16, 2011

Carol McCririe, organizer
cmccririe@sbcglobal.net

The Detroit Zoo recently renovated its lion habitat, doubling its size and adding a glass wall that allows visitors to get even closer to these amazing animals. We'll check out the big cats and see what else



Photo by maiac on Flickr

is happening at the Zoo until 4:30 pm.

Meet: 1:00 pm, outside the gate after buying your entrance ticket (\$12/adults; \$8/ages 2-14; parking \$5/vehicle). The zoo is located at the NW corner of Woodward and 10-Mile in Royal Oak. <http://www.detroitzoo.org/>

Dinner: 5:00 pm, National Coney Island, 1812 North Main Street, Royal Oak, (248) 398-6111. www.nationalconeyisland.com

Zoo Boo for Families: Skip the restaurant and re-enter the Zoo at 6:00 pm for a “merry-not-scary” celebration featuring a festively decorated half-mile trick-or-treat trail through the front of the park. \$7 web; \$10 gate

Basic Land Navigation

You will learn:

Map reading / Terrain visualization
Navigation strategies
Primitive Navigation (time permitting)

Taking & plotting compass bearings
The "Three Norths" & Declination

You will be participating in a cross-country route finding exercise.

This class is a prerequisite for the Advanced Land Navigation class, which focuses on GPS. GPS is not covered at all in this class.

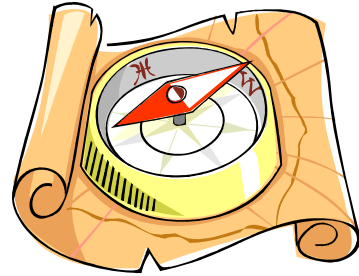
Cost: \$50.00

Includes:

Book
Cabin
Handouts/Maps

Does NOT include:

State Park Permit
Meals



When/Where:

Wednesday, October 5th, 6:30 PM-9:00 PM – Berkley Community Center
Wednesday, October 12th, 6:30 PM-9:00 PM – Berkley Community Center
Wednesday, October 19th, 6:30 PM-9:00 PM – Berkley Community Center
Saturday, October 22nd (9 AM - 6 PM) & Sunday, October 23rd (9 AM - 4 PM) - Waterloo Recreation Area

Due to the cumulative nature of the material covered, no "excused absences" are possible - students must attend all evening classes and both days of the practical.

Prerequisites: None

Contact: Jeff McWilliams, E-mail (preferred): jeff.mcwilliams@gmail.com. Phone: 248-321-1987

**2012 FIGHT
FOR AIR
CLIMB**

experience the climb of your life
AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION

Kick-off Party
for the
SOLAR Stair Stars

Join the award winning
SOLAR Stair Stars in their
annual trek up the stairs of the
infamous Renaissance Center!

Pot Luck and training session
Saturday, October 15, 2011 12:00noon
Bloomer Park, Rochester, MI

For details and RSVP contact Mary Donahue
mldonahue824@gmail.com 313.598.3324



Wine Tasting

& Making Party

(2nd Annual)

October 8, 2011, 7:00pm - 11:00pm

Fieldstone Winery

223 S. Main Street, Rochester, MI, 48307

Cost is \$11.00 per person

Please bring a dish to pass for potluck!

RSVP to Mary Donahue by 10.01.2011

mldonahue824@gmail.com or call 313.598.3324



IT'S OKTOBERFEST!

Saturday October 22, 2011

The party begins at 6 pm

*It's that time of year again--
falling leaves, cooler weather, and Oktoberfest!*

- We will have brats and sauerkraut.
- Bring a dish to pass (think German or another ethnic dish).
- We'll have pop and other assorted drinks; BYO your favorite Oktoberfest beer or wine.
- We have wood gathered for a great bonfire, weather permitting.
- Bring your camp chair.
- Bring any photos you want to share from recent travels, either in print or on a CD. I'll try to have a viewing area.
- Play euchre or just visit with friends.

We hope to see you there. Please RSVP so we have enough brats!

RSVP and Location:
Carol McCririe's home
2619 Pinckney Road
Howell, MI 48843
(810) 523-0132
cmccririe@sbcglobal.net





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/>

SOLAR OCTOBER 2011 CALENDAR

www.SolarOutdoors.org

Click to get
the details on
Meetup.com!

Winner of the September Activity Organizer Drawing: Cindy Taylor, NCT-Manistee River Trip

SOLAR MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

10/4	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30 pm	Colony Hall	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program: Tips for Organizing a Class or Activity	Colony Hall	Christine Pawyl	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
10/25	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm	TBD	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
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
11/29	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm	TBD	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org

SOLAR RAY DEADLINES

10/14	Fri	November SOLAR Ray Deadline		Sheila Smith	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org
11/18	Fri	December SOLAR Ray Deadline		Sheila Smith	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org
12/16	Fri	January SOLAR Ray Deadline		Sheila Smith	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org

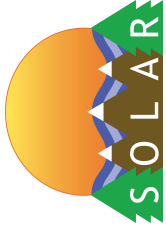
ACTIVITIES

10/8-9	Wknd	Green Timbers Backpacking Weekend	Vanderbilt, MI	Wendy Wernet	hoppiefrog12@hotmail.com
10/8	Sat	Wine Tasting and Making Party	Rochester, MI	Mary Donohue	mldonahue824@gmail.com
10/15-16	Wknd	Jordan River Pathway Backpacking Trip	Alba, MI	Allen Duncan	aduncan85@gmail.com
10/15	Sat	SOLAR Stair Stars Kick-Off Potluck and Training Session	Bloomer Park, Rochester Hills, MI	Mary Donahue	mldonahue824@gmail.com
10/15, 11/12	Sat	Moonlight Canoeing	Proud Lake State Rec Area, Milford, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
10/16	Sun	Explore the New Lion Habitat at the Zoo	Royal Oak, MI	Carol McCrie	cmccrie@sbcglobal.net
10/22	Sat	Oktoberfest Party	Howell, MI	Carol McCrie	cmccrie@sbcglobal.net
10/27-30	Multi	Otter Creek Wilderness Backpacking Trip	Monongahela National Forest, WV	Gary Benninger	benninger@comcast.net
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

CLASSES

10/7-9	Wknd	Basic Backpacking Practical	Pictured Rocks	Carol McCrie	cmccrie@sbcglobal.net
10/5, 12, 19, 22-23	Wed, Wknd	Basic Land Navigation	Berkley Community Center, Waterloo State Rec Area	Jeff McWilliams	jeff.mcwilliams@gmail.com
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

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



WHAT IS SOLAR?

SOLAR is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization with 400-plus members who enjoy the outdoors. Members share their knowledge and experience with each other by leading classes and coordinating activities/trips.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is only \$40 a year per person (\$55 per family) and includes free access to most club-owned equipment, a monthly newsletter, and a chance to meet hundreds of other like-minded adventurers drawn together by a common love of pristine lakes, breathtaking vistas, 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 Halvings
Cindy Harrison-Felix | Tom Hayes | Joan Hettinger | Doug Lanyk | Larry Martin | Tom Oloffo | Lou Szakal | Cindy Taylor | Joan & Bob Westbrook

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

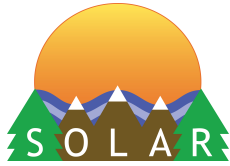
The Steering Committee meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. These meetings are usually open to the general membership. Anyone who is interested in learning about the decisions being made or contemplating running for a position on the Steering Committee is welcome to attend. If you are interested in attending the Steering Committee meeting, please contact Chuck Smith at SolarPresident@solaroutdoors.org.

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

