

## Hills, Horses, and Sore Feet

by Heidi Tietjen

As we trudged into Horsemen's Camp, weary after a long day on the Waterloo-Pinckney Trail, we looked around in dismay. Every single site, except a very shallow one next to the manure pit, was filled with RVs, horse trailers, people in cowboy hats knocking back beers, and lots of really big horses. The air was thick with barbeque smoke, laughter, and country music. While we'd run into a few friendly equestrians on the trail, nothing prepared us for this. What strange universe had we entered? And more importantly, where were we seven backpackers going to pitch our tents tonight?

Bruce Coppola, Meg and Eric Braun, Kirsten Cook, Rick Wisz, Bill Lynch and I (with my dogs, Marco and Tilly) had started that morning, April 21, from Big Portage Lake Campground in eastern Jackson County where we had camped the night before. We woke up to frost and gray skies, and a cold, stiff wind. We'd walked 15 miles and there was no way we were walking any further. I'd pitch my tent on the manure pile if I had to.

The Waterloo-Pinckney Trail traverses the 30,000 acres of its two namesake state recreation areas (with a short area crossing Washtenaw County's Park Lyndon) and though it certainly isn't wilderness and there are numerous road crossings, it also isn't an easy hike. The trail runs through marshes and meadows and up and down the often steep slopes formed by ancient glaciers. In places the trail was loose and sandy and at one point it was flooded and muddy. It is a pretty trail, especially with delicate green and red spring foliage coloring the landscape but not obscuring the views. And, of course, it is conveniently close to home. I thought the three-day, 38-mile hike would be a good way to kick off backpacking season. I

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### From the incoming editor:

I am honored to have been elected (OK, so I ran unopposed - details, details) as the new Ray editor. I'm putting this issue to bed late at night, but it would have been a lot later without the help of outgoing editor Sheila Smith. Former editor Jennifer Tislerics was also an invaluable help. Thanks also to Heidi Tietjen and Ati Tislerics for their encouragement and editing assistance.

But the biggest thanks goes to those who contributed articles to this issue. The Ray is of, by, and for the SOLAR membership. It is what you make it. I look forward to your contributions. Speaking of which...the deadline for the July Ray is the 15th. With all the great events coming up, there should be plenty of stories and pictures to share!

-Bruce Coppola

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## Moon over the Haron: Sunset Hike and Paddle

*by Jeff Enterkin*

May 5, 2012: the first paddle of the summer has come and gone. The weather was very good, cool but sunny, giving us a nice sunset. Four people meet at the trail head parking at Proud Lake before the paddle. We hiked a few of the trails looking at the trees, river, and lake while listening to the birds sing their song. Then we traveled over to Heavner Canoe to meet up with the other paddlers. There were about 20 paddlers all together. We put the boats into the water and set off into the sunset. When we reached Milford we walked over to The Burger Joint for dinner. A couple of people even went for ice cream while a couple went for hot coffee. When we started to head back to our boats we were given a very pleasant surprise -- a full moon rising. Like a street light the moon lighted our way as we paddled back to Heavner's, where a bonfire kept some of us warm in the cool air.

**Our next Sunset Canoe Paddle is Saturday June 2. Hike time: 6:00 pm, Sunset Paddle time: 8:00pm. See you there.**



### SOLAR WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Amy & John Sands (and  
kids Conor & Georgia)  
Roger Mohr

### UPGRADED TO LIFETIME:

Mark Brown

## Book recommendation

*by Alexis Linder*

FINDING YOUR WAY WITHOUT MAP OR COMPASS by Harold Gatty.

Originally published 1958, but still very interesting. It describes how native people navigated long and short distances by observing natural events such as migrating birds, and what clouds told them about the location of land and sea. The section on why we walk in circles (especially when lost) and how to compensate for it is just one interesting chapter. Some Solarites might be interested in reading this book.

It's available in paperback, published by Dover Books in 1999.

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## HILLS, HORSES, AND SORE FEET *cont. from p.1*

was also looking forward to hiking with some SOLAR members that I didn't know very well.

I had warned the group that Day One of the hike would be tough, primarily because of the number of miles to camp. The first third is fairly easy, as the trail crosses wetlands and follows eskers, the sinuous ridges formed by silt filtering out of glacial rivers. At Mile 5.5, we took a long rest beneath the big white cross that sits atop 1,128 foot Sackrider Hill, the highest point in these parts.

Soon after we were into territory more familiar to me as the trail intersected with the bridle trails forming several loop hikes. From a hike with fellow SOLAR members last spring, I was prepared for the flooded area as we approached Baldwin Rd. and was able to guide the group around it. We stopped for a moment to admire the Baldwin Flooding, a 63-acre impoundment area that serves as prime waterfowl migration and brood-rearing habitat.

At Mile 10 we stopped to rest at the picnic area and outhouse maintained by the Waterloo Horsemen's Association. The WHA does a lot of the trail maintenance in this area and we did see more horses than hikers along the way. An earlier talk with a ranger had informed me that they had recently received approval to put in three backpacker-only campsites in this area, to be open in 2013. Water would have to be filtered and carried from the Baldwin Flooding.

As we grew eager to get to camp, the trail reentered the woods and presented us with several long, steep hills. The couple of miles were pretty but the seemingly inexhaustible supply of trail made it difficult to appreciate its charms. We were happy to come to Loveland Road and cross over to the spur trail that is the "backdoor" to the Horsemen's Camp.

I'd been to this campground numerous times and had never seen more than a couple of backpackers and maybe one or two horse campers. When I had called the ranger he had said it would be no problem to camp there and reservations weren't necessary at this time of year. He neglected to tell me that April 21 was the day of the WHA's annual Green Lake Ride, one of the organization's biggest events. Horses are forbidden from the trails east of Loveland Road except for this one day of the year. Riders from miles around take the opportunity to have one really big party.

Our little band walked the campground loop and then headed towards the horse staging area and Burns Cabins (familiar to graduates of Basic Land Navigation). There was a large grassy area with picnic tables but no fire rings between the entrance and the cabins. We weren't sure if these were legitimate campsites but we decided to pitch our tents and tarps there anyhow. One of the WHA leaders later came over to say that backpackers are able to camp anywhere in that area and if we had taken that empty campsite

he would have asked us to move. Horses, which have a tendency to get loose, and small tents are not a good mix.

While we were setting up camp we saw a lone backpacker come in and study the information board at the entrance. I went over and invited him to join us. His name was Sean and he was carrying an enormous pack. He had decided to get back into backpacking after a hiatus of six or seven years and he wasn't sure what he would need so he left very little at home.

We were all tired and, as the sun went down, the temperature dropped rapidly. Ever the optimist, I had only a light fleece and lightweight long johns to keep me warm. I had discovered the night before that my first-time-on-the-trail 20-degree bag fit me but it did not fit me plus two small dogs. It was too cold to leave the dogs to curl up outside the bag so I opened it up to use it as a quilt. That had worked okay at Big Portage Lake but the night at Horsemen's Camp was much colder and I was pretty miserable, although Marco and

Tilly seemed warm and snug. Rick learned that, weight be damned, he was going back to using an inflatable pad as the closed cell pad was not comfortable enough. Kirsten was pleased with some new gear purchases. Bruce continued to improve his tarp-pitching skills.

We awoke to a sunny but very cold morning. There was ice in our water bottles.

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# My Spring Basic Backpacking Class Experience

*by Mike Kapusky*

So...I was the one and only male student that ended up being in the Spring 2012 Basic Backpacking Class, which has its positives and negatives. I was a one man team for Practical 1 but luckily I was paired with a fantastic partner for Practical 2, Brenda.

I had done some backpacking in the past, in Florida of all places, so I had most of the equipment. Unfortunately this equipment had been sitting in my basement collecting dust for the past few years. In addition, I knew someday I wanted to backpack out West but I thought I needed some more experience to do this. To top it off, there was always a part of me that regretted never being involved with the Boy Scouts growing up. That being said, it's never too late to learn something new. After all, we continue learning new things until our last breath.

Overall, the class was a fantastic experience. I learned much more than I expected. There were



so many little tricks that the instructors shared with us. You could tell they were more than happy to share their knowledge because this is something they love to do. After all, they would not volunteer to teach this class if they did not have a passion for this hobby. You can learn to tie a knot, set up a shelter, or set a coordinate on a compass from a

book; however, I don't think you really learn how to do these things until you actually apply them in the real world. The field days and practicals really make this class worthwhile.

I would say the biggest thing I learned from this experience is the importance of group dynamics. You could be backpacking in the most beautiful place on Earth and group dynamics could spoil that entire experience. I thought the group I was in for Practical 2 had excellent group dynamics which made doing something that you already really like to do—being outdoors—even better. When you have this, it makes some of the negatives or issues that tend to come up during any trip seem much smaller than they could be, like our little tick buddies we encountered at Hoist Lake.



I know I have made some lifelong friends from this class, and that is the most valuable thing you can get from any experience. I'd like to thank all of the instructors in the class for taking the time to share their experience with us. I really learned a lot and I am ready to learn more!



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## HILLS, HORSES, AND SORE FEET *cont. from p.3*

We were joined by Linda Rodrick, Paul Williford and Fred Miller. I had assured the group that Day Two was our easy day, partly because it was only 10 miles but mostly because I had forgotten how hilly the trail was. We had to stop to de-layer soon after leaving camp because the exertion had us all breaking a sweat despite the cold. Fred also introduced us to the very elegant and useful term “bio break”.

We stopped for lunch at the pavilion near the Eddy Discovery Center and then headed out to tackle the last four miles to Green Lake. There weren't as many wildflowers out as we had expected, but we saw wood anemone, rue anemone, purple vetch, serviceberry, dogwood, marsh marigold, and an occasional trillium. The air was sweet with the scent of Russian olive.

Except for two picnickers who soon left and lone-hiker Sean, we had Green Lake Campground all to ourselves. We said farewell to Kirsten, who had to work the next day, and who ferried Linda and Paul back to their car. Fred stayed to hike with us the next day.

The strong wind off the lake was cold but the sunshine was warm. Fred and Bruce pitched tent and tarp among the trees, Meg and Eric claimed a site in the low area between two slopes but with ready access to a picnic table. Rick, Bill and I pitched our shelters in the lee of a big row of pine trees. I let the dogs run around the campground while I dozed on the sunny slope, keeping track of

them by the sound of their barks invading my dreams.

Sean, a “subterranean depository engineer”\* by profession, had pitched his little Eureka hoop tent at the campsite close to the outhouses by the entrance road and we carried our dinners over to join him. This was partly because he was an amusing companion and partly because it was obvious he was the kind of guy who wouldn't dream of camping without building a campfire. He had already amassed a big pile of wood. We were all amazed to see his kit set out on the picnic table: portable radio, hatchet, coffee pot, dryer lint to use with a flint and steel, novel, solar charger for his iPhone, and a fifth of vodka among other items. Unfortunately his 48 pound pack had gotten the better of his knees and he was limping around the site. He had called a friend to come and pick him up the next day.

The night was cold even by the fire and I headed to my tent before the light was extinguished from the sky. I shoved gentle Tilly into the bottom of the sleeping bag and opened the foot vent a bit but Marco wasn't having any of it. Have it your way, I said, and bundled myself into the bag, leaving him to curl up on top of me. At some point in the night I heard him whining and I unzipped the bag so he could cuddle against me.

Meg and Eric left shortly after daybreak as Meg had to be at work in the afternoon. Rick, Bruce, Fred, Bill and I headed onto the trail, which enters Pinckney State

Recreation Area after crossing M-52, a little after 8:00. Bill and Rick, who had forged on ahead of the rest of us for much of the hike, now seemed content to go at our slower pace. We enjoyed the gentle nature of the trail in the morning and stopped for a leisurely lunch in a sunny spot out of the wind. Fred's knee was bothering him so he called it quits at Joslin Rd. and phoned his wife to pick him up. Fred, buddy, we're assuming you got home okay!

I had planned the hike to be on the Potawatomi Trail section on a Monday to avoid the weekend mountain bikers and, indeed, we only saw a few of them. The Potawatomi Trail is lovely but it has lots of ups and downs. After three days on the trail we were all tired and our conversation, which had been lively earlier in the day, dwindled. We were all in accord in taking the Silver Lake trail short cut back to the parking lot, cutting off at least two miles from our trek. I checked my phone and saw a text message from Meg sent at 11:15. They were off the trail and eating at a place in Pinckney. We reached the cars around 2:00.

Before the hike I had worked out a clever matrix for spotting cars. I parked at Silver Lake, planning to take Fred back to his car at Portage Lake. When Fred left us early I was happy that I would be able to drive straight home to Ann Arbor. I was just saying goodbye to Bill, Rick and Bruce when I remembered with a sinking feeling that before hitting the trail at Big

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## HILLS, HORSES, AND SORE FEET *cont. from p.4*

Portage Lake I had looked at my keys and thought, "There's no point in carrying these for three days" and tossed them into the back of Bruce's vehicle. We all piled into Bill's car and headed west and then, weary but satisfied, turned eastward again.

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\*I.e., a gravedigger. Sean works at a cemetery in Oakland County but really should be a comedian. We gave him a SOLAR card and hope to see him at a meeting one of these days.

## Membership Matters: DO YOU KNOW THESE PEOPLE?

We have no current contact information for the following SOLARites with Lifetime Memberships. If you are in touch with them, please ask them to contact Jennifer Tislerics, Membership Chairperson, to update our records. Jennifer can be reached at [SOLARmembership@SOLARoutdoors.org](mailto:SOLARmembership@SOLARoutdoors.org) or (home) 313-794-0164.

KUMAR	KRISHNAMURTH
JERRY	LAWLER
LESTER	MOK
DIANA	PENOYER
ANN	SNOOK
MIKE	SNOOK

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## BEYOND BACKPACKING

*By Glenn Schultz*

This is a salute to the meaning of Memorial Day, Flag Day on June 14th and the Fourth of July. This is a thank you to those who have and to those who are serving our Country.

I think of the freedoms that I have to travel across this wonderful country and to other places in the world. I remind myself that the trails that I take have been formed and are protected by those who serve our Nation.

Without debating here the reasons of our current military situations, I thank those who put the rucksacks on their backs, the sweat on their brow, and their life on the line for our well being.

As a number of you know I have a son and two nephews who are U.S.M.C. Reservists. One nephew has done a tour of Iraq and my other nephew is on his way to Afghanistan in September. I would wish for better places to bivouac.

When I camp, encountering a leaky tent and eating trail dust is a minor concern when I think of them. When I come home I am truly grateful of the niceties of a good mattress, a hot shower and a microwave. And so on these remembrance days, reflect on where you have traveled and remind yourself of those who have traveled farther. We are all on the trail together.



## Nordhouse Dunes Beach Clean Up June 22-24, 2012

Organized by Vera Morris, vem4@yahoo.com

We're going back to Nordhouse Dunes Lake Michigan Recreation Area! It's a favorite spot for car campers and backpackers alike.

The plan is to head up on Friday afternoon or evening and set up camp. We will spend a couple of hours Saturday morning cleaning the beach of any garbage and bits of plastic (you'd be amazed how much plastic washes up). After that, we'll hang out and enjoy the beach, the beautiful trails and each other's company.

There is a pot luck on Saturday night. We typically hit the beach or hike on Sunday morning and start heading home Sunday afternoon.

This is a kid-friendly trip.

The cost of this trip is \$20 per person.

Nordhouse Wilderness Dunes is about a 4 hour drive from Southfield, it's near Ludington. They have new flush toilets, but no showers.

For information on the campground and directions (as well as GPS info.), please see the website: <http://tinyurl.com/6h9xcu>



## Sunset Paddles at Proud Lake

Organized by Margaret Martin, mpluscat@yahoo.com

Reserve directly with Heavner's Canoe & Kayak Rental: 2775 Garden Road, Milford. Phone: (248) 685-2379

**Sat May 5** 7:45 meet Season Inaugural paddle

**Sat June 2** 8:00 meet

**Sat. Jun 23** 8:00 meet Solstice paddle.  
Dessert provided at the dam

**Sat July 7** 8:00 meet

**Sat Aug 4** 7:45 meet

**Fri Aug 31** 7:00 meet Labor Day weekend

**Sat Sept 29** 6:15 meet

**Sat Oct 27** 5:15 meet Season Close paddle

There will be an ample break in Milford for people to go for ice cream or a meal at their own expense. There will still be a bonfire after the paddle. The price will be \$25 per person now. Children under 12 with a parent are free, children 12-17 with a parent are half price.

## Free Pre-Paddle Kayak Lesson

**June 2, 6:00 pm**

Instructor: Matt Dalton, mdalton@ameritech.net  
Limited to 20 people

Get a **FREE 2-hour kayaking lesson** before the Sunset Paddle. Children age 10-17 get the lesson and paddle for free as part of the No Child Left Inside program. Pre-registration is necessary. Sign up with Heavner's., 248-685-2379

## Pre-Paddle Hikes at Proud Lake

Organized by Margaret Martin,  
mpluscat@yahoo.com

Hikers meet at the Proud Lake main parking lot 2 hours before the Sunset Paddle start time and will hike about 1.5 hours. Bring a sack dinner or snack to eat before the paddle begins. If you can lead a hike, let Margaret know!



## East Side Mid-Summer Kayak Tour



**July 1, 2012**

Organized by Mike Hobig,  
mhobig@ford.com

8:00 am meet, 8:30 AM launch

A circle tour of the east metro area! An east side adventure! Our route will take us up the Clinton River Cut Off (locally know the Spillway) to the Clinton River, down the river through Mount Clemens out to Lake Saint Clair, past Metropolitan Beach Metro Park and back to the launch.

Distance is estimated at 18 miles, which should take a good part of the day, which will include food and rest stops in Mt. Clemens, Metro Beach, local parks, and possibly a private home.

Experience necessary, as there's an open water portion on Lake St. Claire but most of the route is calm. Shorter route and shuttle options are possible.

You'll need to provide your own 14'+ kayak, either sit-upon or with front & back bulkheads or float bags. Everybody wears pfd's while on the water.

Plans will be discussed and made in advance. Ramp fees or Michigan Recreation Passport needed to launch.

## Paddle to the Symphony

**June 22, 2012**

Organized by Michael Dwyer  
travelandadventure@yahoo.com

**North Martindale Picnic Shelter,  
Kensington Metro Park, Milford, MI**

Have a fun evening on the water while enjoying the sounds of the Michigan Philharmonic. This popular event, presented by Hostelling International in partnership with Heavner Canoe, is a SOLAR favorite!

Several options are available\*:

- *Paddling with dinner:* \$35/person
- *Paddling only:* \$25
- *Food only (not renting a canoe):* \$15
- *Event only (no canoe or food):* \$5

Register on-line at [www.hi-michigan.org](http://www.hi-michigan.org). Registration forms for those paying by check will be available at the June SOLAR meeting.

Water and soft drinks will be available for everyone with any option you select. All canoes and kayaks **MUST** have at least one adult per watercraft. **Anyone going on the water should arrive by 6:30 pm. Return paddle begins at 9:00 pm.**

For a complete schedule, visit the HI website.

Bring: sun screen or hat; change of clothes; jacket, lawn chair.

\*You will need a pass/permit to enter the park

## Metamora/Hadley Fall Camping Trip

**September 28–30, 2012**

Organized by Margaret Martin  
mpluscat@yahoo.com

Don't put the camping gear away, yet! Come to the Metamora/Hadley State Park Harvest Weekend. Activities include decorating your campsite for Halloween, trick or treating, visiting a haunted house, and dressing in costumes.

Other activities include hiking, enjoying cider mills, and visiting the 7 Ponds Nature Center. This trip is kid-friendly, dog-friendly, and RV-friendly.

**Cost:** \$25 per adult, \$15per child. Includes camping fees, a pancake breakfast, and Friday and Saturday campfires with s'mores.



# Cape Hatteras Wind and Water Trip

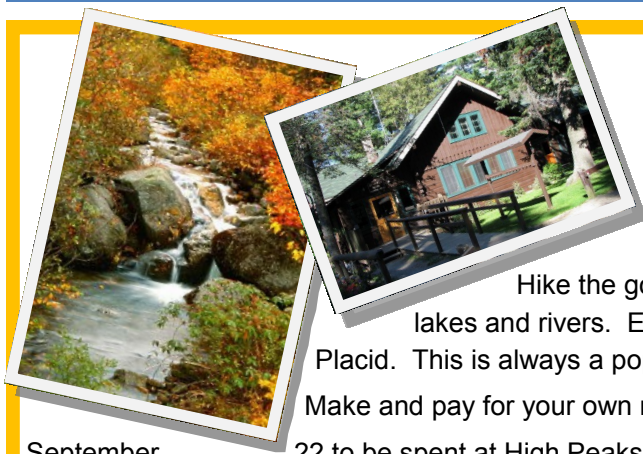
October 20-27, 2012

Organized by Chuck Smith, [cbryansmit@gmail.com](mailto:cbryansmit@gmail.com)

Cape Hatteras and the Outer Banks of North Carolina has miles and miles of public beaches, ocean waves coming in from the Atlantic, calm waist deep water in Pamlico Sound, and some of the best windsurfing, kiteboarding and SCUBA diving in North America. There is at least one big hang gliding school, too, and there are lots of shops to rent gear and find quality instruction in other wind and water sports. There's flat water kayaking in the sound and rough water and surf kayaking in the Atlantic.

Temps should be about 70/day and about 50/night. Winds are typically 15-20 mph.

The plan is to rent a place on the sound with a launch suitable for windsurfing and kiteboarding most winds. It looks like it should be in the range of about \$275/person for the week for a beach house with full kitchen, hot tub, outdoor decks, wifi, and big screen TVs. (Price goes up the longer we wait to reserve.) I think this can work with as few as me plus three more, or we can take as many as want to come. If we get more people, the price should come down a bit.



## Adirondack Adventure

September 22-28, 2012

Organizer: Janet Schester, [j40makayla@gmail.com](mailto:j40makayla@gmail.com)

Hike the gorgeous surrounding mountains or paddle nearby lakes and rivers. Explore the quaint village of Lake Placid. This is always a popular trip for SOLAR.

Make and pay for your own reservations.

September 22 to be spent at High Peaks Hostel in Lake Placid, 518-523-4951. Price is \$40 including breakfast and will be lowered to \$30 if 6+ SOLAR members stay. No credit cards.

September 23 through Friday, September 27 (departing 9/28 a.m.) to be spent at the Adirondack Loj at Heart Lake, 518-523-3441 (8 a.m.-7 p.m.) Ask for the Mid-Week Special and let them know you are with SOLAR. Loj accommodations are somewhere in the \$400-\$450 range per person including meals depending on room. Campsites are available for \$40 for 2 people; no meals. Access trailheads right from the Loj!

Space in the Loj is filling up quickly. Staying longer at High Peaks Hostel is also an option. The rate will be reduced for longer stays; kitchen access to cook your own dinner or lunch.

## How SOLAR Works: an Overview of the Club

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SOLAR is a loosely formed volunteer organization made up of people who enjoy the outdoors. In general, activity organizers and class instructors are members just like you and are not trained professionals, but rather volunteers who share their knowledge and experience. As a club, we do not sponsor, approve, or have the resources to “qualify” those activities offered through the club. The club’s role is simply to get people who want to offer something together with people who want to do or learn something. If a person seems to have a reasonable plan, the Steering Committee will generally allow him or her to present an activity or a class. As somebody wanting to participate in a particular activity or class, it is imperative that you are comfortable with the person running it, the plans, requirements, abilities needed, etc.

The actual requirements for running a class through SOLAR are very simple. Basically, the leader or organizer should have knowledge to share, background in the specific class topic, and a plan/outline acceptable to the Education Chairperson. (There may be other requirements such as a Wilderness First Aid and/or CPR certification, depending on the class.) If the leader or organizer appears to know what (s)he is talking about, the class will generally be presented. SOLAR may or may not look into claims of experience or history made by a potential class leader or organizer.

Most of the classes offered through SOLAR are run by volunteers who are donating their time and knowledge in hopes of sharing those skills with others who may enjoy them. A few classes are offered by certified instructors and may offer actual certifications from organizations such as the American Red Cross. This is the exception rather than the rule.

Activities work similarly. If a member wants to coordinate an activity, (s)he can present a plan to the Activities Chairperson. If it is something that is of interest to members and/or broadly falls into “enjoying the outdoors”, it will generally be presented to the club.

We really don’t look into how qualified or experienced the organizer is.

If it appears that an activity or class may be outside of SOLAR’s comfort zone, the Steering Committee may decide it should not be formally presented to members. If somebody presents the Activities Chairperson with a plan to attend the zoo, it will probably be presented. If that same person wants to go to the zoo to feed the tigers, that would probably fall outside of the club’s comfort zone and be turned down.

The SOLAR Yahoo! Group gives members a way to communicate between meetings and/or find other people to do things with. If a member wants to hike, sell their used gear, meet for dinner or feed the tigers without presenting at a SOLAR meeting, the Yahoo! Group is the place to advertise. The group has some basic guidelines -- e.g., political, religious, and inflammatory posts may not belong there and will hopefully be blocked by the moderators. If a member posts that (s)he wants to get a group to go to the zoo to break into the tiger enclosure and feed them bits of steak, nobody will block it. Just because it’s on the Yahoo! Group does not mean it’s a good idea! You are responsible for yourself. Don’t blindly follow anyone to feed the tigers!

The bottom line is that SOLAR is what our members make it. SOLAR gives members access to affordable and unique opportunities. Once again, as somebody wanting to participate it is imperative that you are comfortable with the person running the class or activity, the plans, requirements, abilities needed, etc. If you really like to read policies, we have them. Look for guidelines on organizing and/or participating in activities and classes on our website ([www.solaroutdoors.org](http://www.solaroutdoors.org)).

# SOLAR JUNE 2012 CALENDAR

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

Click to get the details on Meetup.com!

Winner of the May Activity Organizer Drawing: Bill Morse, Earth Day Cleanup at Stony Creek

## SOLAR MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

6/5	Tues	<a href="#">Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm</a>	Colony Hall	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		<a href="#">Program: One Mountain, Three Parks, Five Tourists: A Tanzanian Adventure</a>	Colony Hall	Michael Seng	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
6/26	Tues	<a href="#">Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30</a>	TBD	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
7/3	Tues	<a href="#">Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm</a>	Colony Hall	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		<a href="#">Program: Potluck Picnic and Gear Swap</a>	Colony Hall	Michael Seng	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
7/31	Tues	<a href="#">Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30</a>	TBD	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
8/7	Tues	<a href="#">Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm</a>	Colony Hall	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		<a href="#">Program: Fall and Winter Classes</a>	Colony Hall	Michael Seng	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
8/28		<a href="#">Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30</a>	TBD	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org

## SOLAR RAY DEADLINES

6/14	Thurs	July SOLAR Ray Deadline		Bruce Coppola	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org
7/19	Thurs	August SOLAR Ray Deadline		Bruce Coppola	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org
8/16	Thurs	September SOLAR Ray Deadline		Bruce Coppola	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org

## ACTIVITIES

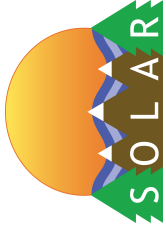
6/1-6/3	Wknd	<a href="#">Cuyahoga Hike and Fun Weekend</a>	Peninsula, OH	Jim Stange	jimstange@gmail.com
6/2	Sat	<a href="#">Sunset Paddle</a> and <a href="#">Pre-Paddle Hike</a>	Proud Lake, Milford, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
6/22	Fri	<a href="#">Paddle to the Symphony</a>	Kensington Metro Park	Michael Dwyer	travelandadventure@yahoo.com
6/23	Sat	<a href="#">Summer Solstice Sunset Paddle</a> and <a href="#">Pre-Paddle Hike</a>	Proud Lake, Milford, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
6/22-24	Wknd	<a href="#">Nordhouse Dunes Beach Cleanup</a>	Free Soil, MI	Vera Morris	vem4@yahoo.com
7/1	Sun	<a href="#">East Side Mid-Summer Kayak Tour</a>	Harrison Twp, MI	Mike Hobig	mhobig@ford.com
7/7	Sat	<a href="#">Sunset Paddle</a> and <a href="#">Pre-Paddle Hike</a>	Proud Lake, Milford, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
8/4, 8/31, 9/29, 10/27	Var	More Sunset Paddles and Pre-Paddle Hikes	Proud Lake, Milford, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
8/28-9/8	Multi	<a href="#">100-Mile Wilderness Backpacking Trip</a>	Monson, ME	Bill Lynch	blynch@mayne-mckenney.com
9/22-28	Multi	<a href="#">Adirondack Trip</a>	Lake Placid, New York	Janet Schester	j40makayla@gmail.com
9/28-30	Wknd	<a href="#">Metamora-Hadley Fall Camping Weekend</a>	Metamora, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
10/20-27	Multi	<a href="#">Cape Hatteras Wind and Water Trip</a>	Cape Hatteras, NC	Chuck Smith	cbryansmit@gmail.com

## CLASSES

5/23, 5/30, 6/6, 6/9-10	Wed, Wknd	<a href="#">Basic Land Navigation</a>	Berkley Community Center, Waterloo Rec Area	Jeff McWilliams	jeff.mcwilliams@gmail.com
6/2	Sat	<a href="#">Pre-Paddle Kayak Lesson</a>	Proud Lake, Milford, MI	Matt Dalton	mdalton@ameritech.net
6/16	Sat	<a href="#">Bike Maintenance and Tune-up Workshop</a>	Wixom, MI	Eric Braun	ericwbraun@hotmail.com
8/16, 8/23, 9/6, 9/8, 9/13, 9/20, 9/22-23, 9/27, 10/5-7	Thur, Sat, Wknd, Multi	Fall Beginning Backpacking	TBA	Carol McCrie	cmccrie@sbcglobal.net
10/4, 10/6, 10/11, 10/13-14	Thur, Sat, Wknd	<a href="#">Advanced Land Navigation</a>	Troy, Ortonville Rec Area, Waterloo Rec Area	Jeff McWilliams	jeff.mcwilliams@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](http://www.solaroutdoors.org). To receive a copy in the mail, please contact Jennifer Tislerics at [SOLARmembership@solaroutdoors.org](mailto:SOLARmembership@solaroutdoors.org).

#### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

#### STEERING COMMITTEE

##### OFFICERS

President: Chuck Smith  
Vice President: Pete Lamb  
Secretary: Ati Tislerics  
Treasurer: Meg Braun

Activities: Heidi Tietjen

Historian: Bill Morse

Bylaws: Dick Ebenhoe

Membership: Jennifer Tislerics

Education: Eric Braun

Programs: Michael Seng

Public Relations: Hope Dixon

Equipment: Glenn Newa

Ray Editor: Bruce Coppola

Webmaster: Jim Kadlubowski

#### PRESIDENTS AT LARGE

Michael Banks | Leslie Cordova | Allen Duncan | Al Fylak | Steve Gardner | Bill Halvings  
Cindy Harrison-Felix | Tom Hayes | Joan Hettinger | Doug Lanyk | Larry Martin | Tom  
Oloffo | Lou Szakal | Cindy Taylor | Joan & Bob Westbrook

#### STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

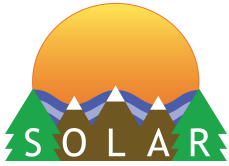
The Steering Committee meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. These meetings are usually open to the general membership. Anyone who is interested in learning about the decisions being made or contemplating running for a position on the Steering Committee is welcome to attend. If you are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

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

Karen DeCoster, 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](http://www.solaroutdoors.org) or attend one of our monthly meetings.



**SOLAR**

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