

The SOLAR Ray



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

September 2012

Visit us at www.solaroutdoors.org

The Ray Goes to the Dogs!

Bruce Coppola, Editor

Sorry if this offends any of you, but it's true: However devoted some of us may be to them, and not discounting their charms, cats seldom if ever make good outdoors companions. Have you ever seen a hiker being followed by her faithful cat? Can you even *imagine* taking a cat kayaking? Only in a nightmare!

So, this issue is devoted to a SOLARite's best friend—as long as they are properly leashed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, of course.

When was SOLAR established?



- A) 1975
- B) 1978
- C) 1981
- D) 1984

Find the answer somewhere in the Ray! *-Bill Morse, Historian*

Pint-sized, Not Always Watchful Watch Dogs

Heidi Tietjen



every doorbell that rings on the radio or television much less my front porch would be great watch dogs. Well, it turns out, not so much. Camping at Blind Lake in Pinckney

You would think two dogs (Marco, shown here, and Tilly photo on next page), that alert me to every squirrel within a three house radius, every jogger or bicyclist who ventures down our street, and

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WELCOME TO THIS NEW SOLAR MEMBER!

Ruben Bernardino

UPGRADED TO LIFETIME:

Upgrade by September 30, and apply this year's annual dues to the cost of a lifetime membership! Contact our Membership chairperson, Jennifer Tislerics, to see your name here next month.

PINT-SIZED, NOT ALWAYS WATCHFUL WATCH DOGS *continued from previous page*



Recreation Area one recent weekend, I was awakened around midnight by a bright light shining in my eyes and a pair of trousered legs about two feet from my nose. It was the park ranger inquiring after our permit, which we'd forgotten to put on the site post. Marco and Tilly didn't make a peep.

About 3:00 am I was again awakened by voices no more than 10 feet from the tent.

Neighboring campers had come over to look at the lake from our better vantage point. Not a sound from the dogs.

And to think I have always felt more secure having the dogs with me because they would warn me if anything was amiss.

Of course, when I took the dogs with me to the outhouse at about 5:15 am, they let me and everyone else know when a runner came down the trail with her black Lab. I can only hope any crazed axe murderer loose in the woods brings a dog with him.

Cinni and Zoe

Mary Donohue

Cinnamon, or "Cinni", and Zoe are both rescue dogs from Detroit. Cinni is 12 years old; Zoe is 3 years old. They are great buddies and play together all the time.

Cinnamon (on the left) belongs to Mary Donahue; Zoe (right) belongs to Don Wold.

Tyler, My Adopted Buddy

Mark Carson



I adopted Tyler about 6 months ago from the Michigan Humane Society and a week later took him on his first group hike. He behaved great! He's very friendly with people and other dogs. He does have to be in the front of the group, though, or he will try to make his way through the crowd, between everyone else's legs.

He also hasn't figured out how to go in the other direction if he goes around a tree or post and his leash gets tangled. I

once spent several minutes going around a large tree several times trying to unwind his leash, but he continued going around the tree following me. We go for at least one or two long walks in the local parks each week since. He is always excited to go and does his happy dance when he sees me getting my hiking boots out.



Adirondack Adventure

September 22-28, 2012

Organized by Janet Schester, j40makayla@gmail.com

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

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 in the \$400-\$450 range per person including all 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 at High Peaks Hostel, about 20 minutes away, for the whole week is an option. The rate will be reduced for multi-day stays; kitchen access to cook your own dinner or lunch.



Enjoying Michigan Winters

December 5, 12, 19; January 2, 9, 19-20, 23; February 1-3

Lead Instructor: Allen Duncan, aduncan85@gmail.com

Learn how to keep warm and keep your energy level up when outdoors in the winter. Learn how to build a snow shelter and work on many other practical cold weather skills that are a foundation for more adventurous activities such as mountaineering.

Beginning backpacking class or comparable experience required.

Six sessions alternate between the classroom at Schoolcraft College and in the field at Kensington Metro Park. There are two camping practicals, one in Waterloo and one in Pigeon River. The second practical includes a play day, where you can snowshoe, ski or just sit by a roaring campfire sipping hot chocolate. \$120.00 includes book and camping fees. Park permits required.

North Manitou Island Backpacking Trip

September 21-23, 2012

Organized by Heidi Tietjen, h_tietjen@yahoo.com

<http://www.meetup.com/SOLAR-Outdoors/events/77928602/>

Photo by Lars Jensen



Basic Land Navigation

October 27, November 10-11, 2012

Lead Instructor: Ati Tislerics,
atisleri@umich.edu

Topics covered:

- ♦ Map reading / Terrain visualization
- ♦ Taking & plotting compass bearings
- ♦ Navigation strategies
- ♦ 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, handouts/maps, overnight lodging at practical. Does *NOT* include: State Park permit, meals

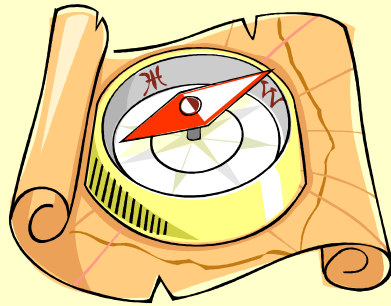
When/Where:

Saturday, October 27, 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM – River Hawk Annex, Proud Lake Recreation Area, Milford, MI

Saturday, November 10 (9 AM - 6 PM) & Sunday, November 11 (9 AM - 4 PM) - Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea, MI

Due to the cumulative nature of the material covered, no "excused absences" are possible. Students must attend all three days of class.

Prerequisites: None



Metamora-Hadley Fall Camping Trip

September 21–23, 2012

Organized by Margaret Martin, mpluscat@yahoo.com

Kid-friendly! Dog-friendly! RV-friendly!

Don't put the camping gear away, yet! Come to the Metamora/Hadley State Park Harvest Weekend for a weekend of hiking, biking, visiting cider mills, and exploring the Seven Ponds Nature Center.

Other family-oriented activities include decorating your campsite for Halloween, trick or treating, visiting a haunted house, and dressing in costumes.

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

Sunset Paddles and Pre-Paddle Hikes

Organized by Margaret Martin, mpluscat@yahoo.com

Paddlers leave from and return to Heavner's Canoe and Kayak Rental, 2775 Garden Road, Milford. Phone: (248) 685-2379. Arrive a bit early to complete waiver and payment and to select boat.

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

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. Non-paddlers welcome

Fri Aug 31 7:00 meet Labor Day weekend

Sat Sept 29 6:15 meet

Sat Oct 27 5:15 meet Season End paddle



Basic Mountaineering and Safety Skills Class

Lead Instructor: Lou Szakal, everest2008@comcast.net

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to stand on the Summit of a Mountain? Or to even know what it takes to get there? How about just advancing your Winter Camping or Snowshoe and Cross-Country Ski skills to include one to two week expeditions to places like Yellowstone or the Colorado or Canadian Rockies? Here is your chance to find out. Starting in December 2012, I will be teaching the Basic Mountaineering and Safety Skills Class to a few lucky students who are interested in devoting their time and energy to the sport of Mountaineering and Advanced Winter Adventure.

Here are some of the things you will get:

Self Arrest • Fixed Lines • Roped Travel • Running Belays • Risk Assessment • Snow Shoeing Skills • Health/Fitness Issues • Basic Mountain Skills • Avalanche Issues • Chest Harness • Camaraderie • Ice Axe Use • Leadership • Navigation • Prussiks • Fun • 2 Mountaineering Books • Technical Tool Usage • Mountain Safety • First Aid Issues • Crampon Use • 2" Binder • Nutrition • Knots • LNT • Weather • Sled Skills • Glacier Travel • Climbing Issues • Group Dynamics • Frost Bite Issues • Winter Safety Skills • Z & C Pulley System • Optional Mountain Trip • Clothing • Rappelling • Gear Issues • Effects of Cold • Reading Material • Crevasse Rescue • Expedition Planning • Environmental Ethics • 2 Weekend Practicals • Altitude Awareness • Ascending Ropes • Ropes/Webbing • Alpine Rescue • Team Building • Stewardship • Movies • Clinic • and much, much more

CLASS SCHEDULE

Location: TBD (Probably Birmingham Public Library)

6:00 – 9:00PM (SHARP)

Class 1	12/06/12	Thu.
Class 2	12/13/12	Thu.
Clinic	12/15/12	Sat.
Class 3	01/03/13	Thu.
Class 4	01/10/13	Thu.
Practical 1	01/11-13/13	Fri.-Sun.
Class 5	01/17/13	Thu.
Class 6	01/24/13	Thu.
Practical 2	01/25-27/13	Fri.-Sun

MANDATORY PREREQUISITES:

- Basic Backpacking
- Land Navigation or Adventure Race Class
- Winter Camping (aka Enjoy Michigan Winters)
- Belay Card (Rock Gym)

COSTS

\$185.00 per person

Subtract \$17 • if you own *Mountaineering • Freedom of the Hills Edition 8* by The Mountaineers

Subtract \$12 if you own *Glacier Mountaineering: An Illustrated Guide to Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue* by Andy Tyson & Mike Clelland

Courtesy Karl Overheul- (c)2004

Backpacking Trip to Zaleski State Forest

October 18-21, 2012

Organized by Heidi Tietjen, h_tietjen@yahoo.com

Did you go on the Lake Hope Labor Day trip last year and think “I’d love to see more of these trails”? Just finish the Beginning Backpacking class and want to put your new skills to use? Or perhaps you just want to get in another weekend in the woods while the weather is great.

We’re heading down to southern Ohio and its rocky trails. While the ridges top out at about 500 feet, there’s a lot of elevation change as we hike up and down the hollows and among the impressive stone outcroppings of the Appalachian foothills. We’ll be in beautiful second growth hardwood forests, passing by remnants of the area’s iron-mining past. Total trail length is 23.5 miles. Daily mileage will be between 5.5 and 7 miles (determined by campsite location), with options for short trips on spur trails.

Depart SE Michigan Wednesday evening and camp at nearby Lake Hope State Park.



Hayride and Bonfire • Family-Friendly!

Saturday, November 10, 2012 • 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Kensington Metro Park Farm Center

Organized by Leslie Cordova, lesliegene@aol.com



COST: \$15 per person. You will also need a metropark pass - \$5 daily or \$25 annual permit

INCLUDES: Hayride, bonfire, hot dogs, side salads, s’mores. Bring your own beverage.

SPECIFICS: Bonfire starts at 6:00 p.m. • Hayrides (tractor drawn) are from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm • Duration of hayride is 30-60 minutes, depending on how many people we have • We will cook over the fire, so bring roasting sticks • Alcohol is allowed at the bonfire only, *not* on the hayride • No dogs

BRING: Lawn chairs • warm clothes • jacket • blanket • family, friends, neighbors, co-workers • beverage • roasting sticks

Due to limited space on the hayrides, this trip will be limited to the first 60 people who pay.

SOLAR SEPTEMBER 2012 CALENDAR

www.SolarOutdoors.org

Winner of the August Activity Organizer Drawing: Jeff Enterkin, Sunset Paddle and Hike

Click to get the details on Meetup.com!

Click to email the organizer

SOLAR MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

8/28	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30	Shelby Township, MI	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
9/4	Tues	Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm	Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen, Southfield, MI	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program: Highlights of Holliday Nature Preserve with Phil Crookshank		Michael Seng	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
9/25	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm	TBD	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
10/2	Tues	Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm	Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen, Southfield, MI	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
10/30	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm	TBD	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
11/6	Tues	Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm	Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen, Southfield, MI	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
11/27	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm	TBD	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org

SOLAR RAY DEADLINES

9/13	Thur	October SOLAR Ray Deadline		Bruce Coppola	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org
10/18	Thur	November SOLAR Ray Deadline		Bruce Coppola	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org
11/15	Thur	December SOLAR Ray Deadline		Bruce Coppola	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org

ACTIVITIES

8/31	Fri	Sunset Paddle & Pre-Paddle Hike	Proud Lake, Milford, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
9/21-23	Wknd	Metamora-Hadley Fall Camping Weekend	Metamora, Genesee County, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
9/21-23	Wknd	North Manitou Backpacking Trip	North Manitou Island	Heidi Tietjen	h_tietjen@yahoo.com
9/22-28	Multi	Adirondack Adventure	Lake Placid, New York	Janet Schester	j40makayla@gmail.com
9/29	Sat	Sunset Paddle & Pre-Paddle Hike	Proud Lake, Milford, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
10/18-21	Multi	Zaleski State Forest Backpacking Trip	Nelsonville, OH	Heidi Tietjen	h_tietjen@yahoo.com
10/27	Sat	Sunset Paddle & Pre-Paddle Hike	Proud Lake, Milford, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
11/10	Sat	Hayride and Bonfire	Kensington Metropark Farm Center	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com

CLASSES

10/4, 10/6, 10/11, 10/13-14	Thur, Sat, Wknd	Advanced Land Navigation	Troy, Ortonville Rec Area, Waterloo Rec Area	Jeff McWilliams	jeff.mcwilliams@gmail.com
10/27, 11/10-11	Sat, Wknd	Basic Land Navigation	Proud Lake Rec Area, Waterloo Rec Area	Ati Tislerics	atisleri@med.umich.edu
12/5, 12/12, 12/19, 1/2, 1/9, 1/19-20, 1/23, 2/1-3	Wed, Wknd,	Enjoying Michigan Winters	Schoolcraft College, Kensington Metro Park, Waterloo Rec Area, Pigeon River	Allen Duncan	aduncan85@gmail.com
12/6, 12/13, 12/15, 1/3, 1/10, 1/11-13, 1/17, 1/24, 1/25-27	Thur, Sat, Wknd	Basic Mountaineering and Safety Skills	TBD but probably Birmingham Community Center, Nordhouse Dunes	Lou Szakal	everest2008@comcast.net

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

It's easy to get involved! If you'd like to lead or suggest a class, contact Eric Braun, solareducation@solaroutdoors.org. If you'd like to organize a trip or activity, contact Heidi Tietjen, solaractivities@solaroutdoors.org. If you have an idea for a program at one of our monthly meetings, contact Michael Seng, solarprograms@solaroutdoors.org.

SOLAR STEERING COMMITTEE OFFICERS

President: Chuck Smith
Vice President: Pete Lamb
Secretary: Ati Tislerics
Treasurer: Meg Braun
Activities: Heidi Tietjen
Bylaws: Dick Ebenhoe
Education: Eric Braun
Equipment: Glenn Newa
Historian: Bill Morse
Membership: Jennifer Tislerics
Programs: Michael Seng
Public Relations: Hope Dixon
Ray Editor: Bruce Coppola
Webmaster: Jim Kadlubowski

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.

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 and to check the calendar for spur-of-the-moment, cultural, or social events. 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.



SOLAR

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Visit our website at www.solaroutdoors.org