

A PAGE FROM OUR PAST: THE HISTORY OF SOLAR

BY PEG CAMPBELL

When SOLAR celebrated its 30th anniversary, Carol McCrie created a 15-page historical document in which I wrote about the beginning of SOLAR. Here is a shortened version of that story which resides on the website. - Peg Campbell

In 1974 I read a newspaper article that the MSU Extension Office was recruiting 4H Leaders for their Challenge Program to train adults to lead young people in outdoor activities that were both physically and mentally stressful. Through Challenge, participants learned rock-climbing, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, outdoor survival and safety skills. Adults receiving the training were expected to work with young people in the 4H Challenge Program. I attended the 16-week Leader Training Course taught by Doug Maddox and Bill Halvangis. When the program ended I agreed to help train a second group of leaders.

Although 4H stopped the training program in Wayne County, friendships were forged in that short time and several participants started a club to continue their outdoor adventures together. They became the first steering committee and established the club structure, adopting the name SOLAR in 1975 and establishing by-laws one year later. They approached Livonia Parks and Recreation (LP&R) about offering classes through the organization. LP&R advertised our classes in their catalog, and provided classrooms and meeting space. Our tie to LP&R was discontinued after a few years because of budget cuts. There was also a period of time in the early 80s when SOLAR was a subgroup of AYH (American Youth Hostels). As the club grew and a larger monthly meeting space was needed, Bob Westbrook and Bill Halvangis shopped and found Aries Colony Hall, where we still hold monthly meetings.

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WELCOME TO THESE NEW SOLAR MEMBERS!

John Bailey • Michelle Haag • Frances Rosinski • Kari West

UPGRADED TO LIFETIME:

Erin Camargo

See important membership news on page 2!

A PAGE FROM OUR PAST

continued from previous page

In the early years some of the classes SOLAR members offered were different from what they are now. They included Nature Study, Fishing, High Ropes, and Windsurfing. However, many early classes have stood the test of time and include Beginning Backpacking, Enjoying Michigan Winters, Wilderness First Aid, and Cross Country Skiing. They have been taught almost every year since SOLAR began.

New classes have been added over the years to accommodate new members and new interests. Some classes that have been offered at various times include Intermediate and Advanced Backpacking, Search and Rescue, Mountaineering, SCUBA, Introduction to Car Camping, Adventure Racing, Canoe Paddling, Tree Identification, Gardening, Mountain Biking, and Women in the Woods.

From the beginning SOLAR classes have been taught by volunteers who want to share their knowledge and experience. SOLAR also provides a forum where members can organize trips and activities and invite other members to join them. Since we are a volunteer organization, our knowledge, interests, and adventures are as diverse as our members. There have been more trips and activities than I could possibly mention, from dog sledding, backpacking, caving, white water rafting, bicycling, and travel to places like Costa Rica, Tuscany, San Juan, and Tibet. Special mention should go to Leslie Cordova, who remarkably has led more than 60 activities to date (*Ed note: probably many more than that since this was written!*).

So, what is SOLAR today? SOLAR is made up of approximately 460 individuals with a passion for the outdoors and a willingness to share their skills in a structured volunteer organization. Most importantly, members learn to communicate with other group members to plan, organize and conduct their own activities in the outdoors with skills necessary to deal with stressful situations that may occur in any setting in their lives.

Membership Reminders

Jennifer Tislerics, Membership Chair

A reminder to all Lifetime Members: We're required to sign the SOLAR waiver annually. For your convenience, it is located on the club's membership application (www.solaroutdoors.org/Downloads/Solar_Membership_Application.pdf). You may fill out the form, sign and date it, and email a copy to SOLARmembership@SOLARoutdoors.org. I also have copies available at the monthly meeting.

A reminder to all Annual Members: Most annual memberships ended on December 31, and need to be renewed for 2013. You can fill out a membership application and submit your membership dues at the monthly meeting, or you can mail them to the address on the bottom of page 1 on the application (www.solaroutdoors.org/Downloads/Solar_Membership_Application.pdf). The exceptions to this rule are 1) if you joined SOLAR for the first time in August or September and took the basic backpacking or land navigation classes, or 2) if you joined the club on or after October 1, then your membership extends through the end of 2013.

Lifetime Membership Dues: As was mentioned at the January membership meeting, the cost of Lifetime Membership dues will rise on June 1. The Individual Lifetime Membership (currently \$175) will be raised to \$240, and the Family Lifetime Membership (currently \$250) will be raised to \$330. These new rates are equivalent to 6 years of annual memberships, still a great deal compared to other clubs we looked at. You may use the annual dues you paid for 2013 toward the cost of a Lifetime Membership upgrade.

The 1st Annual
SOLAR Ray
Swimsuit Issue!
Coming this April!
Send your pictures now!
to: SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org

Enjoying Michigan Winters Class Meets Their Waterloo

Photos by Bruce Coppola and Jeff Enterkin

Scenes from the first
practical at
Waterloo Rec Area



Square Dancing! Egg Decorating! Potluck!

We know it will be a walloping good time!

Saturday, March 9, from 4:00 pm

Contact: Margaret Martin, mpluscat@yahoo.com

Ukrainian Egg Decorating with Eliza Fedyk: 4:00-6:00 pm*

Potluck Supper: 6:00-7:00 pm

Square Dance: 7:00-9:30 pm

Who: All are welcome. Family friendly.

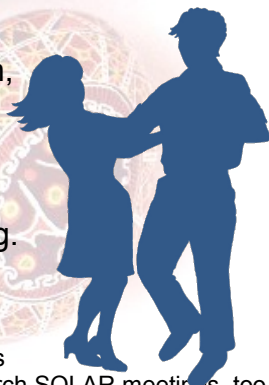
Where: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,
27475 5 Mile Rd, Livonia, MI

Cost: \$12/adult; \$5/child age 3+;
free/child age 2 and under; family/\$30

Please sign up by the March 5 meeting.

Co-organizers: Margaret Martin and
Bob and Joan Westbrook.

*Egg decorating supplies provided. Blown out eggs
needed. Eggs can be brought to February and March SOLAR meetings, too.



VASA Cross-Country Ski Trip

February 8-10

Organized by Jeff Zabel, jzabel@twmi.rr.com

Join us for the VASA ski race in beautiful Traverse City on February 9. The race course is groomed for Classic and Freestyle skiing. The 27K and 50K races are timed and you can be awarded ribbons if you are the fastest skier in your age category. Racers will be assigned different start times with faster skiers starting earlier. First time participants will be assigned to a later start time. There is also a 12K race. To register online:

www.vasa.org.

We will be staying at the Timber Ridge Resort, adjacent to the VASA trail. The heated cottage sleeps six people, has electricity, a kitchenette with utensils and a refrigerator. **\$40 deposit required. The cost of \$238.00 will be divided equally among everyone staying in the cottage.** There is no refund for the cottage or ski race registration. If we don't have snow, we will tour the nearby wineries, go hiking, or find something else fun to do. Non-racers welcome!



2013 Basic Backpacking

Begins in August! Signup begins in June. Look for more info in future issues of The SOLAR Ray, on the Yahoo! group, and on Meetup. Led by Carol McCririe, Leslie Cordova, and Glenn Schultz, with the help of numerous experienced instructors.



Learn to Ice Climb - February 10, 2:00 pm

12326 Foley Rd, Fenton, MI

Organized by Jeff Enterkin, jente69690@aol.com

Peabody Ice Climbing Club is a man-made ice climbing venue. Two towers, 45 and 72ft tall, are iced over in the winter to offer a place for experienced ice climbers to train and those new to the sport a place to learn. No climbing experience is necessary.

All specialized gear is provided, dress for the weather. A warming barn is available. Instruction and gear fitting will take about an hour, then we will have about 3 hours to climb to our hearts' content. We will be finishing up after dusk under the lights.

\$40 per person covers all costs including hot drinks and light snack. Feel free to bring your own food or non-alcoholic beverages. Climbers should be at least 16 years old, but spectators of any age are welcome.

Peabody needs to know your boot size ahead of time in order to have the right equipment available for everyone. Let me know when you sign up.

Limited to 14 participants. RSVPs close at midnight Wednesday, February 6. This event is only open to SOLAR members. For convenience, the +1 guest option is available, but only use this for another member.

ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

February 5 SOLAR Meeting

Contact Kirsten Cook, Programs Chair, solarprograms@solaroutdoors.org

It's for SOLAR amateur photographers to brag about their trips and show off their stuff. Dig out those photos taken from January – December, 2012 and enter them into this year's photo contest.

Categories



- Action
- Animals
- Black & White
- Digitally Enhanced Scenery
- Digitally Enhanced Other
- Best Overall
- Humor
- People
- Plants/Flowers
- Photo-Pro
- Scenery

Official Rules

- You must be a SOLAR member to enter the photo contest.
- Photos must have been taken between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012.
- Standard photos must be no larger than 8x10 and panoramic no larger than 8x18.
- Mats on photos should be no larger than 11x14 on standard photos and 11x21 on panoramic photos.
- Photos must have been taken by the person entering them.
- Only one photo entry per person per category and only eight entries per person overall are allowed.
- The categories of "digitally enhanced" will include photos that have been cut and pasted, radically exposure or color changed, "stitched," or developed in a dark room using "dodge & burn."
- Photos will be voted on by SOLAR members who attend the February 5, 2013 meeting and winners will be announced that night.
- Prizes will be awarded to the first place winner in each category and to the Best Overall.
- Photo-Pro: Past winners of the Best Overall award are in the Photo Pro category and not eligible for the Best Overall award.

~~Come to the Islands, Mon~~ ^{Buddy}

Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-27

Organized by Heidi Tietjen, h_tietjen@yahoo.com

The Lake Erie Islands, that is! Just a 2-hour drive, 18-minute ferry ride, and 10 minute bike ride from Southfield, we'll use South Bass State Park as our base for bicycling, kayaking, parasailing, winery tours, day trips to Kelleys and Middle Bass Islands, sailing, hiking, soaking up a little War of 1812 history, golfing, putt-putting, stand-up paddleboarding, bar hopping in Put-In-Bay Village, or just relaxing by the water. Most of our travel will be by bicycle, by far the best way to get around; bring your own or rent one on the island.

\$30 per person for individuals or couples. Families with children in the same tent, \$80. Price includes camping spot, firewood, and brats, burgers, or hotdogs for the Friday night potluck. *We have 4 campsites. Per park regulations, we are only allowed two tents and six people per site, so tent-sharing (2 people/tent) will probably be necessary. Transportation, gear transport, and activities are extra.*

Some activities, such as parasailing, sailboat tour, or sea kayak tour will have advance sign up. The ferry from/to Port Clinton, OH is \$14.00 round trip. Children 6-11 are \$3.00, and kids under 6 are free. Bikes are \$4. Cars are \$42. Call Miller Ferry Co. (800-500-2421) to ask about kayak transport if you plan to bring your own. We are limited to one car per each of our four campsites so car use will need to be discussed. Golf cart rental is also available and might be able to be used for equipment transport.



**American
Red Cross**

American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED

Saturday, February 16, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Course Fee \$70.00

Instructor: Tom Black, tblack@cityofsouthfield.com

Would you know what to do in a cardiac, breathing, or first aid emergency? The right training helps you recognize an emergency and how to prioritize care for injuries and sudden illnesses.

With an emphasis on hands-on learning, this first aid/CPR/AED course covers the following:

- Cardiac Emergencies
- Breathing Emergencies
- Environmental Emergencies
- Anaphylaxis and Epinephrine Auto-Injector
- CPR and how to use an AED
- Injuries to Muscles, Bones and Joints
- Soft Tissue Emergencies
- Using a Tourniquet

The **\$70 course fee** includes a First Aid/CPR/AED Manual, First Aid/CPR/AED Ready Reference Cards and a two year American Red Cross certificate.

Class to be held at City of Southfield Parks and Recreation Building, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield, MI.

Winter Fun Day

Proud Lake River Hawk Annex

Park Headquarters Rd, Milford, MI

February 23, 2:00 - 9:00 pm

Organized by Bill Morse, billc095@yahoo.com

We'll hike and, if Mother Nature permits, cross-country ski during the afternoon. You can warm up inside so bring cards or games.

Bring a dish to pass for a potluck dinner. We'll hike under an almost-full-moon after dinner.

The Annex will stay open till the last person leaves or 9 pm, whichever comes first. Donation for lodge appreciated. Friends welcome!

Birds Do It, Bees Do It, Even Fireflies Do It! Trip to Great Smoky Mountain National Park

Gatlinburg, Tennessee

June 2-7

Organized by Mary Dunn, mjd70bc@msn.com

Every summer, for two weeks in June, thousands of fireflies flash in waves and in unison – to find the love of their lives. This is the only such display in the Western Hemisphere. Displays are depend on the weather. In addition to viewing the fireflies, trip participants can hike, ride horses, fish, view wildlife, and attend park interpretive programs.

Camping fees of \$27 per person is based on 12 people total at 3 reserved campsites. If fewer than 12, participants will need to kick in extra money to pay the difference. Transportation, meals and fees for any attractions are up to participants.

Winter Pack and Camp Trip

February 21-24

Organized by Bruce Coppola, bcoppola1@comcast.net

Put those Enjoying Michigan Winters skills to use on this late season trip. We'll take advantage of the (slightly) longer days to enjoy the special joys of winter in Michigan.

We'll depart for our destination on Thursday afternoon, then snowshoe and camp Friday through Sunday. Destination depends on snow and a group decision.

This outing is for EMW "graduates" and experienced winter campers only. You must own or have access to snowshoes (suitable for supporting your weight plus gear) and a winter sleeping bag. Both can be checked out of the SOLAR gear library. Having a properly rigged sled for equipment is a plus.

RSVP by Thursday Feb. 14. Group limited to 8. We will meet on the Friday or Saturday before the trip to finalize plans.

SOLAR JANUARY 2013 CALENDAR

www.SolarOutdoors.org

Click to get the details on Meetup.com!

Click names to send email!

SOLAR MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

2/5	Tues	Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm	Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen, Southfield, MI	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program: Annual Photo Contest		Kirsten Cook	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
2/26	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm	Macomb, MI	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
3/5	Tues	Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm	Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen, Southfield, MI	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program: Hiking the 100 Mile Wilderness		Kirsten Cook	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
3/26	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm	Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen, Southfield, MI	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
4/2	Tues	Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm	Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen, Southfield, MI	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program: Storms: The Forecast and the Chase		Kirsten Cook	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
4/30	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm	TBD	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org

SOLAR RAY DEADLINES

2/14	Thur	March SOLAR Ray Deadline		Bruce Coppola	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org
3/14	Thur	April SOLAR Ray Deadline		Bruce Coppola	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org
4/18	Thur	May SOLAR Ray Deadline		Bruce Coppola	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org

ACTIVITIES

On-going	Various	Stair Climbing with the SOLAR Stair Stars	Detroit, Rochester, other locations	Mary Donahue	mldonahue824@gmail.com
2/1-2/3	Wknd	Hartwick Pines Cabin Weekend	Grayling, MI	Howard Weiss	howardweiss01@yahoo.com
2/6	Wed	Chinese New Year Dinner	Garden City, MI	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
2/8-10	Wknd	VASA Cross-Country Ski Trip	Traverse City area	Jeff Zabel	jzabel@twmi.rr.com
2/21-24	Wknd	Winter Pack and Camp Trip	Somewhere snowy!	Bruce Coppola	bcoppola1@comcast.net
2/23	Sat	Winter Fun Day	Proud Lake Rec Area	Bill Morse	billc095@yahoo.com
2/24-2/27	Multi	Lake Ann Trip Two w/GM Ski Club	Lake Ann, MI	Darrell Ahlberg	dahlberg7@comcast.net
3/9	Sat	Square Dance / Potluck / Egg Decorating	Livonia, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
5/24-27	Wknd	Lake Erie Island Camping Trip	South Bass Island, OH	Heidi Tietjen	h_tietjen@yahoo.com
6/2-6/7	Multi	Firefly Viewing Trip to Great Smoky Mountain National Park	Gatlinburg, TN	Mary Dunn	mjd70bc@msn.com
9/21-28, 2013	Multi	Adirondack Fall Hiking Trip	Lake Placid, NY	Janet Schester	j40makayla@gmail.com

CLASSES

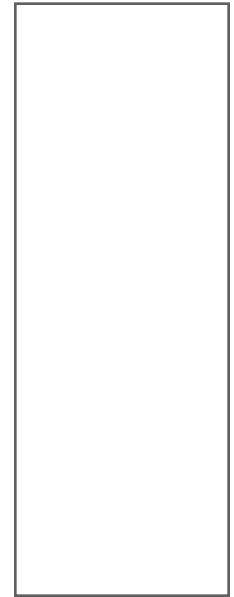
2/10	Sun	Ice Climbing for Beginners	Fenton, MI	Jeff Enterkin	jente69690@aol.com
2/16	Sat	American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED	Southfield, MI	Tom Black	tblack@cityofsouthfield.com

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

The next SOLAR Ray article submission deadline is **Thursday, Feb. 14**

So after you get the flowers, candy, and champagne taken care of for that Special Someone, show your Editor some love too! Send your thrilling accounts of adventure (or misadventure), photos (high-res JPG), recipes, hard-won knowledge, gear & gadgets you love or hate, poems, doggerel, humor, tall tales and outright lies to:

SolarRayEditor@SOLARoutdoors.org



The 1st Annual
SOLAR Ray
Swimsuit Issue!
Coming this April!
Send your pictures now!
to: SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org



SOLAR

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Visit our website at www.solaroutdoors.org