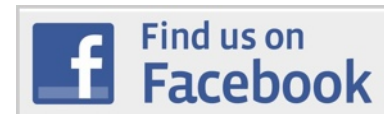


The SOLAR Ray



facebook.com/SOLARoutdoors

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

March 2013

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Enjoying Michigan Winters: **Everything's A #@\$%&*! Process!**

Kirsten Cook

I decided to write the Enjoying Michigan Winters piece, because I am still feeling a twinge of guilt over my less than stellar endorsement of the class at the February meeting. So while I will admit that winter camping may not be for me (notice the use of the word may) I'd still recommend taking the class for countless reasons.

First and foremost let me mention the instructors. What an amazing group! As a matter of fact, I'm sending a shout-out to all of the SOLAR instructors who volunteer their time and countless hours of service in order to share their wealth of knowledge and expertise so that others can learn and have experiences they might not otherwise endeavor to try. They are the main reason I would probably try winter camping again. Who wants to let their teacher down? (Disclaimer: I'm a teacher). Plus, as a direct result of their instruction, I have so many tricks up my sleeve for enjoying the winter outdoors I'm thinking I'll need a

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This Ski Class Is Rated

Nuala Crotty

XC

Last Fall four of the original founding members of SOLAR, Bill Halvangis, Cecil Moix, and Peggy and Ron Campbell, showed up at a SOLAR meeting. As old friends tend to do they started reminiscing. Surprised by the absence on the class list of a cross country ski class, something that had been one of the pillar activities when they were active members, they said to each other "Hey, why don't we...?" By the next meeting the idea had become a reality.

The first part of the class was a formal sit down session at the Universalist Unitarian Church in Farmington. 18 SOLAR members attended. Topics covered introduced the participants to the fundamental principles of classic/diagonal ski technique, with the aid of a video of Olympic-level skiers. There was a ski wax demonstration and discussion about the advantages of wax versus waxless skis. Equipment and clothing, safety, etiquette and conditioning were also discussed. Both

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WELCOME TO THESE NEW SOLAR MEMBERS!

John Bortell
James Gomori

UPGRADED TO LIFETIME:

Beth Flannery
Jim Lemire

Everything's A #@\$\$%&*! Process! *continued from previous page*

second go-round to tweak and adjust my skills, experiment with different gear and just plain correct some of the mistakes I made during round one.

Secondly, we picked up some mad skills. Want to sleep under a tarp, tie some cool knots, pack a sled for winter hiking, find great deals on outdoor gear, winter hike and snowshoe, stay warm in sub-freezing weather or sleep in a quinzee? The Enjoying Michigan Winters class has your back.



(SHHH... don't tell the guys, but we also learned some panty warmer tricks. The ladies will know what I'm talking about here, but if you're curious just ask me.) Most importantly, I know how to handle myself the next time the temperature drops, the wind kicks up or my shelter disintegrates before my eyes. I have the knowledge to help those around me and the confidence to tackle trips I might have been hesitant about in the past. All around I am just a better equipped outdoors person.

Finally, you'll make great connections with other SOLAR members and start to build lasting friendships. Those friendships might lead to future social gatherings and trips with people whose company you enjoy, people you can depend on in the woods or when things get tough. Some of us in the 2012-2013 class are already thinking "reunion trip". Of course, I might be hoping for a spring trip this time out. Still need more convincing to give the Enjoying Michigan Winters class a try? Here's the skinny on the 2012-2013 EMW class.

There were eight of us, students that is: Amanda Rosales, Jeff Enterkin, Inna Serkh, Mark Rhoades, Mike Taylor, Kirsten Cook, Mike Kapusky and Adrienne Bokatzian. Classes started in early December and ran intermittently through the end of January. They were informative: we honed our skills, tested our resolve during the night class at Kensington and most importantly boosted our confidence. We were ready to tackle the first practical at Waterloo Recreation Area. Looking back on it now, most of us would agree Waterloo was a cake walk. We made the hike into camp in record time. The lack of snow and overall great weather contributed to the success of the morning. Heck, we arrived before the soup was ready! We spent the remainder of the afternoon on the architectural tarp tour, building tarps for shelter and learning the tricks of the trade to sled packing. I think the challenge of the day was building tarps without tent stakes. Bruce's earlier knot sessions came in really handy during that little foray into winter camping. I don't think I knew what a ghost knot was let alone how to tie one, but tie one I did at Waterloo. Jeff, Inna and Amanda went for the cozy, low to the ground tarp design. We were jealous since they were able to incorporate the use of hiking poles into their design. It looked so professional. Mike, Mark, Adrienne and I went for a traditional looking design: triangular and aerodynamic. Later that evening around the fire Adrienne was awarded the "find of the week" prize. She was sporting the \$7.00 Land's End down jacket she scored at a local thrift shop and she looked pretty warm.

When we headed to bed on Saturday night the temperature was a balmy 42 degrees. As the night progressed, the winds kicked up to 40 mph and the temperature dropped a good 30 degrees by morning. I didn't hear too many complaints from the group. From what I understand Jeff survived the wind tunnel that developed in their tarp design as the night progressed and Adrienne endured our mishap when one of our ghost knots ripped free of the tarp. She woke a bit chilled to find the tarp resting on her sleeping bag. I almost hate to admit it, but I was warm through the night and slept very well.

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Everything's A #@\$\$%&*! Process! *continued from previous page*

Little did I know at the time, but we were headed for a challenge: the final practical.

The entire group made it to Gaylord for the pre-winter camping festivities on Thursday night. While some of us went for dinner and drinks at the local Mexican restaurant, others opted for the hot-tub and pool option. Friday morning we were off to breakfast at the Sugar Bowl, where we were joined by our third party of winter campers. Soon we headed to the equipment staging area and trailhead. I expected the gathering of gear and pre-hike preparation to take much longer than it did; however, we were on the trail by 10:30.

The hike itself proved to be much slower going than expected. We encountered downed trees and many of our sleds were caught up or snagged on protruding branches, but we made it and the hike was basically uneventful. I enjoyed snow shoeing and I'm proud to say that between my pack and sled I transported all of the gear I used on the trip myself. No extra duffels in the truck for me and no complaints up to this point. The weather was manageable and the scenery



Quinzhee neighbors

breathtaking. Coming up over the ridge and spotting the campfire below was a happy moment. Upon arriving in camp we were treated to hot soup, scouted out our quinzhee sites and set to work. The decision was made to build two two-person quinzhees and one three person quinzhee. All three of the sites were nestled along the Pigeon River. Amanda and I, Mark and Mike constructed the neighboring two-person quinzhees and were the first to get started with snow piling. Jeff, Inna and Adrienne were charged with building the three person quinzhee. Everyone from instructors to fellow classmates helped with the work. I think we were having a bit more fun



Mike and Mark's deluxe quinzhee interior

tha we should have. Amanda and I took a short break and ate dinner before lending Mike and Mark a hand on their quinzhee. Now it was time to let them "cook" for a few hours. During that time we enjoyed the company of others around the campfire, but had to endure, as I'm sure everyone would agree, the toxic smoke of the fire. It burned the eyes and the throat and...but I digress, back to accentuating the positive. Finally, we began the task of digging out. It was slow going at first and I was reluctant to inch my way into the small opening. Earlier qualms regarding claustrophobia and sleeping in the quinzhee faded the further we dug into our mound. Finally, we began to reach the metal tips of our marker flags and the task at hand was nearing an end. Thankfully our rear guard piled up the discarded snow and created wind blocks for our entrance. We passed final inspection around 10:30 and although Craig suggested we build sleeping platforms, we were done, spent, energy exhausted. Besides, this enabled Amanda and me to squish in close and avoid the snowy sides of the quinzhee. Mike and Mark did manage sleeping platforms and their interior looked pretty cool. Not only were all three quinzhees complete they were stylish as well. Festive decorations adorned the outside of the humble abodes: Mark broke out the backpacking camping lights and Adrienne framed their door with red hearts.

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Everything's A #@%&*! Process!

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Heading into the first night I think we were all pretty confident. However, our challenges began soon after we settled into the quinzhee for the night. Amanda and I found we could not shake the cold. Whether it was from exhaustion, a bit of dehydration or hunger - the shivers and night air were a torment. We knew we had to get up and make some changes. We were reluctant, because as you may or may not know, everything is a #@%&*! process when winter camping. Getting dressed and out of that quinzhee in the cold dark night was going to be a chore. We figured the effort would be worth the result since we knew exactly what to do to warm ourselves and get through the night comfortably (Thanks EMW instructors). We went for a walk to warm up, scouted for extra gear, ate, drank hot water from our Nalgene bottles (yes, hot water), added extra layers and prayed to the Goddesses (at least I did anyway). By the time we were ready to return to the quinzhee it must have been well past 1:00 AM. And then we slept. Around 8:00 AM Allen checked to make sure we had survived the night. After he heard of our late night saga he and George graciously re-warmed our Nalgene bottles and we continued to sleep well into Saturday afternoon. Our neighbors Mike and Mark seemed to fare pretty well that first night and we heard no complaints about cold from them. As for the team in the three person quinzhee, I think Adrienne might have joined us on our late night excursion for extra gear and a warmer night had she known there were others suffering a similar fate. There is definitely strength in numbers, which helped Amanda and I get the ball rolling on our late night quest for warmth. We were in it together. There's nothing like a cold night in a quinzhee to make two people go from acquaintances to fast friends. We assured each other we had checked winter camping off the list (done and done!) and promised to remind the other of our first night in a quinzhee together if either of us ever mentions a winter trip.

Saturday was a beautiful day. Some headed out for an afternoon of cross-country skiing; others hiked, napped, or chatted around the campfire. I stole a few minutes away from everyone to reorganize my gear while enjoying the afternoon sun and the solitude of our camp site

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THIS SKI CLASS IS RATED

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experienced and novice/wannabe skiers attended.

The second part of the class was two practicals planned for Huron Meadow Metropark. Unfortunately these never took place because of a lack of snow.

The ten class participants who travelled to Roscommon the weekend of January 25-27 for the third part of the class were amply compensated for their effort. Six travelled up on Friday night and, with the four instructors and about six others, stayed at the Ralph McMullen Conference Center, a state-run facility which provides bed and board for organized groups in Michigan. We stayed in a chalet called "Lake Superior", which consisted of multiple two-twin-bed bedrooms, a shared bathroom each for men and women, and a central living room-type space. On the Friday evening we met in the living room area to socialize and plan for the day ahead. Peggy produced a humongous bag of popcorn that was to make regular appearances throughout the weekend.

The next morning (Saturday) we got started with a buffet breakfast before heading out to start class on the overflow car park across from the Center. The conditions could not have been more perfect - 3-5" of fresh snow had fallen the day before, temps of about 23 degrees, and a mostly blue sky. The instructors put us through our paces practicing diagonal skiing, turning, double pole, double pole kick, falling and getting back up on one's skis, and - not to forget - "PMI" (positive mental attitude). For me, a wannabe skier, one of the highlights of this session (though I admitted not to anyone) was falling on the fresh soft snow, a skill that I was to practice again and again throughout the weekend...

After lunch we drove the four or so miles to the Cross Country Ski Headquarters where we were joined by four other class participants and Mary Dunn, instructor, all of whom who had driven up from Metro Detroit that morning. K.D. Parraghi, another member from SOLAR's

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Everything's A #@%&*! Process!

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along the Pigeon River. That afternoon it occurred to me that during the summer months our site would be heavily sought after and camp in general would be more crowded in warmer weather. I tried to make a better effort to notice these brief glimpses of calm and beauty hoping I would begin to appreciate winter camping a bit more. The afternoon



The author models her Calvin

hike helped, as did the evening hike, star gazing and the chorus of coyotes; but when the temperature dropped to one degree just before seven I couldn't help wondering what the hell I was doing out there. Adrienne, Amanda and I secured extra sleeping bags and braced ourselves for the cold night ahead. The extra gear helped, as did the advice we took from our teammates to block the entrance to our quinzhee with a tarp. All in all the second night in the quinzhee was fine. I was warm through the night for sure. We'd made it. We stayed at the site for breakfast and all that was left of the weekend was to pack up camp and hike out. That proved to be the easy part. Certificates in hand we headed off for the final

communal meal of the trip where we reveled in our accomplishment and soaked in the accolades of our instructors.

Will I winter camp again? I guess it might be too soon to say. Yes, everything was a #@%&*! process: changing, crawling out of the quinzhee for a late night bathroom run, brushing your teeth, tying your shoes and at times just plain getting to your water. But, I can tell you

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THIS SKI CLASS IS RATED **XC**

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earlier days, also showed up to help out. After the newcomers had their introductory class we practiced skiing down a small slope and then skied a couple of the trails to practice our skills. Trails were a little less groomed and more short on snow in places than the more experienced among us would have liked but nonetheless we enjoyed ourselves. We then headed back to the RAM Center for rest, clean up and dinner. In the evening we gathered across the dining hall in a large gathering space, sat around a fire, debriefed, shared snacks and stories, ate popcorn (of course), and discussed the pros and cons of different trail options for the following morning. Some headed out later for a walk under the full moon.

Sunday morning, after breakfast and packing up, the group drove less than a mile to trails on the RAM Center grounds. The trails were less well groomed than those at Cross Country Headquarters the day before but had more snow coverage and a greater variety of terrain—with multiple small slopes and turns—giving us many opportunities to practice skills we had learnt the day before. People spent two to three hours on the snow before reconvening in the car park to say goodbye to new friends and old. We talked about doing it again next year. May it snow, may it snow...



The 1st Annual
SOLAR Ray

Swimsuit Issue!

Coming this April!

Send your pictures now!
to: SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org

Everything's A #@%&*! Process!

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Scenes like this make it all worthwhile

this: sparkly lip gloss freezes, Burt's Bees Lip Balm does not; Calvin Klein Down coats make great extra layers; Swarovski glove liners work; you can get two Nalgene bottles of boiling water out of a Jetboil in below freezing temperatures; TJ Maxx has great deals on winter gear (Isn't there a saying about not being able to take the

shopping out of the girl?), two sleeping bags are better than one - three are a girl's dream come true, and winter camping was an experience and an achievement I won't soon forget. Besides, I survived and you know what they say: What doesn't kill you will only make you stronger.

PS: Within a week of this writing Amanda and I were already hashing over ways to improve our next winter camping excursion. Look out EMW Class of 2014, here we come!

Wanted: Alive! POSITIVE TEAM PLAYERS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOLAR

...by running for one of the 14 positions on the SOLAR Steering Committee.

On Tuesday, May 7, 2013, SOLAR will hold its annual Steering Committee elections. By voting in the election, and especially by running for one of the Steering Committee positions, you can give back to the club and have a say in the direction SOLAR is moving. All currently paid members are eligible to run and vote. No experience is necessary - just a willingness to work with others to make SOLAR the best outdoor club it can be.

SOLAR is a loosely formed volunteer organization made up of people who enjoy the outdoors. SOLAR Steering Committee members are volunteers who give their personal time to participate in a larger way for the good of the club. SOLAR is what our members make it.

In addition to the monthly membership meetings, the Steering Committee holds a business meeting at 7:30 on the last Tuesday of each month. The meetings are hosted by Steering Committee members, so the location changes each month. In a club made up of people who love to travel and have adventures, it is understood that Steering Committee members may not be able to attend every meeting. However, it is important that members attend as many meetings as possible.

All positions are considered open until voting concludes on May 7. The Steering Committee is comprised of the following positions:

President - Presides at General Membership and Steering Committee meetings.

Vice President - Assists President and stands in for him/her when necessary.

Secretary - Informs members of General Membership and Steering Committee meetings, records the minutes of Steering Committee

Continued on next page

WANTED:ALIVE! *continued from previous page*

meetings, makes required reports, carries out necessary correspondence.

Treasurer - Has custody of SOLAR funds, processes bank deposits and expense reimbursements, provides the Steering Committee with an accounting of income and expenditures at monthly meetings.

Activities Chairperson - Promotes activities in keeping with the purpose of SOLAR; maintains and revises Activities Guidelines; provides assistance to SOLAR members who organize and/or promote Activities.

Bylaws Chairperson - Ensures that SOLAR actions and activities are consistent with the Bylaws; recommends changes to the Bylaws to meet changing needs; advises the Steering Committee on matters of parliamentary procedure.

Education Chairperson - Coordinates and promotes educational programs offered through SOLAR; develops and maintains related guidelines; assists and supports members who develop, instruct, organize and/or promote these programs and explore new areas that may be of interest to members of SOLAR.

Equipment Chairperson - Establishes guidelines for the loaning and use of all SOLAR property; maintains inventories; monitors the condition, and oversees the storage, maintenance and procurement of SOLAR property.

Historian - Compiles records of SOLAR activities (written, photographs, etc.) to document SOLAR's success in fulfilling its mission.

Membership Chairperson - Strengthens and expands the membership of SOLAR; maintains membership records and mailing lists; provides new members with information about SOLAR.

Programs Chairperson - Arranges, develops, and assists in carrying out the programs presented at the general membership meetings.

Public Relations Chairperson - Promotes SOLAR activities and organizes and publishes other materials for the good of SOLAR.

SOLAR Ray Editor (a.k.a. Communications Committee Chairperson) - Organizes and publishes the SOLAR Ray newsletter; ensures that all official SOLAR communications are consistent with club policies.

Webmaster - Maintains SOLAR's online presence through the website, Meetup and Facebook.

If you would like more information about a specific Steering Committee position, please feel free to contact the current holder of that position, or any Steering Committee member:

- **President:** Chuck Smith, SOLARPresident@solaroutdoors.org
- **Vice President:** Pete Lamb, SOLARVicePresident@solaroutdoors.org
- **Secretary:** Ati Tislerics, SOLARSecretary@solaroutdoors.org
- **Treasurer:** Meg Braun, SOLARTreasurer@solaroutdoors.org
- **Activities Chair:** Heidi Tietjen, SOLARActivities@solaroutdoors.org
- **Bylaws Chair:** Dick Ebenhoe, SOLARBylaws@solaroutdoors.org
- **Education Chair:** Eric Braun, SOLAREducation@solaroutdoors.org
- **Equipment Chair:** Glenn Newa, SOLAREquipment@solaroutdoors.org
- **Historian:** Bill Morse, SOLARHistorian@solaroutdoors.org
- **Membership Chair:** Jennifer Tislerics, SOLARMembership@solaroutdoors.org
- **Programs Chair:** Kirsten Cook, SOLARPrograms@solaroutdoors.org
- **PR Chair:** Hope Dixon, SOLARPublicRelations@solaroutdoors.org
- **Ray Editor:** Bruce Coppola, SOLARRayEditor@solaroutdoors.org
- **Webmaster:** Jim Kadlubowski, SOLARWebmaster@solaroutdoors.org

You can also review SOLAR's Bylaws on our website (www.solaroutdoors.org/about/bylaws.aspx).

If you are interested in running for a position or have any questions, please contact Kirsten Cook at SolarPrograms@solaroutdoors.org. The deadline to submit your name in order to appear on the printed ballot is May 4, 2013. After May 4 you can be a write-in candidate. All candidates will have an opportunity to introduce themselves at the May 7 SOLAR meeting before the voting takes place.

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 Island State Park as our base for a weekend of fun. 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.

There are tons of things to do:

- Bicycling
- Kayaking around the islands
- Parasailing
- Winery tours; historic home tour
- Music, kid's programs, parade
- Day Trips to Kelleys and Middle Bass Islands
- Sailboat tour (needs advance planning)
- Stand-Up Paddleboarding (on the mainland)
- Jet Skiing
- Fishing from shore or charter boat
- Hiking on Kelleys Island
- Bird watching, nature trails
- War of 1812 and island history
- Golf, putt-putt, climbing wall, paint ball
- Bar-hopping, dining, and music in Put-In-Bay Village
- Just relaxing by the water

\$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 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. We are limited to one car at each of our four campsites so car use will need to be planned to maximize convenience for the group.

Additional costs (as currently published; may change):

Miller Ferry from Catawba Island, round trip:

Adult -\$14.00

Children 6-11 - \$3.00, Children under 6 - Free

Cars (in addition to people) - \$30

Bikes: \$4

Bike Rental:

Singles \$4.00/hr \$12.00/day

Tandems \$8.00/hr \$24.00/day

Trailers \$4.00/hr \$12.00/day

Golf Cart Rental, depending on size (2, 4, or 6 person):

Hour - \$11 - \$17; Daily - \$70 - \$90

Jet Express Ferry, Put-in-Bay to Kelleys Island, round trip:

Adult - \$22.00

Children 6 -11 - \$6.00, Children under 6 - Free

Bikes: \$5

Middle Bass Ferry, Put-In-Bay to Middle Bass, round trip:

Adult - \$12.00

Children 6 -11 - \$6.00, Children under 6 - Free

Bikes: \$6

Gear transport to campground in large van, one way, as part of group: About \$20, to be divided among users

Notes: No pets. No alcohol in the state park. Screen tents count toward two tent per site limit.

Kayak Among the Islands

Saturday, May 25, 10:30 am

We'll spend four or more hours exploring the waters around South Bass, Middle Bass, or Gibraltar Islands, with opportunities to get out of the boats and onto land. We can choose our route to paddle past cliffs, huge rock formations, and the very unusual Boat-on-the-Cliff House. Prices are for 4 hours. If we take longer, we can pay by the hour (cash only) when we return. We can only reserve as a group if we depart in the morning, but paddling is available at other times.

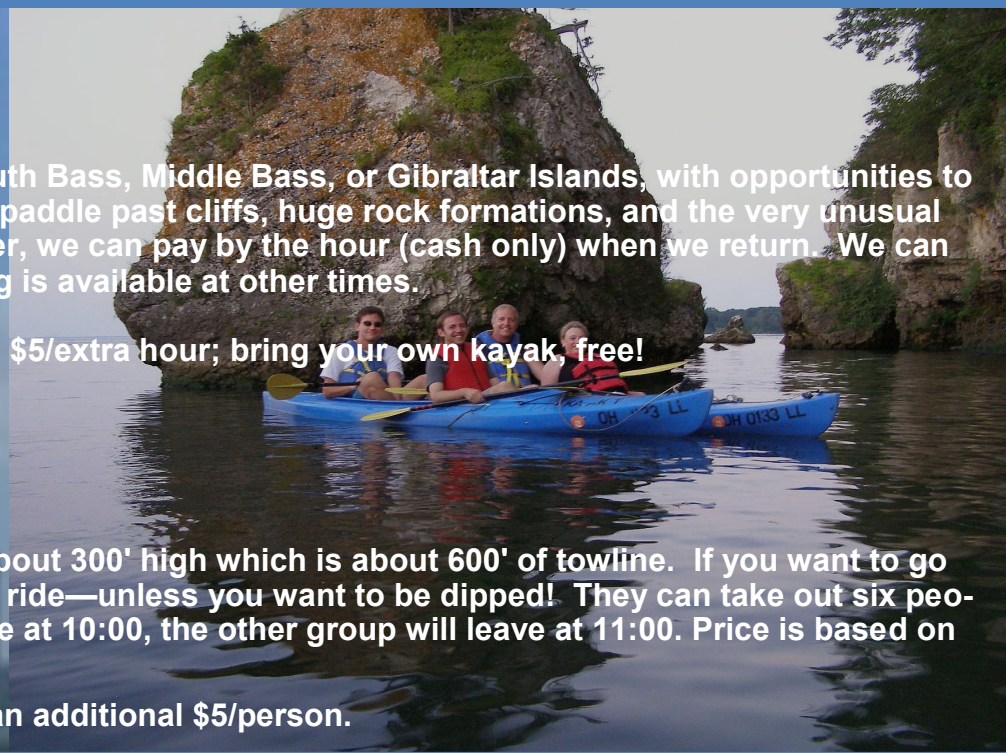
Single kayaks, \$30, plus \$4/extra hour; Double kayaks, \$50, plus \$5/extra hour; bring your own kayak, free!

Parasail Above the Bay

Sunday, May 26, 10:00 am

Fly up into the air above South Bass Island! A typical flight is about 300' high which is about 600' of towline. If you want to go higher they can give you up to 800' feet of towline! This is a dry ride—unless you want to be dipped! They can take out six people per trip. If we have more than six people, one group will leave at 10:00, the other group will leave at 11:00. Price is based on minimum of five people heading out in the morning.

\$65/person. If we have fewer than 5 people sign up, it will cost an additional \$5/person.

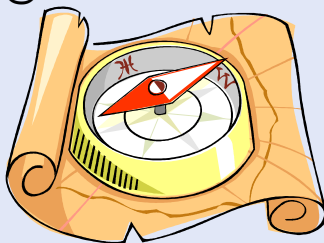


Basic Land Navigation

Contact: Ati Tislerics, E-mail (preferred): atisleri@umich.edu
Phone: 313-794-0164

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

Prerequisites: None

Cost: \$50.00

Includes: Book, handouts/maps, overnight lodging at practical

Does NOT include: State Park permit, meals

When/Where:

- Wednesday, April 3, 6:30 - 9:00 pm – Berkley Community Center
- Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 - 9:00 pm – Berkley Community Center
- Wednesday, April 17, 6:30 - 9:00 pm – Berkley Community Center
- Saturday, April 20 (9 am - 6 pm) & Sunday, April 21 (9 am - 3 pm) - Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea

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.

Moonlight Paddles 2013



April 27 August 24
May 25 September 21
June 22 October 19
July 20

Boats launch from Heavner Canoes, 2775 Garden Rd, Milford, MI. Paddles will be preceded by an optional hike in Proud Lake State Recreation Area. Info on kayak and canoe classes coming soon!

I-275 Metro Trail Clean-Up and Ride

**April 25, 6-8 pm
Plymouth, MI**

**Organized by Linda Ringlein,
linda.ringlein@yahoo.com**

**Meet at Ann Arbor Rd.
MDOT parking lot, I-275
exit 28, (behind Denny's)**

Bring work gloves, clipper/loppers, and rakes (if you have them) and water. If time, we'll follow the work session with a bike ride.

Square Dancing! Egg Decorating! Potluck! 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 the March SOLAR meeting, too.*



JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN!!

An Appetizer Party and a Play • June 21

Organized by Maureen DeFrance, moeazdream@gmail.com, and Peg Campbell

5:30 pm - Appetizer potluck at Peg Campbell's house.

Bring your own beverages. If the weather cooperates, we'll sit out on her deck - her Northville property backs up to Maybury State Park. Address will be sent via email.

7:30 pm - Head to the Tipping Point Theatre in downtown Northville for the 8 pm show. The play we'll be seeing is called *I Hate Hamlet*. For information on the theater and the play, see www.tippingpointtheatre.com/.

You can also pay at the March, April, May, and June SOLAR meetings or mail a check for **\$30** to Moe—email her for her address. Anyone who has paid by June 4 will secure a ticket with the group seating; otherwise you can buy your own seat directly from the theater. Don't miss this night of great fun and friendship!



Birds Do It, Bees Do It, Even Fireflies Do It! Trip to Great Smoky Mountains 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 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 fee 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.

A Selection Of
2013 SOLARPhoto ContestWinners

▼ Digitally Enhanced (other): Rosemary Attlio



▼ Animals:
Rosemary Attlio

▼ Action:
Mark Carson



2013 SOLAR**Photo Contest**Winners continued

▼ Digitally Enhanced Scenery: Janet Schester



▲ Plants and Flowers, Best Overall: Mark Carson

Click to get the details on Meetup.com!

SOLAR JANUARY 2013 CALENDAR

www.SolarOutdoors.org

Click names to send email!

SOLAR MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

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		Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm	TBD	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
5/7	Tues	Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm	Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen, Southfield, MI	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program: Steering Committee Elections		Kirsten Cook	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
5/28	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30	TBD	TBD	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org

SOLAR RAY DEADLINES

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

3/9	Sat	Square Dance / Potluck / Egg Decorating	Livonia, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
4/25	Thur	I-275 Metro Path Clean Up	Plymouth, MI	Linda Ringlein	linda.ringlein@yahoo.com
4/27, 5/25, 6/22, 7/20, 8/24, 9/21, 10/19	Sat	Moonlight Paddles and Pre-Paddle Hikes	Proud Lake, Milford, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
5/3-5	Wknd	Algonac State Park Camping	Marine City, 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
5/25	Sat	Kayak Among the Islands	South Bass Island, OH	Heidi Tietjen	h_tietjen@yahoo.com
5/26	Sun	Parasail Above the Bay	South Bass Island, OH	Heidi Tietjen	h_tietjen@yahoo.com
6/2-6/7	Multi	Firefly Viewing Trip to Great Smoky Mountains National Park	Gatlinburg, TN	Mary Dunn	mjd70bc@msn.com
6/21	Fri	Night on the Town: Party and a Play	Northville, MI	Maureen DeFrance	moeazdream@gmail.com
9/21-28, 2013	Multi	Adirondack Fall Hiking Trip	Lake Placid, NY	Janet Schester	j40makayla@gmail.com

CLASSES

4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/20-21	Wed, Wknd	Basic Land Navigation	Berkley Community Ctr, Waterloo Rec Area	Ati Tislerics	atisleri@umich.edu
5/4	Sat	Introduction to Orienteering	Huron Meadows Metro Park	Jeff McWilliams	jeff.mcwilliams@gmail.com
6/22	Sat	Canoeing Class	Heavner's Canoe, Milford, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com

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

*Spring is nigh,
and Love will be in
the air...*

March brings the first hesitant stirrings of Spring. And while for many it heralds the end of cabin fever and the beginning of outdoor adventure, poets throughout the ages have observed that Love oft blossoms with the fiddleheads, trilliums, and skunk cabbage.

So for the April and May issues, share your romantic reminiscences of how you found your spouse or significant other along the trail, on the river, or in the mountains, regardless of season. Gauzy photos of you gazing into each other's eyes amidst the glories of nature are a plus. Or just grinning goofily in grubby hiking clothes.

Send 'em all to SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org

Next SOLAR Ray article deadline:
“Pi” Day, Thursday, 3.14
(March 14th)



SOLAR

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Visit our website at www.solaroutdoors.org