

The SOLAR Ray



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

February 2014

Visit us at www.solaroutdoors.org

Winter Madness!

Lake Ann Antics

Carol Rogers and the Editor

This was supposed to be a cross country ski weekend, so I'm not sure what's going on in this picture with the balloons. Adult beverages may have been a factor. See more photos beginning on the next page to see what else went on.

-the Editor



Roscommon Rainout?

Mary Winkler and the Editor

A thaw, freezing rain, then just rain threatened to turn the Roscommon XC ski weekend into a marathon card game at the McMullen Center. Did the attendees spend the entire time in cutthroat games of Oh Hell? Find out on page 3

-the Editor



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WELCOME TO THESE NEW SOLAR MEMBERS!

Mary Ellen Budabin

Marilyn Scozeski

UPGRADE TO LIFETIME:

Lifetime memberships are a great deal! Contact our Membership Chair Karen Stauble and see your name here!

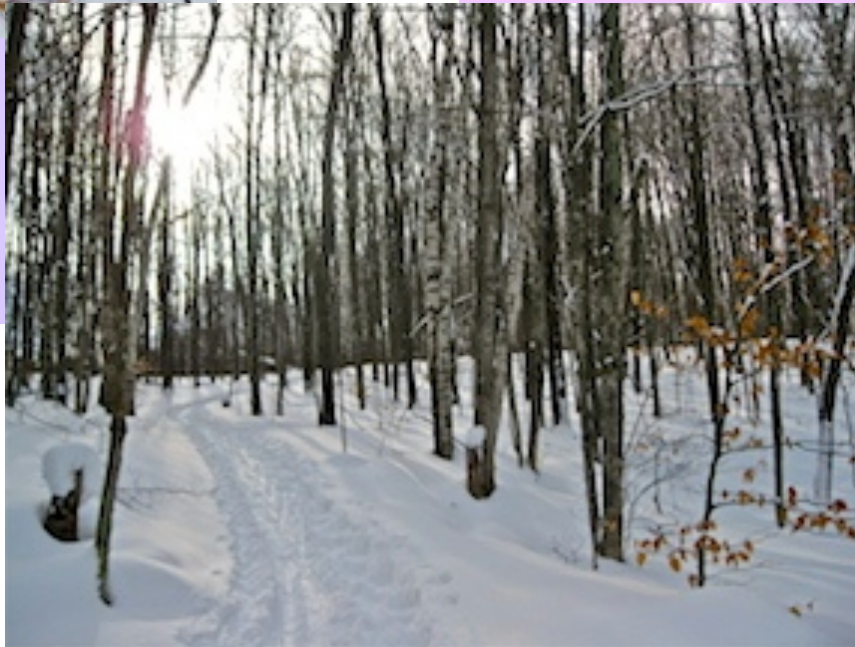
SOLARmembership@SOLARoutdoors.org

LAKE ANN ANTICS *continued from previous page*



“The scenery was
Spectacular!”

“I tried snowshoes for the first time and enjoyed it. Did it twice on Saturday and Monday”



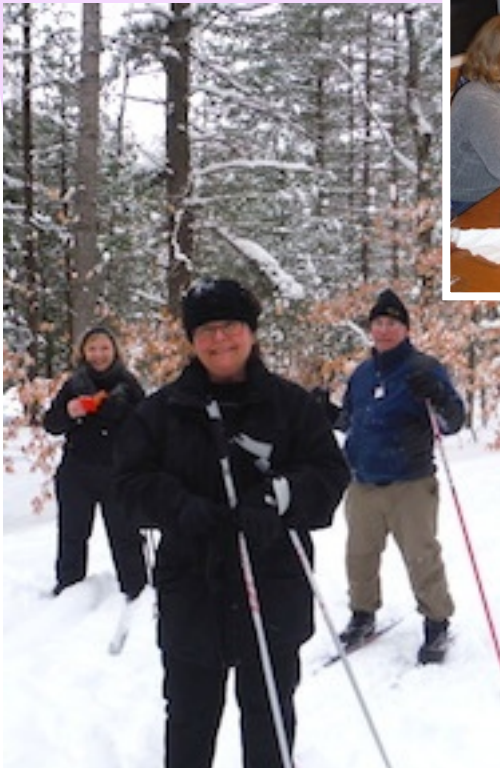
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LAKE ANN ANTICS *continued from previous page*

“As usual, the **people** made the difference and were the most important part of the fun” - Carol Rogers

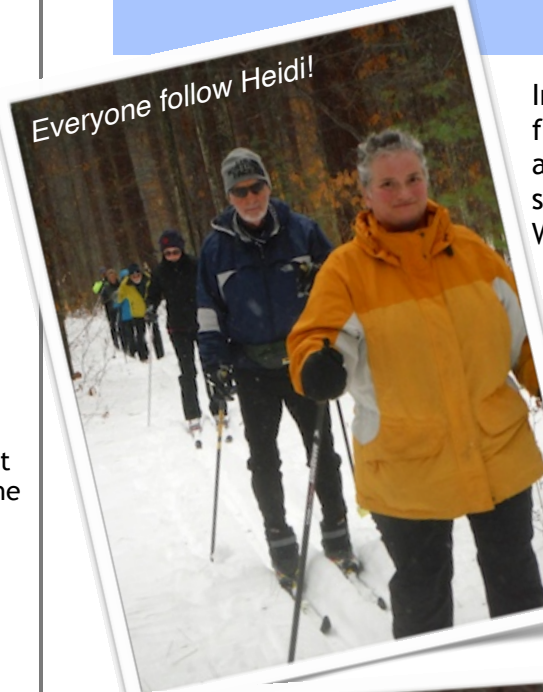


Yeah, but what was up with the balloons?
-the Editor



ROSCOMMON RAINOUT? *continued from page 1*

Everyone follow Heidi!



In spite of the rain, a cooldown with a freshening of light snow Saturday afternoon made for surprisingly good ski conditions! The pictures and Mary Winkler tell the story... -the Editor

Jo Ellen just glides along



The always graceful Lee K.



The principles that make SOLAR great - sharing of talent and experience, teaching to those who want to learn - were in action. Thanks Bill, Cecil, Peg and Ron for all the help and advice given to me (the queen of falling down!). Fun and learning: my kind of great weekend!

Continued on next page

ROSCOMMON RAINOUT? *continued from previous page*

At Fred's Pizza in Roscommon no one ordered pizza, but fall-off-the-bone ribs, salads, soups, and a variety of chicken dishes were served by a saucy, fun waitress who had us in stitches. Delish!

It was so nice to meet some new SOLAR members. I hope you'll feel comfortable now that you've gotten to know some of us. Don't hesitate to sign up for the 'next big thing' (or a hike in the park).

Roscommon is close to many trails (as most skiers know) for different levels of experience; and, of course, rentals for those who want to try xc skiing. The Ralph McMullen Center has their own groomed trails, and the cross-country ski instructors took those who wanted out for a little skills tweaking. Sometimes it appeared to be twerking!

I plan to go next year for my 3rd time because it's a fun weekend, it's beautiful to be in the snowy woods, and I'm learning to become a better skier. - M.W.



A dinner serenade by the Flint Men's Barbershop Chorus, who were also staying at the conference center



Peg and Hope - barbershop quartet groupies?

Jo deals a hot hand of Oh Hell to Mary Ellen, and to a guest from another group, Denitra.

It's Membership Renewal Time!

Karen Stauble, SOLAR Membership chair

Happy New Year, SOLAR members! With the new year under way, it's important that you renew your annual SOLAR memberships if you haven't done so already. We don't want to lose a single one of you!

An individual annual membership is \$40. Family annual membership is \$55. Lifetime memberships are \$240 for individuals and \$330 for families. To make it as easy as possible for you, there are three ways of doing this:

Go to Meetup.com. Under 'Events', choose either family renewal or single renewal event and you can make your payment right there. We will still need a waiver signature for 2014, though.

Go to http://www.solaroutdoors.org/Downloads/Solar_Membership_Application.pdf for an application and mail to the address at the bottom of the page. If you joined on Meetup, just complete your name and address, and the waiver portion of the form.

See me at a general membership meeting. The next one will be on Tuesday, January 7th.

Current Lifetime members please be sure to sign a new waiver (on the membership application form mentioned above) for the 2014 year. Thanks!

We Oughta Be in Videos!

Bill Morse, Public Relations chair

Do you enjoy YouTube? Some of us think it would be cool to have a clip featuring SOLAR. Within our group, we have scores of photos and videos of outdoor fun and even more memories. Collecting some of them, adding in some creative flair, and putting together a 5-minute (or so) clip would be a great thing to do. Is anyone interested in leading this? Or assisting? Or, can anyone give tips on how to do it? Please let me know by replying to this address:

solarpublicrelations@solaroutdoors.org

Thank you!

Upcoming SOLAR Programs

SOLAR Programs follow the business meeting at monthly meetings at Colony Hall. If you have an idea for a program, share it with our Programs Chair, at solarprograms@solaroutdoors.org.

February 4: Annual SOLAR Photography Contest

March 4: Gumdrops and Glaciers

How does a lump of candy relate to miles of ice cascading down a mountain? Join Jenn Hill and Mary Dunn for an introduction to their March 22 class of the same name.

April 1: Bringing Nature Home

Landscaping to make your yard truly 'green'.

Activities and Classes

Climb the RenCen with the SOLAR Stair Stars! to benefit the American Lung Association

Join the SOLAR Stair Stars on **March 2nd** in their annual Ren Cen stair climb (all 70 stories!) for the American Lung Association Fight for Air Climb. It's a great way to burn off the holiday pounds, get in shape for the next backpacking and hiking season, and contribute to the fight against lung diseases.

Don't want to climb? Pledge to one of our team members. All who pledge are welcome to join in our workouts.

Sign up to climb or pledge to a SOLAR participant online at: <http://www.lung.org/pledge-events/mi/detroit-climb-fy14/>

For more information contact Mary Donahue at mldonahue824@gmail.com or Jeff Enterkin at jente69690@aol.com

TOP SECRET PIGEON RIVER WINTER CAMPING WEEKEND FOR ENJOYING MICHIGAN WINTERS VETERANS ONLY!

I shouldn't even put this here where *anyone* can read it. So unless you have completed or taught the Enjoying Michigan Winters class, don't even THINK of coming up to the beautiful Pigeon River State Forest from Feb. 21 - 23 to enjoy XC skiing, snowshoeing, camping, and camaraderie around a roaring fire for only \$20 per person (including campsite fees and firewood)!

But you *should* seriously consider taking Enjoying Michigan Winters next year so you won't miss out on any more fun like this!

More info: Bruce bcoppola1@comcast.net

CABIN FEVER? TAKE A HIKE OR LEAD A HIKE!

There's something about a brisk walk in the woods that banishes the Winter (or any time) blahs. SOLARites are planning day hikes to enjoy the pleasure to be had outdoors in any season. There have already been a few - watch our Meetup page and our Yahoo! group site for upcoming hike announcements!

Want to post your own hike? Send the info to Carol Rogers, Activities Chairperson at: solaractivities@solaroutdoors.org

UPCOMING HIKES:

Sat. May 10: Garlic Mustard Pull and Wildflower Hike, Maybury State Park. Leader: [Peggy Campbell](#)

Sat. Aug. 2: A Walk With the Wildflowers, Ann Arbor. Leader: [Drew Laithin](#)

GUMDROPS & GLACIERS

Saturday, March 22, 10am - Noon

Birmingham Unitarian Church, 3885 Woodward, Birmingham.

This is the third building on the west side of Woodward, north of Lone Pine. Not affiliated with the church.

Cost TBA, not more than \$10

What Do Gumdrops and Glaciers Have To Do with Climate Change? Jenn Hill and Mary Dunn will review the basics of climate change science and who these scientists are. We will look at possible impacts on the places we play outdoors; with choices for actions, adaptation, or mitigation.

Jenn and Mary have had training to discuss climate change, and between the two have degrees in environmental policy and microbiology. In addition, they have been taking part in online climate courses.

More options: Bring a lunch to share after class. Then we will explore E. L. Johnson Nature Center, less than 5 miles away.

<http://www.bloomfield.org/departments/el-johnson-nature-center/index.aspx>

Questions: mjd70bc@msn.com

Click to get the details on Meetup.com!

SOLAR JANUARY 2013 CALENDAR

www.SolarOutdoors.org

Click names to send email!

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Feb 4	Tues	Monthly Meeting	Colony Hall 7pm	Jennifer McWilliams	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
Feb 4	Tues	Photo Contest	Colony Hall	Kirsten Cook	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
Feb 21-23	Wknd	Pigeon River Winter Camping-EMV Veterans	Pigeon River State Forest, Vanderbilt, MI	Bruce Coppola	bcoppola1@comcast.net
Feb 22	Sat	Kensington Nature Trail Hike 1PM	Nature Center Building	Bill Morse	billc095@yahoo.com
Feb 25	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting	TBD	Jennifer McWilliams	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org

MARCH ACTIVITIES

Mar 1	Sat	Quiet Water Symposium	MSU Pavilion, East Lansing		http://www.quietwatersymposium.org
Mar 2	Sun	SOLAR Stair Stars - American Lung Assoc Climb	Ren Cen, Detroit	Jeff Enterkin & Mary Donahue	Mldonahue824@gmail.com , jente69690@aol.com
Mar 4	Tues	Monthly Meeting	Colony Hall 7pm	Jennifer McWilliams	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
Mar 4	Tues	Gumdrops and Glaciers by Jenn Hill & Mary Dunn	Colony Hall (Preview of their Mar. 22 class - see next page)	Kirsten Cook	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
Mar 25	Tues	Steering Committee	TBD	Jennifer McWilliams	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org

APRIL ACTIVITIES

Apr 1	Tues	Monthly Meeting	Colony Hall 7pm	Jennifer McWilliams	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
Apr 1	Tues	Bringing Nature Home by Drew Lathin	Colony Hall	Kirsten Cook	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
Apr 6	Sun	Banff World Tour 7PM	Ann Arbor		

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

May 6	Tues	Steering Committee Elections	Colony Hall	Kirsten Cook	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
May 10	Sat	Garlic Mustard Pull & Wildflower Walk	Maybury	Peggy Campbell	peggyacampbell@gmail.com
Jun 3	Tues	The Orkney Islands, Scotland by Carolyn Francis	Colony Hall	Kirsten Cook	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
Jul 1	Tues	Picnic and Gear Swap	Colony Hall	Kirsten Cook	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
Jul 19-29	Multi	Bernese Oberland Hike	Kandersteg Switzerland	Dave/Moe DeFrance, Carolyn Francis	moeazdream@gmail.com , ventures45@gmail.com , northerngal_tc@yahoo.com
Aug 2	Sat	A Walk with the Wildflowers	Ann Arbor	Drew Laithin	dlathin@gmail.com
Sep 20-26	Multi	Adirondacks Trip Bunk Loft	Lake Placid, NY	Janet Schester	j40makayla@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