

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:

1. 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.
2. Go to http://www.solaroutdoors.org/Downloads/Solar_Membership_Application.pdf for an

Continued on next page

Hot Time on a Cold Night!

the SOLAR Holiday Party

the Editor

This year's SOLAR Holiday Party confirmed, yet again, some enduring truths:

- If you joined SOLAR to lose weight through healthy activity, forget it.
- SOLAR is a "character-rich" environment.
- Hiking boots make lousy dancing shoes, but after a few drinks no one cares.
- For that matter, hikers are (with a few exceptions) pretty lousy dancers, but after a few drinks...

Anyway, there was the usual abundance of food, music, and laughter; though things nearly got ugly during a heated (no pun intended) discussion about white gas vs. butane stoves*. Musta been the schnapps talking. See the photo feature on the next two pages!

Also in this issue:

Upcoming Events	4, 5
Programs	6
'A' Stands for Adventure	6
Ask Yourself	6
Calendar	7

WELCOME TO THIS NEW SOLAR MEMBER!

Alan Green

UPGRADED TO LIFETIME:

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

SOLARmembership@SOLARoutdoors.org

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME *continued from previous page*

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.

3. 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!



Hot Time on a Cold Night!



Let the feasting begin!

Continued on next page

Hot Time on a Cold Night! *continued from previous page*



Dave DeFrance shows his excellent fashion sense and the importance of layering to avoid overheating.



Whole lotta shakin' goin' on!



See more pictures on Meetup or the SOLAR Facebook page.



Activities and Classes

CABIN FEVER? TAKE A HIKE! 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 HIKE:

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](#)

Roscommon Cross Country Ski Weekend

January 10 - 12, 2014

Bill Halvangis, halvangis@att.net

Cecil Moix, Peg and Ron Campbell, and Bill Halvangis will lead a return trip to the MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon this January. Beautiful trails start right outside the lodge. Plus, Cross Country Ski Headquarters is just eight miles down the road with extensive groomed trails.

Cost: \$150 per twin bed (with shared bathrooms in hall) which includes lodging and all meals from Saturday breakfast through Sunday breakfast.

Year of the Horse Chinese New Year Dinner

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 29, 2014



Join SOLARites and guests for a Chinese New Year dinner celebration at the Peking Garden restaurant in Garden City.

- 12 course meal (served family style)
- drawing for prizes
- traditional lion dance
- music, entertainment and fun

Time: 6:30pm - 9:00pm (Arrive early for best seats)

Cost: \$32 per person, including \$10 non-refundable deposit. This does not include drinks or tip.

I will need the \$10 deposit ASAP (when the restaurant fills up, it is too late), payable to Leslie Cordova to reserve our tables. The remaining \$22 plus drinks and tip you will pay yourself at the restaurant (they will do separate checks).

Contact: Leslie Cordova (248) 421-2080 or lesliegene@aol.com

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

New Years Day Proud Lake Celebration!

Wednesday, January 1, 2014, [Proud Lake Recreation Area](#) • Presented by Al Heavner and his team

Start the New Year right with some outdoor activities and socializing fun! The event starts at 1:00 and runs until sometime in the evening.

[Heavner's Canoe Rental](#) organizes, and Michigan DNR donates, the use of the [Proud Lake Recreation Area](#) Red Hawk Lodge & Conference Center for this event which starts at 1:00 pm and lasts into the evening. Come for an hour or stay all day and into the night.

Watch the event [Meetup page](#) for more details as the date gets closer.

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.

Tuesday, January 7: Orkney Islands Adventure

Carolyn Francis will share highlights of her recent trip to Scotland's Orkney Islands.

Tuesday, February 4: Annual SOLAR Photo Contest

Exhibit your photos from the past year's adventures and you could win fame and fortune.

Tuesday, March 4: TBD

Contact Kirsten Cook, SOLARprograms@SOLARoutdoors.org to suggest a program, or to present a program of your own.

The A in SOLAR Means Adventure

Dave DeFrance

We know what SOLAR stands for. Let's focus on the "A" for Adventure. For example, from July 19 to July 28th, 12 SOLARites are planning to hike the Berner Oberland trail in Switzerland.

Keep in mind, we don't just adventure around the local parks or even out of state. We are a group that loves to travel and take on those challenges that require the level of fitness, experience, and education that SOLAR members have. If you didn't make the short list for the Swiss Alps trip, don't hesitate to lead your own. We'll help you lay out the plan.

You May Ask Yourself...

William Morse, SOLAR Public Relations chair

How did you hear about SOLAR?

Where/How do you think we can get new members?

We want to know so we can more effectively promote ourselves. You can ponder these questions and be ready to answer them at January's membership meeting. Please bring a pen and we'll provide a survey form. If you can't make the meeting, you're welcome to send an e-mail with your input to: SOLARPublicRelations@SOLARoutdoors.org

Click to get the details on Meetup.com!

SOLAR JANUARY 2013 CALENDAR

www.SolarOutdoors.org

Click names to send email!

SOLAR MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Jan 7	Tues	Monthly Meeting, 7:00 pm	Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen, Southfield, MI	Jennifer McWilliams	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Orkney Islands Adventure		Kirsten Cook	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
Jan 28	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm	TBD	Jennifer McWilliams	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
Feb 4	Tues	Monthly Meeting, 7:00 pm	Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen, Southfield, MI	Jennifer McWilliams	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Annual Photo Contest		Kirsten Cook	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
Feb 25	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm	TBD	Jennifer McWilliams	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
Mar 4	Tues	Monthly Meeting, 7:00 pm	Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen, Southfield, MI	Jennifer McWilliams	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program TBD		Kirsten Cook	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
Mar 25	Tues	Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm	TBD	Jennifer McWilliams	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org

SOLAR RAY DEADLINES

Jan 20	Mon	February SOLAR Ray Deadline		Bruce Coppola	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org
Feb 17	Mon	March SOLAR Ray Deadline		Bruce Coppola	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org
Mar 17	Mon	April SOLAR Ray Deadline		Bruce Coppola	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org

ACTIVITIES

Jan 10-12	Wknd	Roscommon XC ski trip (or hike/snowshoe)	Roscommon, MI	Bill Halvangis and Peggy Campbell	halvangis@att.net
Jan 17-20	Wknd	Lake Ann Ski/Hike/Snowshoe trip	Lake Ann, MI	Pete Lamb	petekandu@yahoo.com
Mar 1	Sat	Quiet Water Symposium	MSU Pavilion, East Lansing, MI		www.quietwatersymposium.org
Mar 2	Sun	SOLAR Stair Stars - Amer. Lung Assoc. Climb	Renaissance Center, Detroit	Jeff Enterkin & Mary Donahue	mldonahue824@gmail.com jente69690@aol.com
Jul 19-29	Multi	Bernese Oberland Hike	Kandersteg, Switzerland	Dave & Moe DeFrance, Carolyn Francis	moeazdream@gmail.com ventures45@gmail.com northerngal_tc@yahoo.com
Sep 20-26	Multi	Adirondacks Trip	Lake Placid, NY	Janet Schester	j40makayla@gmail.com

CLASSES

Watch for upcoming classes.					
To present a class, contact Krisanne Schmidt SOLAReducation@SOLARoutdoors.org					

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