



***Don't miss out on the upcoming
SOLAR 40th Anniversary
Weekend Camp Out and Dinner
June 10-12, 2016 at Proud Lake
Sign up now! Don't miss out! RV and Tent Camping***

40th Anniversary Scheduled Events

FRIDAY EVENING SCHEDULE:

- 5:30 – 8:00 High Ropes Course* (extra cost)
- 6:30 – 9:00 Finger food/appetizers/desserts potluck
- 6:30 - ? Campfire
- 8:00 – 10:00 Paddle

SATURDAY SCHEDULE:

MORNING

- 8:30 – 9:30 Buffalo Run
- 9:00 Photo Scavenger hunt begins
- 10:30 – 1:30 Bicycle Ride (~30 miles)
- AFTERNOON/EVENING**
- 2:00 – 4:00 Geocaching
- 4:00 – 4:30 Photo Scavenger Hunt Tally
- 4:00 – 5:00 Fun with balloons, for kids of all ages
- 4:30 Smaller group photos (former SC members, etc.)
- 5:00 SOLAR Group photo – will be shared later on social media
- 5:30 Catered BBQ Dinner served *(pay in advance)
- 7:00 – 9:00 40th Anniversary Program
- 9:00 – 10:00 Campfire and s'mores
- 9:30 Night hike
- 10:00 Visitors leave/Quiet time starts

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:

- TBD Buffalo Shuffle
- 8:30 – 9:30 Pancake breakfast
- 10:00 Post-breakfast hike

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40th Anniversary Camp Out –Where to sign up, what is the cost?

SOLAR 40th Anniversary Weekend Camp Out and Dinner June 10-12, 2016 at Proud Lake

\$60 Per campsite for 2 nights. Each site is allowed up to 6 people, 2 tents and 2 cars. State Recreation Passport is required.

Pay for your campsite at the monthly meeting or on Meetup: <http://meetu.ps/2RT14H>

Campsites will be assigned to accommodate special needs (kids, pets, etc.) and Rvs.

Saturday, June 11, catered picnic dinner for campers and day visitors.

You must pre-register for the dinner. Adults and children 13+ \$10, Children 12 and under are free.

Make and pay for your dinner reservation at the monthly meeting or on Meetup: <http://meetu.ps/2RTmVC>

Note: This event takes the place of the SOLAR summer picnic.

If you have any questions or want to volunteer to help with this event, please contact Karen Haroutunian at solarhistorian@solaroutdoors.org.

No refunds will be given but you can sell your campsite.



SOLAR BANNERS GO AWOL!

One of SOLAR's traditions is to have a group picture taken with the SOLAR banner at the end of a class - like this one from the EMW class of 2010. But our banners seem to have gone AWOL. It's time to bring them back! If you know where these banners are, please contact Karen H. at solarhistorian@solaroutdoors.com. We would like to display our SOLAR pride at the 40th Anniversary Camping weekend June 10-12, 2016 and bring back the tradition of a proper group photo.

Land Navigation Challenge! Find the Cache!

40th Anniversary Land Nav Challenge! Find the cache! Claim cool prizes! March edition.

Rules:

1. The cache will only exist for 1 month. It will be removed on April 15 and a new location will be announced.
2. You can search for the cache using map & compass, with a GPS receiver, or with GPS software on your smartphone. It's up to you!
3. When you find the cache, please only remove one item per group or person. Leave the other cool items for other SOLAR members to claim.
4. Sign the logbook in the cache container.
5. Take a picture of your adventure and share the photos on the SOLAR Facebook page if you'd like. Please don't take pictures that give away the location of the cache.

Steps to find the cache:

1. Watch this video introducing the challenge:
<https://youtu.be/HUd8fFTKQk0>
 2. Watch this tutorial on how to generate your own topo map highlighting the location of the cache:
<https://youtu.be/oT6CTaac0Hw> You will need a Mac or PC with a web browser and a printer.
- THE COORDINATES ARE: (Datum WGS84) 42.68299, -83.48622
Hint: Depression, west side.
3. Use Caltopo to print a map showing the location of the hidden container.
 4. Go find it!



Sign up now! Land Navigation Class

Class Dates:

Thursday, April 28, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Thursday, May 5, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Tuesday, May 10, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Berkley Community Center, 2400 Robina Ave, Berkley, MI -
AND -

Saturday, May 14 (9 AM - 6 PM) - Sunday, May 15 (9 AM - 3 PM)

Burns Cabins, Waterloo State Recreation Area, Chelsea, MI

Basic Land Navigation provides a thorough introduction to map & compass navigation. You will learn:

- Map reading
- Terrain visualization
- How compasses work & how to use them
- Taking & plotting compass bearings
- Finding your location using triangulation
- The "three norths"
- Declination & how to account for it in order to navigate accurately
- Navigation strategies
- Route planning basics



The best thing about this class: **the instructors**. You will get individual attention from an outstanding team of 4-6 experienced instructors. They can do more than navigate, these people can **teach**. Class size is limited to 16 in order to ensure a maximum student:instructor ratio of 4:1.

The other best thing about this class: **practice, practice and more practice**. To help students master and retain the material, we spread the class out over several days and build in extensive and varied practice exercises, both in the classroom and in the field. Highlights include a 1.5-hour hike focusing on topographic map/terrain recognition skills and a 3-hour team orienteering-type exercise.

Cost: \$50 for SOLAR members, \$55 for non-members (non-members cannot sign up on Meetup – see below). This pays for a book, classroom rental, overnight lodging at the practical, maps and handouts. It does not include your state parks motor vehicle permit or meals.

Prerequisites: None, other than decent physical condition. In this class you will gain hands-on experience navigating in a wilderness environment, culminating with a ~3 hour cross-country route finding exercise; consider your physical condition before signing up.

Due to the cumulative nature of the material covered, no "excused absences" are possible.

Sign up on Meetup, or by contacting Ati Tislerics, email (preferred): ati.tislerics@gmail.com, 313-794-0164.

Note: GPS navigation is NOT covered in this class. This class is a prerequisite for the Advanced Land Navigation class, which includes GPS.



Sign up now! Pictured Rocks Backpacking Trip

PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE BACKPACK TRIP

June 20 – 24, 2016

Backpack the entire length of Pictured Rocks, 42.4 miles.

The hiking plan is:

- Hike from Grand Sable to Au Sable - 7.1 miles
- Au Sable to Trappers Lake – 10.9 miles (plus another mile to camp)
- Trappers Lake to Chapel – 8.0 miles (plus a mile to get to the trail)
- Chapel to Cliffs – 11.3 miles
- Cliffs to Munising Falls 5.1 miles

After getting off the trail, the plan is to take an afternoon glass bottom boat tour (optional).

We cannot obtain group campsite permits, so if you are interested you will need to book your own permit. Cost for the permit is \$15 plus \$5 per person per night for camping. The permit allows up to 6 people and 2 tents per site. We can work out the rest of the details once we have the participants in place.

Call or email me ASAP if you are interested. The permits will go fast.

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



Sign up now! Caesar Creek State Park

CAESAR CREEK STATE PARK LITTLE MIAMI STATE PARK AND RIVER JULY 1 – 4, 2016

Come join us as we celebrate the July 4th holiday. This kid and dog-friendly outing is close to home, only about a 4 hour drive, basically just south of Dayton, Ohio.

Caesar Creek State Park is highlighted by clear blue waters, scattered woodlands, meadows and steep ravines. The park offers some of the finest outdoor recreation in Southwest Ohio including boating, hiking, camping and fishing. There are 43 miles of hiking trails, 8.5 miles of mountain biking trails, a lake with a 1,300 foot beach and fossil hunting. Nearby is the Little Miami paved bike trail system with over 150 miles of trails. There is also a bike rental, ice cream store and winery nearby. We are going to canoe or kayak the Little Miami River on Monday and have a traditional potluck dinner on Saturday night.

We will be camping at the Wellman Group Camp within the park. We will have the entire camp to ourselves. There are flush toilets, a picnic shelter and showers nearby (8 miles) at the main campground. Also, a huge lawn so we can play croquet or bocce ball. Weather permitting there will be a nightly campfire.

Cost is: camp & canoe \$50, camp & kayak \$60, camp only \$25

If you are interested contact Leslie Cordova at (248) 421-2080 or email lesliegene@aol.com.



SOLAR monthly meetings and programs

February Monthly Program

Last month SOLAR's monthly meeting program featured Jennifer Braatz, Park Ranger with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She introduced us to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

Jennifer explained that the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is the first of its kind in North America. The DRIWR conserves nearly 6,000 acres of unique habitat on the lower Detroit River and western shore of Lake Erie, including islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals, and waterfront lands along 48 miles of shoreline.

Many volunteers worked to protect and preserve refuge lands which include Humbug Marsh, the last mile of undeveloped shoreline along the U.S. mainland of the Detroit River. The Humbug Marsh habitat has many rare fish and wildlife species. A new refuge visitor center is under construction and will be opening in the near future. Currently the refuge has specific volunteer opportunities and upcoming hikes and programs on their website.

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/detroit_river/



Join us for the upcoming March Monthly Program on Falconry

The program following this meeting will be on falconry, the ancient practice of using birds of prey to hunt.

Michael Azzopardi of the Michigan Hawking Club will introduce us to the sport of hunting wild game in its natural state with a trained bird of prey (raptor). Falconry in various forms has existed for thousands of years and has been practiced by many cultures around the world. It is believed to have started somewhere in Central Asia and has spread from there. The care, training, and hunting with a raptor cannot be considered the same as keeping a pet or any other domestic animal. This sport is extremely demanding, time consuming, and could even be described as a lifestyle. It requires a great deal of knowledge, skill, and commitment in order to be successful.

Join Us
Tues., March 29th
at the SOLAR
General Meeting.
7 pm at St. Paul's
Presbyterian
Church
27475 Five Mile Rd,
Livonia, MI 48154



Heavner's Moonlight Paddle Upcoming Schedule

Heavner's Canoe Rental Moonlight Paddles

- Note: This event is sponsored by Heavner's not by our club and is posted as informational and to ensure that the group can meet up together if attending.
- This popular event is great for the experienced paddler as well as the novice. Come to Proud Lake and paddle either a canoe or a kayak into the setting sun. Walk into Milford for dinner or dessert before returning to the canoe rental, where a bonfire will be awaiting you.
- Paddlers also have the option of bringing their own dinner, desserts or snacks and picnic right in the park itself. Specific dining location(s) will be discussed prior to boat launch. No partner necessary, all skill levels welcome. Dinner NOT included in the price.
- Recommendation is to call and reserve (possibly pay) prior to the event especially if you want a kayak.
- **MOONLIGHT PADDLE – GREAT FOR SOCIAL GROUPS**
New This Year: come paddle Friday or Saturday night!
Reservations: www.heavnercanoe.com
2775 Garden Rd, Milford, MI ,
Rental Cost: Canoe \$40 or solo Kayak \$30 includes bonfire, return shuttle.
Private Launch: bring your own boat \$15 per person includes bonfire, return shuttle

Dates:

Full Pink Moon: Friday, April 22 & Saturday, April 23
Full Flower Moon: Friday, May 20 & Saturday, May 21
Full Strawberry Moon: Friday, June 17 & Saturday, June 18
Full Buck Moon: Friday, July 15 & Saturday, July 16
Full Sturgeon Moon: Friday, August 19 & Saturday, August 20
Full Harvest Moon: Friday, September 16 & Saturday, September 17
Full Hunter's Moon: Saturday, October 15
Full Beaver Moon: Saturday, November 12
Full Cold Moon: Saturday, December 10
What To Bring: Game Face, Courage and a Smile... and of course water, headlamps and dress for the weather. Custom Moonlight Paddles can be arranged for any group outside the dates above. Moonlight varies depending on weather, but it is always a great time!
For more information call:
Heavner Canoe Rental: 248-685-2379



Upcoming Presentation World Record Hiker

**A Local Presentation by a
DOUBLE World Record Holding Hiker
Tuesday, April 12, 2016 7:00 PM**

The SOLAR outdoors club is hosting this fascinating, inspiring presentation by Heather "Anish" Anderson. Heather a.k.a. "Ghost", recently set new records for the fastest fully unsupported thru-hikes of BOTH the Pacific Crest Trail and the Appalachian Trail! She's been featured in the Washington Post, Outside, Backpacker, Elle and many more publications.

After sharing her story, Heather will answer questions from aspiring hikers and others regarding her hiking accomplishments, overcoming fears and living your dreams.

Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 7:00 PM
St Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, Livonia MI 48154
Seating is limited!!
COST: \$7 for SOLAR members, \$10 for non-members.
Buy your entry in advance at the March 29 SOLAR meeting or on Meetup. Tickets will be sold at the door as space permits.

Articles about Heather:
<http://www.backpacker.com/trips/long-trails/pacific-crest-trail/a-ghost-among-us/>
<http://www.elle.com/life-love/a34380/heather-anderson/>



Upcoming SOLAR Elections

40 Years (and Counting!) of SOLAR Fun

For 40 years SOLAR has been a club comprised of – and run by – volunteers who enjoy the outdoors, love to travel and have adventures.

You can be part of that tradition and help shape SOLAR's future by running for one of the 14 positions on the Steering Committee (SC). No experience necessary, just a willingness to help out. Joining the SC is a great way to give back to SOLAR and make more friends! Elections will be held at the monthly club meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2016. All currently paid members are eligible to run and vote.

Positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Activities Chairperson
- Bylaws Chairperson
- Education Chairperson
- Equipment Chairperson
- Historian
- Membership Chairperson
- Programs Chairperson
- Public Relations Chairperson
- SOLAR Ray Editor
- (a.k.a. Communications Committee Chairperson)
- Webmaster



You can read the formal descriptions of what each Steering Committee (SC) position is responsible for on the club's website: <http://solaroutdoors.org/About/Bylaws.aspx>. For more information about any position, email the person who currently does it. Names and email addresses available here: www.solaroutdoors.org/About/SteeringCommittee/Biographies.aspx. To add your name to the ballot for the April 26 elections, please contact either Kirsten Groppuso (solarprograms@solaroutdoors.org) or Jennifer Tislerics (solarpresident@solaroutdoors.org).

SOLAR Blast from the Past...Can you invite anyone to the SOLAR 40th Anniversary?



Yes! All are
Welcome

SOLAR CALENDAR www.solaroutdoors.org

ACTIVITIES					
Apr 2-3, 16-17, May 7-8, 21-22, June 4-5, 25-26, July 9-10, 23-24	Sat-Sun	North Country Trail Hikes	TBD	Mike Hobig	mhobig@ford.com
Apr 10	Sun	Banff Film Festival	Ann Arbor, MI	Bill Morse	billc095@yahoo.com
Apr 12	Tue	A Local Presentation by a Double World Record Holding Hiker – Heather "Anish" Anderson	St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Livonia	Carol Rogers or Bill Morse	cjrjune30@yahoo.com or solarpublicrelations@solaroutdoors.org
Apr 16-17	Sat-Sun	North Country Trail Hike – Yankee Springs	Yankee Springs State Park, Middleville, MI	Carol Rogers	cjrjune30@yahoo.com
May 27-30	Fri-Mon	South Manitou Island Backpack	South Manitou Island, MI	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
June 10-12	Fri-Sun	40 th Anniversary Campout Weekend	Proud Lake State Park, Wixom, MI	Karen Haroutunian	solarhistorian@solaroutdoors.org
June 10	Fri	High Ropes Course Adventure	Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center	Kim Bartell	solaractivities@solaroutdoors.org
Jun 20-24	Mon-Fri	Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Backpack Trip	Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
July 1-4	Fri-Mon	Caesar Creek State Park Camping Weekend	Waynesville, OH	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
July 16	Sat	Paddle to the Symphony	Kensington Metropark	Michael Dwyer	travelandadventure@yahoo.com
Sep 9-16	Fri-Fri	A Week in the Porkies (full)	Porcupine Mountains, Upper Peninsula	Carol Rogers	cjrjune30@yahoo.com
Sep 25-30	Sun-Fri	Adirondacks Fall 2016 Trip	Lake Placid, NY	Bruce Coppola	bcoppola@comcast.net
Apr 22, 23, May 20, 21, June 17, 18, July 15, 16, Aug 19, 20, Sept 16, 17, Oct 15, Nov 12, Dec 10	Fri/Sat – reference meetup for paddle time	Heavner's Moonlight Paddle	Wixom, MI	Al Heavner	http://heavnercanoe.com
CLASSES					
Apr 28, May 5, May 10, May 14-15	Thur, Thur, Tues, Wknd	Basic Land Navigation	Berkley Community Center, Berkley, MI and Burns Cabins, Waterloo Recreation Area	Ati Tislerics	ati.tislerics@gmail.com
May 13-14	Fri-Sat	Wilderness First Aid	Metamora, MI	Ilene Smith	solareducation@solaroutdoors.org

SOLAR holds monthly meetings on the LAST Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm.
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church • 27475 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48154