

The SOLAR Ray

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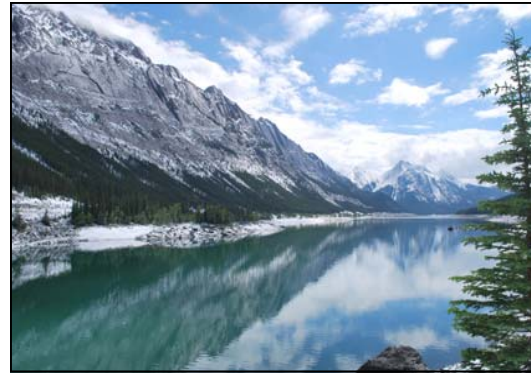
Banff & Jasper Hostel Trip

by Pete Lamb

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Sharon had always wanted to paddle on Lake Louise near Banff. It looks beautiful on the travel posters, so we planned a two-week trip.



I suspect you have all experienced those flashes of inspiration that sometimes are wonderful and sometimes are not. This was one of those *not* times. Given the economic realities, we tried to do it on the cheap and drive. If we could get a van full of people it would work. We went to AAA for routing info and were given three options: one through Chicago (no, no, no), one through the UP and one over the top of Lake Superior (my personal favorite).

Six brave souls arrived at "SOLAR West" on Tuesday night, July 6, in preparation for an early Wednesday start and at 7:15 a.m. we were off: Debbie Z, Janet, Mary Dunn, Brian Emerson, Sharon and I. We chose to do the UP route. (Do you know it's a long way to Wisconsin that way?) It was dark as we drove through Wisconsin and Minnesota. Did I mention that we planned to drive straight through - 39 hours total?

We arrived at the North Dakota border crossing into Canada at 3:30 a.m. and wouldn't you know it - the agent on duty became all fascinated by the fact that I had been thrown out of Canada some years before. They spent well over an hour walking round with very serious faces asking questions of everyone and prolonged interviews with me, but they finally let me in.

I had been having trouble with my eyes since we started. I thought it was just allergies but since allergy medication wasn't really helping, we finally had to stop and find a doctor in the middle of one of those enormous provinces, then a pharmacy, so we finally rolled into Banff 45 hours after starting.

Canada is an enormous country; the mid-point on the Trans Canada Highway is just west of Batchawana Bay on Lake Superior and when you get to Banff it is still a 13-hour drive to the coast. There is not a lot of traffic up there



SOLAR members are encouraged to use the online calendar at www.meetup.com/SOLAR-Outdoors for convenient class and trip sign-ups.



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and we drove for many, many hours at 80 mph. Surprisingly, you see quite a few bicyclists heading east loaded with gear, attempting to ride all the way across Canada. In some parts of Saskatchewan, it could take a day and a half to ride past ONE wheat field and it is completely flat with wheat to the horizon in every direction.

Banff is such a pleasant place. We were staying in a hostel right on the riverbank within easy walking distance of the town. (We couldn't think of re-entering the van!) We all scattered just to get away from each other for a while. It couldn't have been a better group. Traveling in such close proximity with no friction was remarkable.

Sharon, Janet, and maybe Debbie had never been hostelling before and there was a degree of anxiety but that was soon allayed. The hostel was a lot like a college dorm, a bit impersonal but clean and safe. Sharon fulfilled her dream and canoed Lake Louise while the rest of us walked the path along the lake. The view looking up the glacial valley is stupendous, with hanging glaciers along both edges that calve off into the valley.

Our plan was to travel between Banff and Jasper and back, and check out things on the way. We stayed in four hostels and spent two days at each. After leaving the Banff hostel we drove towards Jasper through some of the most magnificent scenery I have ever seen. Although the mountains are no higher than the American Rockies, it makes Colorado look like the foothills. It is just so big and craggy with so many huge precipices, and so much snow, and huge glaciers all divided by rushing turquoise water. Absolutely breathtaking!



The second hostel in the Yoho Valley was the staff quarters of a hotel that was swept away twice by avalanches. It was designated as a primitive hostel, which caused some consternation, but the only thing primitive was the gas lighting. The hostel setting was almost beyond description. There are no other



buildings in the valley and right opposite the hostel was a waterfall that plunged down a sheer cliff, hit a ledge and burst from the cliff to plunge hundreds of feet to the base. We hiked up to it and started to get wet long before we reached it. There were great rainbows. The hostels are full of foreign visitors and this one was no exception with many French tourists, a Dane, some Germans and a Canadian woman with two young children. We did some hikes, one up Johnson Creek Trail where we ran into some white water kayakers hiking up with their gear to make a run down it. We all thought that looked pretty insane.

Jasper hostel was great, good-sized and friendlier than Banff. We had some interesting weather at this hostel - ten inches of snowfall. At Jasper we discovered the hot springs and spent an afternoon blissfully soaking. These were modern springs with changing rooms, tiled, and all the amenities. I long for the old hippie kind but it was nice in a civilized way. In addition there was a hot pool, several cooler ones and one that felt like Lake Superior. That was the one that Janet had me jump in so she could get my expression as I surfaced, but owing to the time lag on the digital shutter on her camera and my speed coming out of that cold water she never got more than a blur. After the fourth time going in I began to suspect that I was being set up.



The fourth Hostel was Castle Rock just north of Banff, again classified as primitive. It wasn't clear what was particularly primitive, as it had all the amenities plus beautiful polished maple floors and within walking distance of a liquor store and an osprey's nest.

On the way south from Jasper four of us went with a guide from Iceland for a walk on an extremely large glacier (the Columbia) for three hours whilst the other two went for a ride on the same glacier in a very large bus with six-wheel drive and six-wheel steering. I wasn't particularly impressed until

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I saw the bus climbing the moraine back to its parking place, which was one steep climb, seemingly not possible for a wheeled vehicle.

Our hike, done in four point crampons, showed us global warming up close. The guide pointed out how they've had to keep moving the parking areas to keep them in a safe place as the glaciers recede. Since June 2009 the glacier shows a loss of sixty feet. There was still fifteen hundred feet of ice under our feet, but losing it at a rate of sixty feet a year won't take that long for it to be gone. The water from this glacier runs into the Columbia River, which drains into the Pacific Ocean. The Athabasca Glacier runs into the Arctic Ocean and ultimately all the way to Quebec. These are obviously important water sources to lose.

We finally had to leave this wonderful area. None of us was looking forward to the ride home but it passed uneventfully enough. Sharon and I, at least, will go for another trip out there although it's more likely we will fly the next time!



Wine Making & Tasting

by Mary Donahue



Hey there all you wine aficionados, join us for an evening of wine tasting and wine making. Meet the gang on Saturday, September 11, at Firestone Winery (223 S. Main Street, Rochester, MI, 48307) for a night of fun, good eats and great wines. The event hours are 6:00 - 11:00 p.m. The wine making is a great way to start your collection, or give wine bottles away as gifts this holiday season. A batch of wine runs between \$160.00 and \$230.00 and makes 28 - 30 bottles. Get a few friends together to make a batch. Bring a dish to pass to complement the wine! The fee for the wine tasting is \$10.00 per person.

Contact: Mary Donahue,
mldonahue824@gmail.com or 313-598-3324 or check out the event on Meetup:
<http://www.meetup.com/SOLAR-Outdoors/calendar/14218981/>

Hayride and Bonfire

Kensington Metropark
Saturday, November 6, 2010
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Come join us for a fun-filled evening at Kensington Metropark's farm center. A roaring bonfire will start at 6:00PM, followed by hayrides from 7:00PM until 9:00PM. Hot dogs, side salads and s'mores will be provided. You provide the roasting sticks and cook for yourself.



Please bring lawn chairs, warm clothes, jackets and blankets.

This is open to all so bring your family, friends, neighbors or co-workers.

This is kid-friendly but please leave your pets at home.

All this fun is yours for a mere \$15. You will need a daily (\$5) or annual (\$25) Metropark permit.

Interested? Contact Leslie Cordova at leseliene@aol.com or (248) 547-5626.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Allen Duncan,
SOLAR President

How long have you been a member of SOLAR? Since 2006 - Jan and I joined and immediately signed up for Carol McCririe's Fall Basic Backpacking class.

How did you learn of SOLAR in the first place? At the 2006 Banff Film Festival in Ann Arbor.

What are some outdoorsy activities you enjoy? Walking, hiking, backpacking, cross country skiing, trail running, 4 season camping, and mountain biking.

What has been your favorite trip/activity so far? Oh man, any trip with the right people is a favorite. I can't discriminate. Of class trips, I'd say Shenandoah National Park with the Intermediate Backpacking class. As far as classes themselves, every Enjoying Michigan Winters practical is a hoot (I was so hooked I couldn't wait to be an instructor). Jan and I do a "just the two of us" trip each summer. My favorite is always the most recent one, which for 2010 was 6 days on the trail at Porcupine Mountains State Park. Other good ones have been 6 days backpacking Big Bend National



Park and 5 days in the Weminuche Wilderness, CO.

What would your ideal trip be like? One that lasts long enough to require retirement. A through hike of the AT, Continental Divide Trail or Pacific Crest Trail would be my biggest trail fantasy. I'd be happy to settle for a through hike of the Colorado Trail or John Muir Trail. Maybe, if I'm lucky enough to stay healthy for a couple more decades it will happen.

Which classes have you taken through SOLAR? What class(es) do you wish were offered that are not currently? I've taken Basic Backpacking, Basic Land Nav, Enjoying Michigan Winters, Intermediate Backpacking, Search and Rescue. I'm pretty happy with the offerings.

Tell us something about you that would surprise us! I play Double Bass in the Redford Community Symphony Orchestra.

Do you have any pets? Kids? Significant Other? Jan, partner and wife of 19+ years, 3 cats and 2 dogs.

What would you like to see in SOLAR in the next year? Satisfied, happy SOLAR Members.

What inspired you to run for a Steering Committee position? SOLAR and its members inspired me. I wanted to be part of that.



SOLAR would like to welcome the following new members to the club!

Gary & Helga Benninger

Irina Dozortseva

Frank Dreamer

Pat & Walt Newman

Don Richards

Kay Sheere

Mary Rose Wisniewski



Fall Colors in the Smokies

Oct 21 - 25, 2010



Come enjoy fall colors at their best, in the Smokies!

Autumn in Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a special time when a glorious leaf season of several weeks is enjoyed by visitors as fall colors travel down the mountainsides from the highest elevations to the foothills. Fall colors in the Smoky Mountains are magnificent and varied because of the amazing diversity of trees. Some 100 species of native trees live in the Smokies, the vast majority of which are deciduous.

At the highest elevations--4,500 to 6,000 feet--colors can begin turning in mid-September, when the yellow birch, American beech, and mountain maple begin to turn. During the first two weeks of October, leaves are at their peak colors above 4,000 feet. The remaining weeks of October present the Smokies at their very best for color. The sugar maple, scarlet oak, sweetgum, red maple, and dogwood explode with color.

We will hike the Cataloochee trail system, on the eastern side of the park, where it is much less crowded because it's away from the most traveled routes to and from the Park. It's on the North Carolina side of the Park and is a little harder to reach than popular spots like Cades Cove. However, it's worth the trouble getting to Cataloochee because it will be a new experience even for those who visit the Park on a regular basis; it offers the same spectacular color show you will find elsewhere in the Park; and it's bound to be less crowded even during peak color periods.

Trip Leaders:

Robert Schwenke (512-961-8686, robert.schwenke@yahoo.com)

Sarah Kirkish (734-612-3327, skirkish@peoplepc.com)

Trip Participants:

Maximum of 6 people

Costs:

Permits - Free

Oak Park Inn - \$85 per room, 2 rooms, 2 nights - \$408 est. (~\$70 per person for 6 participants)

**NOTE: For convenience, trip leaders will reserve one or two rooms at the Oak Park Inn at participant's request.*



Itinerary

Oct 21

- Drive to Waynesville (Southfield, MI to Waynesville, NC - 615 miles, ~10 hours)
- On your own for meals
- Stay near Waynesville, NC (i.e. Oak Park Inn)

Oct 22

- Breakfast at Underwoods in Dellwood, NC
- Place the cars - one at Sterling Gap and one at Cataloochee Divide trail.
- Starting at Mount Sterling Gap, head south on Long Bunk trail, head southwest on Little Cataloochee trail, spend first night at campsite 39. (mileage: ~8.5, elevation: ~800 ft gain, ~2100 ft loss)

Oct 23

- Depart campsite 39, work our way south to Big Fork Ridge trail, west on Caldwell Fork trail, spend the night at campsite 41. (mileage: ~8 miles, elevation: ~1000 ft gain, ~300 ft loss)

Oct 24

- Depart campsite 41, head northeast on Caldwell Fork trail, southeast on McKee Branch trail, lunch stop at the Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center, north down the Cataloochee Divide trail. (mileage: ~8.3, elevation: ~1900 ft gain, ~1300 ft loss)
- After collecting the cars we will head back to Waynesville for pizza and beer at Nick & Nate's, and we'll stay near Waynesville, NC (i.e. Oak Park Inn)

Oct 25

- Drive to Southfield (615 miles, ~10 hours)

On the trail meals:

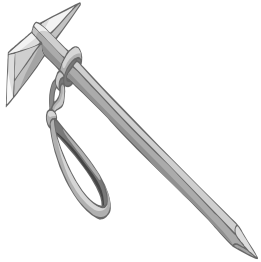
Two (2) breakfasts, three (3) lunches, two (2) dinners, and snacks.



Basic Mountaineering & Safety Skills Class

by Lou Szakal

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to stand on the summit of a mountain? Or to know what it takes to get there? How about just advancing your winter camping, snowshoeing, or cross-country skiing skills to include one- to two-week expeditions to places like Yellowstone or the Colorado or Canadian Rockies? Your chance to find out begins with this class. Starting in December 2010, I will be teaching the Basic Mountaineering and Safety Skills class to a few lucky students who are interested in devoting their time and energy to the sport of mountaineering and advanced winter adventure.



MANDATORY PREREQUISITES:

Basic Backpacking, Land Navigation or Adventure Racing Class, Winter Camping (a.k.a. Enjoying Michigan Winters), belayCard (rock gym)

CLASS SCHEDULE:

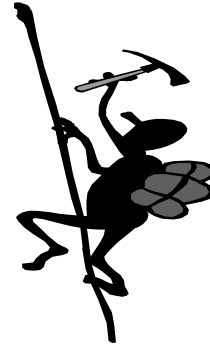
Location TBD (probably Birmingham Public Library), 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. (sharp)

Class 1	12/09/10	Thu.
Class 2	12/16/10	Thu.
Clinic	12/18/10	Sat.
Class 3	01/06/11	Thu.
Practical 1	01/07-09/11	Fri.-Sun.
Class 4	01/13/11	Thu.
Class 5	01/20/11	Thu.
Class 6	01/27/11	Thu.
Practical 2	01/28-30/11	Fri.-Sun

Words to Wander By

If the sight of the blue skies fills you with joy, if a blade of grass springing up in the fields has power to move you, if the simple things in nature have a message you understand, Rejoice, for your soul is alive.

— Eleanora Duse (Italian actress, 1858-1924)



COST:

\$175.00 per person (check made out to SOLAR). Subtract \$17 if you own Mountaineering, Freedom of the Hills Edition 7 by The Mountaineers. Subtract \$12 if you own Glacier Mountaineering: An Illustrated Guide to Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue by Andy Tyson & Mike Clelland.

CONTACT: Lou Szakal, email: everest2008@comcast.net, or cell: 248-756-7001

SOME OF THE SKILLS, LESSONS AND ITEMS YOU'LL GET OUT OF THIS CLASS:

Self-arrest	Fixed Lines	Roped Travel
Running Belays	Risk Assessment	Snowshoeing Skills
Health/Fitness Tips	Avalanche Issues	Chest Harness
Camaraderie	Ice Axe Use	Basic Mountaineering Skills
Leadership	Navigation	Prusiks
Technical Tool Usage	Mountain Safety	First Aid Skills
How To Use Crampons	2" Binder	Nutrition
Knots	LNT	Weather
Sled Skills	Glacier Travel	Climbing Info
Group Dynamics	Frost Bite Issues	Winter Safety Skills
Z & C Pulley System	Optional Mountain Trip	Proper Clothing
Rappelling	Gear Issues	Effects of Cold
Reading Material	Crevasse Rescue	Expedition Planning
Environmental Ethics	Altitude Awareness	Ascending Ropes
Ropes/Webbing	Alpine Rescue	Team Building Skills
Stewardship	Movies	Clinic
Fun	Two Practicals	Two Mountaineering Books
Much, much more		

Women in the Woods 2010

Ever wonder why your pack doesn't fit right?
Where to find good women's backpacking clothes?
Why you still don't know how to light your stove?
Well, now you can get answers to these topics and more!



Workshop focuses on women's outdoor topics and hands-on equipment practice:

- Women-designed equipment, how to fit, where to find
- Hygiene/Health
- Safety in the woods
- Nutrition
- Exercise/Training for women
- Building self-confidence
- Knots
- Navigation
- Equipment review/practice (stoves, tents, tarps, water filters)
- And much more!

NOTE that dates are corrected here, the original flyer was incorrect!

- September 15: Evening classroom session, location TBD (Royal Oak, Troy, or Southfield area)
- September 25-26: Proud Lake Recreation Area (Saturday 8:00 a.m. through Sunday 12:00 noon)
- October 15-17: Hiking practical at Red River Gorge, KY. Please note that we will begin hiking the morning of October 16, so you will need to drive down Thursday night after work.

Class Prerequisite: Beginning Backpacking Class. However, this course can be taken concurrently with the Fall Beginning Backpacking Class.

Class size: 16 students (A minimum of 8 students are needed to run the class.)

Cost: \$60.00

For questions or more information contact Pam Riehl Szakal at pariehl@gmail.com or 248-755-5873.

SOLAR/Proud Lake Moonlight Canoeing

This popular event is great for the experienced paddler as well as the novice. Come to Proud Lake State Recreation Area and paddle a canoe or kayak into the setting sun, then return by paddling back into the moonrise. When you return to the canoe rental, a bonfire will be awaiting you. Each evening will include pizza dinner. No partner necessary, all skill levels are welcome. Dress for the weather, including headlamps and water bottles.

Who: All are welcome. Child and dog friendly.

Where: Heavner's Canoe Livery, 2775 Garden Road, Milford, Michigan 48381

Cost: Canoe or kayak \$30 per person. Includes pizza dinner, boat rental (canoe or kayak), bonfire. Boat rental only (no dinner) \$25 per person. Dinner only (bring your own boat) \$15 per person. Bonfire only (no dinner, bring your own boat) \$5 per person.



When: Five moonlight canoeing/kayaking trips will be offered this year. The next trip will be September 25; to see a [full schedule](#) visit the Files section of the Yahoo! Group, the [Meetup.com calendar](#) or click on the link in the Ray's calendar to view the flyer.

Preregister by calling Heavner Canoe Livery at (248) 685-2379.



Please call in your reservation AT LEAST 24 hours before the event. Dinner will not be available for those who do not preregister. For more information call Margaret at 734-721-2821 or email her at mpluscat@yahoo.com.

We asked SOLAR club members...
What has been your biggest challenge in SOLAR?



Sheila Smith (& "Ginger")

I've taken Basic Backpacking and Basic Kayaking. The biggest challenge is making time, but it's totally worth it!



Mary Dunn

Getting over my fear of rock climbing.



Rick Wisz

Finding time to do stuff.



Chuck Smith

My most difficult challenge was definitely running the Great SOLAR Kayak Build of 2009. Trying to keep 15 people of various skills and abilities moving forward and in one piece while using lots of sharp pointy things was a handful. Thankfully the results were worth the effort.

Hiking Peru (7/20-8/6/2010)

by Linda Rodrick

My longtime dream trip to the ancient Inca ruins of Machu Picchu finally came true. Though the ruins were incredible, what I didn't anticipate was that it was the journey along the Inca Trail that would be the real high point, not the destination itself.

On July 20, Paul (a.k.a. Pablo) Williford, Bill (a.k.a. El Capitan) Pegan and myself (Leenda) set out for a three-week trip to Peru. We flew into Lima, where we were first introduced to the many pre-Inca civilizations through archeological site visits and a museum stop. A day later we went from sea level to Cusco, our hearts pounding noticeably harder as we began a four-day acclimation to the 12,000 foot altitude. Mauricio, our first guide, introduced us to coca tea, which increases respiration and enables

you to better grab hold of the oxygen present in the "thin" air. This drink became our new best friend along the Inca Trail.



In Cusco we also culturally acclimated during those four days. We

hiked to archeological sites daily and visited cathedrals and temples, villages, salt mines and markets. We learned about the Inca civilization's amazing architectural accomplishments in carving and fitting together huge boulders. Equally amazing was Inca hydraulic engineering that

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routed water through the mountains for village use. Still visible was the terracing that enabled them to farm on steep mountainsides without soil erosion.

We toured exquisite Spanish cathedrals that were often built on the earthquake-proof Inca temples. The influence of the three Inca worlds was everywhere: the above world represented by the condor, the present world represented by the puma and the underworld represented by the serpent. A memorable experience was our meeting with an Andean healer/shaman, who performed an ancestral ritual to mother earth (Pacha Mama) in Quechua, the native Inca language. These four days gave us an important understanding and appreciation of the ancient Inca and current Andean culture.

On July 26 we began the Inca Trail joined by two hiking companions from Germany. Ramiro, our guide, provided us with maps and a sense of confidence as we began our four-day trek to Machu Picchu ("Old Mountain").

After driving to the trail head known as Piskacucho, we had our passports stamped, crossed the Urubamba River and hiked along the water for half a day before the steep ascents and descents began. We shared the first day on the narrow trail with cattle, donkeys and sheep and those who herded them. The views of the Urubamba mountain range as well as the Veronica Glacier were spectacular. We arrived at our Huayllabamba ("grassy plain" in Quechua) campsite at an altitude of about 9,590 feet at 5 p.m. ~ just in time for our 5:30



tea and a trail briefing. Dinner was at 7 pm. We were asleep in our tents by 9 p.m.

The camp food was delicious and plentiful; toilet paper was in short

supply. I found myself saving every tissue square, every dinner napkin or paper towel. These valuable paper scraps were passed on sparingly to anyone who needed a nose blow or potty break.

Day two on the Inca Trail was our most challenging day. Our porters awoke us in our tents at 5:30 a.m. with hot coca tea and a bowl of warm water for washing. With breakfast at 6 a.m., we were on the trail at daybreak at 6:30 a.m.

Without the use of switchbacks every step was a significant gain in altitude. Our rewards were the spectacular views of layers and layers of the mountain ranges. We passed through numerous microclimates such as desert, cloud forest, rainforest and high jungle. Ramiro was nothing short of amazing. He was a true naturalist in identifying plants and their many uses; a spiritualist, philosopher, our personal photographer and vocalist who serenaded us in Spanish.

By early afternoon we reached our highest altitude of about 14,000 ft. at Warmi Wanuska or "Dead Woman's Pass". Windy and cold, we took pictures and participated in a short ceremony giving offerings to mother earth. At about 5:30 p.m., after eleven hours on the trail, we arrived at our campsite by the Pacaymayu River.



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Day three was our longest and most beautiful day on the trail. Awakened with coca tea at 5 a.m., we were on the trail by 6. We climbed up and down thousands of winding, uneven and steep stairs, explored more Inca ruins, and passed waterfalls perfectly aligned with agricultural terraces. We hiked through several tunnels carved through solid mountains. We continually questioned, "How on Earth did the Inca achieve all this?"



There were parrots, hummingbirds, alpaca, llama, and many varieties of orchids as well as spectacular views of the Sacred Valley and surrounding Andes mountains. The sun sets quickly at around 6 p.m. Twelve hours after we started our day, we were still hiking with headlamps. Arriving at our campsite Winaywayna (meaning "forever young"), we found our tents situated at the end of a steep and narrow cliff. We collapsed inside but not for long: we had a celebration to attend after dinner. This was our opportunity to recognize the hard work of our cooks and porters who ran the trails carrying amazing loads on their backs.

Day four was filled with excitement as we hiked the last few miles to Machu Picchu. We awoke at 3:30 a.m. and left the campsite by 4:30 a.m. It was a beautiful sunrise and a clear, warm day. As we approached the Sun Gate just before 7 a.m., the entire Inca city of Machu Picchu came into view. This was a moment to celebrate! As we hiked for several more hours to this city built of stone we had a spectacular view of the extensive ruins and agricultural terraces with the Huayna Picchu mountain peak in the background. This lost city - never found by the Spanish - was built on the saddle of a mountain surrounded by sheer

drops. We spent the afternoon exploring its sacred temples, fountains created by a canal channeling water from a mountainside spring, astrological sites, plazas, common houses and so much more. Many pictures later, we took a bus to a Calientes, the town where we would spend the night, rest and of course, hit the shower.

The next phase of our trip had us traveling south to Puno, the folklore capital of Peru. This altiplano or high plateau region is where Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world (around 12,500 ft) is located between Peru and Bolivia. On this lake there are dozens of floating islands made of layers and layers of straw-like reeds that grow in the shallow water. There are also reed-thatched houses, lookout towers, mattresses and boats. People fish, farm, weave, trade and float on their small island in this simple, traditional way of life. After a reed boat ride, we took a motor boat to Amantani, a real earthen island where we spent the night at a farmer's house.

In another memorable evening we were dressed in traditional clothing: women in skirts with layers of petticoats and colorful embroidery (remnants of the early Spanish) and men in ponchos and Andes-style hats. We were led to a town band played, and along with tourists from many other countries and their guides, we danced traditional dances all night long like a masquerade party. The next day we visited nearby Taquile Island where a folk festival featured more traditional dances and colorful dress. We hiked to still more Inca and pre-Inca ruins. Then with "El Capitan" Bill driving our boat, we headed back to Puno, then sadly to the airport.



Basic Land Navigation

What you will learn:

- Map reading skills (Terrain visualization)
- Taking & plotting compass bearings
- The "Three Norths" & Declination
- Navigation strategies
- Primitive Navigation (time permitting)
- You will be participating in a cross-country route finding exercise



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

Prerequisites: None

Cost: \$45.00

Includes: Book, Cabin, Handouts/Maps

Does NOT include: State Park Permit \$6/day or \$24.00/yr, Meals

When:

- Wednesday, October 13th, 6:30 PM-9:00 PM - Berkley Community Center
- Wednesday, October 20th, 6:30 PM-9:00 PM - Berkley Community Center
- Saturday, October 23rd (9 AM - 7 PM) & Sunday, October 24th (9 AM - 4 PM)
- Waterloo Recreation Area

Due to the cumulative nature of the material covered, no "excused absences" are possible - students must attend both evening classes and both days of the practical.

Contact:

Ati Tislerics

E-mail (preferred): atisleri@umich.edu

Phone: (734) 763-7752 (work), (313) 794-0164 (home)

An At-Sea Kayak Rescue

by Glenn Schultz, as told by his niece, Seaira

Since I have just turned 4-and-a-half, I am excited to tell you about the adventure that I had with my Uncle Glenn. My name is Seaira, though not spelled Sierra. Uncle Glenn tells me that there is some great hiking in some mountains called Sierra in California, and some day I hope to go there too, but here is my story first.

I was at a family reunion this summer in Grand Blanc, Michigan. It seemed like forever to get there by car from Detroit, so California must be really far away. Our Great Aunt Debbie & Uncle Rick's house has a back yard on an inland lake. The size of this lake must be hundreds of yards across and thousands from side to side. My dad could throw a softball to the opposite shore, which is how strong my dad is.



I met my cousin Brooklyn who had just turned five. To our delight this sunny afternoon, we spotted a paddle boat on the grassy shore. It was not one of those big metal ones, but rather a plastic two-seater just our size. So we immediately jumped in and began paddling with our feet. Seeing that the boat did not move at all because we were still totally on land, we knew we needed a bigger engine. So twirling my pig-tails I asked pretty-please to my Uncle Glenn.

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Hearing an enthusiastic ok, but safety first, we riffled through a pile of my aunt's life jackets to find our sizes. I heard that they were called PFDs but that is a big word when it is all spelled out and remember that I have only just learned to write, let alone to read. I picked the largest one in the pile for Uncle Glenn. He told me that it was not quite in his fashion forte, but being the good uncle he wore it anyway. I don't think purple is his color, but with the pink back and the My Pretty Pony logo on the hip, he would do anything for his niece.

So there we were motoring in the water in no time. Brooklyn was on one side, me in the middle and Uncle Glenn on the other. This made the boat lean way to one side and the water came almost over the edge, but Uncle Glenn told me that he preferred not to sit in the middle on that pointy steering lever.



Uncle Glenn estimated the size of the lake to be about 100 feet across and at best twice as wide, but I think that he was way off since I told you how big it was at the beginning and it was taking us a very long time to get around it. With the three of us using our feet as best we could, Brooklyn barely reaching the pedals while I was steering, I wondered why Uncle Glenn was starting to perspire.

The lily pads and underwater seaweed were more than normal this year and plowing through them was like cutting tall grass. After we made a short loop we steered on a straight line to the middle of the lake. Left, right, left, right, left, right, steering is so much fun.

Then our boat came to a sudden halt in the middle of this huge lake! It was like we were stuck on a big rock! At this time Uncle Glenn moved to the middle of the boat in order to use more foot power and we still did not move anywhere. Remember that Brooklyn just turned five, and since that is really close to 16 she was telling Uncle

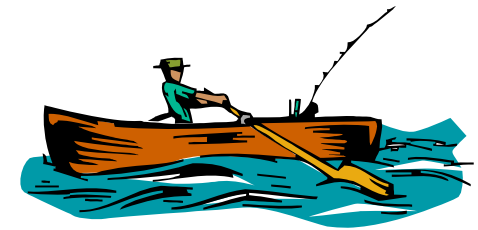
Glenn to turn left and then turn right, then to try backing up and then going forward again. No luck? Then try right and then left and forward and backward. And to rock the boat too! Uncle Glenn was sweating more now. What were we going to do?

The seaweed had knotted around our underwater paddle wheel and axle. Perhaps Uncle Glenn would jump in the water and free us with his mini Swiss army knife? I knew that he could tread water really well but I was not sure how long that he could hold his breath. He told me that was not an option.

We contemplated our next move. Well, he did. Contemplating is a big word for me, and I did not want to sprain anything, so I just thought a little harder, squinted my freckled nose, furrowed my brow and scratched my head. He hollered to shore and motioned for a little help and a number of relatives smiled and waved back. Then we all yelled real loud and Great Uncle Rick got up from his lounge chair and strolled to his kayak with a big grin on his face.

I knew that we were going to be saved since Uncle Glenn had his cell phone and he told me that he could call the Coast Guard at any time but that he was sure that Uncle Rick could do the job.

While waiting for the kayak to arrive, in the near distance I could see my second cousin fishing in a row boat and hoisting bluegills that appeared to me to be the size of footballs. Funny how water plays tricks on one's eyes.

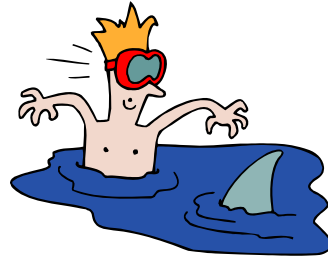


So I asked Uncle Glenn if there were any sharks in the water. Assuring me that there were none, I then asked why? After his short scientific answer of "No, don't worry there aren't any", I asked if there were any alligators? And I got a similar response. Any

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crocodiles? Snapping turtles? Snakes? After a dozen whys, why nots, are you sures, and that water sure looks deep and scary, Uncle Glenn told me that he really was thinking about using his cell phone to call the Coast Guard. He said that he would explain it to me later, and I knew that he had our best interests at heart.



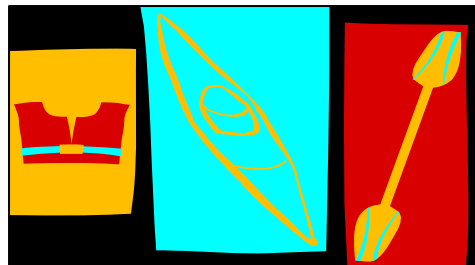
At shore, my dad told him that I was a regular watcher of the TV show River Monsters. One has to get a jump on one's kindergarten education so as to be up to date on the latest sea monsters. Oh, the stuff on TV. I have to get out more often.

So as we tossed and turned in our little dinghy, the high waves cresting an inch or two over the boat's edge ever so tentative of swamping our craft, the hot sun beating down on us, the boat listing ever so in the still water, and Uncle Glenn perspiring with his big purple life jacket buckled tight, we tried to hand paddle but that became a splash fest. We became delirious and giggly in the sea air. Uncle Glenn sure can cup a lot of water, but that only started to fill the boat more.

By this time a small crowd of adults had gathered on the shoreline, cheering us on and saluting us with beverage cans and chicken legs. It was taking forever for the kayak to get to us. Uncle Rick tossed us the tow line, we grabbed it and held tight as he methodically paddled us to shore while Uncle Glenn leaned close over the water while his arm seemingly was being pulled out of socket at the shoulder with every tug of the kayak.

At shore we were emphatically received to a chorus of cheers and well wishers. And not being one to get my feet in the mucky-muck of the shoreline, Uncle Glenn hoisted Brooklyn and me the final three feet to dry land and my mom waiting with a warm towel.

And so that is my out-to-sea kayak rescue and I am so looking forward to our family reunion next year.

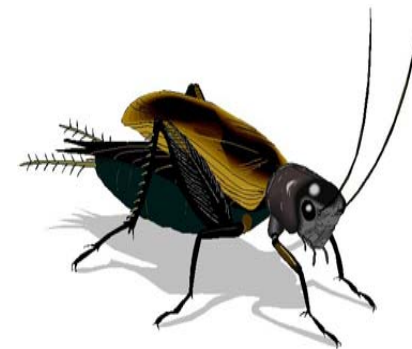


Fun Facts

You can determine the ambient temperature based on a cricket's chirping!

1. Count the number of chirps you hear in 15 seconds. You may need to try this a couple times to get a clear count.
2. Take that number and add 37. The new number you get is (roughly) the temperature in Fahrenheit.

In many countries in the world, if a cricket exists in the house, it is treated with respect. They are placed in small cages and given food and water. It is thought that their existence brings good luck.



SOLAR SEPTEMBER 2010 CALENDAR

www.SolarOutdoors.org

SOLAR MEETING AND PROGRAM DATES

9/7	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall	Allen Duncan	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program – A Tale of Two Trips	Colony Hall	Debbie Zuchlewski	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
10/5	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall	Allen Duncan	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program – Tramping in New Zealand	Colony Hall	Debbie Zuchlewski	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org

ACTIVITIES

9/9 - 10/7	Multi	Gaelic Adventure	Ireland/Scotland	Jim Gessner	gessnerj@comcast.net
9/11	Sat	Wine Tasting and Making	Fieldstone Winery Rochester, MI	Mary Donahue	mldonahue824@gmail.com
9/11	Sat	Annual Fall River Cleanup	East of Grayling – Au Sable River	Mary Dunn	mjd70bc@msn.com
9/25	Sat	Moonlight Canoe Paddle	Proud Lake State Park	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
10/3-7	Multi	Adirondack Trip	Heart Lake near Lake Placid, New York	Don Wold	DWold12972@aol.com
10/16-17	Wknd	Jordan River Pathway Backpacking Trip	Antrim County, MI	Allen Duncan George Zapp	allenduncan@aggienetwork.com gzapp@comcast.net
10/21-25	Multi	Fall Colors in the Smokies	Smoky Mountains National Park	Sarah Kirkish and Robert Schwenke	skirkish@peoplepc.com robert.schwenke@yahoo.com
10/23	Sat	Moonlight Canoe Paddle	Proud Lake State Park	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
11/6	Sat	Hayride and Bonfire at Kensington Metro Park	Kensington Metro Park	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
1/23- 30/2011	Multi	Yellowstone in Winter Trip	Yellowstone National Park	Moe and Dave DeFrance	moelifeisgood@lavabit.com ventures@lavabit.com
4/2-9/2011	Multi	St John Escape	St John, VI	Jim Gessner	gessnerj@comcast.net

CLASSES

8/25,28 9/1,8,9	Multi	Sporting Firearms	Classes-Farmington Practicals-Island Lake State Park and Action Impact in Southfield	Grey Ivanov	greyofk@cucor.com
8/26, 9/2,9,11, 16,17-19, 23,30, 10/7-10	Thurs, Sat, Wknds	Fall Basic Backpacking	Royal Oak, MI Northville, MI Pinckney, MI Pictured Rock National Lakeshore	Carol McCririe	cmccririe@sbcglobal.net
9/15, 25- 26, 10/15- 17	Weds, Wknds	Women in the Woods 2010 Workshop	Classroom-TBA, practicals- Proud Lake and Red River Gorge	Pam Riehl Szakal	pariehl@gmail.com
9/26,10/24 31,11/7	Sun	Orienteering	TBA	Don Jones	jonesdlus2@yahoo.com
10/13, 20, 23-24	Weds, Wknd	Basic Land Navigation	Berkley Community Ctr, Waterloo State Rec Area	Ati Tislerics	atisleri@umich.edu
12/1,8,15, 1/5,15- 16,19,26, 2/2,11-13	Weds, Wknds	Enjoying Michigan Winters	TBA	Allen Duncan George Zapp	allenduncan@aggienetwork.com gzapp@comcast.net
12/9,16, 18,1/6- 9,13,20, 27, 28-30	Thurs, Sat, Wknds	Basic Mountaineering and Safety Skills	TBA	Lou Szakal	everest2008@comcast.net

If you would like to plan/lead an activity for SOLAR, contact our Activities Chairperson, Jennifer McWilliams, at SolarActivities@SolarOutdoors.org.

If you would like to teach or suggest a class for SOLAR, contact our Education Chairperson, Chuck Smith, at 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.



WHAT IS SOLAR?

SOLAR is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization with 400-plus members who enjoy the outdoors. Members share their knowledge and experience with each other by leading classes and coordinating activities/trips.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is only \$40 a year per person (\$55 per family) and includes free access to most club-owned equipment, a monthly newsletter, and a chance to meet hundreds of other like-minded adventurers drawn together by a common love of pristine lakes, breathtaking vistas, deep forests, scenic shorelines, and the experiences to be found there. Lifetime memberships are available for \$175 (single) and \$250 (family).

MEETINGS

Our monthly meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month in Southfield at Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen (between 8 Mile & 9 Mile Roads) at 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

SOLAR RAY NEWSLETTER

The *SOLAR Ray* is a monthly publication of SOLAR and is available online at www.solaroutdoors.org. To receive a copy in the mail, please contact Mary Price at SOLARmembership@solaroutdoors.org.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions for the *SOLAR Ray* are due on the Thursday three weeks prior to the monthly Membership meeting. Articles, poems, recipes, etc. should be submitted in electronic format, preferably in Microsoft Word. Please attach images separately as JPG files. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Tislerics at SOLARrayeditor@solaroutdoors.org.

STEERING COMMITTEE

President: Allen Duncan
Vice President: Heather Hall
Treasurer: Mary Donahue
Secretary: Glenn Schultz

Activities: Jennifer McWilliams
Bylaws: Ati Tislerics
Education: Chuck Smith
Equipment: Marcia Murphy
Historian: Pam Riehl Szakal

Membership: Mary Price
Programs: Debbie Zuchlewski
PR: Samantha Mozdzierz
Ray Editor: Jennifer Tislerics
Webmaster: Jeff McWilliams

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Tom Hayes | Joan Hettinger | Doug Lanyk | Larry Martin | Tom Oloffo | Lou Szakal
Cindy Taylor | Joan & Bob Westbrook

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

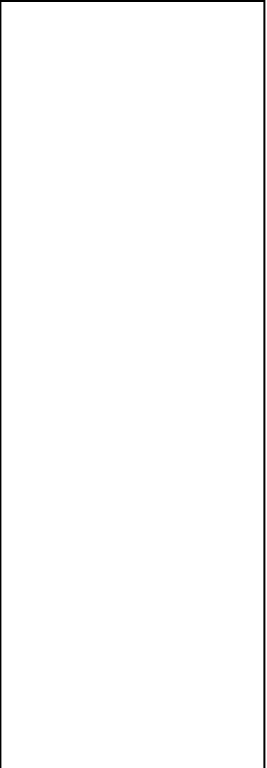
The Steering Committee meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. These meetings are usually open to the general membership. Anyone who is interested in learning about the decisions being made or contemplating running for a position on the Steering Committee is welcome to attend. If you are interested in attending the Steering Committee meeting, please contact Allen Duncan at SOLARpresident@solaroutdoors.org.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SOLAR RAY ASSISTANT EDITORS

Winnie Chrzanowski, Jennifer Hill, Ken Lemieux, Helen Peters, Janet Schester, Pamela Schmelzer-Anzicek, Elizabeth Shaw, Rebecca Sweeton and Ati Tislerics.

MORE INFORMATION

Please visit our website at www.solaroutdoors.org or attend one of our monthly meetings.



SOLAR

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