

## The

## SOLAR Ray



A monthly publication of the School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation (SOLAR)

May 2011

## Visit us at www.solaroutdoors.org

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SOLAR members are encouraged to use



## **Annual SOLAR Steering Committee Elections**

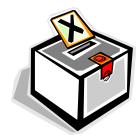
by Debbie Zuchlewski, SOLAR Programs Chairperson

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is different from the one published in the print edition of the SOLAR Ray. The list of nominees was not available by the deadline for the print edition.



Please plan to attend the May

SOLAR Program. You can make a difference in our club by running for a Steering Committee position or by supporting our candidates. If you have not yet submitted your name and position of interest for the ballot, you can still be a write-in candidate. Before elections take place during the May 3rd meeting, all candidates will have an opportunity to introduce themselves. For a more detailed description of each



Steering Committee position please see the <u>March 2011</u> edition of the SOLAR Ray. You can also review <u>SOLAR's By-laws</u> on our website. The list of positions and candidates running for office (to date) is as follows:

#### **SOLAR Steering Committee Positions/Candidates**

President	Chuck Smith
Vice President	Laura Buhl
Secretary	Ati Tislerics
Treasurer	Paul Williford
Activities	Open
By-Laws	Tim Davis
Education	Kevin Cotter
Equipment	Glenn Newa
Historian	Chip Kleinbrook
Membership	Jennifer Tislerics
Programs	Open
Public Relations	Jennifer Hill
SOLAR Ray Editor	Sheila Smith
Webmaster	Robert Innes
Want to add your nan	ne to the ballot fo

Want to add your name to the ballot for any of the above positions? Write-in candidates are welcome until voting concludes on May 3, 2011. For more information, contact Debbie Zuchlewski at SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org.



## SOLAR/Proud Lake Moonlight Canoeing

This popular event is great for the experienced paddler as well as the novice. Come to Proud Lake and paddle either a canoe or kayak into the setting sun. Stop briefly for dinner before continuing to paddle. When you return to the canoe rental, a bonfire will be waiting for you. Dinner will be at the park in Milford. No

partner necessary, all skill levels welcome. Dress for the weather, and bring your headlamps and water bottles.

Who: All are welcome. Child and dog friendly.

Where: Heavner Canoe Rental, 2775 Garden Rd., Milford

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

Schedule:

Saturday, May 14 Paddle: 7:45 p.m. Sunset: 8:46 p.m. Moonrise: 5:48 p.m.

<u>Saturday, June 18</u> Pre-paddle fun! Come see many handmade kayaks in the afternoon. Sunset paddle at 7:45 from the Proud Lake Campground. Meet at the canoe rental and a shuttle will be provided to the campground. Dinner will be provided en route. Sunset: 9:11 p.m. Moonrise: 11:20 p.m.

Saturday, July 16 Paddle: 8:15 p.m. Sunset: 9:07 p.m. Moonrise: 9:49 p.m.

Saturday, August 13 Paddle 7:45 p.m. Sunset: 8:38 p.m. Moonrise: 8:17 p.m.

Saturday, September 10 Paddle: 7:00 p.m. Sunset: 7:53 p.m. Moonrise: 6:46 p.m.



<u>Saturday, October 15</u> Paddle: 6:00 p.m. Sunset: 6:52 p.m. Moonrise: 8:43 p.m.

Saturday, November 12 Paddle: 5:00 p.m. Sunset: 5:15 p.m. Moonrise: 6:27 p.m.

Preregister by calling Heavner Canoe Rental at (248) 685-2379. Please call in your reservation AT LEAST 24 hours before the event.

For more information contact Margaret

Martin at 734-721-2821 or mpluscat@yahoo.com.



SOLAR welcomes the following new members to the club:

**Janice Colby** 

**Roy Hopkins** 

Alexander Lusk

Stanley Rarick

Clay Scot

We are also pleased to welcome

Janice Fleishmann

back to SOLAR after a long absence!

## Words to Wander By

In wilderness I sense the miracle of life, and behind it our scientific accomplishments fade to trivia.

~ Charles A. Lindbergh

Thanks to Pam Esper for submitting this quotation!

## Wilderness State Park Hiking Mackinac Island Biking

Kid Friendly, No Pets



Join fellow SOLARites as we bike around Mackinac Island and hike in Wilderness State Park from May 27 - May 30, 2011. There are a lot of things to do in the area. The main plan is to go to Mackinac Island (11 miles from the park to the ferry) and do some biking, visit the fort, eat some fudge, eat some ice

cream, take a carriage ride or visit the butterfly house. Additionally, Wilderness State Park has 16 miles of hiking trails and 26 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline to explore. Or you could take a trip to Tahquamenon Falls.

We will be staying in rustic bunkhouses (i.e., no electricity) with mattresses provided, outhouses nearby and this time of year the showers and flush toilets should be available. Bring a sleeping bag or sheets. Also, please bring a lantern, camp



stove, games, and ear plugs. Everyone will be expected to help clean up the cabins before we leave on Monday.

All this fun can be yours for a mere \$20 per person for 3 nights lodging. Ferry cost, state park stickers, entrance fees and other costs extra.

If interested contact Leslie Cordova at lesliegene@aol.com or (248) 547-5626.

## Cuyahoga National Park—Hike/Bike Trip

## by Carol Rogers

Check off a visit to another national park - Cuyahoga, just a short drive (3 hours) from the Detroit area. Cuyahoga is home to wonderful waterfalls, hiking trails and a towpath trail for biking. Join me in a trip on May 20-22. Why? We will hike The Ledges area, which has its own "refrigerator" on the trail (in a cave, of course!). We will bike the Towpath Trail, and those that want to can board the train for the ride back (\$2 if you travel with your bike). We'll close the weekend with the 3 Waterfall ranger-led hike (9 a.m.—1 p.m.) - this is a difficult, hilly, 9.5 mile hike. Of course, you can plan to hike on any other trail - Ohio has a lot of wonderful metro parks in the area - and all free! We will stay at a hotel in Richfield.

When: May 20 -22 - Friday through Sunday.

<u>Cost</u>: \$185 solo room, \$95/person double occupancy - includes a full breakfast both days. Sign up alone or with someone. If you want a shared room, I will try my best to match up people to share rooms.

Register at the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting with me or mail me a check. Indicate if you want a solo room, the person you are sharing a room with, or request a roommate (not guaranteed). A total of 20 rooms have been reserved. I must have payment in full by April 29, 2010.

Make checks payable to Carol Rogers, 1440 Dover Hill North, Walled Lake, MI 48390



## **Basic Land Navigation Class**

#### You will learn:

- Map reading / Terrain visualization
- Taking & plotting compass bearings
- Navigation strategies
- The "Three Norths" & Declination
- 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.

Cost: \$50.00

Book

#### Includes:

#### Does NOT include:

- Park Permit
- Cabin Meals
- Handouts/Maps

#### When & Where:

- Wednesday, May 25th, 6:30 p.m. 9:00 p.m. Berkley Community Center
- Wednesday, June 1st, 6:30 p.m. 9:00 p.m. Berkley Community Center
- Wednesday, June 8th, 6:30 p.m.— 9:00 p.m. Berkley Community Center
- $\bullet$  Saturday, June 11th (9 a.m. 6 p.m.) & Sunday, June 12th (9 a.m. 4 p.m.)
  - Waterloo Recreation Area

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.

Prerequisites: None

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

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

### Chain O' Lakes State Park

July 1-4, 2011

Hiking, Canoeing, kayaking, camping, swimming in Amish country. Kid and dog friendly trip.

Come join us from July 1 - 4, 20011. We will drive 3 - 3.5 hours to Indiana. Eight connecting lakes will be the center of your adventure at Chain O' Lakes State Park. Paddle through the chain, hike the 10 miles of trails, attend a nature program in the park's "old school house" nature center, relax and go swimming. In nearby Rome City you can visit the Gene Stratton-Porter House. Also, Shipshewana (a largely Amish and Mennonite community) is only a 30 minute drive away.

We will spend 3 nights camping and exploring the area. Saturday night will include a traditional SOLAR potluck dinner. There are 2 primitive group campsites reserved with pit toilets. Showers are available at the beach.

All this fun can be yours for a mere \$40 per tent.

Contact Leslie Cordova to reserve your spot today. lesliegene@aol.com or (248) 432-7855.



## Introduction to Making Outdoor Equipment

by Gary Benninger



Everyone knows that you are a real backcountry person, a real mountain man or woman, but when you go looking for serious equipment what you find is something that only looks good at the mall. Maybe you are in the market for a serious down parka but can't find exactly what you want, pockets not in the right place, hood not attached, doesn't have enough loft. Why not make one the way you want it? Sure you can, it's not that hard.

On four consecutive Thursdays in May I will be teaching a course entitled *Introduction to Making Outdoor Equipment*. The information below will give you a good idea of what will be covered. In addition to learning about materials and technique

each student will complete an equipment project. The project for the course will be a down vest that each student will design and make. With a little practice the possibilities of what you can make are endless. The class has a limit of 12 due to the need for everyone to have access to table space, so sign up early.

<u>Objective</u>: The objective of this course is to give students an introduction to making their own outdoor equipment.

Description: Topics that will be covered in the course are:

- Types of fabrics and applications
- Thread, zippers, Velcro®, grommets and snaps
- Construction techniques & assembly sequence
- Making a pattern
- Making a piece of equipment

<u>Instructor</u>: Gary Benninger, <u>benninger@comcast.net</u>, 248-318-0802

Owned small outdoor equipment company. Has designed, fabricated and sold shell garments, down jackets, down pants, down sleeping bags and tents. Equipment used for backpacking, mountaineering and expeditions.

<u>Location</u>: Schoolcraft Community College, Liberal Arts Building, Room 270.

<u>Date & Time</u>: Four 3 hour classes: May 5, 12, 19 & 26 starting at 6:30 p.m.

<u>Number of Students</u>: Minimum of 5 and a maximum of 12.

<u>Cost</u>: The fee for the class is \$ 50.00. Additionally, students will be required to purchase/order materials during the course. This cost is expected to be approximately \$75.00.

<u>Equipment Required</u>: Access to a sewing machine will be required.



<u>Experience</u>: Previous sewing experience is not required but will be helpful. Experience making handicrafts, models, electronics, etc. will also be helpful. Sewing requires manual dexterity, good hand-eye coordination and attention to detail.

<u>Challenges</u>: For an inexperienced person sewing can be challenging and frustrating. Early success is important. For this reason the piece of equipment that will be made as part of this class will not be overly complicated. A down vest is the project being considered for this class.

Goals: The goals of the class are that each student learns:

- Which fabrics and hardware are best for use in fabricating outdoor equipment
- The basic skills necessary to make a pattern
- How to assemble and fabricate a piece of outdoor equipment and demonstrate its use



<u>Conditions</u>: If the minimum number of students has not registered by April 5, 2011 the course may be canceled and fees returned to those that have paid.



How long have you been a member of SOLAR? Since about 2005-ish

How did you first learn about SOLAR? It was in the middle of Spring Mill Pond (at Island Lake State Recreation Area) the day after 9-11. "Sue" [I do not recall her last name but she worked for Ford] was swimming one way, and I the other way, and she said, all while treading water: "Hey, if you like the outdoors, you really ought to join SOLAR." Two years later I looked it up, attended my first meeting only to find myself sitting next to my mom's neighbor of 15 years, who was attending her first meeting. I figured it was Providence at that point, beyond coincidence.

What are some outdoorsy activities you enjoy? Hiking, backpacking in non-mosquito areas (I have a state atlas with many non-mosquito areas; perhaps we can create an online map for folks who love to camp in luxury without those little buggers), canoeing, kayaking, swimming, skiing, and mountain biking.

What has been your favorite trip/activity so far? Probably the trips that Laura used to put on with archeological digs in Ontario. I love history, and also

because I might dig up some clues to my crazy relatives one day. I might be tempted to organize another trip like that.

What's the most challenging thing you've done through SOLAR? Bite the bullet for a lifetime membership that I should have done at the first meeting!!



What would your ideal trip be like? Cool nights, sunny mosquito-free days, campfire with cold beer, and the northern lights, up near Isle Royal.

Which SOLAR classes have you taken? I'll plead the 5<sup>th</sup> here.

What class(es) do you wish were offered that are not currently? How to use my new cell phone for navigation so I do not have to depend on Garmin updates! ©

Tell us something about you that would surprise us! After my first year as a counselor at Camp Dearborn, I swore I would never camp again due to crazy campers, sultry sleepless nights in canvas tents and never being clean. After taking a road trip to Grand Teton and back the next spring, I was hooked. Since then, I have been to every state with a burger, beer and campfire, all by age 33. On the trail up to the glacier just west of Jenny Lake, you might find a pair of my glasses in the river!

Do you have any pets? I borrow the neighbor's waggy-tailed dogs for cross country skiing - free rent-a-dog program! Kids? None but nieces and nephews, and hundreds of virtual nieces and nephews as a camp counselor at Camp Dearborn Youth Camp and elsewhere.

Significant Other? Still looking through haystacks for a needle!

What would you like to see changed in SOLAR in the next year? To see if they can snag a local or private showing of Banff's Radical Reels film show, or maybe a fundraiser with Banff Centre!

## **Upcoming SOLAR Programs**

By Debbie Zuchlewski, SOLAR Programs Chairperson

May SOLAR Program: Annual SOLAR Steering Committee Elections

On Tuesday, May 3, 2011, SOLAR will be holding its annual Steering Committee elections. By running for one of the Steering Committee positions, or just by participating in the voting process, you can 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 collaboratively with others to make SOLAR the best outdoor club it can be.

June SOLAR Program: Today's Detroit Zoo, Presented by Gail Warden, Chairman of the Board, Detroit Zoo

Mr. Gail Warden, Chairman of the Detroit Zoo, will give an inspiring presentation on Today's Detroit Zoo. Topics include animal welfare, educational programs, and future plans.

July SOLAR Program: Annual Picnic and Gear Swap

Do you have outdoor gear that you no longer use? Have several of the same items you have acquired over the years? Here is your chance to sell or barter your unused/unwanted gear and help other SOLAR members at the same time. Bring your outdoor gear to the July general meeting and be ready to sell it to other people. \*

After the meeting we will hold our annual SOLAR picnic on the Colony Hall lawn. SOLAR will provide the main dish. Members are asked to bring a side dish to pass.

Please Note: All SOLAR Programs take place at Colony Hall immediately following the monthly SOLAR business meeting.

\*SOLAR takes no responsibility for warranty, guarantee, quality, price or satisfaction on outdoor gear purchased or bartered at the gear swap.

## Metamora/Hadley Fall Camping Trip

September 30-October 1, 2011



Don't put the camping gear away, yet! Come to the Metamora/Hadley State Park Harvest Weekend. Activities include decorating your campsite for Halloween (children can trick-ortreat Saturday night), visiting a haunted house, and dressing in costumes. Other activities include hiking, enjoying cider mills, and visiting the 7 Ponds Nature Center.

This trip is kid-friendly, dog-friendly, and RV-friendly.

<u>Cost</u>: \$25 per adult, \$20 per child. Cost includes camping fees, a pancake breakfast, and campfires Friday and Saturday (including s'mores).

For more information contact Margaret Martin at 734-721-2821 or mpluscat@yahoo.com, or Frank and Julie Barrett at 734-729-5019 or fire\_dude59@yahoo.com. You can also sign up for this trip on SOLAR's Meetup page.



Two fishermen were out on the lake when one of them dropped his wallet. As they watched the wallet float down to the depths of the lake, a carp came along and snatched up the wallet. Soon came another carp who stole it away and then a third joined in. Remarked one of the fisherman, "That's the first time I've ever seen carp-to-carp walleting."

The online edition of the SOLAR Ray includes <u>hyperlinks</u> to sign up for these activities and classes!

## **SOLAR MAY 2011 CALENDAR**

www.SolarOutdoors.org

SOLAR MEETING AND PROGRAM DATES  5/3 Tues Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m. Colony Hall Allen Duncan SolarPresident@Solar  Program: Annual SOLAR Steering Committee Elections  6/7 Tues Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m. Colony Hall BD SolarPresident@Solar  Program: Today's Detroil Zoo, Presented by Gail Warden, Chairman of the Board, Detroil Zoo  SOLAR RAY DEADLINES  5/19 Thurs June SOLAR Ray Deadline  6/16 Thurs June SOLAR Ray Deadline (tentative)  TBD SolarPrograms@Sola  Colony Hall TBD SolarRayEditor@Sola  SOLAR RAY DEADLINES  5/14 Sat Moonlight Canoeing Proud Lake Rec Area Margaret Martin mpluscat@yah  5/20-22 Multi Cuyahoga Hike & Bike Weekend Park, Ohio  6/5 Sun Paddie the Shiawassee River in Oakland County  6/11 Sat Moonlight Canoeing Proud Lake Rec Area Margaret Martin mpluscat@yah  6/11 Sat Moonlight Canoeing Proud Lake Rec Area Margaret Martin mpluscat@yah  7/1-4 Multi Chain O'Lakes Trip Chain O'Lakes State Park, Indiana  7/1-9 Multi Alaskan Expedition Cruise Alaska Roomer Park Margaret Martin mpluscat@yah  8/13 Sat Moonlight Canoeing Proud Lake Rec Area Margaret Martin mpluscat@yah  8/13 Sat Moonlight Canoeing Proud Lake Rec Area Margaret Martin mpluscat@yah  8/13 Sat Moonlight Canoeing Proud Lake Rec Area Margaret Martin mpluscat@yah  8/13 Sat Moonlight Canoeing Proud Lake Rec Area Margaret Martin mpluscat@yah  8/13 Sat Moonlight Canoeing Proud Lake Rec Area Margaret Martin mpluscat@yah  8/13 Sat Moonlight Canoeing Proud Lake Rec Area Margaret Martin mpluscat@yah  8/13 Sat Moonlight Canoeing Proud Lake Rec Area Margaret Martin mpluscat@yah  8/13 Sat Moonlight Canoeing Proud Lake Rec Area Margaret Martin mpluscat@yah  8/13 Sat Moonlight Canoeing Proud Lake Rec Area Margaret Martin mpluscat@yah  8/14 Alaskan Expedition Cruise Alaska Rec Area Margaret Martin mpluscat@yah  8/15 Sat Moonlight Canoeing Proud Lake Rec Area Margaret Martin mpluscat@yah  8/17 Alaskan Expedition Cruise Alaska Rec Area Margaret Martin mpluscat@yah  8/18 Multi Spring Backpacking Proud Lake Rec Area Margaret Martin mpluscat@yah  8/19 Alaskan Expe	
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5/5,12,19, -, Introduction to Making Outdoor Schoolcraft College, S	yahoo.com
Thurs Equipment School and College, Livonia Gary Benninger benninger@con	omcast.net
5/18, 25, 6/8, TBD Sat Digital Photography Basics Heavner Canoe Rental, Milford Howard Andrews hwandrews@wov	owway.com
5/25, 6/1, 6/8, 6/11- 12 Weds, Wknd Basic Land Navigation Berkley Community Center, Waterloo State Rec Area Ati Tislerics atisleri@med.ur	.umich.edu
5/21 Sat <u>Kiteboarding Seminar</u> St. Clair Shores Chuck Smith cbryansmit@gn	gmail.com

If you would like to plan/lead an activity for SOLAR, contact our Activities Chairperson at <a href="SolarActivities@SolarOutdoors.org">SolarActivities@SolarOutdoors.org</a>.

If you would like to teach or suggest a class for SOLAR, contact Chuck Smith, our Education Chairperson, at <a href="SolarEducation@SolarOutdoors.org">SolarEducation@SolarOutdoors.org</a>.

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

# SOLAR

#### 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 likeminded 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: *open*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

#### PRESIDENTS AT LARGE

Mike Banks | Leslie Cordova | Al Fylak | Steve Gardner | Bill Halvingis | Cindy Harrison-Felix 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, Karen DeCoster, Jennifer Hill, Ken Lemieux, Helen Peters, Janet Schester, Pamela Schmelzer-Anzicek, Elizabeth Shaw, Sheila Smith and Ati Tislerics.

#### MORE INFORMATION

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

33228 W. 12 Mile Road P.O. Box 220 Farmington Hills, MI 48334 Visit our website: www.solaroutdoors.org