

The SOLAR Ray

Find us on Facebook

Facebook.com/SOLAROutdoors

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

June 2011

Visit us at www.solaroutdoors.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

U-M Wilderness First Aid	1-2
Chain O' Lakes State Park	2
Why I'm Taking the BLN Class	3
Rain Test	4
Spotlight On	5
Words to Wander By	5
SOLAR Business Update	6-7
Welcome to the Club	7
2011-2012 Steering Committee	7
Moonlight Canoeing	8
Metamora/Hadley State Park	8
Photos from Backpacking Class	9
Thanks from the Editor	10
Beyond Backpacking	10
SOLAR Calendar	11

Weekend Forecast: Gobs of Fake Blood!

by Ati Tislerics

A few weekends ago, I put my "student" hat back on for the Wilderness First Aid class offered through U-M Outdoor Adventures (www.recsports.umich.edu/OutdoorAdv/). I had last taken WFA four years ago, so I was due for a refresher, and I got considerably more than that in those three days.



Whoever Sam was, he invented a handy splint.

The class was held at the U-M Challenge Center, just east of Ann Arbor. The first thing I noticed when I walked in the room was the three other SOLARites among the 18 students: Nancy Austin and Jan and Allen Duncan. (Nancy disappeared at lunchtime that day, and this wasn't a Search and Rescue class, so we never saw her again.

But if she was injured we could have helped her.) The class actually had only a few U-M students in it, and no undergrads at all, which surprised me. Many of my classmates appeared to have no affiliation to the university, and none is needed to take advantage of the opportunities Outdoor Adventures offers.

The class was conducted by the Wilderness Medicine

Training Center, of Winthrop, WA. The instructor, Scott Jordan, came in from Oklahoma for the weekend. He had a tough job, but he excelled at it, and he had a great sense of humor that kept us awake and focused for three very full days. The weekend was a combination of lectures, indoor skills practice, and outdoor simulations, with gobs of fake blood! Some of the skills we covered (and practiced, and practiced some more) included spine stabilization, wound cleaning and packing, splints, hypothermia wraps, injections and ruling out spinal injuries. More importantly than these specific topics, we learned an overall system for recognizing and dealing with just about any kind of potentially life-threatening condition. We obviously couldn't cover every possible situation in three days, but we did receive as part of the course an impressively compact yet detailed wilderness medicine handbook. It's intended to be taken along on trips, though I confess I'm having a hard time with that notion.



Allen makes a grocery list while Trish tends the patient.

Check out the online edition for hyperlinks to flyers for upcoming trips/classes.

www.solaroutdoors.org/Newsletter/Download.aspx

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



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

I had previously taken a Wilderness First Aid class through SOLAR, led by Mary Egan Price under the umbrella of the American Red Cross, so it was interesting to compare the two. The classes covered essentially the same ground, but had significant differences. For one thing, this WMTC class cost more than twice as much (\$220 with early registration). But, for that money, I got at least eight more hours of class time. That allowed us to go into more depth, and to do several more very valuable practice scenarios. I've found that the knowledge gained in a class like this deteriorates very quickly without practice. The two classes also differed in the number of instructors present. The WMTC employs professional instructors who lead classes often. But, as skilled as Scott Jordan was, he was just one guy. Where his expertise was weak, there was no one else to pick up the slack, and he seemed spread kind of thin during our small-group simulations. In contrast, the class I took through SOLAR four years ago had several volunteer instructors in addition to Mary, so each group had its own instructor for the small-group simulations.



After cleaning and dressing its laceration, we surgically reattached the pig's foot.



It's only a flesh wound.

I was very glad I had that previous experience through SOLAR. Though this WMTC class covered more ground, it was pretty fast-paced, and I don't think I would have gotten nearly as much out of it if I hadn't had that previous background in the area.

I should mention that the comparisons I'm making might not be relevant to future WFA classes offered through SOLAR. When and if a course is offered again, it will be led by

someone new, and I'm told that the Red Cross has significantly changed their WFA curriculum recently as well.

So, I hope there will be a Wilderness First Aid class available through SOLAR soon; I'm sure it will be a good class and a good way to connect with other members. But, if that doesn't suit your schedule, this class offered through U-M is another good option.

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, 2011. 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.



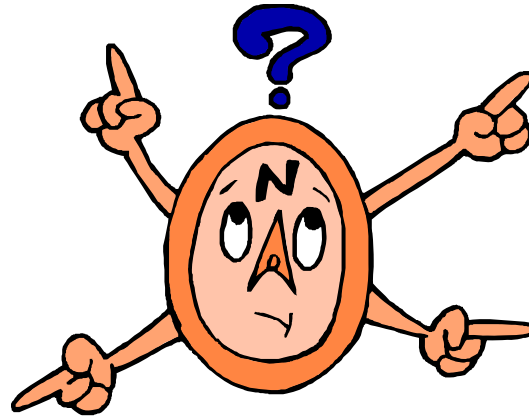
Why I'm Taking Basic Land Navigation

by Janet Schester

Have you ever gotten lost in the woods? Here is my story...

I've got two hours between clients. It's sunny and 60 degrees outside; I've got enough time for a hike at one of my favorite parks. I come here often so I know the trails well. It's the beginning of spring and the foliage is starting to emerge. How beautiful!!! As I'm walking through the woods, I come upon a familiar fork in the trail. I've always gone straight and assumed that the other way is a short access trail that leads to the houses on the edge of the park.

But today I decide to see if my assumptions are right. I step onto the "new" trail. As I'm walking I'm thinking, "Man, this is long; the park must be bigger than I thought." I come upon a barricade of fresh cut branches right in the middle of the trail. I walk around and continue on the trail. It's clearly a trail, isn't it? The wooded trail takes a slight curve to the right and goes along the side of the river. There's only one river, right? I can't get lost if I'm following a trail right next to the river. The trail goes on. There's another pile of branches, evergreens this time, in the middle of the trail. I walk around the branches and the trail continues on, heading away from the river. I get to a wooden bridge. It looks fairly new. I cross it and continue on the trail through the woods. "This park is REALLY bigger than I thought." There is a clearing ahead where I can see that someone has been sawing up trees and stacking the wood. I'm still on a trail that has lost its width but it's still a trail. The trail stops abruptly and a small half-dry swamp is in front of me. Across the swamp around the edge, I see a large wooden deck and then about 70 steps that lead up the side of a hill. I wonder "What's at the top?" I climb the stairs and my view is two backyards ... a little disappointing. I was hoping I'd discover a secret tree house complete with a swing on the back porch. Oh well. End of my curiosity for this hike!!



It's been 45 minutes since I began and it's time I'm on my way back. I turn around, go down the steps and head back the same way I came. Back through the swampy area and past the piles of stacked wood. The trail looks a bit thin now. I keep walking through the woods. I look to my left and I see the river I walked alongside of earlier. I keep going but then I see another river on the right of me. "Oh dear -- a river on both sides of me. I don't remember that." I've somehow gotten off the trail and don't recognize where I am. Where's the trail? I've got 45 minutes to get back to the salon. Don't panic; it's a small park in the middle of Farmington. I'll backtrack.

As I'm walking I call the salon and tell them I'm a little lost in a local wooded park and ask that the next scheduled client be called to see if she can come in a half hour later just to make sure I get back in time. Joe replies "Don't you have a GPS on your new iPhone?" Oh yeah. I forgot. The iPhone is high tech and can do everything! I tell Joe, "Don't call the client. I'll check it out and call you when I'm back on the trail. Don't worry!!! I'll be okay." I then discover the GPS doesn't work in parks. It's for the roads. Okay... don't panic. I'll call Kathy, my next client, myself and ask her to come a little later. She answers the phone. I tell her I'm lost in the woods at a nearby park, could she come in a half hour later? Kathy replies "What? Call the police right now and have them find you!!" I reply calmly "It's not a big deal." I assure her I'll find my way back. It's a small local park I'm very familiar with. I continue to search for the trail. As I'm talking to her I see the wooden bridge I crossed over earlier. I tell her enthusiastically "I found the trail." I'm so excited that I stumble over a log and my iPhone goes flying in the air, I'm yelling to Kathy "I'm all right. I just fell over a log." Thank God my glasses didn't fall off!! I tell her again I found the trail and I'll see her shortly. Just come 15 minutes later. I find my phone. Thankfully it missed the mud puddle. I get back on the trail that leads to the original trail I'm very familiar with, so I may continue my day at the salon.

That's why I've signed up for Basic Land Navigation!!!

Rain Test

by Ken Lemieux

Some lessons are learned the hard way, and this is one of them. When backpacking, be sure to have good raingear and a plan for how to use it correctly. Being prepared can prevent a trip from being ruined, or, in an extreme case, it can save your life.

Past Experience

Let's rewind to August of 2009. At this time, I was planning a weeklong backpacking trip with five other SOLAR members across Isle Royale National Park. I had a pair of old, ill-fitting, cheap rain pants that I decided to bring on the trip. Then I made a decision I really came to regret. Instead of packing my relatively new REI rain jacket that I'd paid \$150 for, I packed my old, RedHead brand jacket (it came with the pants) that compacted down a little more and was a couple of ounces lighter.

As I pointed out in my October 2009 article in the Ray (<http://tinyurl.com/5vyurkk>), it rained considerably on that trip. In fact, the deluge went on for 38 straight hours and the animals were lining up two-by-two to take the ferry off the island (that last part might not be entirely true). Overall, my raingear failed me big time. The storm also caused the temperature to plunge to around fifty degrees, plenty cold enough to cause a soaking wet person to face possible hypothermia. Fortunately, everyone in our group came out unscathed. Miserable, but in good shape.

Like a student who failed a test, I spent a lot of time contemplating what I could have done better. This may sound like I'm crazy, but I was really looking forward to retaking this test. A rainy forecast and weekend trip scheduled for the 21-mile North Country Trail/Manistee River Trail loop was just the ticket.

Pre-trip Preparation

First off, I purchased new rain pants at REI. I believe I paid around \$50 for them on sale. They compact down nicely into their own bag, allowing for easy stowing in one of the outside pockets on my pack.

I had worn my REI rain jacket last fall in a storm, and although it performed much better than the RedHead jacket, it didn't do quite as well as I had hoped. I realized it had been through the wash a few times and had likely been exposed to fabric softener, a huge no-no for tech gear. I bought a bottle of Nikwax Tech Wash and TX Direct Wash-In and ran the jacket through the wash, once for each bottle, closely following the directions. And perhaps the most important thing I did was, I PACKED THE GOOD JACKET.

Note: My extra shirt, fleece jacket, underwear, socks, and sleeping bag, as always, were packed into waterproof bags in my pack.

Execution

An hour into our 15-mile day, it started to rain. As the intensity slowly built, it became apparent it wasn't going to stop any time soon so I stopped to put the raingear on. The temperature was in the low fifties and there was a moderate wind. Since I was with two strong hikers, I knew the pace would be steady and I wouldn't have to worry about standing around. Prior to putting on my

raingear, I stripped down to a short sleeve, lightweight synthetic shirt and removed the legs on my convertible pants. This served two purposes: prevent me from overheating (which would cause perspiration to further wet my clothing) and eliminate the possibility of water creeping up my pant legs or sleeves. I also zipped up my jacket all the way and put the hood on. For the most part, I kept the pit zips open to allow for air circulation, closing them when we stopped for any length of time.



One of the more important things I did was to not compromise the system. Once the raingear was on I did not reach into my pants pockets to get anything. Important items such as the map and waterproof camera were transferred to the outside pockets of my rain pants. The less chance water had to get in, the better off I was going to be.

Moment of Truth

When you've been hiking several hours with raingear on, the body heat you're creating can mask the wetness of your clothing. When you are done with the physical exertion you realize just how wet you really are and how dangerous your situation can become.

When we got to our campsite, it had just stopped raining. It was time for the moment of truth. And I'm happy to report my clothing was dry. A very satisfying feeling.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Jackie Ostrosky,
SOLAR Member

How long have you been a member of SOLAR?
3 years

How did you first learn about SOLAR?

I did an internet search for outdoor groups in Michigan. Once I found SOLAR I came to a meeting in 2006 but felt really out of place. I didn't come back again until 2008 when I decided enough was enough - I needed people to do outdoorsy stuff with! So glad I did!

What are some outdoorsy activities you enjoy?

Hiking, biking, backpacking, paddling, camping, orienteering, adventure racing, cross-country skiing, trail running. I'm sure I'm missing something.

What has been your favorite trip/activity so far?

I can't pick just one! My 2-week solo vacation in Guatemala was just amazing. The culture, the people, the gorgeous scenery. I WILL go back. Poland was very cool because that's my heritage, plus there was an endless supply of pierogi! My backpacking trips to Isle Royale and Glacier National Park with SOLAR friends were also spectacular.

What's the most challenging thing you've done through SOLAR?

Probably the Stark Raving Mad Adventure Race with the AR Class. It was my first Adventure Race and I didn't realize how tiring racing for 6 hours would be. Hiking up and down sand dunes, paddling on windy Lake Michigan, and then biking up hills at the very end when your muscles say no more. It was great!



What would your ideal trip be like?

It could be a backpacking trip somewhere beautiful. Maybe an all-inclusive beach resort. Or a trip to a foreign country. Central America, Eastern Europe, and New Zealand always stay near the top of my list. Alaska, Hawaii, Zion, Iceland, the Galapagos....I could keep going. So many places to go and not enough time!

Which SOLAR classes have you taken? What class(es) do you wish were offered that are not currently?

I've taken backpacking, women in the woods, adventure racing, intro to kayaking and wilderness first aid. I'd love for rock climbing to be offered.

Tell us something about you that would surprise us!

I have my motorcycle license. And I can wiggle my ears.

Do you have any pets? Kids? Significant Other?

No, no and no.

What would you like to see changed in SOLAR in the next year?

Keep expanding the offering of activities and classes.

Words to Wander By

"When in the wilds, we must not carry our problem with us or the joy is lost."

~ Sigurd Olson

SOLAR Business Update

by *Ati Tislerics*

By the time you read this, I'll no longer even be the Bylaws Chairperson, but I still wanted to update the membership on some things we've been doing behind the scenes in SOLAR. Some people who responded to the recent general membership survey wanted more updates on the "business" of the club, so I hope that this will be the first of a monthly series of articles from various Steering Committee (SC) members about what's going on in their areas of responsibility.

The Bylaws Chairperson is a role you generally only hear about if there's a problem. (Anyone heard about the Bylaws lately? Anyone...? No? Good!) Nonetheless, the other SC members will tell you that I've been busy, and I've kept them busy. SOLAR's Bylaws are the basic rules under which the club operates - if you're curious, they're on the website (<http://www.solaroutdoors.org/About/Bylaws.aspx>). It's the Bylaws Chairperson's job to know the Bylaws, to try to make sure that the club operates in accordance with them, and to seek resolution of the inconsistency when it doesn't (by recommending changes to the club's operations, the Bylaws, or both).

In addition to the Bylaws, we also have "Standing Rules". They're lower-ranking than Bylaws because they're a bit easier to make and to change. Unlike the Bylaws, though, these "Standing Rules" are not available on the website. In fact, they were not collected anywhere. We relied on the memories of SC members, and as people came and went, rules

were mis-remembered or forgotten entirely. We essentially didn't know our own rules, and that's obviously not a good way to run a club.

To try to remedy this problem, a couple of previous SC members (Cindy Taylor and Rebecca Sweeton) combed through nearly a decade's worth of SC meeting minutes, and copied everything that looked like a standing rule into a single document. By the time they were done, there were about 40 items on the list. Some of them clearly had value, but many were obsolete, some were just plain silly, some weren't really rules at all, and a few even seemed to conflict.

When I became Bylaws Chair a year ago, I asked each member of the SC to comment on the items on the list that were relevant to his/her position. In most cases, they told me that the "rule" was unnecessary and unhelpful. So, after a couple months of discussions, I proposed that we simultaneously rescind all previously enacted Standing Rules, and replace them with a few clearly worded ones that we felt were still needed. A lot of discussion and changes followed, but over the next couple meetings we enacted five "Standing Rules":



- Members who borrow SOLAR-owned equipment are required to sign and abide by the Equipment Use Agreement. The Equipment Chairperson has discretion to determine the deposit required.
- Classes offered through SOLAR are offered to those 18 years of age and older.
- Classes offered through SOLAR shall prohibit the consumption of alcoholic beverages during the class.
- The Education Chairperson, during his/her term in office, shall not serve as lead instructor of any class having more than 2 instruction sessions or an overnight practical.
- All SOLAR members shall sign SOLAR's liability waiver each year.

So now, we have a few Standing Rules, and we know what they are. Of course, the individual SC members will also have their own processes and procedures for doing their jobs. I think we still need to formalize some Standing Rules about how we handle club funds, and I will be working with the new Treasurer and Bylaws Chairperson to do that, but overall, I think the club is in a much better position now than it was a year ago.

There were quite a few items on the original list that are no longer formal club rules, but still had value as informal guidance to various members of the SC. I didn't want those to get

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

lost, and there was a logical place to put them. Several years ago, Carol McCririe started to put together a "Policies and Procedures Manual" for the club that would be a collection of job descriptions/job aids for each of the SC positions. This is where we'll try to capture how individual SC members do their jobs. It will help new officeholders to learn their jobs more quickly and promote greater consistency from one year/person to the next.

Unfortunately, Carol had little success in getting SC members to write their sections, and the manual languished. Thus, I found my next project. I took what Carol had managed to gather, and tried to build on it. We've made some progress; the existing "job descriptions" have been updated, and I've collected a few more. Even though the manual is not finished, I think the existing documents are going to be pretty helpful as a bunch of new SC members get used to their roles. I'm going to take this project with me as I move over to the Secretary's chair, and I hope to finish it in the coming months. I hope it will be a valuable and lasting resource for members of the Steering Committee.

Want to learn what else the Steering Committee does? Join us for a meeting, the last Tuesday of every month (except December). Meetings usually rotate among the homes of SC members, so check with the President (SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org) for the location of the next meeting.



SOLAR welcomes the following new members to the club:

David Lane

JoEllen Lane

We are excited to announce the following people have become Lifetime Members:

Bernadette Lois

Lorann Jesuale

2011-2012 SOLAR Steering Committee

Thank you to everyone who stepped forward to run for a Steering Committee position in the May elections. Your willingness to share your time and energy to make the club the best it can be is greatly appreciated!

Many thanks, also, to those who served on the SOLAR Steering Committee over the past year. The club appreciates the time and effort you invested in it!

The 2011-2012 Steering Committee is as follows:

President—Chuck Smith

Vice President—Laura Buhl

Secretary—Ati Tislerics

Treasurer—Paul Williford

Activities—Heidi Tietjen

Bylaws—Tim Davis

Education—Kevin Cotter

Equipment—Glenn Newa

Historian—Chip Kleinbrook

Membership—Jennifer Tislerics

Programs—(vacant)

Public Relations—Jennifer Hill

Ray Editor—Sheila Smith

Webmaster—Bob Innes

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

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

Schedule:

Saturday, June 18 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.

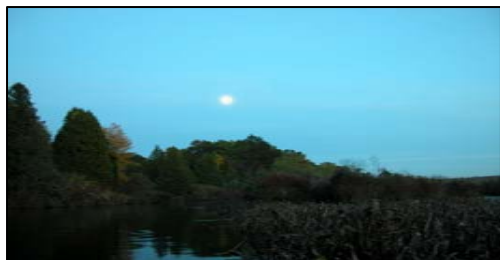
Saturday, July 16 Paddle: 8:15 p.m. Sunset: 9:07 p.m. Moonrise: 9:49 p.m.

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.

Saturday, October 15 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.

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-or-treat 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.

Cost: \$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.

Photos from the
Basic Backpacking Class
by Pat Schultz



Many Hands Make Light Work...

by Jennifer Tislerics

As I put together this newsletter, my final edition of the SOLAR Ray, I wish to thank everyone who has helped make the Ray special these past two years.

Perhaps you sent in a few photos from a class you took through the club, or wrote an article about your experiences on an amazing trip you shared with fellow SOLAR members. Perhaps you wrote some original poetry to make readers smile (thanks, Glenn Schultz!) or submitted some thought-provoking quotations you discovered (thanks, Pam Esper!). Janet Schester has put a lot of thought and time into the "We Asked Club Members..." interviews, which I really appreciate. Rebecca Sweeton shined a "Spotlight On" many club members, which was always fun to read. Though it may not have felt like you did a lot at the time, when we all pooled our talents together we created great stuff! Thank you for your contributions.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to the editorial team working behind the scenes. I sent out articles for review and sometimes a little "polish," asking for a very quick turn-around, and these folks came through time and again. Thank you to Winnie Chrzanowski, Karen DeCoster, Jennifer Hill, Ken Lemieux, Helen Peters, Pamela Schmelzer-Anzicek, Elizabeth Shaw and Sheila Smith. Many, many thanks to my final proofreader (and husband), Ati Tislerics, who checked all the details before printing. Any mistakes in the Ray were probably because I didn't show him that page. ☺

To all club members, I hope all of you will continue to offer your photos, articles, recipes, stories and ideas to Sheila Smith as she takes over editing the Ray. I know she'll do a great job, and I look forward to my role as assistant editor under her leadership.

Beyond Backpacking

by Glenn Schultz



This is a salute to the meaning of the recent Memorial Day, Flag Day on June 14th and our nation's Independence Day on July 4th. This is a thank you to those who have served, and to those who are currently serving our country.

I think of the freedom that I have to travel across this wonderful country, and to other places in the world. I remind myself that the trails that I walk have been formed, and are protected, by those who serve our nation.

Without debating here the reasons for our current military involvements, I thank those who put the rucksacks on their backs, the sweat on their brows, and their lives on the line for our well-being.

As a number of you know, I have a son and two nephews who are U.S.M.C. Reservists. One nephew has done a tour of Iraq, and my other nephew is on his way to Afghanistan in September. I would wish for better places to bivouac.

When I camp, encountering a leaky tent and eating trail dust is a minor concern when I think of them. When I come home, I am truly grateful for the niceties of a good mattress, a hot shower and a microwave. And so on these remembrance days, reflect on where you have traveled and remind yourself of those who have traveled farther. We are all on the trail together.



SOLAR JUNE 2011 CALENDAR

www.SolarOutdoors.org

SOLAR MEETING AND PROGRAM DATES

6/7	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program: Today's Detroit Zoo , Presented by Gail Warden, Chairman of the Board, Detroit Zoo	Colony Hall	vacant	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org
7/5	Tues	Monthly Meeting 7:30pm	Colony Hall	Chuck Smith	SolarPresident@SolarOutdoors.org
		Program: Annual Picnic and Gear Swap	Colony Hall	vacant	SolarPrograms@SolarOutdoors.org

SOLAR RAY DEADLINES

6/16	Thurs	July SOLAR Ray Deadline		Sheila Smith	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org
7/14	Thurs	August SOLAR Ray Deadline		Sheila Smith	SolarRayEditor@SolarOutdoors.org

ACTIVITIES

6/11	Sat	Tour de Cure	Brighton, MI	Carol Rogers	cjrune30@yahoo.com
6/18	Sat	Moonlight Canoeing	Proud Lake Rec Area	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
7/1-4	Multi	Chain O' Lakes Trip	Chain O' Lakes State Park, Indiana	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
7/1-9	Multi	Alaskan Expedition Cruise	Alaska	Robert Schwenke	robert.schwenke@yahoo.com
7/9	Sat	Perch Fishing on Lake St. Clair	Lake St. Clair	Chuck Smith	cbryansmit@gmail.com
7/16	Sat	Moonlight Canoeing	Proud Lake Rec Area	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
7/16	Sat	Kayak Builders' Meet	Proud Lake Rec Area	Chuck Smith	cbryansmit@gmail.com
8/5-7	Wknd	Manistee River Hike and Paddle	Manistee River	Jim Coe	jimc27k@gmail.com
8/13	Sat	Moonlight Canoeing	Proud Lake Rec Area	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
9/10	Sat	Moonlight Canoeing	Proud Lake Rec Area	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com
9/30-10/1	Wknd	Camping at Metamora	Lapeer County, MI	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@yahoo.com

CLASSES

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.umich.edu
5/18, 25, 6/5, 8	Weds	Digital Photography Basics	Heavner Canoe Rental, Milford	Howard Andrews	hwandrews@wowway.com

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

If you would like to teach or suggest a class for SOLAR, contact our Education Chairperson, Kevin Cotter 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.

**Did you know you can sign up (and pay) for classes and trips online?
Just join SOLAR's Meetup group!**

Having trouble finding SOLAR-Outdoors on Meetup? Want to become one of the growing number of SOLAR members joining Meetup? Visit <http://www.meetup.com/SOLAR-Outdoors/>.

If you aren't a member of Meetup in general, you'll need to create an account before you can apply for membership in the SOLAR-Outdoors group. Once you apply for membership in the SOLAR-Outdoors group, Jennifer Tislerics (our Membership Chair) will confirm that you are a paid member of SOLAR and approve your membership in our Meetup group. Please be sure to include your first and last name when you apply to the group, so she knows exactly who you are.



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, tranquil 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 Jennifer Tislerics 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 Sheila Smith at SolarRayEditor@solaroutdoors.org.

STEERING COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

President: Chuck Smith
Vice President: Laura Buhl
Secretary: Ati Tislerics
Treasurer: Paul Williford

Activities: Heidi Tietjen
Bylaws: Tim Davis
Education: Kevin Cotter
Equipment: Glenn Newa
Historian: Chip Kleinbrook

Membership: Jennifer Tislerics
Programs: (vacant)
Public Relations: Jennifer Hill
Ray Editor: Sheila Smith
Webmaster: Bob Innes

PRESIDENTS AT LARGE

Michael Banks | Leslie Cordova | Allen Duncan | 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

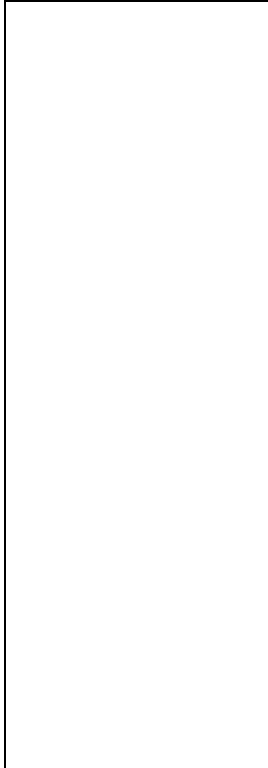
The Steering Committee meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. These meetings are usually open to the general membership. Anyone who is interested in learning about the decisions being made or contemplating running for a position on the Steering Committee is welcome to attend. If you are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

MORE INFORMATION

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



SOLAR

33228 W. 12 Mile Road

P.O. Box 220

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Visit our website: www.solaroutdoors.org