



# The SOLAR Ray

A Monthly Publication of the School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure, and Recreation (SOLAR)

July 2006

## SOLAR 30TH REUNION RECAP by Marie Carriere, SOLAR Tribal Elder Historian

Hi SOLAR Friends Old and New,

It was a true SOLAR Outdoor Party with approximately 125 in attendance on Saturday night, including current members and the Tribal Elders, plus all of us in-between. 100+ car-camped and enjoyed the wonderful cooked breakfast on Sunday morning. Some of the time it sprinkled and for a couple of 15 minute intervals it poured, and then blew over. But mostly it was sunny or overcast and a pleasant weekend. When old friends meet again, the camaraderie of SOLARites could not be dampened by the weather. The smiles, screams, hand shakes, hugs, and singing warmed our hearts. True, nothing could dampen our spirits and the "spirits" were flowing freely.

Without further ado, WE ALL THANK #1: CAROL MCCRRIRIE, MAUREEN and DAVE DE FRANCE, DICK EBENHOE, TOM HAYES, LOU and PAM SZAKAL, and all the others that spent many hours of preparations to make this such a successful car-camp-out SOLAR 30th Reunion Party.



The die-hards arrived on Friday and stayed through Sunday. Many visited just for the day/evening and came from near and far. The Annual SOLAR Cook-Off took place at 7:00 PM Saturday with the usual fantastic potluck dinner, no one went hungry, and Bill Halvangis still has not won 1st place.

At dusk we gathered around the movie screen for a historical/hysterical digital show promoting the SOLAR

Club of years gone-by. A founding member, AKA Tribal Elder, Peg Campbell, told us the story of the beginning of The SOLAR Club. Did you know they almost called it the AIM (Adventures in Michigan) Club? Aren't we lucky they decided on SOLAR: some think it sounds exotic, like a sun-worshipping nudist clue! Well, maybe, sometimes...(I know nothing!).



On a sad note we were told that Alf Cedarquist (72) died in October 2005 due to illness. We had a moment of silence in memory of Alf, plus Harsha Vaarden, and Marilyn, who were biking and killed tragically by a 16 yr. old illegal bar patron driving drunk in the middle of the afternoon by the Pinery Provincial Park, Grand Bend, Ontario., Canada, on a Labor Day Weekend in the 1980's.

Now the good news: in case you have not heard, hell may

### CONTENTS

SOLAR 30th Reunion Recap	1	Porcupine Mountains Trip	7
Fall Backpacking Course	2	Rock Climbing Practical	8
South Manitou Weekend	3	Lightweight Backpacking	9
Spotlight On Mike Banks	4	Spring Backpacking Class	9
Wilderness First Aid	5	Chocolate, Cheese & Wine Tasting	10
Shiawassee River Race	6	Calendar	11
Hiking Schedule	6		

*Continued from page 1...*

have frozen over briefly, twice! The first, Past-President, Jeff Smith, was married 4 years ago to a California Girl whom he met through internet dating, long distance, from his now rental home in Golden, Colorado. Jeff, true to SOLAR form, left the reunion Sunday for the airport, touched down at home in San Diego, then Monday morning was in class in LA preparing for a 2-year stint in China which starts mid-June. Jeff has worked in Antarctica, so China should be a piece of cake.

The second, Past-President, Bill Halvangis, was “caught” by a woman colleague this May. There are witnesses to the nuptials, yet we still have not seen the two brides at a SOLAR event, why is that Jeff and Bill? Also Ann DeBella married, we are trying to find her and many others. Like where in the world are: Darryl Fanning, Al Smith, Jane and Hussein Panju, Matti Mikor, Joan Hettlinger, Deb Campbell, Cathy Rymal (TC), Dick McQueen (Eng), Bob Brubaker, Mike Vas, and Brett Bitts and Diane Lapham (Can), to name a few?

Another tidbit of information, there are 29 couples who met in SOLAR and married, so confirmed singles beware! More good news, we took an informal vote and decided to

invite SOLARites both past and present to meet at the same campground on Bishop Lake, Brighton State Park, the first weekend in June every year from now on, for car camping, outdoor activities, and the Saturday potluck dinner (ahem—spouses and children welcome). You will be responsible to make your own reservations, or drop-by for the day, but please RSVP to SOLAR, so we have a head count. We like the Upper Camp Ground location: 2 tents allowed per site or a trailer and tent. The Upper has better air flow, thus fewer mosquitoes, and closer to the lake for swimming and boating. Plus this park allowed us to carry alcoholic beverages from site to site. Quiet time is at 11:00 PM. New indoor toilets and free hot showers are a short walk away. Bring your stories and photos to share. Watch the SOLAR website for details.

We missed all of you not in attendance, so you can make it up to us by attending: the New Annual SOLAR Tribal Elders Car Camping the 1st Weekend in June. Until we meet again, HAPPY SOLAR TRAILS!

Disclaimer: I got this job because I was the only one able to write, and read what I wrote by the end of the night, though it may not be 100% right!

Kudos to Peg Campbell for assisting with this article.

## **SOLAR BACKPACKING COURSE - FALL 2006**

by Carol McCririe

Coming in August is one of SOLAR's most popular classes, the beginning Backpacking Class. Beginning Backpacking teaches basics about trip planning, equipment, food, and other backpacking issues. It also gives you hands on experience at practicals, fun times, and new friends.

This class is for those of you that a) never backpacked and have always wanted to try it, b) new members that need the class as a prerequisite for other advanced classes or just to meet people, or c) members who just want a refresher or need an excuse to backpack.

Class begins August 16 and runs for six weeks with a break for Labor Day week (8/23, 9/7, 9/14, 9/21 and 9/28). The weekend practicals are September 23-34 and October 6-8. Class time is from 6 to 9 pm.

In order to get a certificate for the class, you need to participate on a weekly basis and complete the entire 1st practical in September. The certificate for the class qualifies you for the Intermediate and Advanced Backpacking Classes, Wilderness Canoeing, and Enjoying Michigan Winters.

Locations for the classes and practicals are to be announced, however, we traditionally do our final practical at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Stay tuned for final information at the July SOLAR meeting.

The only prerequisite for the class is that you are a current paid member of SOLAR and that you are interested in new experiences, new friends, or both!

Space is limited so sign up and pay early. The cost of the class is \$100 and includes a textbook, a class handbook, and most fees related to Practical 1. Please bring cash or a check payable to “SOLAR” when you sign up (Sorry, no credit cards.) This will guarantee your spot in the class.

Any questions regarding the class should be directed to Carol McCririe at [cmccririe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmccririe@sbcglobal.net) or Leslie Cordova at [lesliegene@aol.com](mailto:lesliegene@aol.com).

# SOUTH MANITOU ISLAND WEEKEND

by Leslie & Gene Cordova

Surrounded by a blue-green inland sea and part of the Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes National Lakeshore, South Manitou Island was the destination for 30+ SOLARITES on Memorial Weekend, 2006.

These island adventurers were divided into 2 groups, with the first 9 people arriving on the Friday ferry, and the remaining group arriving on Saturday. We enjoyed almost perfect Northeastern Lake Michigan weather—almost! On Friday, our 1.5 hour, smooth as glass ferry ride, to the southern most of the Manitous, was shrouded in dense fog. Because visibility was less than 5 feet, the island slowly materialized out of the ghostly mist, as if it had just emerged from the depths of the lake. Only the slowing of the boat's engines gave any clue we had arrived!



The Ojibwa Indians called Lake Michigan “Mishigami” meaning “Great Water”, a very appropriate name for the moat around our temporary island castle. This part of Lake Michigan was known to be a treacherous and dangerous place, and became the watery final resting place to many who plied these seas. As a consequence, the U.S. Coast Guard established a life-saving station, here, and a beautiful light house was constructed.



After the mandatory Ranger orientation, we hiked the ½ mile to the beautiful Bay group campsites with spectacular views of Lake Michigan. We set up camp, ate lunch and then headed out in 2 groups to hike. Some went to the

lighthouse, while others hiked 8.5 miles roundtrip to the see the most visible shipwreck and 500 year old giant cedars.

Saturday morning, 4 brave soles embarked on a circumnavigation of the Island via the shoreline, a mere 10 mile hike in the sand and rocks. If you have never done that before, I highly recommend it as you get a closer look at the shipwreck, and the gull nesting areas. We even got to see some swans, endangered piping plovers and many butterflies.



It would not be a Michigan weekend without some rain, but luckily it only rained Saturday night after we had all gone to bed. We managed to sleep in, Sunday morning, until 9:00ish, waiting out the rain. After that we were back to perfect weather.



Throughout the weekend, we broke into smaller groups, hiking to the inland lake, touring the South Manitou Lighthouse, school house, numerous cemeteries and old farmsteads. A few people even went swimming in Lake Michigan, but not for too long. Each night we had a bonfire, complete with s'mores.

There were 9 kids with us, who enjoyed the beach, tried their hand at skipping stones and flying kites.

All in all it was a great weekend.

# SPOTLIGHT ON MIKE BANKS



## HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH SOLAR?

I was hanging out at The Benchmark one evening. I asked the manager, Tom Shin, what was going on in the back room. He said there was a SOLAR class taking place. I asked, "What's SOLAR?" I joined in December 1993, and led my first 2 backpacking trips (North Manitou & Pukaskwa) went skydiving for the first 2 times, rafted for the first time, did my first Wabos Loppet, did the MS150 and took my first SOLAR course during that first year.

## WHY DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE STEERING COMMITTEE?

I had gone to a couple of steering committee meetings to see how the organization was run. So when the Secretary resigned I was asked to take the position. The presidency came next. I then went on to Public Relations (a post I resurrected from dormancy while president). In recent years I have just been another annoying Member-At-Large (past president).

## WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION FOR SOLAR?

First, I plan to continue working with my Education Committee. It isn't that amazing that an intelligent, thoughtful group of experienced outdoors people can so effectively brainstorm.

I also plan to continue developing the 'instructor pool'. It was a goal of mine when I started the spring backpacking course in '96 and when I morphed the Advanced Backpacking & Leadership course in '98. We have so many talented people in SOLAR that aren't being utilized, yet!

The success of last year's Lightweight Backpacking and Gear Maintenance clinics points to a need for more of these 'pocket courses'. SOLARites are exceptionally busy people and the idea that they can target specific skills in one evening should be both appealing and beneficial.

We need to set goals for our membership. One goal should

be all of SOLAR to be certified in Wilderness First Aid and CPR. Wouldn't it be comforting if all the persons on your next trip knew something beyond how to dial 911?

## HOW DID YOU START BACKPACKING?

I was 19 when a neighbor and I headed up to Isle Royale for a 10-day 80-plus mile trip. We Detroiters knew our way around pool halls, motorcycles and street corners, but didn't have a clue about backpacking. I carried over 80 pounds in a \$20 pack I got from Epp's Sporting Goods. The waist belt broke the first day (while a moose chased us). We ran out of lunches on the return trip and grazed on blueberries. Our last meal was instant rice with ketchup. My personal weight went from 157 to 135 pounds. I may have made some mistakes along the way.

Two years later I got a scholarship from Prescott College in Arizona. It allowed me to attend their month-long Challenge/Discovery program in Colorado. I got a proper introduction to backpacking, mountaineering, climbing and whitewater kayaking. I have been a student ever since.

## WHAT HAS YOUR FAVORITE TRIP BEEN SO FAR?

It depends: If you talk of friends working together for a single goal with great physical and logistical demands, then my vote would be for the Wonderland Trail trip that Joan Tobin led. If you talk of friends having fun on the most ruggedly beautiful coast and under what others would say were less than ideal conditions, it would be my Pukaskwa trip with Susan Woelke, Lester Mok and Catherine Kruger. My wilderness reawakening came from an overnight on Mt. Saint Helens. However, my favorite memories came from one weekend in May with my children on North Manitou Island.

## WHAT WOULD YOUR DREAM TRIP BE?

A month-long traverse of the Torngat Mountains in northernmost Labrador has long been a dream of mine. It contains the world's largest caribou herd and a huge variety of black bear that seems to occupy the same niche that grizzlies fill on the Alaskan tundra. Did I mention that it is the tallest mountain range in eastern North America?

## WHAT CLASSES WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADD TO SOLAR'S CURRICULUM?

I'm currently working on adding both another Wilderness First Aid and a Basic Land Navigation Course to the yearly schedule. Likewise, another winter-based course is on the drawing board. Future workshops and clinics should include paddling, bicycling (mountain and touring) as well as backpacking and WFA subjects. I would also like SOLAR to offer CPR at least 3 or 4 times a year.

# PHYSICIAN FIRST AIDER, HEAL THYSELF!

By Jennifer Tislerics

SOLARites wishing to help themselves and their companions in the great outdoors came together for the American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid Basics class in June. We learned to TAS and TAT while WWWSAMPLE-ing. After going through our ABCs (then B and/or D), we know to look for DOTS.

To learn the secret decoder system for these acronyms, you'll want to take the next Wilderness First Aid course. In the meantime, you can rest assured that there are more SOLARites available to help you with your twisted ankle, severe dehydration, broken finger, campstove burns, that bloody cut on your arm and deal with your overly emotional traveling companion.

During class, we had the opportunity to learn a lot of first aid methods, but just as important was the opportunity to put our new knowledge to the test. We practiced various ways of moving a hurt companion to safety, bandaging wounds, applying splints, giving mouth-to-mouth and chest compressions, etc.

Many, many thanks to Mary (Egan) Price and her wonderful assistant-teachers: Mike Price, Joan Tobin, Mike Malon, Margaret Martin and Bob Rozelle. If one of us students saves your life on the trail someday, you have these teachers to thank!



## SHIAWASSEE RIVER RACE AND PADDLE

by Willi Gutmann

Despite temperatures in the low 50's and high and fast waters, 72 paddlers turned out for the 2nd Annual- Holly to Fenton Canoe/Kayak Event on Sunday, May 21. The winning 2 man canoe race team, completed the seven mile course in 1:14:15, which was eight minutes faster than last years winners.

The Pleasure Paddle portion consisted of 24 paddlers who dressed for the cold weather and enjoyed the numerous twists/turns on the river. Heavners Canoe Rental provided shuttle service from the takeout at Strom Park in Fenton back to WaterWorks Park in Holly.

Thirty-two volunteers assisted along the 7 miles of river keeping watch on all paddlers. The sweep canoe paddled by Doug Lanyk later that afternoon made sure all paddlers were accounted for and no one was left behind.

Sincere thanks to the SOLAR members who assisted and participated. Hopefully next year we have better weather and even more fun !

Headwaters Trails Inc. [headwaterstrailsinc.org](http://headwaterstrailsinc.org) sponsored the event. Outfitters like REI, MooseJaw, etc. expressed interest in the event and we hope for an even bigger, better, more exciting venue next year.



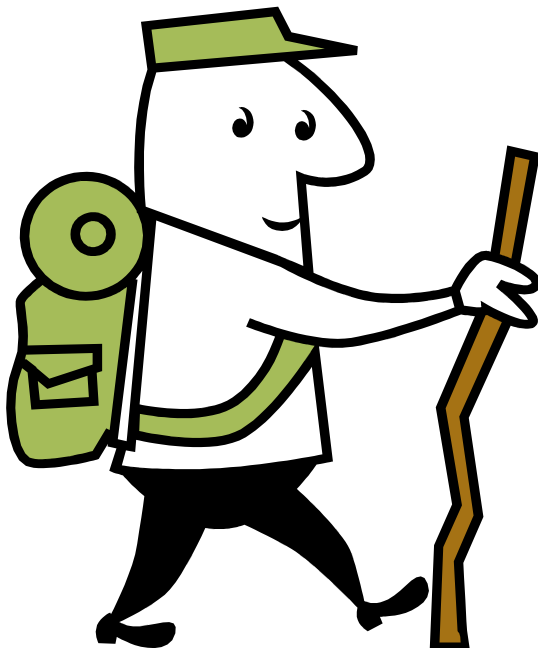
## SOLAR HIKING SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 2006

Meet new friends, see old faces! SOLAR members and non-members welcome. Some hikes are more child-friendly than others, please check the difficulty of the hike.

Hikes start at 9:30 AM, unless otherwise stated.

Hike Coordinator: Matt Dalton at 248-360-0031 or [mdalton@ameritech.net](mailto:mdalton@ameritech.net).

Contact Matt and/or post a message on the SOLAR Yahoo site after you decide to join one of the hikes to discuss carpooling, obtain a list of other hikers, ask directions or find out additional details for the hike.



July 2, 2006 Sunday - 9:30 AM, Metro Beach Metro Park Hike, 5 Mile hike through Metro Park Nature Center. East end of Metro Parkway (16 Mile Rd)

July 8, 2006 Saturday - 9:30 AM, Kensington Metro Park, Meet at the Nature Center, North of Kensington Rd entrance, past the golf course.

July 16, 2006, Sunday - 9:30 AM Solar Club and BS Hikers, Maybury State Park, Northville, MI. Meet at 8 Mile Rd entrance and parking lot by concessions area.

July 29, 2006 Saturday - 9:30 AM, Pontiac Lake State Park: North of M-59 Highland Rd. and west of Williams Lake Rd. Meet in the NW corner of the Gale Rd. parking lot.

August 6, 2006 Sunday - 9:30 AM Solar Club and BS Hikers, Maybury State Park, Northville, MI. Meet at 8 Mile Rd entrance and parking lot by concessions area. Brunch afterward for many hikers.

## PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS BACKPACKING

by Elizabeth Schwab

IMAGINE: Backpacking through forests that have never been harvested—in Michigan.

Spending quality time on a wilderness shore of Lake Superior, knowing if the weather turns godawful, you'll be snug in the rustic cabin. (For 2 nights anyway.)

Multiple opportunities for enjoying babbling brooks, rivers and waterfalls by sight, sound and foot soaking.

Experiencing one of Michigan's more challenging and scenic backpacking areas in a mostly meandering way. (4-5 miles/day, one 7 mile day.)

If this sounds good, join us Aug. 28- Sept. 2 in the western U.P. We'll be doing a loop covering a good portion of the park. Camping/cabin fees \$35-45 depending on the number of participants, with a 6 person limit. Payment of \$45 to me, (checks made out to SOLAR) puts you on the list.

REQUIREMENTS: Good physical condition for the trails (you have 2 months to prepare.)

Participation in one w/e shakedown, date tbd, in late July.

Good group attitude, re: wt to carry, sharing chores and gear.

PREFERRED: SOLAR Beginning Backpacking. (We'll need to gab about your background/experience/standards if you haven't taken it to make sure we're on the same page for the enjoyment of everyone!)

P.S. 8/28 is a Monday. The w/e before is the 2nd annual Porkies Music Fest which I will be attending. You could join me or take your time driving up. (10-11 hrs.)

Questions? Elizabeth at: [qes1339@yahoo.com](mailto:qes1339@yahoo.com).

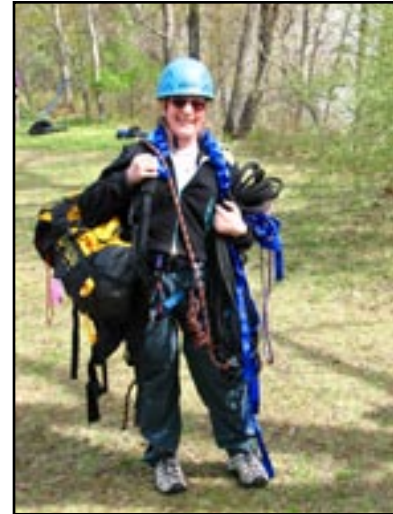


# ROCK CLIMBING PRACTICAL

by Steve Hoffman

The rain fell and wind screamed causing tents to buckle and occasionally tumble end over end into the woods. So went the nights at Rattlesnake Conservation Area. The scene during the day, however, was another adventure entirely. Under a gorgeous blue sky, newbie climbers tentatively set up ropes along the face of Rattlesnake Ridge.

There were words of support when we found ourselves stuck merely a few feet off the ground, conceding round one to the wall. But with encouragement and persistence there came confidence. Confidence in ourselves and in each other. And confidence in the wall being open to yet another rendezvous with the clumsy beginners.



“Bloody Hell, you’re not even clipped in,” screamed Professor Lamb with surprising frequency. But before long, all the ropes were in place - -checked and double-checked for safety - - and we trekked to the base of the cliff. After a routine search and rescue mission for missing belay devices, activity on the rocks picked up and we watched as classmates tackled the physical and mental challenges of scaling the mighty wall. She handled our aggression well and among the laughter and outcries of “kiss the beaners” and “make love to the rock” echoed the occasional yelp: “FALLING!! AAAaaaaaugh!”

By mid-morning the cheers of success were heard with increasing regularity. Mike Pnizwski was king for the the day, conquering every climb he attempted. Joann Gabaw’s resounding “get a photo or my kids will never believe this” brought chuckles and additional cheers.

After lunch on the rocks there were several of us who resorted to sunning ourselves at the base of the wall. Still, several people climbed until mid-afternoon, pushing their stamina and taking on more difficult climbs with weaker muscles (and numerous bruises by then).

As we pulled our ropes from the wall and released the trees from their responsibility of supporting our adventures, the race for the showers became an all new sport. Then came more comraderie at the feast followed by walks through the woods and along the top of the cliffs. A blazing fire was the perfect exclamation point for our full day of climbing.

While the rain and wind Saturday night and the wet Sunday morning discouraged us from climbing a second day, we didn’t let the weather dampen our spirits or cloud what was a memorable weekend full of fun and friendship, challenge and excitement.



## LIGHTWEIGHT BACKPACKING CLINIC

by Dave Sweeton

Hello Backpackers! Think back to your last backpacking trip... At the end of the day did you have sore muscles due to carrying too much weight? Or worse, did you bring gear that you didn't actually need? Are you interested in being able to hike farther per day without expending more energy or hike your normal distance with less effort?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, than the Lightweight Backpacking Clinic is for you. We'll discuss the benefits and downsides of reducing your pack weight, what to bring and what to leave behind, and specific tips and techniques for lightening your load. I'll be demonstrating my lightweight gear, and I'll show you exactly what I would bring on a typical backpacking trip.

This class will cover ultralight gear and techniques, but the main focus will be on lightweight minimalism, which should be of greater benefit to the average backpacker.

What: A one-night clinic on lightweight backpacking techniques.

When: Wednesday, July 26th from 6:00 to 9:00.

Where: Livonia Civic Center Library (5 mile near Farmington. Easy access from 96 & 275) <http://tinyurl.com/OKFV4>

Cost: \$10.00.

This class will be interactive, so feel free to bring in gear you'd like to show or any tips and ideas you have for lightening your load. To encourage participation, we may be handing out lightweight door prizes!

Class will start on time, not "Solar Time" so be punctual! Contact me with any questions, or sign up at the July Solar meeting. Class is limited to 25 participants.

Dave Sweeton  
DaveSw@provide.net  
734 475-3082



## JULY: ANNUAL SOLAR GEAR SWAP & SUMMER BARBECUE

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE: THE JULY MEETING WILL BE ON  
THURSDAY, JULY 6\*\***

Bring your used outdoor gear  
Bring a side dish, salad or dessert to pass  
Bring a barbecue grill if you can (please contact Karl)

Any questions, please contact Karl Overheul at  
[cybernomad@backpacker.com](mailto:cybernomad@backpacker.com).

\*SOLAR takes no responsibility for warranty,  
guarantee, quality or price of purchased outdoor gear.

## REALLY, REALLY, REALLY BEGINNING BACKPACKING

by Rebecca Yoo

Before I took the SOLAR Spring Beginning Backpacking class I had never slept outside or went to the bathroom outside, let alone camped or backpacked before! Now I can light several different types of stoves, filter water, set up a tent, pack my pack correctly, and more!

The Beginning Backpacking class gives a good overview of everything you need to know to start backpacking, from the gear to the techniques to the knowledge that you need to know to make it on your first backpacking trip and beyond.

The class was made up of experienced backpackers brushing up their skills, day hikers that wanted to expand on their sport, and beginners like me. This class is great for all skill levels.

The first practical was an overnight trip at Waterloo State Recreation Area right on the shores of Green Lake. After we reached camp, we traveled through different stations learning about first aid, practicing our stove lighting and water filtering skills, and setting up a tarp with the knots we learned in class. While the weather during the day was sunny and mild, at night it got down to the low 20's! But we all survived to make it to the second practical at Hoist Lakes part of the Huron National Forrest.

While the first practical taught us more skills on how to backpack, the second practical showed us why we would want to backpack.

The Spring Beginning Backpacking class provided me a good background to move onto other classes that I'm planning to take including Introduction to Land Navigation and Enjoying Michigan Winters as well as for the Wilderness First Aid class I've just completed. Now I'm looking forward to my next backpacking trip and beyond.

## CHOCOLATE, CHEESE, & WINE TASTING

by Pam Riehl Szakal

What started two years ago as a way for everyone to get rid of their leftovers, sparked an idea for a Memorial Weekend tradition. In 2004, we decided to revive the North Manitou trip that had once been a SOLAR mainstay. I had never been to the island and was excited to lead a group of SOLARites there. After 4 days on the island people had leftover food and a potluck the last night seemed a good way to get rid of it. The majority of food was sweets, cheese, and remaining adult drinks, thus an idea was born.

In 2004, we hiked across the island and camped two nights on the eastern bluffs. The last night we found an idyllic spot a mile from the boat launch, almost a mini paradise on the beach. This year we decided to rough it a little less and chose this same beach spot to base camp for three nights. We were within 10 minutes of the water pump and bathrooms and had the perfect spot to explore the island.

Half the group arrived Friday and after setting up camp some people did a beach clean-up and brought garbage to the ranger station, while others hiked the beach to the old cemetery and explored for future campsites. Saturday, a group headed north on the island following the un-maintained trail along the shore and then headed into the woods for a stop at Lake Manitou. The weather cooperated and after an 8 mile hike we pulled into camp about 4pm. While we were gone, the Saturday arrivals had set up camp and explored the island as we had on Friday.



Saturday night was the official “share your food” night and we had enough to feed a small army. Overlooking the beach and sunset we shared some cheese, chocolates, wine, and other creations. In the middle of the night we were woken to loud thunder with lightening strikes

close by and torrential rain (but don’t tell the South Manitou folks since we told them it never rained on us). Fortunately it ended in the morning and we had another spectacular day for hiking.

Now a group of 18 people, we split into several groups and explored the island again. One group went to see the Swenson’s Barn, an old farm and homestead with the barn still intact. A second group went north to explore while others went south toward the cemetery. Some people even opted to stay in camp and relax. Our last night, Joan and Bob convinced us all to sit on the beach and thankfully the bugs finally cooperated and our gathering was under the stars with the waves providing a soothing background.



Monday came too quickly and we had to head back to the boat by 10:30am. We were careful to leave our sites looking as no one had been there. However, we fear that our little paradise will be gone by next year since it is getting worn. North Manitou currently does not have designated campsites, but they do have strict rules regarding how close to the water, trail, and other campsites you can be. They also prefer that you stay in areas that have not had other campers, unlike other places where they prefer we camp in areas already worn. Their idea is if you spread the impact out enough then no one area will get worn too much. Both ways follow the Leave No Trace philosophy but run their impact rules differently.

Next year.....who knows? There are so many themes and so many places on the island. Mexican, Jamaican, Mardi Gras. We can create a new theme for each year and have good food and friends to enjoy them.

## SOLAR JUNE 2006 CALENDAR

JULY ACTIVITES					
7/6	THU	GENERAL MEETING	Colony Hall	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net
7/6	THU	PROGRAM: Annual SOLAR Gear Swap and Summer Barbeque	Colony Hall	Karl Overheul	cybernomad@backpacker.com
7/7	FRI	Paddle to the Symphony**	Kensington Metropark	Matt Dalton	mdalton@ameritech.net
7/13-7/16	WKND	Greak Lakes Sea Kayak Symposium**	Grand Marais, MI	Steve Hoffman	SHoffman@cranbrook.edu
7/13-8/13	MULTI	Extended Backpacking Trip (FULL)	John Muir Trail	Dave DeFrance	defranceomnex@comcast.net
7/16	SUN	Let's Go Geocaching	Kensington Metropark	Clayton Lucey	clatmandu@aol.com
7/29-8/15	MULTI	Backpacking Trip (FULL)	Kings Canyon/ Sequoia NP	Don Wold	dwold12972@aol.com
7/29-7/31	WKND	Canoe Outing**	Manistee River, Grayling	Tom Oloffo	mcmountainman@yahoo.com
7/30-8/6	MULTI	Camping/Hiking in the Rockies	Rocky Mountain NP	Mary Bogush	notdev@yahoo.com
JULY CLASSES					
7/28-30, 8/11-13, 8/25-27, 9/8-10, 9/29-10/9, 11/3-15	MULTI	Advanced Backpacking and Leadership	TBA	Mike Banks	michaelbsolar@yahoo.com
AUGUST ACTIVITES					
8/1	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	Colony Hall	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net
8/1	TUE	PROGRAM: Edible Plants	Colony Hall	Karl Overheul	cybernomad@backpacker.com
8/10-13	WKND	Great Lakes Primitives Gathering**	Bois Blanc Island, Michigan	E.J. Brooks	ejphoto@aol.com
8/18-8/20	WKND	Irishfest**	Milwaukee	Lou & Pam Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net
8/26-9/4	MULTI	Wilderness Paddling Trip	Algonquin Provincial Park	Phil Crookshank/ Sharon Smelter	wanderphil3@netzero.net
8/28-9/1	MULTI	Backpacking Trip	Porcupine Mountains SP	Elizabeth Schwab	qes1339@yahoo.com
AUGUST CLASSES					
8/16, 8/23, 9/7, 9/14, 9/21, 9/23-24, 9/28; 10/6-8	MULTI	Beginning Backpacking	TBA	Carol McCririe	cmccririe@sbcglobal.net
SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES					
9/5	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	Colony Hall	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net
9/5	TUE	PROGRAM: ?	Colony Hall	Karl Overheul	cybernomad@backpacker.com
9/8-9/10	WKND	Wheatland Music Festival	Remus, MI	Jessie Kutsch	jesskut@hotmail.com
9/9	SAT	Therapeutic Canoe Paddle**	Heavner's, Proud Lake	Margaret Martin	mpluscat@hotmail.com
9/9	SAT	Harvest Full Moon Canoe Paddle**	Heavner's, Proud Lake	Margaret Martin/ Alan Heavner	mpluscat@hotmail.com AlanHeavner@heavnercanoe.com
9/15-17	WKND	Kid-mandatory Backpacking Trip	Nordhouse Dunes	Kevin Cotter	solar@wowway.com
UPCOMING ACTIVITES					
10/4, 7-8	WED, WKND	Advanced Land Navigation	TBA/Waterloo State Rec Area	Karl Overheul	cybernomad@backpacker.com
10/8	SUN	Pumpkin Party and Full Moon Canoe Paddle**	Heavner's, Proud Lake	Margaret Martin/ Alan Heavner	mpluscat@hotmail.com AlanHeavner@heavnercanoe.com
10/17, 10/21-10/22	TUE/ WKND	Basic Land Navigation	TBA/Waterloo State Rec Area	Karl Overheul	cybernomad@backpacker.com

If you would like to help plan and/or lead a SOLAR activity, please contact Kevin Cotter at (248) 544-9637 or solar@wowway.com. SOLAR has a no-refund policy. If you are unable to attend an activity you may "sell your spot" to another club member.

\*\* Denotes non-SOLAR activity (SOLAR will not be held responsible for these activities)

**WHAT IS SOLAR?**

SOLAR is a non-profit club with 400-plus members dedicated to the intelligent enjoyment of nature and outdoor pursuits.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is only \$40 a year per person (\$55 per family) and includes discounts to a number of retail outfitters, access to 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, virgin forests, scenic shorelines, and the experiences to be found there.

**MEETINGS**

Our monthly meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month in Southfield at the Colony Hall, 21780 Evergreen (between 8 & 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](http://www.solaroutdoors.org). To receive a copy in the mail, please contact Mary Price at [hmprice@ameritech.net](mailto:hmprice@ameritech.net).

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

Submissions for the SOLAR Ray are due on the Friday two weeks prior to the monthly Steering Committee Meeting (June 16 fro the July issue). Electronic documents only. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Yoo at [janey\\_13@yahoo.com](mailto:janey_13@yahoo.com).



**STEERING COMMITTEE**

President: Lou Szakal  
Secretary: Heather Hall  
Activities: Kevin Cotter  
Education: Mike Banks  
Historian: Dick Ebenhoe  
Programs: Karl Overheul  
Ray Editor: Rebecca Yoo

Vice President: Moe DeFrance  
Treasurer: Carol McCririe  
By-Laws: Cindy Taylor  
Equipment: Dave DeFrance  
Membership: Mary Price  
Public Relations: Pam Szakal  
Webmaster: Dave Sweeton

**PRESIDENTS AT LARGE**

Mike Banks | Leslie Cordova | Moe DeFrance | Al Fylak  
Steve Gardner | Bill Halvingis | Cindy Harrison-Felix | Tom Hayes  
Doug Lanyk | Larry Martin | Joan Hettinger | Tom Oloffo  
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 what topics are discussed, 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 Lou Szakal at [Everest2008@aol.com](mailto:Everest2008@aol.com).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Visit our website at: [www.solaroutdoors.org](http://www.solaroutdoors.org).

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**SOLAR**  
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