



The SOLAR Ray

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

November 2007

PLAYING HOOKY FROM WORK...AKA THE "HIKE TO HELL", AY MATEY!

by Charity Loring

On September 19th, a dozen SOLARites set sail for adventures on the high seas! Well, not quite. There were no sails and the adventure was on the Potowatami Trail in Pinckney. But since "Play Hooky from Work Day" happened to fall on "International Talk Like a Pirate Day," our trip leader inspired many to dig deep for their inner pirate.



Ati was not only the trip leader, but our fearless pirate captain! Pablo, the parrot, was especially good company on the trail.

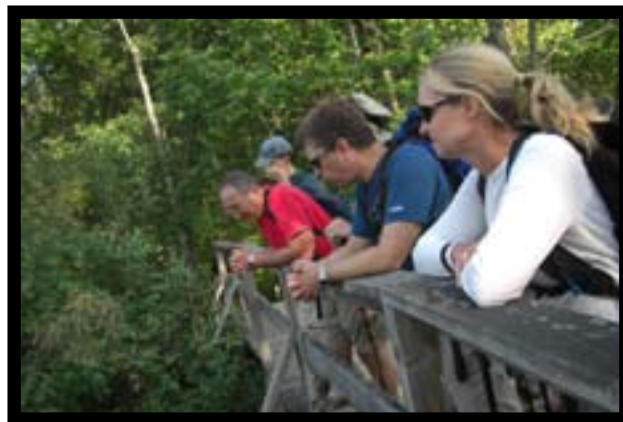
Our day was heralded by the welcoming cries of a pair of Sand Hill Cranes at the Silver Lake trailhead. The sun shone brightly, the sky was clear, and the temperatures were pleasant. The adventure looked promising, as friendly SOLARites gathered and introduced themselves to each other.

At the main shortcut turn-off near sign post 10, the group split in two. Half opted for the long route (up to 18 miles) to the northern end of the park. The other half decided to take Lucky DeFrance for a shorter hike (up to 13 miles), and passed by the fairly new yurt and the very new outhouse nearby. Although each group stopped for lunch at the Blind Lake campground, we missed each other by about 30

minutes. Sadly, there was no buried treasure found at Blind Lake. So the quest continued...At one point Dread Pirate Ati made Charity walk the plank with his mighty plastic sword in hand. However, Charity made it out alive...somehow.



At signpost 4, most of our weary, bug-bitten crew opted to take the final shortcut directly back to shore...err, the parking lot. But a few brave souls defied the mosquitos and finished the entire Potowatami Trail. Most of the crew abandoned ship (went home) as soon as the hike was over, a hearty few made port at the Damn Site Inn in nearby Hell, Michigan. They had brews, burgers and a damn good time. Arrrrr!



Hooky Day Hikers took a break on one of the breezy bridges in the Pinckney State Recreation Area.

ENJOYING MICHIGAN WINTERS! BACKPACKING & WINTER SKILLS CLASS

by Tom Oloffo

Winter backpacking skills are not just for the winter, they are a useful back-up for the unexpected cold days in early spring and late fall. In this class we'll teach you how to keep warm and to keep your energy level up when skiing or snow shoeing as well as how to build a snow shelter just in case something does go HORRIBLY WRONG on that so called simple 3 hour ski trip. You can also use these skills in the summer on glaciers and snowy peaks in the Rockies, the Cascades, Alaska or even Mount Kilimanjaro.

This class will teach you the "ins and outs" of winter camping in Michigan. The first classes will be held on Thursday, December 6 from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM in Southfield. Classes will continue on Thursday nights on December 13, January 3, January 10, January 24, January 31. The practicals are the weekends of January 13 through 14 and February 9, 10, and 11.

The cost is \$ 100.00 for new students and reduced fee for past graduates who want to retake the course. Pick-up details from me at the monthly SOLAR meeting.

This course is open to the graduates of the Basic Backpacking Class and is the prerequisite for the Mountaineering and Winter Survival courses. For safety reasons, the Wilderness First Aid Course is highly recommended for all of these courses. Keep your fingers crossed and Think SNOW!

To sign up or if you have any questions please contact TOM OLOFFO at 313-461-4933 or mcmountainman@yahoo.com.

ANNUAL SOLAR HOLIDAY PARTY!

'tis the season to celebrate
Friday, December 14, 2007

When: 8:00 pm - ?

Where: Colony Hall

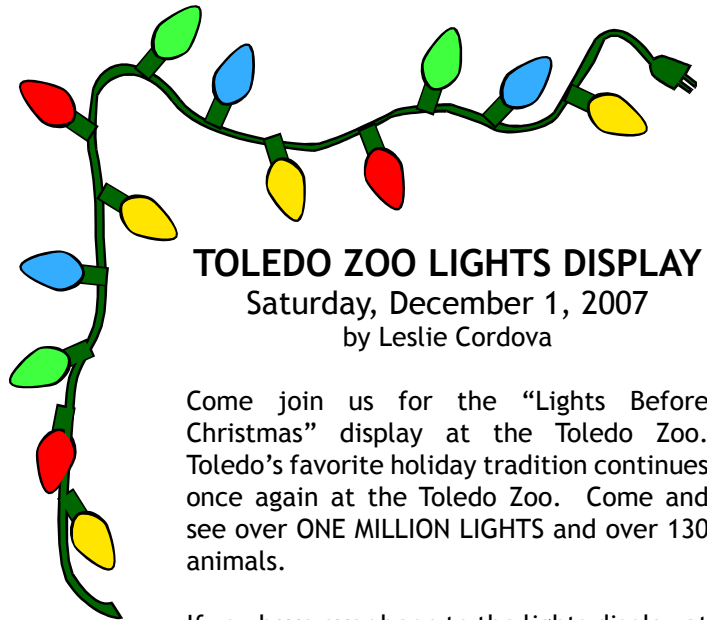
SOLAR will provide:

- Sandwiches/Subs
- Soda/Juice
- DJ - Music

Members to Provide:

- Dish to pass
- Adult beverages (if desired)
- Dancing shoes, holiday spirit and a good time

Please send DJ music requests by November 30 to:
Programs@SOLARoutdoors.org.



TOLEDO ZOO LIGHTS DISPLAY

Saturday, December 1, 2007

by Leslie Cordova

Come join us for the "Lights Before Christmas" display at the Toledo Zoo. Toledo's favorite holiday tradition continues once again at the Toledo Zoo. Come and see over ONE MILLION LIGHTS and over 130 animals.

If you have ever been to the lights display at the Detroit Zoo, you haven't seen anything. This is the best lights display in the area. The lights are throughout the entire zoo, not just in one area. You can wander around and see the lights, visit the animals, take a train ride, listen to the carolers or visit with Santa.

Plan:

Meet at the zoo entrance, in front of gift shop at 4:45 PM
Tour the zoo
Meet back at the gift shop at 8:30 PM
Head to the Ground Round for dinner and drinks

Cost:

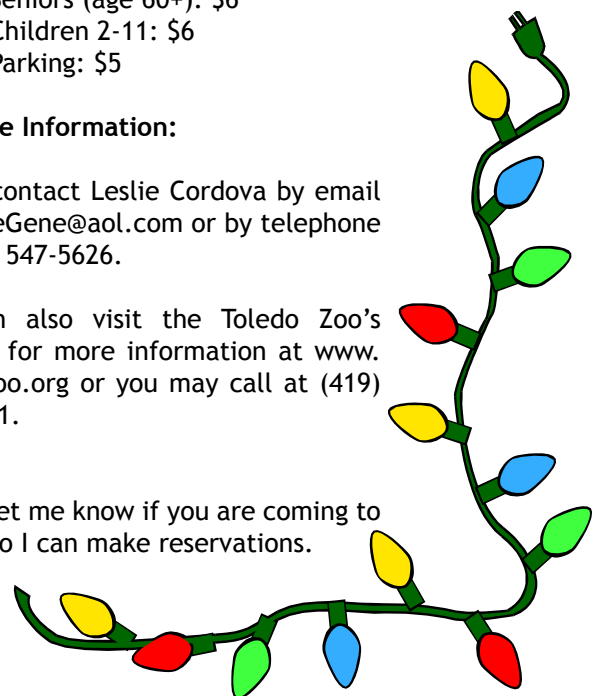
- Adults: \$9
- Seniors (age 60+): \$6
- Children 2-11: \$6
- Parking: \$5

For More Information:

Please contact Leslie Cordova by email at LeslieGene@aol.com or by telephone at (248) 547-5626.

You can also visit the Toledo Zoo's website for more information at www.toledozoo.org or you may call at (419) 385-5721.

Please let me know if you are coming to dinner so I can make reservations.



*The Legend lives on from the Chippewa on down
Of the big lake they called 'Gitche Gumme.'
Superior, they said, never gives up Her dead
When the Gales of November come early.*

-Gordon Lightfoot

Decades after this song was written, it still gives me chills when I hear it or read the lyrics. I've wanted to visit Superior in Her notorious month for years. Join me November 9-11 in Paradise Michigan near Tahquamenon Falls, at Curley's Motel which is right on Whitefish Bay.

I have a 4 bedroom house reserved, which sleeps eight in one queen bed and three kings. The house has a gas fireplace, a large kitchen-dining-living space, a fire-pit with the wood provided, and all you need to bring are your clothes, food and beverages. And dogs are allowed! (Well behaved.)

It's worth the 5 hour drive just to see the falls, and there are also miles of hiking trails in loops of various lengths to suit everyone, both by the falls and on the north side of Hwy 123. Betsy Lake and Clark Lake are available for Canoeists/Kayakers (portaging necessary) as is Superior. There is also a road along the Tahquamenon River for Cyclists or people who just want a scenic drive. Visiting Whitefish Point is always awesome and is my top priority, and since 11/10 is the anniversary of the Edmund Fitzgerald sinking, the Shipwreck Museum is open all week end 11-3 for a memorial.

This is the U.P. in November so the weather could be anything from pleasant autumn to god-awful winter.

If there is enough interest, I can also add a 2 bedroom house for six people, with a king and two queen beds. People wanting their own cabin/room or who need to decide last minute, can make their own arrangements with Curley's at 1-800-236-7386. Prices range from \$65-105/nite. Also camping is available at the nearby State Park, and you would have to make your own arrangements there. You would all be welcome at the Big House for socializing/games Fri and Sat, and the usual pot luck Saturday night.

The price is \$70/person for the weekend with payment in full to reserve your spot. The deadline is Wednesday, October 24.

Questions? Email Elizabeth Schwab at qes1339@yahoo.com, or phone 248-544-7636. Send checks made out to SOLAR, to 3889 Bacon Ave, Berkley, 48072.

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN, CALIFORNIA

by Darrell Ahlberg



Pictured above is your base of operations for the week of March 29 through April 5, 2008 if you join our select group of fun loving, adventuresome GM Ski Club skiers at Mammoth Mountain, California. Mammoth is an uncommon destination because it is kind of hard to get to but it is worth the effort and we do all the work for you. Air & ground transportation, lodging at the base of the hill and five days of transportation up the hill are all taken care of.

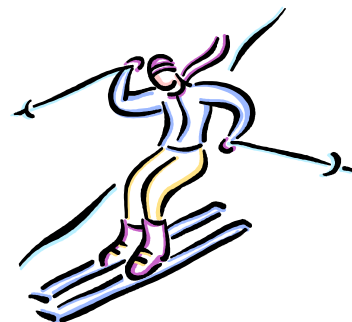
Mammoth boasts that it has 300 sunny days per year but magically, still averages 400 inches of snow per year. It has 3,100 feet of vertical, 150 trails (35% black, 40% blue & 25% green) and 29 lifts, 10 of which are express and 3 gondolas. It has a top ranked boarders' terrain park and the Tamarack Nordic trails take you around mountain lakes.

This will be an ideal time for weather worry-free travel, spring skiing conditions and to enjoy the beauty of the Sierra Nevada mountains and the sunny California lifestyle.

Early bird signup cost is \$1,395.00 for GM members or MDSC affiliated club members, \$1,425.00 for those with no ski club membership. After November 15, \$1,445.00 members / \$1,475.00 non-members. Payment schedule: \$500.00 / \$530.00 at signup, \$500.00 December 10 and \$395.00 January 25.

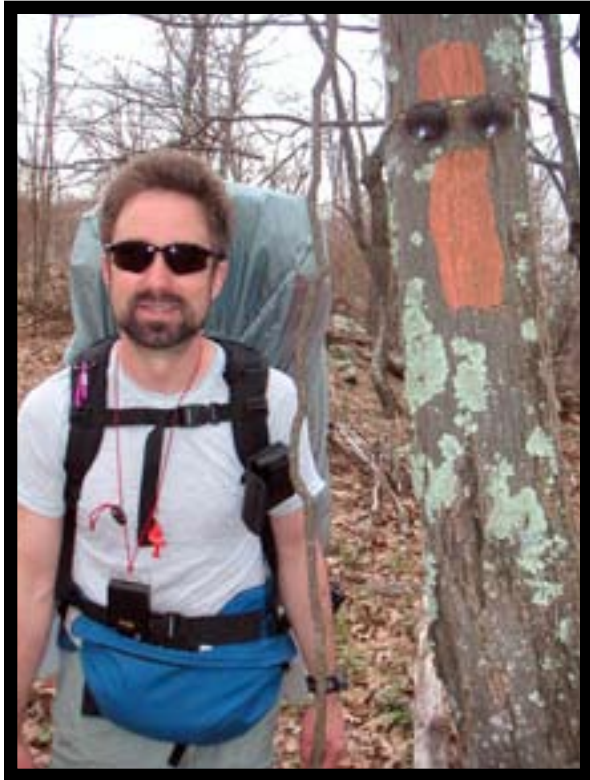
Break out your sun tan lotion and sign up now.

Contact Dave Duvali at (586) 754-8151 or via E-mail at daveduvali@wowway.com.



SPOTLIGHT ON CHUCK SMITH

by Rebecca Sweeton



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF SOLAR?

3 years

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH SOLAR?

I was at a kayaking party. Willi & Evon were there talking about the SOLAR club, so I butted in to the conversation to learn more about the club. I went to the next meeting, which was in January. I knew I found a group where I would fit in: 4 kayaks and 3 mountain bikes on roof racks in the middle of winter. I joined that night.

HOW DID YOU START BACKPACKING?

That is lost in the dark history of time. I do remember we had to hide from dinosaurs. My family took me camping, boating, and hiking as soon as I was out of the womb. I was SCUBA diving before that.

WHAT HAS YOUR FAVORITE TRIP BEEN SO FAR?

3 1/2 months traveling to Oregon and back in my Honda Civic. During college, I worked at Michigan Windsurfing. They also ran a resort in Cancun, Mexico. When I graduated, the owner offered me room and board for the winter if I would come to Cancun and teach Windsurfing—an offer I could not refuse. The other instructors at the Cancun High Wind Center were all from Oregon and told me how they would be horribly insulted if I did not come mooch from them

the following summer. Not wanting to be rude to my friends, I agreed.

I set out from Detroit at the beginning of August with a good friend of mine from college. I had a broken big toe when we left, so I got to hike Yellowstone, the Tetons, Devil's Tower, the Badlands, Jewel Cave, and everywhere else on crutches. By the time we got to Oregon I was able to walk & windsurf again! In Oregon, I alternated between windsurfing the Gorge and spending time in the high desert with either my buddy that owns a big mountain bike shop (yes, I bought a NICE bike!) or my other buddy who owns the biggest tipi factory in the USA. I paid my rent there by painting tipis and slept in one at night while watching the coyotes outside.

Being lonely, in September I flew to from Seattle to Hawaii, where my archeologist girlfriend was working at the time. 3 weeks in Hawaii was spent windsurfing with the sea turtles, SCUBA diving crystal clear waters, hiking rainforests, and (wink).

The middle of October saw me back in Oregon, and my girlfriend joined me to travel back to Michigan. The day before she flew in to Seattle, I called home and learned a "friend" was trying to take over my business. As soon as Debbie landed we were on a speed run back home. That was an abrupt and unexpected end to a perfect adventure.

WHAT WOULD YOUR DREAM TRIP BE?

Antarctica! SCUBA diving, hiking, visiting the South Pole and the stations from the early explorers. And climbing Mt. Erebus!

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

Primitive skills: How to make fire with found materials, tan hides, make tools with available materials, etc. and something like Coastal Kayaking 101- an introduction to the skills & judgement needed to paddle more open water in a reasonably safe manner.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCE IN SOLAR?

The trips are fun, the classes informative, but the most rewarding for me is just making new friends.

HOW HAS SOLAR CHANGED DURING THE YEARS YOU HAVE BEEN A MEMBER?

Everyone has gotten much better looking.

CAVING IN KENTUCKY

ALL LEVELS, NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

by Leslie Cordova

January 25-27, 2008

It's that time of year again - time for the 27th annual Carter Caves Crawl-a-thon. What is a crawl-a-thon you might ask? This is an annual event put on by Carter Caves State Park in Olive Hill, Kentucky. It is a great way for people to get acquainted with caving as they offer a wide variety of cave tours, ranging from walking tours, a little bit of crawling, a lot of crawling and vertical caving. They even have trips for kids and seniors! If you do not like the underground, join us anyway, as there is some great hiking in the area too. This is NOT a pet friendly event.



The basic plan is to drive down to the park on Friday (about a 7-hour drive) and stay right at the Carter Caves Lodge. I have a limited number of rooms reserved, once they are filled; the nearest lodging is 10 - 15 miles away. The cost for 2 nights lodging is \$70 per person, payable to SOLAR. Since this trip will fill up, only payments in full will be accepted to hold your spot.

You will need to download the crawl-a-thon entry and release forms yourself from www.crawlathon.com or call the park at (606) 286-4411. Generally the forms are not available until mid-December. You will then need to send in both forms yourself with a check for \$30 per adult, \$15 per child 6 - 12 years old (last years fee, the current fee could be higher) to Carter Caves. Your \$15 - \$30 includes 2 days of guided caving and a t-shirt from the event. Please do not delay as the trips fill up quickly.



See me at the meeting for a listing of equipment you may need. SOLAR has helmets, knee and elbow pads (limited), and headlamps (limited) that you may borrow. A refundable deposit is required. I do not have enough equipment for everyone, so you will need to reserve in advance. To be fair, those who have not been on SOLAR caving trips previously will get first dibs on pads and headlamps.

For more information, please contact Leslie Cordova at (248) 547-5626 or by email at LeslieGene@aol.com.

SOLAR PROGRAM SCHEDULE

by Allen Duncan

November: SOLAR Mountaineering Trips

with Lou Szakal, SOLAR President

Lou will present a program with photos from several SOLAR Mountaineering trips. Join us for an evening of incredible views and adventure.

Upcoming Programs:

- December 4: Informal Meet and Greet
at Mr. Joe's, 26077 W. 12 Mile Road
- December 14: Holiday Party
- January: SOLAR Photo Contest
- February: The Massasauga Rattler
with Yu Man Lee, MSU Extension Scientist

Please Note: All programs take place at Colony Hall immediately following the SOLAR business meeting. Do you have an idea or suggestion for a SOLAR Program? Please e-mail me: programs@SOLAROutdoors.org.

DETROIT CLIMB 2

by Lisa Boose

C'mon you Stair Star...you Stair Stud you! You love the stairs, I know you do... heck, every time you're on them you're breathing heavy. Reeeeeeal heavy....

I say it's about time you stop this madness. Stop pretending. Stop holding your breath in fear others will hear and know your secret passion. Release your inhibitions! Live your life with arms wide open! Find the love you have and the love you feel and admit you're in love with something that's hard, cold, so undynamic and so unforgiving. What else makes your heart beat out of your chest, leaves you breathless, red in the face? You sweat in places you never knew could. Your nose runs. Your legs won't. Earwax softens. You even feel your brain beating for Pete's sake (sorry Lamb). You are SO in love. And you know what? It's okay. It's really ALL okay... So the hammer just hit. Feel the chill up your spine and realize (finally!) its okay to come out of the elevator and share the love, the joy, the passion...

And hey, while you're at it, why not show the world how much you care and climb a stair...or two...or *ahem* seventy...

Just announced, the American Lung Association will be hosting its second annual competitive stair climb to raise money to fund lung health research, education, and advocacy in Michigan. The name of the event is "Detroit Climb 2" and it's scheduled for Sunday, February 24, 2008 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center at 9:00 a.m.

I would like to organize a team of SOLARITES to participate in this event and compete for either the best time or highest dollars raised. No prior stair climbing experience necessary, just a sense of adventure, a competitive spirit, and a willingness to do your best no matter what.

As team captain, I will organize an E-list, meetings, training assistance, and training events. I will help educate, motivate, push, support and compete with you, for you, and by your side so that we all have a chance to realize our potential and be the best we can be.

As a team, we'll choose a name, train together, participate together (we'll be climbing single file together), and the individual pledges we obtain will be combined for a grand team total.

As a member of this team, each of us will be individually timed and the pledges we personally obtain will afford each of us the chance to win great prizes.

This event is unique, fun and celebrates both novice and expert athletes with exemplary lung health. Similar events in other Midwest cities have drawn thousands of climbers and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to aid in the American Lung Association's mission of "improving life, one breath at a time."

We will be doing the Full Climb. Registration fee for the full climb is \$35. Fundraising minimum is \$65. Total entry fee per person due at time of registration is \$100.

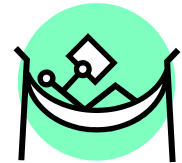
All participants will receive a commemorative Climb Detroit 2 t-shirt. Additional fundraising gifts are available and determined by funds raised and turned in by February 24, 2008.

I will be providing more information at the next SOLAR meeting scheduled in November. If you have any interest in this, see me at the meeting and/or email me at elbows6000@att.net.



THE RECUMBENT VOYAGER

by Winnie Chrzanowski



Grayson

by Lynne Cox

Alfred A. Knopf, 148 pages

\$16.95

The first three chapters of *Grayson* kept me turning the pages quickly as the Jaws theme kept swimming and thrumming through my brain. My reading speed synched with the music as Lynne Cox described her workout swim off Seal Beach, California and the way the sea began to transform into a less familiar and more uncomfortable environment. The water shook and buckled below her. The ocean where she previously felt comfortable now made her feel “very small and very alone in the deep dark sea.” What was happening in that dark and daunting sea?

What happened was that 17-year-old Lynne Cox encountered a baby gray whale and its mother on a March morning 30 years ago. At first, she suspected the large animal that changed workout into a frightful swim might be a shark. Instead, it turned out to be an 18-foot-long baby gray she dubbed Grayson. At first frightened by Grayson, the playful young whale that appeared to be following her to shore enchants her. Her workout swim changed once again into a more challenging attempt to keep Grayson from swimming to shore with her and beaching himself.

The basis of the story intrigues anyone interested in whales or nature. Swimming with a whale in the wild happens maybe once in a lifetime and Ms. Cox experienced it firsthand. So, her sharing the story makes perfect sense, and the emotional bond she shares with Grayson comes through loud and clear. Furthermore, Ms. Cox provides loads of descriptive information on the sea and its creatures as she swims for hours trying to locate Grayson’s mother. However, *Grayson* has some serious drawbacks for me.

The book tells the story of a gray whale; unfortunately, the cover picture on the book depicts a sperm whale. Why put a sperm whale on the cover of a book about a gray whale? Marketing? Stupidity? Don’t the people producing the book think the public can tell the difference? (Check www.acsonline.org if you want to see the difference between the two species.) Not only is the illustration incorrect, but also the writing leaves me as cold as Ms. Cox becomes while swimming in the Pacific for hours on a chilly March morning.

The attention-grabbing first three chapters turn into one boring “look at me and what I’m doing” chapter after the next. The loads of detailed descriptions I mentioned in a previous paragraph became tedious. Too much of a good thing does not lend itself to telling a good tale or writing gripping narrative. The sea Ms. Cox swims in is choppy and so is her narrative. The tide ebbs and flows and the currents change as she swims; her prose just floats along the surface like an oil slick. I don’t believe she intended her narrative to mimic the undulating ocean; she’s not that good a writer.

I suppose if I had suspended my belief systems while reading *Grayson*, I might have enjoyed this book. However, the book is not fiction.

My recommendation: skip *Grayson* unless you’re having trouble with insomnia.



SELECTING A BACKPACKING STOVE

by Rob Schwenke

A good place to start is at covering the basic stove categories. There are just a few broad categories of fuels generally used in backpacking stoves, each with its own set of unique characteristics for storage and optimal use. These fuel characteristics drive stove design, creating just a few general categories of stoves, principle based on what type of fuel they use.

Petroleum Stoves (White Gas, Kerosene)

These are the standard for camp stoves but are generally considered too heavy and bulky for ultra-light hikers. Commercial stoves are generally durable, heavy and work well at high altitudes and low temperatures. The advantage of petrol fuels are they have good heat/weight ratio, are easily found and cheap. The downside of petroleum fuels is that they can be very messy and dangerous. Homemade versions or modifications are not recommended due to the inherent catastrophic dangers associated with petroleum fuels.

Choose this stove if:

- you need to melt lots of snow in extreme sub-freezing temperatures
- you want easy to find fuel
- you like to cook your food hot and fast

Don't choose this stove if:

- the sound of a jet engine isn't appealing
- you are considering light weight backpacking
- you don't like performing maintenance or field repairs on a regular basis
- the smell of fuel on your fingers or gear makes you nauseous
- the possibility of severe burns or loss of facial hair is undesirable

Liquefied Gas Stoves (Butane, Isobutane, Propane)

These stoves tend to burn clean but use expensive fuel stored in non-refillable metal canisters. They are easy to adjust from a light simmer to a roaring fire. High altitudes aren't an issue with liquefied gas stoves, but they may not work below freezing temperatures. Homemade versions or modifications are not recommended due to the inherent dangers associated with pressurized and explosive canister fuels.

Choose this stove if:

- you want a stove that works as well and as easily as the gas range you have at home
- you don't think fiddling/tinkering with gear is fun
- you want a system that burns clean

Avoid this stove if:

- are going on subfreezing treks
- you need to purchase fuel as you travel across most countries (Europe excluded)
- you want cheap fuel

Alcohol Stoves (Alky, Meth, Spirit)

They come in many forms and are commonly homemade. They tend to be slow to cook with and use up more fuel than other stoves. Generally made of aluminum or tin cans, many weigh less than an ounce. These may work poorly in the cold without an insulating platform and/or preheating.

Choose this stove if:

- you want ultralight
- easily obtainable fuel in North America is important
- you like to build your own gear

Avoid this stove if:

- you want adjustable or high heat output
- you need to cook a lot of food or melt snow
- cooking in the snow is important

Wood Stoves

These cook systems tend to be on the heavy and bulky side, but may make up for weight in that no fuel needs to be packed or purchased. Just about any wood stove design should be far more efficient than using an open fire. Expect to turn pots black with soot.

Choose this stove if:

- you like the smell of a wood fire
- wood is the only fuel available
- you put the "C" in Cheap

Avoid this stove if:

- blackening of your pots is unacceptable
- you want more cooking control
- wood isn't available or burning it is banned where you are going
- smelling like a forest fire is less than appealing

Candle Stoves

Simple to make but can be sooty. Wax has a lot of heat potential but is difficult to cook with, especially in windy areas. Like other solid fuels, you don't have to worry about it leaking in your pack. The advantage is that you might get a long burning night light with your stove. Included in this group are stoves fueled by liquid candles, various oils, and lamp fuels.

Choose this stove if:

- you need a lantern and not a stove
- spilling fuel on your gear or hands drives you nuts

Avoid this stove if:

- you need to cook anything
- you are the practical type

Solar Stoves

Depending on where you live in the world, you may be able

to harness energy from the sun to cook your meal or heat up a brew. These tend to be bulky and very slow at cooking.

Choose this stove if:

- you want to be the ultimate eco guy
- you want unlimited fuel

Avoid this stove if:

- you don't have all day to cook
- you live where there isn't any sun

Flameless Stoves (MRE Heater)

These tend to be bulky and/or slow. They are generally safe to use and may be ideal for backpackers that shouldn't be near fire.

Choose this stove if:

- you don't want any flames
- you have a box of them in the basement

Avoid this stove if:

- you can't get a bunch for free
- being lightweight is important
- you want to cook your food

Electric Stoves and Immersion Coils (Heating Coils, Heating Elements, Beverage Heater, Heating Rod, Coffee/Drink Heater)

If you are backpacking across the world and plan to spend some time in hotels, hostels and other places with electricity, and immersion coil is a must. These little gadgets (around 3-4oz) allow you to boil water for tea, soup, and noodles and give you the option of self purifying water (the only kind you might be able to trust) and warm washes for you and your clothes. Hot plates, electric kettles, etc are other options, but quickly add up in weight and bulk.

Most commercial immersion coils are made for 12, 24, 110 or 220 volts and in wattages from 120W to 2000W. The greater the wattage, the faster the coil should heat up water or blow a fuse. Coils made for 220V will work with 110V, but may take up to four times as long to heat up water. Coils with 12V car adapters are useful for travelers based out of their autos.

Choose this stove if:

- you sleep in hotels and hostels when you backpack
- your expedition/travels include living out of a car, van or 4x4

Avoid this stove if:

- you backpack where there isn't an electrical outlet

Calcium Carbide Stoves and Lanterns (Acetylene Stove/Lamp)

A chemical reaction between calcium carbide and water produces acetylene, calcium oxide and heat. The acetylene is then burned for light and/or heat. This very old technology is still a favorite among many cavers and

newer head mounted lanterns are still produced today. These setups may not be ideal for backpacking as the hard to find fuel must be kept dry to avoid igniting while in your pack and its byproducts include caustic calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)₂) and calcium oxide (CaO aka Lime), chemicals you don't want in your pack. This stove type is only mentioned for those seeking superfluous trivia, tinkers looking for a unique project and in the interest of being complete (at the expense of practicality).

Choose this stove if:

- you like to be very different
- you own one of the few portable carbide stoves left in existence and want to show it off

Avoid this stove if:

- practicality and/or safety are important to you

The majority of the content for this article reprinted with permission from Zen Seeker at www.zenstoves.net.

WINTER SPORTS / CARNAVAL - QUEBEC CITY

by Joanne Sarrasin

WHEN: One week trip arriving Sunday, February 10 and departing Sunday, February 17, 2008 during the best winter carnival in historic Quebec City (which is also celebrating its 400th year in 2008).

WHERE: Mont Ste Anne (ski resort) located 40 minutes from downtown Quebec City

WHY: Mont Ste Anne is Canada's largest cross country ski center. There are 212 kms of cross country ski trails (classic, skating and backcountry) with access from the door of your home for the week.

Two international class downhill ski resorts.

Many other destinations and activities are available within an hour's drive or less: more cross country ski trails, snowshoeing, dog sledding, and tobogganing.

ACCOMMODATIONS: 7 nights in one of several homes available located at the foot of Mont Ste Anne.

COST: \$500 US per person if at least 6 people sign up and would decrease if we get more people. Need \$150 US to reserve your spot.

OTHER COSTS: Transportation to and from Quebec City, meals, trail fees, etc. are all in addition to the cost of the accommodations. **NOTE:** There is a free shuttle available to the Mont Ste Anne downhill ski slopes.

Please contact Joanne Sarrasin @ jsarrasin@cogeco.ca for more information.

SOLAR HIKE SCHEDULE

by Matt Dalton



Hike with the Solar Club! Lead a hike or post your own hike! It's all about getting out, exercising and enjoying Michigan's Great Outdoors. Everyone is welcome: members & non-members. Hikes start at 9:30 AM. Hike Coordinator: Matt Dalton: mdalton@ameritech.net

Post a message on the Solar Yahoo site, discuss car pooling/ride sharing, obtain a list of other hikers, and obtain additional details or directions for the hike. Make plans for an after hike restaurant stop.

November 4, 2007, Sunday - 9:30 AM, (Daylight Saving Time Ends) Fall Back. Maybury State Park, Northville, MI. Meet at 8 Mile Rd entrance and parking lot by concessions area. Hike for about 2 hours and cover about 5 miles with stops for rest and water. Lunch stop after hike. (25-35 friendly hikers).

November 10, 2007, Saturday - 9:30 or 10:45AM, Stony Creek Metro Park, meet at the new Nature Center. Park located at M-53 (Van Dyke Rd) and north of 26 Mile Rd. Plan on a 5 mile quick paced hike with a restaurant stop afterwards.

November 18, 2007, Sunday 9:30 AM- Maybury State Park, Northville, MI Meet at 8 Mile Rd entrance and parking lot by concessions area. Hike for about 2 hours and cover about 5 miles with stops for rest and water. Lunch stop after hike. (25-35 friendly hikers).

November 18, 2007, Sunday, 12:15 PM, Kensington Metro Park, Milford, MI. I-96 and Kensington Road exit, meet at the Nature Center for a slow paced hike. Optional restaurant stop after the hike.

November 23, 2007, Friday - 11:00 AM, Proud Lake State Park, Milford, MI Meet behind the Park Headquarters for a slow to moderate paced through level terrain. Optional restaurant stop after.

November 24, 2007, Saturday - 9:30 AM, Metropolitan Beach Metro Park, on beautiful Lake St. Clair. Take I-94 to Metro Beach Parkway, (16 Mile Road). Meet at the park office building, choose your hiking route and don't miss walking on the pier that goes out to Lake St. Clair. Hike leader familiar with trails and a great lunch spot requested.

December 2, 2007 Sunday - 9:30 AM, Maybury State Park, Northville, MI. Meet at 8 Mile Rd entrance and parking lot by concessions area. (approx. 35 hikers) Hike for about 2 hours and cover about 5 miles with stops for rest and water. Lunch stop after the hike.

HALLOWEEN PARTY AND CAMPOUT

October 27, 2007

By Jim Coe

Costumes are not mandatory, but you will be the only one that looks funny if you don't wear one.

We will have games like: bobbing for apples, make a mummy, pumpkin bowling, best dog costume, and best human costume (the weirder the better!).

I will order pizza, please bring unusual finger foods

My house is 1/2 mile from Island Lake State Park if you want to come early and set up camp there or you can camp in the yard if you plan drinking.

My Address:
6324 Kinyon Dr.
Brighton MI 48116

For more information call Jim Coe at 810-220-5832 or 810-499-5001.

Please park on only one side of the road!

SOLAR 2007 CALENDAR

NOVEMBER ACTIVITES					
11/2-11/5	MULTI	Off-trail Winter Backpacking**	Mackinac Wilderness Tract	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://tinyurl.com/39k66e
11/6	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	Colony Hall	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net
11/6	TUE	PROGRAM: SOLAR Mountaineering Trips	Colony Hall	Allen Duncan	allenduncan@aggienetwork.com
11/9-11/11	WKND	Michigan Upper Penninsula Adventure	Paradise, Michigan	Elizabeth Schwab	qes1339@yahoo.com
11/18-11/25	MULTI	Fall Getaway**	Williamsburg, VA	Carol McCririe	cmccririe@sbcglobal.net
NOVEMBER CLASSES					
11/7, 11/9-11/10, 11/14	WED/ MULTI	Advanced Land Navigation	Royal Oak/ Waterloo Rec Area	Karl Overheul	Cyber.nomad@comcast.net
DECEMBER ACTIVITES					
12/1	SUN	Toledo Zoo Lights Display**	Toledo Zoo	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
12/4	TUE	GENERAL MEETING	Colony Hall	Lou Szakal	Everest2008@comcast.net
12/7-12/10	MULTI	Off-trail Winter Backpacking Trip**	Mackinac State Forest: Onaway	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://tinyurl.com/2vz5p9
12/14	FRIDAY	SOLAR Holiday Party**	Colony Hall	Allen Duncan	allenduncan@aggienetwork.com
DECEMBER CLASSES					
12/6, 12/13, 1/3, 1/10, 1/12-1/13, 1/24, 1/26, 1/31, 2/8-2/10	MULTI	Enjoying Michigan Winters	Southfield/ Waterloo Rec Area/Pigeon River State Forest	Tom Oloffo/ Roxann Bittner	Roxann.bittner@gm.com
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES					
1/18-1/22	MULTI	Off-trail Snowshoe & Sledge Trip**	Delirium Wilderness Tract	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://tinyurl.com/3bn6js
1/25-1/27	WKND	Crawlathon	Carter Caves State Park, Kentucky	Leslie Cordova	lesliegene@aol.com
2/9-2/17	MULTI	21st Annual Canadian Snowshoeing Expedition**	Lake Superior Provincial Park, Ontario	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://therucksack.tripod.com
2/10-2/17	MULTI	Winter Sports/Carnival Getaway	Mont Ste. Anne Ski Resort, Quebec	Joanne Sarrasin	jsarrasin@yahoo.ca
2/14-2/29	MULTI	Costa Rica Adventure**	Costa Rica	Jim Gessner	Gessnerj@comcast.net
2/24	SUN	Detroit Climb 2	Renaissance Center, Detroit	Lisa Boose	Elbows6000@att.net
3/7-3/11	MULTI	Winter Camping and Ice Exploration**	Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://therucksack.tripod.com
3/29-4/5	MULTI	GM Ski Club Trip**	Mammoth Mountain, California	Darrell Ahlberg	Dave Duvali daveduvali@wowway.com
4/4-4/7	WKND	Off-trail Backpacking**	Pigeon River Country State Forest	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://therucksack.tripod.com
5/2-5/5	WKND	Off-trail Backpacking**	Eastern Upper Peninsula	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://therucksack.tripod.com
5/24-6/1	MULTI	21st Annual Canadian Backpacking Expedition**	Lake Superior Provincial Park	Michael Neiger	mneiger@hotmail.com http://therucksack.tripod.com

All classes and activities are limited to SOLAR members except for non-SOLAR events marked with **. If you would like to help plan and/or lead a SOLAR activity, please contact Kevin Cotter at (248) 544-9637 or activities@solaroutdoors.org. If you would like to help plan and/or teach a SOLAR class, please contact Sarah Kirkish at education@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. ** Denotes non-SOLAR activity or non-SOLAR class (SOLAR will not be held responsible for these activities/classes).

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. To receive a copy in the mail, please contact Mary Price at membership@solaroutdoors.org.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions for the SOLAR Ray are due on the Friday two weeks prior to the monthly Steering Committee Meeting (November 16 for the December issue). Electronic documents only. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Sweeton at rayeditor@solaroutdoors.org.

STEERING COMMITTEE

President: Lou Szakal	Vice President: Cindy Taylor
Secretary: Michelle Delaporte	Treasurer: Carol McCrie
Activities: Kevin Cotter	By-Laws: Chuck Smith
Education: Sarah Kirkish	Equipment: Rob Schwenke
Historian: Pam Schmelzer	Membership: Mary Price
Programs: Allen Duncan	Public Relations: Heather Hall
Ray Editor: Rebecca Sweeton	Webmaster: Dave Sweeton

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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 president@solaroutdoors.org.

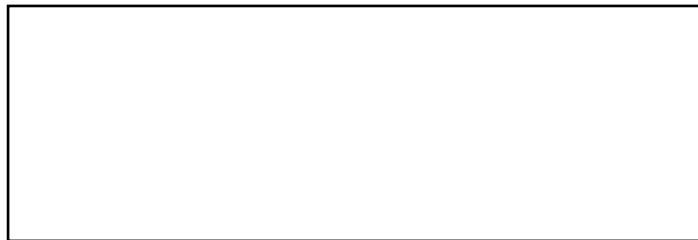
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at: www.solaroutdoors.org.

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Visit our website: www.solaroutdoors.org



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