

Solar Outdoors

Steering Committee Minutes

Date: 11/23/2021

Meeting called to order at: 7:02 pm

Note: Agenda is in regular font

Italic writing is additional information at the meeting



Quorum members present: Debbie Hendrickson, Laura Miller, Leslie Cordova, Karen Haroutunian, Krisanne Schmidt, Elaine Granch, Bob Tacy, David Warneke, Phil Crookshank, Dave Warnecke

Others present:

Absent: Carol McCririe, Anandhi Chandran

Minutes approved for Sept. and Oct. 2021

President Debbie Hendrickson

- Winter Party: *Heritage Park reserved for Saturday, Dec. 4 from 1 to 5 pm. Phil volunteered to bring a camp stove and will make hot water for hot chocolate. We need cups. People will need to bring their own food. No potluck. Masks required to go inside to use the restrooms.*
- Annual budget items: *January is when the annual budget is approved so be thinking about how much you need for your budget or different amount for budget.*
- Fund raising: *Carol McCririe suggested charging nominal fee for renting the equipment. Be thinking about it for us to discuss for our January steering meeting.*
- Programs:
 - *Winter party-Debbie reserved and she is sending out announcement to Solar.*
 - *Photo contest: Right now we are still in person but the club will continue to monitor covid-19 restrictions/guidelines*
 - *Discussion about do we want to have less categories due to cost*
 - *Mike Hobig offered to donate some REI gift cards*
 - *Special category or discussion of just having the 4 from last year:*
 - *Dramatic*
 - *Landscape*
 - *Life*
 - *Outdoors Activities*
 - *Discussion about special category: humor, wildlife, covid or quarantine adventures, Solar friends*
 - *Final 4 categories: humorous, quarantine adventures, landscape, wildlife, special category: Solar friends*
 - *Who would like to get this announcement out? Dave will put it on Facebook. Krisanne to put it on Meetup as the Jan. program and Debbie will sent it out on Solar Google groups.*

Need to update website with the activities our club is really doing and make the changes to the website.

Vice president Doreen Byrne

- No report

Secretary Laura Miller

- Minutes from Sept. and Oct. steering committee meetings email with call for reports.
- Agenda for Nov. steering committee meeting sent out Nov. 23 at 10 am.

Treasurer Carol McCririe

- Attached see below the statement of activity YTD as of 11/18. All of the monies from the BP class have been deposited and there are no outstanding expenses.

SOLAR Outdoors

Statement of Activity

January 1 - November 18, 2021

	TOTAL
Revenue	
4000 Member Dues	1,155.00
4010 Classes	0.00
Beginning Backpacking	850.00
Total 4010 Classes	850.00
4150 Miscellaneous Income	100.00
Gear sales	450.00
Logo Sales	126.00
Total 4150 Miscellaneous Income	676.00
Total Revenue	\$2,681.00
GROSS PROFIT	\$2,681.00
Expenditures	
6010 Class expenses	0.00
Beginning Backpacking	418.72
Total 6010 Class expenses	418.72
Bookkeeping	275.00
Communications	356.00
Computer & Website Expenses	203.40
Dues & Subscriptions	197.88
Equipment expenses	362.60
Program & Event Expenses	148.00
Rent	2,441.00
Total Expenditures	\$4,402.60
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -1,721.60
NET REVENUE	\$ -1,721.60

- Cash in bank as of today is \$11,758.25.
- I will probably not be able to attend the SC meeting but any questions, I can be emailed to me.

Activities Krisanne Schmidt

Past activities:

- Day hikes (Seven Lakes State Park and Kensington Metropark)
- Lantern Hike (Island Lake)

Upcoming activities:

- Fairy Doors on Belle Isle hike 11/27/21
- 4th Annual Belle Isle Hike 12/18/21

- Lake Ann Winter Weekend 1/14/22
- Muskegon State Park fun 2/18-19/22 (luge, x-country ski, snow shoeing, ice-skating) Laura and Krisanne finalizing the details.

Other:

- Activities committee met and have pulled together guidelines to help members run Activities (can use for Education as well). Have a couple items to add.

Bylaws Leslie Cordova

- No Report

Education Chair Anandhi Chandran

- At last meeting announced spring classes:
 - Intermediate backpacking workshop dates TBD
 - Dehydrated foods workshop date TBD
 - Orienteering workshop date TBD

Equipment Chair Phil Crookshank

- All the equipment is back in the storage room – after the recent Beginning Backpacking Learning session. All in good condition, all complete, no damages – Thank you to Krisanne, and all the helpers who made this Covid small group a success – and did an excellent job of training newbies how to use our equipment and return it without damage.
- I need to get us out of Storage Sense – it has steadily declined in efficiency, there has been lots of damage to units, equipment, no cleaning of hallways, locked bathroom, very scary people wandering up and down the rear entrance, the Out Gate was run through, was left in the up position for weeks until a new gate was installed, I don't dare be in there unless I am armed, and that's just wrong, and the monthly rent is up to \$185 per month for a 10 x 20 unit.
- I'm asking the Steering Committee to authorize moving at the earliest moment, and authorized to pay the rent when a place opens up, move all our equipment, then close the previous place, and ask for a refund of our unused time, since we paid in advance, through April 29, 2022.
- I would like to move to Johns Storage, 12801 Inkster Road, (10 x 20 unit \$146.00) just south of the Jeffries Frwy, the closest storage units to the church. The problem is that Johns is so well liked, and less cost that it is always full. They tell me that they do not bother with a wait list, so many people want in, just come in the 1st through the tenth of each month to see who might be moving out. *Note the John's Storage is not heated.*
- I also want the Steering Committee to authorize me to sell off some of the VERY extra and never used equipment. It seems there will never be Enjoying Michigan Winters sessions again; there has been no Rock Climbing or Ice Climbing sessions for 10? Years, we should have relevant equipment for our major sessions – Backpacking in the 3 seasons. *Do we need to keep the equipment? Phil suggested selling or donating. Discuss at the next steering committee meeting what Phil is suggesting to get out of the storage unit if Phil can generate a list of the items.*
- I have updated the Gear lists with some donated items, but will have to wait until Stacie has time to switch to the new server to upload that.
- *Discussion about the need for climate control. Phil made a motion to make a move of the equipment to a more suitable and safe storage unit, seconded by Elaine. Discussion about climate-controlled vs not because of electronics, the screen and water filters damage; how to get electronics if Phil is storing them at his house. Amendment to original motion for climate-*

controlled unit if possible, Phil to find the best one available to leave Storage Sense, which was seconded by Karen. All present voted for motion.

- What to do when a person does not have a checking account? *Discussion needs to be done with Carol about how to have people pay when they do not have a checking account.*

Historian Karen Haroutunian

- No report

Membership Elaine Granch

- No change in membership since Oct.
- Action items: will start working on collecting 2022 membership renewals and waivers
- *Different payment options will help with membership*
- *Will make announcement at the meeting about signing waivers f*

Programs Open Position

- Dec. Winter Party
- Jan. Photo Contest
- Feb. Chris Hiller AT
- March Paul Bates
- April Elections

Public Relations Bob Tacy

- Will be asking the steering committee members on the call and passing around a signup sheet for the members at the meeting to obtain their permission to tag them in Facebook posts.
- Will be asking the steering committee for more trip plans and printing copies of the trip plans we have thus far for display at the welcome table.
- Need volunteers to work the welcome table while I am setting up the Zoom presentation before the meeting starts.
- Creating Utah presentation. Drafted member Pam Connelly to present two slides containing her photos of Angels Landing.
- Spending \$50 of my own funds to boost Facebook post about the November meeting. It is still gaining momentum. It has reached 898 people and had 118 engagements.
- September Facebook video has received 221 views and October video has received 207 views.
- The Quiet Adventure Symposium will be virtual in March. They will let us know if our application is approved.

New business:

- Would like to discuss Mike's idea of asking Lifetime members for club sponsorships.
- Discussing survey of members to get some input about the type of activities and presentations they are interested in participating and if in person or virtual. *Need to discuss further. Consider doing a survey in paper and digital at the Jan. photo contest. Bob asked for a copy of the last survey which Debbie will scan and send to Bob.*

Communications Chair Dave Warnecke

Attending established events as a way to get recognition.

- A small group of members attended the lantern hike at Island Lake over the weekend. We did a hike before the lantern section and then had hot chocolate and sat by a fire at the end of the hike. It was fun and we were noticed. We picked up a non-member in the parking lot, who was there to hike with another group that did not show up. We also handed out several of our promotional cards while sitting around the fire.

- Could events like these be a good way of getting our name out there again? At the lantern hike, people saw us as a close-knit group, talked to us at the fire and we handed out cards to individuals that had some interest.

Membership dues:

- I led a hike that was posted on Meetup and it got me thinking about how we do our membership. If a non-member wanted to attend the Meetup hike, they would have to join the club (\$40?) before they could sign up for the hike. That seems like a big ask to check out a group for the first time. I remember when I joined the club that I could not register in one day over Meetup. Registering on Meetup triggered asking me to attend a monthly meeting. For groups like MAC, the yearly fee is much cheaper (\$5?) and you can join and attend an hour before the event. MAC is still pulling a lot of new members.
- I am curious if this initial membership fee is stopping potential members from joining us on day hikes, where they could learn more about the group. How many of our members are paying the \$40 dues, as opposed to being lifetime members?
- There would be a lot to think about with a membership fee change, but I think it warrants a discussion:
- How Meetup works for technical trips that require experience/gear check
- Charging more for larger activities, with the understanding that it includes a donation to keep the club running
- Membership and dues – I think we are missing out on an opportunity to pick up new members on day hikes. I understand that other clubs are still pulling new members from Meetup and think that we should be able to do this as well.
- I would like to gauge the Steering Team's openness to amending how membership, Meetup and dues work. *If there is an openness to review this, I would suggest that we form a subcommittee to discuss the details. Elaine will help with this and need to include Stacie and Carol in this discussion. Subcommittee: Dave, Elaine, Stacie, Carol, Krisanne, Leslie, Laura and Karen.*

Webmaster Stacie Kitchen

- In the process of transferring the website over to a new host. Website will be down for a few weeks starting December 1st.
- Already doing - research of what plug-in will work:
- Online Payment of memberships...using venmo/paypal.
- Signing up to be a member thru website.
- I won't be able to make the meeting on Tuesday - I have work til 7:30pm. I will try to make it...I might be getting into the meeting late.
- Question: do we have a committee meeting next month? *No. Next meeting is Jan. 18*
- *Bob raised concern about our site being down for months at a time and we need to keep an online presence all the time. Debbie to send Stacie an email about Bob volunteering to helping get the process moving for us to have an online presence as a club.*

Unfinished Business to discuss at Jan. meeting.

- Solar promoted events what is the process? How do we want it to look going forward?
 - Discussion about how it would be advertised, Solar charge a meet up fee, how the funds are collected, etc.
 - Dave had developed a document about how to post events on website or meet up.
 - Carol and Leslie found several old guidelines for hosting an event.
 - Krisanne asked to develop a draft with a few volunteers, Leslie, Dave, Laura:
 - how to develop a Solar event?
 - how the money is collected? On meet up, venmo or other electronic payment methods.

- Fees that the club incurs need to be added to the fees collected
 - Update at future meeting to review the process and maybe we have a workshop to go through the process
- Discussion about on being education chair and the leading a workshop.

New Business

Next meeting

- No meeting in Dec. Next steering committee meeting is on Jan. 18 at 7 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:34 pm

Meeting minutes notes taken by Laura Miller