

Solar Outdoors

Steering Committee Minutes

Date: 2/14/2022

Meeting called to order at: 7:10 pm

Note: Agenda is in regular font

Italic writing is additional information at the meeting



Quorum members present: *Debbie Hendrickson, Laura Miller, Elaine Granch, Bob Tacy, Leslie Cordova, Karen Haroutunian, David Warnecke, Carol McCririe, Krisanne Schmidt, Doreen Byrne, Anandhi Chandran, Stacie Kitchen*

Others present: *None*

Absent: *Phil Crookshank*

Minutes approved: *Nov. 2021 with amendments approved by all present; Jan. 2022 with amendments approved by all present.*

President Debbie Hendrickson

- Items to discuss:
 - New membership details
 - Approve new fee for St. Paul's hall rental *Motion by Carol M to approve new hall rental fee of \$90/ month (up from \$75/ month. Seconded by Krisanne and unanimously adopted.*
 - Status of equipment storage: *Until a new storage unit is found, will rent from Storage Sense on a monthly basis.*
 - *Nee to purge equipment-Phil and Krisanne will go through equipment. Phil has started a list. Then decide what to keep or sell/give away. They will generate a list to send to Solar members. Any equipment not sold from list would be taken to the summer picnic.*
 - Chris Hillier presentation details: *Debbie will not be there so Doreen will run the meeting part of the meeting. Moosejaw will be coming to set up a table and have some give away items.*
 - Photo contest winners: *Mike Hobig wrote up a nice summary of contest emailed to Solar members. The photo contest needs to be added to our blog and Facebook page.*

Vice president Doreen Byrne

- No report

Secretary Laura Miller

- Sent agenda for meeting and previous meeting minutes for Nov. 2021 and Jan. 2022 on Monday night.

Treasurer Carol McCririe

- Cash as of today is \$12,492.17

SOLAR Outdoors

Statement of Activity

January 1 - February 15, 2022

	TOTAL
Revenue	
4000 Member Dues	710.00
4010 Workshops	0.00
Basic Land Navigation	195.00
Ice Climbing for Beginners	110.00
Total 4010 Workshops	305.00
4020 Trips & Activities	0.00
Lake Ann	1,400.00
Luge	600.00
Total 4020 Trips & Activities	2,000.00
Total Revenue	\$3,015.00
GROSS PROFIT	\$3,015.00
Expenditures	
6020 Trip and Activity Expenses	0.00
Lake Ann	1,330.00
Luge	600.00
Total 6020 Trip and Activity Expenses	1,930.00
Bank Charges	12.12
Bookkeeping	50.00
Rent	180.00
Supplies	0.00
Office	18.96
Total Supplies	18.96
Total Expenditures	\$2,191.08
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$823.92
NET REVENUE	\$823.92

Activities Krisanne Schmidt

Past activities:

Beginning Ice Climbing 2/13/22

Upcoming activities:

Muskegon State Park fun 2/18 - 20/2022

(Luge, x-country ski, hike)

Quiet Adventures Symposium-Online 3/1/2022

Fight for Air Climb 5/1/2022

Backpack Grand Island 7/2-5/2022

Bylaws Leslie Cordova

- No report

Education Chair Anandhi Chandran

- Events scheduled:
 - Intermediate backpacking workshop at 6:30 pm on 3/10, 3/31, 4/7, 4/21, 5/5/2022; shakedown 4/29 to 5/1/2022; Practical 5/12-16/2022
 - Basic Land Navigation workshop at 6:30-9 pm on 4/27, 5/4, 5/11/2022 and 5/14-15/2022 overnight practicum

Equipment Chair Phil Crookshank

- Well, the first attempt by a member to borrow equipment went WELL. I was gone, when I got an email from long time member asked to borrow snowshoes for the next weekend, I forwarded to Ati, asked Ati if he could take member to get shoes. Ati mentioned that the new rule is for member to pay \$35.00 to rent any equipment, plus the usual \$250 for deposit. The long time member went into orbit, said he can rent shoes up where he is going for \$20.00 and probably a few more uncomplimentary remarks. Definitely whomever pushed this rent thing should back up and start over.
- I followed up on Jennifer T's leads on several new Rental, Storage places being built near the church, easy access. They both have just opened up, and have a few customers, but aren't flush and overflowing yet. Both places look like they have some finishing work to do, but would like to give us the nearest room to the doorway. BOTH places are ALL climate controlled, both have a large indoor parking area for unloading that would fit two moving vans and 10 vehicles (approximately) Renters would put in their secret code, the door opens to a heated, or cooled indoor parking, leave the vehicle there, use their hand carts to move in, or out, when we leave, the exit door raises automatically from a sensor, to go out and leave.
- Budget Storage, 29150 West 7 Mile Rd. Livonia. Just East of Middlebelt. Easy Access. 10x15 room=**\$250**. This is a renovated Toys R Us store, floors a bit rough and bumpy, but not bad. There was a HUGE office area, with 4 gals at the ready. They were glad to see a customer, showed me several units, cheap thin steel side walls, as usual, no way to hang packs up, would have to make some "A" frame uprights to have pole going through holes, to have packs on. No Lights, No Outlets.
Office hours 9-6, 9-4, 9-2. (734) 743-8900. Tenant access hours - 7am-9pm. Would not discuss longer hours on meeting nights !!
- (2) Clover Self Storage, 28900 Schoolcraft, Livonia. (North side of Jeffries Frwy, access over Jeffries bridge, straight into Clover entrance) OR drive west on Schoolcraft, enter easy from right hand lane. Just East of Middlebelt. 10x15 room=**\$245**. I think this is new construction, been building for 9 months, looks like good construction. A large office area, with 1 on duty, showed me around. An even larger, wider indoor parking area. Tall enough for Semi!
Great lighting, MAYBE enough lighting to see inside a room. Cheap thin steel side walls, as usual, no way to hang packs up, would have to make some "A" frame uprights to have pole going through holes, to have packs on. No Lights, No Outlets. Site was built with two huge open side buildings for huge motor homes, 5th wheel trailers, etc. BIG BENEFIT- on site live in occupant for security. Security guy lives in first fifth wheel trailer near entrance.
Office hours, 9-6, 6 days?? 810-560-2950 for now - business card has 734-525-1000. Tenant hours - 7am-9pm, all days, possibility later to accommodate after meeting deliveries. Entrance and exit - same procedure as #1 place.
- Storage Sense - Where we have been since 2016, has continually raised the rent - - to \$185, and who knows what it will be soon?? Our rent is paid through April 29, 2022. It has gotten so much damage from renters, break-ins, bathroom locked because people have ripped most things off the

walls, etc. Entrance gates ripped off, or bent out of the way, a very un-desirable area, with no security, no emergency # that gets through, nothing.

That is one thing that I failed to ask both new places - do they have a bathroom access for Geezer Renters? I might not be the only one who spends hours there organizing, checking out equipment, etc.

Historian Karen Haroutunian

- No report

Membership Elaine Granch

Carol and Dave configured Meet-up for annual member to renew and new members to join at the new membership rate.

- Carol manually waived the fees for all lifetime members and I waived the fee for members who had already paid their dues and for the 2021 backpacking class
- I contacted members who had paid the previous annual fee. Those who've responded have opted to retain the ability to borrow gear or given a donation. Responses still pending.
- Meet-up dropped all but a handful of members at the beginning of February. Dave and Krisanne manually re-entered the membership. Thank you!!

I received an email that 4 members joined via Meet-up. What message do members receive when they join? How should these members be added to the roster?

Current Membership:

Total Family memberships: 82.5

Total Single Memberships: 324

Family Annual (units): 18.5

Family Lifetime (units): 64

Single Lifetime: 237

Single Annual (inc. Meet-up): 87

Total Members (Listed): 489

Pending Items:

1. Working on membership verbiage for web-page
2. Steering Committee to decide the future of lifetime and family memberships. (Note: Bylaws would need to be changed.)
3. Should members of the same family each be charged \$35 to borrow equipment?
4. Will need to be designing the Membership form/waiver.

Programs Vacant

- Feb. 22: Chris Hiller AT lecture. *Chris will be getting a speaker fee which was donated.*
- March Paul Bates
- April Elections

- May ?

Public Relations Bob Tacy

Cafe Press

Resolved the Solar Logo licensing issue with the CafePress and have the site up and running at: <https://www.cafepress.com/solaroutdoors> It is a work in progress as I learn more about using the interface. In addition to our logo, we can say something on the other side of products such as coffee cup, T-shirts, etc. Stacie said that she would design. Looking for input on the following contenders or a new one.

1. Not all those who wander are lost. - J.R.R. Tolkien
2. Adventure is Out There or Adventure Awaits
3. We Love the Outdoors!
4. The Mountains are calling and I must go. - Join Muir
5. Between every two pine trees there is a door leading to a new way of life. - John Muir
6. Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt. - John Muir
7. The Mountains are calling and I must go. - John Muir
8. The Best View Comes After the Hardest Climb
9. Always Take the Scenic Route
10. We hike with Dave
11. (Insert your idea here)

Business card is Adventure is more fun with friends! If we use a quote, we need to make sure we have copyright privileges

Dave to send list of the previous quotes we had last year.

Choose 2-3 quotes with Stacie to make them pretty.

Stacie asked for access to the Café Press to help Bob with the sizing of the logo on some of the merchandise.

Peabody's Ice Climbing 15th Annual Ice Fest

- Saturday, Feb 26 from 10am until whenever.
- They are also going to have music and "party" that night.
- Jeff McWilliams can talk to Garrett about letting us set up space. It would be outside, probably on snow-covered grass. They are going to have some climbing gear reps there. The reps usually set up some sort of awning/shelter with tables underneath.
- If we had help, Jeff thinks we could set up the big white SOLAR shelter. In the past, Jeff also seen Moosejaw there.

Bob asked for volunteers to staff the table. Please email Bob if you can be at the event.

Facebook

We are spending \$50 of the PR budget to generate awareness for Chris Hillier's presentation. We have spent \$35 thus far, reached 1,340 people and received 28 interested or going event responses.

Communications Chair Dave Warnecke

- Meetup

We had technical difficulties with Meetup where, after the trial period ended, everyone was moved to status "Awaiting Dues".

- This had several consequences.
 - Lifetime members were sent emails saying that their dues were due.
 - Members who were currently signed up for activities were kicked off.

We were able to get this under control by me going in and resetting Lifetime members' statuses to "waived" and Krisanne adding members back to their activities.

- Going through this process, I got to see that we have a very large amount of Lifetime members. I am curious if there is any way to tell how many of these members are still active with the club.
- Meetup dues grant membership for 1 year from the time a member pays their fee. I do not have a copy of the bylaws in front of me, so I do not know if that matches up with the terminology in the bylaw.
- I was excited to see if we pulled new members on weekend day-hikes after this change. However, family health concerns have prevented me from being able to commit to leading these activities. I hope to get back to them soon.
- Meetup tools are not as great as I had hoped, but I still believe that this is the correct course of action.
- I urge everyone to have patience and understanding as we learn to manage this tool that is new to many of us.

Meetup charges annual fee and will renew it every year unless you cancel the order. Meetup annual dates does not match our dates. How do we manage this? To discuss when we talk about membership. Need to send out an email to be patient as we make these changes to our membership.

Everyone needs to be a member to take a workshop or go on event/trips. Only one fee for workshops or events/trips.

Webmaster Stacie Kitchen

- Website is up and running and has been since middle of January 2022
- Had two people possibly new members (signing up) that have reached out via the website contact page.
- Membership page is down until wording is updated and if we are keeping the lifetime membership.
- Still updating calendar and blog pages - pages are visible
- March we should have a clear idea of the traffic viewing the website.
- Working on website announcement for social and emailing.

Please update bio and send picture for steering committee members to Stacie for the new website. Stacie wants to train a few people who can post to the website and have a training session with them: Dave, communication; Krisanne, Programs; Bob, public relations

Unfinished Business to discuss at Feb. 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.
- *Discussion about the new membership fee of \$5, equipment borrowing equipment fee of \$35 + deposit of \$250 for if equipment is damaged. Lifetime members, do they pay the \$35 fee for equipment or not? Until we change the bylaws, we need to be still offering individual membership, family and lifetime memberships.*
- *Discussion about one person renting the equipment for more than for themselves under their own membership. Do we leave it up to the equipment chair? Do we want to continue to loan out equipment with the storage fee increasing, is it sustainable and a lot of work (time intensive) for a volunteer to do it.*
- *Elaine to send out an email with questions about the membership with Laura helping by making a Google Survey.*
- *Committee agreed Lifetime members are grandfathered in for the annual fee and equipment fee. Elaine will write up this for the webpage. She will email out to the committee to review before posting to website.*

New Business

- *Set event fee and workshop fee for the club in addition to the cost of the event/workshop.*
- *Email Debbie if you are returning to the steering committee or not for next year.*

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:46 pm.

Meeting minutes notes taken by Elaine Granch and Laura Miller.