

Solar Outdoors

Steering Committee Agenda

Date: 1.18.2022

Meeting called to order at: pm

Note: Agenda is in regular font

Italic writing is additional information at the meeting



Quorum members present:

Others present:

Minutes approved

President Debbie Hendrickson

- Annual budget approval
- Methods of payment for classes, trips, and membership

Vice president Doreen Byrne

- No Report

Secretary Laura Miller

- Prepared agenda and sent out agenda this morning.

Treasurer Carol McCririe

- The only activity after year-end is the \$25 monthly QB fee.
- I know that we have to set budgets for 2022 - the year-end statement of activity shows the total expense for 2021 and I will use this as a starting point for budgets and have a report as soon as possible.
- There is an issue with regard to meetup and payment of same. I have tried unsuccessfully to login to our account so that I can figure out what the problem is and get this straightened out. The username that I last used is solarmeetup@solaroutdoors.com with a password of 2008outdoors. The password has been changed (by who I do not know) but I am unable to reset this as I do not know where this email address gets forwarded. At one point, Solar used wePay.com; however, I have the same issue here as it no longer recognizes treasurer access info and uses the same email of solarmeetup@solaroutdoors.com.
- I had provided SC with information at a recent meeting about changing to using Venmo for business which would be less in fees. However, since I can't access our meetup account, I am unable to explore these options. When we were more active with running classes and activities, it was always a struggle to get the information on what was being paid from the meetup site. It only showed the payments and not the detail of what was being paid. Since we haven't been busy in that aspect, I have not really worried about it, but another reason why I wanted to explore another option.
- If anyone has any information on how to access our meetup account for administration, please send this to me in a private email.

Activities Krisanne Schmidt

Past activities:

Day hikes- (Island Lake)	
Fairy Doors on Belle Isle hike	11/27/21
4 th Annual Belle Isle Hike	12/18/21
Lake Ann Winter Weekend	1/14/22

Upcoming activities:

Muskegon State Park fun (luge, x-country ski)	2/18 - 19/2022
--	----------------

Other:

- Have discovered there is no payment method for Solar on meetup which is the reason no one has been able to sign up for anything on meetup (activities or classes). There is a quick fix by changing payment method to "pay direct" but, this is not a good option. People sign up, take spots but never pay or show up which could leave the club short of funds for events. We have been taking checks/cash/personal venmo for Muskegon trip at this point.

Past Activities:

-

Upcoming Activities:

-

Bylaws Leslie Cordova

- No Report

Education Chair Anandhi Chandran

Equipment Chair Phil Crookshank

- No report on equipment - no gear requested from winter season.
- Jennifer T. Sent me addresses of 2 new(er) storage rental places in Livonia, Redford, but I haven't explored them yet. I'm waiting for deeper snow - so I can ski to them to get some exercise.

Historian Karen Haroutunian

Membership Elaine Granch

- 5 new members since November: 1 Single annual; 2 Family Annual
- Continuing efforts to collect renewals and waivers
- Working with Dave & committee on Membership level updates

Current Membership:

<i>Total Family memberships:</i>	82.5
<i>Total Single Memberships:</i>	320

<i>Family Annual (units):</i>	18.5
<i>Family Lifetime (units):</i>	64

Single Lifetime: 237
Single Annual: 83

Total Members (Listed): 485

I will send an updated membership roster printed prior to the photo contest and will also have a printed copy.

Programs Open Position

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

Public Relations Bob Tacy

- Created CafePress website and stocked it with merchandise, but next day they shut it down because they throughout logo was in violation of copyright laws. Dave followed up with Stacie Kitchen and I am following up with CafePress.
- Created promo presentation for Quiet Adventure Symposium and updated full presentation. Dave and I will be recording by the end of the month for their virtual event in March.
- Creating backpacking fitness presentation for the Intermediate Backpacking Workshop.

Communications Chair Dave Warnecke

Membership, Meetup and PayPal

Goal – To increase new members

Premise – It is my opinion that our high cost of membership (in comparison with similar groups) and the inability to sign up immediately for events like day hikes is making us an unattractive option for outdoor groups.

For similar groups, a potential member can see a weekend hike and sign up for both the club and the event through Meetup within minutes.

Currently any attempt to join us via Meetup gives a potential new member a rejection notice and sends them an email pointing them to our website or our monthly meeting. Our website does not have the ability to accept new members or to take payments. Our monthly meetings may not be convenient for potential new members and we have limited ability to take payments at meetings.

If a potential, new member does find a way to contact and pays us. There still has to be an interaction with Meetup to allow them to join events.

Similar groups are still attracting new members, even during COVID, where I do not believe that we are.

I believe that there is a lack of options for slower, shorter day hikes (5 to 7 miles) that we could take advantage of, if we move quickly to adopt changes.

I propose we make changes to membership and bylaws as needed

Change general membership to \$5 to be in line with other Meetup Groups

Use Meetup as the primary tool for managing membership

Connect Meetup to a PayPal account to be able to accept payment automatically

Set Meetup to approve new member requests automatically

No longer, offer any new Lifetime memberships

Grant David Warnecke access to Meetup to be able to review and enact changes as discussed by the steering committee

Additional Thoughts

Gear Borrowing – Anyone wanting to borrow gear would pay a once a year donation of \$35, after which gear borrowing would work exactly the same as it does today

Meetup security levels for Planners – Currently the only ID that has the ability to collect for events is the Solar account, to which no one I know has access. I would argue that at least the Activities Chair and Education Chair be allowed to do this. It would be ideal to allow them to have the Solar PayPal account attached to their posted events. I currently do not have access to the security levels to be able to review these settings

Waivers – I do not see a way to have a potential member sign an electronic waiver at the point of joining the club. There is some wordage in the Meetup agreement that offers protection. We do automatically send new members an email, in which we could ask for a waiver.

Webmaster Stacie Kitchen

-

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

- date

Meeting Adjourned at:

Meeting minutes notes taken by