

Solar Outdoors

Steering Committee Minutes

Date: 11/22/2022

Meeting called to order at: 7:01 pm

Note: Agenda is in regular font

Italic writing is additional information at the meeting



Quorum members present: *Mike Hobig, Leslie Cordova, David Warnecke, Laura Miller, Bob Tacy, Dana Buxton, Carol McCririe, Jon Swingle, Phil Crookshank, Stacie Kitchen*

Others present: *Jeff McWilliams*

Absent: *Krisanne Schmidt, Karen Haroutunian*

Minutes approved

President Mike Hobig

- Request transition/change from current email mhobig@ford.com to hobigmq@gmail.com
Stacie needs to change for the president Solar Outdoors website and on Google Groups for steering committee and general memberships. Dana and Laura to work on the Google Groups to change the email address.
- Put out card for media contact, had some comments but no further than initial reaction. Attaching it to report and wonder how we can get it or something like it to appear consistently across our social network. Stacie said that a media page could be put on the website, I would like something that highlights who and what we are and what we can offer in a quick format. Perhaps something that can be liked or expanded on with Facebook likes or some other blast method but as wide ranging as possible. *Mike talked about contacting Stacie to put on webpage for it to repeat for consistency for the public to see all the things the club is doing. Mike to ask Stacie to show a preview before posting. Bob asked to see it again, so Mike share it on the screen, which gives more information about our club as an overview or icebreaker. Mike will send it out again to the steering committee.*
- I will expect to set up a Webex for our Steering Committee on Tuesday November 22nd, but may also be losing that option. I don't know if I can get an app for that or what the fee might be, can anyone set up Steering Committee meeting on line for the December 20th meeting going forward. *We do not have a December Steering Committee meeting. Mike asked for someone to set up so we do not have to sign in again with Zoom or Google Meet.*
- I didn't realize that the general meeting at the end of November (the 29th) and the holiday seasonal party December 2nd are three days apart. That may be too much for some people. I would like to see something put out as a reminder, "A Week of Solar, two big events" in person and not all business.....reminder of the presentation and the party details, time, dish to pass etc... *Mike wants to make sure that we let people know about the holiday party.*

Vice President David Warnecke

- No report

Secretary Laura Miller

- Call for reports and agenda sent out 11/21/2022 with the speaker status spreadsheet and previous meeting minutes. Second email sent with updated information from treasurer and statement of activity.

Treasurer Jon Swingle

- Cash in the bank is \$14,222.94.
- Statement of Activity through November 21, 2022 provided as an additional attachment.

Activities Krisanne Schmidt

Laura reported:

Past Activities:

- Art Walk Rouge Park – Oct. 22
- Day Hike -- Island Lake– Nov. 19

Upcoming Activities:

- Day Hike - Belle Isle -Dec. 17
- Day Hike- Mayberry-Jan. 7, 2023
- Lake Ann Weekend- Jan. 13-16, 2023
- Day Hike- Kensington-Feb. 11, 2023
- Ice Climbing at Peabody's- Feb. 19, 2023
- Tentative U.P. Weekend for ice climbing, ice caving, and x-country skiing Feb. 24-27, 2023

Bylaws Open

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Education Carol McCrie

- Nothing new to report.
- *Carol discussed having difficulty with finding members to hold workshops and should Solar start to sponsor or advertise other groups events. She asked for steering committee to think about it.*

Equipment Chair Phil Crookshank

- Some of the equipment from the workshop several months ago - is still out.
- The record keeping to keep track of who and what equipment was used - baffled me, so I left it up to Krisanne to figure it out - some things were mailed to her, from different participants, some things are with Dave W, so when she gets back from some well deserved vacation time, we will have to gather some folks to figure it all out.
- She gave me a B.A. Tent that had suffered a completely destroyed tent pole, the B.A. tents are the worst when damaged, for there are 15 poles that are all connected through 2 hubs, and all connected with 2 weird shock cords - makes it really tough to figure out how to repair. I checked with B.A. Repair dept., and wasn't satisfied with sending the whole assembly to Seattle - a possible cost of \$160, that included shipping, seemed high, so I spend days searching outfitters in our area that might have poles that would fit. I did find exact diameters of poles, but they

needed to be cut shorter, so spend another 3 hours cutting, fitting, epoxying the repaired pole, then ran shock cord back into the complex pole assembly.

- I sent a request to the new member that damaged the poles - to send me \$45.00 to pay for the pole, materials and 4 hours labor, no response yet - but maybe I have his email address incorrect, or he doesn't look at it ... *Phil heard from the member today and he is planning on attending the next general meeting to bring a check to cover the repair costs, then his deposit will be returned.*
- *Discussion about making sure new members get emails. Dana explained that when they join the new member is sent a request to be added to Google Groups so Dana can add them. Phil has had difficulty getting equipment back from the beginning backpacker class and not responding to emails. Phil offered to meet him rather than bringing it to the meeting. When Phil got in contact with him, Phil explained about checking emails and returning equipment. Solar can offer information and about how to get information but cannot make them read the information.*
- *Discussion about Dana showing at a general meeting how to join the Google Group.*
- *Problem with Meetup with 14 day trial but not necessarily joining and does not ask for email. Dana can message them on Meetup but if they do not look at it then they don't get an invitation for Google Groups.*

Historian Karen Haroutunian

- No Report

Membership Dana Buxton

- New members since last meeting - 6
- Total lifetime members (both single and family) - 356
- Total annual members (both single and family) - 71
- Expired memberships - 34
- Trial memberships from MeetUp for the month of November - 15

Programs Open Position

Bob provided report:

- We have penciled in Leslie as the April presenter. *Presenting on her AT adventures.* Even though that is also elections, it will be good to have something that draws people to the meeting. Please see the attached spreadsheet and let Bob know if presenters need help with PowerPoint.
- I built Ann and John's PowerPoint presentation and am helping Leslie.
- *Jim DeFresne presenting next week and needs to be reimbursed for his travel expenses. Have a reimbursement check form to fill out for a check mailed to him.*

Public Relations Bob Tacy

- Jeff Enterkin shared information about the Tramping in New Zealand presentation to the MAC Meetup page. Thanks to Krisanne for adding it to Meetup.
- The Quiet Adventure Symposium lives. They are planning an in-person event on Saturday, March 4, 2023 at the MSU Pavilion. No information on speaking, attending or exhibiting yet. www.quietwatersociety.org
- *Bob encourage us to try to have a Solar member present and to get our photo board updated to have a table at the Quiet Adventure Symposium.*

Communications Chair Open

Bob provided report:

- Bob sent an email to members on 11/20 reminding them of the Tramping in New Zealand presentation. *Bob will send another email after Thanksgiving about the New Zealand presentation.*
- We are spending \$35 to promote the Tramping in New Zealand Event on Facebook.
- We will have also set up a Facebook Live event for the New Zealand presentation.
- Thanks to Stacie for providing me with the credentials to the Instagram account. We have posted to photos to promote the New Zealand Presentation already and will post a 3rd.

Webmaster Stacie Kitchen

- Nothing to report at this time.

Bob's report:

- The PayPal buttons were placed on the Solar Website. The programmer will activate the buttons to start accepting payments shortly. He will also provide documentation so Stacie can make changes in the future. *Bob was hoping to get finished today, but some additional programming needed. Stacie asked that if it could be done by Dec. 31 so we could start the New Year with posting events on the website. Bob shared the membership button is working with Paypal to accept the fee, which goes to the treasurer. Donate button is not yet connect to the website because Bob needs to have types of donation added to it like for speaker fees, etc. For people to donate to a specific area. Mike shared his screen with solaroutdoors.org website to discuss the membership link and about the donation button/how to navigate on the website. Bob asked about additional input about lifetime members to donate, size of buttons, where things are located. All the buttons for membership, donations, events and activities for payment will go the treasurer.*
- To keep the cost of hiring the Wordpress coder to a minimum, please send any changes you would like to see to the design and content of the website to Stacie for further updates.
- *Stacie recommend to only using text magic for one text for each event vs. two. Stacie is looking at the history with the last text 6/22/21. But we are getting charged for something. We had a balance of \$200 and now we have only about \$80. Stacie does not see any charge for a monthly fee so Bob is going to look it.*

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Holiday party status and announcing on Facebook, Meetup. *We have the room from 5 pm to 10 pm. Discussion about the party being from 6 pm to 9:30 pm so we can clean up after. Carol read the announcement for the party. Carol would like a photo to add the announcement for Meetup and asked if Bob would post on Facebook. Bob will promote the Facebook post to people following Solar on Facebook.*
- Carol spoke with Wanda at the church today. She is not sure what we have done in the past in terms of timing. I tentatively told her that we would want to get in around 5 pm to set up and would confirm with her after our meeting tomorrow. We would need to be cleaned up and out by 10 pm. I am assuming a start time of 6 pm. Since Solar is not providing any food, we would

need to provide plates, napkins, etc. I am waiting to hear from Cindy Taylor as she has helped in the past. I want to send out a promo/reminder email but will wait until after our meeting tomorrow. Carol has 4 volunteers for the party and asked if Phil will bring the holiday party supplies from the storage unit. Mike asked that we get the holiday party supplies the night of the party rather than Tuesday night. Mike will bring a bunch of coffee mugs. Carol will help set up but cannot stay for the party. Carol can bring some hand sanitizer. If Phil does not see something, let Carol know and she can go out to purchase. Discussion about games of giant jenga and corn hole games. Carol sent out the Meetup announcement during the meeting.

- Please add to new business a discussion about purchasing a new projector that can directly accommodate an HDMI connection. Bob talked about the burden of not having a projector that is not compatible with HDMI connection, having the presenter bring a thumb drive and asking Dave to bring his each meeting. Discuss at the next meeting. Mike suggested getting the price range for low, medium, high price range. Phil shared that we have two projectors we have a variety of adaptors for the projectors. Phil has a question/answer sheet to send to presenters so we can have the correct equipment for their presentation. Mike asked if Phil will share the questionnaire with Bob. Laura to bring an old computer to the next meeting with power cord to donate to the club if it will work.
- Finalize photo contest categories: 4 categories of: landscape, wildlife, solar friends, water. Photos submitted before 7 pm. Laura volunteered to make the table signs, sign in for the photos and ballots for voting. Mike has the ballot box. We currently have 8 REI gift cards for \$10 each. Prize is \$20 in REI gift cards per category.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:37 pm.

Meeting minutes notes taken by Laura Miller.