

Solar Outdoors

Steering Committee Minutes

Date: 5/23/2023

Meeting called to order at: 7:05 pm

Note: Agenda is in regular font

Italic writing is additional information at the meeting



Quorum members present: Laura Miller, Jeff McWilliams, Bev Woznek, Jon Swingle, Krisanne Schmidt, Jim Kadlubowski, Stacie Kitchen

Others present: Bob Tacy

Absent: Carol McCrie

Minutes approved not enough of the last steering committee present to approve.

President Mike Hobig

- Thank you all for your help in the past, returning SC members and thank you for joining us as new SC members, looking forward to working with you all over the next year. I did not see any large issue with the transition and I think linking everyone onto the SC google group is now complete (thank you Stacie). It is very much appreciated, all you do and have done for the club. See you in June.

Vice President Mary Winkler

- Please add me to FB so I can post pictures of Solarites on activities

Secretary Laura Miller

- Call reports and agenda sent out for steering committee meeting with Google Meet link

Treasurer Jon Swingle

- Cash in the bank as of May 21, 2023 is \$13,092.75.
- The Statement of Activity through May 21, 2023 in separate attachment.

Activities Krisanne Schmidt

Past activities:

Day Hikes

Upcoming activities:

Day Hikes

Pictured Rocks Thru Hike (June 2023)

South Manitou Backpacking/Day Hiking (Aug. 2023)

Susquehannock Backpack Trip (Sept – Oct 2023) (unsure if this will happen-see cancelled below)

Backcountry camping/Fall Colors @ Porcupine Mountains (Oct. 2023)

Cancelled:

Fife Lake and Jordan River Backpacking trips cancelled due to car accident host involved in; Krisanne made a request for reimburse people who paid for these trips and Jon has sent these checks out.

Bylaws Open Position

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Education Carol McCririe

- Beginning Backpacking Workshop finished up with the final practical at Waterloo Recreation area the 1st weekend in May. Krisanne will be recognizing the students at the general meeting on the 30th .
- The backcountry cooking workshop on April 27th was a success. We had 11 participants and got some great feedback. Krisanne will give a shout out to these participants also.
- Eric Braun, along with Jeff McWilliams are teaching a bike cleaning and tuning basics workshop on May 20th , with a rain date of May 21st . The workshop will be hosted at Eric's home and may include a post-instructional bike ride. I believe that the workshop is full. *Jeff reported it went well with 5 participants. Eric presented the material well and everyone had a good time cleaning their bikes. Eric and Jeff shared their bike repair stands and other brought their own which would limit the number of participants in a workshop like this.*
- Eric has also expressed some interest in hosting a Mountain biking workshop. I have not gotten any details yet; more to follow.
- Matt Dalton has expressed an interest in teaching an intro to kayaking workshop. I have reached out via email to determine what he is thinking about in terms of timing and costs. To date, I have not heard back from him. I sent him another email this month.
- I met someone at the QAS who expressed a willingness to teach water safety. I am not sure how closely this would parallel a kayak workshop but will be following up with her also.
- Workshops that we have taught in the past – Intermediate BP and Land Navigation – these are both tentative at this point and I will try to have more info in June.
- I will be out of town through May 31st and will miss both the SC meeting and the general meeting. Krisanne will be filling in for me at the general meeting.

Equipment Chair Jeff McWilliams

- Phil said he was going to mail me his key/passcode and whatever else is in his personal possession that needs to be turned over. The rest should be in the storage unit. So far, I haven't received anything.
- While serving as a volunteer for the Beginner Backpacking workshop at the Brighton weekend, one of the participants returned one of our sleeping pads saying it leaked. It was marked "SP-309"
- I took it home and inspected it. There was a 3" long gash in the stuff sack. There were also two pinhole leaks in the sleeping pad found by submerging the inflated pad in a tub full of water.
- The gash in the stuff sack has been repaired with tenacious tape. The pinhole leaks were repaired with tenacious tape and SeamGrip adhesive.
- It's my opinion that the gash in the stuff sack was NOT normal wear & tear, but it's unclear to me when the damage occurred.
- At the same weekend, participants were setting up tents and two of the club tents had poles with shock-cord that was so stretched that the poles would not properly "snap" into shape to support the tent. These were Big Agnes tents but I did not write down exactly which ones.

- I was able to make "field repairs" on both the tents by trimming the length of the shock cord and putting the pole assemblies back together, but the poles need new shock-cord. I have ordered some replacement from Dutchware Gear because it seemed a lot more affordable than the replacement shock cord kits sold by Big Agnes.
- It's my opinion that this is probably normal wear and tear. Shock cord can get stretched, particularly if users aren't careful with how they take apart the pole assemblies.
- My plan for June is to take home all the Big Agnes tents and inspect the pole assemblies and replace shock-cord as necessary.
- Krisanne said that we're short on usable sleeping pads for the workshop, as the Ridgerest CCF pads are not comfortable when used alone, and the self-inflating Thermarest pads are too bulky. We talked about the possibility of purchasing 1 or 2 new sleeping pads.
- REI will have their anniversary sale from May 19 - May 29 and they will have 30% off of "REI Branded Backpacking Gear". It may be worth looking at their REI Helix insulated inflatable pads or another brand/model.
- During the Beginner Backpacking practical weekend on the Waterloo Pinckney trail, there was rain in the forecast for Sunday morning so each team was issued a tarp. I watched the teams set up their tarps in Saturday evening, and I was surprised by the fact that no club tarps come with stakes.
- As a long time backpacker, I take stakes for granted because I have a bin of various stakes that I swap between my different shelters depending on my needs. But I wouldn't expect a bunch of newbie backpackers to have a stash of extra tent stakes lying around to use with a borrowed tarp, and it seems weird to expect them to purchase stakes. (Cordage to make their own guylines seems relatively cheap).
- MSR brand "Ground Hog" stakes are ridiculously priced at \$4.89 per stake at Campsaver, and \$4.95 per stake at REI. This is ridiculous. I'd like to look for some generic "knock off" of the Groundhog "Y" stakes. The other cheaper stakes on REI's website are plastic or steel trash.
- *Discussion about budget and age of some of the equipment. \$100 for repairs, \$100 for new equipment*

Historian Open Position

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Membership Dana Buxton

- *Discussion about a family membership which we don't have any more, \$6 per person.*

Programs Bev Wozniak

- *\$200 budgeted for honorums.*
- *Jim DeFrance is scheduled for November.*
- *In October, the 31 is the last Tuesday so discussion about having the meeting that day or changing to a week earlier with general membership meeting Oct. 24, with the steering committee meeting on Oct. 17.*
- *Discussion about do we have a calendar on our website or should we just schedule them on meetup. Bob shared that the website says for information about future meeting go to Meetup. We need to look at the Solar Meetup page to see what it says about our meeting.*
- *Bev would give Krisanne to information and photos to Krisanne for posting on Meetup. For Facebook, that position is open but if Jim is willing to do it as part of his public relations position. Bev can send out the Google Groups for Solar members. Reach out to the Michigan Adventurers Club (MAC) group to share about our events/meeting. Bob to share details with Jim about how to*

do some of these things. Stacie suggested emailing the calendar information like from the meeting.

- *Bev asked about the live feed for Facebook at meetings. Bob is covering the May meeting. They are still working on who can add or do the live stream for Facebook. Bob lost his access and will contact Jennifer Tislerics to get added back on for the May meeting.*
- *Bev is not going to be at the May meeting or the June 10th picnic.*
- *Bev was talking with Mike about the van concept for an outdoor meeting.*
- *Bev asked: If I have an idea of a speaker, do I have to present it to the steering committee or can I just schedule speaker. Bev can just schedule presentations.*
- *Krisanne asked that Bev give her to the speakers for meetings so she can add them as soon as possible.*

Public Relations Jim Kadlubowski

- *Bob share Jim is responsible for the Welcome board, which Bob will give to Jim and business cards, which are getting low that, and more will need to be ordered.*
- *Budget for this year: \$50 for supplies, \$30 for table fees for Quiet Adventure Symposium*
- *Bob and Jim to get together to talk more about public relations responsibilities.*

Communications Open Position

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Webmaster Stacie Kitchen

- *Website has been updated with new committee.*
- *New agenda - would like a high-resolution solar group photo for front page. Or an outdoor photo with hikers in it for the front page on site. Nice photo of the club members without the banner to add to the website. Stacie suggested asking Jeff since he does good photography.*
- *Workshop activity page needs to be updated for the annual membership fee of \$6.*
- *Bev asked about the steering committee minutes being public and having trouble seeing the meeting minutes on the website. Some are missing because Stacie needs to put the meeting minutes. Laura will look at the website and see which ones are missing to send to Stacie to add to the website.*
- *Stacie is not using Facebook at this time. You can contact her by email, text, twitter.*

Unfinished Business

This was new business at the last meeting:

- *When you sign up on our Solar Outdoors website, it goes to PayPal to Jon who then needs to send it to Dana. Dana will send a welcome letter, which explains how to join Meetup where she will coordinate their dues. It takes time for it to process from our website. Bob to write some a statement about reconciling their dues between the two systems.*
- *Mike asked about if we would have a formal handoff meeting or have each individual person coordinate the exchange of the information. In the past, a long time ago it was given to the Historian to organize by year. Should we have a digital information storage place like for the taxes, backup equipment person for access to the equipment storage unit. Phil, Krisanne, Dave, Doreen and Ati T. have a key and the password to access the unit. Jeff has the information and key as well. Laura has a key.*

New Business

From Jennifer Tislerics:

- We need to re-add all of the former club presidents to the SC Google Group. They were removed at some point; I'm sure with the best of intentions. But per the club's bylaws, all former presidents are permanent, voting members of the Steering Committee (known as "at-large members") and they should be invited to join the SC Google Group. *Stacie can add them back in but it is hard to figure out who they are by just their email.*
- Someone can get the names of the former presidents from the website (<https://www.solaroutdoors.org/solar-steering-committee/>), and then get their email addresses from the roster. Someone with admin access to the SC Google Group will need to send the invitations.
- *Bob said the next meeting has been advertised and a live event set up for the May meeting by Jeff. Bob wanted to make sure he would be able to use it for the live stream for the meeting.*

Next meeting Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 7 pm virtually.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Meeting minutes notes taken by Laura Miller.