

Solar Outdoors

Steering Committee Minutes

Date: 8/20/2024

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm

Note: Agenda is in regular font

Italic writing is additional information at the meeting

Quorum members present: Laura Miller, Dana Buxton, Jeff McWilliams, Karen Hartoutunian, Mary Winkler, Mary Donahue-Wold

Others present: None

Minutes approved by all present.

President Mary Winkler

- I filled in for Jeff/equipment a couple of times.
- I remembered renewal of license is due soon and Mary, Treas will take care of it.

Vice President Tim Davis

- No updates. Also, I will not be able to attend the SC meeting this week or the general membership meeting next week.

Secretary Laura Miller

- Sent out a call for reports and meeting Google link. Sent out agenda for meeting on Tuesday, with July minutes to review, and Google link again.

Treasurer Mary Donahue-Wold

- Balance is \$12994.26.
- As Mary, Pres mentioned I will be paying the fees to renew the non-profit license with the state on October 1, 2024.
- *Mary is still learning about the treasurer position and meeting with Carol McCririe about Quickbooks and working with John Swingle for Stripe about how we pay them as well as Paypal. The Meetup app still have a few questions about how it works with the fees. Meetup keeps dropping Paypal, not sure where the problem is. Question asked about using Zelle on our Solar website with a direct payment to the bank through Zelle.*
- *Is there a cheaper option than Paypal, some discussion if Paypal is the only option on Meetup.*

Activities Krisanne Schmidt

- It is pretty much the same as last month except all the trips are over except Pictured Rocks in October (it has been posted)
- I will not be at the meeting as I'm going to Isle Royale tomorrow.

Past activities:

Upcoming activities:

Bylaws Karen Haroutunian

- The Bylaws remain unchanged.

Education Carol McCririe

- Hammock Camping Workshop – this is a new workshop led by Jeff McWilliams September 7 th at Green Lake. The workshop is full.
- Beginning Land Navigation – Jeff McWilliams is again leading this workshop in October with classroom time at the church on October 10, 17, and 24, with a practical weekend at Waterloo State Recreation area on October 26-26.
- Intermediate BP workshop – This workshop has been canceled due to lack of participants.
- I will not be at the August meeting; Laura will be handling education announcements in my absence.

Equipment Chair Jeff McWilliams

- While borrowing TNT-15, which is an older Sierra Designs Alpha 3P tent, Ati Tislerics noted that the floor and the rainfly leaked badly. Through conversation, we mutually agreed that he would try to restore the floor using SeamGrip TF Tent Fabric Sealant to the floor and apply a coat of fabric waterproofing spray (Nikwax) on the rain fly. The leaks in the floor were reduced but not eliminated. This tent was last inspected by Phil in 2017. It's our conclusion that it's an old tent and while seemingly in good shape in terms of visible wear and tear, it has perhaps exceeded it's useful service life. I don't have the tent in front of me so I can only infer a manufacturer date based on internet searches. Best guess is somewhere around 2009 or before. Ati has returned his borrowed gear and I instructed him to leave the tent in a conspicuous place in the storage unit so that I can inspect it myself the next time I am there. I may consider putting another coat of SeamGrip TF on the floor, but it's probably the tent will need to be retired and disposed of. That will leave us with only one 3P tent -TNT-28 manufactured by Marmot (which is also currently out on loan).
- *Three person tent is old, ? to replace or what do we need as a club?*
- *Equipment list on website was a pdf, which is a static form. Jeff is moving it to a Google Doc so you can see what is available and what is checked out on the website.*

Historian Leslie Cordova

- No report
- Leslie is on Isle Royale with Krisanne.

Membership Dana Buxton

- 122 current paid annual members
- 4 new members joined at the last meeting
- 363 Lifetime Members

Programs Bev Wozniak

- August: Jay Hanks of Lansing Oar and Paddle Club will present on Michigan Wilderness areas. Thanks for help publicizing on MeetUp, Facebook, and Instagram. I will send out to Google Groups this week.
- Attached is my history tracking and planning worksheet (Excel). Note that there are two tabs: planned programs and completed programs. Most of the months are scheduled and I have

another confirmation that we need to work out a mutually agreeable date.

- The averages on the 'completed programs' for the past 12 months show and an average of 40 people attending, over 3 NEW members joining, and donations incoming to help me offset speaker fees and gifts/prizes.

Public Relations Jim Kadlubowski

- Not at meeting and no report

Communications Chair Open

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Webmaster Stacie Kitchen

- Nothing to report

Unfinished Business

- Jeff to make a new loan equipment statement for who, how long and return policy. *Tabled at this time.*
- Stacie shared about Printful.com and maybe getting athletic wear with Solar logo there. *Stacie will work on it for the next steering committee meeting in July.*
- *Bev is suggesting we raise the equipment fee to \$40, what do other places charge like REI? Jeff will look it to getting some more information for the next month.*
- *Do we need to explore the membership cost because fees include the room rental and electric projection equipment updates? To consider next month.*
- *Need to consider what the formula for our costs and fee structure for membership and equipment gear rental.*
- *Did we see an increase in our membership when we lowered the membership fee?*

New Business

- *Dana proposed a change in dues to raise it as \$6 is too low, and not sure what it should be, due to the increased costs for Meetup and our cost to rent the meeting space. Her suggestion was \$20-25.*
- *Using a square for payments, what would the costs be? To discuss this in the future.*
- *Discussion that we are a unique club from other clubs with our monthly meetings, workshops, events and equipment. We need to consider what expenses we have, if we are going to change our fee structure.*
- *Bylaws with proposed changes for membership and equipment fees in writing. Karen to research and an amendment to bylaws for the steering committee to review.*
- *Dana said there are three ways to pay: cash, Meetup with Paypal or website with strip/paypal.*
- *Jeff to look at the equipment costs to replace equipment and cost of storage unit for the change in equipment loan fee to reflect the costs needed to maintain the gear, replace gear and cost of the storage unit which is a significant cost for Solar.*
- *Bev asked if we get a discount from suppliers. Jeff said there was not a good response for a discount on buying gear, it is more for professional athletes and sponsorship. He has an American Alpine membership which gives a discount on Nemo gear. Bev asked if we need to try to solicit more discounts since Moosejaw was bought out by Dick's Sporting Goods, would they give a discount? Carol said in the past letters to manufacturers resulted in a 700 donation for*

equipment of our choosing.

- *Bev shared that we have about 40 people on average in person at our meetings and about new members. She will share a spreadsheet with this information. Along with the donations for gifts and presenters.*
- *Dec. 6 will be our holiday party.*
- *Laura sent an email to the club about planning the 50th anniversary party and volunteers to help with the planning for next year.*

Next meeting Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Meeting minutes notes taken by Laura Miller.