



Solar Outdoors

Steering Committee Minutes

Date: 2/18/2025

Meeting called to order at. 7:00 pm

Note: Agenda is in regular font

Italic writing is additional information at the meeting

Quorum members present: Tim Davis, Laura Miller, Krisann Schmidt, Dana Buxton, Jeff McWilliams, Carol McCririe, Karen Haroutunian, Bev Wozniak, Mary Donahue-Wold, Jim Kadlubowshi

Others present:

Minutes approved by all members present.

President Mary Winkler

- *Not present, no report*

Vice President Tim Davis

- *Went to the Southfield Civic Center check out the room, about the same size but requires a deposit and \$150 per hour. This is not considered an option. Colony Hall price became too high so we moved to Livonia St. Paul's. Tim will keep looking for other options. Mary D-W is going to talk to Craft Brewwe City about them charging just a room rate vs. \$500 food fee and would the wait staff being distracting.*
- *Discussion on about scheduling meet and greets at a variety of places.*
- *Promote with hikes then go to meet at a restraunt afterwards.*
- *Discussion about younger people may not be interested in coming to out meeting with the age of our current membership. There was discussion about if a church was a turn off or not.*

Secretary Laura Miller

- Friday 2/14/25, sent out a call for reports with the minutes Carol took at the January Steering meeting and Google Meet links. Monday 2/17/2025, sent out Agenda

- 50th Anniversary weekend Google Form for camping registration sent out, planning continues with a caterer for Saturday night and activities during the weekend

Treasurer Mary Donahue-Wold

- The balance for January, 2025 is \$11469.32
- Income/expense report for 2024 in an attachment.
- *Dana and Mary discussed that some automatic payments was for \$6 and new membership fee is \$15 with the new payment system. Dana is sending out an email about how you pay and turn off auto payments.*
- *Mary D-W and Carol are going to discuss the 2025 budget to present in March to the steering committee to discuss and approve.*

Activities Krisanne Schmidt

Past activities:

- Day hikes
- Mid-Winter get together

Upcoming activities:

- North Eastern State Trail Bikepacking Trip
- South Manitou Island Backpacking/Day Hiking Trip

Bylaws Karen Haroutunian

- No report

Education Carol McCririe

- Wilderness First Aid update: We have scheduled the weekend of October 25-26 and have 7 people signed up. I have kept Kalamazoo College up to date on our numbers and will probably pay them after the next general meeting. *Their lodging is one room for 6 people, so looking at hotel or Airbnb.*
- Cross Country skiing: Eric Braun had scheduled a Cross-Country ski workshop to be held at Cross Country ski headquarters. However, with only 3 individuals, we had to cancel. In lieu of this, Eric is looking to run a workshop for just a day this weekend on Saturday.
- Beginning Backpacking: Krisanne has set the dates for this, and we have already reserved and paid for the Brighton Rec weekend and camping at Pinckney for the final practical. There is only one signup and this has never been an issue; we are hoping to get the minimum needed to run the workshop.
- Basic Land Nav. for the Fall and working on dates working around the 50th Anniversary weekend and Wilderness First Aid weekend.

Equipment Chair Jeff McWilliams

- Equipment: nothing interesting happened.
- So instead I've attached some viewership stats from our Facebook page and posts.
- The post about the backpacking workshop has high numbers because I paid to boost the post (i.e. run it as an ad).
- *Discussion about we are not getting more turn out since the we get a lot of people looking at our posts.*

Page overview

Last 28 days

Create post

Views

Views ⓘ	21,240
3-second views ⓘ	23
1-minute views ⓘ	1
Watch time ⓘ	7m 6s
Reach ⓘ	13,499

Interactions

Content interactions ⓘ	207
Link clicks ⓘ	891

Audience

Follows ⓘ	18
Unfollows ⓘ	6
Net follows ⓘ	12

	General Meeting and presentation about N. Manitou Island Thu, Feb 13	Views --	Reach 0	Interactions --	Boost event
	Mid-Winter Outing/Get Together (Heritage Park Farmington Hills) Thu, Feb 13	Views --	Reach 0	Interactions --	Boost event
	Wilderness Within Reach: Planning Your Visit to North Manitou Island Are you dreaming of the islands? We have some great islands here in Michigan! Come hear about North Manitou Island, part of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Find out why this wilderness area is a backpacker paradise! Seasoned outdoor enthusiasts Vince and Stacie... Wed, Feb 5	Views 654	Reach 390	Interactions 26	Boost post
	Everyone enjoyed a visual treat with many, many, beautiful photographs at Solar Outdoors annual photo contest! Congratulations to winners: Michael B., Laura M., Cindy T., Celest H., and Jeff McW. Sat, Feb 1	Views 589	Reach 355	Interactions 29	Boost post
	🔴 Wilderness First Aid Course – Limited Spots Available! 🔴 Calling all outdoor adventurers! 🏕️ 🧭 Whether you're hiking, paddling, or camping, being prepared for backcountry medical emergencies is essential. Join the Solar Outdoors Club for a SOLO Wilderness First Aid (WFA) Course at Kalamazoo College the weekend of October 25th! 🏕️ 🧭 Wh... Sat, Feb 1	Views 350	Reach 234	Interactions 7	Boost post
	Solar will have a booth at this year's Quiet Adventures Symposium, held on Saturday, March 1 at the MSU Livestock Arena. We need Solar members to volunteer to work the booth in two-hour shifts. We would like to have two people on each shift and can accommodate three. You can volunteer at the Signup Genius website posting here:...	Views 201	Reach 117	Interactions 4	Boost post
	Join experienced members of the Solar Outdoors club for the 2025 Beginner Backpacking workshop! In this hands on workshop, volunteers will share their experience and expertise so that you can quickly learn everything you need to know to start enjoying the great outdoors as a backpacker. The workshop is also a great way to create new...	Views 17,719	Reach 13,111	Interactions 69	Boost again
	On January 7th, President Biden signed the EXPLORE Act into law. Here's a brief take from Sierra Club. Thu, Jan 16	Views 328	Reach 146	Interactions 3	Boost post
	At our Tuesday, January 28th, 7pm meeting, we will have our annual photo contest for members! Members have the opportunity to win a gift card and a free year of membership!!! Non-members can attend at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (no affiliation), 27475 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI, for a visual treat of the fun that members have! Rules to ente... Mon, Jan 13	Views 552	Reach 235	Interactions 2	Boost post
	I am attempting to post a link to a great article on the NY Times about a mountain lion attack in California. It is very thought-provoking and well done, from the point of view of an outdoor enthusiast dealing with the pain of losing a relative to the lion. Try to view it as a shared article here: https://www.nytimes.com/2024/12/31/magazine/mountain-... Dec 31, 2024	Views 450	Reach 228	Interactions 3	Boost post

Published Scheduled Drafts Expiring Expired

Post type

Instagram Feed

Clear

Search by ID or caption

Last 90 days: Nov 18, 2024 – Feb 15, 2025

Columns

Title			Date published	Reach	Impressions	Interactions	Likes and reactions	Comments	
 Photo · solar_outdoors Wilderness Within Reach: Planning Your Visit ... Boost Wed Feb 5, 7:17am 32 41 7 7 0 0									
 Photo · solar_outdoors Everyone enjoyed a visual treat with many, m... Boost Sat Feb 1, 5:13pm 35 37 11 7 1 3									
 Photo · solar_outdoors Wilderness First Aid Course – Limited Spots A... Boost Sat Feb 1, 5:01pm 30 31 2 2 0 0									
 Photo · solar_outdoors Join experienced members of the Solar Outd... Boost Mon Jan 27, 10:33am 35 37 6 6 0 0									
 Photo · solar_outdoors Want to learn how to cross country ski and m... Boost Mon Jan 13, 9:40am 51 58 2 1 0 1									
 Photo · solar_outdoors At our Tuesday, January 28th, 7pm meeting, ... Boost Mon Jan 13, 9:29am 29 39 2 2 0 0									

Historian Leslie Cordova

- No report

Membership Dana Buxton

- 111 Current annual members
- 15 Renewal emails sent (marked in yellow on the roster, will be moved to delete tab if no response in a couple of weeks)
- We had 2 new members and 5 renewals at the last meeting
- 3 new members since the last meeting
- *QRcode for a link right to the square membership.*

Programs Bev Wozniak

- Feb mtg: Vince and Stacy Sadowski, N. Manitou Island. *They need a table for brochures/information.*
- March: open
- April: elections
- May: Bev has asked a few people, but has not heard from them yet.
- June: picnic discussion/approval
 - Date: Saturday, June 7, 2025
 - Time: 12 noon
 - Location: shelter by Heavner Canoe (must resolve parking concerns). *Bev is going to talk to Heavner's about the parking when the snow melts. Maybe make some signs for the Solar parking.*
 - BYO (food, drink, chair) *Discussion about BYO food vs potluck since we went back to a potluck at the Holiday Party. Concern of how hot is and food being kept cold. Move to BYO lunch, seconded, vote passed for BYO lunch.*
 - Gear sale or give-away: *Be specific about how much or free, their name on it and be responsible for making the sale of their own equipment. Do we need a time limit for the sale?*
 - Activities/education (hike/canoe/kayak/mt bike) to be scheduled closer to June.

Public Relations Jim Kadlubowski

- No real report for PR.
- I have decided not to run for this Chair at the next election as I haven't accomplished much in it. Time for someone else to try.
- I am curious if anyone remembers what the Moosejaw discount used to be for Solar members. Also how was membership verified to get the discount. I don't remember any kind of membership cards other than a lifetime Membership card, which I have somewhere. *Should we explore Dick's Sporting Goods since they bought Moosejaw? To discuss next month, how would we show proof of membership to Solar? Bev shared when her kids were young, Dick's would give a two week coupon that parents could prints to take into the store.*
- Laura added the Quiet Adventure Symposium, March 1st needs to finalize details. *Presentation board, Jim will give to Carol at the meeting next week with business cards. Laura to get a tent from Solar to set up at the booth with other outdoor equipment.*

Communications Chair Open

Webmaster Stacie Kitchen

- No report

Unfinished Business

- *Tim to get quotes for 3 locations to use for general membership meetings. Tim reported in VP section.*
- *Jeff to get quotes for 3 locations for gear rental fees. Jeff provided gear rental fees.*
- *Discussions on lack of activities and how to encourage members to lead trips and offer workshops. Ongoing to work on getting more people to participate in hosting events. Tim talked about looking into a winter wilderness workshop.*

New Business

- *Budget for 2025, see Treasure's report.*
- *Is there a way that I can send email from this email address solarmembership@solaroutdoors.org instead of my personal email? Dana asked Stacie but she is not at the meeting.*
- *Dana had another question about the website for the drop down carrot for workshops/activities: a panel comes up, with fee windows. Do we know what these are for and we should delete it from the website? This pay scale is not what we are doing. Is this a Stacie question or for Bob since he did things on the website before Stacie was webmaster.*
- *Raising gear rental fees to cover cost of storage – Jeff to report findings on other organizations fees for gear rental. Jeff shared his screen with the spreadsheet. To be discussed at Feb. Steering committee meeting. **See next section.***
- *Jeff asked should we raise the equipment fee? Should we have a late return fee? Discussion about this. Only twenty equipment fees collected to date this year which is not enough to cover the costs for the rental unit. Even split who borrow gear for the beginning backpacking workshop and other's who check out items regularly. Should we have a fee for each time they borrow equipment vs an annual fee? People who borrow for their own trips tend to have more late returns than with the workshops. Discussion about how a late fee would work and what the fee would be. To be discussed at Feb. Steering committee meeting. **Discussion about raising the gear rental fee, fee of \$35 was from the old membership fee of \$40 so it was broken down to the original change of membership fee of \$5, gear rental fee of \$35. The current annual membership fee is \$15, so it has tripled. Gear rental fee has not changed to date. Late fee discussion having it and how we would process a late fee.***
- ***Gear rental fee increase to \$50, a motion and seconded, vote passed by majority.***
- ***Late fee policy to be discussed in the future.***
- *Should we just keep equipment for the workshops only? Our history is a unique club and some of the equipment we store is club equipment: for parties, tent, AV equipment and walkie talkies. To be discussed at Feb. Steering committee meeting. **See above comments***
- *Discussion about raising the fee and what should it be? This needs to have more thought put into it. To be discussed at Feb. Steering committee meeting. **See above comments***
- *Jeff was asked what his thoughts were about this. The idea of \$40-50 per event for a month rental. Mixed about a discount for workshop participants. To be discussed at Feb. Steering committee meeting. **See above comments***
- *Motion to continue this discussion for the next meeting on Jan. 21, 2025 and voted to table the discussion. To be discussed at Feb. Steering committee meeting. **See above comments***
- *Lifetime membership discussion in an email chain. Some discussion about asking lifetime members to donate to club in lieu of changing the lifetime membership. **We took away any new lifetime memberships. We could still maintain the previous lifetime member. Previously, an email about donating to the club. Many times it is lifetime members. No change in policy on this matter.***

Next meeting Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 7 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Meeting minutes notes taken by Laura Miller.

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