



Solar Outdoors

Steering Committee Minutes

Date: 1/21/2025

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: *Mary Winkler, Leslie Cordova, Jeff McWilliams, Karen Haroutunian, Beverly Wozniak, Stacie Kitchen, Carol McCririe, Mary Donahue, Tim Davis, Krissane Schmidt*

Others present:

Minutes approved -*November 2024 minutes: Motion to approve by Leslie, all in favor.*

President Mary Winkler

- No report

Vice President Tim Davis

- No report

Secretary Laura Miller

- Laura sent out a call for reports on 1/16/2025 with the minutes from the 11/19/2024 steering minutes for review and the link for the Google Meet for 1st and 2nd hours. Agenda sent out on 1/19/2025 to the steering committee with the statement of activity as well as the current roster. Carol volunteered to take the minutes at the meeting.
- Next 50th Anniversary Planning committee meeting is on Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 6:15 pm at St. John's Presbyterian Church.
- Updates about planning: Date is Sept. 19-21, 2025 at Proud Lake State Recreation Area Campground. Discussing having a catered dinner on Saturday night, Sept. 20th with a presentation of some kind and a pancake breakfast as well activities throughout the weekend. In the process of developing a budget.

Treasurer Mary Donahue-Wold

- Cash in bank \$12,300.91

Activities Krisanne Schmidt

Past activities:

- Day hikes
- Huckleberry Railroad
- Lake Ann

Upcoming activities:

- Day hikes
- Midwinter outing at Heritage Park
- Bikepacking weekend June
- South Manitou July
- Ratify email vote on Mid-winter break at Heritage Park. *Motion by Carol, Second by Jeff, approved by quorum via email. Final approval at SC.*

Bylaws Karen Haroutunian

- No Report

Education Carol McCririe

- Wilderness First Aid update: With our not having a December steering committee (and me being sick for 3 weeks), the WFA at Kalamazoo College in March is full. They are willing to add in a weekend for us (March 1-2) but would require a minimum of 15 people. They also have another weekend in the fall of 2025 which would work better for Solar's calendar. *After discussion with SC, we will promote October 25-26 weekend and get it posted on Meetup.*
- Cross Country skiing Eric Braun has scheduled a Cross-Country ski workshop that will be held at Cross Country ski headquarters. This was posted to meetup last week and Jeff added it to Facebook (thank you!) At this point, there are no sign ups and the MacMullen Center is wanting Eric to confirm and pay the deposit for the lodge. We are not doing this because there is a 60% cancellation fee. I am going to discuss with Eric and use a cut off at the end of January for signups; I am hoping he can promote it at the general meeting.
- 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.
- Sewing workshop: Laura Miller is working on plans for a sewing workshop for outdoor projects. Depending on interest, this could be expanded to a make and take fleece or similar project.
- Other workshop ideas (leftover from last month) – I have not had a chance to pursue I am going to start looking for people willing to lead other workshops – Equipment Care and Repair, Kayak cart build (this is something Mike Hobig expressed interest in last year), lightweight backpacking, and women in the Woods. I will be pursuing these in the next month or so.

Equipment Chair Jeff McWilliams

- When the most recent Big Agnes tent that was borrowed was returned during the November meeting, the user reported a small hole in the mesh. The pencil eraser sized hole was subsequently repaired with a GearAid mesh repair patch (photo).



- We had set out some donated gear at the holiday party / gear swap. Some things were left over. I made an effort to reach out to some BSA people through a friend and they weren't interested in what was left, so it was given to Salvation Army / Goodwill.

Historian Leslie Cordova

- No Report

Membership Dana Buxton

- Dana is not able to attend and will send out the current roster on 1/24/25.

Programs Bev Wozniak

- January - Photo Contest
 - ballot box - Mary W. to bring
 - registration sheet - ?
 - ballots, pens, post-its, prizes - Bev
- February - N. Manitou Island - Stacie and Vince Sadowski
- March - *was supposed to be Defrance's but they had to cancel.*
- April - elections
- June picnic discussion: when, where. *Discussion of having it 6/14 or 6/21.*

Public Relations Jim Kadlubowski

- Reserved booth for Quiet Adventure Symposium; need to solicit volunteers to help with the booth

Communications Chair Open

Webmaster Stacie Kitchen

Updated Website December 2024:

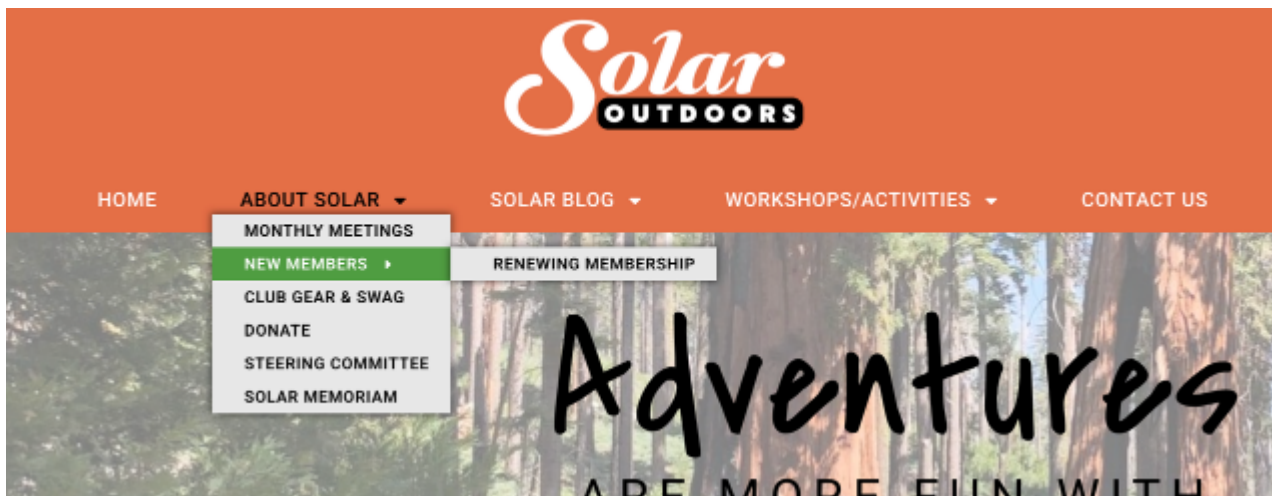
- Now accept Credit Card payments (thru Square) for New/Annual Members and Equipment payments.
- *Issues with Paypal links on website: original setup no longer works, we are looking at who could fix this issue or if we still need Paypal on the website.*
- *Membership form on the website is outdate and new form needs to be uploaded to the website.*

New pages created for Annual Membership payment (*Snapshots below*):

<https://www.solaroutdoors.org/membership-renewal-form/>

In need of the following PDF's or Word file for website:

- Events Calendar (the one you give out at in-person meetings)
- New updated Membership Form PDF



Solar Members

Renewal Dues - \$15.00

PER YEAR • PER MEMBER

MEMBER RENEWAL
PAYMENT HERE

EACH MEMBER WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIGN THE SOLAR WAIVER ANNUALLY

If you have any questions about the membership plans or the application form, please email our Membership Chair:

SolarMembership@SolarOutdoors.org

Three Ways To Borrow Club Gear

- 1) Pay your \$35.00 Equipment annual fee below using our secure online payment system

SOLAR EQUIPMENT
PAYMENT

- 2) Mail your completed Equipment Use form, a check for the \$35.00 annual fee and a separate check for the appropriate deposit amount to:

**Solar Equipment Chairman
P.O. Box 40222
Redford, Michigan 48240**

Download the New Membership Application:

NEW MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION

Several Ways to Pay

- 1) Pay the \$15.00 New Membership due(s) below using our secure online payment system.

NEW MEMBERSHIP
PAYMENT

- 2) Mail your completed New Membership Application with a \$15.00 check for the yearly membership dues to:
Solar Membership
P.O. Box 40222
Redford, Michigan 48240

- Stacie pointed out some links on meetup which are not working and need to figure out what to do about it.

from our store of packs, sleeping bags and pads, stoves, and other outdoor equipment for an annual member fee of \$35.

To learn more about Solar Outdoors and its activities we encourage you to visit our website, [www.solaroutdoors.org](http://www.solaroutdoors.org/).

There you will find a calendar of upcoming workshops and events. These sources give more information about who we are, what we do, and how we do it. We also welcome anyone interested in the club to attend our monthly meetings, held at **St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, just west of Inkster Road, in Livonia** on the last Tuesday of every month (except December) at 7 pm. SOLAR is not affiliated with St. Paul's or any other religious institution. Directions are available here: [<http://solaroutdoors.com/solarmeetings.html>](http://solaroutdoors.org/About/Meetings.aspx).

The business meeting is followed by a program on a topic of general interest to our members.

Solar Outdoors uses Meetup as a tool of convenience for our members to quickly get information about upcoming classes and activities and to sign up and pay for these events online. That's why our Meetup group is restricted to paid members of the club and non-members have very limited access.

Once you have checked us out online and, we hope, in person by attending one of our monthly meetings, you can decide if becoming a member is right for you. If so, you can join the club by downloading the membership form ([<http://solaroutdoors.com/downloads/S.O.L.A....>](http://solaroutdoors.com/downloads/S.O.L.A.R_Membership_Application.pdf)), filling it out, and either submitting it with a check for the dues payment at one of the meetings or mailing both to the address listed on the bottom of the membership form. Once you are a club member you will have access to this Meetup group.

Thank you for your interest in Solar Outdoors. We hope to meet you soon.

Unfinished Business

- Tim to get quotes for 3 locations to use for general membership meetings

- *Jeff to get quotes for 3 locations for gear rental fees*
- *Discussions on lack of activities and how to encourage members to lead trips and offer workshops.*

New Business

- *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*
- *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*
- *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*
- *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*
- *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*
- *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*
- *Lifetime membership discussion in an email chain. Some discussion about asking lifetime members to donate to club in lieu of changing the lifetime membership.*

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

Meeting Adjourned 8:15 pm

Meeting minutes notes taken by Carol McCririe.