

Solar Outdoors

Steering Committee Minutes

Date: 3/21/2023

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: Michael Hobig, Karen Haroutunian, Carol McCririe, Leslie Cordova, Dana Buxton, Krisanne Schmidt, Laura Miller, David Warneke, Phil Crookshank came at 7:30 pm

Others present:

Absent: Jon Swingle, Bob Tacy, Stacie Kitchen

Minutes approved

President Mike Hobig

- QAS went well, thank you to all participants, esp for finding possible future presenters and for organizing our participation in the event.
- I expect Bob T and Laura M to expound on this.
- I am going to be out for the May SC and General Membership meeting. I expect to be in the same chair position, presiding over SC. It is also the first month after April elections. We may need help for that if elections do not fill all open positions.
- I know we discussed that October meeting is on Halloween, I don't think it is fair to have it that day or leave it to the next steering committee to decide. I have talked about another trivia night but it was more effort and work than expected so I am leaning to not having a meeting that month. *New steering committee can make this decision.*
- It also does not look as if we have enough interest or participation for a full Camper Van presentation. I expect to contact those who contacted me in regards to this and hopefully reschedule as a future full or partial presentation.
- *Elections: Mike has the ballot box and pens. He suggested sending out the committee descriptions to the general membership again. Mike and Laura to work on the call for candidates and the ballot. Current steering committee members planning running for their current positions are Carol, Krisanne, Dana and Laura*

Vice President David Warnecke

- I want to thank Bob for planning our participation in the Quiet Adventure Symposium and also everyone who worked at our booth. It is a good way to reach people, but was a difficult drive with the snowstorm.
- I will not be at the General Meeting on March 28, as I am traveling for work.

Secretary Laura Miller

- Call for reports, agenda sent out with Feb. minutes for review and statement of activity.

Treasurer Jon Swingle

- Cash in the bank as of March 21, 2023 is \$12, 996.63.
- The Statement of Activity through March 21, 2023 is attached.

Activities Krisanne Schmidt

Past Activities:

- Day Hikes
- Ice Caves, Ice Climbing & X-Country Skiing Winter Weekend (Feb 2023)

Upcoming Activities:

- Day Hikes
- Pictured Rocks Thru Hike (June 2023)

Bylaws Open

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Education Carol McCrie

- Beginning Backpacking Workshop is on target for April with a final practical in May. The workshop is full.
- In conjunction with the BP workshop, I have scheduled a backcountry cooking workshop for April 27th.
- Eric Braun, along with Jeff McWilliams are teaching a bike cleaning and tuning basics workshop on May 20th , with a rain date of May 21 st . The workshop will be hosted at Eric's home and may include a post-instructional bike ride.
- I have reached out to Jeff McWilliams about the Basic Land Nav class. He and Tim Davis taught this in Spring 2022. With all of the above happening in the Spring, he is thinking of a fall class. Since the class lost \$\$ in 2022, I told him I wanted to see a budget before pricing the class.
- Dave Warnecke and Bob Tacy taught the Intermediate BP Workshop last year in the Spring. Since the beginning workshop is this Spring, Dave is going to gauge interest from the upcoming beginning workshop and the Pictured Rocks backpacking trip. *Going to see if there is any interest in a intermediate BP workshop.*
- 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.
- 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.

Equipment Chair Phil Crookshank

- At that meeting, Jeff W gave me a new cable for the projector - that has one length that has a HDMI plug to go to a laptop. The other end has a VGA plug that goes into the projector. That doesn't solve the constant issue of when someone brings their apple laptop, and it has neither of the plugs that we need. SIGH. Next week we will find out.
- Awkward for me to never know where SOLAR equipment went - we used to have several banners *Bob Tacy has banners, signs ?, vote box Mike,*
- All gear is ready for the next workshop.
- *Carol wants to make sure that a projector is available for her dehydrated food workshop with her presentation.*

Historian Karen Haroutunian

- No Report

Membership Dana Buxton

- New members since last meeting – 9 (6 from Meetup)
Total lifetime members (both single and family) – 356
- Current Total annual members (both single and family) - 61
Membership Rooster provided by request
Is anyone having a problem opening the Meeting Minutes from the website?

Programs Open Position

Bob reported:

- Will be working this week on putting Leslie's AT Presentation into PowerPoint.
- Working with Jeff McWilliams on improving the quality of the Facebook Live Event.
 - Jeff purchased and sent me a microphone that I will test at home and will try to utilize during the presentation.
- We have no presentations scheduled after April, but we collected a lot of good leads at the QAS. I provided the following potential presenters to Laura.
 - Daniel Brown - Huron River Watershed Council - dbrown@hrwc.org
 - Bruce Clevenger - Sierra Club - gws-office@att.net - Can talk about the Falling Waters Trail and the Bike Rail trail going through Jackson.
 - Garrett Dempsi - Lead Sierra Club staff in Detroit for the Sierra Club - Their program is called Inspiring Connections Outdoors - detroitlco@gmail.com
 - Jean Tsao - MSU Tick Researcher - Reducing Tick Bites - She has spoken several times and to all the local media - tsao@msu.org - 517-353-1737
- *Laura to talk to Bob about May having Jim DeFrense to present, then hoping to have a programs chair to schedule future meeting presentations.*

Public Relations Bob Tacy

- Quiet Adventure Symposium
 - Wanted to thank everyone for staffing the booth at the Quiet Adventure Symposium. I appreciate Mike and Dave waking up at the crack of dawn to help set up the booth and Laura and Carol tearing it down.
 - I was very encouraged that people expressed a real need for our type of club. Both the Sierra Club and the HRWC said that they would send people who were looking for events our way.
 - We had one person become a member and pay with cash, and I think we will see some other people we met at the QAS at future meetings from the cards and calendars we distributed.
 - Working on expenses for the welcome board rebuild.

Communications Chair Open

Bob reported:

- Created Facebook Post and set up the Facebook Live event for Liane Hufchock's presentation.
 - We are spending \$35 to promote the post to Solar members and others with similar interests.

- Jeff Enterkin said that he would promote her presentation to the MAC.
- Sent email to members about the presentation
- Created Instagram post about the presentation
- Created Facebook posts for Laura's Maybury hike and Carol's Backcountry Cooking Workshop

Webmaster Stacie Kitchen

- Monthly updating of website with plugins and pages.

Attached is WEBSITE charges:

- March 23, 2023 new payment for hosting needs to be made.
 - Treasurer will need to put new payment method into Verve Hosting
 - *Carol said hosting name for solaroutdoors.org is due by May 31, 2023*
 - *Carol requested Stacie change the email to treasure email for solar not individual people*
 - *Carol to text John to make sure all payments are being scheduled.*
- Payments links haven't been updated, until Bob has some time to change the links for site. :)

SolarOutdoors.org Website CHARGES - 2023

	Monthly Cost	Annually Cost	Yearly Cost			
DOMAIN NAMES:						
<u>VerveHosting.com</u>						
<u>SolarOutdoors.org</u>			\$15.99			
<u>NameCheap.com</u>						
SolarOutdoors.com			\$28.32			
HOSTING:						
Verve Hosting (V-Lite)		\$87.00				
WEBSITE PLUGINS:						
<u>elementor.com</u>			\$59.00			
Total		\$87.00	\$103.31	FINAL COST:	\$190.31	
Below are FUTURE Website Plugin options if Meet-up is no longer used.						
<u>theeventscalendar.com</u>			\$99.00			

Bob reported:

- Will not be able to try and allow more than one member to pay annual dues at a time until after complete Leslie's presentation.

Unfinished Business

- Sending email to members explaining new website payment and donation functions. *Have we shared this new features on the website with the general membership?*
- Sending email to members with descriptions of positions so they can think about running for a position in April. *Dave shared the steering committee chairpersons descriptions and where shared at the Jan. general meeting but have we done anything else with this? Do we want to combine some of the positions or wait? Discussion, decided to wait as it will require the bylaws to be changed. Dave to send out the steering committee descriptions for current steering committee members to review again, then send out the general membership. 3/21/23: Mike to send the steering committee positions to the general memberships and call for candidates.*
- *Call to general membership for help with presenters for the general membership meeting? Mike to ask for help with presenters at the general membership meeting.*

New Business

- Should we turn off dues paying for Meetup? - see Pros and Cons list below
- Should we add link to Google Group on the website? This would send me an email and then I would check their membership status and grant access

Meetup and PayPal pros and cons

Meetup Pros

- Downloadable members spreadsheet
- Downloadable members dues
- Sends auto email reminders to annual members to pay dues
- Money goes to Stripe/Stripe deposits into Solar account on monthly basis

Meetup Cons

- Must turn off and back on the dues feature to change the dues amount (which then will need to mark all the lifetime members as exempt again)
- Mistakenly charging dues to exempt members
- Email info about member not provided – can't add to Master List
- Starts with trial membership and a person can sign up for things, then when trial ends – and person doesn't pay – Meetup will kick the person out
- Membership form and liability signoff not on record

PayPal Pros

- Member email provided
- Money goes to Solar PayPal/Treasurer

PayPal Cons

- Downloadable member's dues list not available.
- Currently the Treasurer sends email to Membership Chair when a person has joined
- Sometimes member not added to Master List
- Membership form and liability signoff not on record

Discussion about the access to sign up for events or workshop meetup but we have had some problems with the lifetime membership being charged dues. Sometimes, we have not set up the pay option on Meetup and then it is difficult to get a hold of them on Meetup.

Discussion about if the Meetup membership sign up is generating more members.

Voted to keep the membership sign up on Meetup as well as on our website.

Dana asked if anyone could open meeting minutes on the Solar Outdoors website because she was having difficulty. Mike to check after the meeting to see if he can open them.

Next meeting April 18, 2023, at 7pm

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:45 pm.

Meeting minutes notes taken by Laura Miller.