

Solar Outdoors

Steering Committee Minutes

Date: 11/21/2023

Meeting called to order at: 7:02 pm

Note: Agenda is in regular font

Italic writing is additional information at the meeting



Quorum members present: Mike Hobig, Laura Miller, Mary Winkler, Dana Buxton, Jon Swingle, Jeff McWilliams, Bev Woznaik, Carol McCririe, Krisanne Schmidt

Others present: Bob Tacy

Minutes approved by all present for Oct.17, 2023.

President Mike Hobig

- Nothing new to report. Thank you all for your ongoing efforts and support.

Vice President Mary Winkler

- *Mike Banks wanted to know when the club is going to have a gear swap. We have it as part of the picnic. Mary will send out an email to the club about bringing gear they want to swap at the Holiday Party.*
- *Mary is not able to post on Facebook or comment on the posts. She is not sure what has happened. Carol read at last month's meeting who is had access. No changes were made to the administrators for Facebook. The process for posting needs to be clear with a list of who can post or approve the post.*

Secretary Laura Miller

- Call for reports with link for meeting, sent out last month's minutes for review, sent agenda out on 12/20/23 at 12:30 pm.

Treasurer Jon Swingle

- Bank balance as of 11/19/23 is 11,088.34.
- *Jon had computer issues and was not able to the statement of activity. He will do it next week.*
- Cash in the bank as of November 19, 2023 is \$11,088.34.
- *The Statement of Activity through November 19, 2023 is attached.*

Activities Krisanne Schmidt

Past activities:

Day Hikes

Backpack/camp at Nordhouse Dunes

Upcoming activities:

Day Hikes

Lake Ann Winter Weekend

In Works:

Eben Ice Caves Weekend Feb. 22-25, 2023

Bylaws Open

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Education Carol McCririe

- There is nothing on the calendar currently.
- Workshops that are pending depending on snow – ice climbing, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing.
- I need to finalize information related to a possible downhill/snowboarding workshop.
- In response to my previous email to members, I have not received one response from any member with workshops that they are interested in.

Equipment Chair Jeff McWilliams

- As the current "AV guy" I'll be busy at the next meeting live-streaming the Jim DuFresne presentation. I'll be working to ensure all the equipment is ready to go for that: web Camera, tripod, streaming laptop, wireless lapel mic, plus the normal stuff for the projector. I will need space at a table near the front of the room that I can set up with the web-cam pointed at Jim, and will probably have to run a separate extension cord to keep the streaming laptop powered for the duration of the presentation.
- I'm still pestering MaryEllen Hopfe to return the gear she's had checked out since early this summer. Before the last meeting, she said she was going to contact Mary Winkler and work with her to return the gear, but that hasn't happened.
- I am considering proposing that there be a time limit for borrowing gear that's published as part of the gear borrowing agreement.
- A benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous has stepped forward and offered to fund the cost of replacing the tarp on the bit white shelter. I think the walls are fine and will work with them to purchase a new roof and several packs of bungees.

Radios:

- I tried to get my Cobra GMRS walkie talkies to talk to the Solar radios but had no luck. I tried walking the channels on both the Solar and my Cobras up and down and couldn't find any that appeared to be common.
- The same benefactor offered to purchase up to four Rocky-Talkie radios or radios of similar cost. I mentioned this at the volunteer post-mortem meeting that was held last week to wrap up the Basic Land Nav workshop. Ati expressed concern for spending \$440 (even someone else's) on radios that are rarely used particularly if the club has other places where such money could be better spent. BLN uses them but I'm not aware of any other workshops or activities that currently do. Mike Banks used them when he was the lead instructor for Beginner Backpacking to keep the smaller hiking groups in touch while hiking on trail during the practical. Thom Hayes used them for Search & Rescue. They were also used for Enjoying Michigan Winters similar to how Mike Banks would use them. And so-on, but those other workshops are no longer being run. I am hoping to offer Advanced Land Nav in the spring. We could definitely use working radios for the night nav exercise that I have planned.

- I currently have one of the Solar hammocks checked out. I'm thinking about offering a hammock camping workshop early fall 2024 and I need to figure out whether the two we have are suitable as loaners and if not, if they can be easily retrofitted/augmented to be better for camping. It's impossible to offer a hammock camping workshop if I can't offer some loaner gear (personal and from the club) to participants.

Historian Open

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Membership Dana Buxton

- 83 current annual Members, 362 lifetime members
- 24 Memberships did not renew this year
- 3 New Members at the last meeting, 54 Renewals year to date, 93 auto renews on Meetup - 27 of which are captured on the Roster
- 2 people contacted me based on our new MeetUp questions, yet neither has fill out the form or payed the dues.
- *Bob asked where do we want people to pay on Meetup or Paypal on our website. Bob checked the Paypal appeared to be working, but he hasn't heard back from Stacie. When they sign up on Meetup or on our website, it is up the person who signs up to complete the membership form to get their contact information like an email.*

Programs Bev Wozniak

- November: Jim DuFrense-I think you all have publicized on all our outlets, need \$50 check-night of meeting? Jeff live streaming. *Jon to process a check and Jim should have it by next Monday.*
- December 1st- Holiday Party- I have stuff from storage and inventoried, SignUp genius link available for potluck sign up, confirming 5pm entry with Wanda, ending time? *We need to confirm the end time with Wanda. Needs publicizing, especially gear swap. Wanda said we can leave party supplies in the kitchen after the meeting on Tuesday night for the party on Friday. Mike is going to bring washtubs, coffee maker, coffee mugs, coffee, soda, Twister. Mike asked about having tape for hanging lights or other decorations. Bev can bring a roll of tape. Laura asked about if we want holiday music. Jeff to think about the music.*
- January-photo contest - Flyer created, Needs publicizing! Bob Tacy to present social media. Moosejaw?

Public Relations Jim Kadlubowski

- Been on the road for most of last month and sick for last half of that. Got nothing done for PR. This sucks.

Communications Chair Open

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Webmaster Stacie Kitchen

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Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- *Carol asked about giving Jim a donation since it is his last presentation since he has done so much for the club. Jeff made a motion for \$100 up from \$50, it was seconded and approved by all present.*
- *Carol looking at the lack of educational opportunities. Since the winter, weather is not forecast to be very good. Wondering how many people read their emails anymore. Carol is thinking about doing a mid-winter event at Heritage Park from noon to 5 pm with the fire pit rental and/or shelter with a hike, snowshoeing or x-country skiing. Bev suggested Mayberry Park with the fireplace where the bathrooms are and use to have groomed x-cross country ski trails with snow shoeing on the side. Wondering of doing it on Nov. 17, or 18 or in early March. Carol will bring more information to the meeting next week.*
- *Mike is having a fire party on Saturday, Nov. 17, which he is inviting Solar to.*
- *Karen has historian tubs and wants to give to someone. Mike is willing to store the information or could we store in the equipment storage.*

Next meeting Jan 23, 2024 at 7 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Meeting minutes notes taken by Laura Miller.