

Solar Outdoors

Steering Committee Minutes

Date: 10/18/2022

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, Bob Tacy, Carol McCririe, Dana Buxton, Krisanne Schmidt, David Warneke, Phil Crookshank, Karen Haroutunian, Jon Swingle

Others present: Jeff McWilliams

Absent: Stacie Kitchen, Leslie Cordova

Minutes approved by all present.

President Mike Hobig

- I would like to confirm the seasonal party, location and get it announced and get a list of helpers and needs set in motion. I have several so could assist in coordination if that is needed. *Carol has been in contact with the church and their administration meeting is tonight where they will approve our request or not. Carol will email tomorrow when she hears from the church.*
- Did I see correctly that Stacie is expected to bow out of Webmaster in 2023, I am sorry to hear that, do we have anyone that she has worked with or can assist with how she has it set up to take over, big shoes to fill for sure..... *This was an error. Stacie just not able to attend steering committee meeting but she will be our club webmaster. Mike to talk with Stacie for a backup webmaster if she is unable or wanting to step down sometime in the future.*
- Closing the communication gap: One member suggested we do a mailing again, with post cards, reminding people that we are still here and active but also highlighting our media connections, I am willing to flesh out this idea if no one else wants to I think Mary W made the suggestion, perhaps she is willing to assist with something like this:
 - google groups email **"make your plans"** to the entire membership (does it really go to all the membership roster),
 - our website **"this is who we are"**
 - our Facebook **"post your adventure"** and stress that we are here to keep connected
 - SC meeting night by computer **"let us know if you want to participate or sit in"**,
 - Membership meeting night **"join us, be social, see a presentation"**
 - after glow **"informal meeting at local bar and grill"**, come to learn about activities, get help planning and participate in member led outdoor activities.
 - We may also want to put links in for Café Press info **"Solar Branded Gear for everyday"**.

Discussion about having post cards or electronic mailing listing our meetings/speakers, holiday party, photo contest, elections. Google groups only goes to members who have opted in. Dana has emails for members except members who joins on Meetup where we can message them and ask for their email. Carol reminded us that if you like us on Facebook then you will see posting from our Facebook page.

- We have Liane (Lee) Kufchock lined up for a presentation in March 2023, themed around hosteling and hostels as a way to facilitate accommodations, adventure and travel
- It was suggested that we have dedicated tables for membership, and sign up for trips as well as welcome for people to be directed to, I think it is a good idea to put some structure into the meetings again as more folks attend.
- I know Stacie is working Tuesday night but wanted to know if anyone responded to her request for roughly TEN (10 qty) Solar Outdoors GROUP photos for the Solaroutdoors.org. that are HIGH RESOLUTIONS photos: 1200 dpi or higher. Perhaps we have to request again at the meeting and through social medias.

Vice President David Warnecke

- New business cards came in, about 200.
- Nothing else to report.

Secretary Laura Miller

- Call for reports, agenda created and emailed on 10/17/2022 with minutes from Sept. 2022 SC meeting, solar speaker status, and statement of activity.

Treasurer Jon Swingle

- Cash in the bank is \$12,629.86.
- Statement of Activity through October 16, 2022 is attached.

Activities Krisanne Schmidt

Past Activities:

- Moonlight Paddle
- Day Hike-Seven Lakes

Upcoming Activities:

- Art Walk Rouge Park – Oct. 22
- Day Hike - Belle Isle – Dec. 17
- Lake Ann Weekend – Jan. 2023
- Ice Climbing at Peabody's- Feb 2023

Discussion about using Meetup for fee based or any activity. \$200 flat fee for Meetup per year and posted activities should include a fee to cover this cost. Multiple people have access to posting Meetup called the Leadership Team with 14 people listed. This needs to be edited which Carol and Krisanne will update who can post events, etc on Meetup.

Bylaws Open Position

Reported by Carol McCrie

- Attached please find the amended copy of the bylaws as approved at the March 2022 SC meeting.
- I took out the comments and corrections and have attached a clean copy for your records.

Education Carol McCrie

- The beginning backpack workshop finished up and Krisanne will be acknowledging those that completed it at the general meeting.
- I have reached out to a few people regarding possibilities for upcoming classes but have not had much success. I will keep trying.

- Carol exploring a dark sky demonstration in the spring.

Equipment Chair Phil Crookshank

- The first 2 equipment borrowers since the last snowfall - - - or something like that - picked up Gear 3 weeks ago, for a 3 person backpack trip around Grand Island. 2 New members, and the son of David Ferguson went, fearing the prediction of rain for the weekend, but they only got a small shower, backpacked around the whole perimeter, camped in 2 different places, got the shuttle back to Munising, ate heartily at the local Pasty shop, and headed home. David Jr. took the 1 person B.A. tent, said it worked well, for an almost 6 foot tall guy. They were hoping for the 3.5 inch thick sleeping pads, which were still out to the workshop, so took 2 ridgerest pads, and a 1-1/2 inch Thermarest pad for on top, and were comfortable. All is well that ends well.
- Jeff McWilliams had purchased a new China design 3fulgear Lanshan 2 person tent, brought it to the Highland workshop campout, Glen Schultz set it up, slept in it 2 nights, outside of unusual string tieouts that must NEVER be untied, he said it worked pretty well, uses 2 trekking poles, no other supports. So I set it up in my yard on a windy day, stretched it out, laid down for a 5 minute snooze, checked everything, noticed that the wind was making lots of flapping noise, but that is common with this type of design. So – I put it all away, named it TNT-35, 2 person, bathtub floor, 2.7 # even with a sturdy plastic ground sheet that Jeff made up for it. Thanks Jeff, for the search, and the donation of this new design tent that will fill a spot for 2 people to sleep in.
- FINALLY, the Schoolcraft road that has made entry and exit to our gear room impossible some days – is almost halfway done, so this last time in – we were able to get out with no staff there to help, I got stuck in there twice during the road out, lucky that someone else came in to trigger the gate at 10:30pm.
- I sent the new equipment list that has the tent mentioned – to Stacie, and she converted it to PDF and put it on the website already, for new members to peruse, and get excited about. Another new member Jillian, wants one of the 2 person B.A. tents for a last of October backpack, so we will make sure to have one at the 27th Oct. meeting for use.

Krisanne reports one of the Big Agnes tents for the Beginner Backpacking class has a broken pole. The equipment will be returned at the meeting and the charge will be figured out with the group how borrowed the tent.

Historian Karen Haroutunian

- No report

Membership Dana Buxton

- 3 new members since the last meeting

Programs Open Position

Bob provided report:

- We have presenters through April of 2023. Please see the attached spreadsheet and let Bob know if presenters need help with Power point.
- We meet at Super Natural Brewing & Spirits (36685 Plymouth Rd, Livonia, MI 48150) for dinner at 5:00pm on the 27th.
 - Although they would offer us the space at no cost and had a build in projector and screen, the room seemed a bit small for us and we may have some noise spill over from the restaurant/bar.
 - Possible alternate venue for a trivia night or special event but not really big enough for the regular monthly meeting.
- Jeff Grossklaus will take on this role in April or sooner. Thanks, I think to Dave and maybe Mike for bringing him back.

Webmaster Stacie Kitchen

- Bob is working to obtain admin access to the site from Stacie so his programmer can add the buttons and the code needed to add a PayPal links for paying dues, making equipment deposits, donating and attending events to the website.

Public Relations Bob Tacy

- Asked Jeff Enterkin to share information about the Absolute Peru presentation to the MAC. Thanks to Krisanne for adding it to Meetup.

Communications Chair

Communications Open Position - Bob provided report:

- Bob sent an email to members on 10/16 reminding them of the Absolute Peru presentation.
- We are spending \$35 to promote the Absolute Peru Event on Facebook.
- Since we had up to 15 people on the Moose Watch Facebook Live stream, we will also stream the Absolute Peru presentation.
- Please send me the UN and PW to the Instagram account if anyone has it so I can also post to the platform.

Webmaster Stacie Kitchen

- Updated gear equipment list for Phil today
- Fixing/looking into Dana's solarmembership@solaroutdoors.org email. It's a bit slow on forwarding for some reason.
- Gave Dana the login and password for Text magic to add new people or to send texts out to everyone.
- Bob Tacy has access to the website to add a page for the Solar Outdoors PayPal account.
- Please make sure Stacie gets a copy of instructions if it's something that is Coded into the site and not using elementor building.
- Use PayPal acct that Solar Outdoors currently is using thru the Solar treasurer.
- Once this is completed - Stacie will set up The new activities chair to put new events and meetings on website.
- Anything other questions for me. Please email Mike Hobig and he will forward over to me.

Bob Reported:

- Bob is working to obtain admin access to the site from Stacie so his programmer can add the buttons and the code needed to add a PayPal links for paying dues, making equipment deposits, donating and attending events to the website.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Photo contest categories: *Discussion about the categories. Last year the categories were humorous, landscape, wildlife, quarantine adventure, solar friends*
- *Carol asked about the holiday party and if Solar needs to provide any foods because we have too much food.*
- *Carol will organize volunteers, Cindy Taylor volunteered help with party, and Mike is going to bring coffee mugs. Carol is going to email the people who have volunteered to coordinate for the holiday party.*

Next meeting is Nov. 22 at 7 pm virtually.

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:59 pm.

Meeting minutes notes taken by Laura Miller