



Solar Outdoors

Steering Committee Minutes

Date: 9/23/2025

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Note: Agenda is in regular font

Italic writing is additional information at the meeting

Quorum members present: Dana Buxton, Tim Davis, Jeff Gross, Stacie Kitchen, Laura Miller, Krisanne Schmidt, Hanne Skaarup, Lori Syc, David Warnecke, Mary Winkler

Quorum members absent: Carol McCririe, Jeff McWilliams

Others present: Leslie Cordova

Minutes approved: *Unanimous*

President Mary Winkler

- Collected money for dinners and sent to treasurer. Sent reminders to advertise the next couple of months at anniversary while we had a big crowd.
- I talked to a couple of people interested in drumming.
- I contacted November's speaker since I know her and offered foraging help.
- I understand what companies Stacie is recommending (website apparel store) now after she explained.

Vice President Tim Davis

- I went to the Royal Oak Senior Center to check this location out as a potential new meeting location. Their rates were comparable to what we are now paying. Unfortunately, the senior center is currently closed for renovations so I was not able to inspect the premises but hopefully the new renovations will make this even more appealing. They are scheduled to reopen at the end of September, and I will check it out then and report

back. Cost would be \$100.

- *Have received suggestions but have been unable to check out yet.*
- *Laura is also looking for places in Farmington Hills, for example The Hawk, and will pass any information on.*

Secretary Hanne Skaarup

- *Who are quorum members? Question answered.*

Treasurer Carol McCririe

- *Cash in bank \$11,932.26*
- *Statement of Activity attached.*
- *Report on 50th Anniversary party attached. - net income \$167.81 - budget was \$500 and we didn't have to use any because of the generosity of members to contribute to raffle and Share the Love donations.*
- *Laura Miller read the Treasurer's report in Carol's absence. We ended up making money on the Anniversary event.*

Activities Krisanne Schmidt

Past activities:

- *Day hikes*
- *Moonlight Paddle – Jeff McWilliams*
- *50th Anniversary Weekend event*

Upcoming activities:

- *Day Hikes – Laura*
- *Kayak the Huron River – Bob Tracy*
- *Mark Partridge has some ideas that are being discussed with Krisanne & Laura.*

Bylaws/Historian Jeff Groosklaus

- *Took photos at the 50th Anniversary event. How should these photos, or a selection of them be shown to the club? Sharing the whole Google Photos File is one option. A number of folks on Saturday asked me how they can see the photos and I told them probably Facebook or the website. They appeared to be eager to see them.*
- *If anything needs editing in a different manner, let me know.*
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/vbZpDNVSkIXJwCUm6>
- *Mike Hobig & others took a ton of pictures. Plan to grab the stories and pictures.*
- *Stacie will do something on the website*
- *Mary wants to ensure that we are preserving current as well as post history.*

Education Laura Miller

- *Beginners Land Nav in fall 2025 was cancelled due to lack of participants, which is a bummer.*
- *Wilderness First Aid on Oct. 25-26, 2025*
- *I am working with a few people on new educational opportunities.*
- *Looking at cooking/Dutch oven class, dehydrated foods, a physical therapist speaker on getting ready for hiking.*

Equipment Chair Jeff McWilliams

- Sold a donated Kayak for \$400 and sent the money to the treasurer. I still have a few kayak related items from the same donor to assess, including a 2-wheeled kayak trailer for pulling a kayak a short distance, a fabric kayak cover, and some roof rack items for a kayak (but I don't think it's a full kayak rack).
- I got reports that two of the Solar tents performed poorly on a recent, rainy trip to Pictured Rocks. TNT-34 is a Nemo Hornet donated in 2021, and the other is TNT-36, a Nemo Dragonfly donated as new in early Spring 2025. My plan is to set them up in my back yard and thoroughly douse them with a hose in hopes of determining whether these were equipment failures or user error/unrealistic expectations.
- Laura Miller grabbed AV equipment, the Solar shelter, and the banner from the storage room for the 50th anniversary gathering.

Membership Dana Buxton

- 92 Total Annual Memberships
- 359 Lifetime members
- 7 new members between 8/12 and 9/22
- 1 renewal since last meeting
- 10 non-renewals since last report
- Sent renewal email to 4 members for memberships that expire at the end of Aug. & Sept.
- *Discussed email sent requesting name change of a past president: Hettinger, and an email from Ryan requesting more club information. One person renewed yesterday.*

Programs Lorriane (Lori) Syc

- I wish to have discussion of a 2026 Isle Royale trip.
<https://www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/group-camping-7-or-more-people.htm>
- received confirmation from Wanda at St. Paul's that our Holiday Party is in the calendar for Friday, December 5.
- Lined up speakers for October & November general meetings.
- *Jan 2026 – Bob Tracy & Leslie Cordova will talk about Scotland hiking trip.*
- *Isle Royale -won't know if you have a group campsite until April. Will discuss further at the General Meeting in Oct.*

Public Relations/Communications David Warnecke

- *Received artifacts from some elders at the Anniversary party.*

Webmaster Stacie Kitchen

- Requesting bio and photo of new secretary
- Updated front page and will be creating a page just for Solar's 50th photos and videos.
- Needs to be updated: calendar and the minutes page.

Unfinished Business

- Stacie wants to change the apparel store on our website. Vote was taken to approve the change recommended and passed unanimously. Vote happened during period when

Mary Winkler's phone connection dropped. When Mary reconnected, she asked that we postpone moving forward with the change until Mary has more information.

- Additional information on the apparel store Stacie recommends:
 - Using platforms like Printify or Printful opens up a wider range of products we can offer, including apparel, hats, mugs, and more. They also support various decoration methods, including screen printing, embroidery, and DTF (Direct-to-Film), which delivers high-end transfers that actually outperform traditional screen printing.
 - The quality is excellent, and the best part is that we don't have to manage any inventory. Customers place their orders using a secure payment method, and the items are shipped directly to them. Delivery typically takes about two weeks.
- *Stacie has contacts to create samples to bring into meetings. Samples would go on the PR table. Just need to add our bank account and it is up to us to set pricing. We don't have to make huge profits. Also, up to us to choose what we want to sell- we decide on the merchandise. Stacie will develop what she thinks should be our rates by the end of the year for our review.*
- *Suggestion made to debut the store at the Jan 2026 meeting.*
- *Motion to change the merchandise store was passed unanimously.*

New Business

- who is responsible for contacting Wanda at St Paul's about our add and subtracting calendar days? *Lori Syc and she will cancel the Dec 2025 general meeting. Wanda's email is businessadmin@StPaulsPresbyterian.church. Tell our treasurer so she doesn't sent a check out.*
- Has the 2025 Annual Report **due October 1** with the State of Michigan been filed? *Completed.*

Next Meeting: Oct 21, 2025

Meeting Adjourned: 7:58pm

Meeting minutes notes taken by Hanne Skaarup