



Solar Outdoors

Steering Committee Minutes

Date: 02/17/2026

Meeting called to order at. 7:04pm

Note: Agenda is in regular font

Italic writing is additional information at the meeting

Quorum members present: *Dana Buxton, Tim Davies, Jeff McWilliams, Krisanne Schmidt, Hanne Skaarup, Lori Syc, Mary Winkler*

Others present:

Minutes approved: Minutes submitted for approval are from Nov 18, 2025 and Jan 20, 2026. *Mary made motion, Dana seconded to approve – passed unanimously.*

President Mary Winkler

- Helped move the storage unit upstairs.
- Talked with Lori about future programs.
- Did everyone look at the video from 1989. Fun stuff. Thanks Jeff for adding it to YouTube.
- *Not running for a position on the board next election*

Vice President Tim Davis

- Sent out a list of options for the demographic age ranges to include in the Solar survey. Would like SC member input on the best option to include.
- Survey
 - At our last steering committee meeting we discussed using age ranges instead of asking members for their actual age in the member survey.
 - I asked Chat GPT to show some options on how best to capture this. I'm including this below. I wanted to get everyone's thoughts on what would be the

best option. Personally, I think option 2 is the best but am wondering what you all think. We can discuss in this week's SC meeting.

- For a club survey, the best age ranges are clear, evenly spaced, and relevant to your group's likely demographics. You want categories that are:
- Easy to read quickly
- Not overly granular
- Useful for analysis
- Here are three good options depending on how detailed you want the data:



○ analysis



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- Outdoor-Club-Focused Ranges (Recommended for you)
 - Since activity level often correlates with life stage, this version can be more meaningful:
 - Under 21
 - 21–30
 - 31–40
 - 41–50
 - 51–60
 - 61–70
 - 71+
 - Why this works:
 - Aligns with typical fitness and participation patterns
 - Helps you plan trips appropriate for age demographics



- Pro tip: Always include**
- Prefer not to say
- This increases completion rates and avoids forcing disclosure.
- *Option 2 seems to be the most favorable. Need to send out via email. Will be asking Dana for assistance. Dave says use the roster to send out and use BCC.*

Secretary Hanne Skaarup

- I will not be present at the March Solar SC meeting. Will be able to create agenda and send out but need someone to fill in and take notes for me.
- Nov 2025 minutes sent out for review with this agenda.

Treasurer Carol McCrie

- I am out of town and the only thing I can tell you is that the bank balance is \$11,253.97 as of today Sunday (Feb 15, 2026)

Activities Krisanne Schmidt

Past activities:

- Day hikes
- Ice Climbing

Upcoming activities:

- Day Hikes
- Red River Gorge Adventure weekend
- Birding/Day Paddle
- Isle Royale (in the works)
- *Beginning Backpack Class – May 7, 9, 15-17 - only 1 person has signed up. Registration is due Apr 15*
- *Hydrating Class – Mar 5 - only 3 people have signed up*
- *Will ask MACs if we can advertise the 2 classes on their Meetup*
- *Krisanne shares Solar events on her FB page.*

Bylaws/Historian Jeff Groosklaus

- Nothing to report
- As far as elections, I will not be running for any office
- Photo Contest: For next year, we need to clarify that we are only permitted to win one category out of the five.
 - If you need me to give up 2 of my 3 gifts cards, let me know. I haven't spent them yet.
 - In the future, if we lack funds for the prizes, we could charge a \$5 entrance fee or something similar .
- I will not be at Tuesday's meeting.

Education Laura Miller

- I will be out of the country from Feb. 5 to Feb. 22 with limited access to cell phone and email.
- Education Report:
 - Dehydrating Foods workshop March
 - Beginning Backpacking Workshop May and June
- I am still working on a get ready for hiking training workshop.

Equipment Chair Jeff McWilliams

- I've been told we have very low sign up numbers for the Food Dehydrating and Beginner Backpacking workshops.
- I'm doing my part to push out more social media content to promote these.
- I just published an Instagram & Facebook reel that you can see here: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DUyFnpBCqbx/?igsh=czl6czltaDR3bXdI>
- I'm working on one for Beginner Backpacking that will look similar, and we'll probably try spending a few \$\$ to boost one of the Beginner Backpacking posts as an ad to reach more people.
- We moved to a smaller, cheaper storage unit. It's now on the 2nd floor at Clover Self Storage, so it takes a little more effort to move equipment down to the car, etc. I still have some organizing to do. Krisanne said she has a set of casters that I'm going to try to attach to the other metal rack. That would let us pull two of the racks out into the hallway when members are on site to borrow gear.
 - Our new monthly rate will be \$90.00 / month instead of \$180.00, but they're also giving us 3 months at the "new customer" promotional rate of \$45.00/month.

Membership Dana Buxton

- 88 Total Annual Members
- 359 Lifetime Members
- 3 New members since 1/11/26
- 2 Renewals since 1/11/26
- 7 Non-renewals
- Sent renewal email to 12 members for memberships that expire in Jan & Feb

Programs Lorriane (Lori) Syc

- Need ideas for an April presenter.
- Not continuing on the Board
- *Feb 28 – Symposium – received email from LeAnn. Lori is interested in attending.*

Public Relations/Communications David Warnecke

- I posted for this month's meetings on Facebook and Instagram.
- I worked on a promotional video for BBP. It is still quite rough, but I made some progress and learned a lot.

Webmaster Stacie Kitchen

- Will update website on Sun Feb 15, 2026
- *Website has updated calendar now*

Unfinished Business : none

New Business:

- From Lori Syc - Anyone attending the Quiet Adventures Symposium in Lansing? I was looking at their schedule of speakers. It might be worthwhile to attend for possible speakers/presentations. Wish to discuss.
- *Carol wants to create a budget*
- *Elections are coming up – Is President really a max of 2 years ?*

Next Meeting Mar 24, 2026

Meeting Adjourned: 7:59pm

Meeting minutes notes taken by Hanne Skaarup