

Solar Washington

Newsletter 9/1/02

Volume 1, Issue 5

Solar Washington, 2223 NW 43rd Ave, Camas WA 98607 360-834-0674



Topics:

- SW Next Meeting
- Met the Board Members
- **Solar Home Tour info.**
Check it out at:
<http://www.ases.org/hometr/index.php?state=WA>
- CALENDAR OF EVENTS
- MEMBERSHIP FORM



ASES Highlights:

The American Solar Energy (ASES) Conference will be in Austin TX June 22-26th 2003. Theme – America’s Secure Energy.

For more info contact

www.ASES.org

Upcoming ASES Conferences

Solar 2004 – July 11-14

Portland, OR

(we need volunteers to support SEA of Oregon to make this a success!)

Solar 2005 – August 8-12

World Congress -Orlando, FL

Our Newsletter

This Newsletter gives our members a brief overview of our Board Members. If any Solar Washington Member wants to get involved, please attend our meetings. The next meeting will be Thursday September 12th at Romio’s Pizza in the Greenwood District of

Seattle at 7:00pm. Again, I want to emphasize that this newsletter is for enhancing solar in Washington State. If you have any articles to contribute please send them to me at Zagunis@pacifier.com. I will usually include all articles if they originate from

our members and involve Solar Energy. We want the content to be educational and factual to help other people make energy and social decisions. Any comments or suggestions for enhancing our mission to educate will be welcomed. Please mail your correspondences to:

Solar Washington
2223 NW 43rd Ave
Camas, WA 98607

Solar Washington is an all-volunteer organization.

SW Board Members –

As stated in our last newsletter, the Board members elected a new President and Vice-President. During the last meeting a new Board was established. These Bios will help our members familiarize themselves with the talent and focus Solar Washington now processes. Our volunteer organization’s

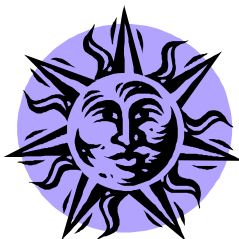
focus is to help the people of the State of Washington live with solar. As you read these Bios you will realize this is an exciting time to be involved with Nature’s most abundant energy source.

President- Chris
Certified

Association “Healthy House Certified.” Advisory board member of the Lopez Community Land



Board Members - Continue



More than 85 Utilities in 29 states give customers a green power option, and roughly 350,000 residential customers have signed up.

Trust's third low-income co-housing development. I am an Advisory board member of the Ironstraw group; a non-profit that trains at-risk youths to build strawbale structures. Founding board member of the Solar Washington Association and the Northwest Eco-building Guild. Past Treasurer and Vice President of the Washington State Association of Building Designers, Hazard Mitigation Specialist Reservist with the Federal Emergency Management Agency having worked on 20 disasters in the past 10 years. I am happily married for 12 years with 2 children that I (and my wife) homeschool. I enjoy running whitewater rivers since Boy Scouts and stills get out kayaking every few weeks. I have been teaching Solar for the Home at the Phinney Neighborhood Center for 2 years, and Passive Solar Design at the Experimental College for 14 years. I believe that our future lies in solar energy, one of my major goals is to help make it so.

Vice President- Brian Ugi

Brian Ugi is a Washington state general electrical contractor, Journeywireman and IBEW / NECA member with 25 years construction trade experience. I operate a small shop based in Anacortes WA that services primarily Western Washington. The primary business focus of the company is on industrial and municipal construction projects. Over the last several years I received IBEW training to design and install photovoltaic systems and has been pursuing

this market.

My goal for my involvement in Solar Washington is to bring additional credibility to the local ASES chapter and help them gain wider local public acceptance of the technology through high visibility public projects and activities.

Secretary- Martin Nix

I am the Secretary for Solar Washington. I have served as secretary under 2 SW Presidents. I am the main person in the Northwest involved with the International organization of Solar Cooking. I have built and have patent rights to many solar cookers large enough to cook turkeys. I am a previous member of New Mexico Solar Energy Association. Went to Architecture & Engineering school in New Mexico. Now working for Boeing as an 777 Engineer. Continuing to Research and patent ideas on Solar Combustion (Compression) Air projects. Investigating a Coal Burning Power Plant into a solar power Plant. Wrote many articles for this Newsletter. You can reach me at: 206-757-6521@airmessage.net.

Treasurer- Tom Rentz

I have renewable energy experience dating back to 1975, when I first opened my company in Rialto, CA. This experience included design and

construction of wind generators and publication of self-help plans, pamphlets and books. The company moved to Sandy, Utah in 1978 and we continued with custom manufacture of wind systems as well as increased the scope of our venture to include ecological building concepts, under the name Sun/Wind/Home Concepts. I authored a layman's guide to solar heating "Low Cost Solar Heaters for Your Home," in 1978 (Hawkes Publishers, SLC, Utah). I built a self-sufficient mobile dwelling capable of permanent siting and lived in it for five years to gain hands-on experience. Many sets of plans for the "Life Support Module" were sold. This concept was later expanded in Alaska where we built and sold starter homes and cabins. In 1989 I opened the media center for the Bothell Campus U.W. Library. In 1997 I went to work for Trace Engineering under Sam Vanderhoof, V.P. of Marketing. In 1999, when Trace was bought out by a Canadian entrepreneur and renamed Xantrex, I quit and reopened my company, Sun/Wind Concepts. We design and sell PV and wind systems. We manufacture water pumping windmills for ponds and gardens as well as solar fountains.



Board Members, Continue

Cont. Tom Rentz – Treasurer.

We are taking on distribution for products in the west and have plans to reintroduce an advanced version of the "Life Support Module." My education includes an "Electronic Technician Certificate, a Federal Communication Commercial License, & Visual Communications Courses at the U.W." I enjoy sharing my experiences in renewable energy with others and work with electricians and contractors to implement systems. I hope that Solar Washington will be a vehicle to promote education and understanding for all Washington residents.

John Zagunis – Membership

I am a Life Member of the American Solar Energy Society. I have a company called Energy Translation Services which caters to small Utilities and Large Commercial sites who need to monitor their electrical loads. I have been in

business close to 10 years. I also am pursuing Applying Collective Technologies (ACT) on Solar as an distributor, installer, for Solar Energy in the Vancouver area. I enjoy working for Mr. Sun in the Portland area with John Patterson mainly working on Hot water systems. I have three types of solar systems that I live with: 1, a three panel hot water system; 2, a solar dish for solar cooking (which I use for chili and soups at lunch); and 3, a PV system which I use to monitor temperature and radiation data. I also have a small portable PV system which I can use to educate the public and shows how much power is need to light 2 CF bulbs. My next projects includes a water distiller (for Pure water) and a Hydrogen kit energized by Solar or Wind. As time and energy permits I plan to produce Hydrogen to convert my lawnmower, and as I gain experience, to convert my transportation.

Solar Washington, to me, is a vehicle to focus on Living with Solar Energy. As technology gets more progressive, efficiencies as to the quality of Our Lives needs to be addressed. Solar is the solution.

Mike Nelson – Policy

Written by John Zagunis.

Everybody in Solar Washington should already know Mike Nelson. Mike is the founding President of Solar Washington. Long time Washington State Extension Service energy expert, Mike is focusing on Utility side PV systems. Western Sun is a co-op to bring down the costs of PV in the large scale. Mike is behind Northwest's Solar Summits. This year (the Fifth) will concentrate on Metering and Solar Power. These conferences are held in Winthrop, WA.

Mike is an honorary Board member and is continuing to promote Solar. Mike's agenda is only positive for Solar Washington.

The President's Letter

President- Chris Herman

I have a unique opportunity, being the new President of Solar Washington. Having been a Chapter of The American Solar Energy Society (ASES) for just over two years, we are creating our group from lots of possibilities. I was encouraged by attending the day-long Chapters Caucus at the ASES conference in Reno this past spring. Learning from established chapters can make our path smoother.

Global warming, fragile energy security and the power crisis in California have heightened interest in solar energy in our region. Our chapter will be guided by the goals of educating the public on solar, networking, facilitating renewable energy (RE) systems deployment and promoting renewable energy through many venues. My personal goal is to enroll many capable and committed volunteers to create projects of their own, and find support within the

Association. By creating such a setting they may stay active in the group for years to come. Newly formed committees include: Trade, Education, Outreach, Publicity and Fair Booth. Our standing committees include Policy, Website, Membership/Newsletter, and Solar Homes Tour. See the meeting Minutes of 9/12 for description of, and contacts for, each committee. Committees are where projects happen and the groups have fun. Allowing and encouraging leaders to come forth can produce expanded

results in all areas. Our Seattle Tilth Fair booth and our Tour of Solar Homes are great chances to sign up new member and enhance public awareness. To entice more folks outside the solar community we are discussing educational meetings and are working on promotional materials. Member services will be given attention in order to provide value to people once they join. Volunteer's input is requested and appreciated on any of these issues. Help us build an effective and fun organization – Get Involved!



Board Members - Continue

“Leading environmental companies in the electric utility sector had an average 10 percent greater annual shareholder return than that of other companies during the past three years.”

Innovest Strategic Value Advisors, NY



“Solar Energy is forever!” A bequest to Solar Washington can make a long-term difference by providing ongoing funds for solar education programs.

Team Partner’s Jeremy Smithson and Pam Burton.

Jeremy Smithson has been remodeling homes for 30 years, using "green" design methods, materials, and techniques for the last 5 years. Solar electricity has been of interest to him from age 13 when he purchased a solar cell and used it to run a tiny DC motor. In 1993 he purchased an Arco M-51 and has used it to power a camping cooler and the lights and radio in his garage. After years of following the fledgling photovoltaics industry from the fringe he decided to join the fun and formed Puget Sound Solar in 2001 after the announcement of the Bush energy policy. Projects have included 12v systems, batch water pre-heaters, and grid-connected systems in Seattle and Snohomish Co. Future projects include a solar-fired hydronic heating system and more PV.

Pamela Burton spent 17 years working in broadcasting at Pacifica Radio where she helped educate the listening audience about the politics of our nation's energy policies and their impact on the environment.

Most recently she served as the executive director of Seattle Tilth, bringing to the public essential information about the consequences of the use of pesticides and herbicides and the preferred methods used in organic gardening and farming. She has just left that job to pursue, among other things, promotion of solar energy for

Puget Sound Solar.

This husband and wife team share the view that humankind has all the tools at hand to develop and maintain a sustainable existence through the use of renewable energy and natural ecological cycles and that it is up to us to "just do it." The challenge is to bridge the gap between those members of our society who are uninitiated or ignorant and those who are experienced in building a sustainable lifestyle. The inertia that has resulted from our insular culture remains our biggest hurdle. To the benefit of the solar community, the fossil fuel economy is about to slide down the other side of its growth curve and the role of solar energy is sure to continue to grow in spite of American recalcitrance.

Scott Allison

My name is Scott Allison and I was recently elected to the board of Solar Washington. As per our last meeting we voted to put a local phone message on the web site so that we can leave outgoing info and field questions to the general public.

206.736.9797 is a free voice mail that I have set up for this purpose. Scott is involved with the Solar Workshop in Ellensburg and is looking forward to promoting solar in Central Washington.

Pam Carlson – Mailings

Pam Carlson, the Direct Mail Manager for Solar Washington, works at Xantrex Technology Inc, formerly Trace Engineering. She has worked at the company for 12 years and has held positions in manufacturing, warranty and repair, customer Service and marketing. Her current title at Xantrex is Marketing Assistant and she provides support for dealers, distributors and customers. Some of Pam's responsibilities include literature distribution, data base management, trade show organization, and direct mail coordination. Pam also volunteers regularly on the company's social committee and has organized everything from company camping trips to ice cream socials. During the holidays Pam is instrumental in organizing the company's clothing and food drives for those in need.

We are happy to have Pam as a helper to the Board to provide mailings and announcements to our members. She mails the Meeting Announcements from Xantrex.



SOLAR WASHINGTON BOARD MINUTES

August 5th, Noon. Second Edition.

ATTENDEES:

Martin Nix solarshack@earthlink.net (secretary)

Jeremy Smithson jeremy@pugetsoundsolar.com

Scott Allison cyclelogic@hotmail.com

Brian Ugi 360-387-5807 bugi@fidalgo.net

Tom Rentz 360-387-5807 sunwindconcepts.us (treasurer)

Bill Aston 206-280-5439 baston007@hotmail.com

Chris Herman Fax 206-522-7064 Ph: 206-525-3969 (president)

Not in Attendance: John Zagunis, Pam Burton, Mike Nelson (honorary position).

Meeting held at Weller's Restaurant, Arlington, WA, August 5th, Noon to 4pm. Forum declared.

- HISTORY OF SOLAR WASHINGTON.

The board held a general discussion of the roots and goals. We are an educational organization, and we should expand beyond our current Photovoltaic focus and expand into other areas such as passive design, solar hot water, etc. The public is hungry for information, and we as an organization need to provide benefits for members. We need to reach out to more than "just Seattle". A lot of discussions were focused on what can be done on the Internet Web, but we need to use other media such as Public Access and Videos, business cards, Press Releases, and other low cost methods of communication. It was felt that members should be allowed to give brief presentations (3 minute) of their various solar projects. Right now we normally do introductions as the first order of business at general meetings.

We are a diverse group, but we all should focus on the common goal of

developing the tools to convert sunlight to be useful. Chris Herman stated he wanted to spread the workload among members so no one individual is overloaded. We need to follow up on members' request and show more benefit to members (ie. directory of active members and a brief statement of what they do, events calendar, discussion web page, letter to editors in small local newspapers, etc). Bill Aston talked about the role of visual communications and how we can expand our presence in Washington; we should have "hooks" to get people interested, and then move more complicated topics. We need to teach the basics.

Tom Rentz gave a treasurer's report (we have about \$2,000 in account). It was agreed that Thursday's were a good day to hold meetings, and we should remain with the tradition of meeting the second week of the month.

Chris passed on John Zagunis' request for articles for the newsletter. Presently John Zagunis is our membership chair and also does the newsletter.

- SEEDS FOR PEACE: Martin Nix asked the board to consider a program to collect normal grocery seeds like we get from the grocery store. Apple, watermelon, or any fruits and other seeds are in many cases can still grow. I have been receiving requests from people in third world nations about such a collection program. Thus, they could plant trees and food producing crops on now devastated lands. This could be a children to children aid program where seeds are cleaned, processed and shipped. Board members felt it would be a good way to reach youth, and promote solar education. However, concerns were raised over this being an international project, and others who are doing something similar.

- FORMATION OF A SPEAKER BUREAU.

We need to collect information for "lectures" on solar technology, and set up a group of informed individuals who can meet with various groups interested in solar technologies. Mike Nelson previously had a lot of presentations. We are presently searching for an individual who can coordinate these activities. Martin nominated Lucy Brokaw (cell 425-346-4152 before 9am or after 7pm. email: mbros@ix.netcom.com.). Lucy called me to say she would accept and would like to organize a NetMeeting Chatroom Conference where speakers can meet via the internet.

- FORMATION OF A VOICE MAIL.

Scott plans on developing a voice answering system, and wants to respond to voice messages. The Board approved the free voicemail (only). Concerns were raised that we need to "speak as a unit", and we should focus on "solar basics". The President should have the power to review communications made in the name of Solar Washington versus many of our individual perspectives.

- CONCERN FOR SAFETY. Brian raised the concern that the organization needs to be very concerned for safety issues. It is the board's goal to promote safety, reliability, responsibility.

- CONCERNS FOR ACCURATE COST INFORMATION. Brian raised the issue that many businesses are bidding on solar contracts. In some cases, information is not accurate leading to discrediting of the industry.

- CONCERNS OVER LICENSING. Brian raised the concern for licensing installers of solar equipment, much like we require licensing of electricians and general contractors.



Minutes Cont.

- DEVELOPMENT OF A ONE PAGE FLYER ABOUT SOLAR

WASHINGTON. The board discussed the layout and general design of a flyer that can be distributed at various shows (Home Show, Tilth Fair, etc.). It was decided that a simple one page double sided flyer would be most effective, outlining the basic areas of solar technologies. It would be used to educate the public and attract new members. It should cover FAQs.

- VASHON ISLAND SOLAR ENERGY CONVERSION. Numerous members of Washington Solar were invited to do demonstrations at the Vashon Island EarthFair, August 1st thru 4th. Presently, Rita Schenk has been commissioned to develop a solar energy conversion plan for the island. The board discussed methods by which Solar Washington would be able to support her efforts.

- ADOPTION OF AN "ASSOCIATE MEMBER" CATEGORY. We discussed including people with solar installations into the group as non-paying, non-voting members. It was felt that these folks are good emissaries and we should encourage their involvement in the Association. They would receive meeting notices and newsletters for 2 years and then be taken off the mailing list if they don't pay dues.

BOARD VOTES: (Jeremy Moved, Brian Second)

- 1) Should Solar Washington have it's own voice mail? All Yes.
- 2) Should Solar Washington develop an information flyer to be distributed to the public? All Yes.
- 3) Should Solar Washington develop a new category for non-paying "associate members"? All Yes.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

September 12th. 7pm to 9pm. Romios Pizza & Pasta in Greenwood District of Seattle. (8523 Greenwood Ave, North, 98103. 206-782-8997). Parking is very available. 85th and Greenwood. Take 85th Street Exit on I-5 and travel West. Or Metro Bus routes 48, 5, 355. near 28.



RAINBOW SOLAR'S OPEN EVENT – BE THERE !

PRESS RELEASE

August 20, 2002

Contact:

Eric Youngren or John Mottl
Rainshadow Solar
(360) 376-5336
eyoungren@orcasonline.com

SOLAR ELECTRIC SYSTEM OPEN HOUSE - SEPTEMBER 15, 2002

Come see the northwest's largest privately owned, grid connected photovoltaic (PV) power plant, and learn about solar "green power" generation. The system on display will be capable of producing 30 kW of solar electricity. All of the electricity produced by the system will be purchased by the Orcas Power & Light Cooperative (OPALCO) as part of its "Green Power Generation" program.

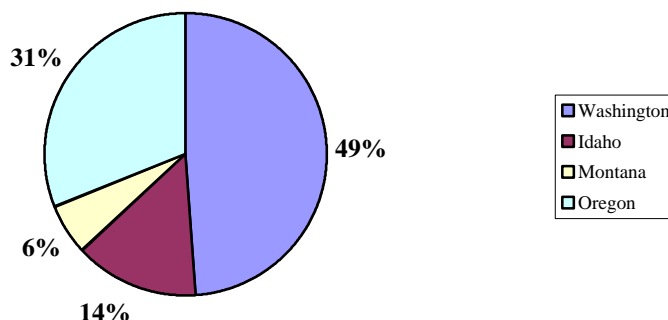
The system tour and "solar field day" will be from noon until 4:00pm on Sunday, September 15th at the system site, which is located at 2810 Crow Valley Road on Orcas Island. Parking is limited so carpooling is encouraged.

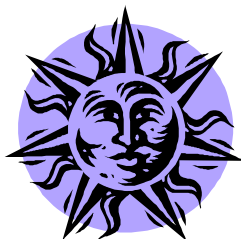
The event will include talks by local and regional solar energy experts, as well as OPALCO representatives. There will be an explanation of photovoltaics and how the new 30 kW system works, plus solar power demonstrations and refreshments.

For more information, contact Rainshadow Solar at: (360) 376-5336 or solar@rockisland.com.

NW Commercial & Industrial Consumpt 1999

47.4 million megawatt hours total





Calendar of Events

SEPTMEBER 2002
Have anything for the calendar?
Call me
zagunis@pacifier.com
 360-834-0674

Sept 7th – PV & Wind Generation installation workshop. Chris Herman at Winter Design puts on a 10 to 5pm workshop in Ellensburg (206)525-3969 Cost \$55.00

Sept 9th – October 18 Solar Home Design Distance Course Learn how to build a sustainable home SEI puts on an internet class. Costs involved sei@solarenergy.org.

September –12thth, Solar Washington Meeting
 Romio's Pizza in the Greenwood District of Seattle. Located at 8523 Greenwood Ave N. (Greenwood & 85th) 7-9pm Lots to discuss with so be there!

September –14thth, Seattle Tilth 15th Annual Harvest Fair.
 10 to 4 pm – go Organic Meridian Park at The Good Shepherd in Wallingford, 4649 Sunnyside Ave N. SW will have a booth gathering members. Be there!

September -15th, Rainshadow Solar open event, Orcas Power & Light Cooperative (OPALCO) as part of its "Green Power Generation" program will give tours of their 30Kw PV system. Located at 2810 Crow Valley Road on Orcas Island. Parking is limited so carpooling is encouraged. For more information, contact Rainshadow Solar at: (360) 376-5336 or solar@rockisland.com.

Sept 20-22 – NW Renewable Energy Festival – Whitman College Campus. Walla Walla, WA. Keynote Speaker is Amory Lovins from the Rocky Mountain Institute. No Cost Begins

at 11:00 am on Friday. Info at www.nwrefest.org

October 2002

October 5th Solar Home Tour
 Member Darren Emmonds has organized SW 2nd annual Solar Home Tour. Check out the homes at : <http://www.ases.org/hometr/index.php?state=WA>

This is a National Tour. Become part of the scene. Last year more than 15,000 people went on the Tour in 38 states!

October 11-13th, Intro to Renewable Energy
 SEI on the SanJuan Islands. Cost 200. SEI @ 970-963-8855 or SW Member Ian @ 360-293-7448

October 14-17th, Metering the Sun. NW Solar Summit #5 Sun Mountain Lodge – Winthrop WA. Utility members encourage. Contact Jim White at 509-667-4216 jamesa@chelanpud.org

October 14-19th, Intro to Renewable Energy
 SEI on the SanJuan Islands. SEI @ 970-963-8855 or SW Member Ian @ 360-293-7448

Oct 21-26th SEI Wind Power Workshop
Aguemes Island, WA SEI @ 970-963-8855 or SW Member Ian @ 360-293-7448

Nov 4th – December 13th Solar Home Design Distance Course
 Learn how to build a sustainable home SEI puts on an internet class. Costs involved sei@solarenergy.org.

Nov 18-21st – Fuel Cell Seminar Check out what is new with fuel cells. Sponsor by the American Hydrogen Association. Palm Springs CA. <http://www.gofuelcell.com>.

December 2, 2002 ASES Solar America's Secure Energy Abstracts due. Do you have anything new under the sun? www.ases.org

June 21-26th 2003
 ASES Conference in Austin TX. www.ases.org

July 11-14th 2004
 ASES Confernece in **Portland OR**. Can you volunteer?

August 8-12 2005
 ISES/ASES Orlando, FL. www.ises.org



Solar Washington's mission is to further the development of renewable energy and related arts, sciences, and technologies with concern for the economic, environmental, and social fabric of the State. We welcome any persons or organizations that raise the level of public awareness for this purpose.

YES! SIGN ME UP

Name _____ Company _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ FAX _____ email address _____ Web site _____

- Enclosed is my Professional Yearly Membership in Solar Washington. Membership includes email updates on solar activities. This membership also updates my ASES membership. (Save \$10.00 or \$5.00 on each) Remit \$100.00
Enclosed is my Corporate Yearly Membership in Solar Washington. Membership includes email updates on solar activities and discounts on Solar Washington Conferences and Activities. Does not include ASES Mem. Remit \$150.00
Enclosed is my Regular Yearly Membership in Solar Washington. Membership includes email updates on solar activities (Post High school Students Remit \$15.00 Plus copy of school ID) Remit \$40.00
Enclosed is my Youth Yearly Membership in Solar Washington. Membership includes email updates on solar activities. (For students 18 yrs and under.) Remit \$5.00

Please Send Checks To:

Solar Washington, 6848 23rd Ave NE Seattle, WA 98115-7034

Membership Questions? Call 360-834-0674

- Please take me off your mailing list, I no longer want to support Solar Energy in Washington



Solar Washington Association
2223 NW 43rd Ave
Camas, WA 98607
Phone: (360) 834-0674
E-Mail: solarwashington@solarwa.org

