

# CITIZENS FOR SOLAR: A NEW BEGINNING

Recently Citizens for Solar (CFS) has attracted several new members who are eager to contribute their thoughts and time to the organization. Having new ideas and new people onboard has brought a new level of energy to our activities and allows us to function better as an organization.

A solid group of people regularly attend the monthly Citizens For Solar / Solar Guild board meetings and offer their input to both groups.

In addition to the spring Annual Solar Potluck at Catalina State Park, we now also host the Annual Equinox Solar Potluck at Valley of the Moon. We have performed several community service projects with the help of Solar Guild, and more are in the works. CFS founding member Toby Schneider will soon teach a solar oven workshop at Xerocraft, and we hope this leads to other mutual projects.

I believe that our new members' talents allow us to organize better, to increase public awareness of CFS, and to provide greater service to Tucson and to our solar community.

We now have more members involved in both planning and participating in our events, and their help makes everything run more smoothly. We have new projects coming up, and these should increase the public's awareness and respect for us.

In the coming months, Citizens for Solar plans to create committees to help with various aspects of the solar potlucks, to add a public relations person, to do more fundraising, and to interact more with other organizations that share our interests. We have contacted faculty at the University of Arizona Physics and Engineering Departments and hope to get a student solar oven project going with them in the fall.

Earlier this year, a very large trailer was donated to CFS (thank you Eric and Sue Lee!!!). We have discussed building a portable PV system and using the trailer to transport it and other equipment to the potlucks and other events in which we participate.

We also have a new website ([citizensforsolar.org](http://citizensforsolar.org)) that promotes CFS, the potlucks, solar cooking, and our community service activities. (The site is up and running, but I am still making additions and improvements to it. Please check it out and provide me with some feedback.) This website will help us to reach a much larger audience than we have in the past. We are also increasing our presence on Facebook and should start posting YouTube videos on solar cooking and the potlucks.

Financially we are sound; however, additional money allows us to do more for the community and ourselves.

We are looking into merchandizing options to generate additional funds for CFS. We are researching CFS logo hats, shirts and water bottles, as well as selling solar ovens. (We are already a dealer for Sun Ovens International and could try to pick up other products like the SHE Hot Pot and GoSun stove.)

This is a time of change for Citizens for Solar, and I believe that it's for the better. Improved organization, a more active membership, and increased funding will allow us to serve the community more effectively and to get our message out.

Bruce Joseph, Chair, Citizens for Solar

## Upcoming Events

**July 11 - Solar oven construction workshop** (cardboard ovens), Xerocraft, 101 West 6th Street, Tucson. 10 am to 1 pm. This is a "how to" workshop. An experienced solar chef will be on hand to answer questions and guide participants through the steps of building and using a solar oven. For information, call Chuck Wacker at 250-7981 (leave a message).

**July 17 - We'll be building a stand-alone portable photovoltaic system.** Workshop to help youth at risk. Good Futures Program, Goodwill Industries. Starts at 9 am. For information, call Jack Langley at 881-3199.

**July 18 - Cooking demonstration.** Selenite Embassy, Valley of the Moon, 2544 East Allen Road, Tucson. Cooking demonstration. 10 am until 8 pm.  
For information, call Valley of the Moon at 323-1331.  
[See the Valley of the Moon Events page here](#)

**September 19 - Solar Potluck**, Valley of the Moon, 2544 East Allen Road, Tucson. For information, call Bruce Joseph at 887-9691.

**April 30, 2016 - 34th Annual Solar Potluck and Exhibition**, Catalina State Park, 11570 N Oracle Rd, Tucson. [Visit CFS's 2016 Solar Potluck page here](#)

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## Monthly Meetings

Please join us the first Tuesday of every month at the Ward 6 office located at 3202 East 1st Street, Tucson. Our meetings start at 6 pm and go until about 7:30 pm.

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## Buy Some Raffle Tickets - Give Yourself a Chance to Get a Great Car!



In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Ford Mustang, Jim Click Ford and Holmes Tuttle Ford are holding a raffle for a 2015 Ford Mustang that is designed to look like the 1955 model. Only 1,955 of these are being made, so they're special.

Tickets are \$25 each and 5 for \$100. *Citizens for Solar keeps 100% of the proceeds.* The drawing will be held on November 13, 2015. For tickets, contact Bruce Joseph at 887-9691.

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## And Finally...Recipes - from "Solar Cooking Naturally" by Virginia Heather Gurley



### Light Cornbread

3 c. cornmeal  
1 tsp. sea salt  
1 c. whole wheat flour  
1 tsp. baking powder  
3 eggs  
½ c. melted butter  
½ c. honey  
3 c. buttermilk  
1 tsp. baking soda

Set cast iron skillet in solar oven to preheat. Mix the dry ingredients together. Beat the eggs and buttermilk. Stir into the dry ingredients. Melt the honey and butter and pour over the cornmeal mixture. Let set in preheated skillet 10 minutes. Solar bake for 4 hours.

### All Season Solar Soup

5-6 c. water or vegetable stock	3 broccoli stalks with flowers, sliced
2 medium tomatoes	Any leftover rice, millet or barley
3 celery stalks, diced	1-2 Tbs. peanut butter
1 onion, diced	2 carrots, grated

Combine all ingredients in dark pot with lid. Place in solar oven for 4 hours for flavors to be well mixed.