

## Washington State Geocaching Association August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Call to order was issued by hydnek for WSGA's 4th Business meeting of the year @ 7:10PM, August 25, 2011.

Board members in attendance: idajo (Jo Dunn), jcar (Jim Bertrand), acfunk(AI Funk), Kidvegas19(Jim Parkman), lucymogus(Elaine Edwards), Mc3cats(Chris Brue), hydnek(Abby Wolfe), fluteface (Margaret Dunn), FredNVicki (Vicki Carter)

Not in Attendance: acfunk (AI Funk), pazooter (Bruce Clark)

Others mentioned during the meeting listed here for reference: nepokama, hypnopaedia, Shop99er, Moun10Bike, Fen Dweller

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### **Approval of Chapter Representatives for North Olympic Peninsula and SouthWest**

Special item to approve Chapter Reps for NOP and SW. Idajo recently moved to Port Angeles, and will be the new NOP Chapter Rep, resigning as SW Chapter Rep. In addition FredNVicki have agreed to serve out the year as Southwest chapter reps. A warm Welcome Vicki to this meeting!

idajo2 introduced frednvicki: I am thrilled that Fred and Vicki Carter have agreed to step in as the new WSGA Southwest Chapter Representatives. When I knew that a move from Ridgefield to \*somewhere\* was imminent, for me, I started thinking about who I felt would do a spectacular job representing the Association in the southwest part of the State - the Carters immediately came to mind! Vicki and Fred have a myriad of interests and activities that keep them busy and involved geocaching, tap dancing, fostering animals in need of a temporary family, caring for their own spectacular menagerie of animals, music (Fred is a musician/singer!), Vicki has been known to decorate a cake or two as well!! I know I've left out a lot of their interests/activities but they are both very busy and involved and I am so thrilled that we will have enthusiastic folks working for, and with, the SW Chapter! I know the WSGA board will be there to answer any questions, help with concerns and support Vicki and Fred might need!!

Motion was set forward to approve the chapter reps for NOP and SW. Motion was approved unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

## **Membership Report** – Reported by jcar

Summary:

97 Family

242 Individual

8 Associates affiliated with a Chapter

3 Associates not affiliated with a Chapter

Recent events had 8 new members and 1 renewal. Since the last board meeting in May we have had an increase of 42 members. Last year at about the same time we had 318 members.

### Chapter Breakdowns

Chapters	Individual	Family	Associate	Total
Puget Sound	135	48	1	184
Inland Empire	27	11	5	43
North Olympic Peninsula	20	13	1	34
48 North	25	8	0	33
Southwestern	14	4	1	19
South Central	11	7	0	18
Cache-Cadia	10	6	0	16
Unaffiliated	3	0	0	2
Totals	242	97	11	350

Mc3cats asked how does that compare to last year at this time? Jcar replied that we are right on track, and just a little bit ahead.

Mazeracer asked how are we for where we want/need to be? Hydnek replied we don't have specific goals, although we become concerned when chapters start losing members, as NOP has done this year.

## **Treasurer report** - lucymogus reporting.

Current account balances stand at \$7811.91 (pending one deposit)

Campout was fabulous. Income: \$2321.00 Expenses: 2607.42

Block party preliminary numbers income \$2004.00 No direct expenses

Ape Event Preliminary numbers income right around \$3800.00. Expenses \$5767.59 (includes COGS)

(COGS = cost of goods sold, ie coins, hats, lanyards etc, Indirect costs)

For the weekend, we at least broke even or perhaps came out a little ahead.

There followed a short discussion, about the cost, expense and income of the Block Party Weekend, basically we sold coins that we had produced prior and there were not direct costs to the weekend(for example 130 silver ape coins were sold that were produced last year). Also not paid yet was the order for the t-shirts, that we sold at the event, this was not part of the t-shirt expense. We sold t-shirts at the event for \$18 dollars including shipping, the cost of making and shipping these additional shirts was covered by what we charged.

Hydnsek wrapped up the treasurer report by saying: The club is in sound shape financially, which is great. I'm pleased we did our two big events and came out ahead.

### **Merchandise report** - jcar reporting

Summary of what we sold at the Block/Ape Events. .

130 Silver Ape  
29 WSGA 2010  
40 WSGA 2011  
88 Cachekin  
22 WSGA Hats  
53 Ape Shirts

While we were expecting to sell much more APE related items, we still did sell quite a bit. While we did have high expectations, most of the locals have seen these items before at other WSGA events, and many others had seen some of them last year.

Still in inventory

391 Silver Ape  
16 WSGA 2010  
206 WSGA 2011  
500 APE Cachekin

Question was asked about distributing the merchandise to make sure it is available at all events. Hydnsek mentioned that sales have not been strong at events she has been at. Jcar added that Al, Elaine, Bruce myself and Abby have had items we have taken to local events. (idajo2 mentioned that she would like to have some also to sell at events)

Non-trackable swag, we are stocked again for hats and also produced lanyards, which were sold at the events. the lanyards will also be used for the member bonus/swag item this year.

Looking ahead to next year it would be great if we could have a couple of additional items to have available.

1) Besides the 2012 coin we should pursue a cachekin like tag with our logo on it. These are cheap to make and gives us a small trackable item to have for sale, something fresh for next year.

2) Flashlights with our logo on them, specifically for the Ape Event. Looking into you can get an inexpensive one with logo for about \$3. I think it might be worth looking at next year with WSGA and the Ape image on them, we could order the minimum and see how they sell, it could also be used for. (I believe xplorer19 brought this up in the past)

FluteFace asked do we have any WSGA pathtags left from the member giveaway in 2009, jcar reported that there were just a couple left. A short discussion followed on the possibility of having a pathtag as the member giveaway for 2012, tying in to the 10 year anniversary, and making sure to have extras to sell. Hydnsek also mentioned that there should be some non-trackable merchandise that also celebrates the 10th Anniversary.

Jcar will pursue costs of some items over the next few months and report to the board about the cost of items, specifically the cachekinz.

### **2011 WSGA Geocoin update** - Fluteface reporting

In case you didn't know, the first 'iteration' of the 2011 suncatcher coin we received was flawed, one letter was nearly opaque and another was way off color. We declined them and asked for a remake, this time w/ samples. Emma at Oakcoins was great, and worked with us, giving us several samples to choose from. After the samples came in, jcar, Abby and I had a looked and chose what was finally made. The original set was destroyed, saving us the cost of shipping them back. hydNSEK added that we also notified all purchasers of the issue, and offered refunds if they didn't want to wait, but nobody asked for one.

After the report a discussion took place about packaging the coins in packs. After some discussion and input from everyone one the original idea was percolated down to three pack of trackables -- \$25 gets the purchaser: 1 2011 suncatcher, 1 silver ape, and 1 2010 (or 2 cachekinz). A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

### **Thompson Brigade** - reported by acfunk via hydNSEK

We had good attendance at all four events for the Thompson Brigade. The Brigade people were very appreciative and impressed by the events and the turnouts. They had a number of Brigade people asking about geocaching as a result. The Brigade put on a good show each time with arrivals in costume and provided rides in the big canoes for all that were interested. The oldest canoer from our geocaching group was an 80-year old who had never been in a canoe.

HydNSEK added: "I'd like to thank AI for organizing this multi-event in coordination with the Thompson Brigade members and thank our four chapter reps who held events in each of their chapters in conjunction with the brigade landings.: kidvegas, idajo, pazooter, mazeracer."

### **2011 WSGA Campout** - kidvegas19 reporting

The following was an excerpt from the update kidvegas19 gave to the IE Chapter: I wanted to give an update for those on the board who were not able to attend the campout. Two words: Freaking Fantastic!! The only complaint I heard was that there was too much to do in such a short time. So from me and the board I say Thank you Nicole! Thank you Brad! Even the little set backs (whaddy mean the bbq is outta propane?!?!?) made the experience even that much more fun. For those of us that were there we now have something we will talk and laugh about and remember fondly for years to come. I am proud (and extremely lucky) to be the Chapter Rep that was associated with this campout. Thanks again for the wonderful job. People of the 2011 Board of Directors of the Inland Empire Chapter of the Washington State Geocaching Association be proud, very proud of your fellow board members and the event they put on this weekend. No it wasn't the biggest. No it wasn't the most attended. Yes it was the best one yet. Definitely. And the heli-caching was fun!

Well I forgot to actually count the people but we grilled up 96 hamburgers, 43 hot dogs and made 123 pancakes on Sunday

### **2011 Block Party** - hydNSEK reporting

Groundspeak generously comped us a booth, and I had plenty of volunteers. The Block Party was a big success, loved the activities and they did a good job of promoting the new Challenges. We did well at our booth, where we told folks about WSGA and sold merchandise, as previously noted. Groundspeak plans to make this an annual event, and I'd recommend we have a booth each year, as the state organization especially if they comp us each time.

A short discussion ensued and it was agreed that a few Going Ape shirts would be provided to key Groundspeak members who helped or provided assistance.

The plan is for the WSGA to participate each and every year, cost depending.

### **2011 Going Ape!** - hydNSEK reporting

The Tunnel of Light reopened in July, and the weather was MUCH nicer in late August than on July 2 last year. Last year, as you may recall, we charged \$25 and had preregistration mainly because we had to bus folks from Hyak to Annette Lake TH to do the hike up. It was a much more complicated and expensive endeavor. This year, my task was much simpler at least until the APE cache was stolen in June, along with all the other caches along the trail.

After much discussion with Moun10Bike and Groundspeak, they archived the cache and I rejiggered the event slightly to focus on other things like the first challenge cache, which Groundspeak promised us would be the Tunnel, partly for our event and one of our members, hypnopaedia, placed an ape tribute cache, with moun10bike's approval.

Event day - I estimate 400+ people, about what we had last year, weather was outstanding, a tad warm even. We had special appearances by Fen Dweller (scaring the bejeesus out of folks in the tunnel as he guarded his cache) and Sasquatch at the cache site, plus Apezilla at Hyak wearing the log board. Folks from around the world as well as locals. We overflowed parking at one point and we built a good relationship with the State Park rangers, who were pleased with the way we handled the new Discover pass situation they waived the special event fee in lieu of the parking permits and the rangers have already asked if we'll do it again next year. You saw the costs and income earlier - it all came out great, and we even offered free refreshments! Overall, this is our annual gift to the geocaching community, and I hope we'll decide to make it an annual event. We had lots of folks logging that they would be back next year.

Some additional input that was added by others.

1) Make sure day passes are not sold to those that have yearly passes. Make it clear to the parking volunteers to only sell to those that need it.

2) Handout or some form of warning to non-cachers at or near the tunnel.

3) A map of the area handed out as they show up. Many people missed the welcome/swag/refreshment booth area, as they headed straight to the tunnel.

### **Chapter boundaries** - hydnek leading the discussion.

Most of work on this will be 1-1 with chapter reps on your areas, to get this resolved.

The one recommendation that is solid and we can approve for implementation is the shift of the Puget Sound / 48 North chapter boundary to the King/Snohomish county line. A short discussion followed, where jcar pointed out that 23 members are in the area that is considered for boundary change. Fluteface proposed that this be implemented before the end of the year and October 1st was proposed. All members that will be moved will be contacted prior to the move and can stay the Puget Sound Chapter if they choose. It will also be posted appropriately.

The proposal for shifting the Puget Sound / 48 North chapter boundary to the King/Snohomish county line as of Oct 1, 2011 was approved unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Chapter boundaries** – hydnek reporting

WSGA now has a Facebook page -- <http://www.facebook.com/wsga.org>

We are posting regularly with updates for members and anyone else who Likes us. We have 123 friends since we started the page in May. It's getting more traffic than the WSGA site, so recommend you all post your news there in addition to the WSGA site (or in lieu of). The WSGA forums just don't get that much traffic, nor even our home page. Recommend all chapters look into having a Facebook page. kidvegas19 added as of this moment the page now has 124 likes.

### **2012 WSGA Geocoin** – Fluteface reporting

Board previously decided to move coin minting to the fall so we can have it out earlier, the rough design was already chosen in a design contest earlier this year. Nepokama was our winning designer, and Flutey will be working with him on refining and proposing the final design, for what will be our 10th anniversary coin. Flutey - over to you for more.

The plan is to use the Ferry side and Carousel horse side, representing both sides of the state and also keeps the coin orientation the same side to side. If you haven't seen the drawing, see the private forums. Nepokama is willing to work with us. Nepokama also mentioned to hydnek this weekend that he has learned more about coin design since he submitted these designs to us.

Following that there was some discussion on if we should do two coins with a common back and how many of each to order, general consensus was one coin with both sides of the state represented instead of two separate coins.

## **2012 WSGA Campout**

Traditionally the campout has switched sides of the state, since 2011 was on the east, 2012 should be on the west. In addition discussion during the 2011 campout leaned towards the Mountain Loop/Verlot area of Snohomish County, being hosted by the 48 North. The Mountain Loop Hwy has many facets, the Ice Caves, Monte Cristo, Mt Pilchuck, alnimlam's caches, and many other intriguing and cache rich areas.

A possible location has been found in the Masonic Camp outside of Granite Falls, one of the WSGA members, WRASTRO, is a member of the Masons. He has been in touch with the site and has encourage a site visit.

Fluteface accepted on behalf of the 48 North Chapter. A motion was proposed and approved for the 48 North to be the hosts of the 2012 WSGA Campout.

A second proposal was put forward to move the ongoing campout to the last weekend in July for a couple of reasons. For 2012 the Masonic location is not available in early August, it is available at the end of July. It will also put more distance between the campout and Groundspeak events in late August and avoid conflicts with Shop99er's annual events. The motion was put forward and approved unanimously to move the campout date to the last weekend in August going forward.

## **Proposal to move elections to March** - HydNSEK leading the discussion and vote.

Proposing that we move our annual board elections to March, with new board taking office April 1 each year, we have issues each year with elections coinciding with membership renewals and the holidays, and it creates some challenges in the transition. Many other clubs use this timing as well, and it works for them. The Inland Empire Chapter also has the same timeline for their internal elections after the holidays. This would also make it easier for them to select their chapter rep.

Proposal to change the elections to March with the new board taking office April 1st. The 2012 elections held at this end of this year would serve for 15 months, instead of 12. 2013 would be the first full year of the new cycle.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the board.

## **Bylaws revision**

Look towards your email for updates on the bylaw revisions being proposed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:39PM