

Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting January 26, 2012

Hydnsek called WSGA's 1st Business Meeting of the year to order at 7:01PM on January 26, 2012.

Board Members in Attendance: idajo2 (Jo Dunn), jcar (Jim Bertrand), acfunk (Al Funk), Kidvegas19 (Jim Parkman), Mc3Cats (Chris Brue), hydnnsek (Abby Wolfe), Fluteface (Margaret Dunn), mazeracer (Nate Canfield), Mr. Gadget #2 (Gene Reed), Geek&Gopher (Ray Harrison), lucymogus (Elaine Edwards)

Absent: No Board members absent

Guests: ZagMomnDad, Ewald

Others mentioned during the meeting and listed here for reference: Nepokama, Lizzy, Wraastro, Right Wing Wacko, EraSeek, enjoydmoment, tumbleweedpirate, tallgirl84, WaterDreamingWoman, Jester, Ambrosia, KDDid, Navigatorz, K2D2, Travis, lucyandricky, lindalu, Moun10Bike.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the October 27, 2011, Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

Communications – Reported by hydnnsek

The WSGA Facebook page is now the main way we are communicating club info in a timely fashion as it gets viewed more than our WSGA site pages. The newsletter will now be bimonthly rather than monthly, as agreed by the Board and members last August. Visitation remains fairly low on the WSGA site.

Mazeracer asked if it was a problem if Board members didn't have a Facebook page. Hydnnsek said it was not a huge problem, but that the Board member may miss out on some information. She also mentioned that you can join Facebook just to read other pages, like WSGA, and that you don't have to post to your own page.

Mr. Gadget #2 asked for a definition of "communications" and hydnnsek replied it's how we communicate with our members - the WSGA website, the newsletter, and our Facebook page, for example.

Idajo asked if the time will come that we will be encouraged to have Facebook pages for each Chapter to gradually replace the WSGA website. Hydnnsek replied that WSGA will always need a public location for club information, documents and history, and that the WSGA site will remain our primary club venue. She noted that a couple of chapters - IE and PS currently - have their own chapter Facebook pages, although there is no requirement to have one, and she didn't see much traffic on the PS one compared to the main WSGA page. She mentioned that the WSGA website will hopefully be restructured this year.

Bylaws Revisions – Reported by hydnnsek

The Board's final business of 2011 was to approve (unanimously) a substantially revised set of WSGA Bylaws. The new Bylaws took effect January 1, 2012, and will govern the club going forward. The new Bylaws include some significant changes, including an expansion of the Vice President role (now responsible for all membership

duties), sections on our finances, Chapter Representative role, etc. Hydnek asked Board members to review the Bylaws if they hadn't already done so.

Membership – Reported by jcar

We finished 2012 with 376 total members - 258 Individual, 107 Family, and 11 Associate – another club record. On January 1st, we had 100 members, as all memberships are calendar-year. Our current count is 208 members - 122 Individual, 80 Family, and 6 Associate.

Breakdown of totals by chapter:

Puget Sound: 104

48 North: 42

Inland Empire: 14

Olympic Peninsula: 17

Southwest: 5

South Central: 12

Cache-Cadia: 10

Unaffiliated: 4

(Jcar said he would forward the chapter breakdowns by member type to all later).

At this time last year, we had 169 members - 131 Individual, 4 Associate, and 34 Family. So we are ahead of last year's member number at this point in time. The Facebook post earlier this month reminding people to renew and the email renewal notice reminder a week later really boosted renewals. In addition, the 48 North and Puget Sound holiday parties also helped renewals and new memberships, including from some who had forgotten for a couple years to renew. In addition, the 2012 geocoin should spur more renewals when it becomes available.

Hydnek commented that we only have one chapter, Southwest Washington, below the minimum of 10 members required to remain active.

Jcar said he will be sending out a package of membership applications to all Chapter Reps to have on hand at events. The applications are an excellent explanation of all that WSGA does and the benefits of supporting the club. Jcar asked Board members to please have them available at the sign-in table at events and to feel free to let people take them even if they are not joining. Some (of the indecisive ones) eventually do join as jcar has observed, although it might take a while.

Jcar added that when making announcements at your events, make a plug for the WSGA and mention that the forms are available at the table. During both the 48 North Holiday Party and the Puget Sound Party when this was done, it resulted in people coming to the table for renewing or joining. Also, all the officers are in different chapters, and many times they travel to other events in other chapters. If you feel your area's cachers are tired of hearing you speak, ask one of the officers to do so. Remember your Chapter swag allocation and Chapter reimbursement are determined by the number of paid members you have. Finally, don't forget this is the 10th anniversary of the WSGA, which is something you can mention when talking about membership.

Hydnek noted that this is our primary renewal time and is where we get the budget to plan for the year and provide chapter allocations. She said that is one reason it's key to have events early in the year. Hydnek

reminded the Board that the benefits/application file is also on our website if anyone needs it. HydNSEK also reminded Chapter Representatives that per the Bylaws, a chapter must have 10 active members to retain chapter standing and receive an allocation for the year. So far this year, six of the chapters have achieved that.

Jcar said that if Chapter Representatives wanted to see recently lapsed members in their chapter and follow up with them personally, they should go to the website, select Members across the top, followed by "toggle more options." Then scroll down and select your chapter, followed by filling in membership expires of 12/31/2011 and select Go. The list will be all members in the chapter who lapsed at the end of December. Kidvegas19 asked what the deadline was for membership allocation budgeting. HydNSEK replied that we make the allocations in April, so lucymogus will look at membership numbers end of March for the determination. She added that we may make an incremental allocation at the end of summer if numbers grow substantially by then.

Jcar said that he will post in the forums on how a Chapter Representative can get their list of members and lapsed members.

After the meeting, jcar submitted the following member breakdown for inclusion in the minutes:

Chapter Breakdowns		01/24/2012		
Chapters	Individual	Family	Associate	Total
Puget Sound	65	38	1	104
48 North	31	11		42
Inland Empire	9	4	1	14
Olympic Peninsula	5	12		17
Southwestern	2	3		5
South Central	5	7		12
Cache-Cadia	5	5		10
Unaffiliated			4	4
Totals	122	80	6	208

Finances – Reported by lucymogus

The preliminary 2012 budget was sent to the Board.

For 2011, income was \$17,680.76. Expenses: \$16,748.85. Net income: \$931.91. Account total currently at \$6,556.78.

For the 2012 budget: Income \$19,000. Expenses: \$17,745. Net income: \$1,255. However, we have a new event (10th Anniversary) this year and all numbers are subject to change.

Lucymogus asked if everyone had a chance to look over budget details and did anyone have questions or comments. HydNSEK commented that the report and documents sent to the Board were the most complete we've ever had and were extremely useful.

Jcar said we may need a little more for merchandise because of the 10th anniversary activities, but that we can see how it goes over the year.

Lucymogus said membership dues have been streaming in this month (\$1600+ so far just in January). This is the most we've ever had in January. HydNSEK noted that we were still only halfway to last year's total and that more recruiting was needed.

Mc3cats asked if paid raffles would be needed for income this year at events. Lucymogus responded that raffles

are nice fundraisers. Hydnek noted that we made \$1,100 for club funding in raffles last year. She recommended we continue them this year, using same procedure as last year. She reminded Board members that the raffle procedure is in a Board forum thread and that all proceeds go to the general club fund (not retained locally).

Hydnek called for a motion to approve the proposed 2012 budget. Fluteface made the motion. Idajo seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

WSGA 2012 Geocoin – Reported by Fluteface

The 2012 coin is moving along, although we've run into delays because of the Chinese New Year. I'm told that celebrations can last up to two weeks, but a little more on that in a second. I have received samples and met with the designer, mostly discussing colors. Basically, the coins look great, but we feel that there is one minor area of concern, the water on the ferry side. Basically, it is too dark, whether it is translucent, or the pearlized blue on the gold version. We have adjusted the blue colors all around. I have made corrections to the blueprint and submitted it to Oakcoins to submit to the mint.

Oakcoins tells me that nothing will be submitted to China until Monday, because of the mentioned holidays. It stands to reason that there will be some additional delay because of the backlog. But hopefully, because our changes are minor, the delay will be minor. Once the corrections come back and they are approved, we'll order. We have also ordered tracking numbers, and they are waiting in the wings, so to speak.

One other bit of news that is of some concern: we've worked with Emma at Oakcoins for some years. She's been wonderful; very responsive and has bent over backwards for us, as demonstrated with last year's coin. I'm sorry to say that she has left Oakcoins, moving on to greener pastures that fit her life better. We are now working with Rob, who is new. At this point, he doesn't seem to be as responsive as she was. Earlier this week, I asked for an update to our quote to reflect the new numbers, but haven't heard back from him.

It occurs to me that he might be on vacation because of the holiday, but I would hope he would have said something. So we'll see how things go over the next week. With any luck, we'll have them in hand later in February.

Hydnek said that if we get the coins by the end of February, it will still be earlier than in the past. She noted that as soon as we put in the mint order, we can begin selling the coins online.

Hydnek asked Fluteface if she had a recommendation on coin pricing based on our mint fees. FluteFace said she thought it would be best to wait for an estimated ship and/or delivery date before we start selling.

Mr. Gadget #2 asked what we charged in the past. Lucymogus responded that it was \$9 for members/\$12 for nonmembers for last year.

Hydnek said that we needed to decide pricing. Fluteface said she had hoped to have the new quote because it will include the addition of the 20 antique nickel coins which will cost about 50 cents more each. Hydnek agreed that Fluteface had a good point and that if the Board agreed, that we defer the pricing decision till Fluteface has final quote, and then have a price discussion.

Hydnek commented that NepoKama, our coin designer, has been very enthusiastic and helpful.

Fluteface reminded Board members that there were photos in the private coin forum if anyone would like to see them.

Campout 2012 – Reported by Fluteface

Lizzy (Lisa Wasser) has joined me as co-chair for this campout. She lives just a few miles from me and we both live less than 30 minutes from this year's proposed venue. She is very knowledgeable about the area and enthusiastic.

As you probably know, we are hoping to hold it at the Masonic Park up the Mountain Loop Hwy outside of Granite Falls. I have communicated with Wrastro (our Masonic member) and he is committed to be with us for our time there, as is required by Masonic rules. We are tentatively still looking at the last weekend in July. I've sent him a recent message asking for some pricing clarifications before we put numbers together for a proposal. Since those figures aren't here now, I expect we'll have something to put in the private forums in the next week or so, with an email vote. I must say that I hate working with unknown figures, especially involving money. I can only say that this is stretching more than I like, but I'll keep moving forward.

Hydnsek commented that Fluteface's plan sounded reasonable and said that we do want to nail all this down pretty quick, so we have a confirmed date, can get the event published and can start taking registrations, as in previous years. Hydnsek said that acfunk (campout committee chair) and jcar can help Fluteface as needed. Hydnsek said reservations are usually made in January and requested a commitment from Fluteface to push to get reservations done by February 15 so the budget could be approved and the event published in February. Fluteface said she would get it done once she had clarifications and input on the budget.

FluteFace asked where the cache page would go . . . under 48 North or WSGA? Hydnsek answered that it would go under the main WSGA account. She said all the campouts have been under the main WSGA website because it's considered a club wide event. Hydnsek said she would do the event page for Fluteface if she wanted help. Fluteface said she would give Hydnsek the graphics for doing the page.

Hydnsek also pointed out that there are actually two pages that have to be done before the event can go live. The registration page has to be done first and be live before the event page is published on geocaching.com. The registration page lives on the WSGA site, so Fluteface will need to work with Paul (Right Wing Wacko, the website administrator) to get that done once we have the details on pricing, etc.

Hydnsek asked Board members to promote the campout in their chapters when they gave updates at their chapter events. She said that there's a lot to do on Mountain Loop Highway and that we haven't had a campout in 48 North Chapter before.

Merchandise – Reported by jcar

Current Merchandise: Counts are about what they were a couple of reports ago, we have not sold much. We still have a good supply of trackables, 2011, Silver Ape coins and Ape Cachekinz. The 2010 coin is down to the last few and I recommend when we add the 2012 coin to the site we take these off. We can use the remainder as part of the chapter swag for 2012. We have plenty of lanyards and caps. We still have a few GW8 T-shirts in addition to a few 2011 Going Ape shirts. The GW8 will probably be used as Chapter Swag for 2012 as well. We have had many great suggestions the past couple of years for branded items, notebooks/logbooks, flashlights, mini-carabiners, bison tubes, hoodies, and more shirts. Most of this and a few more can be seen in the forum thread, <http://www.wsgaonline.org/forums/index.php?showtopic=323&st=0>. We were hesitant last year because of expenses to do much more than additional caps and member item.

T-shirts: With this being the 10th anniversary we really need a new shirt with logo. Except for event shirts we have not had a new shirt in over three years. I'm no designer, but last time we had large bold printing covering much of the front of the shirt. (Picture is in the forums). I have seen a picture recently where the WSGA had a shirt that had a much smaller logo on the upper left part of the shirt, I think we could easily stick a 10 years in front of or as part of it and make something that looks good and would be sellable. Additional merchandise as mentioned in the forum thread could be funded by sales of these shirts. (Jcar mentioned that pictures of the shirt with the smaller logo could be seen on EraSeek's Facebook profile).

I would like to do the following. We would start by finalizing a design. We would follow that up by doing pre-orders, advertising it on the WSGA Facebook page (this was good for renewals), the site, and the newsletter (a special edition if it falls between newsletters). We would take the pre-orders in addition to the portion of the budgeted amount. The timing would be for at least a month after the coin but within two months.

Member Item: Most of you have heard me mention the postage issues I had with last year's member item (lanyard). I would strongly encourage us to do a pathtag for the 10th anniversary item. This is much cheaper to mail and would save us a lot of money over this year. We should also make enough (1000+) so that we have plenty to sell at events. While not a huge money maker, they are popular. We should have this ordered and ready to send to members either right before (as our summary and maybe even invite to the 10th anniversary events) or right after September. They should also be available for selling at the 10th anniversary events, but we need to make sure we set a few aside for memberships that continue.

Hydnsek said she supported the idea of a new 10th anniversary WSGA t-shirt and a pathtag as our member bonus item (also 10th anniversary theme and our logo). She requested jcar post the report in the Merchandise forum for further review/discussion.

Fluteface said that she felt that the big bold T shirt was too much; a bit more subdued would be nice.

Jcar asked if he could proceed with the design and run it all by everyone via forums and emails for final approvals.

Hydnsek asked if we were working with Maggie, our usual designer. Jcar said he would like to discuss the designer. Hydnsek commented that Maggie had done good designs for us.

Hydnsek said that maybe we could offer it in different colors, like the GS 10th shirts. Jcar said he would like black with green lettering instead of green or white. Hydnsek said she liked purple with green and white lettering. Fluteface said she liked the idea of an initial custom order of many colors for preorder, then a stock of a few colors. Hydnsek agreed that we might want to offer 3 or 4 color options for presale.

Hydnsek asked if we should consider a larger design on the back side. Jcar said that would add cost and that he thought the front was enough.

Hydnsek said she and jcar would work out the details of the shirt to present back to the Board.

Hydnsek asked for opinions on a pathtag with a WSGA logo with 10th anniversary on it as our member bonus this year. Mc3cats, lucymogus, and fluteface said they liked the idea. Fluteface suggested a pathtag in other colors to differentiate it from the prior one.

Mazeracer asked if pathtags were cheaper than cachekinz. Jcar and lucymogus said they were cheaper. Jcar said that if we order a 1000 they are close to \$1 each. Hydnsek added that pathtags were more collectible.

Hydnsek said that she would like to be able to sell them at the August events and that we should consider 'releasing' them around the time of the APE/Block Party weekend.

Jcar said he thought it would depend on how the finances are with the Ape event. He also said the pathtags have a shorter turnaround time than coins and that the last batch of pathtags that we did only took about three weeks.

Hydnsek asked for a motion for a WSGA pathtag as the Member Bonus for 2012; to be released to coincide with the APE/Block Party weekend. Lucymogus so motioned. Mc3cats seconded. The motion passed with one dissenting vote from jcar who said he opposed only because of finances and wanted to wait and make sure that we have the money to make the order.

Hydnsek asked who would be in charge of the pathtag. Fluteface said she could work on the design. Hydnsek suggested that Fluteface work on the design and that jcar serve as overall manager to get them scheduled and

delivered. There was agreement from the Board members for this suggestion.

Chapter Reports

Puget Sound – Reported by Mc3cats

Puget Sound Chapter is going to have a number of events this year:

- First off, a 2/29 event which is a meet and greet at a pizza joint.
- A CITO in April.
- A summer picnic. Not sure of the time with all of the events going on.
- An Anniversary event in Sept. Anti-Aircraft Peak in Cougar Mountain is a possible spot.
- A Holiday event again in Jan of 2013.
- Also thinking of an event that highlights the Puget Sound. An event at the Boeing Renton plant where a tour of the plant is part of the event or an event at the Boeing Air and Space Museum.

Hydnsek commented that 2/29 event attendees will get souvenirs from geocaching.com. She also said that all chapters should be scheduling 1 or 2 CITO's during the year, especially around Earth Day, and that all chapters should be scheduling an anniversary event for Saturday, September 8. The Puget Sound event will feature the 19 founders who were all from the PS Chapter.

48 North – Reported by Fluteface

The first chapter event will be in Bellingham mid to late March. A picnic shelter has been reserved in Mt. Vernon for June 9 for a picnic event. Great start to summer stuff. I like the idea of something like Boeing, April or May? Marysville loved us w/ our CITO in the fall, so I'd like to do one again, but Mid-September this time. A holiday party also seems to work well.

Jcar said that he might get a meet and greet type event together for the south end of the chapter; possibly Jefferson's birthday.

South Central – Reported by mazeracer

On January 30, a meeting is being held with parks & recreation departments for Richland & Pasco to discuss this year's geocoin challenge being a Tri-city event and not just Richland. The plan is to have 3 coins that, once completed, will interlock to be a bigger coin. Supposedly, the Tri-Cities Visitors & Convention Bureau is on Board now, as well as all three city's parks & recreation departments. As in previous years, the lead for organizing the challenge is Jen Wheeler (enjoydmoment), Richland Park Ranger.

A CITO is being planned for February and we are planning to start heading up toward Vantage to set up new caches in hopes of doing another version of the wind farm event. We will plan on it being a 2 day booking at the farm so we don't have issues like last year.

Mazeracer asked if we want to keep the event in the spring or move it to the fall. He said the fall would be warmer (but snakes could be a bit more of a concern). Hydnsek said she thought spring was great and that in the fall, we would need to consider conflicts with the anniversary events and the holiday parties.

Mazeracer said that maybe PSE would be interested in co-funding a coin. Would we want to consider that this year? Hydnsek commented that coins are expensive and not selling as briskly as previous years. She asked about maybe a pathtag or cachekinz. Mazeracer said that it could be viable if PSE is helping foot the bill and we

only get 150 or so.

Hydnsek asked if GCSEWA was still doing the monthly meetings and, if not, then perhaps WSGA could take them on - keep the tradition going and raise our awareness level. Acfunk commented that the meetings could be combined GCSEWA/WSGA meetings every 3 or 4 months.

Mazeracer reported that the chapter did have the 11-11-11 event and it was a success. The chapter also co-hosted a Christmas event (Geohohoho) put on by tumbleweedpirate.

Inland Empire – Reported by kidvegas19

The IE Chapter is going to be busy with our annual Winter Event (Think Spring) on the 26th of February. This event gives out “Oscars” in geo-categories modeled after that famous award show. It will be an appetizer pot luck with a Cupcake Wars contest. It is also the night we hold Board of Director nominations/elections/beginning of indentured servitude.

We have two Leap Year events in the Spokane neighborhood and another in the Clarkston district. March will be the Coeur d' Alene Cache Machine. The chapter is already making plans to help out with that event. April will be CITO of course. Personally I will be going to Geowoodstock in Indiana over Memorial weekend. June is open for bookings. The WSGA Campout is in July. The Block Party / WSGA Ape Event is in August. Not official: Local 10 year anniversary event in September. Not official: Our annual usual Halloween event in October. Not official: We will probably continue the trend and have a 12/12/12 event.

North Olympic Peninsula – Reported by idajo2

The October 2011 Olympic Peninsula Board Report addressed my plan to host 2012 WSGA events in Port Angeles (Clallam Co.), Aberdeen (Grays Harbor Co.), Port Townsend (Jefferson Co.) and Shelton (Mason Co.). I've been working on that plan (and more) and it's coming together nicely. Note: all dates are tentative until the cache page(s) post.

The 2011 Board discussed, several times, the need for “Event Lieutenants” within Chapters that cover large geographic areas; I've moved forward with that process. I talked with RuthAnn Milbert (tallgirl84) in Hoquiam who was very pleased to be asked to help with WSGA activities in Grays Harbor County. RuthAnn and I are collaborating on a February 25th Meet'n'Greet in Aberdeen. She has lived in Grays Harbor County all of her life. She is an avid (and enthusiastic!) geocacher who is looking forward to doing whatever she can to ensure a WSGA presence in that remote area of the OP Chapter. I will be taking WSGA materials (membership applications, contact information, newsletters, etc.) with me to the Aberdeen event and RuthAnn will ensure that new geocachers in the area are made welcome and provided with basic information.

A March 24th Meet'n'Greet, in the Shelton/Belfair area of Mason County is in the planning stages and the cache page will be posted soon.

Teri (and Eric, by default) Burroughs, who live in Port Hadlock, have agreed to act as OP Event Lieutenants for Jefferson County. Teri will be contacting a local Port Hadlock restaurant owner (and friend) on Tuesday (1/31/12) and we will be firming up plans to co-host a mid-May/early-June Meet'n'Greet event in Jefferson County. WSGA Announcements made during the Business Meeting portion of all events preceding the July 27-29 WSGA Campout will include campout announcements, information and encouragement to attend.

After logging a very nicely done geocache in Sequim (Clallam County), I introduced myself to the cache owner, Wanda (WaterDreamingWoman), who is the manager of a large RV campground in the John Wayne Marina. Wanda has offered to co-host, with the WSGA, a potluck/picnic event in September at the campground (which has a spectacular water view!!).

The plan is to be in Port Townsend (Jefferson County), in October, for a CITO event in City Park. Final date to

be determined.

November, 2012, will see a Meet'n'Greet in Purdy (Pierce and Kitsap Counties combined).

Holiday Party? The vote is still out.

I will be posting these dates to the OP forum on the WSGA website. I want to make it clear to OP members that we are hoping to have an active year in this Chapter and, hopefully, give them something to anticipate! Finally, I should have the Olympic Peninsula cache page up and running by the end of the weekend.

Hydnsek commented that idajo had done a great example of rounding up some WSGA members to help host WSGA events so that the Chapter Representative didn't have to do it all. She encouraged all Chapter Representatives to do the same.

Southwest – Reported by Geek&Gopher

Here is what we have planned so far for the year. March Madness Scavenger Hunt (Vancouver) on 3/3, April Fools Scavenger Hunt (Longview/Kelso) on 4/1, May Days Scavenger Hunt (Centralia) on 5/5, our BIG event will be the Geo Fair (Vancouver) on 6/23.

We are looking for 3 volunteers to teach a Geocaching 101, GSAK 101 and Geocaching Containers (Tradition, Clever or Unusual) class. We are hoping to have a couple of rooms indoors for use of PowerPoint Slides for teaching. Lookout Lisa will be there selling Geocaching gear. Anyone out there that's done it before please let us know.

Nothing planned for July and August with everything that's already planned. This fall we will probably do a CITO Event, a couple of Meet-n-Greets and a Holiday Event.

Mazeracer said he had done a GSAK 101 before and had it in Powerpoint to share if desired. Hydnsek said we have the files on our Dropbox share, as well, and asked Geek&Gopher to e-mail her if he wanted access. She mentioned that Jester is another cacher who can talk about GSAK quite knowledgeably. She said he's in Renton but willing to travel to other chapters to hold GSAK classes.

Cache-Cadia – Reported by Mr. Gadget #2

Being this is my first time doing something like this, and not knowing all of the ropes my report is quite brief. I talked to Ambrosia this week about doing an event for 2-29-12. She mentioned that KDdid mentioned doing one also. There will be some new caches placed for those who will need to find a cache for February 29th, to fill that day for the calendar challenge.

The Navigatorz called me the other day and told me about a meeting he was invited to where there is talk about placing caches around three dams to attract folks: Chelan PUD, Army Corp of Engineers at Chief Joseph Dam and at Grand Coulee Dam. I told him about what took place at the wind farm and also suggested that maybe a minted coin would be nice token to give out.

Mc3cats said that an event at the Rocky Reach Dam would be a killer event and that he had connections at Rocky Reach. He said he would be willing to help Mr. Gadget #2 put the event together.

Hydnsek said she liked the dams idea, but to be careful with coins since they aren't cheap and not as quickly snapped up as they once were. She also noted that WSGA wouldn't foot the bill for the coin, so there would need to be another sponsor for it. Hydnsek asked if Mr. Gadget #2 had thought about a CITO yet for April and Earth day.

Mr. Gadget #2 said he thought the dam agencies have deep enough pockets so that if a coin is in the works,

they would sponsor it. HydNSEK asked mazeracer to communicate with Mr. Gadget #2 about sponsored coins like the Tri-Cities Challenge and to put him in touch with Jen Wheeler (enjoydmoment) for more information.

NEW BUSINESS

Donation to Ranger Margaret Anderson Fund – Reported by hydNSEK

As you all know, Ranger Margaret Anderson was killed at Mount Rainier on New Year's Day. We have a good relationship with Mt. Rainier and participate in an annual CITO there. K2D2, the volunteer manager at Rainier, became a cacher after attending my CITO there a few years ago and he was spokesperson during the recent tragedy. We asked our members' input on Facebook about making a donation to the fund created to support Margaret's family and they supported the idea. So after some Board discussion, the Board voted 6-4 to donate \$100 to the Margaret Anderson Donation fund in tribute of her and the support that geocaching receives from the park. When we posted this on Facebook, it was immediately applauded and shared, so I think that was the right decision.

Parks Advocacy – Reported by hydNSEK

Things have been quiet for a while, but right before the holidays, things heated up in the Snoqualmie district of the US Forest Service when a part-time Forest Service employee who doesn't like caching in their area started making noise and got Groundspeak involved. Few people know this, but after the Forest Service formally approached Groundspeak about caches in the Snoqualmie district. Groundspeak was preparing to force-archive over 100 caches in the Snoqualmie ranger district.

But then Bryan contacted me, since we've had good success in negotiating with other park systems and asked if I'd intercede with them. Groundspeak agreed to defer all the archival until the issues were discussed further. Basically, the Forest Service manager doesn't want to do anything, but he has to act when a protest is filed, so I will be talking to them in the next few weeks with a goal of maintaining status quo (i.e. open access to caching on Forest Service lands, no permits or restrictions [outside the existing ones]).

Mc3cats commented that this makes the APE event all that more important since it shows the Forest Service what we are all about. HydNSEK agreed but noted the APE event is on state park land. She said she will be using it, along with some other examples, as evidence of what we do and our park liaison program.

International Geocaching Weekend – Reported by hydNSEK

At our last Board meeting, we discussed making the APE event annual to coincide with the Block Party and the Board deferred a decision until we talked to Groundspeak about partnering and looked at our budget. I have negotiated with Bryan and we've reached an agreement that I hope the Board will now vote to support. Groundspeak would love for us to continue hosting a Going APE (or whatever) event on the third Sunday in August as a companion to their annual Block Party on Saturday. We were granted mega-event status this year - WSGA's first mega-event (and I hosted it - whoo hoo!) - and the event will automatically receive the mega icon this year if we hold it again. Groundspeak has granted a permanent exception to the event guidelines that otherwise would affect this event and Bryan has agreed that Groundspeak will give WSGA a booth at the Block Party FREE every year in return (that otherwise would cost us several hundred dollars) and will cross-promote the APE event on the Block Party page. This all sounds pretty good to me. WE have lots of support from members and visitors to continue doing this, even if there isn't an actual APE Cache - the tunnel, the costumes, the mountains - it's all part of the destination weekend events for folks.

HydNSEK asked for comments. Mc3cats, acfunk, Fluteface, Geek&Gopher, and kidvegas19 commented that they liked the idea.

Lucymogus asked if there was a substitute ape-like cache still there. Jcar and hydNSEK said it was stolen also.

Mr. Gadget #2 said that the logs posted for the event speak for themselves and that people love the event and we should continue doing it.

Lucymogus commented that perhaps we could do a new ape-type cache each year for the event. HydNSEK said that was an interesting idea and that she would talk to the current CO about it.

HydNSEK asked for a motion for WSGA to host the APE event again this August and continuing annually until the Board decides otherwise. Lucymogus made the motion. FluteFace and kidvegas19 seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HydNSEK said she would be willing to manage the event again. She also said that the state parks folks are eager to have us back. They really liked working with us and said the paperwork was a no brainer going forward.

HydNSEK said she would get the event page posted fairly soon, since the block Party page is already up. She asked Lucymogus to assume the budget would be equal to last year for now.

WSGA 10th Anniversary Planning – Reported by hydNSEK

WSGA was founded on September 8, 2002 by 19 folks in the Puget Sound area, in response to the WA State Parks threat to ban caching on their lands. You can see a picture of the founders on the WSGA site if you click Welcome on the home page. Ten years later, here we are: seven chapters, 376 members.

How do we want to celebrate our 10th anniversary? Some initial thoughts I've gathered:

1. Every chapter hosts an anniversary party on Saturday, September 8, 2012. Happily, our anniversary is on a weekend! You can make the party whatever you want and we can discuss specifics like goodies as we go.
2. Shhh! We are minting a special 'founders' version of our 2012 coin, which will be given to each of our founding members (19) at the Puget Sound anniversary party in September. We will also ask them to talk about what caching was like 10 years ago and how the club got started.
3. As discussed, we are creating anniversary version of our T-shirts, the 2012 coin mentions the 10th anniversary, and we're going to make a WSGA anniversary patch.
4. Mc3cats and Terrible Ts have come up with a very cool cache idea around the anniversary. Chris - you're on!

Mc3cats: I had been thinking about doing something VERY special for our 10 year Birthday. After chatting up some locals, the idea of doing a special cache series which would be in the form of W.S.G.A. formed out of mystery caches spread with finals spread around the Western Washington side of the state. In speaking with Ts, we thought it would be awesome to have a West AND East version of the WSGA series!

We would have codes on certain logs with codes that will get you to the final cache where perhaps a special WSGA coin would be the prize for the FTF. This series could be released in September to coincide with our Anniversary events. I would get several West side cachers to chip in and "sponsor" a cache or two so I am not doing it all by myself. East side folks could do the same thing. We were toying around with putting the pattern on the Puget Sound.

HydNSEK said for those who've done the BUGZ, NUTZ, or Peace Sign series, it's the same idea, except with the caches spelling WSGA on the map. She said Mc3cats and his helpers would be responsible for the Wet Side version, and we're hoping JD or one of you East Siders would want to do another WSGA geo-art over there. We can discuss further offline if there's support.

Lucymogus said we could spell WSGA from our southern to our northern border and get every section of our elongated area involved. HydNSEK said we don't want to make the 'art' too big, or it's not readable on a map,

because of all the other caches in between. She said you ideally want a contained area with no other caches.

FluteFace said by her count, we will have one extra founder's coin . . . a possible use for it? Hydnek said we'll see what happens with the founder coins, we might have a couple left, depending on finding all the founders. We can decide as a Board what to do with any extras - auction them, special raffle prize, FTF prize for the series.

Acfunk asked about using regular caches instead of mystery caches. Hydnek said that mystery caches needed to be used for the west side since it would be over water. She suggested using regular caches for the east side. She said the idea of two series, one regular and one puzzle, both spelling out WSGA, would be quite cool. She estimated that it's probably 30-40 caches, based on the other series.

Hydnek asked if there were other thoughts about the 10th anniversary planning.

FluteFace asked if it was possible to have some idea of what time on the 8th PS's event will be beforehand, since founders will be there. She said then chapter events could be organized around that with the idea that, at least locally, members from the non-PS chapters could also meet founders as well. She said maybe we could share founders between chapters. Hydnek said she hoped we can share founders. She just wanted to try to get them all in one place at the PS event.

FluteFace commented that the further out chapters would have a hard time getting here for PS's event. Hydnek agreed but said the reality is the founders live in the PS area, and may or may not want to travel. She said we will have to see when we talk to them which she will be starting soon. She has already talked to Travis, lucyandricky, lindalu, and Moun10Bike.

Lucymogus asked about videoing the founders chat and putting a clip on Facebook or YouTube

Hydnek said she would start a thread to discuss it in the Board forum.

Website Overhaul – Reported by hydnek

Very brief: My personal project for this year is to get the WSGA website overhauled to something more useful. I've been talking to Jim Carson, who does website programming, and my professional area is front end of websites, so we'll get cooking on this with Paul soon. Goal is more site, less forums, easier access to info, etc.

Hydnek asked Board members to please send their thoughts on the website overhaul.

Member Comments

ZagMomnDad: Here's our cut-and-paste. kidvegas19 - lots of space with few caches in the center portion of a straight line from Spokane to the Tri-Cities - we know, we live out in the middle of it. Might allow spelling out WSGA without too much interference from other caches. E-mail us if you're interested. Everyone - Thanks so much for letting us watch the proceedings. We're very impressed with your organization and all of the work you're doing. You guys are definitely organized!

Meeting adjourned at 10:00PM.