

Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting

27 January 2016

AndrewRJ called the January WSGA Business Meeting of the 2061 board to order at 6:33pm.

Board Members in attendance: AndrewRJ (Andrew Johnson), HippyChick1620 (Kristine Norton), Lizzy (Lisa Wasser), Mizdirection (Toni Westgarth), FenChurchE (Fen Eatough), SirKarp (Rob Norenberg), Martin5 (Jerry Martin), Ham_sters (Crystal Stidham), tumbleweedpirates (Mike Lowery), and Mr. Gadget #2 (Gene Reed)

Board Members absent: ClayArtist

Proxies: Lizzy for ClayArtist

Also in Attendance: NepoKama (Mitch Eatough), jcar, Medicine Man of Seattle, PeachandPete (Annette Bailes)

AndrewRJ welcomed the board members, appointees and visitors in attendance.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from 18 November 2015 were approved unanimously

Financial Report

Report by HippyChick1620

November 1, 2015 Starting balance: \$17,583.74

Income:

- Memberships: \$194.00
- Coin sales: \$18.00
- (Total: \$212.00)

Expenses:

- PayPal fees: \$8.15
- Pathtag order: \$817.00
- Mailing: \$2.04
- Chapter Allocations: \$582.24
- Total (\$1,409.43)

November 30, 2015 ending balance: \$16,386.31 (\$1197.43 loss)

December 1, 2015 Starting balance: \$16,386.31

Income:

- Memberships: 839.50
- Coin sales: \$36.00
- Misc. Sales: \$37.00
- (Total: \$912.50)

Expenses:

- PayPal fees: \$44.49
- Mailing: \$6.14
- Chapter Allocations: \$563.03
- Sponsorship: \$300.00
- Stop payment fee: \$15.00
- Total (\$928.66)

December 31, 2015 ending balance: \$16,370.15 (\$16.16 loss)

Comments:

HippyChick1620 filled the board in on the situation with PayPal and working with them to get our tax ID information updated. She reported that after a lot of red tape, PayPal was back up and ready to process our transactions.

WSGA Merchandise and 2016 Geocoin

Report by NepoKama

We have a small selection of merchandise remaining available consisting of APE swag, Pathtags from the last two years, the remaining non-trackable green shirts, some hoodies, and a few older items. I have the list of TB tracking codes for use on shirts now, so we can follow up on making the remaining green shirts trackable if we want to do so.

The first round of 2016 coin factory blueprints has been received and sent back for some minor corrections. Due to the Chinese New Year factory closures we do not expect to have coins in hand until March.

Comments:

There was some discussion about the idea of having pre-sales for the next coin, to get an idea for how many to mint, but there was some worry that it would put the arrival of the coins well after the PayPal refund window for people.

Change of South Central Chapter Representative

AndrewRJ motioned that the board accept tumbleweedpirates resignation, with a vote of thanks for all his hard work over the years, and to also welcome in Ham_sters as the new chapter rep. Motion passed unanimously.

2016 Campout

Report by AndrewRJ

As we currently do not have an active host from the south central chapter little progress has been made on the planning of the events of the campout. Despite moving the campout date to better match availability within the chapter we have been unable to find a person who is willing to manage the onsite activities of the campout.

A tentative budget for the campout was discussed but not finalized.

Budget

Cost for Attending the Campout

<u>----- Member ---- Non-Member</u>		
Tent Camping -----	\$30	----- \$40
RV Dry -----	\$40	----- \$55
RV Utility -----	\$70	----- \$90(cost)
Dinner & Gift Bag ----	\$8	----- \$10
Kids (under 10) -----	Free	----- Free

Revised Budget

A revised budget using these prices and estimated attendance numbers is provided below.

Income

<u>----- Attendees ---- Reservation ---- Total</u>			
RVs Dry -----	6	----- \$40	----- \$240
RVs Utility -----	8	----- \$70	----- \$560
Tents -----	20	----- \$30	----- \$600
Dinner (Adults) ---	100	----- \$8	----- \$800
<u>Total Income -----</u>			<u>\$2,200</u>

Expenses

Private RV Site -----	4	--- \$88	----- \$352
Group Site -----			\$500
Path Tags -----			\$250
Food & Supplies -----			\$600
Misc. Charges -----			\$28
<u>Total Expenses -----</u>			<u>\$1,730</u>

Based on the two areas for RVs I feel like we should have members get first crack at the RV spots within the Group area itself.

The next step is to get the event page up and open registration. One of the largest problems at

the moment is that we don't have someone to run the dinner. I don't want to advertise a dinner without the ability to hold one. With the current lack of a campout host I am hesitant to claim that there will be a dinner.

Background

We have successfully reserved the Maryhill State Park group campsite and 4 additional RV sites for the 2016 WSGA Campout. In order to ensure we got the group site for the time period we made the reservation on Wednesday, October 17, 2015 for 7 days, Wednesday, July 17 through Sunday, July 24, 2016. The reservation cost at that time was \$490.60.

On November 9, 2014, We also reserved four extra RV sites located near the group campsite to have a total of 14 to offer to our attendees. The cost for these four extra RV sites was \$352.

In January I modified the reservation and changed the dates for the reservation of the campsite to Friday, July 22 through Sunday, July 24, 2016. We were refunded \$336.72, the cost of 5 days, minus the reservation change fee of \$8.00. The final cost for the group site at Maryhill State Park is based on the number of campers with the price increasing for each 25 campers. Based on our estimated number of campers (51) we have an estimated cost for the group site of \$413.66

For this cost we receive the group camp, shelter, fire pit, 4 RV spots with hookups, and 6 RV non hookups (Dry camping). Adding the cost of the 4 RV spots with hookups also reserved in the main camping area we anticipate a total cost for all camping of \$765.66.

The total spent so far is \$505.88

Summary

We have reservations for Maryhill State Park's Group Campsite and RV spots for Friday, July 22 through July 24, 2015. The WSGA has paid \$505.88 for this reservation. We are currently discussing a potential budget for the campout.

Comments:

NepoKama mentioned that he has already started working on a design for the campout pathtag and will be posting samples to the forums.

It was motioned to finalize the posted budget for the campout. Motion passed unanimously.

Ape Mega-Event

Report by AndrewRJ

The 2016 Ape mega-event is Saturday, Aug. 20, at Hyak in Iron Horse State Park. Without the associated Block Party this year will feel small by previous standards but we should still easily reach mega-event status. It will be nice to know that we can easily handle the crowds this year.

The event page is up, and we have signed the Mega Event agreement with Geocaching HQ. Following the end of the month we will obtain our insurance binder, and I will apply for the park permit. I have received several offers of help at the event and have begun developing a list of offers. I believe all of the crew chiefs have agreed to come back so we are already doing well.

Comments:

AndrewRJ reported that there is an outside group that volunteers at events like this just for fun that we should consider approaching. NepoKama is looking for suggestions and ideas for the APE Geocoin. Martin5 brought up the idea of moving the event to Sunday, to hopefully avoid conflict with an event in Spokane that same Saturday. A vote was taken on the proposal with nine votes to stay on Saturday and one abstention.

WSGA Parks Liaison Manager Report

Report by Annette of Peach & Pete

Park Liaison issues seem to be very low-key or have not been conveyed to me. One new appointment for Park Liaison – Abby Wolfe has stepped up and volunteered to once again serve as Bellevue Parks Liaison, in addition to the other areas which she serves. I thanked her for her continuing support of WSGA and Park Liaisons.

Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park has recently adopted official geocaching guidelines as of January 2016. Hydnek the geocaching Liaison, reports that word-of-mouth sufficed for several years, but after a couple of recent incidents, she and the Cougar rangers agreed that it was time for written guidelines. These guidelines are available from Hydnek, the Cougar head ranger (Duane-Jay Evans), and in the Park Contacts and Policies thread on the WSGA website.

As stated above, I have not been contacted by any Park Liaisons with any issues in their areas so it appears to me that we have no concerns at this time. Please let me know if you hear of any problems with any of the Parks as it relates to WSGA and geocaching, or if you have ideas for the Parks Liaison area of WSGA.

Comments:

None

Membership Report

Report by Lizzy

Membership Counts and Chapter Breakdowns as of 1/21/2016

Chapters	Current Accounts				Current TOTALS	
	Individual	Family	Assoc/Ind	Assoc/Fam	Accounts	Members
Puget Sound	47	39	1	0	87	148
48 North	24	14	0	0	38	60

Inland Empire	11	5	2	1	19	32
South Central	7	6	1	0	14	23
Olympic Peninsula	8	6	0	0	14	23
Southwest	5	3	2	1	11	19
Cache-Cadia	6	4	0	0	10	17
Unaffiliated	0	0	1	0	1	1
YTD CHAPTER TOTALS	108	77	7	2	194	323
LAST REPORTED	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Gains	108	77	7	2	194	323

Chapters	Totals at 12/31/2015		Totals a Year Ago		This Year compare to Last Year	
	Accounts	Members	Accounts	Members	Trend	Percent
Puget Sound	235	265	94	170	↘	-7.45%
48 North	98	100	33	63	↗	15.15%
Inland Empire	51	66	27	44	↘	-29.63%
South Central	37	49	10	20	↗	40.00%
Olympic Peninsula	37	42	12	17	↗	16.67%
Southwest	30	47	7	11	↗	57.14%
Cache-Cadia	27	29	16	21	↘	-37.50%
Unaffiliated	2	5	3	3	↘	-66.67%
Totals			202	349	↘	-3.96%

Chapters	Accounts	
	New this Year	Renewals
Puget Sound	4	83
48 North	1	37
Inland Empire	2	17
South Central	1	13
Olympic Peninsula	0	14
Southwest	1	10
Cache-Cadia	0	10
Unaffiliated	0	1
TOTAL	9	185

Report Detail as of 1/21/2016:

The comparisons to this time last year will be slightly off, as we reported last year's totals about a week later in the year.

After the member bonus went out at the end of December, we had a flood of renewals. I guess that was as good a renewal reminder as any - as many members realized they did not receive a 2016 name badge/had not renewed.

We are currently at about 54% of our total membership for all of 2015 and it's only the first month! We have 9 brand new accounts already for 2016. The biggest new member gain goes to the Puget Sound Chapter with 4 new accounts.

The trend for total membership compared to last year is down about 4%. South Central and Southwest Chapters show the largest gains when comparing to last year's numbers at this same time. That reflects a lot of hard work being put in by those chapters. Congratulations!

All 2016 Membership Badges and all 2015 Member Bonus's have been mailed out. We had a glitch in our notification system in early December which caused a number of renewals to not be processed. As soon as members made us aware, we were able to get those processed. We feel confident that we have accounted for all of these now. If any of your members have not received theirs, please contact me so that we can resolve any issues. We can't fix problems that we are unaware of.

Comments:

AndrewRJ reported he will be working with the webmaster to fix the bug in the membership listings on the website.

Volunteer Awards

Report by AndrewRJ

Since the last board meeting I received all the chapter recipients, ahead of the announcements and presentations. Most of the Chapter Reps announced their chapter award recipients at their holiday parties, and I hope that all the award coins have been delivered to the recipients. I will be posting the complete recognition list, on the WSGA site soon, with an announcement on the home page and on our Facebook page.

Congratulations and thanks again to our 2015 Volunteers of the Year – without you, we wouldn't have a club.

Comments:

None

Chapter Reports

Southwest Chapter report by verano

40 people attended the Get Ready for Winter event in Longview.

Upcoming events are:

GeoTrivia in Vancouver, WA 1/28

Intro to Geocaching in Vancouver, WA 2/23

Early bird Leap Day in Vancouver, WA 2/29

Pi Day event in Centralia, WA 3/14

Intro to Geocaching in Stevenson, probably April

Spring event held jointly with GEOregon, probably May

I continue to attend the GEOregon meetings and cross-post all upcoming SW WA activities on the Portland Geocaching FB page.

I have emailed all my members the news that I will be stepping down and have asked all to consider running for SW rep.

South Central Chapter report by tumbleweedpirates

After 9 months of searching we have found a replacement for our region. This will allow me to resign at next meeting and have Crystal Stidham- Hamsters take my place before she changes her mind! I know we still have to have the vote and all but I am sure the results will stand.

I am typing this with a cast on my hand and there is no good way to do it, so this will be short and sweet.

Our Geo HoHoHo 2015 event in Dec. was and is a hit! AC Funk helped out more this year by helping place caches and as always hosted at his house. It looks like next year we may need a bigger place though.

We then had a News Years day breakfast and it was well attended.

We are planning a Feb 29th event with dinner and ice cream.

This next weekend with the help of Friends of Sacajawea and Richland Parks I will be seating with Friends at the Family Expo which annually host 10,000 families. I will have flyers donated by Richland, hopefully, to hand out. I will not hang the WSGA banner because I don't have permission but if ya want me to I can. The main point is to show how our local State Park host Geocaching. I will also help spread the word of Geocaching a with Friends at our local Outdoor Show which has a larger gathering in April.

Also in April we will host our CITO at Sacajawea Park.

In mid March our team will get together to help provide a luncheon at the Cache Machine and I hope to meet you all there. Unfortunately it will be a lunch event hosted by private dollars so it won't be a WSGA event but we will fly the WSGA flag since mostly members will host it.

Inland Empire Chapter report by Martin 5

Past Chapter Events:

4th Annual IE Chapter WSGA Christmas Party | GC67K1Z | Spokane 12/20/2015 | 12 Attended logs posted, about 20+ in attendance. Attendance was low due to conflicting with a football game taking place at the same time.

Goodbye 2015 | GC62CNN | Spokane Valley (Cache Cave) 12/31/2015 | 32 Attended logs posted, about 50+ in attendance.

Upcoming Chapter Events:

10th Annual WSGA Winter Party | GC69YEB | Spokane Valley 02/20/2016

Upcoming Area Events:

5th Annual Pre-Game Tailgate Party | GC6938D | Spokane Valley 02/07/2016 | by Martin 5

5th Annual Presidential Hike (CITO) | GC6938H | Liberty Lake 02/15/2016 | by Martin 5

2016 Leap Year Multi Event - Spokane! Edition | GC68QJM | Spokane Valley 02/29/2016 | by KidVegas19 and KC7DQM

Other areas of interest:

On 01/18/2016 Derik and Kathryn Reed (derikkathryn) hosted *lilgeodave rings the bell!* | GC6852W | at the Spokane Ronald McDonald House (RMH). Derik and Kathryn are from Helena, Montana, but became a big part of our local IE Chapter community after their son, David (lilgeodave), was diagnosis with cancer 3 ½ years ago. David and Kathryn lived at the RMH for eight months in the first stages of David's treatment and then the family made monthly visits to Spokane for treatment the next 2 ½ years. The event was a big success, especially as it marked David, 10 years old, ringing the bell to indicate he is now cancer free.

The event was also a joint Munzee event (I know some of you will cringe at this!), as the Reeds are well known in the Munzee community. Rob Vardeman (coachV), fellow geocacher and the President of Munzee Inc., flew to Spokane from Texas to attend this joint event. He also presented the Spokane Ronald McDonald House with a check for \$25,000 which was raised in just three days by the worldwide Munzee community. He previously also presented the Spokane RMH with a \$25,000 back in June of 2014.

Topics for discussion?:

1) Lookout Lisa (Cache Advance) is planning a 2nd Annual Spokane History GeoTour (SHGT) this summer. Here's the thing, she would like to hold/promote the kick-off event on the Saturday formerly occupied by the Block Party. I have notified her that the WSGA is planning on holding the APE event also on this same Saturday.

I have been asked by the SHGT planning committee to see if the WSGA board would reconsider keeping the APE event on Sunday, so as to not conflict with their plans to hold the

SHGT kickoff on Saturday. I said I would, so here it is. I also pointed out a concern to the planning committee that I have with the idea of the SHGT kickoff and APE being on the same weekend. The intent of the SHGT is to promote people visiting Spokane and staying in Spokane hotel accommodations. The tour really is not something which can be accomplished in a single day. I have the concern that people will not be able to complete the tour on Saturday and still be able to attend the APE on Sunday. It seems it would be one or the other and I really feel the APE as a Mega would win out in the end, as the SHGT itself can be completed at any time and not just on kickoff weekend.

2) I would also like to see if we can discuss chapter allotments, specifically the time frame in which they must be used. The IE Chapter runs into the same issue every year. Our largest event is our annual winter party at the end of February, which is also where we spend the majority of our allotment. Unfortunately, we must use on the funds received from the previous year to make this happen, as we will not received the current year's funds in time for the event. Is it possible we can officially make the time frame in which to spend the funds longer, instead of being the calendar year? For chapters whose big event is their Christmas party the current system works, but it really doesn't with our chapter. Your assistance on this would be greatly appreciated.

Cache-Cadia Chapter report by Mr. Gadget #2

Activities are off to a fast start for the Cache-Cadian Chapter since our last meeting. Starting off on December 9th, we had our Cache-Cadian 2015 Christmas Party and had one of our largest turnouts, There were gifts given out for everyone attending. We spent our total Chapter allotment for prizes this year. (along this subject we haven't been reimbursed yet tor our expenses)

The new years got started off with several events. "Out with the Old Desert Social Good Bye 2015" was hosted by Go-pher-it early on New Years Eve, and then Good Bye 2015, Come On 2016 was host by Mr. Gadget #2 Then on New Years Day, Welcome 2016 Caching Brunch by Go-pher-it and he did the cooking for the breakfast.

New events planned and scheduled are "Do the Cache- Cadia Leap II" (GC6A5H6) is submitted for February 29, 2016. I am working on another "pi day" event for March 14, 2016.

Olympic Peninsula Chapter report by ClayArtist

Early in January, I sent out direct emails to all the current OP Chapter Members, letting them know I would not be running for the OP Chapter Rep position again and it was going to be open. I invited them to consider running and let them know they can nominate themselves. As of today, I have not had any response. Hopefully, the advertising on FB, etc. will get some interest going. This makes me sad that I was unable to get people excited and build WSGA membership in this Chapter. I realize this might lead to this chapter dissolving, which was the situation it was in, when I stepped up two years ago, to volunteer. I am hopeful there may be

someone who will raise their hand before the elections. I feel bad that I cannot continue, but I know it just would not work out. Possibly down the road, at some time, I can help.

I have spent a little time visiting with goblindust this past month and there is a big Pirate Ship Adventure event being planned for August. They are planning an all-day event, with several sailings out of Port Orchard, on the Lady Washington. He is working with GC.com, to have some lab caches at this. It's too early to actually post the event on geocaching.com, but he is selling tickets for the ship already at the following link:

<http://tallshipsevent2016.brownpapertickets.com/>

So, watch for the event to be published. However, he is already getting the word out about the ship ticket sales, so it's never too early to get those.

48 North Chapter report by mizdirection

Keeping it simple. We had a great holiday party where everyone who attended received a prize. The potluck food was fantastic!

The 2 CITO's on February 6 and 7 are coming up and making sure we have all the necessary tools available.

Working with Ranger Kevin on having Rasar State Park as the location for the 2017 WSGA Campout location.

A small meet and greet by the Skagit Regional Airport is currently being planned.

Great Balls of Fire wants to thank the entire board for your support and donation.

I will be working with the interpretive Specialist at Rockport State Park on Thursday the 28th. This is to educate her on caching, so that she can hide caches in the park and so that we may work with more groups on the educational and healthy benefits of caching.

Puget Sound Chapter report by SirKarp

This has been a very busy period for the chapter, event wise since the last report.

Events Held:

On 12-5-15 GC65W3X – Krampus Day Meet & Greet. We hadn't held an event in the southern part of the chapter for a while so we held this one at the Izzy's Pizza, in the Lacey. The location is place that the previous chapter rep. (Chris ~ Mc3cats) had recommended, and it did work out well. The restaurant included a Banquet room almost big enough to hold all of us. We held a WSGA members drawing and general raffle. We also signed up a few new WSGA members as renewed a few as well.

12-31-15 GC67RMC – Goodbye 2015. This wasn't an event we planned to hold at the last meeting, but with the souvenir from geocaching.com, we thought it would be fun. We didn't do anything fancy at this event, but we did meet up at the north gazebo at the Gene Coulon Memorial Park, in Renton, which is located right on the shore of lake Washington. We had a fire

in the fire pit, and watched the holiday lights in the park while talking caching. A good time was had by all I believe, and we had a whopping 55 logged attendees, which I think is pretty darn good for an outdoor event at the end of December!

1-17-16 GC6764Q – Puget Sound Holiday Party. Due to rising costs at the Kennydale Memorial hall, where the P/S holiday party has been at for the last several years, we had to change venues, moving the holiday party to the Maple Valley Community Club. We had a sock hop theme potluck. We served up the last remaining food items from earlier events, so we had hamburgers, hot dogs and soda to add to the potluck table. We had the use of a very nice facility, their sound system and commercial kitchen, which was great for the potluck. We had a prize drawing for the early bird (folks that logged their will attend 1 week or more before the event), the prize was a ready to go cache container loaded with goodies. We held the WSGA members drawing, with the prize being an ammo can ready to go as cache container, loaded with WSGA swag, and the coordinates to FTF a nearby cache (thanks to AndrewRJ for handling placement of the cache). Normally that is it for the WSGA members drawing, but since this is the holiday event and membership renewal time, we wanted to do something extra special. We also raffled off 30 small lunch box cache container with a log book, stash note, bottle of hand sanitizer, a package of pens and a flashlight (flashlights were a donation from a business that wants to remain anonymous). So for less than \$50 we were able to give a holiday gift to many of our members. Lesson learned however is to narrow the WSGA tickets to one per WSGA membership. We had originally figured on having enough to allow all badge holders including family members to get in on the raffle but we ran out of prizes too soon to allow this again. We also had the traditional white elephant gift exchange.

Up and coming events:

While we don't have any events immediate on the books, we are looking ahead in the year. We have not picked the location for the Puget Sound summer picnic, but I got some good leads from one of the attendees at the Holiday Party.

We have set the reservation for the third annual Haunted nightmare event, which will be on Saturday October 22nd 2016. As in previous years we are looking for folks that are interested in helping with that event.

I'm hoping to host, or better yet co-host, a CITO in the spring this year. I made an announcement at the holiday event asking if anyone knew of a needy park and was interested in co-hosting the event. So far no one come forward.

As most of us are well aware geocaching has two souvenirs for leap day, one of which is for attending an event on leap day. Since a cacher in the area Avroair, who hosts occasional popular events has chosen to host an event that day, I'm planning to attend his event rather than putting one on. As it is a weekday I wouldn't be able to host an event very far from home, and it would have to be after work, which would put any event I put on in the same part of the chapter, at about the same time. I don't want to compete with him for attendees, or divide attendance, so I have chosen to attend his event rather than host one.

On another note, with all of the folks on the board that are retiring are this year, I just wanted to let you all know that I intend to run again for Puget Sound Chapter Rep.

That is all I have at this time.

New Business

Elections & Nominations

It's time for our annual Board elections. As you know, all Board members serve for one year, with elections held each March for terms running April 1 to March 31. There are 11 elected positions: 4 officers and 7 chapter reps. The officers can come from anywhere in Washington, while Chapter reps must reside in their chapter area.

Tonight, we'll open nominations for the 2016 Board election. The nomination deadline is Feb. 15, and elections will be March 1–15. If there are no contested positions, we can approve the slate by acclamation.

The Vice President is in charge of the election process. This year, that's Lizzy. The first order of business is forming the Nominating Committee, which is comprised of the Vice President and two other Board members. Its functions are to solicit nominations for all positions and to verify that all nominees are current WSGA members, understand the responsibilities, and accept their nomination.

Comments:

Mizdirection and AndrewRJ volunteered to help Lizzy on the Nominating Committee. There was some discussion about who would be interested in remaining in their positions on the board for the new term, as well as ideas for people who might be willing to work on the board the next year.

Chapter Allotments

Martin5 made a request that chapters be given until the end of February to use up the previous year's funds, as many chapters do not hold their End of Year/Holiday events until well into January (and sometimes later). It was suggested that we tie allotments in with terms of office for representatives and restart the fiscal year in April. Hippyck1620 explained how the current system is working with an initial allotment given for the period between 1 January and 31 March, then on 1 April the full chapter allotment is calculated. She runs the calculations again 1 September and updates their allocation. They have until 31 December to use these funds, or 31 January if they notify her in advance. It was decided to move the discussion to the forums to work out the difficulties in either changing the dates on the allotments or just extending the grace period for when the previous year's funds could be used, and to give Hippyck1620 time to look into the tax ramifications, if any.

Meeting was adjourned by AndrewRJ at 8:37pm