

# Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting

January 31, 2013

Hydnsek called WSGA's 1st Business Meeting of the year to order at 6:40PM on January 31, 2013.

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

Absent: mazeracer (Nate Canfield)

Guests: NepoKama (WSGA Geocoin and Pathtags Manager), hippychick, benandjayme, psykokiwi, ZagMomnDad, Cacheikers

Others mentioned during the meeting and listed here for reference: Rey del Roble, martin5, enjoydmoment, swaninwa, GrievousAngel, Slrkarp, tumbleweedpirates, Skark166

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## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the December 13, 2012 Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

### **Membership** – Reported by jcar

Membership Count and Chapter Breakdowns: 1/31/2013

Chapters	Individual	Family	Associate	Total
Puget Sound	64	46	0	110
48 North	20	18	1	39
Olympic Peninsula	8	6	0	14
Inland Empire	8	7	0	15
South Central	6	8	0	14
Cache-Cadia	5	3	0	8
Southwest	5	5	0	10
Unaffiliated	0	0	1	1
Totals as of 11/30/2012	116	93	2	211

At the end of 2012 we had 379 paid members: Individual members - 213, Family - 153, Associates - 13. This represents a slight uptick from the prior end of year numbers. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, we had 131 paid members, much more than the same time last year. This I believe is due to building a stronger core membership that continues to grow. While there are always people that join for a year and drift off to other activities, our core is growing and stable.

On January 31st we have 211 paid members: Individual members - 116, Family - 93, Associates - 2. Last year at this time our count was 208 members: 122 Individual, 80 Family, and 6 Associate.

We have not sent out the email reminder for membership renewal yet. We will be doing that soon in conjunction with the elections notice and will be asking for nominations from our members at large.

I will post the end of January numbers in the 2013 membership counts thread in the next few days.

Hydnsek said that she will be sending out the renewal email and newsletter in the next week or so and that she had already posted reminders in our Facebook page and website.

Hydnsek asked jcar to discuss the topic of the new member patch/pathtag.

Jcar said new members currently receive a WSGA patch. He is going to do a reorder since there are only a few left. He suggested that WSGA do something new and provide new members with a WSGA pathtag. If we have patches left when we make the switch, we can sell them.

After discussion by the Board, Hydnsek asked for a motion to retire our patches and create a WSGA undated pathtag as our new member gift. Acfunk made the motion. Kidvegas19 seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Hydnsek said initial quantity, budget and timing could be discussed offline with NepoKama.

### **Finances** – Reported by lucymogus

Current funds are just over \$10,000 right now. New membership revenue is coming in well in January. The proposed budget is showing income of \$26,000 and expenses over \$21,000. That is subject to change at this point.

Hydnsek reminded chapter representatives that they need to get any unreimbursed receipts turned in now.

Hydnsek asked if there were any comments on the budgets she submitted for both the ape event and the state parks project. Board members commented the budget looked good. She asked for a motion to approve both budgets as proposed. Idajo2 made the motion. Mr. Gadget#2 seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Hydnsek reminded chapter representatives that, per the revised Bylaws, all chapters have an initial allocation of \$50 in January, which can be used and reimbursed ahead of getting the chapter's full allocation in April.

Hydnsek called for a vote to approve the proposed 2013 budget. She said that lucymogus did a great job of preparing it and asked to hear a motion to approve the 2013 budget as presented. Acfunk made the motion. Mc3cats seconded. The budget was approved unanimously.

### **Merchandise** – Reported by jcar

Jcar reported that the Puget Sound holiday party brought in over \$1000 in combined membership and merchandise sales. He said the hoodies sold very well. He expected that sales at the Rey del Roble Great Balls of Fire event in February would be about the same.

Hydnsek said that she and jcar were sorting out the postage issues and that website sale pages would be up soon.

### **Geocoin 2013** – Reported by NepoKama

We have two possible designs for the coin and need to decide which is being done and get the final costs. I didn't get the final quote from Oakcoins yet. At this point we are expecting the cost to come in close to \$4 per coin plus the die fees for either design. This does not include the tracking codes which add \$1.50 per coin and \$150 for a custom icon.

I'm expecting the total cost before shipping to be between right around \$1800 for the planned 280 coins. The two designs are posted on the geocoin forum and are: 1) the Apple/Rhododendron, and 2) the Grand Coulee Dam/Seattle Space Needle.

Hydnsek suggested we use both designs, one this year and one next. Board members agreed this was a good idea. Hydnsek asked Board members to state their favorite and the winner would be the design for this year. Board member preference was tied so NepoKama was asked for a tiebreaker vote. His vote was for the Apple/Rhododendron. It was agreed that the Apple/Rhododendron would be the design for 2013 and the Grand Coulee Dam/Seattle Space Needle would be the design for 2014.

NepoKama said he would follow up with Oakcoins on the quote the following day.

Jcar asked about when we will decide on coin numbers and selling costs. NepoKama said that the current plan was for 250 regular edition for sales and 30 for volunteers. He said that if the quote comes in as expected the costs to WSGA will be about \$6.50 per coin.

Jcar asked if we should do as many as last year since the current coin sold out. Hydnsek said the discussion on number of coins and the price could be discussed further in the forum thread.

### **Campout 2013** – Reported by Geek&Gopher

The WSGA has a confirmed and paid for the campout reservation on the proposed dates of July 26-28, 2013. We have reserved 16 RV and 21 tent sites and also the use of the Timberlake Hall for the weekend. The event and registration pages are live and ready for use. We put a lot of information on the event page so you can see what we have planned and what there is to do in the local area. We already have 11 "Will Attend" and 2 actual reservations so far.

We are currently working on getting donations for our activity prizes and raffle drawings. We are also looking at no host outings for Saturday as well.

Several Board members commented that they were planning to attend the campout.

### **International Geocaching Weekend 2013** – Reported by hydnek

The International Geocaching Weekend consists of the Groundspeak Block Party and the Ape Event. For the Block Party, we will again have a booth subsidized by Groundspeak. I'll be calling for volunteers to staff it sometime soon.

The Ape Event will event will be about the same as last year with two key changes: 1) volunteers staffed outside both ends of the tunnel for safety and awareness, and 2) preorder of ape coins and t-shirts so we have enough for attendees. We had also been asked about having vendor booths, since it's a mega, but the state parks didn't like that idea, and it would mean we'd have to register as a commercial organization, which would greatly increase our fees and liability. I recommend we continue as the low-key mega that we have been.

FluteFace asked what were the safety issues in the tunnel. NepoKama said bicycles hitting pedestrians. Hydnek said the volunteers at each tunnel entrance would make participants aware of the crowds and monsters inside so we don't have instances of bikes/dogs/people colliding, as happened a couple times last year.

### **Washington State Parks Geotour** – Reported by hydnek

In December, Parks Director Hoch signed a revised Geocaching Directive that is MUCH friendlier to geocachers. My discussion with the state parks turned to the geocaching challenge which originally we wanted to kick off March 30, but upon reconsideration of several factors, we've moved it to June 7. This new date seemed like a great time to launch it - the beginning of summer, a free weekend at the parks (national get outdoors day), the roads over the passes should be open, school is mostly out, and several upcoming caching events around the state.

State Parks has talked to Groundspeak and agreed to a GeoTour, so now they are discussing the contract. NepoKama has almost finished the coin design, and we should be signing off on that soon. One side of the coin will be the state parks centennial logo, the other side will be WSGA's logo - showing our partnership.

As for the GeoTour (geochallenge), the basics are: 100 caches in 100 parks for 100 years - that's the tag line. I am currently soliciting cachers (WSGA members) to sign up for cache placement. The biggest challenge will be finding members who are willing to place caches in the more remote parks (from our perspective) – the Palouse Falls and Lake Lenore and Cape Disappointment type areas.

For the challenge, there will be two levels: 100 caches and 50 caches. For 100 caches (all of them), you get the gold coin, of which there will be only 30. For 50 caches, or half the parks, you get the silver coin, of which there are 180.

Hydnek said she had put together a complete project plan and schedule and distributed it and hoped to have most of the park parings done by mid-February.

NepoKama said that the pricing estimate for the challenge coins was done with last year's cost guide. He said given the raise in factory rates in the last couple of weeks that we may come in at about \$1600 for the 250 coins instead of \$1500.

Hydnek mentioned that as part of the revised directive, the state parks are requiring that ALL existing caches on state park lands be brought into compliance with the directive. There are still a fair number of noncompliant caches – i.e. no permit, the required language not on the pages, some caches need maintenance or aren't in good spots. She said that in her project plan, she provided for taking care of this by May. WSGA will be handling this with Groundspeak on the parks' behalf. The parks are compiling a list, as are some cachers, to be sure we get them all. There will be no sacred cows - if a cache owner can't be contacted for upkeep or adoption, the caches will have to be archived and removed, even old ones.

Hydnsek said she would be reaching out as needed over the next few weeks to chapter representatives if needed to find more members to help place caches.

Mc3cats asked about kick off events. Hydnsek said there will be GeoTour kickoff events around the state on Saturday, June 8, which is a free day in the state parks. The GeoTour itself (100 caches) goes live on Friday, June 7. The primary event is already scheduled at Camano Island SP, co-hosted by the park and Rey del Roble. Some cachers have already volunteered to co-host events in other regions, and we are currently lining up the parks to partner with. At the kickoff events, attendees will learn about the GeoTour challenge, get their passports, see the prize coins, etc. Ideally, we want kickoffs in each chapter area: Wenatchee, Bellingham, Spokane, Tri-Cities, Vancouver, and Port Townsend.

Hydnsek also mentioned that there will be a challenge cache for those who complete the 50-cache geotour (Rey del Roble has volunteered to put it out).

### **Board Elections 2013** – Reported by jcar

Per the bylaws of the WSGA the Vice-President serves as chair of the election committee, along with two additional members of the board, if no one volunteers the two members shall be drawn at random. The duties of the committee are to find nominees for all positions, check with those nominated to make sure they are interested, and make sure they understand the duties of that position for the coming term.

Jcar asked for two volunteers. If no one volunteers, the bylaws call for picking the two committee members at random.

There were no volunteers and jcar rolled dice to pick random committee members. The first was idajo2 and the second was lucymogus.

Jcar said the the Committee will check with all those that are nominated during this meeting and any additional nominations that come in during the open nomination process. The nomination process closes on the 10th of February and the slate of candidates announced on the 15th. The election runs from March 1st to the 15th.

Jcar said that the following people were returning to run again:

hydnsek - President  
mc3cats - PS Chapter Rep  
idajo - OP Chapter Rep  
Mr Gadget - Cache Cadia Chapter Rep

Jcar said he had only officially heard from acfunk that he was not returning. Jcar said he is also not returning to a board position next year. He said he was pretty sure based on prior conversation that mazeracer was not returning, and that Kidvegas19 had mentioned in the last board meeting that he was not returning. Jcar also said that Geek&Gopher had mentioned they were likely moving so were likely not returning as SW Chapter Reps. He asked if all of these decisions were correct and if anyone had a change of in decision.

Geek&Gopher said they had not found a replacment as of yet so they would stay on for now.

The other decisions remained the same.

Hydnsek said the results of these decisions meant that we had three officer positions (Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President) and two chapter representative positions (N48 Chapter Representative and South Central Chapter Representative) to fill.

Jcar opened the floor to nominations for any and all positions for the coming year.

FluteFace nominated Mrs. Cacheikers for 48 North Chapter Representative.

Jcar also nominated Cacheikers to be the 48 North Chapter Representative and nominated Hippyckick as Treasurer.

Hydnsek nominated psykokiwi for Vice President and nominated benandjayme for Secretary.

Lucymogus nominated martin5 for Inland Empire Chapter Representative.  
Acfunk said mazeracer had spoken to enjoydmoment and wanted to nominate her for South Central Chapter Representative.

Kidvegas19 said that martin5 had expressed interest in an officer position also and that the Inland Empire nomination may change later after he confirmed that.

## **Chapter Reports**

### **Olympic Peninsula** – Reported by idajo2

The Olympic Peninsula Chapter has been somewhat quiet for the past few months; however, depending on election results, I'm in the planning stages for 2013. Due to major surgery (2 weeks ago), I will not be back in "event-hosting" form for several months so the "interim" plan is to attend local (Oly Pen) events - and maybe a few non-local events - hosted by cachers, other than myself, until I'm better able to host. A number of cachers in the Bremerton/Poulsbo area are avid event hosters; I anticipate that they will give me a few moments during the announcement segment of their events to give my short WSGA presentation.

Once I'm back in "fighting form" I'll be looking at scheduling an early April event in Hoquiam, a mid-May event in Port Hadlock (this will be the second year for this recurring event co-hosted by swaninwa), an early July summer picnic/potluck in Port Angeles (Lincoln Park) and a September (potluck?) event in Bremerton. The schedule is fairly flexible so there will be wiggle room for additional events.

As soon as the election is over and done (and depending on the results), I'll start putting cache pages together and get the 2013 Olympic Peninsula Chapter show on the road; if re-elected, I expect that 2013 will be my WSGA Chapter Rep swan song year. My docs are attempting to get this old lady "reassembled" (two knee replacements and heart surgery are on the horizon); the Oly Pen will need a mover 'n' shaker to keep things going strong!

### **48 North** – Reported by Fluteface

The Holiday Hoopla in Marysville was well attend, but seemed a bit quieter than last year's event. It made for a more intimate event, more time to socializing at least from my end. Upcoming is RdR's Balls of Fire event as mentioned earlier. The first chapter event is scheduled for 3/8 in Bellingham, at Round Table Pizza. GrievousAngel has a CITO set in the Pilchuck Tree Farm in early April, in cahoots with 48N.

### **Puget Sound** – Reported by Mc3cats

We had an excellent turn out for our Holiday party a couple weeks back. Better than last year's (due to a LACK of snow this go around). Sirkarp and co did a fantastic job on decorating the venue. It was a really nice event this time. As Jim noted earlier, lots of merchandise went out the door and there were lots of renewals as well.

As for upcoming events, I am planning on a St. Pattys Day event. I don't have it formally planned, but I am thinking south sound. Maybe Tacoma. A summer picnic should be planned but with the kick off events for the parks challenge, I may look at possibly rolling the two together maybe. Considering a CITO too. Maybe an Earth Day CITO with City of Bellevue.

**Cache-cadia** – Reported by Mr. Gadget #2

There were seven different events and one CITO scheduled within the service area of the WSGA Cache-cadian Chapter area for the year of 2012:

Do the CacheCadia Leap	1-29-12	17 attended
Event to Kick off the Three Dam Challenge	5-27-12	28 logged but there must have been 50 people for the picnic
Douglas Creek CITO	9-8-12	-0- no one showed up
WSGA Ten Year Anniversary	9-9-12	12 attended
Waterville Tweet to Eat V	9-30-12	15 attended
12-12-12 @ 12:12 Flash Mob	12-12-12	15 attended
12-12-12 Event Cache	12-12-12	15 attended

**Inland Empire** – Reported by Kidvegas19

The IE Chapter will be hosting its major, huge, almost-but-not-quite-mega Winter Party event on February 16. This will be our 7th annual Winter Party. There will be food, contests, awards and a video recap of IE's caching year. We will announce the Parks Project and ask for volunteers.

The aforementioned Martin5 is arranging a Heli-caching event. And last but not least, the IE chapter would like to state on record our thanks to lucymogus as our Treasurer as well. Your service has been greatly appreciated!

**South Central** – Reported by acfunk (for mazeracer)

A few things to report since the last Board meeting: We had one event this month that was very well attended. It was sponsored by tumbleweedpirates who did a good job of describing the State Parks Geotour. Planning has also started for the 4th Tri-cities Geochallenge. WSGA will be a co-sponsor again this year. The event page is already up.

**Southwest** – Reported by Geek&Gopher

We are looking at doing a Meet-n-Greet in March and CITO in April. Also doing Campout Planning. Lastly, we are meeting with representatives from GeOregon and Vancouver Downtown Association about an Across the Columbia Coin Challenge sometime this summer.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **New Events** – Reported by hydnek

It's CITO time again. Earth day is in April and it would be great if all chapters hosted at least one CITO event this spring, and more are welcome, of course. Please encourage your members to host some. Let's get some on the calendar!

State parks are obviously a good choice this year but we love all parks - city, county, state, and federal. 48 North and IE have already gotten in the game, so the rest of us will follow their lead.

### **Chapter Renaming** – Reported by hydnek

There's a motion to rename two of our chapters. The proposal is to remove "Washington" from the chapter names of South Central WA and Southwest WA, and they would just be the South Central Chapter of WSGA and the Southwest Chapter of WSGA. The Chapter members on the Board support this proposal. If there are no concerns, do I hear a motion to approve the revised chapter names?

Acfunk motioned. Mc3cats seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Goals for 2013** – Reported by hydnek

Final item on the agenda - club goals for 2013.

Hydnek said her suggested goals were: overhauling the website, launching an outstanding State Park GeoTour in June, creating more appointed positions to distribute tasks off Board members (e.g., merchandise, ape event), encouraging members to host more WSGA-sponsored events around the state, and, of course, another successful Ape mega-event!

Hydnek asked if there are other suggestions from the Board for the list.

Lucymogus said that regarding the website overhaul, we should take credit cards and set up membership auto-renewal. She said we should also get a credit card reader for events.

Hippychick said she would offer up her husband, Skark166, to help with the website overhaul.

Hydnek said she also wanted to formally announce that this will be her final year on the Board in any capacity, as well as in committee positions.

There was no further new business.

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Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.