

Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting

July 18, 2013

Hydnsek called WSGA's 4th Business Meeting of the year to order at 6:30 PM on July 18, 2013.

Board Members in attendance: hydnek (Abby Wolfe), benandjayme (Ben Hewitt), Hippychick1620 (Kristine Norton), psykokiwi (Kelly Wiggans-Crawford), Martin 5 (Jerry Martin), mc3cats (Chris Brue), Geek&Gopher (Ray Harrison)

Board Members absent: idajo2 (Jo Dunn), tumbleweedpirates (Mike Lowery), Kathy McCormack (GrievousAngel), Mr. Gadget #2 (Gene Reed)

Proxies: benandjayme for tumbleweedpirates, Hippychick1620 for GrievousAngel, mc3cats for idajo2 and Mr. Gadget #2

Also in attendance: CacheDFish, ZagMomnDad

Hydnsek welcomed the board members and visitors in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the May 23, 2013 Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

Membership

Report by psykokiwi

Membership Count and Chapter Breakdowns:

Chapters	Individual	Family	Associate	Total
Puget Sound	92	62	1	155
48 North	37	24	1	62
Cache-Cadia	7	4	0	11
Inland Empire	15	16	3	34
Olympic Peninsula	14	8	0	22
South Central	9	11	0	20
Southwest	8	9	0	17
Unaffiliated	2	3	4	9
Totals as of 7/18/2013	184	137	9	330

Psykokiwi said that our current total of 330 members is up from June 2012, when we had 315 members. The club is tracking to finish the year strong.

Comments

Mc3cats noted that the club would get a lot of attention next month, so our numbers are bound to go up.

CacheDFish asked whether the chapter reps know the individual geonames of members in their chapter. Hydnek answered that you can look up members in the Members part of this site where they can be searched by caching name, chapter, etc.

Hydnek asked whether there was anything else regarding membership. Psikokiwi said she had started the survey the board discussed at the last meeting, but was going to table it until closer to the end of the year or maybe sometime next year. Hydnek said that she thought with the things going on right now, the survey would be better suited to helping the board in the future. She said that she and psykokiwi had agreed that since so many things had changed in the club's operations and activities over the past year or two, that it made sense to let it settle for a year and then survey members. Several members said that sounded fine.

Finances

Report by Hippychick1620

Hippychick1620 reported that on June 1, 2013 the club had \$10,396.89. Income for June was \$7,355.87 and expenses were \$1,366.34, leading to an ending balance of \$16,386.42.

She noted that June was a great month with \$5,778 in APE Pre-Sales coming in. There were a few GeoTour printing reimbursements. For July, expenses are far outweighing income, which was to be expected, as the club is now purchasing the items for the APE event. However, expenses for the APE event have not exceeded what we raised in pre-sales, so nothing is coming out of pocket. Since the club will be selling raffle tickets and merchandise at the 2013 campout, she expected to see some more income generated.

Comments

Hydnek said that it was great to see the club in such good financial shape after running close to the edge for several years. She said it allows the club to do so much more for members and geocaching in general, such as the GeoTour.

Hydnek asked whether the chapter reps were using their allotments yet. Hippychick1620 answered that 2 chapters have used a small amount (less than \$50) but all the other chapters still have their full allotment. She will update the allotments at the end of next month. Hydnek said if the club is still in great shape after the upcoming

major events, perhaps there could be a secondary allotment in September if chapters need it.

Merchandise

Report by benandjayme

Benandjayme reported that he and Jayme had set up a table to sell merchandise at the South Sound GeoTour kickoff event in June. It was a well-attended event and there was \$265 in merchandise sales there. He said they would also be attending the campout in a couple weeks and had made arrangements for a time to sell swag there.

Online coin sales have predictably tailed off after the initial rush for the 2013 coins. Orders continue to trickle in, though, and the club has sold a total of 140-150 2013 coins through online orders now. He said he has fulfilled all online orders that have come in to date.

There also continue to be a few tagalong orders for the 2011 coins, of which the club is finally down to about 20 in stock. There are still plenty of stock of hoodies, t-shirts, hats, 2013 coins, 2010 APE coins, and lanyards.

Comments

Mc3cats said he was surprised with the amount sold at the South Sound event. Hippyck1620 reported that there had also been \$252 in sales at the Camano Island GeoTour kickoff event. She also said that there had been \$134 in sales at the Tri Cities geocoin challenge event in June. Hydnek said that she expected great business at the Block Party and APE events.

Hydnek asked Hippyck1620 about the status of upcoming merchandise orders. Hippyck1620 said that over the past week she had placed orders for bags and pens to both replenish our supply as well as to use for the APE swag bags. She said she would also be ordering the flashlights for the bags. Those were the only merchandise needs she knew of at the time.

She also said that she would be contacting places such as Cabela's, REI, energy bar companies, etc., looking for coupons and extras to add to the APE swag bags. She asked for any contacts at companies that might be willing to help out with coupons. Geek&Gopher said that he had some contacts that he could share.

Hydnek noted that she sent out the 2013 chapter swag allotments at the first of June, and was assuming that all chapter reps had received them. She said that was the swag to use at chapter events for the year and noted that she sent more than usual, to clean out the club's stores and to give the reps plenty for great events and rewarding great volunteers.

2013 Campout Status

Report by Geek&Gopher

Geek&Gopher reported that all 16 RV Sites were reserved, but there were still 6 Tent Sites available.

The club received over \$650 donation merchandise for the raffle drawing, so the raffle should be great. We are also going to be selling raffle tickets at campout as well for more chances at all the prizes.

The following no host outings were planned for Saturday: Beacon Rock, Bonneville Dam, Cascade Locks, Maryhill Winery, Multnomah Falls and the Original Stash.

Benandjayme planned to be at campout and would handle WSGA Merchandise Sales and with help from Kristine run the Annual General Meeting.

There was 1 Coleman Roadtrip Grill available and Geek&Gopher were hoping to get 2 more, so there was an announcement on the event page.

A picture of the Campout pathtag was posted in the WSGA Merchandise forum for board members to view.

Comments

Hydnsek asked whether the pathtag picture was in the public forum, because if not then general members could not view it. Geek&Gopher said that it was only in the private forum. Hydnsek said she could post it along with a note on the WSGA facebook page to encourage attendance. Geek&Gopher said that they were hoping the design could be a surprise at the campout. Hydnsek said that the pathtag was part of the marketing for the event. She thought it was odd to keep the design a secret since that had never happened before. The pathtag has always been on the event page to help promote the event.

Hippychick1620 said that she understood wanting a surprise but she agreed with hydnek's marketing comments. Benanadjayme suggested letting everyone know they'll be getting a pathtag, but leaving the design a surprise. A couple members agreed with that idea. Hydnsek said that in general people wouldn't buy a coin without knowing the design, but that this pathtag was different. She said she would do a final promo saying that there will be a pathtag as in previous years, but the design would be a surprise.

Several members commended Geek&Gopher on all their hard work on the Campout.

Centennial GeoTour Status

Report by hydnek

The Washington State Parks Centennial GeoTour kicked off June 7, after nine months of preparation and countless hours contributed by WSGA members and the State Parks. Despite the inevitable last-minute glitches, we launched on schedule with all 103 caches and two challenge caches, and our eight kickoff events around the state were well attended.

All told, more than 70 WSGA members were involved, including 67 cache owners, 8 event hosts and helpers, PhilNi (cache manager), NepoKama (geocoin), Rock Rabbit (reviewer), and of course, the GeoTour co-managers, hydnek and Ranger Tina.

The State Parks has been a fantastic partner, both at the management and individual park level, and Groundspeak deserves credit as well, for donating a GeoTour to promote this geochallenge.

The GeoTour has been wildly successful, far beyond what we predicted (and we did do our homework). Some caches have 150+ finds in just six weeks, and benandjayme reported that, as of now, there are 8332 finds on the 103 caches from 1149 different cachers!

As of July 13, Ranger Tina had awarded 34 silver coins (50 caches) and 4 gold coins (100 caches). Benandjayme noted that there are 48 accounts showing 50 finds, so more silver coins to come. Tina has been amazed, noting that gold finishers have to drive 2000+ miles to get all the caches! The list of finishers is being maintained on the 50-cache challenge page, and hydnek may post a list on the WSGA site, as well.

One especially cool thing was that, while some Eastern WA cachers were disappointed that only 37 of the 103 caches are on their side of the state, the first gold finishers (Barterclan) and the first person to get all 103 caches (Mr. Gadget #2) were both from Central WA. The Barterclan story is especially cool. Jeremy & Michelle Barter are from Moxie (near Yakima). They just started caching in February, got married on June 22, and spent their honeymoon running all over Washington and sleeping in their car to be the first to reach 100 GeoTour caches. Ranger Tina said they were so excited they were shaking! Hydnek met them at the TriCities Geocoin Challenge and they were still excited.

Cacher feedback on the GeoTour has been tremendously positive, with some great logs and comments to Ranger Tina, who hands out the coins. Ranger Tina sent us a lovely note and moving testimonial from a participant, which you can see on the WSGA website. We even got the Groundspeak founders out caching. In an email, Groundspeak co-founder Jeremy said: "I love this GeoTour! Samsy and I will be taking the kids around this summer."

The State Parks issued a press release on the GeoTour on June 10, and several newspapers and TV stations have mentioned it, including a nice piece with the Barnabirdy(s) in the Methow Valley News, a mention in the July/Aug issue of Washington Trails Association magazine, a short piece in the Spokane Spokesman-Review, and a filmed interview with Ranger Tina and TheMcMorrows on "The Impact," a TVW show that airs on public-access stations.

Thanks to the success of this GeoTour, the State Parks is already talking to hydnek about doing another geochallenge next year and perhaps annually. Future geochallenges would be smaller – say, a Lewis & Clark challenge with a themed coin – and probably not GeoTours on Groundspeak, but the Parks really wants to keep the mojo going, and hopes WSGA will want to continue the partnership, as well.

While some cachers are concerned we will run out of coins before they finish, we made 180 silver coins and 30 gold ones. When they are gone, we have two challenge caches that are a reward as well, since only GeoTour finishers can easily claim them. For those wondering why we didn't mint even more coins, or why those numbers: we had a strict budget that limited how many coins we could mint (and WSGA shared the cost with the State Parks), and the State Parks wanted to emphasize getting more people into the parks, especially families, so they wanted to focus on silver coins over gold.

Interestingly, King County Parks minted 200 coins for its GeoTour, which only required you to find 21 caches within King County (vs. Washington State). Nine months later, they have only given out about half the coins. We have confirmed with the State Parks that no more coins will be minted when these run out (it is a challenge, after all, and the limited coins is part of what makes them desirable).

Comments

Hydnek asked for general feedback on the GeoTour. Martin 5 asked whether there was a plan for possible disgruntled folks when the coins run out. He said that it seems the completion is happening faster than may have been anticipated. He commented that since the GeoTour was planned to last into 2015, it only seemed fitting coins should last as well.

Hydnek responded that there would not be any more coins or alternative prizes. The two challenges are achievements and only those completing 50 or 100 GeoTour caches can log them. She said that it was never guaranteed that coins would last until 2015. The challenge was expected to last until then or until coins ran out, whichever came first. She said that she and Tina were not convinced the coins would all be gone this year, especially the silver, which is the focus of the challenge for the parks.

Martin 5 asked how many silver and gold coins remained. Benandjayme said that 48 accounts had logged enough for a silver coin so far and hydnek said that 4 gold coins had been awarded. Hydnek said that no other challenge that she was aware of reminds

coins or offers additional prizes once the initial competition is done. The limited edition of the coins is part of what makes them desirable.

Benandjayme asked how many Bronze coins were made and to whom they were going. Hydnek said that the bronze "thank you" coins were 20 for WSGA and 20 for the State Parks. The State Parks were giving theirs to the commissioners and those who worked on the GeoTour. The WSGA's are going similarly - PhilNi, NepoKama, Rock Rabbit, Bryan, MissJenn, and those cachers who volunteered to take multiple caches hundreds of miles from their homes. The club was also giving a couple to State Parks rangers who went above and beyond with our members, e.g., Larrabee's head ranger.

CacheDFish asked what the plan would be when stamps went missing from GeoTour caches. Hydnek responded that the backup plan was that she bought 20 extra stamps and had been providing them to COs whose stamps go missing. She said that cache owners whose stamps go missing should disable the cache with a note about the missing stamp, so that those working on the GeoTour will have a heads-up. Then the owner should contact her and she would mail a stamp and provide the new imprint to Tina for verification purposes. Hydnek said that some cachers are buying their own backup stamps and supplying her with the imprint. She said that's also fine and cheaper usually; it just has to fit in the 5/8" square and be family-friendly.

Hydnek asked what people thought about doing another challenge next year. CacheDFish wondered whether anyone would be willing to take another one on, but hydnek said that it would likely be much smaller and easier to manage. Psykokiwi said that people might get tired if there was a new challenge every year. Hydnek said that was a good point, but Tina was thinking of all the excitement on this one and how to keep the momentum going and offer folks another chance to get a special challenge coin. Several members said that it seemed like a good idea to wait until the current GeoTour ends before starting another.

Block Party Booth Status

Report by psykokiwi

Psykokiwi said that the booth for Block Party is fully staffed, but she still needed a table. She also needed to gather the merchandise currently held by hydnek and benandjayme.

Comments

Hippychick1620 said that she would bring a table to the Block Party and mc3cats said he would, too. Hippychick1620 also said that she was planning to take control of all the merchandise for the entire weekend. Benandjayme said that he would bring the merchandise he had to both events. There were various suggestions about how to assemble the merchandise for the Block Party and APE events.

APE Mega Event Status

Report by hydnsek

Hydnsek reported that our 4th-annual Going APE mega-event is Sunday, Aug. 18, and we have nearly 300 Will Attends, which translates to over 600 attendees, with a month left to go. Last year we had about 800 attendees, and she expected we would meet or exceed that.

She had most of the volunteers signed up, but still have a few key slots left, most importantly the furies, which are a fan favorite. She would be sending out a public request soon, and would appreciate the board members spreading the word and letting her know of anyone that might be interested in helping out.

Hippychick1620 received the insurance certificate yesterday, and hydnsek would be sending the final paperwork to our Iron Horse ranger, Keith Wersland, in the next few days. She would also get the Discover Day Passes from him then. She was planning to get fewer this year (120 instead of 150), since we have had a few left over in the past and can't get refunds or use them later. There is a kiosk on-site for folks to buy day passes if we run out. She also had the portapotties reserved and would reserve our 'monster' outfits soon, plus pick up the NWF day passes for overflow parking.

On the swag side, the club did an online preorder for 'Ape Swag Bags' the last two weeks of June, to hopefully avoid selling out of coins and shirts this year. We sold 143 Swag Bags at \$30, which contain a T-shirt, coin, flashlight, and pen in a drawstring tote bag. We also presold an additional 41 coins, 19 shirts, and 23 flashlights, plus 45 of our 2010 Ape coins and 45 Ape cachekinz. Total pre-event income was \$6,038.

Based on the preorders and guestimates of on-site sales, the club ordered 500 Ape event coins. Hydnsek was a little concerned that we may run out, based on the large number of signups since preorders ended, but as we only presold 184 coins, she was hoping we would be okay.

The event coin is at the mint and the Board approved the T-shirt design at our May meeting. The glow sticks, minipens, and tote bags are ordered, and Hippychick1620 was finalizing the flashlight order. Hydnsek planned to place the T-shirt order (presales, onsite, volunteer) once she had the final volunteer count. The goal was to have everything here by Aug. 9 latest, so we could get all the swag bags done the weekend of Aug. 10-11, one week before the event.

Hydnsek had lunch with Groundspeak VP/founder Bryan and he emphasized that Groundspeak views the Block Party / APE weekend as a long-term investment. They want to make the third weekend of August a geocaching vacation destination for years to come and really hope WSGA will continue to host the APE mega-event each year alongside the Block Party. Hydnsek assured Bryan that we have several folks fully capable of running the event, and that she'd already started looking for the next pit boss.

Comments

Benandjayme asked whether the mega event could ever rotate to other locations of interest. Hydnek said that it could, but then it wouldn't be the APE event. She said the idea is the ape and the tunnel but if people wanted to do a different event, that would be up to the future board. Hydnek asked why benandjayme was interested in moving the event. Benandjayme said that he didn't have any specific places in mind or any complaints about the tunnel location, but that he was thinking about long-term viability and wondering whether some variation might help.

Psykiwi suggested the Palouse area as a possible mega location. Hydnek said that it would be cool if the club could support another mega, but that it would have to be a different month and area since only one mega is allowed per event cluster. Hydnek pointed out that the Block Party/APE event combination was now established and interest had grown nationally and internationally. She said that she had thought locals would get tired of the event, but they have been returning in droves and saying that the event is an annual outing for them.

Mc3cats suggested that for future events we could possibly do a bike tour down the Iron Horse trail for those that want to cache down the trail to Rattlesnake Lake. Hydnek said she had thought of that, and was going to do it except most of the caches had been stolen. She wanted to work with Ranger Keith on getting new ones put out before next year's event. Mc3cats and HippyChick1620 said they would be willing to help put caches on the trail. Hydnek said she would note the idea to have a hosted bike ride next year.

Chapter Reports

Puget Sound Chapter report by Mc3cats

Since our last meeting, we had one event: the South Sound Geo Tour Kick off hosted by psykiwi and a bit of assistance from me. We coupled the kick off with our chapter's annual summer picnic which was a great success!

During our kick off event, we had a couple of side events going on. Terrible Ts did a nice GSAK class under the large shelter, which turned out pretty darned good. Jim is pretty up on GSAK stuff and did a very nice job on the presentation. We also had Tom of the FugeFinders do a nice camo clinic showing off some pretty nice camo techniques. Again, a nice touch at this event.

As noted previously, Ben and Jayme sold a nice lot of WSGA stuff. The local rangers stopped by to get in on some impromptu GPS classes and some tips on caching. All in all a VERY WELL attended event. Kelly even offered up her hubby to run the grill from me which was most helpful.

Comments

Hydnsek asked whether any future events were planned, specifically on the north end. Mc3cats said he was planning an event in Woodinville in September.

48 North Chapter report by Grievous Angel (via HippyChick1620)

Events held: May 25th -2013 Iron Goat Trail breakfast & hike; June 14th -2013 Bellingham pizza meet & greet; July 7th -2013 hike at Heather Lake. The 2 GeoTour kick-off events, hosted by Rey del Roble (June 8 at Camano Island SP) & PNWBrat (June 9 at Larrabee SP) were very successful. At the Camano event over \$250 was raised in merchandise sales.

Future events: August 5th -2013 pizza event held in Lynnwood, hosted by Johnny Cache (Kathy will be there for a short time); September 14th -2013 Ashland Lake family hike, hosted by Pokey Plodders (Kathy's group), Kathy will make small presentation; also look for event at Skookum Brewery in Arlington sometime in August.

Inland Empire Chapter report by Martin 5

IE Chapter has an Ice Cream Social Tailgate Party tomorrow (GC4AVGF). We have been working to host at least one event a month all year. Gained a couple WSGA members at the parks kickoff event in Spokane. We are trying to weave events with a CITO every 3rd month.

Riverside Park Rangers wish us to host a geocaching 101 with temporary caches for newbies. Not sure when that will be at this moment.

Southwest Chapter report by Geek&Gopher

Battle Ground State Park GeoTour Kickoff Event went really well, we had around 40 people attend it. Battle Ground Lake (92 Finds-11 Favorites), Beacon Rock (61 Finds-3 Favorites) and Spring Creek Hatchery (64 Finds-8 Favorites) caches are all still in place and doing well.

We have added 3 more members to our Chapter for a total of 17, which I believe is an all-time high for our Chapter!

Olympic Peninsula Chapter report by idajo2 (via mc3cats)

Since my last WSGA Board Report was submitted, I've attended the June 6th (North Olympics) Washington State Parks Kickoff Event at Fort Flagler, hosted by my friend grossi and Fort Flagler State Park. The Kickoff event was well attended and there was a great deal of excitement and enthusiasm about the State Parks Centennial GeoTour. I spoke with several Fort Flagler Park Rangers and they, too, were very enthusiastic about the GeoTour.

It was nice to see Mary Brelsford at the event. Mary's life as a geocacher began in January; she also works for the Clallam County Tourist Board. The Tourist Board is in the process of setting up a Clallam/Jefferson Counties GeoTour.

On Saturday, June 15th, I traveled to Port Hadlock for the Olympic Peninsula Chapter's annual meet and greet event at Ferino's Pizzeria. I'm told the food was great (as always) and attendee logs indicated that they all had a good time! I made sure that everyone had upcoming events - including the GeoTour, the WSGA Campout, the Geocaching Block Party and the WSGA APE Event - on their radar(s)!

The following week (June 23rd) I was very pleased to be able to attend a Bremerton event (in an unofficial capacity). "Jared from SD Wishes for your Presence" (GC17V7D) was an amazing event co-hosted by Groundspeak's Miss Jenn and local uber-super-hider goblindust. This event was held on behalf of a young man from South Dakota. Jared123 is a Make-A-Wish kid whose wish it was to visit the Pacific Northwest and Groundspeak.

The next OP Chapter event has posted. "Bowl Me Over in Aberdeen" (GC4EHHJ) will be held at Aberdeen's Rainier Lanes on Saturday, September 14th. "Will Attend"s are beginning to roll in and I anticipate that a great time will be had by all. Last year's Aberdeen event was well attended; cachers in that area really enjoy getting together!

On a personal note, I'm looking forward to attending the upcoming WSGA Campout for the Saturday barbecue. My sister, Rhonda Nicholson (caching nick: unmendog), is hoping to come along for the ride! Rhonda had full-knee replacement less than a month ago; it will be her first significant outing. "Have Walker - Will Travel"!! Way to go, Sis!

South Central Chapter report by tumbleweedpirates (via benandjayme)

South Central WSGA chapter helped with the Tri-City Geocoin Challenge last month. Many members donated lots of time setting up power trails, night caches, games for event day, getting awards to give away, and in helping set up/ tear down. The Tri-City Geocoin Event became a Mega event this year and we would like to thank all those that came out and are coming to earn the coins. We hope you all enjoyed our caches, friendly people and a sky large enough to get a full day's sun from.

We planned with Jen Davis the Richland park ranger setting this up for months. Jen has made Geocaching part of her job through the park district. She was awarded for her efforts at a special night we had for post planning. Kennewick and Pasco also have contact people in their parks districts that helped with the event and donated items. 80% of the core team helping with this event are WSGA members

Over the last month we signed up 4 new families to WSGA. We are planning another post coin/ice cream event July 24th and hope to form more teams at that event for next year's coin challenge. We will have a night cache event in August, and our End of summer picnic in September.

NEW BUSINESS

State Parks Compliance Project

Hydnsek said that now that work on the State Parks GeoTour is (mostly) complete, we're moving to the second phase of our collaboration with WA State Parks: bringing all existing caches in state parks into compliance with the updated Geocaching Directive, which requires existing caches to have a cache permit on file and the sanctioned boilerplate on the cache page, if they are to remain in place.

The good news: geocachers who have a valid State Park cache permit under the previous geocache directive don't need to do anything. You don't need to renew the permit or obtain a new one. Per decision of parks' management, the previous one-year permits will remain valid and no longer have end dates - that is, they are equivalent to the new cache permits.

The bad news: There are 180+ caches that must be brought into compliance. Hydnsek has compiled a cache list and will be working with the parks, cache owners, geocaching liaisons, and Groundspeak (Rock Rabbit) to address all issues by end of year. Per decision of the State Parks, this includes virtuals and earthcaches

Our goal is to retain as many caches as possible, either with current owners or through adoption. However, some caches with absentee owners will be archived, as all caches must be permitted, and those without owners can't be adopted or updated. I've heard cachers complaining about WSGA/State Parks "forcing archival" of non-permitted caches, but that's just not the case. We WANT them to be permitted or adopted, but we also have to respect the land manager if the caches have been abandoned and can't be permitted.

Some cache liaisons have already worked with their parks and cache owners to bring caches into compliance, and we've already had a few permits, adoptions, and archivals. Props to TheMcMorrows, rocketglider, PNWbrat, las3dogs, Rey del Roble, and Geek&Gopher, in particular. Hydnsek will be managing this phase of the parks partnership as a follow-on from the GeoTour.

Comments

CacheDFish asked whether owners of non-compliant caches have been notified already. Hydnek said not yet, but she would ask for help if her initial message did not get a response. A few owners have been notified and caches brought into compliance, but the major push hasn't happened yet, although the list is compiled.

Benandjayme asked what other members thought about a cache he and Jayme had adopted that was in a great spot but was not likely to be permitted. He said they were torn as to whether to move the cache or archive it. Hydnek noted that no cache lives forever, and if it moves a significant distance, it's not the same experience and reviewers would suggest you archive it.

Pskokiwi asked whether there was any way to work with the park on the location. Benandjayme said that his understanding was that there were some spots that were completely off-limits. Hydnek said that if they don't clear stewardship, it's a non-starter. Stewardship doesn't have a lot of gray area, they are responsible for protecting sensitive areas and archeological sites.

Benandjayme commented that it would be very helpful if the club could get GIS data from stewardship to publish a map of areas that are off limits to caches in the state parks. Hydnek said that was unlikely to happen and noted that the information changes. Benandjayme said that it could save both stewardship and cache owners some trouble if cachers could know before submitting a permit which areas are completely off limits. Hydnek agreed and said he was free to pursue the question with stewardship. Benandjayme said he would follow up with the parks contacts on the issue. Hydnek said that she had contact info for both the parks employees in stewardship.

Parks Liaison Report

Hydnek reported that for the third year in a row, King County Parks has recognized WSGA as a key partner, alongside organizations such as WTA and Sierra Club. King County Parks presented the club with a Certificate of Appreciation at its annual recognition dinner on July 11, which she attended along with Hippychick1620.

The 4th-annual TriCities Geocoin Challenge, hosted by Jen Davis (enjoydmoment), WSGA member and Richland park ranger, was a huge success and achieved mega-event status retroactively. Big thanks to South Central chapter rep tumbleweedpirates, who helped with the main event and hosted additional activities as well.

Kitsap County Parks contacted Hydnek requesting a caching liaison for a geocaching project they want to do. She is open to suggestions and has already sent a few emails.

Mount Vernon city parks contacted Hydnek, requesting a caching liaison for a potential geochallenge they want to work on for next year. Their manager is apparently quite

impressed with the geotourism inspired by the TriCities challenge, and he heard Jen give a talk on it at a regional parks meeting.

2013 Member Bonus

Hydnsek said that when a new member joins WSGA, the club currently sends a new member packet including a nametag and WSGA patch. The patch has been our new member gift since the club's inception. She said the patches have never been that popular, and they're old-hat now. But it's important to send something to new members to welcome them and make them feel part of the club.

Therefore, the 2012 Board voted to eliminate the patch at the end of 2013, replacing it with a generic (non-year-specific) WSGA pathtag. That's roughly when our current supply should run out, and any leftover patches will be swag for chapters/events. The new pathtag will also be our 2013 member bonus. We inaugurated the member bonus in fall 2010 – it's a free gift to thank members for their support, and we send it in the fall. Thus, all 2013 members will get one, and then new members starting in January.

To have the pathtag ready for mailing this fall and for new members in January 2014, we need to get them designed and made in the next couple months. Mitch can do the design, we can approve it and the cost, and they can be at the mint by our September Board meeting. We could also make additional ones to sell, perhaps in bundles of five. As long as we reorder it every three years, hydnnsek believed the club could avoid some of the setup costs.

Comments

Benandjayme asked what the intent for the remaining 2012 pathtags was and said that he had more than 500 of them. Hydnnsek said they are supposed to be sold, but that she hadn't put any in the coin display cases. She said there was a price chosen by the previous board that she would look up so that it could be added to the sale information.

Hippychick1620 said that she wanted to have some 2012 pathtags to sell at the Block Party and APE events. Hydnnsek agreed. Psykokiwi said she could put them into bags of five to prepare them for sale.

Hydnnsek asked for input regarding proceeding with a 2013 pathtag. Several members supported moving forward with it, so Hydnnsek said she'd proceed with plans.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:13 PM.