

Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting

22 July 2015

AndrewRJ called the July WSGA Business Meeting of the 2015 board term to order at 6:31pm.

Board Members in attendance: AndrewRJ (Andrew Johnson), HippyChick1620 (Kristine Norton), Lizzy (Lisa Wasser), Mizdirection (Toni Westgarth), FenchurchE (Fen Eatough), SirKarp (Rob Norenberg), ClayArtist (Patti Stoll), Martin5 (Jerry Martin), and Mr. Gadget #2 (Gene Reed)

Board Members absent: tumbleweedpirates (Mike Lowery)

Proxies: Verano for tumbleweedpirates

Also in Attendance: Mc3cats (Chris Brue), NepoKama (Mitch Eatough), jcar, LadyCosmic, ZagMomnDad, PeachandPete (Annette Bailes)

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

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from 20 May 2015 were approved unanimously

Membership Report

Report by Lizzy

Membership Counts and Chapter Breakdowns **as of 7/19/2015**

Chapters	Current Accounts				Current TOTALS	
	Individual	Family	Assoc/Ind	Assoc/Fam	Accounts	Members
Puget Sound	75	54	0	0	129	232
48 North	27	22	2	0	51	92
Inland Empire	14	13	6	2	35	65
South Central	15	10	1	1	27	42
Olympic Peninsula	13	8	0	0	21	30
Southwest	10	9	2	1	22	40
Cache-Cadia	12	6	0	0	18	24
Unaffiliated	0	0	4	0	4	4
CHAPTER TOTALS	166	122	15	4	307	529

LAST REPORTED	151	113	14	4	282	492
Net Gains	15	9	1	0	25	37

Chapters	Totals at 5/17/2015		Gains This Period		Totals a Year Ago		This Year compare to Last Year	
	Accounts	Members	Accounts	Members	Accounts	Members	Trend	Percent
Puget Sound	116	209	13	23	150	249	↘	-14.00%
48 North	48	88	3	4	46	83	↗	10.87%
Inland Empire	33	63	2	2	36	67	↘	-2.78%
South Central	22	37	5	5	24	39	↗	12.50%
Olympic Peninsula	20	28	1	2	19	26	↗	10.53%
Southwest	21	39	1	1	13	20	↗	69.23%
Cache-Cadia	18	24	0	0	12	18	↗	50.00%
Unaffiliated	4	4	0	0	9	9	↘	-55.56%
TOTALS:					309	511	↘	-0.65%

Chapters	New this Year	Renewals
Puget Sound	16	113
48 North	10	41
Inland Empire	3	32
South Central	4	23
Olympic Peninsula	0	21
Southwest	9	13
Cache-Cadia	4	14
Unaffiliated	0	4
TOTAL	46	261

As of 7/19/2015

We have been receiving a steady trickle of renewals and new membership applications. Whenever membership is promoted at larger events, we get a nice influx. Would love to see that continue. I believe that we will see a big batch of new memberships come in from the booth at the Block Party similar to last year.

Southwest chapter still leads in gains over last year, with a significant 69% rise in membership. Cachecadia still retains the 2nd place spot in gains over last year. Overall, we are down less 1% compared to last year this time. Only a difference of 2 memberships, so very minimal change. We are still very healthy overall and membership numbers are close to last year.

I believe that an email to former members may remind them that we'd love to have their support with a renewal of membership.

Comments:

There was discussion updating the membership forms to include the new account types and working to clarify the amounts listed on the new membership form on the website.

Financial Report

Report by HippyChick1620

May 1, 2015 Starting balance: \$10,089.31

Income:

- Memberships: \$62.00
- Misc. sales: \$25.50
- Coin Sales: \$28.00
- Campout: \$204.00
- Fee refund: \$0.58
- Transfer to Chase: \$4,500.00
- (Total: \$4,820.08)

Expenses:

- PayPal fees: \$12.15
- Order shipping: \$14.69
- Office Supplies: \$65.14
- APE event: \$525.00
- Campout refund: \$8.00
- Dues refund: \$12.00
- Chapter Allocation: \$6.00
- Transfer from PayPal: \$4,500.00
- Total (\$5,142.98)

May 31, 2015 ending balance: \$9,766.41 (\$322.90 loss)

June 1, 2015 Starting balance: \$9,766.41

Income:

- Memberships: \$215.50
- Merch. sales: \$546.00
- Coin Sales: \$269.00
- Campout: \$115.00
- APE event: \$4,785.50
- Fee refund: \$0.41
- Chapter donation: \$10.00
- (Total: \$5,941.41)

Expenses:

- PayPal fees: \$213.72
- Order shipping: \$8.25
- Canadian surcharge refunds: \$10.50
- APE event: \$90.00
- Campout refund: \$38.00
- Campout pathtag order: \$66.00
- Tri-Cities Sponsorship: \$500.00
- Total (\$926.47)

June 30, 2015 ending balance: \$14,781.35 (\$5014.94 gain)

For July, we are currently running about \$1300 income ahead of expenses. We had a strong finish to our campout registration and have done very well on APE swag bag pre-sales...

As of 7/21/15 EOD we have sold 265 swag bags, 17 additional shirts, 85 additional coins, 11 flashlights, 10 additional reflectors, and 24 additional lapel pins. As of now, we have almost made enough money to cover the entire APE event, including all merchandise.

Comments:

None

Summer Campout

Report by LadyCosmic

Plans are coming together for the campout. As of 7/20/15, 12 of our 14 original RV spots are taken and we have 13 tents registered so far. I have canceled the extra RV site that we had reserved. We received a refund of \$32 from this and were charged a \$48 late cancellation fee. We also have one cacher that registered for a RV spot but is afraid he will not be able to get his trailer in so he would like a refund. So we still have 2 RV sites available if anyone should show up without registering and plenty of room for tents.

In the number of people we have registered so far we have 75 Adults and 12 Children (under the age of 10). On my last report I stated there where 26 children registered but that was an error. The deadline to register was July 15. I will be getting in contact with the person in charge to take down the online registration.

I have gotten very few donations. I have a few things that a couple of other Geocachers have donated. I did reach out for some help to get more but the calls for help went unanswered.

I am still looking for people to help at the campout. I have again reached out for help but have only received one response. This came over the weekend while I was out of town but I have not been able to respond as of this report. If anyone has any suggestions on people to contact for help, please send me their name and contact information.

Here is what I NEED:

[] Grills (2-3) on Saturday night and Sunday Morning

[] Grill Masters (1 for each grill for each meal)

[] Ice chests (4 large, for beverages)

I received the Pathtag today (7/20/15). They look great!! Thank you to Mitch for designing these and getting them ordered. I appreciate it very much. Since we had to order these before we had a final count so we will have several left over. I was wondering if we could sell these at the Campout? I was thinking \$2 per tag if anyone wanted to purchase more.

Comments:

NepoKama indicated that the campout pathtags had shipped from manufacturing and should be arriving at any time. AndrewRJ made a motion that the extra campout pathtags be allowed to be sold during the campout. The motion passed unanimously.

APE Mega-Event

Report by AndrewRJ

Our 6th-annual Going APE mega-event is four weeks away, and we are in high gear, all systems go!

- **Volunteers:** We are actively recruiting volunteers for all areas, and have more than half the slots filled. But we still have about 20 slots to fill, esp. on parking. One additional volunteer push will be made.
- **Equipment:** We still need to put the word out to get tables and canopies.
- **Swag Bag:** Preorders opened in mid-June, and so far we've sold over 200.
- We are keeping preorders open until July 31 (six weeks total). We will have to have shirt totals to Advantage Sports a few days before the actual pre-orders close. Some merchandise has already been ordered, and the final items (shirts) will be ordered July 29th (ish), for delivery by Aug. 8.
- **Swag Bag stuffing:** Fen and Mitch are hosting the swag-stuffing party at their place on Sunday, Aug. 9. This will get all our preordered Swag Bags ready for pickup at the event. This will also be the final crew chief meeting before the Big Day.
- **Event coin:** NepoKama created a great design again this year – with a proxy tag! – and the coin is at the mint. We are minting 600, more than usual and have continued to use Cache Advance as our vendor (supporting the home team, who also provide better service ;)).
- **Event shirt:** Design and colors are final; vendor (Advantage Sports) is ready to process our order in a week once we place it.

- **Parking:** We have picked up Rambudo as our crew chief. Parking will continue to be an issue as we are expecting many attendees this year. Ranger Keith is going to let us park additional cars along the trail at Hyak (next to the event venue). We have approval to use a ski lot at the Nordic Center – free! – for our overflow lot. And it's just a short walk to Hyak, closer than the Forest Service lot. We will have parking attendants there to insure that we are respecting the area and to direct folks to the trail to Hyak, and we must do a trash sweep after the event. We may have to use the upper lot as well. We have purchased 100 Discover day passes (Hyak) and 50 NWF day passes (Forest Service lot). Now if we can only find enough parking volunteers....
- **Portapotties:** Unfortunately, our vendor from last year punted on us (not sending us a quote despite several attempts), so AndrewRJ vetted new vendors and chose Spiffy Biffy. The price is higher, and we have been required to have a 4th toilet at the west portal. We've got a confirmed order for four toilets. (Background: State Parks requires us to provide additional toilets due to the large crowd at our event.)
- **Lab caches:** Jcar and Mc3cats are working on the prep for the six Ape Adventures, which will only be live the day of the event, although folks will have a week to log them. We have one secret that has been talked about for several years and has been worked on this last year.

Comments:

From NepoKama: Art for the APE tattoos is at 4Imprint. Those must be ordered by Friday to ensure arrival by August 9th. I'll be sending art for the bags and flashers to 4Imprint in the next day or two, those must be ordered by next Wednesday to ensure delivery by August 9th. Pens we already have the artwork on file, but they must also be ordered by next Wednesday. Shirt order needs to be finalized by Friday the 29th.

GeoTour Sponsorships

Report by hydhnsek

Visit Rainier Centennial GeoTour

The Rainier GeoTour launched on June 13, and cachers are busy racking up finds. Final preparations went smoothly. The reviewer only had a few issues for us to address (mainly around the commercial guidelines, plus one granted exception to the proximity rule), and I had all 25 caches locked a week before launch (that never happens!).

The kickoff event at RMI in Ashford was paired with the annual Rainier CITO, and we had about 50 attendees. Unfortunately, when the caches were published at 4:00 pm, the rush to download them overloaded RMI's wifi connection, so attendees were at a disadvantage – some couldn't get the cache coords even though they were physically located near them. Oops.

Rambudo offered to provide me with monthly stats on the Rainier GeoTour, just as he does for the State Parks GeoTour. For the first two weeks (June 29 report), there were 62 people who found five or more caches, and seven finishers (all 25 caches). Overall totals were 850 finds and 48 Favorite points awarded. Laysar Cave and Suntop Lookout, both by Hazard, are the two most favorite caches. By now, of course, all these numbers have increased significantly.

The first five finishers were Quigley's Mom (Maple Valley), scottsfavoritegirl (Arlington), LNITE (Orting), Ms Marvelous (Kent), and Bearbait Bob (Arizona).

The Rainier GeoTour has received great media coverage, thanks to a press release that Julie Johnson, the PR manager for Visit Rainier (and my GeoTour partner), sent out in early June. The *Seattle Times*, *Northwest Trails* magazine, and *Northwest Travel* are among the publications that have highlighted the GeoTour. The *Seattle Times* article mentioned WSGA as well.

Washington State Parks GeoTour

The third year started June 8, and we have numerous cachers just starting the tour this summer, while current participants are continuing their quests. We finally awarded the last of the 180 original Centennial Silver coins (remember the cachers who complained that we'd run out in summer 2013?), and the 200 updated Silver coins are on hand for future 50-cache finishers. We've also awarded five of the 50 updated Gold coins, meaning that 37 cachers total have done 100 caches (there were 32 Centennial Gold coins). And we just had our 10th "Super Gold" finisher – those who have found all 103 caches. [List of finishers](#).

Nearly 32,000 finds have been logged on the 103 GeoTour caches, and over 2,500 Favorite points have been awarded. More than 6,500 cachers have found at least one cache, nearly 1,000 have found five or more, and almost 600 have found 10 or more. Iron Horse Hyak continues to be the most visited with nearly 1,400 find logs (thank you, Ape event), followed by Fort Casey (650+), and Crawford and Fields Spring are least visited (~100 each). Fort Worden is the most Favorited cache, followed by Rosario Beach (Deception Pass) and Potholes. [All statistics](#).

Overall, management of the GeoTour has been uneventful and routine for both me and Tina. Cache owners continue to maintain their caches, although a few had to be prodded to fix them in a timely fashion (and they aren't remote ones), leading to occasional complaints from participants when particular caches are down for weeks, esp. in summer. A few caches have been adopted over to other cachers in the past two years, but nothing significant. And we just had another rash of missing stamps/caches – 10 stamps have been replaced in the past couple months – but I have 15 stamps left before needing to restock again.

The State Parks continues to be thrilled with the GeoTour and the visitation it's brought to the parks. Both management and the individual parks personnel are gung-ho, hence the renewal of the GeoTour for a third year.

Comments:

None

Parks Liaison

Report by Peach&Pete

All is pretty quiet in the Parks Liaison world, but I believe that is a good thing. One change since the last meeting: Mount Vernon has a new Parks Liaison.

Tom Wenzl (VonDeets) is now the Program Manager for Mount Vernon Parks, so he found his replacement for Mount Vernon Parks Liaison and she is Lisa Templeton (MilosPeople). I have corresponded via email with her and so has Abby, so she has an idea now of what is expected of her. I offered any assistance or questions she might have.

I know it is mentioned in the Outreach report, but I helped out with a Geocaching 101 class when Chris was unable to fulfill as he was out of town. It was a pleasure to assist at this event.

On a personal and Parks Liaison matter, we are beginning to roll along on the Auburn Parks Geocaching Challenge. We expect to hear this week if we will receive funding from Auburn Hotel Tax to help pay for event coin/pathtag/etc. The event date has been chosen as Saturday, October 3rd. General announcement soon, but real progress is being made.

Thanks for all the assistance and support that I have received.

Comments:

The Auburn Parks department is giving a \$3500 grant to help pay for the upcoming event and Geocoin.

Outreach Report

Report by Snowflake24

June 20th - Annette of Peach&Pete gave a Geocaching 101 class at Alta Crystal Resort (near Crystal Mountain) as part of a Father's Day event. Turnout was small, but the participants had fun! Annette has volunteered to do another class for them in the fall.

June 27th - Bucket St. James, GeoLMP and Bluecanoe staffed a WSGA booth at the 2nd annual WSPF Outdoor Expo in Olympia. Mc3cats worked with HQ to set up a lab adventure for this event as well. Turnout was lower than last year due to several conflicting events in the area.

Report by hydnek

On July 1, I did a presentation on geocaching and geotourism to the members of Tourism Lewis County, who represent various organizations and communities in that area. The head of Visit Rainier, Mary K Nelson, requested the presentation. The members, who were mostly blank on caching at the start, were enthusiastic at the end about incorporating geocaching in future tourism activities and a couple were asking me what steps to take next. Long trip down to Packwood for the meeting, but I think it was worth it.

Comments:

None

Chapter Reports

Southwest Chapter report by verano

Wednesday, May 20, mtribe, Devil Hunter, and I joined WSGA member cjburgon of the Stevenson Library at an Outdoor Expo in Stevenson to talk to passers-by about geocaching. We set up two practice caches just outside, spoke to maybe 25 people about geocaching, and helped them with the practice caches and a nearby published geocache. I will be contacting cjburgon in the fall about further events in the Stevenson area.

May 30 WSGA SW held an event in the little town of Morton in Lewis County. I was happy that about 25 people attended. We took a group photo at the webcam cache, and it was fun to talk to Mt. Rainier volunteers who attended and were very familiar with the then upcoming geotour kickoff.

June 6 WSGA member mtribe and I gave an Intro to Geocaching class at the Skamokawa Resort in Wahkiakum County, which rounds out having events in each of the Counties I represent! About 20 people attended (which is .5 percent of the 4000 plus population of the County!) and it was a lot of fun, with much laughing and sharing of stories. There were quite a few folks who were completely new to geocaching.

July 10 WSGA SW held a Meet and Greet in east Vancouver, WA, where we had a "Name That Cache" photo board that generated a lot of interest in high-quality local geocaches and got people talking to each other. The room was packed... I must make an effort to find larger venues... but it was fun and noisy, with nearly 60 attendees.

July 16 WSGA member mtribe and I hosted a GeoTrivia event in Portland, for which WSGA SW supplied prizes. We felt having a Trivia event in Portland before holding one in Washington would bring out more people and generate buzz so a Washington Trivia event would then be better attended. Since it was the first time we did Trivia, there were a few funny incidents, including announcing the wrong winners! But everyone liked it and we will plan one for Washington this fall. This was not a WSGA-hosted event, because in case of disaster I did not want WSGA listed as hosts! (I know, I am chicken!)

July 18 was a very busy day. In the morning I drove up to Cathlamet to help out at the Bald Eagle Days Chamber of Commerce booth. The Chamber had a geocaching-related hunt set up, and had published 3 geocaches and planted some containers around town, too, for a sort of scavenger hunt. They hope to work up to a completely geocaching activity next year and I offered to help in any way I could. I talked to those who stopped by and helped a few with a practice geocache I had set up nearby.

After spending two hours there, I headed down to Battle Ground where I was supporting Wayne Rivers (riversfamily) at his annual Geocoin Challenge kickoff. WSGA SW had provided three hand painted (by me!) containers to go with their theme. He had consulted with me while planning the event and I had suggested he have a little geocaching bingo activity while everyone waited around for the caches to publish, which he did. It was fun to meet Geocaching HQ employee Rock Chalk (Chris), who had kindly driven all the way down to attend. I got a nice photo of him and Wayne, which I posted on the WSGA Southwest Chapter FB page, which I hope y'all are following.

Next up will be another event in Lewis County, likely Centralia.

I will also be helping Laurie Freeman place her caches for the Cache Dash Splash event in September that is being held in my rep domain. She has massive, amazing plans for this and I cannot wait to attend and help out. Take a look at her web page: <http://cachedashsplash.com/>

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

Comments:

None

South Central Chapter report by tumbleweedpirates

Geo Walla Walla gang has hosted two events since we last met, a CITO and a Dairy Queen social. We attended both of these and WSGA gave out swag at the CITO. They were well attended and fun. We also hosted a Geocaching Birthday party at a local breakfast with about 30 in attendance. We hosted a scavenger hunt at Sacajawea on June 6th in support of promoting Geocaching. It was an event and we had 80 kids wander through with parents to find some characters Dead Sailor made for Richland Parks for us to use at a later date in September and at the coin challenge. We gave away swag from our personal bag, and Richland's and Pasco's geobag. WSGA hosted the World Wide flash (WWFM XII) mob event at our Howard Amon park wading pool. We flashed in the pool all holding little rubber duckies. It was fun and Dead Sailor helped with this also, about 30 attended. GCSEWA, a group of mostly us WSGA members, hosted the Lab cache event at Roundtable Pizza the Thursday before the Tri-City coin event and it was well attended. Since it was a first we only had about 70 attendees. I hosted a class for geo 101 on the Friday night before our coin event and, though it went well, with most of the class I did have a couple show up an hour late, whom I took time out to teach. We had 200+ attend the Meet and Great event, most of it done with WSGA members. WSGA also sponsor and hosted our yearly CITO and continental breakfast the morning after the Coin event. It was well attended with about 140 people and I reduced the meal budget by deciding to just get donuts, bananas, apples, and juice this year. Jen's wife donated Starbucks coffee. It worked great! We saved a bunch of money by reducing variety and saved me time as well!!!

We had several pre-meetings in the month of May and June which might have took from my time hosting more events, but in all we did very well.

Next is my Tri-City Geocoin event report that Andrew asked for:

Here are the overall numbers: We had over 600 attend the event. We had 601 sign the log (I know this isn't accurate). We had 626 sign the actual event page "attended." We gave away approximately 290 coins during the event and another 20+ after we left on Sunday.

Lab Cache Info:

Lab cache logs don't close until June 30, but as of today: 806 participated, 634 completed the challenge, 6830 lab caches were found.

We have less than 40 coins left.

Next, I would like to give a huge shout out to HippyChick! She really had the WSGA sales stuff together. I especially liked using the iPad to make credit card purchases. She was well organized, sat the booth for me for awhile, and overall made my job a lot easier than in years past. Heat didn't help our attendance or sales, unfortunately. Furthermore, I made a big last minute decision that changed our entire booth layout. I hit a snag with the Motorhome Company who was sponsoring our Geoconfessions booth and decided to go with using a member's rig instead. This didn't work out because I was restricted with use of the members rig. So lighting was really bad for our video. I had also thought our Unmanned Flying camera guy was more experienced but he wasn't and I got very limited footage for that, buttttt he did do a great group pic! We will still produce a video from this though. I did work out the snag with Motorhome company and we will try again next year. Regardless, the event went well and we got lots of compliments. The coin was beautiful and they were sequentially numbered, that was our big secret. ACFunk with Dead Sailor ran the trackable booth. Shuttle64 along with a bunch of others, including my boys, downloaded GPS files, our QR codes worked for downloads but no one knew how they worked, we will train volunteers next year on that. Our layout of the park could have been better, and our food services had many limitations though the catering from Dickies Bar-B-Que was good for them. We pride ourselves on doing the GC downloads and we will do better next year, also. Our director lost site of the importance of site-wide Internet and that will be resolved next year for folks from outside our country, they have a hard time getting affordable data plans. It was planned but never showed up. I designed and built a family head in hole board of a geofamily, which got a lot of action. I also funded the cut out and constructed the largest Geocoin in the world, at least no one knew a bigger one....? ACFunk funded the "guess how many are in a container", containers. For those of you who don't know, these are full of geocoins, gift cards and loads of other swag, I suspect there is about \$300-\$500 dollars of stuff in these containers they donate each year. RV Roamers and Noot and Foxy did most of our Lab Caches. They are Snowbirds and saw a lot of designs at Yuma they brought to us, we were very lucky to have them onboard. Many of our members donated lots of time in a variety of other areas also such as greetings, handing out coins, hauling and set up and overall helping everyone else have a great time.

Comments:

None

Inland Empire by Martin 5

Past Chapter Events:

Pend Oreille County Challenge event GC5TCR8 was held this past weekend on 07/18/2015. The event was a great success and there were numerous people who attended one of the two Geo-101 classes that were held. The TC Life (Rich) put a lot of time and work into helping the Pend Oreille County Park and Recreation Department in making this challenge and it paid off!! The 25 caches published right at 10:30 am as planned, a big thank you to Ice and Wind for making that possible. I found caches #1-21 with Trevor and Kate (Trevor) and Swiss Cheese Brain (Leland) on the date of the event and returned for the final four caches the following day. Thus far there are 25 Attended logs and there were probably approximately 50+ attendees. The event was held as an IE Chapter event and the 25 caches are all listed on an account created by Parks and Recreation. Credit was also given to the WSGA by Parks and Recreation for our

support. The passport has the WSGA logo on it with the following; "The Pend Oreille County Geochallenge was partially funded through the WA State Geocaching Association (WSGA) Small Grants Program."

I hope more from the west side of the state will make it over to participate in this geo-challenge/tour. We determined it could probably be completed in one day, given you had a full 12 hours of day light and made minimal delays. We did 1-21 in approximately 10 hours with a few stops and 22-25 can be done in 2 hours.

Pend Oreille County website for the event:

http://www.pendoreilleco.org/county/pend_oreille_county_geochallenge.asp

Local newspaper article on the Geochallenge:

<http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/outdoors/2015/jul/09/geocache-challenge-organized-pend-oreille-county/>

Upcoming Chapter Events:

Geocaching Road Trip '15 – CITO - Spokane GC5VWB0 08/01/2015

So many other events going on in our area, it is hard to plan an actual IE Chapter event without conflicting with another cachers event. This is a great thing in my opinion!!

Upcoming Area Events:

"DOG" Days of Summer GC5YGCC 07/30/2015 by TheGreatOz in Coeur d'Alene

Cave Warming Meet & Greet GC5ZFQK 07/31/2015 by Lookout Lisa in Spokane Valley

FTF August: Picnic in the Park GC5Z7R0 08/07/2015 by mineral2 near Moscow

Geocaching 101 and GeoTour Meet & Greet GC5ZF6R 08/07/2015 by Lookout Lisa in Spokane Valley

Spokane History GeoTour Kick Off GC5NVJ6 08/08/2015 by Lookout Lisa in Spokane

Block Party or Bust GC5YQ5F 08/10/2015 by airrooster in Airway Heights

Sasquan 2015 GC5QR95 08/21/2015 by Lookout Lisa in Spokane

Going Bananas & Doing Splits GC5YGRG 08/25/2015 by TheGreatOz in Coeur d'Alene

Arr! Walk the Plank Ye Hearties! GC5ZB51 09/19/2015 by TheGreatOz in Coeur d'Alene

Other areas of interest:

Lookout Lisa's (Lisa's) Spokane County History Geo-Tour is fast approaching.

Thus far it sounds like there will be 40 caches on the tour. Not all will need to be found to earn the geo-coin. The caches will each have a point value. You just have to get the needed points

to earn the coin. Harder caches are worth more points. Caches in outlining areas of the County are also worth more points.

If you didn't already know, the Cache Cave has moved! Lisa moved Cache Advance from Spokane to Spokane Valley. It is a much better location, more centrally located for our area and a shorter distance from I-90. The official grand opening event is on 07/31/2015 and listed above as GC5ZFQK. Numerous local cachers, myself included, helped move the entire contents of the store on July 3rd in a U-Haul truck, the Caboose and a few pickup trucks.

CacheDFish (Derek) has a Geo-Cruise to Alaska set for sometime in September. Contact him directly if you would like more information on joining the group that is going.

Comments: None

Olympic Peninsula by ClayArtist

As before, not much has been happening in the Olympic Peninsula Chapter, since I haven't done any events. I did sit down and spend about 4 hours emailing our active chapter members. I wanted to share with them why there have been no event, plus invite (sic beg) some of them to consider volunteering to be lieutenant. I have received a response from only one person, who can't help. The reason it took so long to do the email, was lack of email addresses for several of the new members. I had to email them through the WSGA website and there is a 10 minute wait between sending emails. Some of them don't even have the option of sending an email, only a message, and if they don't check the website, they won't see it. I think there must be a better way to do this, and would like to see it addressed after we get all the busy-ness of August over with. Possible new topic for discussion, for the September board meeting?

I am hoping to make it to the Saturday night Annual Meeting, during the campout. Will be there, if at all possible. Sure wish I was able to participate in this more, since it's in my back yard, practically.

There is one event in Ocean Shores, on August 11th, being co-hosted by three local cachers, to fulfill the Geocaching RoadTrip requirements.

Comments: None

Cache-Cadia by Mr. Gadget #2

As I am still rehabbing from my April Accident I have not had much time to get out and socialize much in the Cache-cadian chapter area. Our local weekly newspaper just published an article about geocaching. Go-pher-it and I contributed information for the article. It was so sad we did not have a chance to proof read it before it was published as there are some mistakes a seasoned cacher would catch. So it was OK for the lay person reading it.

Other than that I did not have anything worthy to report. Not until I received an email from Bruce Clark (pazooters) up in Waterville and they were checking if Sept 27 would be a good day to hold their annual "Tweet-to Eat" event at the Blue Rooster in Waterville. I told him to go for it as I

would make it part of my short report tonight. I believe this is their 7th or 8th annual event they have held.

On a not so nice subject there has been more problems around with the State Park Coin Challenge this year. Pazooters's have had a continuing problem with their cache at Lincoln Rock State Park being stolen or muggled. It has been disabled waiting to find a different location for it or have someone take it over. I have had all three of my caches at Potholes, Squilchuck, and Wenatchee Confluence State Parks broke and vandalized. Today I had to go to Potholes State Park and replace it with a temporary cache container. There were nothing left in the cache, The stamp and log book were gone and several pieces of the cache container were gone. About three weeks ago I had to rebuild the Wenatchee Confluence cache as it was torn off of the mount and tree and left in pieces on the ground. Squilchuck also had to be rebuilt from abuse.

With the increase of geocachers and the advent of smart phone technology I have noticed a big change of habit of geocachers of late. It's a shame as back when geocaching started, there was a lot more respect by cachers, log entries were nice and entertaining to read, and cache container were a lot more maintenance free, and best of all, most were placed where we wanted folks to visit for a reason. The reason not being for something other than to place one just because I want to.

I think we need to try to encourage people about the value of good cache placement.

Comments: None

48 North Chapter report by mizdirection

1) May, 21, 2015 Cama Beach - Marshall Overnight Elementary School- Huge success. 40 + kids and 12 adults learned how to use GPS's and find caches. Special THANKS to Ranger Tina and Alice for all their preparation and help!

2) June 19-20th, 2015 Mt.Vernon Geocoin Event and Everett Cache Machine - I was unable to sell WSGA merchandise at the Geocoin event due to it not being delivered. However, Rob and Carol came through like shining stars at the Snohomish Picnic Event!!! Because of all their hard work, a profit was made for both chapters!! Looking forward to another joint event!

Upcoming:

Thanks to Lisa, I am working on a 48 North potluck and/or picnic at Rasar State Park on September 19th. I know at this point camping spaces are available. I am driving up tomorrow (7/16/2015) to Rasar, all the facilities there show unavailable at this time. Hoping, that we might get Rockport Ampitheatre for a Meet and Greet.

Comments: None

Puget Sound Chapter report by SirKarp

Events Held:

The Lunch in Snohomish event was on 6-20-15 GC5VCKV. This Event was co-hosted by the Puget Sound and 48 North Chapters, mostly to support the cache machine, (the lunch was stop #63). We also had a folks that drove down to the lunch after completing the Mt. Vernon coin challenge, as well as folks that drove over just for lunch. We requested a donation of \$5.00 per plate of food. Our total amount in donations was \$283.75 with \$90.42 remaining after expenses, which was split between the two hosting chapters. I considered this event to be very successful both in terms of attendance and donations received.

The annual WSGA Puget Sound Summer picnic was on 7-11-15 GC5R2Z6. This year we held the event at Tolt MacDonald Park in Carnation. We were able to reserve the barn shelter, which is a really neat old barn converted in to a picnic shelter.

We tried several new things at this event; one was an early bird prize drawing. Anyone that logged their will attend one week or more before the event date was entered into the drawing. The number of people in each party, as indicated in the will attend log, equaled the number of entries in the drawing. Overall I would say it was quite successful, while we still had a number of last minute will attends, I think more folks had their will attend logged before the one week mark which really helped with planning, and knowing how much to buy, (last year we ran out of burgers and hot dogs before everyone even arrived). We drew one name for the early bird prize. The prize winner received a cache container loaded with swag, including a few WSGA path tags.

We also held a WSGA members drawing. The rules were show your current 2015 WSGA name tag at the door and get your name entered into the drawing. For this, the prize winner received, a cache container loaded with swag, including a WSGA trackable, WSGA flashlight, WSGA bandana, and an envelope with the coordinates to a cache to be published the next day, so the prize winner was guaranteed this FTF. It seemed like folks really got into it, we even signed up at least two new WSGA members during the event (thank you Lizzy for handling the paperwork).

As for the rest of the event we had great potluck spread with a huge variety of food. There was plenty of socializing and caching in the park. The event theme was cowboy, (we were in a barn after all), we had a few folks come dressed for the part adding to the fun I think for the next themed event adding a prize for best dressed. My only regret was that I spent more time behind the grill than I would have liked, but overall it was very successful event.

Up and coming events:

While we don't have anything officially on the books at this time we do have some things in the works. The second annual WSGA Puget Sound Halloween event will be held Saturday October the 24th. This year's event will be at the VASA hall in Preston, we were able to secure the venue to include the day before to set up, the day of the event and the day after for tear down and clean up. The change in venue from last year has to do with cost, and getting added time at the hall.

In conjunction with the Halloween event we're thinking of hosting a pre-planning meet and greet, probably at a restaurant, in August to invite folks, that might want to get involved in setting up, doing a "haunted" room or just helping with this event.

We haven't done any south sound events, we are looking at possibly holding a CITO in the Olympia or Tacoma areas in conjunction with Groundspeak's Road Trip summer souvenirs. If anyone happens to know of a park in need and / or a park manager I'd love some input.

Comments: None

Fundraising and Donations

Report by AndrewRJ

The board has decided to implement a policy to manage donations and fundraising activities that occur. A discussion and voting occurred since the last meeting in the private forums.

Back in 2010-11, when WSGA was nearly broke, we encouraged the chapters to hold raffles to raise money for the club, and there were several in various chapters; so there is precedent. (This was mainly in 2010, when we were straining to support our GeoWoodstock activities on top of regular club functions.) All the monies came to the general treasury for club use. If you dig back to 201-11 in the BoD forum, you can probably find threads on it. We had a specified process for doing them and handling the proceeds. We haven't done them since then because we haven't needed them and most of us don't like pushing for money at events.

The WSGA as an organization (the executive committee) needs to approve fundraising. This isn't going to be a big deal and I can't think of too many reasons we wouldn't approve it, but we need to approve the reason why we need the funds raised.

Some background there -- We voted upon the following:

Cash donations received at an event: If a chapter rep asks for donations at an event (example donation for burgers) the money made from the donations goes to pay the expenses for that event first. If there is money left over the chapter is allowed to use that money. All income must be reported to Kristine and, for the time being, all finds collected in excess of costs need to be sent to Kristine who will credit the chapter.

The voting was approved by a simple majority as many board members did not vote.

Comments:

There was discussion on how swag donations to non-Chapter events would fit within the guidelines (particularly when held in a neighboring state) and whether donation of chapter swag as raffle items to an event held by a member is acceptable. It was decided to leave such donations to the discretion of the local chapter rep.

Meeting was adjourned by AndrewRJ at 8:56pm