

WSGA Special Board Meeting

June 10, 2010 – Online Chat

Call to order @ 7:13 p.m.

In attendance: Abby Wolfe, Elaine Edwards, Jim Bertrand, Caroline Stuckey, Margaret Dunn, Alan Funk, and Lee Campbell

Absent: Amber Barber, Debbie Combs, Craig Brown, Russ Wilson, Tree Wines

Welcome visitors: Chris Brue, Brian and Lisa Lenihan, Greg McCaddon,

Greetings to Officers and Guests by President

Overview of WSGA's GeoWoodstock activities – Abby (hydnek)

Abby: This is a special meeting outside our quarterly business meetings, held to discuss our GeoWoodstock activities... and make sure we are on track and answer questions, discuss any issues, etc. We only have 3 weeks before the big festival! And some folks are starting to perspire. Thanks to the board members for making time for this meeting, and to the GW activity managers for attending to discuss their projects.

As y'all know by now, WSGA is heavily involved in supporting GeoWoodstock this year, as it's on our doorstep. We became Silver Sponsors in January, so we are linked from the GW website and will have our logo on the official GW shirt. We will also have a booth at the event, managed by B+L. We are hosting several ancillary activities, including the Going APE event and On the Road events. We've made special merchandise for the club and attendees, including our new APE coin and Cachekinz....GeoWoodstock T-shirt, and other swag. FluteFace and Tree have been overseeing the coins and merchandise, respectively. We are also overseeing a statewide Cache Maintenance drive, led by Mc3cats. And - last but not least - we are launching a new Recommended Caches section on our site, hopefully in a week, lead by jcar.

So, with that overview, I'd like to turn it over to the individual project managers to discuss their activities.

WSGA booth at GW – Lisa (B+L)

Lisa stated that they have filled three of the four shifts. There will be three people scheduled for each shift with some extras (spouses, etc.) to help out. Jim and Abby are not counted in the numbers as they will be there most of the day to help out and answer questions.

Jim mentioned that he believes that the first two shifts will be the busiest. At least until the APE Coins sell out. Abby agreed and Brian and Lisa will add reinforcements to the first two shifts.

Abby announced that we now have the banner for the booth and the APE event as well as other supplies including a popup 10ft canopy. The question arose as to how many volunteers would fit into a 10'x10' space? Greg suggested that the overflow could be on the outside taking pre-orders.

Lisa mentioned that we still did not know our location or the times of set-up and tear-down. Abby asked that they email the COWWS and ask for an update so we know our location, and whether we will have one side or two for presentation.

Abby also pointed out that there will not be WiFi at Remlinger Farms.

Lisa recapped that we are selling the following: T-shirts, Going APE! Coins, Cachekinz, various WSGA swag and acting as information.

The question arose as to whether we will be taking debit or credit cards. Jim clarified that we will be taking cash only. Checks will be accepted by WSGA members only.

Some discussion followed as the where ATMs were located in Carnation and whether or not we could get a one-day credit card processing contract. Abby pointed out that if they do not have WiFi, we would not be able to complete credit card transaction anyway.

GeoWoodstock Statewide Events (On the Road, Fireworks 4th) – Elaine (Lucymogus)

Elaine stated that there are three on July 1st: Waterville from 6 am to 6 pm and Everett and Carnation both from 6-8 pm. Waterville and Everett are both WSGA-sponsored events. These are On-The-Road Events.

There do not seem to be any other OTR events scheduled at this time.

As far as fireworks events, it doesn't seem that there is anyone wanting to host. Elaine found several cities just through websites that we could list as having fireworks on the 4th. So far, the cities in the list include Blaine, Seattle – Gasworks Park, Renton – Coulon Park, Bellevue, Leavenworth, Long Beach, Vancouver, Liberty Lake, Spokane Walla Walla, and Yakima.

Elaine will put together the list by June 21st to give us time to get them posted on the websites and copies made for hand-outs.

Abby stated that the two WSGA-sponsored On-The-Road events will be getting swag packages for prize giveaways.

Lee gave an update from LookoutLisa that WiFi will be provided for the vendors.

Cache Maintenance Drive – Chris (mc3cats)

Chris said that he has been busy driving the by-ways and the high ways of the Evergreen State checking out caches along the freeways of our state. Most recently, he took a trip over to the Inland Empire and hit some just off the freeway caches and notified COs to get their caches ready for the onslaught of visitors.

He has also posted some friendly reminders about the cache maintenance drive on the WSGA site and will do more on the forum pages both on the COWWs site as well as Geocaching.com.

Chris suggested that Chapter Reps can also help get the word out for us as well.

Chris is planning on heading south on I-5 this coming weekend to check out the caches along the corridor and reminding COs about prepping their caches for the GW8. He doesn't think he will be able to complete I-82 or I-5 north. So if the Chapter Reps in those regions can help spread the word, please do so!

Abby asked if there was everyone here planning to do a cache maintenance run on their own caches in the next couple weeks? Jim responded that he was taking the week off beforehand and plans to do almost all of his.

Abby thanked everyone for their hard work and asked that we all spread the word to other cachers - not everyone reads the forums. If you do visit our forum or Groundspeak's, there are threads with good tips on this maintenance drive. She also reminded everyone to make sure you have a really roomy log (think 100s of finds in some areas) and post an Owner Maintenance note after so folks can see it's been recently vetted.

Chris has other tips in the threads, as well, as did one of our reviewers. He also said to not be afraid to contact the cache owners and place a "request maintenance" log.

Recommended Caches section on website – Jim (jcar)

Jim: The lists are built; two have been made public -- North 48, and I-5. The rest should be soon. The page on the WSGA site should be ready soon with links to those and many specialty lists (boat, night, etc.). Check out the WSGA profile on GC.com and select the bookmark tab. I have to really thank Abby, while I have been overwhelmed with other items, for cleaning up the original lists, moving things around, and going back making sure they all had a common look and feel. Lizzy is also lending a hand.

We still have need for some recommendations along the I-5 and I-90 corridors; we have lots of empty spots along the way. Also some areas, like SW are lacking in caches. If you come across a cache just email me or the wsga.cache.recommendations@gmail.com. We plan to have a periodic review of caches once this gets going every quarter or so, but the process needs to be put into place.

Jim suggested that when someone chimes in on the Groundspeak forums or WSGA forums we can just link to them. One of the goals is not to overwhelm, but give a highlight and be representative of the entire region.

Abby mentioned that one of Jim's ideas was to include a regional highlights section at the top, and we are including links in the write-ups where possible to attraction sites (like park sites, etc.). That will make it a

useful reference for both locals and visitors.

Abby also mentioned that one list is not under the WSGA umbrella. The North Olympic Peninsula Recommended Caches list is owned by MountainShadow, the Chapter Rep. Any suggestions for that list go to him. He has been very prompt in adding any suggested caches.

APE Coin – Margaret (FluteFace)

Margaret: 500 APE coins have been ordered in an antique gold finish. They are expected in time for GW8. From the sounds of things, demand will be high. Going APE event attendees will have first opportunity to purchase the coin, probably 10a to 1p at GW8, assuming we aren't selling at the APE event. After 1p, the plan is to open sales up to any GW8 attendee. In all cases, the limit will be one coin, primarily because of demand.

We had looked into the possibility of ordering additional gold coins (any for that matter) and found the time table was just too snug to have them in time for the main event. However we are considering the possibility of taking orders (or a list of those interested) from GW8 attendees for the AG coin, subject to the limitation of 1 coin per cacher, the idea being that this coin is linked to GW8 as well as the APE cache. (This requires some work, and we are not verifying finds [that the purchaser has actually made the "find" during the event on the APE cache to qualify for the purchase].) After that, all future mintings will consist of antique silver coloring.

There has been concern about angering people [if we mint additional gold coins]. Depending on our decision, we potentially anger WSGA members, collectors who though there would only be 500 coins (I have to check on what exactly we said), or GW8 attendees who don't get one. Pretty much, we're not going to please everybody. That's pretty much standard in the geocoin world. So, we have to decide what we'd like to do and are interested in your feedback.

Abby pointed out that she, Flutey, jcar, Greg, and Avroair have been discussing Abby pointed out that she, Flutey, jcar, Greg, and Avroair have been discussing the APE coin logistics on an ongoing basis to ensure we don't overlook anything and try to make the right choices - as Flutey points out, there are tricky aspects.

Abby: There will not be any pre-paid orders since they will debut on July 2nd ...and the idea is only those who attend the APE event or GW can get one. We do expect to sell out the 500 gold minting at GW. For one thing, we have 400 signed up for the APE event... and if most of them choose to buy one (they have first dibs), that doesn't leave many for the general GW attendees.

However, the future silver mintings will not have a finite number, we see this as an ongoing coin due to the cachet of the APE cache and desire for a keepsake. Flutey has done a great job of wrangling this. It's been tricky.

Margaret: So there will be minting, silver for sure but the question is more gold? And if so how to handle. I personally prefer a list obtained at our GW8 booth and then we bill through PayPal with a time limit on paying. When that's reached we order golds for them, and then more silvers for general sale. We have people that are working the entire event that want to buy one but might not be able."

Abby posed that question about how feasible keeping a list would be if we do sell out. Discussion continued bringing out different points including reading handwriting and making sure everyone gets billed. No firm decisions were made at this time on how to handle the situation when the coins sell out.

Abby wrote that once we sort that out, we can also post online beforehand with the 'sellout' plan, to be clear what to expect and how it will work.

Merchandise – Abby for Tree (Mrs. Three Bottles)

Abby: "Tree couldn't be here, but we have merchandise, lots of it! The tote bags, mini-pens, water bottle holders are all here and they look great. The APE Cachekinz should arrive shortly. I was worried when we had to double our order to 1000 Cachekinz due to a miscommunication, but it's a good thing...cos we didn't expect the number of APE registrations that we have received.

Tree worked with me on the GeoWoodstock T-shirt. As you may know, we have two versions of the shirt...A volunteer version, which our GW volunteers will get free and a Club version, which anyone can buy. Volunteers also get a free APE Cachekinz - both thank-you's for helping us make our part of GW a success.

The APE Goody Bags will consist of the tote bag (with our logo) filled with an APE Cachekinz, water bottle with branded holder, a mini-pen, and some handouts. This is the most merchandise WSGA has ever produced in one year, esp. combined with the coins and the Campout pathtag - we won't be hurting for swag! Much of this - the WSGA and APE coins, the APE Cachekinz, the GW Club T-shirt, and possibly the pens and water holders will also be sold at our GW booth.

That's the overview of our merchandise plan. After GW, we will be making chapter distributions so you have stuff to give away at events."

"Going APE!" event – Greg (TotemLake)

Greg stated that our WSGA Going APE! Event has turned into a giant success. We now have 100% of the required permits. We also had to gain a state permit for the Mission 9 cache. Fortunately, this was signed off with the final special use permit two days ago.

Greg is working on a final draft of a map and cache listing handout. The map rough draft is here (<http://mapshare.delorme.com/Consumer/V.aspx?p=tw4lv423>); it will be easier to read on paper.

Greg also thanked Groundspeak, which gave us permission to make available a GPX file of area caches within 5 miles of the APE cache. The final version will be provided to Abby for posting on the event page within the next couple of days. We will have similar map/cache list handouts (hopefully enough) to cover the attendees.

Shifts not yet solidly determined and will be based on total volunteers. We are looking at possible rotating 2-3 hours per if we can round up enough people.

Greg and Abby will be doing a final walk through of both staging and hiking arenas for final disposition of crews and booth(s). It looks like we will also be doing another hike to the cache to make a list of the permanent TBs at the ape cache to make a hand out for those finding the cache. This will make it easier for those to move past the cache quicker.

Greg gave a thank you to Abby and Jim for their immense patience and help in pulling this together.

Abby: "We originally had estimated 200-250 paid attendees, and we now have almost 400. Success brings its own issues, like parking, running out of coins, etc. We never expected this many folks to pay \$25 to visit the cache! Even some locals have registered. Add in the folks who just come to Hyak for the meet-n-greet portion, and we expect to be an unofficial mega-event on Friday.

Note that we are not leading any tours to the cache. Possible misconception based on wording, but we will have volunteers at Annette Lake TH as well as several volunteer roles at Hyak.

We will be posting the volunteer lists and signups for both APE event and booth next week. We are meeting on both this weekend."

Abby made sure the board felt comfortable with WSGA's GeoWoodstock plans before adjourning the meeting. She also mentioned that the COWWS looks on track for success with the main event.

Open Discussion

Adjournment – 9:07 p.m.