

Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting

June 28, 2012

Hydnsek called WSGA's 3rd Business Meeting of the year to order at 6:34PM on June 28, 2012.

Board Members in Attendance: jcar (Jim Bertrand), acfunk (Al Funk), Mc3Cats (Chris Brue), hydnnsek (Abby Wolfe), Fluteface (Margaret Dunn), mazeracer (Nate Canfield), Geek&Gopher (Ray Harrison), lucymogus (Elaine Edwards)

Absent: idajo2 (Jo Dunn), Kidvegas19 (Jim Parkman), Mr. Gadget#2 (Gene Reed)

Guests: blueal, xplore19

Others mentioned during the meeting and listed here for reference: NepoKama, Seth!, Moun10Bike, LindaLu, lucyandrickie, Travis, vds, 6 pack rats, Bryan and Hydeec, PhilNi, Terrible T's, Tobias & Petronella, jim_carson, Lizzy, Jester, Rey del Roble.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the March 22, 2012 Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

Membership – Reported by jcar

Membership Count and Chapter Breakdowns: 6/28/2012

Chapters	Individual	Family	Associate	Total
Puget Sound	95	53	1	149
48 North	40	23		63
Olympic Peninsula	13	14		27
Inland Empire	14	9	4	27
South Central	10	7		17
Cache-Cadia	9	7		16
Southwest	3	6	1	10
Unaffiliated		1	5	6
Totals as of 3/22/2012	184	120	11	315

We have increased by 14 members in the past month and 37 members since our March board meeting. There were increases in all membership types and in most chapters. We do not have a count as of the end of June 2011, but we are slightly ahead of May 2011, so we are probably on track with last year. Members joining/renewing since June 1st will now be members through the end of 2013.

Finances – Reported by lucymogus

Current treasury is \$8380. Upcoming: \$1000 due to pay balance of campout. Expenses for Ape weekend are coming up as well. Probably \$3000+. These expenses will put us around \$4000 for a balance before income arrives from summer events. This could also affect merchandise we want to order.

Hydnsek asked acfunk to report on the fundraising and sales from the TriCities Geocoin Challenge event on June 22. Acfunk said the results were: merchandise sales = \$327; raffle = \$212; Breakfast (donations) = \$86; Total = \$625. Expenses for breakfast were \$122, so net = \$503.

Campout 2012 – Reported by Fluteface

The campout will be held July 27-29. This is what we've got scheduled:

- Friday:
 - Check in, campfire w/ s'mores.
- Saturday:
 - Check-in; no host hikes to Mt. Pilchuck, Monte Cristo, Big 4 Ice Caves, the Alnilam caches, Robe Valley and Lime Kiln.
 - Kids: Scavenger hunt on grounds, art project.
 - Poker Run: prize donated by each participant.
 - Dinner: WSGA-supplied burgers/hot dogs, drinks, and related items; potluck for the rest.
 - WSGA Annual General Meeting, raffle winners announced for bingo and swag jar guess.
- Sunday:
 - Breakfast -- pancakes and fruit.
 - CITO: The CITO is just now coming together, due to recent wind storm in Granite Falls. We'll be cutting firewood, so they're looking for people to bring those types of tools, and maybe another wood splitter. They've also promised lunch to participants. CITO time to be announced.

The pathtag has been posted in the forum and event page, and has been sent to mint: 150 of them. Cost was \$226. Cabela's donated some items for the raffle.

Lucymogus reported that currently there were 12 RV registrations, 12 Tent registrations, and 54 Dinner registrations. She said that she was updating the registration numbers to the campout thread on the WSGA forum and will update it weekly from this point on.

Jcar suggested that the campout should be posted on the Facebook page after this weekend. Hydnsek said she would post a reminder on it. She asked the Board members to talk about the Campout at local events over the next month.

WSGA 2012 Geocoin Sales – Reported by acfunk

Since the last Board meeting, sales of merchandise (online plus Tri-Cities geocoin event) has been: 1 hat, 7 lanyards, 7 pens, 5 Ape Cachekinz, 59 2012 geocoins, 11 2011 geocoins, 1 2010 geocoin, 16 Ape geocoins, and 5 WSGA stickers.

Hydnsek asked how the geocoins were selling vs. last year and how many we had left at this point. Acfunk responded that we have 152 2012 coins left and 138 2011 coins left. He said that we started with 270 of the 2012 coins. Jcar said that the 2012 geocoins were selling better than the previous year.

Merchandise – Reported by hydnnsek and jcar

Hydnsek led a discussion on future merchandise. She asked jcar to discuss the proposal she sent out a few days ago.

Pens: Jcar said the mini-pens, which are in assorted colors this time, would have special wording for the WSGA 10th Anniversary. Each chapter will get enough to give to everyone at their anniversary events as gifts. Pens will be ordered in the next couple of days.

Pathtags: Jcar said that pathtags will be the member bonus this year and that we hope to have them out to members just prior to the Anniversary event.

Notebooks: Jcar also suggested we consider making small notepads with the WSGA logo as a sale swag item. Because the notepads are more expensive and we are creating a lot of other merchandise, hydnnsek said she and jcar had agreed that the notebooks will be an item to consider for 2013.

Club T-shirt: Jcar said that a special 10th anniversary version of WSGA T-shirts will be available for sale prior to 10th anniversary event, ideally the weekend of the Groundspeak Block Party and APE event. Volunteers working the booth at the Block Party will get the shirts free as their "uniform" and thank-you.

APE swag: Hydnnsek wants to make an APE T-shirt again this year, same design as before but new (better) color. Event volunteers get the shirt free as their "uniform" and thank-you. She also proposed making an Ape event coin this year, a limited edition sold only at the event. Groundspeak is now offering free tracking codes and custom icons to mega-event hosts, so the coin would be fairly cheap, and NepoKama would design and produce it. Number to mint needs to be decided.

Hydnsek asked for a Board vote to approve the following from the proposal: the WSGA anniversary pathtag as the member bonus for 2012; the new club T-shirt; the APE T-shirt; and the APE event coin.

Motion made by Fluteface and seconded by acfunk. Motion to create the proposed merchandise passed unanimously.

Hydnsek said that she and jcar would report back on the T-shirt designs, and Flutey would report on the pathtag design.

Jcar said that merchandise was transferred to acfunk in May, so coin sales are going out from the Tri-Cities now. He reminded Chapter Reps to talk to acfunk about their Chapter Swag.

International Geocaching Weekend – reported by hydnek

International Geocaching weekend is August 18-19. WSGA will again have a booth at the Geocaching Block Party on Saturday, donated by Groundspeak per our collaboration with them around the weekend events.

WSGA's big event is Sunday: the 3rd annual Going APE event - now with Mega status. The APE event is WSGA's first mega event - last year's APE event was certified and got the icon retroactively, so this year's event received it automatically. To maintain Mega status, we have to document 500+ attendees each time. Iron Horse State Park is supportive of the annual event at Hyak, and hydnek reported she already had a full volunteer roster.

As a Mega event, we get additional perks from Groundspeak, including free tracking codes and custom icon for an event coin, and a custom Souvenir, which is being designed by NepoKama

Some people have asked about the event's viability without the actual APE cache, but based on signups so far, we are in good shape. Being a Mega helps, and we forget how special this area is – the cool tunnel, the old caches, the majestic mountains. We will continue to be a "low-key" Mega, with no vendors or special activities. We will have the same Apezilla logboard, Fen Dweller tunnel creature, and Sasquatch at the Ape tribute cache. There will be glowsticks for everyone this year, and some additional signage to warn folks (esp. nonattendees) to beware of tunnel monsters.

WSGA 10th Anniversary – reported by hydnek

September 8th is the club's 10th anniversary. Current planning is for all seven chapters to host an anniversary celebration (event). Six chapters (all but PS) would host on Saturday, September 8, the actual anniversary date. Adjoining chapters could stagger their times so folks can travel between events.

The 'main' event will be the Puget Sound anniversary event on Sunday, September 9, 2-5 pm in Renton. This is the 'Founders' Event', as it will feature as many of the 19 club founders as can attend. Hydnek has contacted all the founders, and several have already accepted: Seth! (first president), Moun10Bike, LindaLu, lucyandrickie, Travis, vds, 6 Pack Rats, Bryan and Hydee. We'll ask the founders to share anecdotes from the early days of caching and how they came to found the club (e.g., WA State Parks wanted to ban geocaching). We'll also have birthday cake, a special raffle, hopefully highlights from 10 years of caching across Washington.

Cache series: We are also doing a special cache series that will debut Saturday morning, September 8. This cache art will spell out 'WSGA' at the south end of Lake Washington (54 puzzle caches, done by 38 WSGA members from around the area). PhilNi is managing the project. Credit goes to mc3cats and Terrible T's for the idea, to Tobias & Petronella for the initial mapping, to jim_carson for computing all the default coordinates, and to hydnek, PhilNi, and mc3cats for scouting the final locations.

Hydnek asked for Board input on the plan. Fluteface said that she would like to attend the Olympic Peninsula event and was therefore thinking of a morning event for 48 North. Geek&Gopher said he is ready to post the Southwest event for Saturday morning breakfast and that he is going to the Olympic Peninsula event and then to the Puget Sound event.

Plans are still in formation for South Central, Inland Empire, and Cache-cadia.

Hydnsek proposed that funding for all the anniversary activities on the September 8-9 weekend come from the WSGA general treasury rather than chapter allotments.

Jcar suggested we come up with a total amount for the weekend and how much each chapter can have allocated. Mazeracer said that maybe we could use the same ratio as for the chapter allocation. Jcar said that the allocation could be developed offline and reported back later.

Hydnsek motioned that funding for WSGA's statewide anniversary events on September 8-9 come from the general treasury rather than chapter allocations, and that a cap be set on the amounts based on chapter size ratios. Geek&Gopher seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Geocaching Outreach / Press Coverage – reported by hydnnsek

The City of Newcastle asked WSGA to participate in its Earth Day event on April 21, and mc3cats and hydnnsek hosted a WSGA booth that got a fair amount of traffic.

The new Tulalip Cabela's is interested in geocaching. Lizzy made the original contact re: donations for the Campout, and they responded by asking WSGA to do a geocaching presentation on May 19. Jester volunteered, but unfortunately nobody came. Cabela's thinks the interest is there, though, so they invited us to have a table at their Fall Great Outdoor Days event on August 25-26. Lizzy has offered to help, if not manage it. What does the Board think about WSGA participating?

FluteFace said she thought it was a good idea, especially in light of the donation they've already made to the campout. She said Cabela's can give geocaching and WSGA good exposure.

Hydnsek asked FluteFace to discuss organizing a booth offline with Lizzy and then we can respond to Cabela's.

The Mountaineers asked WSGA to do another geocaching presentation during their Family Hiking Weekend at Snoqualmie on August 4-5. Jester's presentation in 2009 was a big hit, they said, so Jester has generously agreed to do it again.

The July-August issue of *Washington Trails* magazine has a 4-page feature on geocaching, plus a gear section. WTA used to be dubious about geocaching, but like many parks, they now see its potential value, and the editor asked hydnnsek to author it. The article includes two contests: a quiz for non-cachers that has prizes from Groundspeak (beginner stuff like the *Idiot's Guide*), and an online quiz for more savvy geocachers with Gear-Aid geocoins as prizes. The issue will be out second week of July.

Mc3cats reported that in July, he will be working with Tacoma Libraries to do two classes for their summer teen program. He will be running the classes at two Tacoma library locations, both on the same day.

Geek&Gopher reported that they will have an Information Booth at the Clark County Fair in August.

NEW BUSINESS

Windfarm Event Redux – reported by mazeracer

Mazeracer reported that with a recent loss in the family, it will not be possible for him to host another event at the PSE Windfarm near Vantage this year. He said he could support someone else taking the lead for an event this year.

After discussion, a decision was made for the event to be delayed until next year with a preliminary target of May.

Washington State Parks – reported by hydnek

Despite their budget woes and recent layoffs, the State Parks are expressing new interest in geocaching as a recreational activity to bring people into the parks. WSGA was founded because the State Parks were considering banning geocaching 10 years ago, and WSGA was instrumental in working with the State Parks to craft the current guidelines. Recently, thanks to the work of several cachers with their local State Parks (notably, Rey del Roble with the Cama Beach State Park), State Parks personnel are revisiting the notion of caches in parks and how best to implement that.

Cama Beach ranger Tina Dinzi-Pederson has taken up the cause, and hydnek is working with her - and up the chain of command - on some exciting possibilities.

First, hydnek and the State Parks are reviewing the current caching guidelines with the goal of revising them to be easier to work with. and Second, we are discussing how to ensure that all park managers know the guidelines and how to work with geocachers. The geocaching experience is currently inconsistent across park units around the state. Some state parks make it easy to place caches, others are nearly impossible. Hydnek is meeting with them in mid-July to begin formal discussions around amending the guidelines.

Third, 2013 is the 100th anniversary of the Washington State Park system, and they are proposing doing a Geocaching challenge: 100 caches in 100 State Parks, with geocoin prizes. This could be a tremendous promotion for both the State Parks and WSGA! State Parks is looking at funding options for a geocoin. WSGA would donate volunteer effort to this project - coin design, cache placement, etc.

Finally, more individual State Parks are interested in our Park Liaison Program. St. Edward State Park in Kirkland once had caches, and may soon again. They reached out to us, and PhilNi signed on as geocaching liaison and has already met with them. Larrabee SP near Bellingham has also joined the Liaison Program, with PNWbrat as their liaison.

Geocaching Challenges – reported by hydnek

As the TriCities Geocoin Challenge and the proposed State Parks centennial geochallenge demonstrate, geocaching challenges with geocoin prizes are becoming popular promotions for park systems (and some cities).

Hydnek reported we can add King County Parks to the growing list. She was contacted last winter by Carolyn Duncan, who manages their Conservation Futures Fund (CFF), about doing a geochallenge as part of CFF's 30th-anniversary celebration later this summer. The tentative kickoff date is September 15, and the challenge will be finding 30 caches in 30 of park units all over the county, with a geocoin as prize. NepoKama volunteered to design the coin and it's at the mint; KCP paid for their coin. Hydnek said that part of her time this summer will be working with them on the geocaching challenge - scouting locations, getting caches placed, etc.

King County Parks will own their caches under their premium account, but we need helpers to scout the locations and place the caches. King County Parks will also pay for the cache containers and contents. King County Parks is due to provide hydnek with their list of preferred parks by June 30. Their goal is to highlight different features in their parks; we'll work from their list to determine actual cache locations.

2013 Geocoin – reported by hydnek and Fluteface

The 2013 WSGA geocoin should be designed and produced this fall, and Hydnek asked if Fluteface wanted to manage the next coin, and if so, if she wanted to do another design contest. After some discussion, Board consensus was to have another design contest for the 2013 coin.

However, FluteFace said that for a variety of reasons, she was resigning as Geocoin Manager. However, she would finish the anniversary pathtag. She suggested that we ask NepoKama to become the new Geocoin Manager, as he is a great designer and gaining prominence in the geocoin world.

Hydnek agreed to talk to NepoKama about taking on the role and managing a design contest

Hydnek thanked Fluteface for all of her hard work as Geocoin Manager over the past three years.

2013 Campout – reported by hydnek

Traditionally, WSGA rotates the Campout between Wet and Dry side, and also around chapters, so that a Campout comes to everyone's vicinity over time. Since the 2012 Campout is hosted by 48 North, this means 2013 should be East Washington. Hydnek recommended Cache-cadia as host, since IE and South Central were the last two Eastern hosts. We have had two previous campouts in Cache-cadia (25 Mile State Park on the west side of Lake Chelan, and Squilchuck State Park in the hills south of Wenatchee), but it's been a few years. This will obviously depend on the chapter's willingness and availability of locations.

However, Geek&Gopher volunteered to have the Southwest chapter host the Campout. Eager hosts are always a plus, so after a brief discussion, hydnek asked for a motion to award the 2013 WSGA Campout

to the Southwest WA chapter. Lucymogus made the motion. Acfunk seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.