

Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting

March 21, 2013

Hydnsek called WSGA's 2nd Business Meeting of the year to order at 6:39 PM on March 21, 2013.

Board Members in Attendance: jcar (Jim Bertrand), acfunk (Al Funk), Mc3Cats (Chris Brue), hydnek (Abby Wolfe), Geek&Gopher (Ray Harrison), lucymogus (Elaine Edwards), Kidvegas19 (Jim Parkman), idajo2 (Jo Dunn), Mr. Gadget#2 (Gene Reed), Fluteface (Margaret Dunn), mazeracer (Nate Canfield), psykokiwi (Kelly Wiggans-Crawford), benandjayme (Ben Hewitt), hippychick1620 (Kristine Norton), Tumbleweedpirates (Mike Lowery), Kathy McCormack (GrievousAngel)

Absent: Jerry Martin (Martin 5)

Guests: NepoKama (WSGA Geocoin and Pathtags Manager), Dgwphotos, Cacheikers, ZagMomnDad

Others mentioned during the meeting and listed here for reference: PhilNi, enjoydmoment, pazooter, swaninwa, grossi, Three Bottles, Right Wing Wacko

Hydnsek welcomed both outgoing and new board members to a joint meeting. This meeting is the last for the old board and the new board officially takes office on April 1, 2013. Voting during the meeting will therefore still be by the outgoing board members.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the January 31, 2013 Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

2013 Board Election Results and Introduction of New Members – Reported by jcar

Jcar thanked everyone that agreed to run, both current and new. Since there was one contested position, an election was held March 1–15, as stated in our Bylaws. About 120 members voted. The new Board takes office April 1 and serves until March 31, 2014.

Continuing from the prior Board are President – Abby Wolfe (hydnek); Puget Sound Chapter Representative – Chris Brue (Mc3cats); Cache-cadia Chapter Representative – Eugene Reed (Mr. Gadget #2); Southwest Chapter Representative – Ray Harrison (Geek & Gopher); and Olympic Peninsula Representative – Jo Dunn (idajo2).

New to the board starting April 1 are Vice-President – Kelly Wiggans-Crawford (psykokiwi); Secretary – Ben Hewitt (benandjayme); Treasurer - Kristine Norton (hippichick1620); 48 North Chapter Representative - Kathy McCormack (GrievousAngel); South Central Chapter Representative – Mike Lowery (Tumbleweedpirates); and Inland Empire Chapter Representative – Jerry Martin (Martin 5).

New board members should be in touch with the retiring board members to get any needed transition and items for the position (e.g. chapter banners, leftover supplies, etc). Jcar offered to help if needed.

In addition, jcar just mailed name badges to all new board members reflecting their new positions. Retiring board members will also receive updated name badges.

Membership – Reported by jcar

Membership Count and Chapter Breakdowns: 3/21/2013

Chapters	Individual	Family	Associate	Total
Puget Sound	86	60	0	146
48 North	35	23	1	59
Olympic Peninsula	13	7	0	20
Inland Empire	12	15	3	30
South Central	9	9	0	18
Cache-Cadia	7	3	0	10
Southwest	6	8	0	14
Unaffiliated	0	0	3	3
Totals as of 11/30/2012	168	125	7	300

Jcar reported that we are in excellent shape, the best WSGA has been at this point in the year. We are currently at 300 members, an 8% increase over last year at this time, which can be attributed to recent events; the State Park GeoTour, which encouraged new (and renewing) members so they could hide a cache; and the February COTM, which encouraged membership for voting purposes.

Jcar thanked all the chapter representatives and officers who have contributed to the growth over the past couple of months. Hydnssek commented that it was great to see all the chapters had met the minimum of 10 members required to maintain active status.

Idajo2 asked if future newsletters would have a very visible reminder about membership renewals. Hydnssek replied that the newsletters always have a renewal reminder, but not prominently in the main section after the first one of the year. She said that lapsed members are removed from the mailing list after the first mailing, and that is flagged in the first issue, as the newsletter is a membership perk. She also mentioned that newsletters will probably be quarterly in future.

Financial Report – Reported by lucymogus

Lucymogus said our finances are in great shape. We have \$10,850.00 in the bank at this time. We have budgeted \$26,200 for income and \$21,350 for expenses for the year. Expenses are running a little ahead of income at this point, but we do not have any large outstanding bills due.

For the new members, a monthly Treasurer's report posts in the private BoD (Board of Directors) forum.

Chapter allocations will be figured at the end of March. All chapters are eligible as minimum membership is 10. There is also a forum thread in the BoD private forum.

Hydnssek said she would have expenses shortly related to the GeoTour - our half of the coin payment, and the ink stamps. We are looking at about \$1500 or so. She said that we've already paid for the Campout and the 2013 Geocoin, so we are in good shape.

Hydnsek noted for the new members that chapter allocations are based on chapter size. There's a base amount of \$100 once you hit the minimum of 10 members, then an incremental amount for each additional member. Per the Bylaws, a small advance of \$50 is available for each Chapter starting January 1. The initial allocation in April is based on membership as of March 31 with an optional update in August/September based on incremental increases in membership. The formula is discussed in the BoD forum thread. Chapters don't get the allocation up front – it's reserved in the treasury and provided once receipts are submitted for reimbursement. Receipts can be mailed or e-mailed to the Treasurer.

Merchandise Report – Reported by jcar and acfunk

Jcar reported that we had a booth at Rey del Roble's annual Great Balls of Fire event on Camano Island in February. We sold a few items: trackables, shirts, hoodies, etc., and we gained several new members.

Acfunk reported that he had most of the shirts and hoodies left from the eastern portion of the east-west allocation. He said that there are a number of geocoins left, mainly the 2011 coin and the silver Ape coins. There are also lots of pathtags, pens, and lanyards in the inventory. He said he would do an accurate inventory when the merchandise was transferred to BenandJayme.

Hydnsek mentioned that she had a lot of the inventory also (west side allocation) and that it could be transferred to BenandJayme also. She added that the WSGA merchandise store pages for the clothing, pathtags, and new geocoin would be posted soon.

Geocoin 2013 Status – Reported by NepoKama

NepoKama said he talked to Oakcoins this morning (Mar 21) -- we are still in production and the coin has not yet shipped from the factory. They are expecting it in the next two weeks, but don't have a firm date from the factory at this point. The cost of minting the 2013 coin was \$1,283.80. The cost for the tracking codes & Icon was \$600. So the total cost of the 2013 coin was \$1,883.80. There are 300 total coins being minted: 270 of the regular version and 30 of the volunteer version.

Mr. Gadget #2 asked when they would go on sale. Hydnsek replied that the sale page was going up in the next week or so. As in previous years, members will get a two-week exclusive window to buy before sales are opened to the general public. The price will be same as last year: \$10 members, \$12 nonmembers, limit 3.

Campout 2013 Status – Reported by Geek&Gopher

Geek&Gopher reported registration for the campout is doing "awesome." The 16 RV Sites we reserved were sold out in record time. We only have 12 of 21 Tent Sites remaining so if you are planning on attending, you had better hurry and register! Ray made changes to the Campout Event Page to show that the RV Sites have sold out and the RV Waiting List has been started.

We currently have campout donation requests submitted to the following vendors: Wal-Mart, Cabela's, Cache Advance, Groundspeak.. Groundspeak has already confirmed they some swag.

We have the following no0host outings planned for Saturday: Beacon Rock, Bonneville Dam, Maryhill Winery, Multnomah Falls, and the Original Stash.

G&G are working with NepoKama on a couple of ideas for the campout mathtag; look for them in the Merchandise forum soon.

Hydnsek noted that we've never sold out the RV spots this early, and sometimes have had to eat the cost of a site or two, so this was unexpected.

Geek&Gopher said that the event page has links for other places for RV's and also has links for hotels/motels.

International Geocaching Weekend 2013 – Reported by hydnek

Hydnsek said WSGA will have a booth at the annual Geocaching Block Party, courtesy of Groundspeak, as we have in the past.

On Sunday, WSGA will host the 4th-annual Going APE mega-event, which last year drew 800 people from around the world. Hydnek said she's already had folks from Australia, Germany, Switzerland, etc., pinging her about the event. The event page is posted, and cross-linked with the Block Party page.

Hydnsek has sent out a first call for volunteers for both events, and about half the volunteer slots are filled. She will put out a more general call soon, hoping for some new volunteers.

The booth scenario should be the same as previous years, but we will have a couple changes to the APE event setup. First, we will have 'tunnel monitors' stationed at each end of the tunnel, to warn folks about the traffic inside the tunnel and help avoid incidents. Second, we are going to have an online store page for folks to purchase their event coin and T-shirt beforehand, to avoid last year's issues with the coin selling out in an hour and angry mobs. We'll have a pickup table at the event for those who preordered, and a swag table where we'll sell a few extras plus our other merchandise.

As the APE event grows, so does our need for volunteers. Please put out the word we need more help. Volunteers for the booth at the Block Party must be WSGA members, but being a member is not required for APE event volunteers.

If you have canopies and tables you can loan for the events, please let hydnek know. We didn't have enough canopies last year for the APE event. Also, we need new volunteers for the Apezilla with logboard and for Fen Dweller inside the tunnel. These furrries are fan favorites and photo ops.

NepoKama had a suggestion for another merchandise option at the APE Event this year: small LED flashlights engraved with the WSGA logo. He said he had done some initial looking at costs and we could get nice ones for about \$950 for 250. This works out to a cost of about \$4 per flashlight. The flashlight comes with the battery and is in a gift box.

NepoKama said he thought just the WSGA logo would be engraved on the flashlight since there is a limited space of 1 1/8"W x 1/2"H for the imprint.

After discussion by the Board, Mc3cats asked if a vote could be done on the flashlights with a cap on the costs of \$1000 for the flashlights.

Hydnsek asked if there was a motion for looking into mini-flashlights for selling at the Ape Event with a budget cap of \$1000. Acfunk so motioned. Mr. Gadget #2 seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Washington State Parks Centennial GeoTour Status - Reported by hydnek

WSGA is partnering with Washington State Parks (WSPRC) to host a major geochallenge in honor of the parks' 100th birthday this year. The basics were discussed and voted on in previous Board meetings. The current status: The list of parks and participating cachers is final, as of last week. We have 67 WSGA

members participating, who are placing 104 caches in 103 state parks, plus two challenge caches (50 and 100 caches) and 8 kickoff events around the state.

We have approved the design for the geocoin prize, which has the State Parks centennial logo on one side and the WSGA logo on the other, and it's headed to the mint, overseen by NepoKama. PhilNi has taken over management of cache placement, and psykikiwi is coordinating the kickoff events.

Next phase:

- Hydnek will prepare materials to send to the cache placers, including ink stamps, cache labels, custom stash note, cache-page example, and boilerplate text – we want the cache series to look unified and consistent, and create a great caching experience.
- The State Parks designer will create the passport, then hydnek will produce master verification passports before mailing the ink stamps to cache owners.
- We are still working on the GeoTour contract with Groundspeak, which needs to be signed by the State Parks. Hydnek, the parks representative (Peter Herzog), and Jenn Seva at Groundspeak are collaborating on the details.
- Hydnek and Ranger Tina will pull together the assets needed for the GeoTour page on geocaching.com, as well as creating the State Parks geochallenge page.

So far, the cache placers seem to be having good experiences with their ranger partners, which is great, since this is a project that 'came down' from parks management.

Hydnek also touched on the cache-compliance project – ensuring all existing caches in state parks have approved permits – which is related to the GeoTour. She has compiled a list of noncompliant caches in state parks, and provided it to parks management and participating cachers. Hydnek said to let her know if you have additions or changes to the list, and if you're willing to help with the compliance project. Hydnek said she has a plan for working with the COs of those older caches, and local cachers would be helpful. Several GeoTour cachers have already proactively worked with their parks and noncompliant COs, and it's much appreciated.

The compliance goal is to get existing caches permitted with their original owners, with adoption as a second choice, and archival as the last resort. Hydnek asked chapter reps to please let their chapter members know that. She said she's heard gossip that the parks and WSGA are planning to archive all of the existing caches in May, but that is NOT the intention nor our desire. Rock Rabbit is our assigned reviewer for both the GeoTour series and the compliance work.

Also, there is a new app for WA State Parks, and at least two geocaching events are already listed on the calendar of events located within the app.

Chapter Reports

Puget Sound – Reported by Mc3cats

I had my first post holiday event just last weekend down in lovely South Tacoma. There was a very nice turn out. We got some newbies at that event and a newbie won the big raffle prize. I think I got the cacher turned on to the WSGA. We had a blast at the event wearing green and all.

As upcoming stuff goes, psykokiwi and I have been talking about the summer picnic event. I might let psykokiwi step in here on this since she has been talking with the ranger directly on what's being planned.

Psykokiwi said that her ranger is really excited as well. He wants to do a barbecue since the site has 2 barbecues and sinks. He is good with the idea of us using the venue as our summer picnic as well. Psykokiwi said she was thinking of just a simple line in the event page so as not to detract from the event really being about the parks. She said since the chapter wouldn't have to rent the facility, it seems like a win-win. Psykokiwi added that they were thinking of doing the creative cache clinic again.

Mc3cats added that this would be at the Kanasket Palmer State Park which is the site where the 2004 campout was held.

Mc3cats said he also planned to get another event or two by June.

South Central – Reported by mazeracer

We have been getting geared up for the next Tri-Cities geocoin challenge. Enjoydmoment may be contacting hydnek regarding management for large crowds (including parking lot control) as we are hoping to go mega this year as well. Enjoydmoment has worked out details with us having access to the entire park at Horn Rapids Park this year. The vendors that are planned include Oak coins.

I'm in process of working out the position for a bonus cache again and will have to come up with a new puzzle to allow those who get all 3 coins to find it as well.

Hydnek noted that tumbleweedpirates is hosting one of the GeoTour kickoffs, in the Tri-Cities.

Tumbleweedpirates said he was also hosting a CITO event on April 6.

Hydnek said all of the chapters should be planning on hosting CITO events over the next two months.

Cache-cadia – Reported by Mr. Gadget #2

Not too much to report other than trying to get non-compliant caches up to par for the geo tour and making up some unique cache containers new placements at the State Parks.

Hydnek noted that pazooter was hosting Cache-cadia's GeoTour kickoff event at Lincoln Rock.

Inland Empire - Reported by lucymogus (for Kidvegas19)

There was a blow out winter event on February 16 with over 100 attending. The event included awards, food, and an awesome year-end video. There was also a CITO event last weekend between Pullman and Moscow. The Inland Empire Chapter Representative, Martin 5, is busy at a heli caching event tonight. He is very active and will be a great chapter representative. Also, if the weather cooperates, we will have Kiwi Air doing cache flights this weekend from the BigHorn Show.

There is an Earth Day CITO set for Dishman Hills in April. We have lots of enthusiasm generating over here and are looking forward to busy year.

Southwest – Reported by Geek&Gopher

The WSGA Southwest Chapter is joining the Stream Team from Clark Public Utilities for their 14th Annual

“Plant it for the Planet!” Event on April 20th. We are having the Battleground State Park GeoTour Kickoff Event on June 8th. We are also continuing Campout planning.

48 North – Reported by Fluteface

It has been pretty quiet in North 48 land. The chapter's first event of the year was held March 8 in Bellingham. It was nicely attended and all were strongly encouraged to vote. As was already mentioned, Kathy McCormack (GrievousAngel) is the new chapter representative. I would personally like to thank Julie of Cacheikers for running. Thanks!! Please, do it again!!

My last official acts will be archiving the earlier mentioned Bellingham event, and turning over the chapter caching profile page, banners, and box to GrievousAngel. At this point, the only WSGA chapter event coming up that I am aware of is GA's CITO trail work in the Pilchuck Tree Farm on April 6, 2013 (GC454ER by GA), although there are events in the works for the State Parks GeoTour.

Hydnsek noted that there were two GeoTour kickoff events in 48 North: June 8 on Camano and June 9 near Bellingham.

Olympic Peninsula – Reported by idajo2

The Olympic Peninsula WSGA Chapter is revving up and looking forward to a great year! I've been busy with event planning and hope to have a set-in-stone event schedule posted on the Olympic Peninsula Facebook page as soon as confirmations start rolling in. My goal is to host events in each county within the OP Chapter boundaries - Kitsap, Jefferson, Clallam, Mason, and Grays Harbor counties, plus the part of Pierce County on the Kitsap peninsula.

I'm currently working with geocachers in Grays Harbor County as part of the first event (late April). Last year's meet-n-greet in Aberdeen was very well attended and I want to continue that trend. I am looking for a venue larger than the Aberdeen Pizza Hut. I'm working on a plan that might well take us to Artic, WA. If you haven't been to Artic, and you're curious, you might take a look at ePodunk.com.

Sadly, my very willing and able co-host for last year's spectacular (Clallam County) Discovery Bay (WSGA Anniversary) picnic/potluck/barbecue is no longer working at the Discovery Bay Resort – we had planned to make that an annual event. I have a call in to the Port Angeles Parks and Recreation Department about a late August/early September event at Lincoln Park. I'm anticipating that the event will be a Picnic/Potluck/CITO.

Swaninwa, Teri and Eric, are excited about co-hosting our annual (Jefferson County) Ferino's Pizza event in Port Hadlock. Last year's event was very well attended and a lot of fun! We've been invited back, by the owner, and I'm looking forward to another great event in beautiful Port Hadlock.

I have a venue nailed down and plans are progressing around a Bremerton area (Kitsap County) event. I'm in the process of seeking out a venue for a Shelton (Mason County) event and a picnic event somewhere within the Pierce County boundary on the Kitsap Peninsula.

Other than that, I'm putting together and refurbishing items that are always displayed at OP events: Upcoming events: WSGA Chapters – events inside and outside of the O.P. area and Groundspeak events. (dates are announced as well). Membership Information – always available at every event – that is announced. Special announcements (Summer Campout, Challenges, Mega Events, etc.)

Hydnsek noted that the Olympic Peninsula also has a Geotour kickoff event scheduled at Fort Flagler, hosted by grossi on the June 8-9 weekend.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointed Positions – Reported by hydnek

As the club grows and matures, and our activities increase, so does the workload. I previously established two appointed positions, with the approval of the Board: Geocoin Manager and Campout Advisor. First Flutey and now NepoKama have ably served as Geocoin Managers, and hopefully NepoKama will continue for a while. Acfunk has been our Campout Advisor for the past two years, and created a great campout planning guide. We also had a Merchandise Manager in 2010 (treew of Three Bottles), but that position has been vacant for a couple years. In addition, we have a long-time website manager, Right Wing Wacko.

Hydnsek proposed that we refill the Campout Advisor and Merchandise Manager positions and also establish ongoing appointed roles for Outreach Coordinator, Mega-event Director, and Park Liaison Manager. She said she'd given this some thought and talked to other Board members, and these seem to be the roles we most need to help spread the workload, encourage more participation, and keep the officers roles manageable.

FluteFace noted that hydnek had already been doing some of this, so it would lighten her workload. Hydnek responded that since it was her last year in filling those roles, if the Board wanted them to continue, those roles needed to be formalized. These roles and the appointees will be listed on the Contacts page on the WSGA website.

Lucymogus asked if these would be appointments outside of the Board. Hydnek responded that the appointments could be either, and if the goal is to spread out the work and encourage member participation, non-Board members would be ideal.

Hippyck1620 said she would volunteer as Merchandise Manager. Hydnek accepted the offer and said she proposed Hippyck1620 as the Merchandise Manager. Mc3cats asked for a formal vote and hydnek called for a motion to appoint Hippyck1620 as the Merchandise Manger. Mc3cats made the motion and Fluteface seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Hydnsek asked if anyone else was interested in the other appointed roles mentioned. If not, she requested that Board members recruit members from their chapters who they thought would be a good fit in each of these roles. She said she welcomed suggestions and asked Board members to discuss this among their chapter members.

Benandjayme said he wasn't sure what the roles were and asked if these roles were defined anywhere. Hydnek said no. Idajo2 said that in order to recruit volunteers, there needed to be a "job description."

Hydnsek said she put a description together for each role in the near future. For Outreach Coordinator, she said that person would field the increasing number of requests we get for presentations to schools, scouts, libraries, etc. and handle press interviews and other public relations matters. The Outreach Coordinator wouldn't have to do all this themselves, but route requests to chapter reps and interested members (we have a list of volunteers).

WSGA Website – Reported by hydnek

Hydnsek suggested that our goal for the website should be to get it overhauled/redesigned/improved this year. The consensus among Board members was that the website fell far short of what was desired.

Hydnsek also recommended that the overhaul include changing to new meeting software for online meetings such as the Board meetings. It could also include revisiting whether to change our web hosting service. She said that there are a number of members who are willing to help with the overhaul, including jim_carson and HippyChick1620's husband. The goal would be to do the website overhaul in fall 2013.

Hydnsek said all suggestions were welcome, and to contact her if you're interested in helping.

In wrapping up the meeting, new Board members said that the joint meeting was helpful and informative for them.

There was no further new business.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM.