

Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting

March 22, 2012

Hydnsek called WSGA's 2nd Business Meeting of the year to order at 7:06PM on March 22, 2012.

Board Members in Attendance: idajo2 (Jo Dunn), jcar (Jim Bertrand), acfunk (Al Funk), Kidvegas19 (Jim Parkman), Mc3Cats (Chris Brue), hydnek (Abby Wolfe), Fluteface (Margaret Dunn), mazeracer (Nate Canfield), Mr. Gadget #2 (Gene Reed), Geek&Gopher (Ray Harrison), lucymogus (Elaine Edwards)

Absent: No Board members absent

Guests: blueal

Others mentioned during the meeting and listed here for reference: Right Wing Wacko, tolmaus, NepoKama, Wrastro, Lizzy, Avroair, swaninwa, enjoydmoment, Martin5, The Navigatorz, Jester, Goblindust

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the January 26, 2012, Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

Membership – Reported by jcar

We currently have 278 total members, 163 Individual, 106 Family, and 9 Associate. Chapter totals are shown on the table at the end of this section.

Membership growth continues at a very good pace. Just since the end of February we have 21 new members. All chapters added members, with the most in Puget Sound. The Inland Empire had the biggest gain based on percentage.

Last year at this time we had 265 members. We have almost twice as many Family members this year with many members deciding to renew at the Family level. Because of this growth in that level of membership I have already created more name badges as I did all of last year.

I sent off packets to all Chapter Reps after the last meeting which included the WSGA Membership Application. If you run out please let me know and I can send more. These packets include excellent points about the WSGA. There are always new members after many events so I know you are getting the word out. With continued mention of membership at events, we will continue to be ahead of the numbers from last year.

Lucymogus suggested studying the idea of membership autorenewal again and the expense involved. Jcar and hydnek agreed. Jcar said we can follow up with Right Wing Wacko and see if there is something we can do on the site.

Idajo commented that she attended a Leap Day event in Silverdale and will be an attendee at several non-WSGA events - in the OP Chapter - in upcoming months. As the events draw near, her plan is to contact the hosts to see if they'd be willing to give her a few minutes before their raffles to let folks know about approaching WSGA events and note that membership forms are available for any who might be interested. She noted that approach worked very well at tolmaus' 11-11-11 event in Sequim.

The following table was added post-meeting from jcar's forum thread on membership:

Membership Count and Chapter Breakdowns: 3/22/2012

| Chapters | Individual | Family | Associate | Total |
|------------------------|------------|--------|-----------|-------|
| Puget Sound | 85 | 49 | 1 | 135 |
| 48 North | 38 | 19 | | 57 |
| Olympic Peninsula | 11 | 13 | | 24 |
| Inland Empire | 11 | 8 | 4 | 23 |
| South Central | 8 | 7 | | 15 |
| Cache-Cadia | 7 | 6 | | 13 |
| Southwestern | 3 | 4 | | 7 |
| Unaffiliated | | | 4 | 4 |
| Totals as of 3/22/2012 | 163 | 106 | 9 | 278 |

Finances – Reported by lucymogus

Current fund: \$7405.91

2012 income/expense report to date:

- Income \$5007.70
- Expenses: \$4116.57
- 2012 net income to date; \$891.13

2011 actual income/expenses had some updates after our January meeting:

- Income \$17683.76
- Expenses 16566.15
- 2011 net: \$1117.61

Projected 2012 budget is unchanged. Beginning with March report I will also include a spreadsheet in the reply showing total income and expenses for the year.

Allocations: chapters must reach 10 members to be eligible for allocation. Six of seven are there. Southwest needs 3 more. I will begin a 2012 chapter allocation thread this month (and will update SW status as soon as 10 is reached).

[Allocations are figured this way: \$100.00 base for 10 memberships. Each additional individual/associate membership adds \$5.00 and family membership adds \$7.50 to a chapter's total. As of today, allocations available are:

- Puget Sound: \$750.00
- 48 North: \$382.50
- Cache-Cadia: \$122.50
- South Central: \$137.50
- Inland Empire: \$155.00
- Olympic Peninsula: \$202.50

Lucymogus suggested that every chapter be eligible to receive a \$50.00 allocation for the year whether or not it reaches the 10 member minimum. Once 10 is reached, the formula kicks in and the \$50.00, if already used, would be debited. As with the regular allocation, to receive the \$50.00 reimbursement there would still be a requirement that receipts be turned in along with event plans and at least one event already be published on geocaching.com.

Hydnsek suggested that this allocation be available as of January 1 of the year. Geek&Gopher and idajo commented that the suggested allocation would be helpful.

Hydnsek noted that the above proposal would be a Bylaw change. If the Board is in agreement, she said she would write up a formal amendment and present it for vote via email. Acfunk, mazeracer, kidvegas19, and Geek&Gopher agreed that such an amendment would be a good change. Hydnsek said she would write up the amendment for the Board's review in the next couple weeks.

WSGA 2012 Geocoin – Reported by Fluteface and jcar

FluteFace said that the coins had shipped from Utah and that Jcar should have them by the end of the day on Monday (March 26).

Jcar reported that we have currently sold 99 of the 2012 coins. In addition 15 of the 2011 coins were sold, and a couple Ape coins. Jcar said he expected expect another dozen or so coins will sell from orders. This will take us to about half of what we have for sale leaving us with plenty for the Block Party and Ape Event. Jcar said everything was ready for shipping the coins and that he should have them ready to mail by Friday, March 30. Coins should be received in the first couple of days in April. Jcar said he will post how shipping is going, if there will be any delays, and when shipping is complete.

FluteFace reported that the samples had a few issues. The biggest was the water color under the ferry because it was too dark to see metal details underneath. She said she met with the designer and we submitted a lighter color to the mint. The blueprint that came back did not adequately show that blue - it was red instead - so it went back to the mint

Hydnsek mentioned that we also had some delays due to Chinese New Year (they are minted in China), and the fact that Oakcoins now has a different person working with us. Emma, our former contact, has left and Bob, the new contact, only had six or so months of experience.

Hydnsek mentioned that the order page went live about 3 weeks ago (members only). She added that a few days ago, we opened it up to the general public, so anyone can now buy the coin for \$12 (member

price is still \$9). She also said that this year, everyone pays for shipping, no exceptions, no hand deliveries.

Campout 2012 – Reported by Fluteface

We will be at the Masonic Park up the Mountain loop highway the last weekend in July. The fee schedule was complicated, so a flat fee of \$1500 was proposed for Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon, no matter how many attended and the park accepted the offer. The offer also included a CITO for Sunday. Wrastro (our Masonic liaison) has been great in communicating with them on our behalf. We have a visit planned for 3/31; after that, we'll have a better idea for planning purposes and will have improved details for our RV folks. I'm hoping to meet with Lizzy after our visit to the park and have detailed plans shortly after that. It's my understanding that we have 8 RVs registered and 3 tents to date.

Hydnsek mentioned that the Campout Registration page went live three weeks ago and that the Event page should go live in the next couple weeks. She said that in the meantime, we have advertised the Registration page on our Facebook page and on the WSGA site resulting in several registrations to date.

Idajo asked if there would be a standalone cache page done for the Sunday CITO event. Fluteface said there would one done under 48 North.

Merchandise – Reported by jcar

We still have Ape Coins, Ape Trackables, 2011 WSGA coins, Caps and lanyards. Sales are slow on these items but a few always sell at events and an occasional sale on site for the trackables. More will be sold at the summer events. But we will probably still have plenty left.

We are currently working on a design for the 10th anniversary t-shirts. We will run this by the Board before choosing a design and shirt colors. We are considering pre-sales on the site for members and making enough to last us through the year. Look to your inboxes for more information soon.

In addition, a little later this year we will do a non-10th Anniversary shirt. This will have a small logo up on the left and will be similar to shirts done in the past, but not like the most recent ones. This one we will have around for at least a couple of years.

Hydnsek commented that we were also considering whether to sell our APE and anniversary shirts at the August events. She noted that we will be making APE event shirts again this year. She has already talked to our vendor about the design and shirt colors. The updated design is ready for the APE shirts.

Hydnsek asked about other swag ideas for giveaways and member bonuses. Jcar commented that while he really thought we should do more, he was concerned about having enough cash to do that with producing the shirts above and the other costs for the Block/APE Weekend. He said that we have discussed logo notebooks, bison tubes, flashlights etc, and that there are some he would really like to do. He said that we need to consider having a limited edition of something for the Going Ape Event. There were many looking for an event coin, or something similar from the event, and that with over 500 attendees there should not be an issue with moving 100 Event Coins. Jcar said that the item should only be available on Sunday at the event.

Hydnsek said that she was thinking about the member bonus being a 10th-anniversary pathtag, and the APE event item being an APE pathtag.

CITO – Reported by hydnek

Spring is CITO time. The 10th anniversary CITO weekend is April 21-22. There are several CITO events scheduled this spring in Puget Sound, 48 North, and Inland Empire has one scheduled also. I posted a new CITO thread on the WSGA site today that encouraged events and listed the current ones. We strongly encourage every chapter to host at least one CITO in your area this spring. So far, only three chapters have posted events. You can organize CITO events for any time - we already have a couple posted for May and June.

Hydnsek said she would follow up offline with a couple of the chapter representatives to see if she could help organize events. She said CITOs around the state are great, and really help promote WSGA and our parks.

International Geocaching Weekend – Reported by hydnek

At our January meeting, the Board voted to continue “Going APE” as an annual event hosted by WSGA for fellow cachers, as part of Groundspeak's International Geocaching destination weekend. This year, “Going APE” will be Sunday, August 19, at Hyak. The event page is already posted, and most of the volunteer schedule is already filled. Washington State Parks has approved the date and has it on their calendar. I will be doing the paperwork and arranging the fee (parking passes) a bit later on

Groundspeak and I finalized our agreement around the big weekend, and they held an internal meeting to formalize the arrangement and ensure everyone was in the loop. Part of the agreement is that we get a free booth at the Block Party every year, and they cross-promote our event on their event page (hasn't happened yet this year). We also have Mega-event status this year - WSGA's first Mega event! We were awarded Mega retroactively after last year's event, and received it at publication this year.

Hydnsek provided the following summary post-meeting of the agreement with Groundspeak:

- WSGA will host an annual APE event at the Snoqualmie Tunnel on third Sunday in August, in conjunction with the GS Block Party.
- GS will grant an exception to the event guidelines as needed for the APE event (e.g., the 'primary purpose can't be geocaching').
- GS will give the event Mega status, so long as we maintain our attendance at mega levels. We achieved Mega last year, so received it automatically for 2012.
- GS and WSGA will cross-promote our events on our respective event pages and in communications (newsletters, etc.) about the International Geocaching / Block Party weekend.
- GS will give WSGA a free booth each year at the Block Party. This is a key contribution from Groundspeak, as they are footing the bill for our booth (\$300-500), giving WSGA great visibility to geocachers and a chance to sell merchandise, in return for us hosting the APE event.

As an added bonus, Groundspeak is creating a Souvenir specifically for this year's APE Mega event.

Hydnsek also said that we already have signups from Germany, Montreal, and a few other spots. Fifteen Germans are coming for a week around that weekend. Jcar asked if there should be a welcome event for the Germans. Hydnsek said she would check with Avroair and Groundspeak to see if something was already being planned.

WSGA 10th Anniversary Planning – Reported by hydnek

September 8, 2012 will be the 10th anniversary of the founding of WSGA. On that date in 2002, 19 geocachers in the Puget Sound area met in Kirkland to form a group in response to Washington State Parks' proposal to ban geocaching on its lands. They were successful in forming a group and in countering the WSP plan. They went on to create an organization that works with parks and promote geocaching as a family-oriented outdoor activity. Today, 10 years later, WSGA has over 360 members (as of December, 2011) in seven chapters across the state and programs and activities that our founders probably never conceived of.

For our anniversary, I am proposing that each chapter host an anniversary celebration (event) the weekend of September 8. The special anniversary pathtag could be provided at that time. I need to know from each Chapter Representative if this is feasible for you on that weekend, so we can start promoting the celebration idea statewide. On the West Side, I am suggesting that 48 North and Olympic hold their events on Saturday, at differing times and that Puget Sound hold their event on Sunday, September 9th because many folks would like to attend all three, if possible, since our chapters are close together. I would like to hold the Puget Sound event at the Renton Hall where we do the holiday party, since it has a stage and nice kitchen and we get it substantially cheaper on Sunday than on Saturday.

In addition, the Puget Sound event will be the Founders event, with attendance by all 19 Founders (if possible), with a special presentation by me to them (coin) and they will talk about what geocaching was like "back in the day." Other chapters may want to snag a founder or two for your events, if possible.

Hydnsek said that she had already made a list of all the founders, even those who no longer cache, and would be contacting them soon. She said that if a chapter wanted to snag a founder for its event to contact her so she could help with their schedules.

Chapter Reports

Olympic Peninsula – Reported by idajo

The Olympic Peninsula Chapter had its first 2012 event in Aberdeen (Grays Harbor County), on February 25th. In spite of some of the most "intriguing" PNW weather I've ever experienced (heavy rain, sleet, freezing rain, huge hail, freezing fog, and snow), we had a very nice turnout. There were brand new cachers in attendance as well as a few geocaching "pioneers". I was especially glad that mc3cats made the long drive (in bad weather) and was able to attend. In spite of the weather, the logs reflected that a good time was had by all.

Next in the OP Chapter event "line-up" is Belfair (Mason County). We'll be meeting at JR's Hideaway Grill (a popular spot for local cachers) on Saturday, April 7th from 11:30am to 2:00pm. The Belfair/Port

Orchard/Bremerton/Gig Harbor area (all within a reasonable distance from the event) offers some of the best geocaching around!

Teri and Eric Burroughs, who cache as 'swaninwa'), will be co-hosting the May 12th WSGA OP Chapter meet-n-greet in Port Hadlock (Jefferson County). The event will be held at Ferino's Pizzeria whose owners and staff are really looking forward to the gathering!

I've been reminding event attendees to mark their calendars for the July 27-29 WSGA Summer Campout and for the August 18th Groundspeak Block Party which precedes the WSGA's Going APE at the Tunnel of Light Event on August 19th.

By mid-June, I hope to have the cache page up and running for the potluck/picnic event in mid-September, at a geocacher-managed RV campground near Sequim (Clallam County). The spectacular water views and quality geocaches, hidden within walking distance, should bring in a nice-sized group.

Swaninwa plans to host a CITO event in the Port Townsend City Park in October, this will not be an OP Chapter-hosted event but I'll be given the opportunity to talk with attendees about WSGA activities and membership and membership info/forms will be available. The final date is still to be determined.

South Central – Reported by mazeracer

We are thinking of doing the wind farm later year instead of May since there is too much going on right now (thinking about October). Enjoydmoment is in the process of putting together the next Geocoin challenge. This year's geocoin challenge will involve all three of the Tri-Cities (Richland, Kennewick, Pasco). WSGA is sponsoring the breakfast on Sunday morning for the challenge (will be a major use of the chapter allocation) and it may be a fund raiser. There are some new power trails going in for the event too.

Inland Empire – Reported by Kidvegas19

Since we last met the IE Chapter held their big Winter Event. Nearly 100 cachers attended. It was Oscar themed and everybody was a "celebrity" walking past the paparazzi to enter the venue. Winners of the Caching Awards walked up the camoed carpet. There was a dessert contest, travel bug contest and the annual picture show that was a huge hit.

The Chapter Board elected new members. Martin5 is the new President and has already published three events via the Chapter. The April CITO is set up (as Abby mentioned) and we are geared to go for the CDA cache machine this weekend.

Cache-cadia – Reported by Mr. Gadget #2

Our first event for 2012 "DO THE CACHE CADIA LEAP" on Wednesday February 29th was a success. Being on a school and a church night there were some who could not make it. Several folks traveled great distances (Winthrop, Okanogan and Moses Lake) to attend the event. We had one new member join WSGA and one renewal at the event.

There were over twenty nine new caches published on the 29th to celebrate Leap Year 2012. One cacher was able to grab 29 FTF's and found a total of 32 new caches for the day.

I did receive a question from K-Ddid as to why our Chapter is not referred to as Cache-cadia rather than our original name of "Cache-Cadians". (Our chapter banner bears the name Cache Cadians.) I said I would bring this up at our next WSGA Board meeting and find the answer as I was not aware when the name changed or why. The general feelings appeared to be to keep our original name.

There will be a CITO event scheduled this spring. There are many other originations who are working on cleanup activities before the Wenatchee Apple Blossom Festival in May. We may try to work in the same time frame for our CITO event.

I talked to The Navigatorz tonight regards to the dams and placement of geo-caches. It is a go and an event cache has been submitted and pending for May 27th Memorial Day weekend. Each of the three dam sites will be placing 3 caches which will not be released for publication until a few days prior to May 27th. Mike said that they have received permission from State Parks for some of the placements.

Hydnsek responded about the name Cache-cadia and said that it was a nomenclature thing. She said "Cache-cadia" is an area like "Inland Empire" etc. "Cache-Cadians" are the people in Cache-cadia, not the chapter itself. It was altered to be consistent with the other chapter names and with the part of speech it represents.

Southwest – Reported by Geek&Gopher

Our first event was a success. We had about 45 people at the March Madness Scavenger Hunt in Vancouver on March 3rd. All had a great time and expressed their pleasure at having something different.

Here is what we have planned so far for the remainder of this year: April Fools Scavenger Hunt (Longview) on 4/1, May Days Scavenger Hunt (Centralia) on 5/12, and our BIG event will be the Geocaching Fair (Vancouver) on 6/16, WSGA 10th Anniversary Celebration 9/8 and Monster Mash 10/27.

For the Geocaching Fair, the Jester has agreed to teach the GSAK 101 class and we have contacted Goblindust to teach the Geocaching Containers class. But do not have a commitment at this time. We are still looking for a volunteer to teach the Geocaching 101 class.

We have obtained permission to hold this event at Heritage Farm in Vancouver where we have reserved two conference rooms with laptops & projectors for the classes to be taught, along with use of the grounds for other activities. Lookout Lisa will be there from Cache Advance selling Geocaching gear.

Nothing planned for July or August with everything that is already planned.

48 North – Reported by Fluteface

Events planned include a CITO event thru Kathy MacCormack on April 7 in the Pilchuck Tree Farm; a Bellingham pizza event on April 13: "Meet and Greet on Friday the 13th"; a painting over graffiti CITO event in Marysville April 14 with the city and Park's department; a potluck, BBQ event in Mt. Vernon June 9 at Hillcrest Park; the July Campout (also CITO); the September Anniversary Party; and December's 3rd Annual Holiday Party.

Puget Sound – Reported by Mc3cats

In February, the PS Chapter got into the 2/29 cache day craze. We had a nice pizza event which had a pretty big turn-out given it was on a Wednesday. Last weekend, the chapter had its first “signature” event that was held at a unique location within the chapter. It was at the Museum of Flight! We had a huge turn out! Everybody had a blast. Given the size of the museum, I can see this being a repeat venue given the turn out and the positive comments.

As upcoming stuff, I have a couple of outreach events. These are events for organizations from outside of the Geocaching community that have contacted to us to do presentations about Geocaching. The first is coming up on April 21 with the City of Newcastle. They are putting on an Earth Day event and they have asked the WSGA to have a booth at this event. There will be a number of different organizations at this including Waste Management and PSE. Exhibits will be “earth friendly” showing folks “green gardening” , cell phone recycling to name a couple. We will be part of the “science in the environment” section which is where Geocaching comes in. Should be a fun event.

On April 4, a local Girl Scout (Brownies) group has asked that I do a presentation for the girls on geocaching and letterboxing for the two badges the scouts have. This event is still being put together but should be a lot of fun.

Hydnsek said that she had another outreach request to forward to Mc3cats as well, from the Tacoma Library, who heard about us from the Puyallup library.

Member Comment Period

Hydnsek opened the member comment period.

BlueAI asked if there will be a chance that members could order merchandise online. Hydnsek responded that we have looked into that over the years, but there've been two issues: 1) we are a nonprofit and have to be careful about running an online 'store' (jcar has thoughts on that); and 2) we have had so much going on that we and our webmaster just haven't had a chance to prioritize it.

Jcar said we can always do something via email and have someone directly send money to the paypal address. He said that we have done this several times. Jcar also said that many of the events sell WSGA merchandise and that it would be cheaper to pick up at an event (saves on postage).

Meeting was adjourned at 9:53 PM.